

Win Awenen NISITOTUNG

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

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REFERENDUM UNDERWAY

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

Registered voters of the Sault Tribe will soon find in their mailboxes a referendum election ballot that is due to be completed and sent back before March 20, 2009, when the vote count will take place.

Volunteers stuffed ballots into envelopes and mailed them out Feb. 27. The election cost over \$16,000 not including staff time.

The election was called for by a referendum petition by tribal members. The "Referendum Petition regarding Resolution 2008-262: Amending Board of Directors Retirement Income Plan" was accepted by the board Feb. 10, 2009.

The ballot asks tribal members to choose whether to overturn a board of director's resolution that amended the board's retirement plan. The board passed a resolution to amend the plan to come into compliance with a federal Internal Revenue Code §409A that came into effect Jan. 1, 2009.

The ballot language is as follows:

EXPLANATION: The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians adopted a retirement plan for members of the board of directors in 1998. When this retirement plan was first adopted it was in compliance with federal tax laws. Recently, Congress passed new federal tax laws which changed the taxation of this type of retirement plan. The retirement plan did not meet these new federal tax law requirements. Resolution No: 2008-262 places the plan in compliance with the new federal tax laws.

You are NOT voting on whether or not the board of directors continues to receive a retirement plan.

An "APPROVE" vote means you believe the plan should stay in compliance with the new federal tax laws.

A "DISAPPROVE" vote means you believe the plan should not stay in compliance with the new federal tax laws.

DO YOU APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF RESOLUTION NO. 2008-262?

Sault Tribe Comptroller Bill Connolly reviewed the financial impacts to the tribe. "There is no anticipated financial cost associated with the amendment," he said. "The cost to the tribe of the retirement package remains the same either with or without the most recent amendment."

To come into compliance, the board's retirement plan must meet requirements in Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Service Code. 409A imposes new federal income tax rules for "non-qualified deferred compensation," which means compensation for services is paid in a calendar year after the calendar year in which the services are performed. All

companies — large and small, public and private — are potentially affected by the new rules, as are all nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies and instrumentalities and churches.

Congress enacted the new code in 2004 at the behest of the Treasury Department to reform the taxation of deferred compensation. According to the Journal of Deferred Compensation, Sept. 22, 2005, "Congress enacted Section 409A in response to perceived abuses in nonqualified deferred compensation programs sponsored by several well-known public companies ... In order to combat these perceived abuses, Section 409A limits deferred election and distribution events and changes to these terms and imposes significant penalties on violation of these terms." According to Tax Strategies, a newsletter published online and in print by the Texas law firm of Strassburger & Price, the requirement for full compliance was delayed by the IRS and the Treasury Department until publication of final Treasury regulations explaining Section 409A's detailed requirements.

Section 409A imposes tax penalties for plans and arrangements that do not satisfy its rules. All penalties fall upon the individuals who are being compensated. The technical changes that the Sault Tribe board enacted with Resolution 2008-262 did not change the cost to the tribe or the amount of money that retired board members will receive in the future. It clarified how these things were calculated so that the plan would comply with the new tax laws.

Specifically, with the new changes to the Tax Code, the Sault Tribe Board of Director's retirement plan was out of compliance on two points, according to tribal attorney Courtney Kachur.

First, the time for payment was not fixed. Board members were allowed to choose when to begin receiving benefits. As long as it was after they retired from the board and reached the age of 60, they could have delayed receiving benefits. "Under the amended plan, the benefits must start on the first day of the month following the later of the date the participant attains age 60, or the date a participant's service on the board of directors terminates," said Kachur.

Second, prior to the amendment, the formula for determining cost of living increases for retired board members was not adequately spelled out. According to Kachur, under the amended plan, any cost of living increases must now be enacted as of the first of each year, rather than going into effect at undefined times throughout the year.

Kewadin Casinos hold their own in 2008

BY MICHELLE BOUSCHOR

Cost cutting, efficiency improvements and other operational changes drove combined profitability higher at the Kewadin Casinos' northern Michigan properties last year even as gaming revenues plummeted in markets across the nation.

Despite a four percent drop in total revenues from 2007, EBIDTA increased 2.5 percent in 2008 to \$31.28 million at the five Kewadin Casinos in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The revenue decline — and higher profits — positioned the Kewadin U.P. properties as better performers in 2008 than casinos in many gaming markets across the country, including those in Nevada, New Jersey, Illinois and elsewhere. EBIDTA stands for Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization, and is a widely accepted measure of a company's cash flow and earnings.

"In a state and national recession and at a time when revenues and profits are down significantly in gaming markets across the nation, we are proud to report relatively strong performance at our five Kewadin Casinos in northern Michigan," said Sault Tribe Chairman Joe McCoy. "This performance has not been achieved without pain because it has been driven in part by job reductions. In this economic climate, however, tough decisions are necessary. Our new administration, the [Sault Tribe] board of directors and

the management and team members of our U.P. casinos are to be congratulated for managing our key businesses through these very difficult times."

Tony Goetz, chief operating officer of the five northern Michigan Kewadin Casinos, noted that gaming revenues in 2008 dropped 9.7 percent in Nevada statewide, 10.6 percent in Las Vegas, 7.6 percent in New Jersey, 12 percent in Colorado and more than 20 percent in Illinois.

"Considering the overall state of our economy and number of jobs lost in Michigan during 2008, we are pleased with the way our business performed this past year," Goetz said.

Last year the Kewadin properties reduced expenses through employee layoffs and cuts to many budgets, he said.

"Because our team members were able to manage their expenses and make those tough decisions, our business has remained strong during these challenging times," he said. "We have met our bank covenants' requirements, our expenses were well within approved budgeted amounts and we are confident we have a good plan moving forward."

McCoy and Goetz said it's important to note that meeting the lending covenants saved the tribe about \$2 million in additional financing and interest payments. For the first seven weeks of 2009, the casinos' revenues are comparable to the same period last year.

Kewadin Casinos operates five casinos in the Upper Peninsula, with the two largest properties in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace. Three smaller properties are in Christmas, Manistique and Hessel.

"The smaller communities have suffered job losses from some of the area's largest employers, especially in the Manistique and Munising areas," Goetz said. "Like casino markets across the nation, when people lose their jobs, discretionary spending on all forms of entertainment drop."

Kewadin Casinos is owned and operated by the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. They have been in operation for more than 20 years and have nearly 1,000 full time employees. For more information, visit www.kewadin.com.

The tribe is also majority owner of Greektown Casino in Detroit, one of a growing list of casinos that is reorganizing in Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. McCoy was elected as the new chairman of the tribe in summer 2008, after Greektown filed for Chapter 11 protection.

"My administration and our new board have made the tough decisions, and allowed our casino managers in northern Michigan to make the tough decisions, that protect the financial strength of our most important businesses," McCoy said. "I wish we had been seated a year before the problems turned into crisis at Greektown. Perhaps things there would have been different."

Sault Tribe leaders campaign in capitol

BY MEGHAN S. KELLY, FEDERAL LAISON

Chairman Joe McCoy and several members of the board of directors (Lana Causley, Cathy Abramson, Tom Miller and D.J. Hoffman) traveled to Washington, DC, last week to attend the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes ("MAST") Impact Week meeting. This legislative summit was attended by elected tribal leaders from tribes throughout the Midwest.

Together, tribal leaders from the region were updated on issues impacting Indian Country and provided with information regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Vice Chairwoman Lana Causley said, "As a

member of the National Behavioral Health Task Force Board, I am pleased to report that Senator Dorgan is planning to introduce the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2009. This bill offers Indian Country better law enforcement opportunities. Additionally, it will reauthorize several existing programs, such as the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Act."

Tribal leaders also discussed additional legislative and administrative policy goals of the Midwest tribes. To advance these goals, two half-days of the meetings were devoted to meeting with key Congressional staff members on Capitol Hill.

See "Capitol Campaign," page 19

Notes and items of interest to our members

Save a life, donate blood March 27

Come and save a life by donating to the next blood drive or participating in the bone marrow registry on Friday, March 27, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Sault Tribal Health Center auditorium. You must be at least 18 and present a photo ID to give blood. See you then.

Non-commercial fishers can apply for conservation committee

The Sault Tribe Conservation Committee has an opening for a non-commercial fisherman. Interested applicants need to submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation. Letters can be submitted to Tara Benoit at 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Please call Tara at (906) 635-6050 with any questions.

You may hold the key to solving a crime

Crime Stoppers has been a great crime fighting tool for the eastern Upper Peninsula for two reasons — anonymity and cash rewards. I'm Detective Sergeant Joe Shier reporting for Crime Stoppers. Our job at Crime Stoppers is to take your tips and keep your identity anonymous. When you call the Crime Stoppers office you receive a coded number which relates to your call only. If an arrest is made as a result of your information, the board of directors will decide on the reward amount, up to \$1,000. Using your coded number, you call the Crime Stoppers coordinator and decide on a drop location such as a bank or business. You simply go there and provide your number and receive your cash reward anonymously. You can do your part by calling Crime Stoppers with a tip and help solve a crime. Please contact Crime Stoppers at (800) 465-7867, that's (800) 465-STOP.

Attention, resident tribal member certificates of

exemption

In order for resident tribal members to receive exemptions from Michigan sales tax, exemption certificates **must be present** at times of sales. If certificates are not presented to the sellers at times of sale, sellers will tax purchases and the exemption of taxes will be forfeited.

In September 2007, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors voted to change from the refund method to the exemption method to eliminate the time waiting for tax refunds from the state.

Exemption certificates are required for the purchase of the following:

- Automobiles, pick-up trucks, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, recreational watercraft, snowmobiles and off-road vehicles.
- Modular and mobile homes when purchased from a dealer.
- Construction materials: roofing, siding, windows, paint and so forth. (This does not include appliances or furniture.)

Please note! If tax-exempt items are purchased from a private party, then certificates must be obtained before registering the item with the Secretary of State. If certificates are not presented upon registration, the use tax will be imposed and the exemption of taxes will be forfeited.

Free high-back booster seats available

Sault Tribe Early Childhood Education programs have a limited number of high-back booster seats available free to children aged three to five. Parents must call to schedule an appointment and show tribal identification.

Each appointment takes about a half-hour and includes education and hands on installation instructions.

To schedule an appoint-



ment or if you have questions on how to properly install your child safety seat, call Sheryl Hammock, health coordinator and national certified child passenger technician, at (906) 635-7722.

Non-native spouses to be billed for cost

Non-native spouses of Sault Tribe members continue to be eligible for health services, but they will now be billed for the full cost of care received from the Sault Tribal health services.

Due to the rising costs of health care and the tribe's current financial situation, the Sault Tribal health services can no longer afford to continue providing the same level of services to all eligibility groups outlined in its benefit policy. Recommended changes made to collect full health service costs from non-native spouses and their insurance carriers was approved by the Sault Tribe Board of Directors, effective Dec. 1, 2008.

The following changes were made to fees associated with non-native spouses of Sault Tribe members:

- Non-native spouses of Sault Tribe members with no insurance will be billed the full amount for services received.
- Non-native spouses of Sault Tribe members with insurance will be responsible for all remaining balances, co-pays and deductibles and their insurance will be billed.

Attention Medicare patients

Medicare patients may receive explanation of benefits letters from Medicare for dates of service from Sault Tribe clinics that are quite old.

This is due to the fact that Medicare had problems processing the tribe's claims for several months last year. The

tribe was finally able to resolve the problems last fall and began processing claims that had sat on computer systems for several months.

Those with questions should contact billing department at (906) 632-5270.

Sault Ste. Marie Family Celebration

Join us Tuesday, March 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center for Family Celebration, an event to promote child and parent interaction.

Local organizations and businesses provide parents with information and activities for their children.

Skating and free skate rental open from 5:30 to 6:20.

Win door prizes from local businesses.

Free meals, snacks and refreshments offered in the hospitality room.

Contact Rachel Mandelstamm at 440-4494 with any questions.

Pilates/fitness studio now open

Kristi's Hip-Hop Pilates/Fitness Studio in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., has opened at 111 W. Portage Ave. on the second floor above the old

Alpha Addition. The new studio is designed for fitness classes ranging from pilates/yoga to step/kick boxing. The studio will hold a number of classes Monday-Saturday from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Coming soon are prenatal/postpartum exercise classes and sport specific conditioning pre/post season (for teens).

Kristi's Hip-Hop stands for positive energy. The large open room has room has a soft, elegant look golden colors with palm trees.

Corrections

Jennifer France's husband's name is Chuck, not Clark. On page 4 of the Feb. 6, 2009, the article, "Victims of violence get legal help," the fourth paragraph should have began, "France, 32, and her husband, Chuck, live in the Sault with their golden retriever and Yorkie." *Win Awenen Nisitotung* regrets the error.

On page 6 of the Feb. 6, 2009, the article, "NHL's Zebra Cares visits Sault Tribe Powwow," the second paragraph should have read, "Brian Pochmara, originally from Eastpoint, is married to Keri (Pavlat) Pochmara and they have a boy, Brendan, 7, and a girl, Kennedi, 4. They have been married for 7 years ..."

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Win Awenen Nisitotung
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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MIEA Student Incentive Program

Michigan elders offer incentive awards for excellence in school effort

A student incentive program is offered by the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) to recognize students who achieve all "A" grades for a marking period as well as students who achieve perfect attendance for a marking period.

A minimum of \$3,000 will be available to fund this program this year. Qualified entries will be awarded \$25 each up to the minimum available funds in the program. In the event that the number of qualified entries exceeds the funds available, the winners will be determined by lottery. Here are the conditions to qualify:

- Students must be an enrolled member or be a direct descendant of an enrolled member of one of the MIEA constituent tribes or bands.
- Students must be in grades K-12 at public or private schools (home schooled not eligible).
- Students must be in grades 4-12 to qualify for the straight "A" grades award (A-, A, A+).
- School systems that use a grading system based on numbers, the equivalent to straight "A" grades will be acceptable.
- Students must be in grades K-12 to qualify for the perfect attendance award.
- Perfect attendance means exactly that—students must be in school or at school-sponsored functions each day of the marking period. Excused absences for anything other than school-sponsored or approved func-

tions do not constitute perfect attendance.

• The first two marking periods of this 2008-09 school year (or the number of marking periods completed by April 20, 2009, for school systems having something other than four marking periods) will be used to determine the winners for this lottery.

• Students can qualify for both the perfect attendance and straight "A" grades for both marking periods. For example, straight "A" grades and perfect attendance for both marking periods would mean four chances to win.

• Parents of the students must complete and sign the Student Incentive Program application form in order for students to qualify for awards.

• Copies of the children's report cards signed by the parents or letters from administrators of the student's schools must be submitted with the completed application form to verify the achievement of straight "A" grades and perfect attendance.

The drawing to determine winners will be held at the April 2009 meeting of the Michigan Indian Elders Association hosted by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

It is very important and necessary to follow these directions for students to be considered for awards. Completed application forms, signed report cards or verification letters of achievements from school administrators and copies of students' or parents' tribal identification cards must be received at the following address no later than April 20, 2009:

Robert S. Menard, president, Michigan Indian Elders Association, 1910 North Lake Drive, Ishpeming, MI 49849.

Application forms can be obtained in this edition of *Win Awenen Nisitotung* or through tribal education departments.

Play "Where's Rick?" and win a book from Michigan Indian Press!

Win Awenen Nisitotung has a new game and you could win. But, to win, first you have to play. Play our game "Where's Rick?" and you could win a new book.

This month we are giving away a copy of *Kitchigamig Anishinaabeg*, a 1996 pictorial snapshot of beautifully regalia-clad Great Lakes area Anishinaabek in full color featuring many of the Sault Tribe. All you have to do is find



Rick (pictured here). He could be anywhere, in color or black and white. Then let us know what page he's on and you will be entered in the contest.

To enter, write or e-mail us

with your name and address, and Rick's whereabouts at *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, 531 Ashmun St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or jdburton@sault-tribe.net.

Michigan Indian Elders Association 2008/09 Student Incentive Program Application Form

Student's name:		Age:	Grade:
Address:		City:	
State:	Zip:	Phone:	E-mail:
School name:		School address:	
School phone and fax:		Principal's name:	
Student's Social Security number: (mandatory for Sault Tribe students)		All A grades number of marking periods	Perfect attendance number of marking periods

VERY IMPORTANT - Please attach the following documents to this completed application in order for your student to qualify and be considered:

1. Copies of student's report cards signed by their parents or letters from administrators in their schools stating the marking periods for which students have had all A grades or perfect attendance (Note: students must be in grades 4 through 12 to qualify for all A grades and K through 12 for perfect attendance)
2. Copies of student's tribal membership card (If a student doesn't have a card, please include a copy of a parent's tribal card).
3. NOT REQUIRED, however, if a photograph of the student is available which could be used in promotion of the program please enclose with the completed application. **Please write the student's name on the back of the picture.**

I certify that all the information given is true and correct. I understand that this information is being given for the receipt of funds and the Michigan Indian Elders Association program coordinator may verify the information on the application with my child's school. I further give consent for the use of my child's name and/or likeness for the promotion of this program.

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____

Please mail the preceding information to: Robert S. Menard, Coordinator, Michigan Indian Elders Association, 1910 North Lake Drive, Ishpeming, MI 49849.

All information must be received by 5 p.m. on April 20, 2009, to be eligible for the program.

Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School

2009-2010 School year open enrollment and lottery information



Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School is holding Open Enrollment for the upcoming 2009-2010 School Year.

Only those who fill out an enrollment application during the Open Enrollment period will be considered for the lottery.

The Open Enrollment dates are from March 9, 2009, through March 19, 2009. All applications must be received by the school office by 3 p.m. on March 19, 2009. Applications may be picked up from the school office or from the school Web site at www.jklschool.org.

The lottery will be held in the school cafeteria at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 23, 2009, for those wishing to attend. **Attendance at the lottery is not mandatory.**

Those selected from the lottery will be eligible to attend the 2009-2010 school year provided they respond within three (3) school days of notification and they meet the deadlines for the mandatory paperwork. If the deadlines are not met, those children will be dropped from next year's roster and the next name on the waiting list will be accepted.

**The next newspaper deadline is
Tuesday, March 24, at 9 a.m. See
page 2 for submission guidelines!**

Community is invited to STAY conference

The Sault Tribe Alive Youth (STAY) Project is sponsoring a conference March 19-20 at the Kewadin Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The project coalition conference will bring together members of the Seven Feather Partnership Board, a new regional suicide prevention coalition, that will lead the STAY grant project.

The event is free and open to the public.

"We need many people to make this project a success," said STAY project manager Barb Smutek. "Everyone is invited — youth, elders, educators, health staff, cultural leaders, political leaders and you." Representatives, tribal and



others, are still needed to fill the Seven Feather Partnership Board. The project needs members representing elected leaders and policy makers, K-12 schools and higher education institutions, health care providers including mental health and substance abuse, community agencies and organiza-

tions, those connected with the juvenile justice system, those connected with the foster care system, as well as spiritual and faith-based helpers.

Smutek encourages interested parties to contact her with current resources and activities, ideas for suicide prevention or to become involved in the partnership. Those interested should contact her at (906) 635-8629 or bsmutek@saulttribe.net.

The pre-conference activities begin on Thursday, March 19, with a special youth summit training for tribal youth council members. The youth are hosting a community drum social at 8:30 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

The official conference kicks off at 8 a.m. on Friday, March 20. Participants will spend the day networking and reviewing present prevention resources. Dr. Cheryl King, chief psychologist and director of the Youth Depression and Suicide Prevention Program in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan Medical School, will talk about suicide prevention efforts in Michigan. Smutek will discuss the STAY Project and grant goals. After lunch, participants will break out for brainstorming sessions followed by presentations and evaluations. At 5 p.m., the Seven Feathers Partnership Board will hold its first official meeting.

The purpose of the STAY Project is to literally keep our tribal youth alive. "Suicide is a preventable tragedy, which has, unfortunately, impacted our communities in the Upper Peninsula," said Angeline Matson, assistant membership services director, who wrote the grant proposal.

The suicide prevention STAY Project is made possible by a \$500,000 grant from the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act for State and Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Grant Programs through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

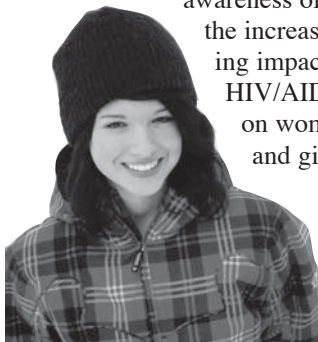
Women's Wellness celebrates HIV/AIDS Awareness Day week of March 9

Sault Tribe Community Health Women's Wellness Program is joining the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in celebrating National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. For the week of March 9-13, a table will be set at the Sault Tribal Health Center with free information and prevention materials.

The Women's Wellness Program will hold seminars at various locations in the community during this week. Women and girls in the community are invited to sit in on informational sessions on reproductive

health issues, benefits of knowing one's status, as well as how to protect themselves from the numerous sexually transmitted infections and HIV.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the increasing impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls.



Families, health organizations, businesses, communities, governments and individuals come together to provide support, encourage discussion and educate women and girls about practicing safe methods and the importance of getting tested.

HIV/AIDS among women and girls is not just an international problem — it affects women right here in the United States. In addition, the number of U.S. women and girls living with HIV is on the rise. In the mid-1980s, less than 15 percent of new HIV infections in the United States were among women and girls ages 13 years

and older; by 2006, it was about 27 percent.

The new statistics on young women and sexually transmitted disease (STD) is alarming, especially because most young women are not aware of their HIV status and do not receive regular STD screenings. Please join us in the initiative to promote National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is being celebrated on March 10.

For more information about HIV/AIDS among females, go to www.womenshealth.gov/



NWGHAAAD/planning-materials. To find county and state statistics about HIV/AIDS, please visit www.womenshealth.gov/quickhealthdata.

To learn more about the events planned or for free and anonymous HIV testing, please call Danyalle Wyckoff, (906) 632-5255, or Community Health, 632-5210.

Tribal financial manager certification program starts

BY RICK SMITH

Believed to be the first such program of its kind, Arizona State University will begin offering a tribal financial manager professional certification course in June 2009. It is a two-semester program designed to fill the perceived need for education and training in accounting principals and legalities within tribal governments. The program is the product of a partnership between the ASU Indian Policy Institute, the University of Arizona's Native Nations Institute and the Native American Financial Officers Association.

According to Patricia Mariella, director of the ASU American Indian Policy Institute, classes will initially be taught in a traditional classroom at ASU, lectures will be videotaped and prepared for an innovative, downloadable, online program set to start in late 2009. A disk version that can be mailed to students is also in the works since the online version will require a substantial operating bandwidth.

According to the Web site of the ASU American Indian Policy Institute, www.aipi.clas.asu.edu, this certificate program is intended to provide

key information for tribal staff and elected officials who need to understand the basics of federal Indian law, governmental accounting and budgeting in a tribal government setting as part of their work.

Certificate program participants will need at least a year of experience with tribal government to register; participants are not required to have a college degree.

ASU notes that successful completion and acquisition of the certificate will demonstrate to prospective employers that the certificate holder knows the basics of tribal governance principles and federal Indian law affecting the financial management of tribal governments and enterprises; government accounting and financial reporting in a tribal government setting, including federal agency regulations of tribal governance programs; and budgeting, financing and investing basics in a tribal government setting.

The fee for the program is expected to be similar to the cost of a three-credit course.

For more information, or to be placed on an e-mail update list, contact the ASU American Indian Policy Institute at aiipi@asu.edu or call (480) 965-1055.

Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School

Kindergarten enrollment, screening and orientation

2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR



Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School is holding Open Enrollment for Kindergarten for the upcoming 2009-2010 School Year.

Only those who fill out an enrollment application during the Open Enrollment period will be considered for the lottery.

The Open Enrollment dates are from March 9, 2009, through March 19, 2009. All applications must be received by the school office by 3 p.m. on March 19, 2009.

Applications may be picked up from the school office or from the school Web site at www.jklschool.org. The lottery will be held in the school cafeteria at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 23, 2009, for those wishing to attend. **Attendance at the lottery is not mandatory.**

The parents of those children selected from the lottery will be notified by phone to set up the appointment for the screening/orientation. The dates of Kindergarten Screening & Orientation are tentatively set for April 14 and 15, 2009.

Housing gets \$1.2 million for upgrades in Sault, St. Ignace and Hessel housing sites

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

An Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) through HUD was awarded in 2007 for the rehabilitation of housing units in St. Ignace.

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority matched the \$536,468 grant with \$165,281 for a total of \$701,749. The funds were used to replace 19 boilers, 26 furnaces and 222 windows at the St. Ignace housing site.

"Because our window bids came in much lower than we originally anticipated we are moving forward with that same pot of money and replacing 19 boilers at the Hessel site and installing new windows in all the homes," housing project specialist Joanne Umbrasas said.

"A total of 183 windows are going to be replaced at the Hessel site," she added.

The new windows are high-end, double-hung, vinyl and meet stringent Energy Star performance requirements. According to Umbrasas, by increasing energy efficiencies of homes with new heating systems and windows, families can expect to have an annual savings exceeding \$250 in utility costs.



Photo by Brenda Austin

Back left: Russ McKerchie, construction director; Manny Marble, lead maintenance repairer; Joanne Umbrasas, project specialist. Front left; Todd Albert, Albert Heating and Cooling, Joni Talentino, Housing director.

The ICDBG is an annual competitive HUD grant for a maximum of \$600,000. In order for a grantee to have the maximum number of points on a grant application, HUD normally requires a funding match of about 20 percent. "What I did was get a little more creative," said Umbrasas.

There is a current need for funding of a water project in St. Ignace at the 70-unit hous-

ing site. Umbrasas said there is nothing wrong with the water in St. Ignace. However, the water system doesn't meet the city's current code. In order for the city to take over the operation and maintenance of the site, the system has to be upgraded at a cost of about \$800,000.

Here is where Umbrasas' creativity took over. Without using any money from Housing Authority funds as a match,

she applied for and the Sault Tribe was awarded \$1.2 million in grant monies. "Originally we were going to write the ICDBG for \$600,000 and we were going to kick in the other \$200,000," she said.

Instead Umbrasas applied for a \$600,000 grant through USDA Rural Development and she then wrote the ICDBG for a \$200,000 match for the USDA grant. "That left \$400,000 I

could still apply for through the ICDBG, so I wrote two grants. I took the one for \$200,000 and then wrote another for the remaining \$400,000. Then I matched it with \$130,000 of Native American Housing and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) funds, which brought it to \$530,000 for new hot water heaters, furnaces, and windows in 41 units at the Sault housing site. That was in addition to the \$800,000 for the St. Ignace water project," said Umbrasas.

Essentially, Umbrasas wrote for \$1.2 million in grants by leveraging only \$130,000 in NAHASDA funds from HUD. Last year, \$155,000 was leveraged to get \$536,000 in grant monies.

With the U.P. experiencing frigid temperatures for at least four months out of the year, the benefits of these projects include a decrease of utility costs and improved energy performance and comfort. Also, safer and healthier indoor environments and increased durability of building components and simplified maintenance requirements should lead to increased financial efficiency for the Housing Authority as well as tribal families.

Letters from tribe's membership

Elder sentiments

Editor's note: The following letter was presented to the Sault Tribe Board of Directors by the Elderly Advisory Committee, which also forwarded to Win Awenen Nisitotung for publication.

Our tribe is currently in the midst of an extremely difficult financial recovery effort. As it should, the consequences of this activity weigh heavily on every member of the tribe. But, it is especially hard on a great number of the elders, many of whom have little or no recourse in dealing with the cuts in the various programs, yet are shouldering an inordinate share of the burden. The sentiments reflected in this letter may appear to suggest a sense of entitlement and perhaps a few elders do see it that way. However, by and large, the sentiments are those of deep concern, frustration brought on by a sense of helplessness and to some degree fear — fear of what to expect next. There are elders still living today who remember the suffering of the recent past, the hard times before our tribe developed a means of generating revenue beyond what was being provided by the federal government. It was some of those same people and others who have since walked on that had the wisdom, foresight and tenacity to bring about the changes that make tribal self-sufficiency even remotely possible. Now we are faced with hard times once again and the

elders, the most vulnerable segment of our tribal community, must suffer again.

We recognize that drastic measures are necessary to drive the recovery effort. We applaud the new chairperson and the board for taking control of a bad situation and dealing with it. However, we want to go on the record as pointing out that it is not accidental that the elders and — for that matter — the entire membership, are having to endure a share of the staggering burden of recovery, while having no direct responsibility for creating the problem. At least seven board members had to vote for every decision that has contributed to the financial mess we find ourselves in.

We realize that we are in great financial difficulty. However, we feel that the elders have taken a huge impact at a time in their lives that they should not be burdened with some of these issues. The elders have "paid their dues."

Again, for the record, it is our fervent hope and prayer that, beyond the current financial implications, the traditional

role of elders in our tribal community will in no way be compromised, minimized or jeopardized in any way, by any action of the board.

Hopefully, we will recover and emerge a much stronger and wiser tribe as a result of all the suffering.

Member wants to help tribal members create Web sites

Dear Sault Tribe members, This letter is for all members who would like to sell their crafts, jewelry and art items on the Internet. It is also for members who have businesses and would like to have their own Web site. As a member myself, I work with people all around the world in getting their businesses on the Web. Now it is time to help my family.

Your crafts and businesses need to be on the Internet. People are looking for your products. My goal is to meet artists, crafters and business owners in several locations across the U.P. for an informal

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meeting and demonstration in the very near future. I would also like to have young adults (aged 14-20) present to help with the computers.

If you would like to have your own Web site, please contact Sault Tribe member Linda Missler at (888) 968-5565 ext. 22, (231) 360-7014 or e-mail linda@wdweb.com.

Thank you,
Linda Missler,
Traverse City, Mich.

Letters for publication in Win Awenen Nisitotung must be signed with full name and address and a contact number where the author may be reached. Letters may be mailed, faxed or emailed. Letters may be edited for clarity and length. Please see page 2 for newspaper contacts and more information.

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More defaults ahead for debt-heavy casinos

RECESSION, CREDIT WOES TO CONTINUE; ECONOMIC OUTLOOK PREDICTED

BY DAVID STRATTON

Fitch Ratings reported last week that total U.S. commercial and racetrack casino revenues in 2008 declined 3.5 percent, which, coupled with heavy debt loads and a difficult credit market, caused a record number of defaults by gaming operators.

Last year, seven operators defaulted on more than \$13 billion in principal debt, with Station Casinos on the cusp of defaulting on an additional \$2.3 billion after it was unable to consummate a debt exchange offer in December.

A "default," according to New York-based Fitch Ratings, a financial reporting service, is when a company misses an interest or principal payment, files for bankruptcy protection, or negotiates a reduction in its debt payments while under duress.

The latter is called a "distressed debt exchange," and it's what Harrah's Entertainment did when it negotiated a reduction of nearly \$1.2 billion in its debt balance on Dec. 24.

French Lick Resorts in Indiana also had a distressed debt exchange in 2008. There were also two bankruptcy filings last

year – Tropicana Entertainment and Greentown Holdings – as well as three missed payments – Herbst Gaming, Majestic Star and Trump Entertainment Resorts.

Based on a recession that is expected to continue through 2009 and a tight credit market, Fitch is predicting additional defaults and/or pressured transactions (such as the sale of assets) over the next 12 to 24 months.

"MGM Mirage and Ameristar Casinos are other issuers with notable refinancing risk that will become more concerning as 2009 progresses," Fitch states in its report, Tough Odds to Continue for Gaming, adding that, "Although MGM has recently enhanced its liquidity profile with a secured note issuance and an announced asset sale (Treasure Island)."

As noted, overall commercial casino and racino revenues declined 3.5 percent to roughly \$36.2 billion in 2008. The drop-off was greater in the destination markets of Atlantic City and Las Vegas, where revenues were down about 7.6 percent and 8 percent, respectively (Las Vegas revenues based on

December estimates).

The U.S. decline would have been worse if not for the ramp up of newer markets such as Pennsylvania and New York.

Fitch is predicting equal or greater declines for 2009.

All major sectors of the gaming industry – destination resorts, regional casinos, Native American gaming, credit markets and regulatory changes – are expected to be impacted by the recession, though regional and Native American casinos should fare slightly better than destination resorts in Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

The only segments of the gaming industry forecasted for improvement are equipment manufacturers and suppliers, which have received a "stable to positive" outlook from Fitch.

Fitch assigned the positive outlook rating to equipment manufacturers and suppliers, based on new casino openings over the next 18 months, the need to replace older slot floors and Bally Technologies' strong market share since its operating turnaround.

In December Fitch forecasted the continuing decline in gaming revenues, based on higher

unemployment in 2009, a sharp drop in consumer spending and weak capital markets.

As a result, virtually all sectors of the gaming industry will feel the pinch. Here is a summary of the economic effects on the major gaming industry sectors:

— Regulatory environment: Economic turmoil has already contributed to Kansas losing bidders for its four state-owned casinos. The state is now likely to ease licensing requirements as it reopens the bidding.

Budget-strapped states often turn to gaming when looking for new taxes to fill their coffers. There has already been some discussions about tapping gaming from legislators in states such as Kentucky, Massachusetts, Texas, New Hampshire, Nebraska and Ohio.

Other states that have recently legalized gambling, including New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania may find investment is dampened by their extremely high tax rates of 50 percent and higher.

— Commercial casinos: Fundamental outlook is negative. The weak fundamental trends, including fewer visits

and less spending in casinos, coupled with high leverage and tight liquidity will continue to adversely impact U.S. casinos.

— Native American casinos: Fundamental outlook is negative. While Native American gaming operators are feeling similar pressure on weak operating trends, the operators in Fitch's rated portfolio generally maintain more conservative financial profiles relative to rating levels, and will have more ability to withstand pressures from the recession in 2009.

— Equipment manufacturers and suppliers: Fundamental outlook is stable to positive. While the server-based gaming cycle has been slower than anticipated, many casinos are already in need of replacement outdated machines. Moreover, new openings such as Wynn's Encore, MGM's CityCenter, Fontainebleau and M Resort will create limited demand for new products.

Reprinted with permission. David Stratton is the managing editor of Gaming Today, a newspaper dedicated to the gaming industry, and the author of several books. Read more at www.gamingtoday.com.

News from the U.S Census Bureau in Lansing

Introducing 2010 U.S. census tribal liaison



George Roman recently accepted a position with the U.S. Census Bureau serving as the tribal partnership liaison for Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia. Roman brings over 10 years experience working in non-profit management and administration and spent more than five years serving the Native population of Detroit at the local Indian health clinic.

As a singer, he continues to participate in many traditional gatherings in his native community throughout Michigan as well as other parts of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish during his time with the U.S. Census Bureau he responded, "I am here to serve the First People in my assigned areas. My goal is to inform them how the census results directly affects the services and representation our relatives receive on and off the reservations. It is important for us, as Native people, to weigh how our decision to participate will affect our communities and, most importantly, our future

generations."

Roman received his bachelor's of science from Eastern Michigan University and is pursuing his master's in psychology.

Anyone with any questions about the census can reach George Roman at (313) 574-4985 or e-mail george.a.roman@census.gov.

A brief history of American Indians and the Census Bureau

1790 — First population count taken in the United States.

1860 — First time American Indians are counted as a separate population category.

1890-1950 — Census takers use observation to identify American Indians.

1960-1970 — American Indians self-identification replaces observation.

1980 — Census Bureau actively seeks American Indian input.

1990 — Tribal Governments Program is developed.

2000 — Tribal Governments Program becomes American Indian Program.

2007 — First American Indian policy statement.

Get informed, stay informed

Get free copies of *Tribal Nations News* or *It's In Our Hands*. Stay up to date with the Census efforts in the region. These newsletters are designed to spread best practices from complete count committees and various civic and community leaders around the region. It will also illuminate the workings of the U.S. Census.

Keep up with the efforts that affect your community getting its fair share of political representation and billions of dollars in federal resources. Subscribe to get electronic copies of *Tribal Nations News* or *It's In Our Hands*. Send an e-mail message to kevette.chapman@census.gov and be sure to write "subscribe" in the subject line.

Please send your name and affiliation and let us know what information about Census 2010 would be most helpful to you. You can receive hard copies if you include your name and postal address. You can also call the Detroit

Regional Census Center at (313) 396-5200 and give us your information.

Obtain valuable American Indian data from the Census Bureau Web site. The U.S. Census Bureau has a useful Web site for accessing detailed information on American Indians and Alaska Natives. The site is at www.factfinder.census.gov/home/aian.

The information you will find there covers both the 2000 and 1990 census detailed data sets, as well as data by tribes, reservations and trust areas. The Web site also contains ranking and comparisons, economic data and maps.

For further help with this information, feel free to contact data specialist Janet Butler. She is available to answer data questions on what's available and how to find it. Call her toll free at (800) 432-1495 or send her an e-mail at janet.l.butler@census.gov.

Jobs available

Local Census offices are looking for qualified applicants to fill jobs across the region (Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia).

Jobs are available in every county in Michigan.

These positions include address canvassers, office clerks, recruiting assistants, crew leaders and field operation supervisors.

The jobs are temporary; some are full time and others part time. Census jobs offer flexible schedules and allow close-to-home employment. Pay ranges from \$8.25 to \$19.50 an hour and varies depending on job and location.

Those interested in applying for these jobs should go to www.census.jobs.gov/detroit for full job descriptions, qualifications and applications.

Potential applicants can also call the bureau toll free at (866) 861-2010.



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NCAI president gives final State of Indian nations address in Washington, D.C.



BY RICK SMITH

National Congress of American Indians President Joe A. Garcia delivered his final State of Indian Nations address in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 10. The speech was about 20 minutes in length and titled *The Timeless Promise of American: Renewed Hope in Indian Country*.

This was Garcia's final State of Indian Nations address as his maximum term limit arrives in 2009. According to the NCAI Constitution, presidents are elected to a maximum of two two-year terms. Garcia was originally elected in 2005.

Garcia expressed satisfaction and gratitude to the citizens of Indian Country for turning out in record numbers to vote in the last U.S. election. "Native Americans made history on election day by participating in the democratic process in record numbers. We saw first-hand that when candidates show they care about Indians' issues, Native people support them at the polls.

"My brothers and sisters, with an open hand and a full heart, I thank you for all your effort and support. And I congratulate you on all we have accomplished together. These kinds of successes happen when we look to

our culture, our history and our ancestors to guide us in all that we do."

He spoke of the new era of transformation and revitalization for Indian nations that must be tempered by the stark realities surrounding those nations. "While the United States faces an economy in recession, great swaths of Indian Country have been in economic depression for decades. Many of our communities comprise the poorest counties in the country. In every relevant program area for Indian issues — from education and public safety to the environment, infrastructure and health care — federal funding lags behind the average for the rest of the United States."

Expressing optimism about the new federal administration, Garcia said, "The president has given us good reason to believe he will include Indian nations as he talks about a new spirit of hope and change. During the campaign, President Obama pledged to appoint an American Indian policy advisor to his senior White House staff and to host an annual summit at the White House with tribal leaders to establish a practical agenda for tribal communities.

Garcia said that before assuming his cabinet post, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar met with tribal leaders and pledged to work hand-in-hand with us to address the challenges we face. "So, when the president says that Indian nations are a priority for his new administration, I take him at his word," Garcia said, adding that he looks forward to the new respect for tribal sovereignty and greater inclusion of Indian Country.

He noted the four priorities

of Indian Country. "We seek a place at the table for Indian nations in the economic recovery of this great nation. We seek transformational improvements to health care. We call for a fundamental, federal commitment to public safety; and we seek a new federal priority for the education of the children of Indian nations." He spoke in great detail on each of the priorities.

Concluding his speech, Garcia reflected, "As I think of the state of Indian nations, I know that the spirit of our people is strong — even though the needs of our people are great. I am excited by the promise of a new day in Washington. Our new president has said that we must 'be the change' we have been waiting for.

"With all my heart, I believe this is the true and right thing to do. I hope that, as the president says, the waiting is over, because Indians have been waiting a long, long time for the government's actions to meet our own. We strive to create better tomorrows for the sake of our children and our grandchildren, and for all who will come after us.

"If we cannot leave them something that is better than what we had, then our efforts are in vain. That is why we must take action, as we always have.

I am proud that we are people not just of hope but of action. As the men and women of Indian nations, we are carrying our part of the load and bearing our share of the burden.

"Yet our goals cannot be reached without the federal government honoring its longstanding, historic, and yes,

sacred commitment to us. We look forward to meeting with White House officials at a summit to establish priorities for the agenda of Indian nations.

"I call on this new administration and new Congress to end our wait for change by responding to the things I have talked about today."



Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs director of public affairs, Nedra Darling, gave a beautiful shawl to Michelle Obama when the First Lady visited the Department of the Interior on Feb. 9.

NCAI launches new tribal economic stimulus Web site

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the largest and oldest American Indian organization, launched a new Web site recently, www.ncai.org/stimulus, that provides vital information for tribal governments regarding the funding streams made available through the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), including bill analysis, grant application deadlines and news and updates on each agency.

"We want to make sure tribes have the information they need to participate in the economic recovery of the United States," said NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Johnson Pata. "Tribes need to know about grant deadlines, the process of obtaining funding and how to make use of the money that is available."

The Web site will serve as a central clearinghouse of information on all areas of the ARRA including transportation, housing, law enforcement, education, health, energy and other infra-

structure needs. It also includes news and updates about the Act and upcoming grant application deadlines. Each agency will determine how money will be expended, and the Web site will assist tribes in navigating the process.

"There is \$3 billion available to build critical infrastructure in Indian Country if tribes have the information they need to access the funds," Johnson Pata said. "The new Web site will be the one-stop-shop for all tribal stimulus information."

The site includes a resources section with links to agency information and an analysis section with the full language of ARRA and the NCAI analysis by topic area. The frequently asked questions section will include questions and answers pertaining to the Act, such as how tribes can apply for ARRA funding and how funds can be used. NCAI will also be partnering with sister Indian organizations to continually provide updated analysis of implementation of the bill.

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Salazar testifies on Indian affairs priorities

By Rick Smith

In his first hearing since being confirmed as Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar testified on the department's priorities for Indian affairs before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on Feb. 12.

"During his campaign for the presidency," Salazar opened after salutations, "President Obama spoke out in support of empowering Indian people in the development of the national agenda. As president, he recognizes that federally recognized Indian tribes are sovereign, self-governing political entities that enjoy a government-to-government relationship with the United States government, as expressly recognized in the U.S. Constitution. I, too, am a strong supporter of the principle of tribal self-determination and will work to fully enable tribal self-governance."

Salazar pledged his intent to work hard to empower American Indian communities by helping to address economic development, education, law enforcement and other major issues facing Indian Country. "While there are many important priority issues for Indian Country that I will address as secretary, today I would like to discuss with you more fully four important areas for the nation's Native American communities: economic opportunities, energy development and climate change, education and law enforcement."

Summarizing the history of chronic deplorable socio-economic conditions experienced by many in Indian Country,



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar testifying before Senate Indian Affairs Committee in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 12.

Salazar said, "I believe that the Department of the Interior should be a partner with tribal communities to advance sustainable economic development. A good partnership between tribes and departmental programs in key areas will stimulate a much-needed economic boost for tribal economies and the national economy. The department's capacity to address infrastructure and employment needs through its programs will provide a framework for robust national economic development. Our programmatic outreach will extend from tribal water projects and loan guarantee programs to workforce training and transportation programs. In addition, the economic stimulus package will provide much needed economic development for Native communities. The bill would provide funds for infrastructure and workforce development, and create thousands of jobs."

Speaking on energy develop-

ment and climate change, he said President Obama tasked him to take a key role in "our moon shot to energy independence and addressing climate change."

Salazar described how some reservations are poised to benefit on those efforts. "One of the greatest opportunities for economic development for tribes can be the development of alternative energy sources, including solar, wind and geothermal resources," he said. "Indian Country offers some of the premier wind energy sites in the United States. The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development has identified 77 reservations that possess commercial-scale wind resources and the ability to support viable wind-based economies. Forty of these locations are in states that enacted a Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring utilities to purchase a certain percentage of their power from renewable sources."

Moving on to education, Salazar described the department's 183 elementary and secondary schools along with two post-secondary schools to educate about 47,000 American Indian students on or near 63 reservations in 23 states. Then he launched into his thoughts on what needs to be done on this matter. "Tribes today are struggling to preserve their native languages. We will be examining ways to preserve those languages through the Indian education system."

Salazar said that the No Child Left Behind Act, its implementation and the issues it has raised in Indian schools must also be examined. "I agree with President Obama and Vice President Biden that our children and our country need a vision for a 21st century education in Indian schools. This begins by demanding more reform and accountability and asking parents to take responsibility for their children's success," he said. "An example of this is the Family and Child Education (FACE) program, administered by the Bureau of Indian Education, which provides funding for Indian students and their families and prepares children for Indian education opportunities through early childhood education. Participation of children in the FACE program reduces the need for school-age special education by 50 percent. Additionally, this vision includes recruiting, retaining and rewarding teachers who teach in Bureau of Indian Education schools."

The Interior Secretary added

that he will work on implementing the president's plan to restore the promise of America's public education and "ensure that American Indian children are provided the opportunity to lead the world in creativity and success."

On working to fight crime in Indian Country, Salazar said, "I plan to address several key issues relating to law enforcement in Indian country. Violent crime in Indian Country must be aggressively confronted and we will continue to work with tribes and the Department of Justice in this regard. We will continue to aggressively attack methamphetamine trafficking and abuse in Indian communities."

In a 2006 survey, 74 percent of tribal law enforcement officials reported methamphetamine to be the leading threat to their tribes. "The dramatic increase in the use of this drug has brought with it increases in domestic violence, child neglect, crimes against women and weapons charges," Salazar said, adding that he also plans to address the serious declining conditions of detention facilities in Indian Country as well as staffing needs for those facilities.

"And, finally," the Secretary said, "I want to work on strengthening tribal court systems. Safer communities mean stronger communities. We must continue to work together — the federal government, states, and tribes — to ensure the safety and security of our first Americans. It is a responsibility that I take very seriously."

NMAI putting entire collection of objects online

By Rick Smith

In a move designed to help American Indians who are unable to travel to the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of the American Indian sites on the east coast, the museum is placing its entire collection of over 800,000 objects online. The project began last Feb. 2 with the first 5,500 items and photographs put on display on the museum's Web site, www.nmai.si.edu.

According to the Web site, the National Museum of the American Indian is the 16th museum of the Smithsonian Institution. It is the first national museum dedicated to the preservation, study, and exhibition of the life, languages, literature, history and arts of American Indians. Established by an act of Congress in 1989, the museum works in collaboration with the Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere to protect and foster their cultures by reaffirming traditions and beliefs, encouraging contemporary artistic expression and empowering the Indian voice.

The museum's extensive collections, assembled largely by George Gustav Heye (1874–1957), encompass a vast range of cultural material including works of extraordinary aes-



Photos courtesy of the National Museum of the American Indian
The National Museum of the American Indian is comprised of three facilities in (Left to right) Washington, D.C., Suitland, Md., and New York, N.Y.

thetic, religious, and historical significance, as well as articles produced for everyday, utilitarian use. The collections span all major culture areas of the Americas, representing virtually all tribes of the United States, most of those of Canada, and a significant number of cultures from Central and South America as well as the Caribbean.

Chronologically, the collections include artifacts estimated to be from about 12,000 years ago to contemporary arts and crafts. The museum's holdings also include film and audiovisual collections, paper archives and a photography archive of approximately 90,000 images depicting both historic and contemporary American Indian life.

The National Museum of the American Indian is com-

prised of three facilities: the museum on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the Cultural Resources Center in

Suitland, Md., and the George Gustav Heye Center in New York, N.Y.

Those wishing to explore

the museum's collection online can also explore more about programs and other information on the NMAI Web site.

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Abramson on IHS tribal leaders committee

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians board member Cathy Abramson was recently appointed to the Indian Health Service (IHS) Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) representing the Bemidji service area.

The committee makes recommendations to the IHS director on policy advocacy issues for diabetes and related conditions.

According to Abramson, the committee consults with tribes before making decisions on diabetes treatment and prevention efforts. "Tribal consultation is an integral part of federal program development because of the unique government-to-government relationship between the federal government and the tribes," she said.

The committee is comprised of one elected tribal leader from each of the 12 IHS areas, one federal representative and



Cathy Abramson is a Unit I representative on the Sault Tribe Board of Directors.

five technical advisors.

Stephen Rith-Najarian, MD, diabetes consultant for the Bemidji Area IHS, said, "The Bemidji Area IHS has representation on the TLDC by a representative and alternate,

both of which are nominated by the Mid-West Alliance of Sovereign Tribes and appointed by the Area IHS director. Cathy Abramson has served as the Bemidji Area TLDC alternate since 2005 and was appointed as the representative in 2008.

Rith-Najarian said Abramson has participated in quarterly TLDC conference calls and meetings, and has contributed "valuable insight" that has shaped the decision process for important diabetes related issues. "For example, she has stressed the importance of partnerships among local tribal leadership and health programs in designing effective diabetes treatment and prevention grant programs. As such, she has participated actively in the regional tribal consultation process regarding the future structure of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians grant program. This has included face-to-face meetings with

regional tribal health directors and diabetes program managers. She has partnered with Dr. Kathleen Annette, the Bemidji Area IHS director, in preparing a summary of this consultation process for the IHS director. How fortunate the IHS is to have her dedicated service!"

Abramson said she loves being on the committee and thinks "it is really important for our tribe to be represented on national committees." She works closely with Rith-Najarian to coordinate and communicate with the Bemidji area tribes.

"This is real personal for me because my father passed away at the age of 52 from a massive coronary due to diabetes and my sister, Bonnie McKerchie-Spring, recently passed away from complications of diabetes. She was 57. I also have many family members – and extended family members – who have diabetes," said Abramson.

"Bonnie wanted me to get out there and be proactive about diabetes and how important it is for people to take care of themselves. The biggest thing she wanted people to realize is what a silent disease diabetes is. People don't always realize what it is doing to them internally. You can do something about it."

Abramson said she hopes to "incorporate our culture and traditions more into diabetes prevention to keep ourselves healthy by going back to the things that we, as a people, used to do. Our program managers are coming to realize the importance of incorporating culture into their programming; I'm really excited about that," she said.

The TLDC was established in 1998 and continues to help shape the federal government's Special Diabetes Program for Indians and to promote diabetes awareness in tribal youth.

Teen raised puppy for Leader Dogs for the Blind

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Wanting a puppy of her own but not able to keep one because of upcoming college studies, Katia Locke, Rudyard High School senior, decided instead to raise a puppy as part of the Leader Dogs for the Blind program.

"My mom wanted to raise a seeing eye puppy when she was young and it was her idea that I could try something like that," said Locke.

"It was a fun project but was a lot of responsibility," said Katia's mother, Rachel Fuerer. "She had to be responsible for him every minute she was home, every day for a year. If she went to a friend's house, Zorro went with her. If her friends came over to our house he was there with her. When he was really little, his leash was tied to Katia so he wouldn't pick up any bad habits," she said.

The goal of the puppy raising program is to socialize the puppy provided by the program. This means taking the puppy to basketball games, mall elevators and escalators, county fairs, stairs and around other animals – anywhere there are



Left, Katia Locke with Zorro in the early days of their pairing to orient the puppy for training as a leader dog. Right, Zorro dons his "Future Leader Dog" gear.



people, activities and noise. A handbook with the "Do's and Don't's" of the program puppy raising guidelines is sent to the chosen trainer prior to the puppies arrival. Some of the things the program frowns on is teaching the puppy to chase balls, being outdoors without a leash, eating table food and playing on the job. The puppies in the

program, including Zorro, wear a vest during training time with big bold letters proclaiming, "Future Leader Dog."

"They learn when they are working and not working," said Locke. "There is no discipline allowed at all with the puppies. No aggression of any kind. There is a lot of repetition until they learn what you are trying

to teach them. You can tell them 'no,' but you can't raise your voice," said Locke.

In addition to socializing her puppy, Locke taught him the basics such as to sit, stay, heel and lay down. Once the puppy is 12 to 15 months old it is given back to the program in Rochester, Mich., where it is evaluated and proceeds to more advanced formal training for another year.

Locke was proud to report that Zorro passed his evaluation with flying colors. A year after returning him to the program she was invited to his "graduation" from the program and to meet his new owner.

According to Fuerer, by the time a puppy graduates from the program there has been \$40-\$50,000 invested in their training. Volunteers who raise the puppies their first year donate their time, all veterinary needs, dog food and supplies. After graduation, the dogs are matched with a companion free-of-charge to that person. Zorro's companion was a woman from Costa Rica who traveled to Rochester to meet Zorro and go through a training program herself to learn how to be part

of a Seeing Eye dog team.

Locke has been accepted to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where she plans to major in veterinary medicine.

For more information about the Leader Dogs for the Blind program visit www.leaderdog.org or call (888) 777-5332.

Nurse-midwife delivers babies in Sault Ste. Marie

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Tribal member Andrea Donmyer, CNM, is now offering

expectant mothers in Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding areas the option of using her services as a certified midwife during their pregnancy, labor and delivery.



Donmyer, an employee of War Memorial Hospital (WMH), works with OB/GYN Nelu Cristof, M.D., and Catherine Worden, MSN, a certified family nurse practitioner at Sault Women's Healthcare.

In her practice, Donmyer offers one-on-one prenatal care, education, post-partum and well woman care, annual exams, birth control and other treatment for women's health issues.

Over the past 10 years, Donmyer has worked as an obstetrics nurse at WMH and as a public health nurse.

According to Donmyer, the difference between being a midwife and an obstetrics nurse is that the relationship between a midwife and patient begins as soon as she finds out about her pregnancy.

"I get to follow them through their entire pregnancy so they have someone there they have known for nine months during their labor and delivery. I go to

the hospital when the patient is in active labor and stay with them through their delivery," she said.

Donmyer does not deliver babies at home in case of emergencies. "I try to make labor and delivery as natural as possible but I really do appreciate the fact that we have everything you need in a hospital setting in case of an emergency right there at your fingertips. I think that is important," she said.

Donmyer said the first visit to Sault Women's Healthcare is scheduled with the midwife for a physical and to go over educational materials and the second visit is with the physician. "After her first visit with the physician the mother-to-be chooses who she wants to see

for care during her pregnancy – the midwife, physician or both. She can also decide who she wants to deliver with.

During births attended by the midwife the doctor is available if he is needed," said Donmyer.

The daughter of Sarah and Larry Jacques, Donmyer was born in Sault Ste. Marie and raised in Paradise where she graduated from Paradise High School. In 2001, she graduated from LSSU with her nursing degree and went on to earn her masters from the University of Cincinnati. She is married to Ron and together they have two daughters, Emma, 6, and Ava, 3.

For appointments call Sault Women's Healthcare at (906) 635-3002.

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Children's book conveys lessons on social skills

BY RICK SMITH

Janet Ruth Heller, who holds a doctorate in English language and literature from the University of Chicago, teaches at the Western Michigan University English and Women's Studies departments and authored a children's book titled *How the Moon Regained Her Shape*. The story is drawn from American Indian folk tales, just as the lavish artwork in the book is influenced by Indian styles.

The 34-page book is designed to help parents and educators discuss bullying with children, according to Elaine Krackau of PR by the Book.

"The main character of the story, the moon, finds herself the target of the sun's malicious insults," Krackau noted. "While once the proud moon danced and laughed, she is now embarrassed and begins shrinking. A comet directs her to an American Indian woman on earth who can heal her pain."

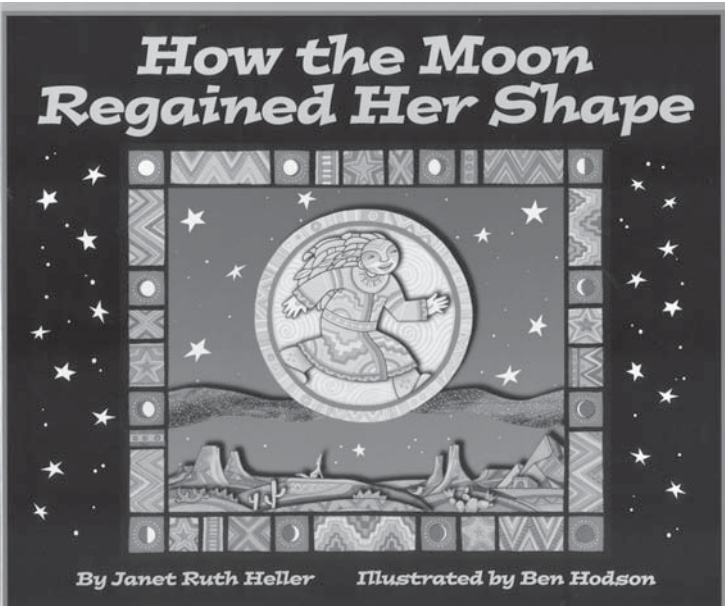
The book won a 2007 Gold Moonbeam Children's Book Award in the 4- to 8-year-old picture book category,

a Benjamin Franklin Award from the Independent Book Publishers Association and placed on the Children's Choices list of the International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council.

The book features a section called For Creative Minds at the conclusion of the story. This section is an educational supplement geared to be easily used at home or school to teach children scientifically accurate observations and fun facts about the moon, American Indian names for full moons or months, projects to make lunar calendars, moon cookies, understanding the moon phases and names and more.

The section ends with information on free online resources for more activities to help teach children about the moon and how to help them deal with bullies.

How the Moon Regained Her Shape is available through Sylvan Dell Publishing of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com or ask for it in better book stores.



New BIE appointees



EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS — David Talayumptewa, Bartholomew "Bart" Stevens and Stephanie E. Birdwell (pictured left to right above) were appointed to Senior Executive Services (SES) within the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). All American Indian, Birdwell (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma) was appointed as the Deputy Director for Policy, Evaluation and Post Secondary Education, Bartholomew "Bart" Stevens (San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona) as the Deputy Director for School Operations and David Talayumptewa (Hopi Tribe in Arizona) as the Assistant Deputy Director for Administration. The appointments became effective on Jan. 4.

Free books for you online

BY RICK SMITH

The Web site www.gutenberg.org offers over 27,000 free books in an online book catalogue and another 100,000 titles are available through Project Gutenberg partners, affiliates and resources. All of the books and items are in the public domain and include historical documents, light literature classics, heavy literature classics, reference works and much more.

According to the Web site, Project Gutenberg is the first and largest single collection of free electronic books, or e-books. Michael Hart, founder of Project Gutenberg, invented e-books in 1971 and continues to inspire the creation of e-books and related technologies today.

There are three portions of the Project Gutenberg Library

described on the Web site as "light" literature" such as *Alice in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking-Glass*, *Peter Pan*, *Aesop's Fables*; "heavy" literature such as the *Holy Bible* or other religious documents, Shakespeare, *Moby Dick* and *Paradise Lost*; and references such as *Roget's Thesaurus*, almanacs, and a set of encyclopedia, dictionaries, and the like.

"The light literature collection is designed to get people to the computer in the first place, whether the person may be a pre-schooler or a great-grandparent. We love it when we hear about kids or grandparents taking each other to e-texts to *Peter Pan* when they come back from watching *Hook* at the movies, or when they read *Alice in Wonderland* after seeing it on TV. We have also been told that nearly every *Star Trek*

movie has quoted current Project Gutenberg e-text releases (from *Moby Dick* in *The Wrath of Khan* to a *Peter Pan* quote finishing up the most recent) not to mention a reference to *Through the Looking-Glass* in *JFK*. This was a primary concern when we chose the books for our libraries."

It is also noted on the site, "We want people to be able to look up quotations they heard in conversation, movies, music, other books, easily with a library containing all these quotations in an easy to find e-text format."

Project Gutenberg claims it was produced by tens of thousands of volunteers and is always looking for more people to help. Visit the Web site to learn more about the project and its offerings and opportunities.



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Sault Tribe employee United Way campaign successful

The Sault Tribe Workplace Campaign Committee is pleased to report the 2009 workplace campaign as a huge success. In four weeks, over 160 tribal employees donated \$18,433.98, an increase in the number of 144 givers from last year.

Sault Tribe employees gave very generously this year to make a positive difference in the lives and living conditions for children, families and the elderly across the eastern Upper Peninsula. Sault Tribe employees understand the meaning of "Live United," demonstrated through the financial contributions made to their fellow community members via the United Way.

The committee would like to thank all of the employees who gave this year. Your donation help to provide mentoring for local youth, ensure families

have safe, warm places to stay, enable individuals to maintain independence and live with disabilities, as well as help improve access to mental and physical health services.

The campaign committee would also like to recognize the following tribal entities for their generous prize donations:

Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie and Kewadin Shores in St. Ignace donated five one-night stays for two at any Kewadin Casino, five dinners for two at Dream Catchers Restaurant and five show tickets for two at any casino location.

Greektown Casino donated tickets for four to a Red Wings game and a night's stay at the Greektown Hotel and Casino.

Grand prize winners were Mary Ann Dougherty, four Red Wings tickets and a night stay

at the Greektown Hotel; Bruce Anderson, weekend getaway and Heather Weber, Bay Mills Resort and Casino getaway.

Additional winners were Rita Lewis, Shannon Bonnell, Jake Sillers and Ron Colegrove, who each won two show tickets; Stephanie Sprecker, Kristyn Libby, Elizabeth Middleton and Tom Gorenflo, who each won dinner for two; and Norman Pine, Rusty Aikens, Jay Eggert and Holly Haapala, who each won a night stay at any Kewadin property.

— From Committee members Jan Pittman, Diane Moore, Mindy Kavanaugh, Daraka Hudecek, Lisa Moran, Susan Henderlite, Lona Stewart, Rachel McKechnie, Bridget Sorenson, Sheryl McKerchie, Keri O'Gorman, Kellie LaVictor, Sheila Berger and Joni Talentino.



Mindy Kavanaugh, administrative assistant, presented Mary Ann Dougherty, Sault Tribal Health Center lab, with Red Wing tickets and a stay at Greektown Casino that she won in an employee drawing.



From left, Denise Atkins, facility management, and Sue Henderlite, administration reception, won Visa gift cards.



Valerie Povey, United Way president; Stacey Swanson, campaign chair; Mindy Kavanaugh, United Way Committee member; Molly Paquin, United Way director; Kristi Little, United Way board member; Joni Talentino, Shelia Berger and Jan Pittman, committee members (L-R) present \$18,433.98 to United Way.



Tribal court staff, Ashley Payment, Chuck Palmer, Jennifer Blair, Ed McKelvie, Vickie Gardner and Brenda Brownlee (L-R), won a pizza party for their 100 percent participation in donating to United Way.



Heather Weber, Rick Steinhaus, Joan Hill and Cheyenne Holappa (L-R) of Kewadin Casino contributed to United Way.



Vicki Quinn and Lorraine Rapson (L-R) from the Sault Kewadin Casino contributed to United Way.



United Committee members (back, L-R) Sheryl McKerchie, Mindy Kavanaugh, Bridget Sorenson, Kellie LaVictor, Jan Pittman, Sheila Burger and Daraka Hudecek, (front, L-R) Diane Moore, Joni Talentino and Lisa Moran. Missing are Kari O'Gorman and Rachel McKechnie.



These team members contributed to United Way, some of them were winners for the competitions that were held. Pictured are (back, L-R) Ashley Reffruschinni, Bobbi Tremblay, Teresa Patten and Terry Carr, (front, L-R) Krystyn Libby, Tony Goetz and Brenda Berkland.



Rita Lewis, health center billing department, won show tickets.



For JKL's annual social studies fair, students chose a historical figure to study and present to the school. Winners are those who did the best job. (Back, L-R) Norma Castro, Judge Carol Andary, Raven Commanda, Aaron Litzner, Dyani Stewart, Robert Donaldson, Jolene Pine, Damon McDonald, Mikaela White, Mike Payment, LSSU student Judge Jen Nokes, (third row, L-R) Ariana Wolf, Shoshana Gardiner, Sydney Rechner, Helena Neal, (second row, L-R) Catilin Wilson, Courtney Arbic, Kaitlyn Goodman, (front, L-R) Madison mayer, Jennifer Poliski and Madelyn Willette. Not pictured: LSSU Professor Eric Gadzinski.



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton
Two social studies fair winners, Courtney Arbic and Sydney Rechner (L-R), get a big hug from fourth grade paraprofessional Rayanna Ellis.



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton
Winner Jennifer Poliski studied presented Sacagawea.



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton
JKL's monthly ceremonial opening also provides a new teaching each time. In February the teaching was about humility, acted out in a skit by the students. Above (back row, L-R) Bruce LaPointe, Mike Payment, TreLazzamre, Tasha Stevens, Kelsey Smith, Austin Visnaw, (middle L-R) Dane Switzer, Chris Hadfield, Brandi Lee, Jessica Lane, Haley Wilkins, (front, L-R) Colin Santos-Worley, Shoshana Gardiner, Ruth Whiteside, Bryn Methner, Kaleb Shannon.

Photos and text by Jennifer Dale-Burton



Mr. Morrison's art class builds a snowsnake run every year for some serious snowsnake competition. Above, a student makes his toss.

Social studies fair

Each year students at JKL Bahweting Anishinabe participate in a social studies fair by selecting a historical figure to research, write about and even impersonate. The students create a display to show others how those individuals made a mark on history and the highlights of their lives. An entire gym is filled with their displays.

In competition, the students are interviewed by judges — this year attorney Carol Andary, LSSU student Jen Nokes and LSSU professor Eric Gadzinski — who listen to students' presentations and then ask questions. Students concoct costumes — as historically accurate as possible — to portray their historical figures.

Andary said she was very impressed by the articulate and thoughtful nature of the students answers.

8th graders head for Big Apple *Community support appreciated!*

The largest eighth grade in JKL Bahweting Anishinabe Public School Academy history — 18 — will be traveling to New York City for its class trip this year. The kids need \$20,000 for their trip and they've been raising funds since the first day of school. So far, they have raised \$7,200 and will ask for matches from the school, the Sault Tribe and local businesses.

The kids will be flying out of Detroit on May 4 and coming home May 8.

Some of the kids have never been out of Sault Ste. Marie and some haven't been out of the state. Many have never flown. Others are well traveled for their age and one of the classmates has already been to New York. The classmates gave a lot of reasons for selecting the Big Apple — they named off historical sights, Broadway, Statue of Liberty, go to a big city, Ground Zero, Wall Street, Times Square, Chinatown, Strawberry

Fields, Fifth Avenue, Empire State Building, Museums, Bronx Zoo and Central Park.

One of their most memorable fundraisers was the formal spaghetti dinner in the school cafeteria that raised \$1,600.

Their next big fundraiser is on the evening of March 12. During an evening of school activities — a book swap, a science fair and a Native storytelling potluck — the enterprising eighth graders will hold an ice cream social and raffle off very fancy, homemade desserts. Please watch for further announcements for a chance to support these kids: Autumn Pavlat, 13; Ashlyn Malmborg, 14; Caroline Neal, 14; Lacey Ailing, 13; Raven Commanda, 14; Blaine Noble, 13; Austin LaCoursiere, 14; Tyler Ross, 15; Isaiah LeBlanc, 12; Dylan Moiles, 13; CJ Wilkins, 14; Rita DeVoy, 13; Julian Locke, 13; Kelsey Theut, 14; Scott Nalett, 14; Keldon Weiser, 14; Rachel Lee, 14; and Mikaila White, 14.



Chris Hadfield portrayed Main-gan in the humility skit.

Ice Cream Social

Watch for Flyers!

The Evening of March 12

Beginning March 13, Sault Tribe members will pay a fee for inland hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering licenses. Individual permits will cost \$4 to \$15 per season. A package that includes all licenses will be available for \$15 per season. Youth and elders will not be charged.

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors authorized the new fee structure at a meeting on Feb. 10. The fees were instituted to help offset the cost of handling the permits. The newly instituted fees will not cover all of the costs of the tribal permitting process, yet they are a step toward balancing the tribal budget.

Permits can be obtained from Sault Tribe Law Enforcement. These permits will be offered to youth 16 or younger and elders over 60 at no cost, but they will still be subject to application procedures. For all others, individual permits cost \$4 to \$15, with most set at \$7. The package license fee is only \$15 and those who purchase the package are still subject to application procedures.

Fees are not the only change. A new permitting system will be instituted this month. Gathering will be added under



2009 Bear season

In 2008, Sault Tribe issued 115 bear permits across the 1836 ceded territory. We harvested 12 bears. The 2009 bear season application will also be distributed in the May newspaper and the lottery will occur at the June Conservation Committee meeting. For those who opt to apply for bear permits only, there will be a \$4 application fee. The fee for those who are successful in the 2009 bear lottery is \$15. Yet again, the \$15 license package includes the bear application fee and license fee.

2009 Spring turkey season

For the 2009 spring wild turkey season, Sault Tribe members will be required to possess valid 2009 Sault Tribe spring turkey permits.

In order to receive 2009 spring turkey permits, members must complete and submit the 2009 turkey permit application to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (application is below or can be found at www.saulttribe.com). The 2009 spring turkey permit will also serve as the harvest tag.

the inland right umbrella so that members only have to go to one place for all their permits — Sault Tribe Law Enforcement. The new permitting system will allow for better data management and, in turn, better wildlife management, according to Eric Clark, Sault Tribe inland fish and wildlife biologist.

“Knowing the number of permits issued for each species type helps us get a better picture of tribal hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering,” said Clark, “which is essential in protecting these treaty rights in the face of biology-based challenges.”

Under the new permitting system, members will be required to possess a valid permit for each activity in which they participate. These permits

will be issued separately and will replace the hunting-fishing hard cards used last year.

The new permits are made of a stretchy material called tesling and will serve as a harvest tag, when needed, for deer, bear, elk, furbearers and turkey. The following table represents the 2009 administration fee structure:

License type	Fee
Small game	\$7
Migratory bird	\$7
Spring turkey	\$7
Fall turkey	\$7
Fishing	\$7
Fur harvester	\$7
Deer	\$5

Bear application	\$4
Bear permit	\$15
Elk application	\$4
Elk permit	\$15

State gathering permit	\$7
State firewood gathering permit	\$7
Federal gathering permit	\$7
Federal firewood gathering permit	\$7

LICENSE PACKAGE \$15

According to the fee structure, members interested only in deer would pay \$5 and nothing else. Members interested in deer and small game only would pay only \$12. But someone who hunts, fishes and gathers would probably want to pay the \$15 package deal and be covered for any license they might want during the season.

Many members fish throughout the season, hunt various small game and deer in the fall and collect firewood. These are the members who should get a package license. A one-time per-season payment of \$15 pays for all the licenses for which

a member applies. Members can purchase package licenses any time they want, but any fees paid prior to that are non-refundable.

Except for the specially regulated fishing season, licenses will be available after March 31. Small game, migratory bird, fishing, fur harvester and deer licenses can be obtained through Sault Tribe Law Enforcement, (906) 635-6050. In 2009, the migratory bird hunting licenses will be available assuming that the regulations are published in Chapter 21 of the Tribal Code.

2009 Specially regulated fishing season

The specially regulated fishing season opens March 15 in the lower Peninsula and April 1 in the Upper Peninsula. For the 2009 specially regulated fishing season, Sault Tribe members will be required to possess valid 2009 Sault Tribe fishing licenses, which will be subject to the administrative fee structure, and a day permit. Once members have the license and day permit, they are authorized to fish for the specified 24-hour period (day). There will be no charge associated with the individual days spent fishing.

Members must apply for the day permit no more than five days in advance. Licensed Sault Tribe fishermen will be able to call Law Enforcement from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and apply for

fishing periods on a given lake or stream. Because a limited number of permits are available for each inland lake, the 24-hour permits will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Permits will be issued no more than five days in advance of the permitted 24-hour fishing period.

Weekends: For a Monday permit, members must call before 12 p.m. the previous Friday. For weekend permits, members must call before 12 p.m. on Thursday. Sault Tribe members will be able to pick up permits in person or permits can be faxed to the location of the members' choice.

Harvest reports must be filed with Sault Tribe Law Enforcement no more than 72 hours after each 24-hour fishing period.

Online Update:

Don't forget about Law Enforcement's POSTAGE AND HANDLING FEE (\$4) for mailed permits!



2009 Elk season

The 2008 Sault Tribe elk season was highly successful. We issued eight permits. Three were “any elk” permits and the remaining five were antlerless permits. Seven of the permitted hunters harvested elk. The applications for the 2009 elk season will be published in the May edition of the Sault Tribe newspaper and the lottery will be held at the June Conservation Committee meeting. A \$4 application fee will apply and, for applicants that are successfully drawn in the 2009 Elk Lottery, a \$15 permit fee will be assessed. However, the application and permit fees are waived if the 2009 license package is purchased for \$15.

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Inland Treaty Right permitting options

Purchased separately, all the permits together would cost \$107. Tribal members intending to obtain more than two of the permits are better off purchasing a package for \$15.

Option 1

Obtaining permits separately, paying fees as you go.

Small Game	\$7
Migratory Birds	\$7
Spring Turkey	\$7
Fall Turkey	\$7
Fishing	\$7
Furharvester	\$7
Deer	\$7
Federal gathering	\$7
Federal Firewood	\$7
State Gathering	\$7

Application Required	
Bear	\$15
Elk	\$15
Specially Regulated Fishing	\$0
State Firewood	\$7

Final Cost: \$0 - \$107

Option 2

Paying one-time package fee of \$15, then obtaining permits at once (as available), as needed.

Small Game	\$0
Migratory Birds	\$0
Spring Turkey	\$0
Fall Turkey	\$0
Fishing	\$0
Furharvester	\$0
Deer	\$0
Federal gathering	\$0
Federal Firewood	\$0
State Gathering	\$0

Application Required	
Bear	\$0
Elk	\$0
Specially Regulated Fishing	\$0
State Firewood	\$0

Final Cost: \$15

2009 Inland Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Gathering Application

Personal Information

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

County _____ Drivers License Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex _____

Applicant Signature _____

Please indicate all the 2009 permits that you wish to apply for:

- Small Game \$7
- Furharvester \$7
- State Firewood \$7
- Permit Package \$15
- Fishing \$7
- Spring Turkey \$7
- Federal Gathering \$7
- Waterfowl \$7**
- Fall Turkey \$7
- Federal Firewood \$7
- Deer \$5
- State Gathering \$7
- Federal Commercial \$7

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Please include a check payable to Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for the total amount due. **Note, if you are applying for the package permit the total due is \$15.**

** The issuance of waterfowl permits is dependent upon regulations being published in Chapter 21 of the Tribal Code.

The above information needs to be returned to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Law Enforcement Department at 2175 Shunk Road, Post Office Box 925, Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783.

Peterson-Serna unite

Lucas James Peterson and Jessica Harrizon Serna were married on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009, in Zihuatanejo, Mexico. Lucas is the son of Ben and Lana Peterson of Fairport, Mich. He is a self-employed commercial fisherman with Peterson Brothers.

Jessica is the daughter of Filipe and Blanca Harrizon Serna of Zihuatanejo, Mexico. She is a 2008 graduate of Instituto Tecnológico de la



Costa Grande with a computer system engineering degree.

Cameron leaves Medical Records

The medical records staff at the Sault Tribe Health Center in the Sault is sad to announce that Lorraine Cameron's last day of work was Jan. 30, 2009.

Cameron's career with the Sault Tribe began over 20 years ago when she was hired as the secretary to the health services director, Gregory Herman, back in the 1980s. She went on to deal blackjack when the casino added its first addition.

From there, she became a certified health technician for Sault Tribe, spending the days of traveling to Newberry for blood pressure clinics. Her next position with Sault Tribe was as an optical technician for several years when the health center was in Kincheloe.

Her love of cards eventually drew her back to dealing blackjack at Kewadin Casino. After the health center was moved back to the Sault, Cameron



worked in contract health services through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program as a clerk. From there, she worked in medical records as a health assistant, also through the WIA program where she has been for the past nine years.

Due to cutbacks in the WIA program, Medical Records is losing one of its most dedicated employees. Lorraine is the type of employee who will never tell you no. She pitches in and helps out wherever help is needed.

Cook makes dean's list

Chantelle H. Cook has been named to the dean's list at Central Michigan University for fall semester 2008.

Chantelle is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and graduated from LaSalle High School, St. Ignace, in 2007.

She is the daughter of Robert and Laura Cook of St. Ignace and the granddaughter of Ronald and Beatrice Lee of Sault Ste. Marie and Ruth McCarney of Engadine.



Keith recognized as Employee of the Year

Lesley Jeanette (Nelson) Keith, a Sault tribe member working for Douglas County Court in Nevada, was recognized as Employee of the Year in both 2005 and 2007 at the China Springs Youth Facility. Lesley, a youth counselor supervisor, has worked for Douglas County Courts for over five years supervising a 60-bed residential treatment facility for

both male and female adjudicated youth.

The daughter of James and Anita (Bebo) Nelson of Munising, Keith graduated from Munising High School in 1998 and Lake Superior State University in 2002 with a bachelor's degree. She is working on her master's degree at the University of Nevada.

daughter of Edgar and Luella (Hardwick) Nedeau. She married Angus A. DeVerney on May 12, 1958, in Iron River, Mich.

She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and especially enjoyed bingo, euchre and lunches on outings with the elders of the Grand Traverse Band (GTB). She liked being with all the elders who gather from across the GTB six-county service area.

MARY ANN DEVERNEY

Mary Ann DeVerney, 66, of Benzonia, formerly of Leslie, began her journey Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, at her home surrounded by her loving family.



Mary was born in Nahma, Mich., on July 23, 1942, the

Births



EVAN JAMES MILLER
Evan James Miller was born Feb. 6, 2009, to Angela Miller of Dafter and Trevor Johnston of Kincheloe. He weighed 9 pounds, 2.5 ounces and was 21 inches in length.

Grandparents are Frank and Tina Miller of Dafter and Martin and Shelli Plumm of Kincheloe. Great-grandparents are William and the late Alice Huffman of Hessel, the late Lawrence and Loretta Miller of Dafter, Wanda and the late John

Plumm of Sault Ste. Marie and Austin and Margie Johnston.



MARVIN EUGENE BASSE
Marvin Eugene Basse was born on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009, at Marquette General Hospital Birthing Center. He weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches in length.

Proud parents are Sault Tribe member John Basse and Heather Hill, both of Gwinn, Mich. He has one sister, Hailey, who will be 2 in April.

Paternal grandparents are Sault Tribe member Patty Basse and John Basse of Gwinn, Mich. Maternal grandparents are Ed and Chris Hill

of Cheyenne, Wyo. Parental great-grandmother is Sault Tribe member Lee Brown of Manistique, Mich., Marvin and Jocelyn Basse of Auburn, Ind. Maternal great-grandmother is Evelyn Bartlett of Laramie, Wyo.



DREW JAMES KEITH
Drew James Keith was born Nov. 26, 2008, in Carson City, Nev., to Sault Tribe member Lesley J. (Nelson) Keith and Dillyn Keith. Drew is the grandson of James and Anita Nelson of Munising and Dennis Keith and Valarie Cushing of lower Michigan.

Woolever Blades Soo Lakers place



Back left: Ryley Alaspa, Travis Zaborowski, Austin Wachnicki, Logan Carrick, Trevor Bailey, Zak Lasley, Brenden MacLaren, Darrell Baker, Kaylee Hill, Ashton Calder, Darren Langendorf, Jake Hubbard. Front left: Derek Crane, Brendan Miller and Tanner Reattoir. Missing Alex Blose. Coaches: Steve Ewing, Paul Prucha and Billy Wychopen.

The Woolever Blades Soo Lakers took runner up in the NIHL Squirt AA Playoffs this Feb. 21-22 at the Big Bear.

In game one, the Soo Lakers took Keewenaw 3-1. Trevor Bailey was in net for the win. Scoring for the Soo were Brenden MacLaren with two goals, Austin Wachnicki with a single.

The Soo Lakers lost to Marquette in game two with a final score of 2-1, Brendan Miller scoring the only Soo Lakers goal. Tanner Reattoir was in net.

Game three with the Soo Greyhounds reps ended in a tie 3-3. Tanner Reattoir and Trevor Bailey shared netmind-

ing duties. Scoring for the Soo Lakers were Brenden MacLaren, Brendan Miller and Ashton Calder.

The Soo Lakers lost the championship game to the Soo Greyhound reps 6-3. Logan Carrick, Austin Wachnicki and Brendan Miller scored for the Soo Lakers.

New Year New Rollover



Over the past couple of years, the government passed some of the most significant changes in the tax code. One such change is most retirement plans can now be rolled into an IRA. (Restrictions, limitations and fees may apply.)

We are experienced in helping our clients develop an investment strategy that helps them to take advantage of tomorrow's opportunities.

If you have questions or concerns about your current portfolio, your 401k or IRA, or would like advice on developing a long-term financial plan, please contact us today.



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From Walking On, page 14
MARY ANN DEVERNEY
 Melissa M. (Thomas) Wessel-DeVerney, William W. (Robin), Elizabeth E. and Catherine C.D. (Billy) Burton; 23 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edgar and Luella; her brother, George Nedeau; her son, Angus A. DeVerney; and her grandson, William C. Shimel Jr.

Visitation and services took place at the Jowett Family Funeral Home in Benzonia on Jan. 12-14, 2009. Contributions may be made to the family.

HENRY J. LABRANCH

Henry J. "Sonny" LaBranch of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died Feb. 5, 2009, at his home. He was born Jan. 25, 1948, in Detroit.

Sonny worked as a truck driver for many years. He enjoyed shooting pool, hunting, fishing, listening to jazz and hosting cookouts for his many family members and friends. He was a member of the American

Legion, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

He is survived by his life partner, Tina Fish; his son, Shaun Fish (Kelly Everitt); his daughter, Tracy Peterson; three brothers, Gerald "Moose" LaBranch, Floyd LaBranch and Robert (Carol) Nygaard; and grandchildren, Damien Everitt-Fish and Alyssa Everitt-Fish.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Clara LaBranch; brother, Donald LaBranch; three sisters, Louise Fournier, Grace Causley-Lee and Donna Collins; and his nephew, Jerry LaBranch.

Visitation and funeral services took place Feb. 9, 2009, at Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home with Brother John Hascall officiating, followed by a luncheon at the American Legion.

He was laid to rest at Mission Hill Cemetery.

WANDA MAE RANDO
 Wanda Mae (Houghton) Rando, 66, passed away Nov.

24, 2008, at Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, Mich.

She was born to Dave and Lucy (Wachter) Houghton July 12, 1942, in Gilchrist, Mich., and attended Engadine High.



Over the years, Wanda had several jobs. She enjoyed doing crafts, shopping and visiting with friends and family. She helped many by taking them to doctor's appointments, shopping or just being there when they needed a friend to talk to.

She is survived by her daughter Vicki (Brent) Cogle of Lincoln Park, Mich.; her son Dale (Sissy) Moe of Seattle, Wash.; four grandchildren, Jon and Jena Cogle and Luke and

Holly Moe; several nieces and nephews; and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother Isadore (Bud) Houghton; brother and sister-in-law Vern and Betty (Johnson) Houghton; and a nephew Bill Houghton.

Wanda was a member of the Sault Ste. Tribe of Chippewa Indians. An Indian burial is planned in the spring where her remains will be laid to rest by her parents' in Naubinway.

MidJim Sault & St Ignace Would like to say Thank You!

During the month of March you can qualify for a "Romantic Dinner for 2" at any Kewadin property.

Every purchase of \$30 or more of gas will get your name entered in this drawing.

(MidJim employees and their immediate families are not eligible for this drawing.)

Get the complete rules by visting one of our MidJim locations in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace.

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SUNBURST GRANITE MEMORIALS

BRONZE PLAQUES



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3160 W. 10 Mile Rd., PO Box 14, Dafter MI 49724

St. Patrick's Day

All Sites
 Earn one roll of Kewadin Gold Tokens.
 Don't forget the Green Beer!!

Kewadin's Cash Bash 2009 All Sites!

Every Friday in March.
 Random Slot Draws
 6 - 10 p.m.

MSXRA Snowcross

Kewadin Manistique Series Finals
 March 7, 2009
 Fun for all ages!
 Purchase tickets at the gate.
 Come In Out of the Cold!
 Random Cash Draws off Slots and Tables in Casino!

Tournaments

\$30,000 Mega Bingo
 Kewadin St. Ignace
 March 28, 09

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Skid Row & Firehouse
 Thursday, March 5th
 Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan



Craig Morgan
 Thursday, March 19th
 Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan



Irish Comedy Tour
 Saturday, March 7th
 Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan



There's no place like Kewadin.

Wing Nuts Party

Kewadin St. Ignace
 Northern Pines Lounge
 March 14, 2009
 Purchase a drink to have a chance at random Cash Prizes & Door Prizes!
 Plus, 2 pair of Detroit Red Wing tickets, 1 pair at row 15 and the other pair is in a suite!!

Weekly Events

Rapids Lounge Entertainment
 Sault Ste. Marie

Comedy starts at 8pm - Thurs.
 Mar. 5 Scott Long & Stan Stankos
 Mar. 12 Dwayne Gill & Keith Lenart
 Live Music starts at 9pm Fri. & Sat.
 Mar. 6 & 7 Nixon Dixxon
 Mar. 13 & 14 Peril

Northern Pines Entertainment
 St. Ignace

Wednesday Comedy Shows
 start at 8pm
 Mar. 4 Scott Long & Stan Stankos
 Mar. 11 Dwayne Gill & Keith Lenart
 Live Music starts at 9pm Fri. & Sat.
 Mar. 6 & 7 TBA
 Mar. 13 & 14 Driven

Team Spirits Bar Entertainment
 Manistique

Mar. 7 - Lost Cause
 Mar. 14 - Karaoke



Chairman McCoy reports to the membership



DARWIN "JOE" MCCOY
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Aanii, I hope this report finds you well and keeps you well informed. There is a lot of activity constantly going on in our tribe.

Chairman/Vice Chairwoman Hours Posted

Vice Chairwoman Lana Causley and I held our first hours in St. Ignace on Thursday, Feb. 26, and they went well. We enjoyed meeting with members one-on-one to get different points of view and areas of concern. We need these interactions to help us in setting priorities for our tribe and finding areas where we need to improve our operations.

We have set our next office hours for Thursday, March 19 from 3 to 6 p.m. in Naubinway at the Snowmobile Museum. Appointments are not necessary; however, scheduled appointments will be given priority. We also prefer to meet with members from the area we are visiting, but all members are welcomed to drop in.

Board of Directors Workshops and Meetings

In late January/early February, the board of directors added two additional workshop days to their monthly schedule; these are open to our membership. The main purpose of these workshops is for the board, and community members, to hear updates on our many programs, services, policies, procedures, enterprises, casinos, etc., get questions answered and assist our programs in setting the direction of their departments. We have had great board participation and positive and productive interaction with the staff on how we provide our services and provide input to help identify ways we can be more efficient in our operations and possibly generate additional revenue. The next scheduled Wednesday workshops and tentative agenda items are as follows:

March 4: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Quarterly updates from the following: Chi Mukwa Recreation Center, Housing Division, Inland hunting and fishing

March 18: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Quarterly updates from Kewadin casinos – all departments

April 8: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Quarterly updates from the following: ACFS Division.

For any updates or changes to the above tentative agendas, please visit our Web site or contact the board of directors' office.

We held two board of directors meetings in the month of February and took action on numerous resolutions, committee appointments and resignations and various other business items. The board of directors' office posts these official action items on our Web site. If you would like more information regarding the actions your board representatives are taking, please contact either the board office at 635-6050 or toll-free at (800) 793-0660, or visit www.saulttribe.com where all information is posted.

My office has received several requests for a meeting with tribal members in the Detroit area. We have not scheduled one at this point. I will discuss this with the board of directors to set up a date. A final decision will be in the next issue of our newspaper. We had previously reported that we will make every effort to hold membership informational meetings in the Detroit area at least quarterly, with the first one having been held in November 2008.

Government-to-Government Relations

I, along with several board members, have been attending a variety of meetings with different tribal groups, as well as federal and state government officials.

Several members and employees have voiced concerns that they feel these meetings and our efforts may be a waste of tribal resources and time. In our opinion, it will never be a waste of resources to send a delegation of tribal leaders to Washington, D.C., or Lansing, Mich., when the purpose and intent of attending and participating in these different meetings is to increase, secure and protect funding we receive for the majority, if not all, of our membership services.

Another purpose and intent for these kinds of meetings and interactions is to stay on top of the many different federal regulations we are required to abide by, as well as any state regulations that we have agreed to abide by, most related directly to different funding requirements.

We are one of many tribes who compete for funding from the federal and state governments. Many of our grants are competitive in nature, so we are basically vying with other tribes for needed funding for services, and what we do receive has never met our needs, nor will it ever.

We have casinos and a few other enterprises, but if we do not look at economic development projects outside of casinos, our economic condition will only continue to get weaker in the years to come.

We have many opportunities and we are starting to look at each closer and giving them a higher priority now that the pressing deficit issue has been addressed and dealt with. It is only through proper planning for our future that we can begin to meet the needs of our membership.

Your leaders work hard on your behalf. There are many different aspects of a board member's job. Yes, you elect us, based on our priorities meshing with yours and, as a whole, we take our direction from you. But, you also elect us based on your belief that we are the best candidates for the job who will work hard to protect and preserve our tribe for us and future generations.

I would like to explain the benefit of building and strengthening government-to-government relationships with other governments. As I mentioned last month, we are a sovereign nation within a sovereign nation. We exist because we have always been here, but we are federally recognized because Congress says we meet the requirements of federal recognition. We have a land base, our own unique culture, traditions and language. These are the foundation of federal recognition.

As I reported in last month's chairman's report, I attended the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) meeting in Washington, D.C., Feb. 15-18. A report from our federal liaison, Meghan Kelly, is published in this issue of the paper (*Ed. Note: Please see page 1*). Please refer to that for an in-depth accounting of the meetings we were involved in during MAST. I will say it was definitely an educational experience for me, and in my opinion, definitely not a waste of time considering all the contacts we made while we were there.

Tribal Budgets

In an effort to better communicate our current financial situation, as well as short term future plans with our membership, we are happy to provide you with information regarding the various services offered as well as the funding sources for them.

There is a misconception out there that we have deep pockets and didn't have to make the many budget reductions we were forced to make. It is important for our members to understand what their leaders are doing with the revenues generated from our businesses as well as the funding received from various federal and state grants. This initial report will be an overview, with more detailed information to follow in upcoming issues of our newspaper.

While we have been making difficult decisions to get the tribe's financial situation under control, the overall economy has helped create a state budget deficit over \$1 billion. Like the tribe, the state is faced with tough budget decisions on what levels programs can continue to be funded and which ones the state will consider for elimination.

Currently, we receive approximately \$1 million in grants through various agencies of the State of Michigan. These dollars assist our tribe in providing Behavioral Health services, some health and education services, law enforcement and

tribal court services, victims' services and services through our Anishnabek Community and Family Services.

The federal government, through agencies such as Indian Health Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Justice, et al, provides our tribe with approximately \$26.6 million for membership services.

Revenues generated through our businesses, including our casinos, are broken down by operations, and transfers to the tribe cover membership services costs.

Economic Stimulus Update/Grant Opportunities

We have been receiving regular updates on the status of President Obama's stimulus proposal. We are very hopeful that our tribe will benefit from this economic proposal.

Some of the "shovel-ready" projects our tribe has submitted for include additional funding for road construction projects in our communities; salt / storage and vehicle garage building in the St. Ignace area; upgrades to our USDA Food Distribution facilities; new busses for our Head Start and Early Head Start programs; proposed expansion of our JKL Anishnabe School in Sault Ste. Marie; completion of infrastructure for Odenaang housing site in Sault Ste. Marie; upgrades to our health facilities; upgrades to our technology including video conferencing abilities, Web site infrastructure development and phone systems replacement. This is not a comprehensive listing of proposed projects but we wanted to give an idea of what we are looking at in our proposal. We will continue to keep you updated on any progress reported.

Greektown Update

In order to keep our financing flowing through our lenders for Greektown, we were asked to reduce our management board from five members to three. Two of these seats are filled with outside professionals, Jacob Milokovich and Louis Glacier, and one was slated for an existing management board member. After discussion with the Sault Tribe Board of Directors in a Gaming Authority meeting, it was determined and voted upon, that I would remain the tribe's representative on Greektown's Management Board. The press release regarding this change will be found in this issue of our paper.

The hotel portion of Greektown opened in February,

and we expect to hold a grand opening event for the entire facility sometime in early March.

Bankruptcy is going steadily down the path of the two options we have been faced with since the filing of bankruptcy – either selling or restructuring. We as a tribe have to consider both paths seriously.

I will continue to provide updates as I am able to, please keep in mind that changes are occurring very swiftly.

Referendums

As you may know, there will be a referendum coming to you for a vote of whether or not you believe the board of directors should rescind Resolution 2008-262: Amending Board of Directors Retirement Plan.

Our Constitution affords members the right to challenge decisions made by your elected leaders. If a handful of members (100 signatures of eligible tribal members are required to sign a petition as outlined in the Referendum Code - Tribal Law) want to referendum resolutions enacted by the board of directors, that is their right per the Constitution.

However, it has always been my belief that if you are going to be asked to make these decisions, then the responsible thing for your leadership to do is provide you with as much factual background information as possible so that you may make an educated decision. Too many times referendums are sent to you and many calls have been placed to administration and the Election Committee because they were not easy to understand. The Constitution allows this right and along with every right we enjoy, comes responsibility.

You need to know that the approximate cost for most referendums is approximately \$16,000 and what the impact the applicable resolution would have if rescinded or left enacted – from a legal and financial aspect – on our tribe, and any additional information related to whatever is the subject of the referendum.

If you have any questions or would like me to report any particular items in my chairman's report, please do not hesitate to contact me at jmccoy@saulttribe.net, or call my office toll-free at (800) 793-0660, or locally 635-6050.

Miigwech,
Chairman Darwin "Joe" McCoy

Blood Drive & Bone Marrow Registry at the Sault Tribe Health Center Auditorium



American Red Cross

Friday, March 27, 2009
11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Sponsored by Sault Tribe

Appointments priority, walk-ins welcome
Call Jan Pittman at 632-5283

Board of directors go after stimulus monies



Tom Miller, Director, Unit IV

Winter is on its way out and those of you who enjoy winter sports, enjoy the remaining days, those of you (like me) who are waiting for warmer weather, hang on, it is almost here. As usual in my report, I will be addressing the major items and attempt to convey accurate information.

An item of importance is the upcoming referendum, of which you will be receiving ballots soon. It concerns me because this is a referendum that basically does nothing but cost the

tribe \$27,000 of postage and employee time. The persons who gathered the 100 signatures to bring forth the referendum were informed that their wording and intent did nothing of substance except undo a resolution to come into compliance with a tax code. Their answer was that it was to punish the board of directors. It does nothing, we have to come into the code as a matter of business and we have agreed to follow those federal laws and regulations as a result of receiving federal grants, contracts and such. Please vote 'yes' on this particular referendum.

On a more positive note, the board has been on the road to Washington, D.C., to ensure that the tribes receive their share of the stimulus bill. We visited several senators and representatives and brought the message to them on set-asides for the tribes.

While in Washington, we were informed of several grant and business opportunities that will benefit the tribe and to help diversify our economic stream

and help to reduce the reliance on gaming. The board is developing economic development strategies that will take us in this direction. These strategies will develop jobs and revenue for the tribal community. We are looking for community input and direction as we go forward.

Keeping abreast of the political happenings at the federal and state levels is a key responsibility of the board. We have been getting better at it in recent years, but we still need to be more active as we proceed forward. In my 28 years as a school administrator, I have been active on the national level for all of those years and understand that if you are not there, someone else will be, to access the monies that you do not. Understand that when we travel, it is for a specific purpose that will ultimately benefit the tribe.

I had been asked to give a detailed report of the Greektown situation and I will do that in my next unit report. Understand that we are in a Chapter 11 process and you

are going to see all types of stories in the paper of interested buyers and such. Many parties have indicated interest in Greektown's situation. Be assured that the tribe is working on developing a plan that will be in the tribe's best interest. Things are coming together and the details will become public as soon as they can. Unfortunately, confidentiality is an essential part of the process and prohibits much of the information coming forward at this time. Please be patient with us as we work on this. I am part of the team working on this project.

Another story I would like to defuse is that of Bahweting School and its interaction with the JKL fiduciary board. We are presently working on cleaning up some past accounting procedures that have led to discrepancies in the end-of-year federal dollar amounts that must be returned to the tribe. The numbers people are on this and are working with the Bahweting School financial persons to rectify this situation that occurred

due to an oversight into the P.L. 100-297 and its regulations. It happened over a several year period and will take us a while to get all the information and monies in an acceptable form and location. This is not a personal or subjective decision, but is driven by law and regulation. This is my area of expertise and I was in the group that drafted the P.L. 100-297 law.

The board, in addition to these items, is still working to streamline the present workforce that will allow us to maximize our revenue to provide services to the tribal membership. As stated above, we are also working on economic development that will result in additional jobs and revenues. We are doing those things that a board should be doing, political and economical, while attempting not to micro-manage the tribal operations.

I hope this finds everyone healthy and ready for the year. If you have any questions, please contact me at (906) 644-3334 or cell (906) 322-3827.

McKelvie: Holding on to our financial footing



Dennis McKelvie, Director, Unit I

Many tribal members wonder why we are in the financial position we are today, considering how we have been spending in the past few years. The simple fact is that we have

been continuously spending more money than we have been making for too long. We have sold assets to help our finances, but this has not proven to be enough. We are facing \$85 million in debt in the north. The time has come to hold onto our current assets for our future. We have to get the debt down so we can restore some of our services that were cut. Our first goal needs to be to save what we can!

An example of this spending is the case of one of our former judges who resigned her position on camera at a board meeting. We paid her through her last day of employment. Since then, this person decided to sue the tribe for wrongful termination and won. She interviewed

and accepted a new position in January and quit after she took her trip to California. This employee was sent on trainings even though she planned to leave the tribe. I believe this money could have been used on trainings for other staff. The court awarded this former employee \$200,000.

We are still in the process of restructuring the tribe. All of the cuts were difficult decisions but necessary. Have we made the right cuts? Hopefully we have. Have we made some mistakes in the restructuring? We probably have. There is no perfect outline for this process. As tribal leaders we are doing our best to ensure that we maintain our current footing and do not slip backwards.

As the economy continues going down, so do our casino revenues. The majority of our programs are supplemented by casino revenues. People have less and less money to spend on entertainment at our casino. We had to make cuts to our programs and casinos due to the current economy.

As board members, we have asked that the membership and staff bear with us through the transitions from the restructuring. We continue to hear from those who support and understand the changes and those who are against. I believe as leaders of our tribe we should also be willing to bear a part of the burden by taking a cut in pay. I have previously submitted resolutions to this effect and they have not been acted on.

Recently there has been a lot of criticism regarding board of director's travel. Some travel is a necessary and important part of holding this office. I have to agree with those who think five or more directors attending the same function is wasteful. Especially at a time when we are asking staff to cut back due to our deficit. As leaders we should be demonstrating the same restraint that we are asking of our staff.

It is my hope that we can save Greektown Casino. Greektown Casino was a great idea. It is a gold mine. Unfortunately, we may not be the ones to prosper from that mine. That will be left to the courts to determine. It is a business that would be supplying the tribe with millions of dollars per year if the debt did not exist.

Here is a breakdown of some expenses to show how debt was incurred at Greektown (amounts are not exact). We

paid \$100+ million build a temporary casino, \$265 million to buy out our partners, a \$50 million bond to the city to buy waterfront property (which we did not get and still owe), \$50 million for a city block to build the new permanent casino (which would have never paid for itself), \$23 million to buy out our minority partners, \$40+ million to LVD lawsuit (they sued the city and we paid it), \$34 million for a parking garage that was appraised at \$12 million that we had to tear down to build a hotel and expansion on the casino. The construction contract did not have proper checks and balances and no penalties fees to the contractor for running over. The contract was simply time plus materials for the contractor. We figured it would cost \$200 million and we set the budget at \$185 million. I believe today it is over \$265 million.

Who is at fault? I guess you have to blame the board, both past and present. We were in charge and had the responsibility to protect Greektown. Our hands were tied and we were forced down this road by the city of Detroit, MGCB and by some of our leaders who wanted to see some of their friends reap the benefits.

In closing, I ask that you continue to bear with us and hopefully we will turn things around by the end of this year. It is my hope that, by next year, we can increase some benefits that have been cut for the membership. The main goal this year is to hold our position so that there will be no more cuts.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (906) 440-3932. Thank you.

2009 budget is balanced



Bernard Bouschor, Director, Unit I

With the meltdown of the United States economy, the crisis in the financial industry and the loss of confidence of citizens in this country, we are feeling the effect in our businesses and government.

Since the election of 2008,

the new leadership has achieved success with a balanced budget for 2009. When I was elected, our tribal community had a huge deficit and no cash reserves to continue all the services our government was providing to the membership. The chairman and the tribal council had no choice but to reduce members' services, reduce employment and close tribal buildings to deal with the reality of a deficit.

The funding sources for operation of our tribal government and services to our membership comes from tribal revenue from our businesses, primarily Kewadin Casinos, and federal agency such as Indian Health Services and the state of Michigan.

In order to reduce or eliminate the governmental budget deficit, the tribal council had

a two-pronged approach. The first was to match income with expenditures — do not spend more than you have. This resulted in the elimination of the deficit. The second was our businesses — we needed to reduce expenditures because of declining revenue. Despite the reduction of revenue, which is a reflection of economic slowdown of the country, the proactive approach to cutting expenses at Kewadin Casino properties has created a financial buffer at his time.

In closing, a referendum that was submitted on Resolution 2008-262 will be or has arrived in the mail. I ask you to approve and affirm the resolution. The tribal council approved the necessary changes for compliance with the requirements of the IRS Code to the board of director's retirement plan.

Setting the record straight; ensuring funding



Cathy Abramson, Director, Unit I

By now you have received a ballot asking you to approve or disapprove of Resolution No. 2008-262: Amending Board of Directors Retirement Income Plan. "What is this all about?" people are asking. Simply put, the board of directors approved the resolution so that the plan would come into compliance with a federal IRS code that came into effect on Jan. 1, 2009. That is all. **PLEASE VOTE TO APPROVE!**

Unfortunately, a small group of Unit I tribal members chose to disrupt this process of doing business by circulating a referendum petition to oppose this resolution. Sadly, they told individuals that the petition was to end the board's retirement and/or cut the board's salary or retirement. This is totally false. I would encourage our membership to please refrain from signing petitions or anything that they haven't read carefully. I am told that this group intends to continue to referendum resolutions that our tribal board passes. That is unfortu-

approximately \$27,000 to conduct including postage and staff time.

Yes, our members have the right to referendum as is stated in our Constitution and ByLaws. It only takes 100 valid signatures to initiate a referendum election. I would encourage our membership to be careful of these individuals who most recently gathered signatures for this latest petition. They accomplished nothing but spreading false rumors and accusations. Unfortunately, it is at a substantial cost to our tribe.

At this time, I would like to say how pleased I am that our chairman has the ability to bring our board together as a strong body. We now have a board that is working together for our people. Rest assured that we all do not agree on various issues, but we take action on issues and move on without too much bickering.

BACK TO BUSINESS

As your representative, I have been extremely busy.

Providing Testimony:

I provided testimony to the Department of Justice administration from the Office of Violence Against Women. I was assisted by Lori Jump, our program manager. One of the big areas of concern is that the Attorney General has not made himself available to listen to our issues and input. True tribal consultation is needed in this area and is something that tribal leaders nationwide are pressing with all of our federal programs and departments.

Legislative Committee: Our board has formally committed to the formation of a new legis-

lative committee which includes Chairman McCoy, Directors Causley, Miller, Bouschor and me. All board members have an opportunity to be involved and some do. We are working with our legislative director and membership services staff to organize information to bring our issues and concerns to our federal and state representatives. I am extremely happy to see rapid growth and development of this process as our people work together to fight for and protect our sovereignty. Our state and federal leadership continues to change with elections and we must educate and re-educate them about who we are as a people. Because of these efforts, we were able to quickly pull together facts and figures for various program needs of our tribe and submit them in a timely manner to members of the Obama transition team staff.

Economic Stimulus Plan:

One-time monies will be made available to tribes in the areas of education, transportation, public safety, health, environment, water, energy, telecommunications and business and workforce development. The funding will flow through the normal departments such as the Departments of Interior, IHS, Transportation, Housing, Justice, Education, EPA, Energy, Treasury and Labor. We must quickly submit our plans for funding consideration. This is a tribal priority at this time. There is a concern out there that the length of time it takes our federal government to give tribes funding may provide some difficulties as there is a timeline of two years in which

this money must be spent.

While we will be fortunate to receive monies, it will be necessary for our tribal government to make sure that our chain of command does not add to hindering the process. We have some great opportunities to develop our tribe and communities. We must make sure we can fast track as much as possible. This is a priority.

Education Legislative

Summit: Director Miller and I attended the National Indian Education Association Legislative Summit, along with our tribe's education director, Angeline Matson. This was an exciting time, as we were in Washington D.C., when all the information was coming out in regards to the Economic Stimulus package. At this time, we met with many legislators and their staff to discuss the availability of school construction monies for the expansion of our tribal school. We encouraged them to continue to support JOM funding, which is in danger of being eliminated. This helps fund our YEA programs and would seriously hurt our ability to provide educational services to our tribal youth.

Another message we brought to them is the importance of providing funding for language preservation. Last year, the Esther Martinez Language Preservation Act was passed, but adequate funding is not available. I reminded our legislators that it was the federal government's plan to assimilate native people by creating the boarding schools. Most of us know the devastating impact that this had on our people. I reminded them that those that attended these schools were not allowed to speak their language and had to refrain from any traditional ceremonies. This caused a tremendous breakdown of our families which resulted in many of the family problems and issues that we deal with today. Because of this, it is the federal government's responsibility to help us in our efforts to bring back our language. We need funding to support language immersion schools, programs and teachers. Reviving our language will help complete who we are and is a proactive way to provide healing to us socially, spiritually, mentally and physically. We must continue to push for this.

MAST: Chairman McCoy, Directors Causley, Miller, Hoffman and I attended the annual Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes Impact Week. It was an intensive three-day event that tribal leaders in which Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin met to discuss and take action on issues that concern our Midwest Anishinaabek communities. Topics included Employee Free Choice Act, the Stimulus Package, the Supreme Court's Carcieri Decision and Class I Air.

We received updated information on the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, Renewable Energy and Business Development Bonds and how they can help tribes.

Again, we met with legislators to educate them about our concerns. In the area of health, our tribes in the Bemidji area are the least funded. Tribes in the Southwest receive much more funding and we believe it is because they have a louder voice and are more actively involved at the federal level than our tribes. This is a reason why we must continue to strengthen our government-to-government relations and actively be engaged in meeting with our Congressmen and representatives.

I would also like to acknowledge some of our tribal members we met with who are in D.C. actively working for our people. Art Leighton is working for the Department of Interior. Lori King is working for Administration for Native Americans. Robert Capriccioso is working for Indian Country Today. Some others who work in D.C., but were out of town include Mary Beth Skupien of Indian Health Services and Stacey Bohlen, executive director of the National Indian Health Board. Let us not forget, our own Meghan Kelly who works for our tribe as our federal liaison. Because she lives in the area, she is able to keep our issues at the forefront by providing follow up and helps us keep contact with legislators. We have tribal members all over the country that are dedicating their lives to our people. It is my desire that they be recognized in our tribal newspaper so that we can all see who is out there helping our communities in a positive, constructive way.

United Tribes: United Tribes of Michigan, Feb. 25, 2009. Topics included Indian Child Welfare Committee report – Stacey Tadgerson; Obama Transition Team update; Michigan's coal-powered expansion update; Environmental energy law; green economy; and a tuition waiver update. While there, we met with several state representatives and discussed our issues and concerns with them. The Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver is in danger of being eliminated again and it is important that we remain actively engaged. We are very fortunate to have our own tribal member Stacey Tadgerson as the director of Native American Affairs for the Michigan Department of Human Services. She gave an excellent presentation of her department and how they are committed to working with us in an effort to enhance the well-being and preservation of our tribes, communities and families.

We will be hosting the annual Tribal-State Summit in Sault Ste. Marie on June 11, 2009. Governor Jennifer Granholm will be in attendance and our tribe will have the opportunity to directly share our issues and concerns with her.

If you have any questions or comments or would like further information on the meetings that I attended, please contact me at (906) 322-3823 or cabramson@saulttribe.net .

Directors attend conference



Lana Causley, Director, Unit II

The tribal chairman, along with directors Miller, Hoffman, Abramson and I attended the Midwest Alliance for Sovereign Tribes conference in Washington D.C. this past week. As an elected leader for our tribe it is crucial that we know the concerns within Indian Country that will affect us and other tribes in the Midwest. We had an opportunity to review and discuss the stimulus package, Homeland Security, child welfare concerns, Title IIV funding, energy endeavors, tribal law enforcement funding, housing and health. Our tribe has been affected by the downturn in the economy and to aggressively pursue additional funding at the state and federal level is a priority. The board must also diversify and implement a working economic development board — there are different views on

this plan — and I firmly believe we must act immediately to secure revenue endeavors for our future. I support the plan and will work toward its implementation.

The board of directors recently held quarterly reviews for our five northern casinos. Many casinos in the nation are struggling, and we, too, have our work cut out for us. At this time we are slightly above budget. This is a direct result of cost cutting measures that we had to make as well as our team members working very hard — our administration AND our front line workers.

Members will be receiving a ballot to vote on the recent referendum. The only outcome of this is very clear. If you vote to approve, this will maintain our compliance with the Internal Revenue Tax Code, as that is the only change that we made from the original resolution. If you vote to disapprove, we will not be in compliance as the board supported and was advised from our accounting and legal departments. Please call me if you have any questions about this.

We held our first chair/vice chair office hours in St. Ignace on Feb 26. We plan to hold hours in each unit to give members an opportunity to discuss concerns with us in a private setting.

Some members won't talk in

public, so this opportunity to you as a member is very welcomed.

On Feb. 26, we had an opportunity to speak with elders — it was very nice to sit and talk with you and your message was appreciated and very welcomed. I was told to "keep moving forward and stay the path." Miigwech to both of you. I appreciate all who attend and welcome you.

The next scheduled office hours are March 19 in Naubinway at the Snowmobile Museum from 3-6 p.m. Please call Lona Stewart at (906) 635-6050 to schedule an appointment.

In closing I would like to say miigwech to you for the phone calls and comments about our tribe moving forward in a positive direction. Our entire board has been working very hard to lobby Congress, assess priorities that we have in our tribe and balance our budgets.

As hard decisions had to be made recently, I personally feel very confident that our tribe has seen accomplishments in the past seven months and I'm looking forward to continuing to be part of our new path.

Please call me if you would like to meet or discuss any issues.

Baamaapii.
Lana Causley
(906) 484-2954
lcausley@saulttribe.net

Reporting on stimulus package, referendum



**DJ HOFFMAN, DIRECTOR,
UNIT I**

As you will see in the various articles in this paper, members of the board attended the MAST meetings in Washington, D.C., this past month.

This trip was very important to ensuring our tribe receives a portion of the stimulus funds to ensure stability and spark economic diversification. The stimulus funds include:

\$510 million for the Native American Housing Block Grant (\$255 million of this amount must be distributed according to the same funding formula used in FY 2008);

\$400 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools facilities (with \$200 million appropriated in each FY 2009 and FY

2010);

\$60 million for tribal clean water grants (1.5 percent set-aside from the \$4 billion appropriated for state revolving funds under the Water Pollution Control Act);

\$10 million for the Indian Loan Guarantee Program;

\$5 million for the Food Distribution Program on Indian reservations;

\$415 million for Indian Health Facilities (increased from \$410 million — \$227 million is dedicated to complete to “priority list” projects that are already under construction);

\$17.25 million for tribal transit from the Federal Transit Administration (The final bill appropriates \$6.9 billion to the FTA, 10 percent of which — \$690 million — is allocated according to the FTA’s “rural formula.” The bill provides that 2.5 percent of the rural funds are dedicated to tribal transit.); and

\$1 billion for COPS grants to state, local and tribal governments to hire additional law enforcement officers. (The final bill does not specify how much funding is directed to tribal police departments.)

The final stimulus bill also retained the provisions for the expansion of tribal tax-exempt bonds:

The Internal Revenue Code allows tribes to issue tax-exempt bonds for an “essential government function,” which is defined as a function customarily performed by a state or local unit of government with general taxing powers.

The stimulus package addresses this issue by amending the Internal Revenue Code to allow tribes to issue “tribal economic development bonds.” There is a national cap on the total value of tribal economic development bonds at \$2 billion.

WE MUST BE READY FOR THESE, AS WELL AS OTHER POTENTIAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

REFERENDUM

It is the individual members’ right to referendum, but to referendum a resolution that ensures compliance with US law is a blatant waste of tribal resources (over \$27,000).

When a petition is submitted by 100 members and pertains to a passed resolution within the last 30 days, board members have two options:

Abstain if there is a direct conflict of interest or vote “yes,” per the Constitution.

I am not a qualifier for the retirement, thus I had no conflict. In effect, I was forced to

vote for a referendum on an issue that is ridiculous. The basis of the referendum is to not comply with U.S. law. So in effect, vote to ensure that the plan is not in compliance.

To understand this issue in more detail, it is necessary to provide a brief overview historically and the events of the past 60 days.

The board retirement was “carefully” placed amongst the employee benefit package as part of Resolution 97-69. I say “carefully,” as I believe it was placed that way to ensure its passage discreetly.

The Referendum of Resolution 2008-262 solely relates to whether the board amendment to ensure the plan is in compliance with the recent changes in IRS Tax Law.

While many have been informed and persuaded to sign referendum petitions that the basis for the referendum is to rescind the board retirement plan. Voting to rescind the amendment will NOT rescind the retirement plan. This is not correct at all.

The Referendum of Resolution 2008-262 solely relates to whether the board amendment to ensure the plan is in compliance with the recent changes in IRS Tax Law.

Resolution 2008-262 was introduced to amend the board retirement to ensure compliance with IRS Tax Code changes. However, I do not believe that this amendment was necessary to maintain compliance with IRS Tax Law.

Resolution 97-126 adopts the plan and its language. The last section of the adopted plan (Section 6.9) states:

Section 6.9 All questions pertaining to the construction, validity and effect of the plan shall be determined in accordance with tribal law, except to the extent preempted by the laws of the United States.

Under this section, “shall” comply with tribal law unless trumped by U.S. law would, in effect, require the plan to adhere to U.S. law (specifically any changes to U.S. law).

Why would we need to amend something that shall follow U.S. law? If U.S. law changes, and we shall comply, then the directive to comply with the LAW (even new) is already embedded in the plan?

Ultimately, this referendum is based upon a purely political agenda at the expense of the tribe and its membership.

The tax obligations for the plan not being in compliance would be born solely by the individual board members who have served for a period of five or more years on the tribal board.

One board member is exempted from any such liability as they had acquired the full 20-year service requirement prior to 2004.

The referendum affords individuals the opportunity to strategically target certain members of the board of directors, as well as set the stage for future political plans.

The attempted repeal of the amendment by referendum may not actually halt the retirement’s requirement to maintain compliance with new IRS laws. Which, in effect, would make the entire referendum process a waste of tribal resources and time.

While I understand the confusion with the ballot language and actual intent of the referendum, one thing is abundantly clear: certain people are taking the time to strategically target members of the current and prior board of directors.

The ramifications of a non-compliant process would have detrimental tax consequences upon all of the current, as well as former, members of the board of directors and chairpersons that served five or more years on the board.

The problem with the assumption that past and present board members would be responsible for past taxation from 2005 forward is also not completely factual. These individuals could easily refrain from taking any increase as it pertains to years of service (which calculates into the retirement plan itself), and thus take a reduced amount based upon the prior years.

In essence, the masterful plot of singling out specific board members and prior chairpersons could also be pronounced irrelevant if the respective members take this alternate route regarding the retirement package.

So, should individual members vote “yes” or “no” on this amendment?

The answer is simple, if you want to ensure that members of the board are not in compliance, then by all means vote NO. This could place several board members out of IRS compliance and could have a potentially detrimental impact to Michigan Gaming Control Board licensure.

A YES VOTE ENSURES THAT THE PLAN FOLLOWS IRS TAX LAW. SO BASICALLY THE VOTE IS TO YES – FOLLOW THE LAW, NO DON’T FOLLOW IT.

If you believe this to be a waste of tribal resources in order to further someone’s political agenda let your elected representatives know. The choice is up to you. However, there is one thing you should all look into.

WHO WAS BEHIND THIS REFERENDUM? WHAT WAS THEIR MOTIVE? – and DO YOU REALLY WANT THEM REPRESENTING YOU?

YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT TO ASK IF THEY HAVE EVER WRITTEN THEIR OWN REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP IN THE TRIBAL PAPER SINCE ELECTION TO THE BOARD.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,
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From “Capitol Campaigns,” page 1 —

Commenting on the importance of the Capitol Hill meetings, Cathy Abramson said, “Every two years, we have new elected federal officials begin or continue their careers in Washington, D.C. These are the people who will make the decisions that will impact our (tribal peoples’) everyday lives. Yet, most of them have never worked with tribes. They have no understanding of how treaties impact tribes today, don’t know that the U.S. Constitution recognizes the continued sovereignty of the federally-recognized tribes. I think it is our duty, as elected tribal leaders, to educate these people and assist them in making informed decisions regarding our people.”

Her comments were echoed by other elected tribal leaders from the Midwest tribes.

Commenting on recent meetings in Washington, D.C., Tom Miller said, “It was satisfying to see the fruition of our past efforts on Capitol Hill. I have no doubt that the inclusion of over \$2 billion of tribal education provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is a result of tribal leaders educating federal elected officials about the existing needs in tribal education.”

Since November, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and other tribes from across the nation, have fought hard for the inclusion of tribal programs within the economic stimulus package. In addition to the \$2 billion for tribal education, as noted above, the economic stimulus package contained other victories for

Indian Country: \$40 million for workforce training and the BIA Housing Improvement Program, \$450 million for construction projects (reservation roads, schools, etc.), \$85 million for health information technology upgrades, and \$415 million for health facilities.

In all, the Recovery Act contained several billion dollars for Indian Country programs.

DJ Hoffman noted, “Our tribe, as well as others, fought long and hard to be included in the economic stimulus package. In the end, the package was signed into law Feb. 17, 2009. It included \$2 billion for tribal tax-exempt bonding.”

He continued, “The hard work must continue. This money is available for a relatively short time (\$2 billion over two years) and it is imperative that we take advantage of this funding as soon as possible. The potential benefits could drastically aid in the diversification of our tribal economic portfolio.”

In addition to participating in the MAST meetings, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indian tribal delegation members centered their attention upon achieving specific Sault Tribe goals.

Chairman McCoy said, “This was my first opportunity to represent our tribal nation at Capitol Hill meetings with federal leaders. Due to time constraints, I focused primarily upon two subject areas: First, increased funding for Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority programs and inland hunting, and fishing. Second, I

focused on increased funding and improved facilitation of tribal health care programs.”

The delegation met with key figures on Capitol Hill (including Congressional staff members of Senator Tester, Congressman Stupak, Congressman Levin, Senator Inouye, Senator Levin, Congressman Schauer, Congressman Ehlers and Congressman Conyers).

Delegation members pushed for improved health promotion and disease prevention programs, urging for the inclusion of behavioral health programs (including alcohol and substance abuse programs, social service programs and mental health programs) in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act reauthorization legislation.

They also fought for increased federal monies for electronic health recording and for the Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund.

As per Contract Health Care programs, leaders urged for full funding and clearer regulatory guidance regarding prompt provider payment. Leaders suggested that the federal government require the same provisions as found in Section 506 of the Medicare, Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (requiring “Medicare-like” rates) for Contract Health services, as recommended by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. They also lobbied for improved recruitment and retention incentives for health care professionals.

Gathering Writes: loche, a fish known by many other names

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

There hasn't been much for me to write about lately, except my own reflections and eating what we saved for the winter. (The venison chili the other night was great.) My husband and I have been too busy to fish. But we hear it's been pretty good fishing and friends have dropped off a fish or two lately, including herring, walleye, whitefish and loche. I was surprised to learn that some locals don't know a loche by that name or any other. So, here is a story I wrote back in March 2007 for Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority. The recipes are updated.

One winter day when I was a little girl, my dad took my sister and me out on the river to pull up some lines he'd set with last spring's smelt. He walked up to the first hole, covered with snow and marked with a little flag, and started hauling in a heavy line. (It was a long time ago.) The thing he pulled out of that hole looked like a big, fat, thick-skinned mutant eel, and as it proceeded to throw itself around on the ice, Dad neatly wacked it on the head with a baseball bat and it was still.

My mother cleaned the fish, taking off long skinny fillets along each side — it hardly



Lota lota from "La Pesca e i Pesci d'Acqua Dolce", by H. Chaumeton, ed. Arnoldo Mondadori, 1986

Above is a beautiful example of the burbot, also known locally as loche. The fish is mottled green to black with a creamy underside.

seemed worth it. But then she set aside the livers, which were the size of her fist. She poached the fillets, which were firm and sweet, and we dipped them in butter. The next morning she rolled the livers in a very fine coating of flour and seasonings, and fried them up for us — they tasted so good, and good for us. We had them with eggs.

Dad explained the fish was only available to us on the St. Marys River in the winter, when it came closer to shore. They liked to stay close to the bottom, and in the colder depths of the lake (Superior) and its big river systems, he said.

The fish, scientific name *Lota lota* — also called mize (Ojibwe), lush, Maria, burbot, lawyer, black cod, log perch, eel pout, ell pout, methy, loche,

lingcod, cusk, mud shark and poor man's lobster — is the only freshwater cod. I have since found out that loche is found in clear, cold lakes and rivers carved by the glaciers, across both North America and Europe.

Loche are typically 15 to 22 inches in length, weighing 1 to 3 pounds. But the record catch in Michigan was an 18-plus pounder from Munuscong Bay in 1980. It must have been quite an old fish, since it takes them six to seven years to mature to spawning size.

The fish is called ugly but I find it quite attractive — its skin is mottled black to green with a creamy-colored belly.

Loche are also victims of the sea lamprey but their numbers were, at one point, returning.

Now that sea lampreys have again reared their ugly heads, loche numbers may again decline. They are vulnerable not only to lamprey, but to lampicide.

The loche fillet, liver and roe are quite nutritious. The fish itself is high in omega-3 fatty acids and Vitamin D, and the liver in particular is high in Vitamin A.

Loche can be caught in the winter under the ice. They spawn in midwinter shallow waters in gravelly areas. Loche is plentiful across the northern continents and known as a delicacy in some places and a trash fish in others. But over time, loche is becoming better known as fun to fish and fine to eat. Alaskan Natives prize its liver and eggs. Anishinaabe call the fish "Mize" and also love all parts of the fish. In Brittany, loche liver is made into a gourmet pâté called "sea foi gras."

Here are some recipes to start off with:

Poor man's lobster

In a big stockpot, bring eight quarts of water and one tablespoon of salt to a roiling boil.

Cut loche fillets into pieces about four inches in length.

Reduce heat and simmer fish for 5-10 minutes. Don't try to cook too many fish pieces at once or they will not cook evenly.

The fish is done when it turns opaque and rises to the surface. Remove with slotted spoon and drain in colander on the back of the stove while the rest of the fish is prepared. The fillets will firm up a little at this time. Serve with melted butter.

Baked loche liver

Loche liver is rich, firm and creamy. Fishers say it is best before the fish spawn.

Lay out livers seasoned with salt and pepper on broiling pan and bake at 375F until cooked through. (Use a broiling pan so that the oil drains off.) This liver is good as breakfast meat, with crackers, crusty rolls or for use in other dishes, such as wild rice pilaf. Alternatively, you can pan fry the liver, as my mother did above.

More things to try

Loche eggs — After I wrote the article above, my husband and I had some fried loche roe from some loche we were given. We ate the roe, livers and fillets. It was good stuff and actually tasted healthy, like wild rice tastes healthy.

Loche cheeks — Now why didn't I think of that? I recently read that loche cheeks are as good and meaty as walleye cheeks and I'm going to try some.

I'm sure if the fillet tastes better than lobster, the cheeks will taste better than scallops.

Are there any feasible global warming fixes?

EarthTalk™

From the editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What are some of the leading proposed technological fixes for staving off global warming and how feasible are they?

— James Harris, Columbus, Ohio

While most of the world fixates on how to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases we emit into the atmosphere, scientists and engineers around the world are busy working on various "geo-engineering" technologies — many of which are highly theoretical — to mitigate global warming and its effects. Many scientists oppose using new technology to fix problems created by old technology, but others view it as

a quick and relatively inexpensive way to solve humankind's most vexing environmental problem.

One of the theories proposed for reducing global warming involves deflecting heat away from the Earth's surface with solar shields or satellites with movable reflectors. Computer models suggest that blocking eight percent of the sun's Earth-bound radiation would effectively counteract the warming effect of our CO₂ pollution. The idea was inspired by the cooling effects of large volcanic eruptions — such as Mt. Pinatubo in 1991 — that blast sulphate particles into the stratosphere. These particles reflect part of the sun's radiation back into space, reducing the amount of heat that reaches the atmosphere.

Another technological fix involves "sequestration," the storage of CO₂ either deep

underground or deep in the ocean. Some of the nation's largest utilities, which are also "washing" coal to filter out impurities, are working on ways to capture the CO₂ they emit and store it miles below the Earth's surface. Costs of such technologies have been prohibitive, but new regulations could force the issue in the near term.

Another leading theory, "ocean fertilization," entails scattering iron powder throughout the world's seas, providing nutrients to boost the amount of phytoplankton that thrive in the water's upper layers. Through photosynthesis, these plants absorb CO₂, which in theory stays with them when they die and fall to the ocean floor. Initial experiments have not lived up to the hype, however, but more research is under way.

Yet another take on altering the seas for the sake of the

climate, "engineered weathering," entails replacing some of the oceans' carbonic acid with hydrochloric acid. This, the theory goes, accelerates the underwater storage of CO₂ otherwise destined for the atmosphere. According to Harvard Earth and Planetary Science Ph.D. Kurt Zenz House, engineered weathering "dramatically accelerates a cleaning process that nature herself uses for greenhouse gas accumulation."

While the cost of many of these so-called "geo-engineering" fixes would not necessarily be prohibitive in light of the cost of transforming our global energy economy, the risks of unintended consequences weigh heavily on even the researchers proposing them. "Personally, as a citizen not a scientist, I don't like geo-engineering because of the high environmental risk," Ken Caldeira, a researcher at

California's Carnegie Institution of Washington, told *New Scientist*. "It's toying with poorly understood complex systems."

But he also wonders, "Is it better to let the Greenland ice sheet collapse and let the polar bears drown their way to extinction, or to spray some sulphur particles in the stratosphere?"

Contacts: *New Scientist*, www.newscientist.com/article/dn11993; *Science Daily*, www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/11/071129132753.

Send your environmental questions to EarthTalk, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.

EarthTalk is now a book! Details and ordering information at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalkbook.

Organic small grains: a profitable niche for UP farmers?

BY JIM LUCAS

The idea that "organic agriculture pays, and it pays well" deserves to be considered by farmers across the U.P., including established conventional farms, growers using organic practices and non-farming landowners looking for enterprises to put their fields to use. Oats, rye, wheat, barley, field peas, triticale and hay have been grown throughout the region for decades, even before the widespread adoption of chemical herbicides,

insecticides and manufactured fertilizers. But small grain and hay prices fluctuate from year to year, with frequently disappointing prices available in local markets.

To market certified organic small grains and hay successfully, producers usually belong to a cooperative, such as CROPP, the people who produce Organic Valley and Organic Prairie products, the Wisconsin Organic Marketing Alliance or the Midwest Organic Farmers Coop. These organizations assist members

to achieve the best prices for their products. The process for achieving and maintaining organic certification for a farm is fairly complex and expensive, but it can pay off.

MSU Extension has organized a series of educational meetings across the U.P. to introduce the opportunity of organic livestock feed production. Speakers will include Vicki Morrone, outreach specialist with the MSU C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Agriculture who will discuss the organic

certification process. John Bobbe of Organic Farmers' Agency for Organic Marketing (OFARM) will discuss marketing organic livestock feeds through grower cooperatives. OFARM is an organization that allows individual cooperatives to act in concert as they price and market products.

Three similar meetings will be held in different U.P. locations as follows: Monday, March 30, 2009, Bruce Township Hall, 3156 E 12 Mile Road, Dafer; Tuesday,

March 31, 2009: Bay College, Escanaba, Room 952, Heriman Center; and Wednesday, April 1, 2009: Chassell Township Hall, 22115 7th St, Chassell.

These meetings are free and open to all. Registration by March 25 is required. A registration brochure is available at www.msue.msu.edu/alger or by contacting the MSU Extension office in Alger County at (906) 387-2530 or msue.alger@county.msu.edu.

Jim Lucas is the director of the Chippewa County MSU Extension Service.

Tips for Health

SUBMITTED BY CHARLA GORDON, RD, HEALTHY HEART PROJECT

It is already starting to look like spring and I am wondering where you put your HEALTH on the list for this year. Here are six simple tips that may help you make healthier food choices and be more physically active for the rest of 2009.

Hang up old habits. Before you make a lot of changes, step back and look at your current way of eating and physical activity habits. Start thinking of little, easy things you can change. Could you put less margarine or butter on your bread? Could you switch from two percent to one percent milk? Would you put your walking shoes in your car so that it will make it easier to walk after work? Little changes can make it easier to make new habits.

Eat smart. A healthful eating plan takes into account what and how much you eat and drink. Pick nutrient-dense foods like vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean meat and fish. Eat less of foods that are high in saturated and *trans* fats, sugar and corn syrup, salt and sodium. Take a good look at your portion sizes – could you shake a bit off the serving spoon before you put the food on your plate? Listen to your body and eat just enough to satisfy your hunger.

Activate yourself. Regular physical activity is fun, energy boosting and important for good health. Adults should aim for at least 150 minutes a week. If you cannot do it all at once, break it up into smaller segments. Nearly everyone has time for 10 minutes of activity here and there throughout the day. Pick activities you enjoy – you will be more likely to stick to it.

Look for support. Get your friends, family and coworkers to join you in eating well and being active. Encouragement from others often makes it easier to stay on track.

Tailor your lifestyle to the season. What kinds of healthy foods are on sale in the winter, spring, summer and fall? When spring arrives, try produce like strawberries and asparagus, and step outdoors to garden or bike. Continue to mix up your routine throughout the year – the variety will help keep you motivated.

Hatch a plan. Set goals for yourself, such as getting 30 minutes a day of physical activity and eating whole grains whenever possible. By planning ahead you can keep up your healthy ways and stay on the road to good HEALTH.

For help in developing your plan, contact your local Sault Tribe health facility.

Source: Weight-Control Information Network, NIH, Winter 2007.

Billboards help prevention

SUBMITTED BY LAUREN EVELEIGH

The next time you are traveling in the Upper Peninsula, keep an eye out for one of three colorful billboards sponsored by Sault Tribe Community Health. The billboards feature the message “Don’t Smoke, Don’t Start,” encouraging community members – adults and youth alike – to keep tobacco sacred by avoiding commercial tobacco products.

The billboards were designed around artwork generously donated by the Saginaw Chippewa Tobacco Coalition. Jolene Quinlan, a local artist from the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan designed the colorful banner with the message “Tobacco, Semaa. Traditional Use, Not Abuse.” This artwork served as the perfect focus for the media campaign launched by Sault Tribe Community Health under the grant project called “Young Spirits, Healthy Bodies, Sacred Semaa” through Mayo Clinic’s Spirit of Eagles Program – a project focused on youth commercial tobacco prevention efforts throughout the Sault Tribe’s seven-county service area.

The three billboards funded under this project are located in Sault Ste. Marie on the I-75 Business Spur between the Admiral gas station and Wendy’s restaurant, on M-128 one mile East of the 123 intersection, and in Escanaba by the US-2 and 41 railroad overpass. In addition to the



billboards, the media campaign launched under this grant also included three radio commercials which were by youth from the Bahweting Anishnabek Tribal Youth Council. The commercials aired for three weeks during the month of February on the Upper Peninsula Eagle radio stations based out of Newberry (96.7 FM), Ishpeming (96.7 FM), Escanaba (107.3 FM), and Marquette (100.3). But don’t worry if you missed the radio ads – the prevention message can also be caught until the end of April while visiting local restaurants in the Sault Ste. Marie area, on advertising placemats printed by *The Sault Evening News*.

Sault Tribe Community Health would like to say *chi miigwech* to the Saginaw Chippewa Tobacco Coalition for helping us spread this important health message to our communities. Please help our community members to keep our bodies healthy, our spirits young, and our Semaa sacred – avoid commercial tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco and avoid secondhand smoke whenever possible. For more information or help quitting commercial tobacco, please call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210 or call your local tribal health center.

Lauren Eveleigh is a Community Health educator.

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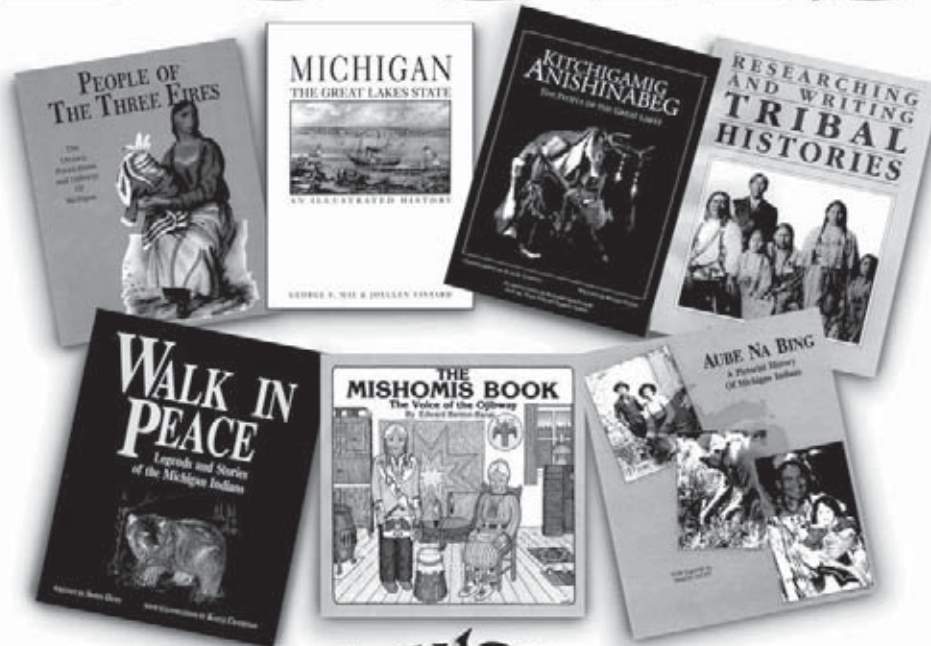
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Strategic Alliance for Health project moves forward

The Sault Tribe Strategic Alliance for Health program staff have been meeting with community consortiums in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Munising and Manistique to complete community assessments using the "Community Health Assessment and Change Evaluation" (CHANGE) Tool.

The CHANGE tool, currently under development by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy Communities Program, provides community leaders with a snapshot of local policy, systems and environmental change strategies in their community and

identifies areas where improvements can be made. Examples of these strategies include tobacco-free policies at schools, healthy vending machine policies at worksites, and safe sidewalks in all neighborhoods.

Completing the assessments involves working together with local and Sault Tribe organizations to answer questions about specific sectors of our community. These sectors include the community as a whole, schools, health care organizations, worksites and community-based institutions. The Strategic Alliance for Health Leadership Team, along with community

partners, are brainstorming and selecting sites to complete the CHANGE tool assessments.

Having broad participation from the community is important. "We are meeting with many sectors within all four communities in order to get a broad, comprehensive picture of policies, systems and infrastructure in the environment that promote healthy lifestyles," said Donna Norkoli, project coordinator. "We want to make the healthy choice the easy choice and decrease unhealthy environments that lead to chronic disease."

The environments where we

live, work, go to school, access health care and play greatly impacts our health. The availability of walking trails, bike paths and recreational facilities can greatly increase our physical activity. Farmer's markets and grocery stores with affordable high quality produce affect our eating habits. And smoke-free policies in public places reduce our exposure to the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Once the CHANGE tool assessments are completed, the Strategic Alliance for Health communities will develop action plans to improve each community's environment for

encouraging healthy lifestyles.

CHANGE has already been used by communities like ours. Users have noted how helpful the tool is for: identifying possible policy, systems and environmental change strategies; guiding conversations and generating ideas for community change.

For more information on the Strategic Alliance for Health Program please visit www.cdc.gov, look for the healthy communities program. For information on the Sault Tribe local initiatives please contact Donna Norkoli at (906) 635-8844.

Sault Ste. Marie's Frank's Place Restaurant goes smoke-free

Frank's Place Restaurant in Sault Ste. Marie has joined the growing number of restaurants and other businesses that are 100 percent smoke-free. "We've been thinking about going smoke-free for several years," said Marta LaLonde, owner. "We also received numerous comment cards from our customers, asking us to go smoke-free."

LaLonde decided it had to be done, not only for the customers, but also for her families. "I've had concerns because secondhand smoke is difficult on me and on my servers. I've told Frank for a long time about how much it bothers [my breathing]. It got to the point where one day last fall, my daughter Dawn, who was suffering from

a terrible cold and could barely breathe, came to Frank and I and just said, 'We've got to go smoke-free; let's just do it.' We agreed and began planning for the effective date of Jan. 1."

According to Donna Norfolk, Sault Tribe Community health educator and member of the Chippewa County Tobacco-free Living Coalition, Frank's Place joins the roster of over 5,600 smoke-free food service establishments in Michigan, including the 40-plus smoke-free establishments in Chippewa County. These business owners surpass the current requirements of Michigan law by voluntarily designating their establishment as 100 percent smoke-free. In order for all food service estab-

lishments to be smoke-free in Michigan, the state law needs to change. Proposed smoke-free worksite legislation failed in December. However, because of strong public support for smoke-free worksites, including bars and restaurants, it is likely that another smoke-free bill will be introduced in 2009.

Research shows that even brief exposure to secondhand smoke can cause heart damage similar to that of a smoker — the kind of damage that can lead to a heart attack. New studies show how dangerous exposure to secondhand smoke is. According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a smoke-free regulation in Pueblo, Colo., led to a dramatic drop in heart attack hospitalizations within three years. The results of the 3-year study showed the rate of hospitalization for heart attacks dropped 41 percent in the three years after the implementation of an ordinance making indoor workplaces and public places smoke-free.

"We receive daily comments from our customers — thanking us for going smoke-free," said LaLonde. "We lost a few customers in the very beginning; however they are coming back. I would say 98 percent of our customers still come back."

"People have health issues.



Marta LaLonde, owner of Frank's Place, displays a certificate of recognition for implementing a smoke-free policy in this establishment from the Chippewa County Tobacco-Free Living Coalition.

Front left: Rachel Mandelstamm, Sault Tribe Youth Education Services; Kim Alford, Donna Norkoli, Sault Tribe Community Health Services; Mary McKay, Chippewa County Health Department; Marta LaLonde and Sheri Poirier, Frank's Place; Deana Knauf, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan; Sonja Norris, Community Volunteer and Customer. Back left: Al McKay, Ray Trouve, Clare Trouve, customers; Lee Carlson, Chippewa County Health Department and Lauren Eveleigh, Sault Tribe Community Health Services.

I am not able to tolerate secondhand smoke," said customer Sonja Norris. "I was so happy to hear that a fine restaurant such as Frank's Place has decided to go smoke-free. This is not about changing people who smoke — it's about offering a healthy environment for people to dine and for employees to work."

LaLonde added that their local customers are pleased and she thinks their customers from

other states and all over the country are going to be thrilled. "No doubts. No regrets. We've done the right thing," she said.

For more information about the dangers of secondhand smoke or for assistance with quitting commercial tobacco use, please call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210. To learn more about the status of state smoke-free legislation, please visit www.makemaiasmokefree.org.

Diabetes Alert Day March 25

SUBMITTED BY LAUREN EVELEIGH, COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATOR

Diabetes is serious, but people with diabetes can live long, healthy, happy lives. By making healthy food choices and being physically active almost everyday (such as walking), you will create a healthy lifestyle pathway for generations to follow. If you are at risk for diabetes, you may be able to prevent or delay it by developing healthy habits. Even if you already have diabetes, you can prevent or delay further problems by keeping track of your blood sugar levels along with a combination of diet, exercise, and medication.

In addition to eating healthy and being active, avoiding commercial tobacco is another way for people with diabetes,

or those at risk for developing it, to stay healthy. While smoking is harmful for everyone, it can be even more dangerous for people with diabetes, who are already at risk of other health problems such as heart disease. Smoking also raises blood sugar levels, making diabetes harder to control. The good news is that no matter how long someone has smoked, they can greatly improve their health by quitting.

So, make Diabetes Alert Day a day for healthy choices! Talk to your doctor or health care provider about ways for you to prevent or manage diabetes. For more information on healthy eating, exercise, or quitting smoking, please call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210 or call your local tribal health center.

Study shows supervised "practice walking" can help

It sounds like a paradox. Peripheral arterial disease can make it harder for people to walk, but researchers say supervised walking on a treadmill can help them walk more easily.

Mary McDermott of Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine found that in a six-month training program. She studied increases in the distance people could walk in a six-minute test and the time that participants could walk on a treadmill without stopping.

"There was significant improvement in walking endurance measured by the six-minute walk test and the amount of time they could walk on the treadmill without stopping," McDermott said.

The study included people who got leg pain when they walked and those who did not get pain.

The study in the Journal of the American Medical Association was supported by the National Institutes of Health. Learn more at www.hhs.gov.



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Sault Ste. Marie

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

Classes are taught through immersion and begin with potluck feasts, so bring your favorite dish.

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

Call 635-6050 for more information.

Jan. 5-Dec. 28: Drumming, 7-9 p.m. Mondays at the Niigaanagizhik Building.

It's a great time for families to come and participate by singing, dancing or just to listen to the Bahweting Singers. For more information, call Bud at 635-6050.

Jan. 7-Dec. 30: Ojibwe 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 at 635-6050.

March 17: Family secret fish and potato stew, noon-1 p.m. at the Sault Tribal Health Center auditorium and kitchenette.

The stew will be prepared and served within 30 minutes. Each participant will enjoy a healthy lunch and tips in preparing this meal at home.

Register no later than Thursday, March 12. Please call 632-5210 to register or ask questions.

March 17-20: Sugarbush preparations at the Mary Murray Culture Camp on Sugar Island.

Dates may change. If you are interested in attending, please call 635-6050.

March 21: Backyardigan's Imagination Day, Totzone from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the basketball court of the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center.

Use your imagination and play in our inflatable jumping castle.

Dress like your favorite Backyardigan.

It's for children five and under and requires adult supervision.

We encourage everyone to bring strollers, push toys, riding toys, walkers and trikes.

In addition, disco lights, children's music and special activities are planned for each Totzone date.

There is a \$3 fee per child to participate. For more information call 635-7465.

April 1: Unit I Elderly Committee meets after the noon meal at the Nokomis/Mishomis Center.

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

April 7: 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.

St. Ignace

Jan. 6-Dec. 29: Ojibwe language classes, 7-8 p.m., Tuesdays at the McCann Center.

Participants enjoy potluck feasts at 6 p.m. followed by language lessons at 7 p.m.

Everyone — young or old — is welcome to attend.

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

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

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

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

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

March 25: Sault Tribe board members Keith Massaway and Patrick Rickley invite you to a Unit III meeting, 6 p.m., at the McCann Building.

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

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

April 10: Unit III Elderly Committee meets after the noon meal at the McCann Building.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

April 22: Sault Tribe board members Keith Massaway and Patrick Rickley invite you to a Unit III meeting, 6 p.m., at the McCann Building.

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

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

Hessel

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

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

March 12: Les Cheneaux Caregivers Support Group meets, 4:30 p.m., at the Les Cheneaux Community Library.

For more information, call Shirley Goehmann at 484-8000.

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

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

April 20: Unit II Hessel Elderly Committee meets after the noon meal at the tribal center.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Manistique

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

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

March 17: Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting, 6 p.m., location to be announced.

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

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

April 7&21: Success with weight loss support group, 5-6 p.m., at the tribal center.

Everyone is welcome.

For more information, please call Patty Teeples at 341-3362 or Jeanne King at 341-9511.

April 8: Unit IV Manistique Elderly Committee meets after the noon meal at the tribal center.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Newberry

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

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

April 24: Unit II Newberry Elderly Committee meets, 11 a.m., at the tribal center.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

April 27: Elderly Advisory Board meets, 12:30 p.m., at the tribal center.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Munising

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

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

April 6&20: Unit V Munising Elderly Committee meets, 4:30 p.m., at the tribal center.

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

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Naubinway

March 25: Unit II Naubinway Elderly Committee meets, 6:30 p.m., at the Pavilion.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

April 29: Unit II Naubinway Elderly Committee meets, 6:30 p.m., at the Pavilion.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Escanaba

March 19: Unit IV Escanaba Elderly Committee meets, 5:30 p.m., call for location at (888) 711-7356.

April 16: Unit IV Escanaba Elderly Committee meets, 5:30 p.m. call for location at (888) 711-7356.

Marquette

April 2: Unit V Marquette Elderly Committee meets, 6 p.m., at the Holiday Inn.

Call (888) 711-7356.

Announcements

Anishinaabemowin-Teg conference sponsorships available.

If you would you like to attend the Anishinaabemowin Language Conference March 26-29, 2009, at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie, the tribal Ojibwe language program has sponsorships available.

The number of sponsorships is limited, with tribal elders, language students and tribal members receiving priority. It is also first-come, first-served 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.

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

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 Anishnabek children throughout the seven-county 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 composed of volunteers from throughout the service area and meets once monthly on third Wednesdays.

We encourage parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and anyone close to a child attending school to join us.

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

For more information, please call the Youth Education and Activities Program at (906) 635-7010.

Silent Hearts bereavement support groups — loss of child support group meets on the first Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., in the Chippewa County Health Department Superior Room, at 508 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie.

The infant support group meets on the second Monday of each month. 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m., in the Chippewa County Health Department Superior Room.

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

Melanie Greenfield and Margaret Swedene run the group 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 the Hospice Office at 253-3151. Hospice of Chippewa County is a United Way Agency.

Sault YEA services — Youth Education and Activities offers many fun and exciting services to students from kindergarten through grade 12.

Computer lab is open Monday through Friday, 3:30-6:30 p.m., and on Saturday, 11-4 p.m. The lab is available for students to come after school and get help with their homework, use computers, socialize with friends and participate in daily activities.

Free tutoring is provided daily for every student. Students will learn how to animate objects, customize Web sites and other exciting media projects every Monday.

On Tuesdays, students have the opportunity to participate in science experiments that concentrate in the 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 are up to their elbows with googly eyes and balls of yarn creating masterpieces.

On Thursdays, the tribal youth council will be working and playing hard coordinating events that 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.

We are at 2428 Shunk Road, next to enrollment.

If you have any questions, please call Rachel Mandelstamm at (906) 440-4494.

Traditional medicine healers are available for appointments at the Sault, Kinross, St. Ignace, Hessel, Manistique, Marquette, and Munising health facilities.

People visit a healer for physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and cultural reasons.

At your appointment with a healer bring an offering of tobacco. All traditional healing is holistic. The root cause of the condition is addressed while the whole person is treated.

As a reminder, women on their moon cycle should make an appointment before or after the cycle.

For information, please call Ted Holappa (906) 632-5204, Laura Collins 632-0236 and Peggy Hemenway 632-0220.

If you are interested in helping those in the recovering communities by chairing meetings, please call Karen Howell or Cindy Thomas at American Indian substance abuse prevention and treatment services at 1022 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call 635-6075 or (800) 726-9105.

Your help is needed to support these meetings. All recovery meetings are open and non-smoking.

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7th | 7:00 p.m. Saturday | \$22.50 | On Sale Now

King of the Cage - St. Ignace
14th | 8:00 p.m. Saturday | \$22.50 - \$100.00 | On Sale Now

Craig Morgan - Sault Ste. Marie
19th | 7:00 p.m. Thursday | \$38.50 | On Sale Now

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