

Win Awenen Nisitotung

Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians



Fall 2 percent revenue funding community needs throughout Sault Tribe service area

MORE THAN \$1 MILLION CONTRIBUTED

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Upper Peninsula police and fire agencies, local libraries, public schools, indoor and outdoor recreation areas and programs, and public universities are among the recipients of \$1,009,890 in fall “2 percent” donations from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

In total this year, the tribe awarded \$1,551,534 in 2 percent contributions to worthy recipients across the eastern U.P. The fall 2 percent donations will benefit communities and citizens in seven U.P. counties.

“The 2 percent money we give to our communities help so many people – from providing money to help law enforcement and other first responders, computers for schools, after school programs, city upgrades – it’s just great to see,” said Sault Tribe Chairman Joe Eitrem.

Since 1993, the Sault Tribe has disbursed 2 percent payments twice annually to U.P. communities and organizations. Funds are distributed to communities extending from St. Ignace to Manistique, to Marquette to Sault Ste. Marie. To date more than \$32 million has been awarded by the tribe based on 2 percent of slot revenues from the tribe’s Kewadin Casino properties in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Hessel, Manistique and Christmas.

Top recipients of the fall 2 percent funds include \$33,941 for the Soo I-500 Project, \$15,000 for the Soo Township Elementary School Build a Dream program, \$13,941 to upgrade the water system tank in Mathias Township, and \$10,915 for an interactive

classroom program in the Big Bay De Noc School District. Funds were also used for the Aging for Outreach and ALTRAN programs in Munising, U.P. Children’s Museum in Marquette, a culture enhancement program in Gladstone Area Schools and the Chippewa County Spay and Neuter Program.

For more information on how to apply for 2 percent funds, contact Candace Blocher at (906) 635-6050.

Fall 2011 2 percent funds distribution:

Sault Tribe Unit I — Chippewa County Spay and Neuter Program, \$10,000; City of Sault Ste. Marie, I-500 Project, \$33,941; Sugar Island Township, emergency shelter, \$7,500; Soo Township Elementary School, Building a Dream, \$15,000; Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools, Girls on the Run, \$1,500; Kinross Charter Township, after school activities and Christmas party, \$7,000.

Sault Tribe Unit II — McMillan Township, Community Center, \$5,000; McMillan Township, Newberry CLM Community Action, \$12,000; Pickford Public Schools, \$7,441; Garfield Township, \$5,000; Trout Lake Township, \$10,500;

See “Fall 2 Percent,” Page 2



Photo by Brenda Austin

Sugar Islanders are getting new kitchen equipment at the Sugar Island Community Center, which is used as the island’s emergency shelter, thanks to a 2 percent donation from the Sault Tribe. L-R, Township Clerk Louise Bledsoe, elder John (Chum) Menard and Unit I directors Debra Ann Pine and Cathy Abramson.

Sierra Club fights Kinross ethanol plant

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

Kincheloe resident Larry Klein and the Sierra Club have filed a complaint against the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for violating federal law when it approved and funded the cellulosic biorefinery in Kinross Charter Township, commonly known as the Frontier Project.

“Klein et al v. United States

Department of Energy” was filed Dec. 22 at the Western District of Michigan U.S. District Court Northern Division and will be heard by U.S. District Court Judge R. Allan Edgar in Marquette, Mich., according to the docket.

At the heart of the matter is the club’s contention that the DOE is not in compliance with

the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), and if it were, the Frontier Project, as it stands now, would not exist. Klein and the Sierra Club wants the judge to declare that the DOE failed to comply with NEPA and that activities will stop until it complies with NEPA and the APA, in order to

“preserve the status quo, prevent agency action and forestall irreparable injury to the environment.”

Mascoma’s technology converts hardwoods to cellulosic ethanol using yeasts to ferment the wood. The hardwood, characterized as “underutilized pulpwood hardwood” by Mascoma, will be harvested from a 150-mile

See “Kinross Project,” Pg. 17

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Photo by Rick Smith

Staff of the Sault Tribe Health and Human Services Center in Sault Ste. Marie stand among a cache of food for 32 food baskets in an annual Christmas relief effort for disadvantaged families on Dec. 16. Each family received \$120 worth of meats, breakfast items, beverages, assorted canned foods, packaged mixes, fresh produce and other items. Funding for the baskets came from the 42 staff members at the center who participate in the Friday dress down days. Left to right, Diane Moore, Wanda Clerc, Susan Henderlite, Kerrie Jones and Amanda Lewis. Also part of the crew but not pictured, is Rita Lewis.



Photo by Brenda Austin

Pickford Community Library got a boost from 2 percent funds for building renovations, allowing them to build an enclosed entryway into the building. L-R, Unit II Director Lana Causley, Hessel casino Manager Tel Fox and Pickford Library Manager Michelle Satchell.



Photo by Brenda Austin

St. Ignace Area Schools were able to purchase a used bus with help from Sault Tribe's 2 percent funds. L-R, St. Ignace casino Manager Steve Sprecker, Unit III Director Pat Rickley, St. Ignace Area Schools Superintendent Don Gustafson and Unit III Director Keith Massaway.



Willow Creek Meeting Center is made possible by 2 percent grants. It is used free of charge by special interest groups, elder groups, tutoring and general community meetings for the Escanaba area. Above, Unit IV Director Denise Chase receives a copy of the center meeting schedule from Bill Boda, Nah Tah Wahsh Public School Academy, with Unit IV Director Tom Miller looking on (L-R).

From "Fall 2 Percent," Page 1
 Pickford Township, \$5,000;
 Hendricks Township, \$3,000;
 Hendricks Township, \$4,000;
 Engadine schools, \$7,500;
 Mackinac County, \$10,000;
 DeTour schools, \$5,500.

Sault Tribe Unit III — St. Ignace Township, \$5,000; Moran Township School District, \$991.20; La Salle High School \$5,126; Brevort Township, \$4,597; Brevort Township, \$1,000; City of St. Ignace \$49,229.80;

Sault Tribe Unit IV — Schoolcraft County DHS, Christmas baskets \$4,000; Rapid River Public Schools Betterment of our Youth, \$4,217; Nah Tah Wahsh, Willow Creek, \$31,309; Manistique Area Schools, Title VII, \$2,000; Manistique Area Schools, open swim,

\$2,000; Ishpeming School District 1, Title VII, \$5,000; Gladstone Area Schools Culture Enhancement Program, \$3,000; Escanaba Area Schools, Title VII, \$3,500; Big Bay De Noc School District, CUP baseball program, \$1,500.

Sault Tribe Unit V — Marquette Area Schools, Title VII, \$10,000; Munising Memorial Hospital mamography equipment, \$5,000; Township of Munising tennis facility, \$5,000; Mathias Township water system tank upgrade, \$13,941; Munising Public Schools, education/academics assistance for youth, \$12,000.

Annual long-term 2 percent commitments:

Unit I — Chippewa County, general government services, \$16,000; Chippewa County,

Foster Care, \$4,500; Chippewa County Sheriff, lodging/law enforcement, \$25,000; City of Sault Ste. Marie, general government services, \$191,271; Consolidated Schools, GED, \$86,372; Kinross Charter Township, law enforcement, \$21,500; Lake Superior State University, Gem of the North, \$52,275; Sault Area Public Schools Title VII, \$25,316; Sault Area Public Schools, PILT, \$18,000.

Sault Tribe Unit II — Hulbert Township, snowmobile grooming, \$5,000.

Sault Tribe Unit III — City of St. Ignace, Mackinaw Straits dialysis, \$30,000; City of St. Ignace, Straits Area grooming, \$5,000; City of St. Ignace, lodging/law enforcement \$3,500; City of St. Ignace, road improve-

ments \$6,500; City of St. Ignace, fitness center, \$18,500; Clark Township, general government services, \$5,000; Clark Township, Les Chen grooming, \$5,000; Mackinac County Probate Center foster, \$10,500; Mackinac County Sheriff, lodging/law enforcement, \$11,250; St. Ignace Township, general government services, \$13,000; St. Ignace Area Schools, student advocate, \$10,000.

Sault Tribe Unit IV — Bay De Noc Community College, YMCA, \$8,000; City of Escanaba, lodging/law enforcement, \$6,000; Delta County Sheriff, lodging/law enforcement, \$8,000; City of Manistique, lodging/law enforcement, \$2,500; Manistique Township, general government services, \$5,000; Schoolcraft

County, snowmobile grooming, \$5,000, Schoolcraft County Sheriff, lodging/law enforcement, \$9,600.

Unit V — Alger County Sheriff's Department, lodging/law enforcement, \$9,600; Autrain Township, general government services, \$3,500; Marquette County Sheriff, lodging/law enforcement, \$6,000; Munising Township, general government services, \$3,500; Munising Township, snowmobile grooming, \$5,000.

Attention: JKL School community forum slated for Feb. 23

JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy in conjunction with Sault Tribe has hired the firm C2ae to conduct a feasibility study regarding possible expansion or new construction at Odenaang.

C2ae will facilitate a community forum on Thursday, Feb. 23, in the JKL Bahweting Library at 6 p.m. to give the Sault Ste. Marie community an opportunity to provide feedback on options for expansion.



Photo by Brenda Austin

CEO of Munising Memorial Hospital Kevin Calhoun, Christmas casino Manager Tate Masters, lead mammography supervisor Jessie Webster and Unit IV Director Joan Carr-Anderson (L-R) gather around the mammography equipment to be replaced with 2 percent funds.

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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 Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
 Rick Smith.....Staff Writer
 Sherrie Lucas.....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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Remains disturbed during construction to be reburied in turtle mound on Mackinac Island

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — What are believed to be the remains of Native Americans from the 1800s were unearthed at a Mackinac Island construction site Nov. 7 after a historic building, the McNally Cottage, was demolished to make way for a new hotel, the Bicycle Street Inn. Sault Tribe Repatriation Specialist Cecil Pavlat said he was aware of the construction and half expected remains to be found. He received a call from the local chief of police when unconfirmed animal and human bones were located at the site and was on the island two days later to review the situation.

Pavlat presented a plan to the Mackinac Straight Historic Parks Commission and a few residents from Mackinac Island on Dec. 14 in Lansing to reinter the remains and construct a burial mound in the shape of a turtle using the

more than 70 truckloads of earth and bone fragments taken from the construction site. The commission approved the plan and it was later determined the burial mound will be located in the island's Catholic cemetery.

Also during the commission meeting, it was determined the responsibility to pay for a solution falls on the shoulders of developer Ira Green, who, according to Pavlat, has accepted that responsibility.

A local excavating company began moving the earth containing human remains to the cemetery on Dec. 29, with landscaping and shaping to begin in the spring.

Pavlat said he would like the tribe to place a black marble memorial plaque in English and Ojibwe at the site to educate visitors about the history of Native American culture on the Island.

Island history has it that prior

to the McNally Cottage construction, the site was part of an old cemetery belonging to the Catholic parish of St. Anne. The church was moved to the east end of the island and the cemetery was removed to a new St. Anne's Cemetery near the middle of the island.

Pavlat said that, historically, Native Americans were usually buried on the periphery of a cemetery using wooden crosses or markers. They were buried traditionally with their heads in the western direction and their feet facing east. After a period of time, the wood markers fell over and disintegrated, the graves forgotten. Pavlat thinks that such unmarked remains were left behind when the old cemetery was moved to its present location.

When a portion of the new development's foundation wall collapsed, it exposed the first intact skeleton found at the

site. That finding led to three more intact skeletons, including an infant buried with what is assumed was its mother.

Pavlat said there is no way of knowing how many individuals were disturbed at the site. "There are too many bone fragments to determine that fact," he said. "They removed over 70 truckloads of dirt from the construction site and are storing it at their facility. I walked around the dirt pile and in about five minutes found about eight bone fragments."

The initial plan was to sift through the dirt pile to find and rebury the remains, according to Pavlat, but it was determined it would take about six months to accomplish and there was a good chance small bone fragments could fall through the sifting screen. That is when the idea for the turtle-shaped burial mound came to Pavlat. The word

'Mackinac' is a corruption of the Anishinaabe word for turtle, 'mkinaak.' Pavlat said it seemed appropriate to put a turtle burial mound on Turtle Island.

"We can take this situation and create something beautiful and educational that will teach people about respectful burial and our presence on the Island before European contact. It would be hard to do anything else other than a burial mound with that amount of soil," he said. "It is ironic that a place that we hold sacred and that is part of our creation story is the playground of the elite. Turtle Island has always been sacred to us; we have been there for thousands of years."

The burial mound will be about 50-by-100 feet and filled with about 400 yards of disturbed soil.

The city is working on new guidelines for future discovery of human remains on the island.

YEA, Tapawingo Farms collaborate to help youth

BY RICK SMITH

Collaboration between staff of the Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Program and Tapawingo Farms in Sault Ste. Marie may soon yield new, beneficial adventures for the tribe's youngsters in the eastern Upper Peninsula. YEA youth services coordinators Jill Lawson and Dawn Griffin are working with Jessie Beckett in tailoring opportunities for youth to acquire education and experiences with horses and other animals that will benefit them for a lifetime.

Lawson is the YEA coordinator for the Sault Ste. Marie area, Griffin coordinates the YEA functions for the Kinross and Rudyard areas and Beckett is the principal figure in the development of Tapawingo Farms. The ladies are exploring many considerations for programs designed specifically for Sault Tribe members, such as incorporating Anishinaabe culture and possible funding sources. If all goes well, they hope to start next summer.

"This new idea of working with Tapawingo Farms is very exciting for the kids and for the coordinators," said Griffin. "What a great way to engage the kids by teaching with animals. Almost everyone can relate to animals in some way." She also expressed

excitement about offering lessons with an Anishinaabe slant involving the animals along with hands-on learning. "It gives our summer program a new twist."

Lawson concurs. "YEA is honored to be given the opportunity to collaborate with Tapawingo farms and introduce this very exciting addition to our summer programs. The animals will allow our program to instill a sense of pride in our students while enhancing the education and culture component to our curriculum. I am certain our students will greatly benefit from the teaching these animals have to offer."

Tapawingo Farms is a fledgling, non-profit corporation with the goal of reaching neglected, delinquent and abused youth in the area with the quiet strength of horses and other animals. "We are creating a place of peace for the youth in our community, where they can find respite, hope and safety no matter what their life's circumstances," noted Beckett. It is on a 10-acre parcel of land just inside the city limits on Three Mile Road. The area is designated as an agricultural zone, allowing the Beckett family to keep livestock.

Beckett said she recognized a need for such an organiza-



Sault area Youth Education and Activities (YEA) coordinator Jill Lawson, Jessie Beckett of Tapawingo Farms and Kinross/Rudyard area YEA coordinator Dawn Griffin (L-R) are developing plans for programs at Tapawingo Farms to benefit young Sault Tribe members with the help of horses and other animals.

tion several years ago and the opportunity to start one came when her family acquired an old farmstead last May. Tapawingo Farms incorporated with the state of Michigan last July as a non-profit organization with the declared intent of helping youth. In addition to her experience as a mother of six children, Beckett is consulting with professionals on working with juveniles.

According to Beckett, her whole family spent the entirety of last summer repairing fences, barns and electrical systems along with creating adequate shelter for the animals to get through the

winter. They had help.

"We had lots of volunteers at the farm this summer, and we are so grateful for all of their help! The YouthWorks organization sent dozens of teens to our farm from all around the U.S. on short-term mission trips. They are the ones who constructed the goat fence in the front pasture area. They also did a lot of improvements to the barn and the grounds. They are a wonderful organization."

There is still much that needs to be done, she added, such as removing an old barn and building a new horse barn and arena.

She expressed particular pride in her children who help feed and water animals plus clean pens in addition to their school activities and studies as honor students.

The board of directors for Tapawingo Farms was recently established, according to Beckett, and consists of Steve and Jessie Beckett, Bruce Champlin and Josh Dowdy of Sault Ste. Marie, and Vicki Wheat of Engadine.

The Michigan Interscholastic Horseman's Association gave approval for Tapawingo Farms last October to start an equestrian team to operate as a club through Sault Area High School. Beckett and Suzanne Morisse, both seasoned equestrians, will serve as coaches.

Speaking about aspirations for Tapawingo Farms, Beckett said, "I see this as becoming a gathering place for outreach within the community, I want this to be a community thing."

The welcome mat is out to anyone interested in becoming part of the organization or rendering help in any fashion.

Tapawingo Farms can be reached by calling 322-6381 or on Facebook. Lawson can be contacted at 253-1321 or by email at jlawson@saulttribe.net and Griffin is at 440-1870 or dgriffin@saulttribe.net.

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Sault Tribe Law Enforcement hires new officer

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

ST. IGNACE, Mich. — Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) recently hired Officer Erica Stempky, who will be on duty in the St. Ignace area. Stempky is a 2011 graduate of LSSU's police academy and holds a bachelor degree in criminal justice.

"We are very fortunate to have Erica join our team; she will be a true asset to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement," Sault Tribe Chief of Police Robert Marchand said. "She is very community-oriented and will complement our community policing efforts. I am very happy to have such a well-qualified officer join our department."

Stempky, 22, is from Cheboygan and prior to being hired by the Sault Tribe, she worked briefly for the city of Charlevoix as a police officer.



Stempky said she enjoys helping people, and coming from a large family, she enjoys meeting and speaking to new people every day. It is not unusual for her to

be the only female in a room full of male officers, she said.

"It's a lot of fun. I think that being female I have a lot to bring to the table when dealing with female victims and children who may not want to talk to a six-foot-four man about really sensitive subjects," she said. "They guys all treat me like one of them, I don't think they see the ponytail."

Believing that many people share misconceptions about police officers, Stempky said STLE is a very caring department. "The officers care for and respect the people we work for — the people in our communities. We aren't someone people need to fear. You will see us out shopping in the community and going about our lives, but when we are in uniform we want you

to be able to call us when you need help and not be afraid to. But at the same time respect us," she said. "Chief Marchand has created a great and respectful department, which I am proud to be part of. He is an outstanding person to work for and have in our community."

Stempky said attending the police academy was a really good experience and teaches officers using real life scenarios. "The academy teaches you to be open minded about situations that could happen during traffic stops. No one call is the same; you have to have the mindset that anything can happen and be ready to defend yourself and protect others," she said.

She said everything officers do is for a reason and usually to protect someone in the commu-

nity — like pulling someone over for speeding. "M-134 gets pretty slippery at night and me stopping you and telling you, 'Hey, you might want to slow down,' may save you from sliding on black ice the following night."

Stempky said that she has many aspirations during her career as an officer, including working undercover and becoming a sergeant or detective. "Throughout the duration of my career I hope to impact peoples lives in a positive way and make a difference in our community," she said.

Stempky said she would like to stay in the U.P. for the rest of her life and can't wait to see where her career goes from here. Her parents are Dave and Gloria Stempky of Cheboygan and she has two sisters and a brother.

MainOne drive nets food for Salvation Army

MOTORPOOL DONATES VAN AND MANPOWER TO DELIVER DONATIONS TO SALVATION ARMY

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich.

— The Sault Ste. Marie branch of OneMain Financial presented 5,602 non-perishable food items to the Salvation Army on Dec. 6. The food was donated by the

firm's customers, area residents, students of Lincoln Elementary School, the Tuesday night men's bowling league and employees during a OneMain Financial Customer Appreciation Days

drive last November as part of a company-wide initiative.

"OneMain Financial is honored to support the work of the Salvation Army," said Tanya Van Midde, branch manager. "Our customers and area residents have made the holiday season a little easier for people who are in need in our community."

She expressed special thanks to the Sault Tribe Motor Pool for

generously donating manpower and transportation, in the form of Bob Henderson and a cargo van, to deliver all the donated items to the Salvation Army.

OneMain Financial (formerly CitiFinancial), based in Baltimore, Md., provides personalized loan solutions and one-on-one, local services at more than 1,300 branches nationwide. With a 99-year heritage of help-

ing people realize their financial goals and dreams, their employees are part of the communities where they live and work. OneMain Financial works with each customer to find a solution that best fits one's needs and budget, offering a straightforward loan application with fixed rates and clear terms. Additional information may be found online at onemainfinancial.com.



Photos by Rick Smith

LOADING ON — Staff from the Sault OneMain Financial branch office, Salvation Army and Sault Tribe Motor Pool loading food donations into a van supplied courtesy of the motor pool. Left to right, Karen Osborne of OneMain Financial, captains Daniel and Amy Voss of the Salvation Army, Bob Henderson of Sault Tribe Motor Pool and Amy Van Midde of OneMain.

Members of the Lincoln Leadership Team from Lincoln Elementary School in Sault Ste. Marie and representatives of the Salvation Army surround a cache of foods donated by area residents during the Customer Appreciation Days food drive at the local OneMain Financial branch during Nov. 17-30. The company presented 5,602 non-perishable food items to the Salvation Army with the help of staff and a vehicle from Sault Tribe Motor Pool providing transportation.



Early Childhood programs honor Eby and Lawson



The Early Childhood programs honored two team members for their accomplishments at their December staff meeting. Wendy Eby will be graduating in December with honors from Bay Mills Community College with an associates degree in early childhood education. Amie Lawson will be graduating from Lake Superior State University in December with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

Sault Tribe United Way Workplace Campaign Incentive winners

This year's Grand Prize winner of the Sault Tribe United Way Workplace Campaign Incentive draw was Meghan Wiertalla. She took home a Bay Mills Resort night stay, two buffet dinners and a \$100 cash gift certificate.

Other winners were Kurt Thorin and Sheryl McKerchie who each took home show tickets for two, Barbara Sherman and Misti Gamble each winning a dinner for two, Linda Marshall and Kelly Jenkins, each winners of a one night stay at any Kewadin property, Faye Belonga and Julie Norton who each took home a beer mirror, Tom Gorenflo and Bonnie Culfa each winning a Midjim gift certificate and last but not least, Steve Sprecker, who took home a night stay and dinner for two at Bay Mills Resort.

Thanks to all who generously

donated to United Way!
The prizes will be deliv-

ered to each winner by Bridget Sorrenson.



L-R, United Way Workplace Campaign Incentive winners were: Sheryl McKerchie, Misti Gamble, Steve Sprecker, Meghan Wiertalla, Barb Sherman and Tom Corrigan.

Tribal member brings running club to Sault

“For The Run of It” looking for group leaders willing to run at least one time a week

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

After the birth of her fourth and youngest child, Kathy Dale started running. For the first year she ran alone and had designated training days that she religiously adhered to in between her children’s activities. Even during the winter she braved the elements to train, normally running three miles each session.

Then her daughter, Emma, joined *Girls On The Run* as a fourth grader. Dale said Emma needed to train and she offered to train with her. Watching Emma run in her first 5k motivated Dale to do more. They continued to train together and Dale said she ran her first 5k race with her daughter in the Coast Guard run in Grand Haven, Mich., where they live.

While she was training for a half marathon last year, friends approach her to tell her they loved her motivation and wished there was a running group for beginners. So she began inviting people to run with her. Last September she started the group *For The Run Of It*. Last March, Dale and three other runners from her group competed in a half marathon in Chicago. Today there are about 15 runners in her



Kathy Dale (left, center) at the Chicago, 1/2 Marathon standing in front of the fire truck that led the runners at the beginning of the race on Sept. 11, 2011. Rescue 4 was at the towers the day the two planes hit on Sept. 11, 2001. All eight crew members perished.

Grand Haven group.

She said she keeps the groups runs to three miles so she can offer encouragement and coach the beginners. Others who have been running longer have gradually built up their distance running to six or more miles a run. “My hope is that all beginners know that wherever our group is

they will know we only do three mile runs,” Dale said. “Everybody, when they start, say they can’t run three miles. I tell them you can walk – I think a fear that people share about group running is that others have all done half marathons or marathons. Even if we have to walk the three miles, that’s what we do.

When my other runners started they were walking and now they are running the three miles.

They know as a group that I will always stay back and help the new people that have come in.”

Her groups have expanded to include Monroe, Holland, Muskegon, Grand Haven and her current goal is to find group leaders and start a group in Sault Ste. Marie. “The Sault is so beautiful, there are some

great training routes there,” she said. Once a month the groups from Holland, Muskegon and Grand Haven train together. Every Sunday night she brings all the groups together through a conference call. “We all share ideas,” she said. “There are so many different races and training strategies out there. Everybody works together, my group will do some speed training and sometimes we’ll do long distance running. There are a few of us who participated in Turkey Trots and some of us will be doing the New Year’s Eve run in Muskegon. It’s fun because everybody interacts with each other.”

Dale sets each group leader up with a Facebook page where they post when and where they will be running. To be a group leader, Dale said you must be willing and able to run at least once a week. She said her hope is to be able to run with each group occasionally. There is no cost to join one of her groups.

Four runners in her group are training for the Chi Town Half Marathon and 10k on April 1. “I tell all the runners to run their own race and make it theirs,” Dale said. “I encourage anybody

who would like to get some exercise to come on out and be a part of our groups. We have watched our group grow and now to watch the other groups is amazing.”

She said the groups also give back to their communities by helping with other events such as *Girls On The Run*. “As a team we volunteer to staff the water stations or give out food after a race. There was a race in Grand Haven that our group volunteered to do the mile markers and helped direct traffic on the racecourse. I love being able to encourage others and watch their accomplishments.”

Dale says she loves it that she can now run 13 miles. “They can use the groups as a stepping-stone if they want to train for a marathon. I have one runner who will probably be leaving us. She started out with three miles and is now up to 13 and is doing a lot of half marathon distances. But I can see her going on from here and maybe doing something else,” she said.

For more information or to volunteer to be a group leader, contact Kathy Dale at (616) 638-7401, or look up For The Run Of It on Facebook.

2012 Market-based Compensation Plan to be implemented for all tribe’s employees

FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

Sault Tribe recognizes that the use of market data allows for an objective standard to establish pay ranges — minimum to maximum — that are competitive with the market and allow the organization to retain team members. The establishment of pay ranges also allows for the assurance of internal equity within pay ranges for similarly situated positions.

The tribe, in conjunction with Pay Scale, the global leader in on-line compensation data, worked to develop a market-based compensation plan in order to be competitive in the marketplace.

The plan puts in place rates that are competitive to those in the market (external equity). Positions are also compared to other positions within the orga-

nization to ensure positions with similar levels of responsibility, scope and decision making authority are paid comparatively (internal equity).

First, a market study was done and the tribe’s positions were benchmarked. This meant that positions were matched to one in the market based on the functions of the position, duties, responsibilities and qualifications needed for the position. The market was determined by looking at the size of our organization, the type of organization (governmental, casino or enterprise).

Second, the data was then reviewed and pay ranges were identified for the positions.

Third, pay ranges were determined and positions were assigned to a range based on similar work and responsibilities.

The 2012 compensation plan will be implemented effective March 1, 2012.

The tribe recognizes that, though the contributions of all team members are recognized and appreciated, a special emphasis for the distribution of the grid adjustments in fiscal year 2012 must be made to move those furthest from the median of the pay ranges closer to the median of those ranges in order for the market based compensation plan to be successful.

Managers will soon receive information relating to the pay range of each of the positions under their chain of command, as well as where each of the team members under their chain of command fit within the pay range. Once the managers have received this information, they

will be able to review it with their team members.

This plan will allow the tribe

to continue its efforts to attract, retain and motive team members by providing competitive wages.

Join SnowCare for Troops to help military families

IRON MOUNTAIN — Project EverGreen’s SnowCare for Troops matches volunteers with military families serving overseas to provide free snow removal services. This is the second year for the non-profit program.

Following a successful launch last year, Project EverGreen hopes to double participation in SnowCare for Troops during the 2011-12 snow season. Nearly 1,000 volunteers have already joined, clearing snow from driveways and sidewalks for military families with a spouse or family member serving in the armed forces.

“SnowCare for Troops got off to a roaring start and we’d like to thank BOSS Snowplow for

their generous funding support,” said Project EverGreen Executive Director Cindy Code. “Growing demand from local military families means many more volunteers are needed. When a loved one is serving away from home, having the added burden of snow removal lifted from the shoulders of the one left behind is a priceless gift.”

It’s easy to support the SnowCare for Troops program by:

- Offering free snow removal services throughout the winter to one or two families in your community;
- Loaning snow removal equipment to volunteers or groups;
- Donating money, transporta-

tion or gas cards to offset snow removal and maintenance costs; and

- Referring friends or military families to sign up for the program.
- Volunteers and military families can register online, then Project EverGreen makes the local match: www.projectevergreen.com/scft.

SnowCare for Troops is open to anyone with a plow or other snow removal equipment who wants to lend a neighborly hand.

SnowCare for Troops is underwritten by The Boss Snowplows. To learn more about how to support SnowCare for Troops, visit www.projectevergreen.com/scft or www.bossplow.com/snowcare-fortroops.

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Member donates kidney to help ailing sister

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

RUDYARD, Mich. — Sault Tribe member Brittany Rogers is like any other high school student, enjoying her senior year, hanging out with friends and planning her future. But eight months ago her kidneys were both silently dying, and she had no idea she was so ill or that her life was about to change.

Last February, during a trip to the Sault Ste. Marie WalMart, the Rudyard high schooler and her family took turns checking their blood pressure. Brittany's was high so she took it again but it was still high. That was on Friday. On Monday, she went to see her family doctor, who took blood samples and ordered an ultrasound.

Her doctor called the following day and told Brittany, then 16, she had made her an appointment with a nephrologist. She went to see the kidney specialist and was told that she had end stage kidney failure and that her kidneys were only functioning at 10 percent. She was scheduled for a biopsy the next day but her kidneys were so scarred they weren't able to determine what caused her kidneys to fail. She was told it had been at least two years since her kidneys began their downward spiral. Their best



Brittany Rogers with her brother John, who donated his kidney to her.

guess is she contracted a virus or bacteria, such as a streptococcal infection, or strep throat, which may have went untreated and caused the damage.

Brittany said she was told the first stages of kidney failure are silent. She said she did have some symptoms but they were easily explainable and, she thought, not significant. She had begun having occasional migraine headaches and noticed she was going to the bathroom more frequently.

"I didn't really know what it meant to have kidney failure at the time, or what was going to happen to me," she said. "I was scared, but after a while it didn't

bother me because I knew I would be getting a transplant."

She was put on a very strict diet and allowed no more than 300 milligrams of sodium a day. (A quarter of a teaspoon of salt has over 500 mg.) She had weekly blood draws to check her kidney function and her doctors and parents decided to have the transplant performed at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

Her mother, Lana Rogers, said, "It was very scary for Brittany. It happened so suddenly — she was healthy one day and the next day she needed a kidney transplant. It took a while to sink in; it was a few days worth of 'Oh my God, I can't believe it,'

to 'Ok, now what do we do?'"

So the hunt for a kidney donor for Brittany was on. Family members were asked to test, including her brother, John, and sister, Megan. John came back a three out of six match, which Brittany said is good for a sibling donor. The surgery was scheduled for May 17.

John, 23, said he was excited when he found out he was a match and would be able to donate his kidney to his little sister. "I had never been in the hospital before, so I had no idea what to expect," he said. "I think my family was pretty nervous to have two kids in surgery at the same time. It was a pretty trying experience for them."

John works as a border patrol agent in Texas, and two days before he gave his kidney to Brittany he celebrated his first wedding anniversary to Dana, who at the time was pregnant with their first child.

Brittany said the day of the transplant finally came and that now, almost a year later, she feels healthy and has a hard time believing that anything was wrong. "This kidney has the potential to last my whole life if I stay healthy and do what I am supposed to do. After I had the transplant and woke up the sur-

geon came and saw us and told me I have a beautiful kidney, to tell my brother that."

John said is was a little rough at first dealing with the pain and that he spent quite a while in bed resting. Now, however, things are back to normal. "Look into being an organ donor," he said, "there are people out there who need your help. Check that box on the back of your drivers license and think about what you can do to help somebody else."

Brittany will be on two anti-rejection medications for the rest of her life. At her one-year transplant anniversary, she will have a biopsy to see how her new kidney is doing. After that she will see a doctor every six months for blood work.

"I am really grateful that everything went so quickly," her mother said. "I didn't have time to sit and pout about it. We did what we had to do. I wanted Brittany to have a good healthy kidney but I didn't want another one of my children to have to have surgery either. We couldn't wait much longer and it was the best option."

Brittany said that even though it was a horrible situation, she is doing wonderfully and is very grateful to her brother and family for being there for her.

Leaders meet with feds at third Tribal Nations Conference

BY RICK SMITH

The White House hosted the third Tribal Nations Conference on Dec. 2 at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. The conferences are opportunities for leaders of the 565 federally recognized tribes of the United States to come face to face with members of the Obama administration. Highlights of the conference included President Obama signing Executive Order 13592 — Improving American Indian and Alaska Native Educational Opportunities and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities — and the release of a 44-page progress report by the Obama administration.

The executive order recognizes the unique relationships between the U.S. government and federally recognized

American Indian tribes as established in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, executive orders and court decisions. It further expresses Obama's commitment to strengthening and expanding Indian Country educational opportunities, including learning indigenous languages and histories, and improving opportunities for students attending tribal colleges and universities.

The order establishes the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education and designates the Secretary of Education and Secretary of the Interior as co-chairs. It further directs the Secretary of Education to appoint an executive director responsible for overseeing implementation of the initiative and specifies the primary duties of the office

as well as inter-agency arrangements and responsibilities.

Objectives of the order range from increasing the number and percentage of American Indian children well prepared for kindergarten, supporting expanded implementation of successful education reform strategies, reducing the American Indian dropout rate while helping students who stay enrolled to prepare for college, providing mechanisms for dropouts to re-enter educational or training programs to acquire degrees or certificates and increasing college level access and completion for American Indian students.

Both the executive order and the 2011 White House Tribal Nations Conference Progress Report — Achieving A Brighter Future For Tribal Nations — are available online at [house.gov.](http://www.white-</p>
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Among the speakers at the conference, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced several other initiatives developed through consultation with tribal leaders. Salazar noted the initiatives strengthen more such consulting, increase control for individual American Indian tribes over their lands and other measures.

"Over the last three years we have made tremendous progress in Indian Country," Salazar noted. "A lot of that progress was possible because of the ideas that tribal leadership has shared at these conferences. But we know we haven't solved all of our problems and there is much work to be done. But I am confident with your help there isn't anything we cannot achieve. As the President said today, this

Administration has your back."

Other events at the conference included a U.S. Department of Treasury and Internal Revenue Service consultation meeting on general welfare benefits, a roundtable with the National Indian Education Association, a briefing on transportation with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and a hearing on deficit reduction and job creation regulatory reform in Indian Country.

According to the White House, key administration figures at the conference included U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and U.S. Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director Heather Higginbottom.

Amendment would allow tribes access to White House for disaster relief

BY RICK SMITH

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate announced the Obama administration's support of an amendment to federal law to allow tribal governments to make disaster declaration requests directly to the president of the United States. Fugate made the announcement at the 2011 White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 2. The announcement became official on Dec. 7 after President Obama and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced their support of such an amendment.

The law in question is the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

"Amending the law would enhance FEMA's working relationship with tribal governments

and improve emergency and disaster responsiveness throughout Indian Country," said Fugate in an official release. "We look forward to actively working with our tribal partners and members of Congress to support and facilitate the passage of such a change in the law."

Presently, only state governors may request presidential disaster declarations directly to the president. When the president of the United States declares a stricken area a disaster area, it expedites over 60 different forms of emergency assistance from 17 federal agencies in response to 15 natural or man-made types of disaster covering needs from immediate adequate sustenance and shelter to getting emergency loans.

After the announcement was confirmed, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) urged the leaders of Indian

Country to take action to officially declare and show support for an amendment to the Stafford Act as proposed by the Obama administration.

In recent years, American Indian tribes have been hit hard by natural disasters such as winter storms, flooding and fires, three types of disasters covered under a declaration of disaster by the president. Native nations throughout the country, especially on the Great Plains and the Gulf Coast, have experienced catastrophic blizzards, floods, fires and other incidents. The Stafford Act, as is currently written, leaves Indian Country with a needless loss of valuable response time in seeking federal assistance, according to the NCAI. Last year alone, American Indian tribes suffered disasters that resulted in losses amounting to millions of dollars in tribal government infrastruc-

ture and personal property.

"Just like states, when disaster strikes, tribal nations must act swiftly to respond to protect and secure lives, infrastructure and public health," noted NCAI President Jefferson Keel on the organization's website. "We call on Congress to fix the Stafford Act and incorporate the sovereign status of tribal nations in this important law. These changes

will also provide tribes and states critical flexibility in responding to catastrophic events when communities need it most."

The U.P. homeland of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is chiefly susceptible to winter storms, fires and flooding. The governor declared a state of emergency for Sault Ste. Marie in the winter of 1995 after the city was buried in six feet of snow.

2011-12 Legacy of Faith grants amount to \$195,000

The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Marquette and Catholic Social Services of the U.P. are the main beneficiaries of the Legacy of Faith grants awarded and distributed for 2011-2012.

Bishop Alexander K. Sample approved the distribution of \$195,338 in grants, following recommendations from

the Legacy of Faith Board of Directors.

This year Bishop Sample placed an emphasis on adult faith formation and evangelization.

Catholic Social Services of the U.P. received a \$24,203 grant to help its branch offices provide counseling assistance to clients with no insurance.

Christian metal band Stryper, Slaughter and special guest Lynch Mob perform Feb. 24

Christian metal band, Stryper, multi platinum selling artist Slaughter, and special guest, Lynch Mob, will perform in Kewadin's DreamMakers Theater Friday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$36 and on sale now.

The most celebrated Christian metal band of all time, Stryper, has been rocking since 1983, and is responsible for such 1980s metal classic albums as *Always There for You*, *To Hell with the Devil* and such MTV hit singles and videos as *Calling on You*, *Free* and *Honestly*.

After a sabbatical for much of the 1990s, Stryper returned strong in the early 21st century with their 2011 covers set, *The Covering*.

With over 5 million albums

sold, Slaughter, reached world wide recognition with their first album, *Stick It to Ya*, which spawned several hit singles including *Up All Night*, *Spend My Life*, *Mad About You* and the power ballad *Fly to the Angels*. The album reached double platinum status in the United States. The band has many accolades as a multi-platinum selling band and American Music Award winner.

Special guest, Lynch Mob, will start out this night of rock in the DreamMakers Theater.

Don't miss your chance to see Stryper, Slaughter and Lynch Mob performing at Kewadin Casinos this February! Tickets for the show can be purchased on line at www.kewadin.com or by calling 800-KEWADIN.



Free Sault, St. Ignace food preservation workshops offered in January and April

Do you want to learn how to can and preserve food for months when fruits and vegetables are not available fresh? Do you lack freezer space and want to learn how to pressure can your beef, venison, poultry, wild game and fish?

As part of the Sault Tribe Traditional Foods Grant Project, a master food preservation workshop, an MSU Extension Program, will be offered from Jan. 24 to 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Sault Ste. Marie, at the USDA food distribution site and again in St. Ignace at a site to be determined on April 13, 2 to 8 p.m. and on April 14, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In this workshop, each day



will be spent learning safe and healthy techniques for canning (pressure canning and boiling water bath), freezing and drying food.

The workshops are free. If interested, call Connie Watson at Sault Tribe Community Health (906) 632-5211. Visit www.healthysaulttribe.com for more information.

New online course for Native American small business owners

Native American entrepreneurs have a new tool to help determine if they're ready for business ownership and to help them get started. *Native American Small Business Primer: Strategies for Success* is a free, self-paced online business course developed for Native American business owners. The course provides an overview of basic business principles and makes them aware of the programs and services available from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"Native American Small Business Primer: Strategies for Success will enhance the agency's effort to provide important resources for emerging Native American entrepreneurs," said SBA Administrator Karen Mills.

"Our ultimate goal is to help create jobs and stimulate economic and business development in our Native American communities. This course is an essential

business development tool for the entrepreneur's toolbox," she added.

The new online course emphasizes business planning and market research as essential steps to take before going into business, informs Native American entrepreneurs about the legal aspects of starting a business, including the type of ownership (legal structure) and licensing and provides key information on seed money for starting up, raising capital and borrowing money. In addition, there is a section on how to estimate business start-up costs that can help assess the financial needs of going into business.

The course is available from the SBA's Online Small Business Training web page under "Online Courses for Starting Your Business" at www.sba.gov/content/online-courses-starting-your-business.



Photo by Rick Smith

EMERGENCY SERVICES GET BUILDING ACCESS — Captain Tom Sherman of the Sault Ste. Marie Fire Department prepares to lock a Knox Box station near the front door of the Sault Tribe administration building annex on Dec. 12. The small, wall-mounted safes provide secure storage of keys for emergency services personnel allowing for fast and easy access to closed buildings during emergency situations. In the event of false alarms, they can enter without the need to damage buildings to gain access. The boxes were attached to 15 tribal buildings in the Sault area by the Facilities Management staff.



Photo by Rick Smith

GREENOUGH BUILDING OPEN HOUSE — Sault Tribe Environment Department conducted an open house on Dec. 21, the first anniversary of establishing quarters at 206 Greenough Street in Sault Ste. Marie. From right, seed and native species technician Robin Clark, environmental specialist Crystal Bole and geographic information systems technician Nathan Freitas show off the department's new seed laboratory.

THE ELDER TIMES

Tribal elder seeks fellow Floridians

Are you in the Florida area? Would you be interested in getting together for a gathering of fellow elders?
If so, please email or call me. Let's see if we can arrange something.
Diane Talley dtjointventure@yahoo.com, (386) 589-4289.



Get Your Elder Decal!

These limited edition decals proudly state "SAULT TRIBE ELDER." You can choose either black or white lettering on a clear background. This 4x4 decal is on sale now for only \$4 or \$4.50 by mail. To receive by U.S. mail, send check or money order to the Elders Services Division, 2076 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Happy New Year to All and Best Wish for a Great 2012

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Introducing the Sault Tribe geriatric team

The Geriatric Team is a group of professionals trained to assess needs of the Tribal Elder patients. The major emphasis of the team is primary care geriatrics. The team was trained by Geriatric Education Center of Michigan, Michigan State University.

By training staff that practice together in the same primary care setting, improved geriatric and long term care services will

be enhanced. The health professionals who participate in the training program bring to the process their own unique disciplinary problem-solving and care giving knowledge and skills.

The team is a multi-disciplinary group of providers who utilize an interdisciplinary approach in providing improved care for high-risk geriatric patients within the primary care setting. It is necessary to bring together

various professionals since any one of the helping professions working alone cannot meet the variety and complexity of needs. Geriatric team members facilitate continuity of care and provide baseline data for evaluating outcomes and for setting new patient treatment goals.

The Geriatric Team is composed of the following members: Members of the team are Elders Service Division Director

Sheryl Hammock, Community Health nursing supervisor Cheryl LaPlaunt, clinical social worker Laura Thompson, Community Health nurses Jenni O'Dell, Tami Duncan, Robin Hoffman and Lisa Simmons, and nursing supervisor Laura Boucher.

The team meets monthly and is housed at the Elders Service Office. For more information please call (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Elder Volunteer of the Year winners honored



Burt Campbell



Brenda Gerries

Congratulations to the Elder Volunteer of the Year winners! Selected were Earl and Jan Rittenhouse in Unit I, Barb Galer in Unit II, Brenda Garries in Unit III and Burt Campbell in Unit V.



Jan and Earl Rittenhouse



Barb Galer

Submitting 2012 applications for the Elders Health Fund

ELDERS SERVICES DIVISION OFFERS HELPFUL GUIDELINES

Hello elders,
My name is Sharon Barnett. I am the Elders Health Fund coordinator and have worked at the Elders Services Division for over five years.

I would like to thank all the elders who have submitted their Elder Health Fund applications.

The Elders Services Division would like to offer some helpful tips to ease the transition to the 2012 policy application guidelines:

1. Income statements must have your name visible.
2. Be sure to include ALL HOUSEHOLD INCOME when submitting your application.
3. Please be sure to submit copies of everything requested.
4. All paperwork submitted must be documented (i.e., cannot be handwritten on a sheet of paper). We need a verified statement.
5. Call the Elders Services Division office (906) 635-4971 if you



Sharon Barnett

have any questions.

6. The Elders Health Fund policy does NOT affect services from the pharmacy or doctor appointments at tribal health centers except for dental and optical as pertains to eyeglasses and certain dental procedures, described in the 2012 policy. Please check with those departments for details.

In the box below is the schedule for 130 percent calculation of the Federal Registry poverty guideline (updated yearly).

Household Size	Gross Annual Income	Percentage Elder Health Fund Pays
1.....	\$14,079.....	95%
2.....	\$18,941.....	80%
3.....	\$23,803.....	60%
4.....	\$28,655.....	40%
5.....	\$33,527.....	20%
6.....	\$38,389.....	10%

Call the Elders Services Division office if you have any questions at (906) 635-4971.

Mr. Louie's exercise class welcomes Sault Tribe elders



Chair exercise classes are led by Louie and Judy Aikens on Mondays and Thursdays and are open to all Sault Tribe elders. Class begins at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at 11:30 at the Elder Services Center at 2076 Shunk Rd. in Sault Ste. Marie. Left to right, Louie Aikens, Theresa Little and Judy Aikens.



Tribal elder Don Rose exercising.

Unit I elders shared lunch with Head Start children



On Dec. 20, the Unit I Elders enjoyed lunch with the Sault Tribe Head Start children. The children and elders both enjoyed taking this time to share stories and get to know each other. L-R, Mary Ruth Gamelin, Betsy Gravelle and Phoenix Thompson.

VA partnering locally to tackle veteran homelessness

IRON MOUNTAIN, Mich. — The VA continues to strive toward its goal to end veteran homelessness by 2015, and some progress has been made. Yesterday, the Secretary of veterans Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki, and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan, conducted a joint conference call with media to announce a 12 percent decline in the number of veterans classified as homeless, from January 2010 to 2011.

Homelessness in the Upper Peninsula may not be as visible as in metropolitan areas, but without a doubt it still exists in these rural areas.

“Some homeless individuals stay with friends or at one of the few homeless shelters in our rural areas, which are only designed to provide a temporary living accommodation,” said Nicole



Foster-Holdwick, Homeless Program coordinator for the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain, Mich.

According to statistics from the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, there were 84

homeless veterans in the Upper Peninsula who sought services from community agencies in 2010.

To address the issue of veteran homelessness, the VA has partnered with the Department of Housing and Urban Development

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The Guess Who and Little River Band coming to Sault Ste. Marie Kewadin Casino in January

The Guess Who, the band that became Canada's first international rock music superstars, is coming to Kewadin's DreamMakers Theater Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$42.50 and they are on sale now.

The Canadian rock band from Winnipeg, Manitoba, initially gained recognition in Canada, then found international success from the late 1960s through the mid 1970s with numerous hit singles, including *American Woman*, *These Eyes*, *Shakin' All Over* and *No Sugar Tonight*.



The band was inducted into

The Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 1987.

Although membership in the group has changed through the years, they have remained musically consistent behind the strengths of original members Jim Kale (bass and vocals) and Garry Peterson (drums and vocals).

Additionally, current members include Derek Sharp (vocals and guitars), Leonard Shaw (keyboards, flute, sax and vocals) and Laurie MacKenzie (guitars and vocals). As they perform hit after hit in concert, it is easy to see and hear why the Guess

Who remain one of today's most sought after touring attractions.

Appearing with the Guess Who is the Australian rock band Little River Band! During its career, the band sold more than 25 million records and achieved 13 U.S. Top 40 hits including *Reminiscing*, number three on the charts, their biggest hit; *Lady*, number 10; *Lonesome Loser*, six; *Cool Change*, 10; *The Night Owls*, six and *Take It Easy on Me*, another 10.

Tickets for the show can be purchased online at www.kewadin.com or by calling (800) KEWADIN.

Blues Travelers coming to the Sault Kewadin Casino

The Blues Travelers and their high energy rock band performance is coming to Kewadin's DreamMakers Theater Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$32.50 and they are on sale now.

The band has been influenced by a variety of genres, including blues-rock, psychedelic rock, folk rock, soul and southern rock. While Blues Travelers is best known among fans for their improvisational live shows, the general public is most familiar with the group from their Top 40 singles *But Anyway*, *Run-Around* and *Hook*. They gained mainstream popularity after

their fourth studio album *Four*, released in 1994.

For their new release, *North Hollywood Shootout*, the quintet ventured out of their creative comfort zone to explore some adventurous new horizons. The resulting album is a landmark in Blues Travelers' large and widely loved body of work, demonstrating the enduring strengths of the band's songwriting while capturing the spontaneous spirit of their legendary live shows.

The aforementioned body of work encompasses eight studio albums and four live discs, six of them certified gold or platinum, with combined worldwide

sales of more than 10 million. The band's best-known single, *Run-Around*, was the longest-charting radio single in Billboard history. Along the way, the band has played more than 2,000 live shows in front of more than three million people.

Don't miss your chance to see the Blues Travelers — the band that's still staking out new musical territory and embracing fresh challenges more than 20 years into their career — performing at Kewadin Casinos this February! Tickets for the show can be purchased online at www.kewadin.com or by calling (800) KEWADIN.

Sault Kewadin Casino Team Member of the Month honored



Congratulations to Leroy Cook, Kewadin Sault's Team Member of the Month for December. Leroy is the head houseman in the Banquets Department and started working at Kewadin in July 2009. Cook said, "To be chosen for this award, knowing the number of people deserving of it, is an honor."

Casino team members "Treats for our Troops"



CARE PACKAGE — Kewadin Casino team members collected "Treats for our Troops" over the past two months as part of an internal program to send care packages to various American troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan regions. Items collected included personal care items such as hand sanitizer, shampoos and soaps, to snacks like peanuts, candies and homemade cookies. The items will be sent to the Treats for Troops organization for disbursement. Pictured here are security officers from Kewadin Sault's afternoon shift with their box of items that were collected to be sent with the shipment.

Kewadin Hotel staff helps families



From cookies to Christmas presents, Kewadin hotel staff helps families — Thanks to all who purchased cookies from the Kewadin Casino hotel family this year. We sold over 200 dozen cookies and were able to provide three families with a total of nine children with gifts. This year we were even able to provide one child with a Wii and Wii games on his list. For those who are not familiar with the cookie sale, each year the hotel and sales team members sell cookies at \$3.50 per dozen to provide gifts to tribal families needing assistance. Team members from these areas (and one team member from Marketing) bake cookies, on their own and at their own expense, to fill these orders. This year we had an awesome turnout of bakers — one team member alone baked 49 dozen cookies, and we had a great variety of cookies. Thank you to all team members for their efforts in baking. And thank you again to everyone who purchased cookies.

Christmas casino staff and patrons donate to food banks



Photos courtesy of Munising News

The staff and patrons of the Christmas Kewadin Casino helped to supply 38,040 pounds of non-perishable food items to two local food banks as part of our Kewadin Casino Cannathon. Left, some of the consumables under the Northern Rewards Club booth in Christmas. In the photo on the right, left to right, security guard Bernie Humphrey and maintenance worker Ron Stimac delivering food, such as in the photo on the left, to the Department of Human Services staff. The food was split between DHS and St. Vincent DePaul food banks.

Christmas spirit is shared at Newberry gala

The Newberry Elders Sub Committee and the Newberry Powwow Committee sponsored this year's Newberry area children's Christmas party on Dec. 15 at the new Community Action Building in downtown Newberry. YEA's Lisa Burnside and Arlene Graham came to lend a hand bringing along a pinata they made for the party plus games. Lorraine Kanne, with the help of fellow elders, donated her time and materials to make 50 stockings for all the kids. Santa can't reveal his name but was happy to be there. Prizes for the cake walk were donated by several members.

Photos by Taylor Bryant



Arianna Bryant sits on Santa's lap while keeping a firm grip on her grandmother's hand.



Kyle Scott is delighted to be on Santa's lap.



Trenton Glaesmann on Santa's lap while Santa's helper, Michelle Derusha, stands nearby.



William Goudreau uses the old pinata as a fine Christmas hat.



David Derusha (right) helped with the pinata.



Children scramble for candy after the pinata was broken open.



Standing in line for the cake walk.



Lois Bryant stands behind elders, left to right, Fannie Aslin, Lorraine Kanne and Lola Davis.



Party attendees mill around watching the children have fun.

Celebrating the holidays Sault Tribe style brings people to festive gatherings



Volunteers who facilitated the December Family Fun Day at JKL Bawwheting PSA mostly represented Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities (YEA) and the tribal youth council. Back row, left to right, YEA coordinator Jill Lawson, Gabrielle Ganson, Melissa Evans, Levi Eby, Kendra Becker, Dylan Moiles and Ethan Matson. Middle row, Katie Thompson, Emily Clow, Alexis Clow and YEA administrative assistant Dee Eggert. Front row, Zachary, Brendan and Josh Gross.



Some of the prizes and gifts for Sault Tribe youngsters attending the Family Fun Day celebration on Dec. 10 in Sault Ste. Marie. Children received prizes determined by spinning a color coded wheel. Similar functions took place in Kinross, Hessel, DeTour, Rudyard, Newberry, St. Ignace, Manistique, Munising and Escanaba.



Trying their hands at decorating Christmas tree ornaments during Family Fun Day, from left, Jackie Gravelle, Brandy, Shelby and Gracy McCoy. Decorating ornaments was one of several crafts and other activities enjoyed at the event.



Photos by Rick Smith

From left, Katie Thompson helps Nicky Kucharczyk ponder crafting options while Matthew Kucharczyk starts assembling an item born of his imagination.



Happy 2012 to all!

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus dropped in at the Family Fun Day to compare notes with the young folks. Here, they chat with Julianne and Andrew Lewis.



These folks celebrated a birthday in addition to the holiday season at the annual luncheon for elders in Sault Ste. Marie on Dec. 8 at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in the DreamMakers Theater. Elders from units I, II and III enjoyed traditional holiday fare in grand style at the Sault gathering and elders from Unit V enjoyed a celebration in Munising on Dec. 12.



A wide view of the DreamMakers Theater captures many of the attendees at the annual elders holiday luncheon. A rough estimate would put the number of attendees at around 500 elders.



Afternoon grand entry at the New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie. For the past 24 years, this particular powwow has been providing a safer family alternative to traditional mainstream New Year's celebrations. One and all are invited to the powwows, with or without tribal affiliation. They are free and have most of the features of standard powwows, plus extended activities to bring in the new year. The master of ceremonies stand and some of the half-dozen drums at the event are along the wall on the right, many folks watched the proceedings from bleacher seats just out of view on the left side of the photo.



Some of the dancers at the New Year's Eve Powwow dancing hand-in-hand. Powwows typically observe policies prohibiting drugs and alcohol but placing the word sobriety in the name of this annual powwow clears confusion between ingrained mainstream practices and powwow concepts.

Birth announcements

Grahams celebrate 65 years



Twin girls Annie Marie and Jamie Lynn Gollinger were born to John Gollinger and Jessica McKechnie on Aug. 27, 2011, at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Annie weighed 2 pounds, 13 ounces and was 14 inches in length. Jamie weighed 3 pounds, 10 ounces and was 18.75 inches in length.

Evan David Pierson was born to proud parents Derek Pierson and Sarah Schmalz on Dec. 9, 2011. He was born at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

Proud grandparents are Laura McKechnie (Clark King), Tom and Becky Moran, and the late Jack and Elizabeth Gollinger, all of Sault Michigan.

Grandparents are David and Linda Schmalz, and Allan and Cherrie Pierson, of Kincheloe, Mich. Great-grandparents are Michael Allard of Sugar Island, Mich., Ronald and Sarah Pierson of Munising, Mich., and Margaret Martin of Munsing.

Great-grandparents are Tom and Christine Moran and the late Ike and Ann McKechnie, all from the Sault.

He is a bundle of joy and a great Christmas present.

Still on the job at 73 years of age

Sault Tribe elder Clyde D. Morell recently certified as a transportation and storage safety inspector for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).



Morell has worked for the NRC since 2008. He is an expert on welding processes, fabrication and nondestructive testing methods for the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards in Rockville, Md. As an inspector, he works to ensure the safety of radioactive materials transportation and spent fuel storage systems to protect people and the environment.

Sault Tribe elder Clyde D. Morell lion-dollar federal contracts. He is skilled in strategic and tactical planning, finance, budgeting and cost controls; human resources and performance management and operations and process management. Over his business career, Morell has established a reputation for providing value added services to clients.

Morell serves as a cultural advisor on the Native American Advisory Committee for the NRC and recruits American Indian engineers and scientists for the agency.

Morell and his wife live on the Maryland shores of the Potomac about 25 miles south of the nation's capital.

An American Indian disabled veteran, Morell founded Quality Services Associates, Inc. (QSAI) in 1982. This successful company provided consulting services to private and public sector clients on quality management until 2006. As QSAI's chief executive officer, Morell negotiated and managed several multimil-

A note of thanks . . .

Dear editor,
My beautiful wife of 36 years, Roberta, recently had a quadruple bypass to her heart! Over 300 tribal members prayed and gave offerings for her in her time of need. I want to thank each and every one of these people for this! Without their prayers and offerings and mine, I don't know where I would be! Her surgery was Friday, 11/11/11 at 11 a.m.

The surgery was a success and she is doing great! I hope the prayers will keep going for her to have a speedy recovery! My prayers and offerings go out to each and every one of you! Once again, many, many, many thanks!

May God bless you all!
Sincerely,
Mr. Ronald G. Spitzley Sr.
Slidell, La.



Shari and Donn deBeauclair, of Linwood, Mich., are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Troy Adam deBeauclair, to Kelly Marie Notch, daughter of Sandy and Jeff Ventura, of Colleyville, Texas, and the late Jim Notch.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fla., with a bachelor of science degree in



Sault Tribe elder Robert A. Graham and Arlene C. (nee Bengry) Graham celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary this month. They were married on Jan. 18, 1947, in Marquette, Mich. They have three children, eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

deBeauclair-Notch engagement

biology and psychology.

The groom-elect is a graduate of Northwood University in Midland, Mich., with a bachelor's degree in business administration management and management of information systems.

He is employed at ACS, a

Xerox company, in Denver, Colo., as an implementation specialist.

The couple currently lives in Greenwood Village, Colo., and their wedding is scheduled for June 28, 2012, at the Della Terra Mountain Chateau, Estes Park, Colo.



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Lots of information for all Sault Tribe members!

Healthy People 2020 Project making strides

BY DONNA NORKOLI

The Sault Tribe Healthy People 2020 Action Project is working to create social and physical environments that promote good health for all. Goals of the project are to increase walking and biking in the community aligning with the Healthy People 2020 objectives to “increase the proportion of trips of one mile or less made by walking.”

According to health experts, very few things people can do have a more positive impact on their health than walking. And you only need to walk 30 minutes a day to improve your health. For this reason, the Sault Tribe Strategic Alliance for Health (SAH) Project and Healthy People 2020 Action Project are focusing on changes in our built environment to make it easier and safer for people to walk.

For more information on physical activity and healthy eating visit www.healthysaulttribe.com.

The Sault Tribe collaborated with SAH community coalition partners, local city government and downtown development authorities to provide Healthy People 2020 Action Project funds which will support SAH community projects in Manistique, Munising, Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace.

The SAH Project is also partnering with Munising public schools, Manistique area schools, Sault area public schools and St. Ignace public schools to provide Healthy People 2020 Action Project funds to support coordinated school health teams in these school districts in order to improve the environments in these schools to address physical activity and healthy eating.

Manistique

The Manistique area schools are using the Healthy People 2020 funding to buy equipment for physical education classes so the school can implement the Michigan approved Exemplary Physical Education Curriculum. The goal is to acquire enough

equipment so that every student can be physically active when participating in the physical education class. Equipment included aerobic steps, resistance bands, heart rate monitors, jump ropes and pedometers to be used in class.

Equipment was also bought for the alternative education school which previously had only some very old used equipment. Now the students have footballs, volleyballs, tennis rackets and balls, basketballs and an air pump. This equipment ensures all students have access to opportunities to engage in physical activity.

The SAH Coalition decided to use the Healthy People 2020 funding to encourage biking and walking for short trips. They are in the process of developing wayfinding signage to points of destination.

They also plan to implement a snow removal contest to encourage residents to keep their sidewalks clear of snow so people can walk in the winter months.

St. Ignace

The City of St. Ignace Downtown Development Authority is developing the waterfront and is dedicated to keeping the waterfront accessible for walking. This commitment has resulted in construction and maintenance of a shoreline walkway. A recent addition to the walkway is a waterfront public park, centrally located in the downtown area that further enhances the waterfront and promotes walking by residents and tourists alike.

The funding from Healthy People 2020 is being used as a match for the construction of 600 linear feet of walkway that travels through the new park and connects the park to the newest and most heavily walked section of the shoreline walkway. The construction of the walkway and children’s splash pad play area and fishing platform are dedicated to improving the health, fitness and quality of life through daily



JKL Bawheting Public School Academy Walk To School Day in October of 2011.

physical activity.

The St. Ignace area elementary school is offering a free fresh fruits and vegetables snack program for all children in grades pre-kindergarten through fourth grade two to three times each week. This program will enhance and improve student health and wellness by providing nutrition

education in the classroom to create awareness of the benefits of healthy eating and complement the fruit and veggie program. Nutrition education is provided by the nutrition educator at Michigan State University Extension and the classroom teachers with the goal of empowering the students with the knowl-

edge to make healthy choices when in other settings.

Sault Ste. Marie and Munising

Coalitions in Sault Ste. Marie and Munising are partnering with city government to use the community funding to offset engineering costs to construct sidewalks to make it safer for students to walk and bike to school.

Sault Ste. Marie area schools and Munising public schools are using the Healthy People 2020 funding to employ a school health coordinator who will assist the schools with facilitating and maintaining the coordinated school health teams, completing the healthy school action tool and implementing an action plan to improve the school’s environment for healthy eating and physical activity.

Schools in both communities are now in the process of implementing walk and bike to school initiatives including a Walking School Bus Program funded by a grant from the Michigan Fitness Foundation.

Give your family the gift of a smoke-free home this year

Searching for the perfect change to make this new year? The Sault Tribe Community Health Program and the Sault Tribe Strategic Alliance for Health Project suggest giving the gift of a smoke-free home to your children and loved ones. Making your home smoke-free and keeping it smoke-free has many benefits:

- Health risks of secondhand smoke are removed. Smoking in a different room, blowing smoke in another direction or opening a window does not fully eliminate the health dangers of secondhand smoke from commercial tobacco.
- Your children, loved ones and pets will be healthier and happier.
- Youth are less likely to start smoking.
- Your home, in general, will smell better, food will taste and smell better.
- Less time, energy and money spent cleaning curtains, furniture, walls, windows and mirrors.
- Thirdhand smoke is reduced. Thirdhand smoke is the toxic resi-

due that is left behind on surfaces where smoking has occurred.

Thorough cleaning and painting, and if possible, removal of upholstered furniture and carpeting, may get rid of thirdhand smoke over time.

- Risk of home fires reduced and insurance rates may decrease because you maintain a smoke-free home. Call your insurance company for information.
- Smoke-free homes provide a safe and healthy environment for your family and can motivate cigarette-smoking members to quit.
- Renters should talk with landlords about making buildings 100 percent smoke-free. Information for tenants and landlords is found online at www.mismokefreeapartment.org.

Make health a priority this holiday season. Give your family the gift of a smoke-free home!

For more information, visit www.healthysaulttribe.com, call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210, or visit your local tribal health center.

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THEODORE JOSEPH CERTO

Theodore Joseph Certo of New Holstein, Wisc., died Dec. 13, 2011. He was born in Stambaugh, Mich., Dec. 7, 1973.

He is survived by his father, Joseph Certo of Milwaukee, Wisc.; mother, Sondra Hamilton of Hilbert, Wisc.; sisters, Natalie LaMere of Iron Ridge, Wisc., and JoAnn Hyatt of Hilbert; and brother, Michael Rea of California. Seven nephews and two nieces also survive him.

Please pray for our son, as there will be no services held.

DOROTHEA CHRISTENSEN

Dorothea Hatch Christensen was born June 28, 1917, in Lansing, Mich., the daughter of Fred L. Hatch of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Eleanor E. Hatch (Edgar) of Bagley, Minn.

Her parents worked for the U.S. Indian Service of Washington D.C. At age 5, her parents left Indian Service and moved to northern Wisconsin.

Her parents built a store at Sayner, Wisc., which was well populated during the summer months. They lived on Plum Lake for some 20 years and they retired and moved to Sault Ste. Marie during WWII.

Dorothea grew up in Sayner but she attended high school in Green Bay, Wisc., and the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minn. She graduated from college in 1942.

A few months after graduating, she married John A. Christensen from Trout Lake, Wisc.

Dorothea was a teacher in Sault Ste. Marie schools until her retirement in 1991. She was the last teacher at the one-room school on Sugar Island. She also taught school in American Samoa and in Seattle, Wash.

Dorothea is survived by a niece, Nancy Hatch, and two nephews, John Hatch and Dr. James Hatch.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband in 2003.

Visitation and services were at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church in Sault Ste. Marie with Brother John Hascall as celebrant. Interment will be in Pine Grove Cemetery. Memorials to Sault area public schools would be appreciated. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family.

ZALIA F. FRAZIER

Zalia F. Frazier of Neebish Island, Mich., passed away peacefully in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., surrounded by her family on Dec. 20, 2011. She was born Sept. 1, 1931.

Zalia loved to go to her home on Neebish Island, to pick berries and search for morels, asparagus and leeks. She loved sharing the beauty and wonders of Neebish Island with her children, grandchildren and friends.

She began her career as a

nurse in Los Alamitos Sanitarium in California, then to the Sault Area Public Schools, where she prepared meals for students for many years, until her retirement. As a true provider and giving spirit she would volunteer her time to work Friday night fish fry at the Moose Lodge as well as other events where she was needed. She also loved the time she spent as a volunteer grandmother-mentor for the Joseph K Lumsden Elementary School.

She is survived by her sons, Darold Nash (Polly), Edward Nash, (Marilyn), Dean Nash (Jean), Gene Nash (Jill), John Frazier (Carmella) and Christopher Frazier; daughters, Michelle Hank (Donald) and Cathy Nash; and 24 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Marsha Willis, and brothers, Melvin Willis, Basil Willis, Duane Willis and Joseph Nolan.

She is preceded in death by her brother, E.J Willis, and sister, Jeanette Alstregren.

Visitation and prayers took place at Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home. Burial will take place on Neebish Island in spring 2012.

Special thanks to the wonderful staff of Hospice and the staff of Northern Michigan Hospital.

MILDRED R. IRWIN

Mildred R. Irwin, of Bickford Cottage, Battle Creek, Mich., died Dec. 19, 2011, at her home. She was born Feb. 15, 1930, in Gould City, Mich.

Ann was a force of nature who enjoyed the outdoors camping with her kids and grandkids and traveling widely throughout the United States and to places like Japan, Germany, Mexico and Italy. She was an active volunteer with her home parish of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rudyard, Mich., as well as the Diocese of Marquette deanery. She also volunteered with the Cub Scouts, Rudyard Lions Club, EUP community schools winter Olympics and was named Rudyard's Citizen of the Year in 2005.

Ann believed in lifelong learning, having returned to LSSC when her family was raised to earn her BSN degree. She was employed as a school nurse at Rudyard schools and subsequently worked for the state of Michigan Department of Corrections as a prison nurse for over 14 years until she retired and was a volunteer for the Rudyard Ambulance Corps. She loved playing cards and crafts with her Rudyard/Fibre card cronies, often traveling to the card games by snowmobile!

She is survived by her sons, Michael (Sara) Irwin, Mitchel Irwin, Millard Irwin, Malcolm (Linda) Irwin and Maury (Angie) Irwin; daughter, Mia (William) Wheeler; sisters, Darlene Trautner of Menominee, Mich., Marilyn McArthur of Gould City, Mich.,

and Patricia Pearson of Peshtigo, Wis.; brothers, Donald Holt of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Willard "Jack" Holt of Sault Ste. Marie and Dwayne Holt of Holland, Mich.; grandchildren Mitchel (son of Michael); Jeff and Andrew (sons of Mitch); Stephen, Nicole and Heather (children of Malcolm) and Amanda, Joseph, Olivia and Carter (children of Mia); and great grandchildren, Emily, Jamie, Sylvia, Mackinac and Chloe.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Irwin, whom she married at Gould City in 1947; a sister, Doris LaPine; and a brother, George Holt.

Services were conducted Dec. 22, 2011, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, in Rudyard with Brother John Hascall as celebrant. She will be laid to rest in Oaklawn Chapel Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in Ann Irwin's name to LSSU Foundation School of Nursing, 650 W. Easterday, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family.

JAMES FLOYD JOHNSTON

James Floyd Johnston passed away Oct. 21, 2011. He was born on April 15, 1951, in Petoskey, Mich., to Betty and Ralph Johnston.

Jim was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. His grandmother was Lena Marshall (nee Kerridge) and his great-grandmother was Sophia Kerridge (nee Lavake). He graduated from Petoskey High School.

Jim is survived by two brothers, Stanley (Pat) Johnston of Hulbert, Mich., and John (Merri Kay) Johnston of Mackinaw City; sisters, Gloria Whipple of Muskegon and Shirley (Wilber) Fosmore of Alanson; cousin, Connie Marshall, of Larks Lake, who was always there for Jim and whom he dearly loved and admired.

His father, Ralph Johnston, preceded him in death.

The family wishes to thank Carla and Lisa at the Walnut AFC Home in Kalkaska for providing Jim with such loving care during the last months of his life.

Jim was a very special person with a great sense of humor. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

HARRY BLAIR KROUPA

Harry Blair Kroupa, 88, of Munising, died Dec. 20, 2011, at his home under the loving care of his family. He was born on Nov. 2, 1923, in Williamsburg, Mich., the second of seven children to the late Henry "Harry" and Isabelle (nee Carr) Kroupa.

Blair graduated from Wm. G. Mather High School in Munising and began his employment at the Munising paper mill.

He worked in the lab and as a foreman. On Dec. 13, 1947, he married Leona L. Graves. Blair was a talented woodworker, craftsman and mechanic who loved to work with his hands. He started young, taking apart and putting back together a car at 14, building a small home at 16, to building the home where he and Leona raised their four children. Blair made many things: the cabinets in his home, skis for his kids, a candelabra for his daughter's wedding, a toboggan, a cradle for his grandchildren, several piano music boxes, a butcher block and many practical household items. He used his talents at his church as well, helping to build the baptistery and parsonage at the old Baptist church, and then working on the construction of the new church in Wetmore. If there was something that Blair did not know how to do, he would teach himself through a do-it-yourself book. He enjoyed music, and teaching himself how to play different instruments, and how to tune a piano. Aside from do-it-yourself books, he enjoyed reading Zane Gray and Louis L'Amour western books.

Blair and Leona spent many summers with their family camping at North, Petes and Colwell Lake, even before the campground was built.

He is survived by his four children, Iris Kroupa of Munising, Terry (Deborah) Kroupa and Marcia (Charles) Hocking, both of Burr Oak, Mich., and Pam (Philip) Krehbiel of Manistique; 12 grandchildren, Brandon, Aric (Katya), Tonya (Alvey), Bruce (Lori), Benjamin (Regina), Erin (Charlie), Abigail, Moses, Adoree, Rosemarie, Bill and Robin; 25 great-grandchildren; sisters, Dolores (Arthur) LeVeque and Juanita (Charles) Marble; sister-in-law, Marge Kroupa; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Blair was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Leona, on May 26, 2011; parents, Harry and Isabelle Kroupa; and brothers Leon "Bev" (Marilyn), Darwin, John and Zane (Mary) Kroupa.

Visitation took place at the Bowerman Funeral Home. Pastor Jason LaFlamme conducted Blair's funeral at the Munising Baptist Church in Wetmore. Interment will be at the Maple Grove Cemetery. Blair's obituary and guestbook may be viewed and signed at www.bowermanfuneralhome.net.

KIM SANTIGO

Kim Karen (nee Ailing) Santiago of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., walked on Dec. 7, 2011 at her home. She was born Jan. 16, 1955 in Sault Ste. Marie.

She married Walter E. Santiago Oct. 17, 1997. She loved spending time with her grandchildren, Red Wings hockey, NFL football and crafts. She was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

She is survived by her husband; daughters, Corey (Lyndon)

Shipman, Kathryn Burlew and step-daughter Pamela Claussen; sisters, Bonnie Dawson of East Hemet, Calif., Adrienne (Graz) Shipman and Beverly (Ed) Lothrop; brothers, Lynn (Marsha) Ailing, Lee Ailing, Lon Ailing, Leslie (Tracy) Ailing and Joseph (Jenny) Ailing; grandchildren, Kelsey, Jeremy and Kaylea Theut, Brendan Ch'Giizhigong Shipman, Audra Burlew, Maliik and Micah Golston; and great grandchild, Amerie J. Enos. She is also survived by the dog children, Foxy and Shrek; very special nieces and nephews, Gina, Scott, Fawn, Rose, Squeak, Billi, Barb, Danielle, Sky, Azhanae, Brenda, Laura, Lacey, Laaghyn, Paige, Mystique and Joey; and her cherished friends, Red Burlew, Rhonna Calkins and Barb Krow.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin and Audrey Ailing, Raymond and Corella LeSage; brother, Lance Ailing; and grandson, Zaagidwin J. Shipman.

Visitation and traditional services were conducted at the Niigaanaagiizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie Dec. 9-11. Memorial contributions to the Hospice of the E.U.P. would be appreciated. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family.

MARK F. SCHMITT

The 10th bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Marquette, Bishop Emeritus Mark F. Schmitt, 88, passed away on Dec. 14, 2011, at Unity Hospice's Jack and Engrid Meng Residence in DePere, Wisc., after a brief illness.

Bishop Schmitt served as bishop of the Diocese of Marquette for over 14 years, from his installation on May 7, 1978, to his retirement on Nov. 11, 1992. He then lived near Big Bay until moving to Green Bay, Wisc., in 2005.

He was born on Feb. 14, 1923, the fifth of eight children, to Charles and Ann (Netzer) Schmitt in Algoma, Wisc. He completed his preparation for the priesthood at St. John Seminary and University in Collegeville, Minn. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Green Bay on May 22, 1948, by Bishop Stanislaus Bona at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay. He served as pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Weyauwega and St. Bernard Parish in Green Bay.

He was ordained an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay on June 24, 1970.

Highlights of his 14 years of service to the Catholic Church in the U.P. include the establishment of the Lay Ministries Leadership School; implementation of the Permanent Diaconate Program; the ordination of 28 men to the priesthood; and the provision of faith development programs like RENEW, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.



EPA issues historic mercury, air toxics standards

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

For the first time ever, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued national Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) to protect America from power plant emissions of mercury and toxic air pollution like arsenic, acid gas, nickel, selenium and cyanide.

The EPA estimates the new safeguards will prevent thousands of premature deaths, heart attacks acute childhood bronchitis and asthma symptoms every year. More good news: Equipment used to comply with MATS will also reduce emissions of sulfuric acid and other toxins that cause acid rain and smog, according to the EPA.

Power plants are the largest remaining source of several toxic air pollutants, including mercury, arsenic, cyanide and a range of other dangerous pollutants, and are responsible for half of the mercury and over 75 percent of the acid gas emissions in the United States, according

MERCURY in fish has been on the decline for decades until recently, with a sudden rise for the past few years, and scientists have been seeing damage to wildlife at much lower levels than previously thought dangerous.

to the EPA.

Mercury emissions have decreased in the U.S. over the past 20 years. In 1990, researchers estimate U.S. mercury emissions for coal and oil were 59 tons out of a total of 246 tons. By 2005, they were 53 tons out of a total of 105 tons.

Today's estimates stand at 29 tons per year. Lowest emissions since 1990 were estimated in 2008-2009 and rose by 1 ton last year due to increased demand,

according to an EPA memorandum. With the new rules in place, tons per year emitted from power plants is projected at 27 tons per year.

More than half of today's coal-fired power plants already use pollution control technologies that will help them meet the new standards. Once final, MATS require the remaining plants take similar steps to decrease toxic emissions.

There are 23 plants that are coal or oil or both in Michigan alone that are likely covered by MATS, according to the EPA website, containing at least one oil-fired steam generating unit or one coal-fired steam generating unit that generates more than 25 megawatts of power. There are 525 on the national list.

Scientists have long known that mercury harms the nervous systems of children exposed in the womb, impairing thinking, learning and early development. We are exposed to mercury when it is emitted by power

plants into the environment and works its way up the food chain, harming not only us but everything along the way.

Mercury has been on the decline in the Great Lakes for decades but there has been a sudden rise in the past few years, and scientists are seeing damage to wildlife occur at much lower levels than previously thought, according to studies.

Sault Tribe's Inter Tribal Fishery and Assessment Program (ITFAP) has been proactive on mercury prevention on behalf of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA). "We hope that the new rulings will result in the demise of coal as a fuel source and encourage the development of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and other clean sources of electricity," ITFAP environmental coordinator Mike Ripley said.

Ripley conducts the longest standing fish contaminant study on the Great Lakes.

"The new EPA rules for coal-fired utilities are long overdue but they are the right thing for EPA to do, in my opinion," Ripley said. "When the Bush II administration delayed those rules, CORA responded by demanding that EPA regulate mercury because it accumulates in the fish that we catch. ITFAP wrote letters on behalf of CORA supporting the lawsuit against EPA that was filed by the states because EPA had failed to regulate mercury as they are required to by the Clean Air Act."

ITFAP has also written letters on behalf of CORA urging the EPA to better regulate all coal-fired utilities in order to prevent acid rain, mercury and health problems due to particulates and emissions of green house gases that result in global warming, said Ripley, along with many letters opposing the construction of new coal-fired power plants in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Read more about MATS at www.epa.gov/mats.

BIOREFINERY WOULD AFFECT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF TREATY TERRITORY

From "Frontier Project," Pg. 1 radius around the Kinross facility, according to project fact sheets.

The first venture proposed by Mascoma did not get off the ground for lack of investors. But on Dec. 9, Mascoma Corporation announced joining Valero Energy Corporation of Texas to build the facility with funds by the energy giant along with the DOE and the state of Michigan. The new venture will be called "Kinross Cellulosic Ethanol LLC."

Plans include constructing a plant that produces 20 million gallon per year ethanol, expanding the operation to 40 million and then 80 million gallons per year output, according to a Dec. 9 Mascoma statement. Mascoma estimated construction will start "within two or three months" and be completed by the end of 2013.

According to project opponents, the 150-mile radius encompasses 80 percent of the public lands within the 1836 Ceded Territory, and all of the hardwoods that are cut on the Hiawatha National Forest in an entire year would run the plant for less than 60 days.

Health concerns include air quality, water use and water pollution, fugitive dusts and odor. Other concerns include aesthetics, recreation and treaty rights.

Specifically, Klein and the Sierra Club charge the DOE failed "to adequately perform environmental review procedures in its environmental assessment

for the Frontier Project and associated finding of no significant impact." The plaintiffs further challenged the DOE's failure to prepare an environmental impact statement examining all potentially significant environmental impacts of the Frontier Project, as required by NEPA.

Klein lives near the proposed plant site, which is also next to a school and Sault Tribe Housing. Due to a liver transplant, Klein has a compromised immune system that makes him particularly sensitive to changes in air quality that will be caused by the proposed plant, states the complaint. Also an employee of Sault Tribe Health Clinic, Klein has patients who will be directly affected by changes in air and water quality.

"A lot of Native children and Native Americans live here and Native Americans have a much higher risk of developing asthma," said Klein. "The factory is going to put out a lot of pollutants. Natives already have problems getting health care; this will adversely affect them."

Klein didn't think twice about joining the suit, he said. He is a politically active person who has gone to D.C. on national issues and now he has a chance to do something for his own community. "This is a local issue directly impacting our lives," he said. "The suit may have needed only one local person but I have a lot of support in my community."

Both the DOE and state have been criticized for not consulting on the matter with local Indian

tribes in the U.P. of Michigan and northern lower Michigan, on the facility's impact on the area's resources and its peoples. At a June 21 MDEQ air permit hearing for the project, DJ Malloy, Unit I representative on the Sault Tribe Board of Directors who lives in Kinross, informed the MDEQ panel that Native American children are at 25 percent greater risk of asthma. She told the panel the tribe opposes the plant, the tribe was not consulted and mitigation land provided by Frontier was not in the treaty-ceded area.

Panelist Andy Drury of the DEQ said at the June 21 meeting that the facility "meets the requirements" imposed by the state and the DEQ is permitted to consider only those requirements. According to Drury, they can only look at emissions, not the whole picture.

Another concern voiced at the DEQ hearing was that carbon monoxide (CO) and oxides of nitrogen (NO2) are both projected over 85 percent of the PSD major source threshold, CO being projected at 234 out of 250, and NO2 at 218.6 of 250, for a plant that outputs 20 million gallons per year, which is very close to violation. The DEQ panel said it was conservative with its figures, Frontier was still within projected limits and would have to come back for another permit if it expands. The proposed plant will also output various kinds of particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds

(VOCs) and lead, according to the DEQ projections.

There are still a number of questions to be answered about the impact of the proposed plant upon tribal resources, such as the availability of plans to the tribes, a definition of impacts, impacts of fugitive dusts on tribal treaty rights activities, and an abatement plan for protection of tribal resources, according to the Intertribal Council of Michigan comments.

Klein said he is "really glad" that the Sault Tribe Board of Directors has come out in oppo-

sition to the plant. It's unfortunate that the complaint even has to be filed, said Klein, who thinks most plant supporters don't understand how little the community will benefit from the plant and what irreparable harm it will cause.

Klein added that hearings will be held on the matter and to watch for postings.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians passed a resolution opposing the refinery April 2011, as did Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority July 2010.

Adding your voice to the issue

Those readers who feel strongly about the proposed biocellulosic plant can write in to their elected officials with their positions. Those tribal members who want to let the tribe know how they feel can contact their unit directors or write in with their views.

Tips on how to write an effective letter —

Elected officials take letters from their constituents very seriously. This is especially true when individuals have taken the time to sit down and write a letter in their own words. Elected officials pay the most attention to letters from voters in their own districts. To make your letters the

most effective:

1. Write a letter you would like to receive. Use a factual, professional tone, don't exaggerate and avoid name-calling or making threats.

2. Write legibly. Only use a typewriter or computer when your handwriting is difficult to read. Include your name and address.

3. Limit your letter to one page and stick to a single topic. First, state that you support or oppose a position or piece of legislation. Refer to bills and resolutions by number if possible.

4. Then, list the reasons for your support or opposition. Last, ask your representatives to write back explaining their position on the legislation.

Write your state and federal representatives about your matters of concern

U.S. President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
(202) 456-1111
TTY/TDD: (202) 456-6213

U.S. Senator Carl Levin
269 Russell Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2202
(202) 224-6221

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4822
U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Congressman Dan Benishek
514 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4735

Governor Rick Snyder
P.O. Box 30013,
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-3400

Michigan Senate
Dist. 37 State Sen. Howard Walker
P.O. Box 30036,
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-2413

Dist. 38 State Sen. Tom Casperson
P.O. Box 30036,
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-7840

State House of Representatives
Dist. 107 Rep. Frank Foster
S-1486 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-2629

Dist. 108 Rep. Edward McBroom
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 373-0156

Dist. 109 Rep. Steven Lindberg
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
(517) 373-0498

Senate approves Walker legislation to protect the Great Lakes from invasive species

LANSING—Comprehensive legislation to help protect Michigan from an ecological catastrophe and millions of dollars in lost revenue has been signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder Dec. 21.

Senate Bills 508 – 510 establish the Great Lakes Basin Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Advisory Council to determine how to best protect the state from continued invasions of aquatic invasive species, said lead sponsor Sen. Howard Walker, R- Traverse City.

“This council will have a unique and timely opportunity to craft a ballast water permit for Michigan and the rest of the Great Lakes Basin, which will help head off an invasion before it threatens our lakes,” Walker said. “The permit will be vital in helping preserve the state’s tourism, industrial manufacturing, conservation and recreation industries.”

Walker said the council will be composed of experts from the Great Lakes region who will

work on the necessary plans to prevent, eradicate and monitor aquatic invasive species throughout the region.

The council will include Sault Tribe Chairman Joe Eitrem, who will be advised by Sault Tribe’s Inter Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program Director Tom Gorenflo. “The fact that the council is comprised of regional business, farming, environmental, tribal and conservation interests will help it to lobby for effective changes both in Michigan and throughout the basin,” Walker said.

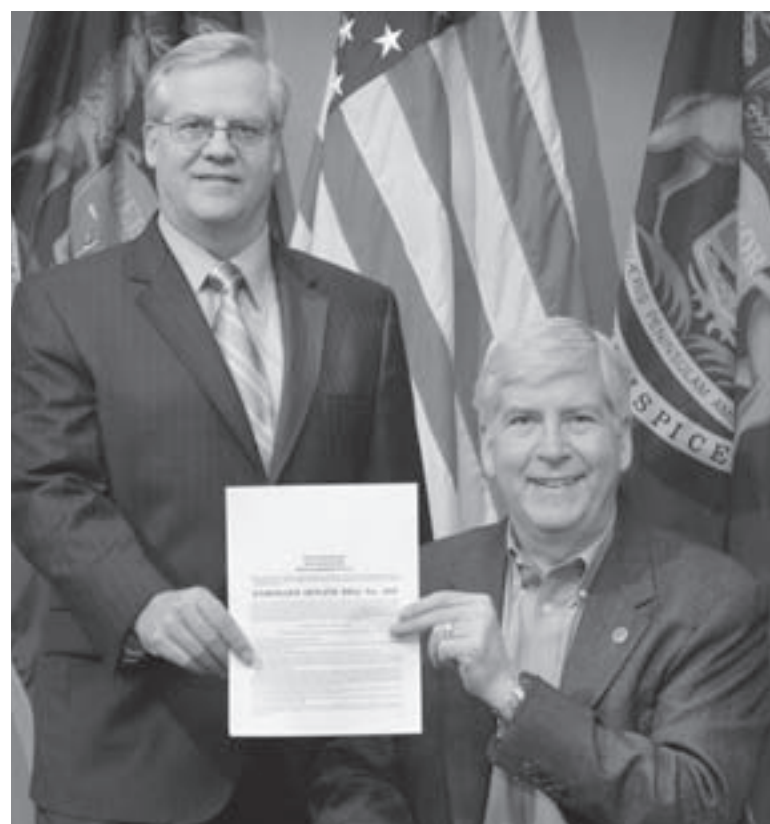
Walker, who is vice chair of the Senate Appropriations subcommittees on Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR), compared the council with the Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact.

“With the compact, we protected the quantity of the water; now we’re protecting the quality,” he said. “As an official representing residents who live on three of the Great Lakes, I know

the importance of a healthy ecosystem to our economy and our way of life. I am thankful that the Senate has taken this critical first step and look forward to working to finalize these vital initiatives.”

Under the legislation, the AIS council would work with the DEQ and the Office of the Great Lakes to update and implement the state’s existing AIS management plan. The measures would also require the council to review all existing state laws on aquatic invasive species and make recommendations for strengthening protections against further invasions.

“The council will be able to help develop a strategy to protect the basin from further invasions of aquatic invasive species. It will be charged with creating a framework for a basin-wide plan that addresses aquatic invasive species holistically, and it will also provide a basis for comment on both federal and state laws related to aquatic invasive species management,” Walker said.



State Sen. Howard Walker (left), R-Traverse City, and Gov. Rick Snyder hold Senate Bill 509, sponsored by Walker. Snyder on Dec. 21 signed into law SBs 508 - 510, establishing the Great Lakes Basin Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Council.

Chippewa/East Mackinac County Conservation District helps manage natural resources

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Do you know where the Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District office is located in Sault Ste. Marie? Do you know what they do, who they benefit? Let’s take a look.

The Conservation District has been serving the people of Chippewa County and the eastern half of Mackinac County for over 60 years. Conservation Districts are local non-profit groups that help landowners and communities manage their natural resources, including wetlands, water bodies, farms and forests.

Our local office is located at 2847 Ashmun Street (M-129) about a one-quarter mile north of the Three Mile Road intersection in the Tamarack Cove office complex. It shares its location with USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and works in partnership with the services.

Conservation Districts are funded by private, local, state and federal grants and our local office holds an annual tree sale every spring to help raise funds for programming. Executive Director of the Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District, Dustine (Dusty) King, said they have been fortunate in the past to receive state and federal planning and implementation grants allowing them to make watershed management plans, look at local water quality, soil protection, invasive plants and insects and farming enhancements.

Water Quality

The Conservation District has written watershed management plans for the Les Cheneaux and Sault Ste. Marie Area Watersheds and was able to implement their plans for the Les Cheneaux



Dusty King, Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District Executive Director

Watershed funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Other agencies are able to use the Sault Ste. Marie Area Watershed plan to obtain funding to help with water quality issues and the Conservation District, along with local partners, is currently in the process of applying for a few grants that may be applicable to local waterways, especially Ashmun Creek, King said.

“There are dollars being spent to do restoration and there has been a lot of restoration done on the St. Marys River,” she said. “Even though we haven’t been able to get funding to implement the Sault Watershed plan, components that were identified as problems in that plan have had work being done on them by other agencies.”

Other projects the Conservation District has worked on include a St. Marys River Rapid Watershed Assessment done in January 2008 with the

USDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and their most current watershed study on the Munuscong River Watershed has been underway since early 2010.

King said a watershed is all of the land that has water that flows into a waterway and can stretch for many miles from the actual body of water. “When you do anything in-ground with wells and septic systems, digging, building, cutting trees — you are impacting the watershed and eventually the body of water it flows into.”

She said one of her biggest challenges is educating the public about their septic systems.

“Keeping those up to date and cleaned out and checking for leaks is important. Some people may not have a clue that they might have a pipe that goes directly into some little gully and that during the spring thaw sewage is being washed down into the creek where two miles downstream children might be playing.”

King said people have to “think beyond water” to understand our effect on water quality.

“When we are talking about water quality and watersheds people have to think beyond water. Turn around and look behind the water — every time you do something on your land it will impact drainage, the watershed and our water. We aren’t saying don’t do it, but to consider the implications first,” King said.

Landowners and conservation projects

In addition to studying, writing and implementing watershed plans, the Conservation District offers services and advice to

local farmers, landowners and the community. New and ongoing programs include a Native Michigan Wildflower Restoration Project, surveying and photographing local barns and farms, conservation camps for school kids, contests for kids, newsletter and informational brochures and tree and plant sales. They also manage the Waiska River Farm/Sand Ridge Forest and offer a Cooperator Program allowing landowners to join with the District to practice good land stewardship, they offer cost sharing windbreaks through Operation Windbreak and participate in watershed associations and land change studies.

Other services offered by the District include: No till Drill, aerator, tree planter, tree bars, back pack sprayer, bird feeders, tree wraps/mats, soil maps, tree seedlings, bat/bird houses, nature books and native seeds.

King said she would like to see more participation from the community when they put out a request for support or send out surveys. “We need to show the community is supporting the work we do. We need to have a response when we ask the community to attend a meeting, fill out a survey, or request volunteers to help do creek bank stabilization. Our turnout in the past has been lower than we would like to see, increased local volunteer support is an important need for us,” she said.

According to King, people understand the value of water quality, but sometimes may not understand the length and breadth of what it takes to clean up water.

“Everybody cares when a beach gets closed or if their water isn’t safe to drink and when they

see headlines in the paper such as the issues on Sugar Island. Prevention would be a much better solution than to come in behind the fact. We keep working along at it and taking each small piece as we can,” she said.

The Conservation District takes recommendations from a steering committee of about 15 partners and has a board of directors that meets once a month. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has two positions serving Eastern Upper Peninsula landowners: Kent Dankenbring is the district conservationist and Pat Carr is the soil conservation technician.

For more information call the CEMCD at (906) 635-1278 or email Dusty King at cemcd@lighthouse.net. Also visit their Website at: www.chipmackconservation.org.

Beginning farmer course offered

For people interested in exploring opportunities in small or larger-scale farming, MSU Extension is offering a four evening course for beginning farmers in three U.P. locations. A team of presenters will cover farm business basics, small farm machinery and animal and plant-based enterprises.

Classes are set for Tuesday evenings in Hancock, Wednesday evenings in Escanaba and Thursday evenings in Sault Ste. Marie every other week from late January through mid-March. Pre-registration and fee required.

For more information or brochure go to www.msue.msu.edu/alger, or call Alger County MSU Extension at (906) 387-2530.

2011 upside: tribe had many accomplishments



JOSEPH EITREM,
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Aanii,

Happy new year! I hope you all had a nice holiday season. In 2011, our tribe had some amazing accomplishments. Many times we only hear about controversial issues or political bantering and our positive accomplishments are never in the spotlight. In my report this month, I want to highlight just a few of the positive activities our tribal government, businesses and casinos have been able to achieve in 2011:

— We successfully obtained a Department of Energy grant to convert our governmental buildings to an energy efficient lighting system. The result is a sizeable reduction in electricity costs.

— This past summer, Saultuer Road construction was completed with a new road and sidewalk.

— The culture camp on Sugar

Island saw improvements to the interpretative trail.

— The Kewadin Cares program helped our casino shine as a community leader through the involvement of many programs such as Armed Forces Appreciation Night, Cannathons, donations, anti-bullying campaigns, Treats for Troops drive, Soo Greyhounds and Sault Area Hospitals partnership, Gold Wing Road Riders and juvenile diabetes awareness.

— The Sault Tribe and Kewadin Casinos received the Center of Influence Award from the 1437th National Guard Engineer Company for our part in supporting the community during the deployment of the 1437th in 2009-2010. In addition, Kewadin Casinos was named as having the best dinner buffet (DreamCatchers Restaurant) and best casino (Kewadin Casinos) in the 2011 Best of Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac Counties survey.

— All of our Kewadin properties had record crowds during their New Years Eve celebrations.

— The Sault Tribe and Kewadin Casinos awarded \$1,551,534 in 2 percent contributions to Upper Peninsula police and fire agencies, local libraries, public schools, recreation areas and programs and many more.

— Renovations were completed to the third floor Contract Health area of the Sault Health Center.

— Twenty-one driveways were replaced at the St. Ignace housing site.

— We have made many improvements to our MIS department including: Ethernet connectivity at the Sault Health Center, multiple data cabling infrastructure updates, improvements to Kinross housing lighting systems, new video conferencing systems at the Sault Health Center, and beginning the process of developing a tribal wide IP addressing scheme.

— Our Human Resources department designed and built a new compensation model for all team members that allow pay rates to be based using a market-based compensation model.

— The direct services of ACFS continued to provide a multitude of services to assist members with emergency needs and housing assistance, heating assistance, child care assistance, sanitation services, cooling assistance and funeral assistance.

— Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center hosted the men's and women's International Charity Challenge Hockey Tournament.

— The Bahweting after-school program at Chi Mukwa increased its participants from 60 to 80.

— The Sault Tribe Culture Department conducted the Sault Tribe Language Conference, hopefully the first of many, and held four seasonal language immersion

camps through their ANA language grant.

— A repatriation burial site was established on Mackinac Island.

— Our Head Start/Early Head Start program was awarded the I CAN Help My Child Stay Healthy grant through UCLA Health Institute. Five staff were trained in this parent-focused training and delivered the training to 100 families in Chippewa and Mackinac Counties.

— An elders center opened in the Sault to hold activities and social events with no cost.

— Enrollment finalized procedures, with the help from Tribal Court, to enroll people who were adopted, in out-of-home placement/foster care or had unknown paternity.

— Our Environmental Department was awarded funds for an energy audit technologies training from the Department of Energy that will assist in efforts to maintain energy efficient offices, buildings and homes.

— The tribe's executive office assisted in successfully writing \$1.2 million in grant applications related to emergency preparedness.

— 2011 was the second highest year on record since 1990 for walleye fingerling production and stocking.

— The Housing Authority finished a two-year, \$3.3 million comprehensive energy efficient

home rehabilitation project to its rental housing units.

— The Department of Justice awarded Tribal Court a grant in excess of \$400,000 to fund general Tribal Court operations and to implement a family preservation court, a multi-agency collaborative program focused on reunifying tribal children more successfully with their parents after a removal due to a parental substance abuse.

Looking into 2012, it is my hope to build on these accomplishments. We will make every effort to not only increase our income but to look for and truly diversify our business holdings. We need to look at opportunities outside of gaming, such as health care.

I truly believe 2012 will be our year.

To note as a technical correction, in my last unit report in regards to the issue of paying the vice chairwoman I stated, "The decision to pay her the difference between her director stipend and chairperson stipend was agreed upon with a 6-3 vote in favor of paying her." To correct that, the decision was a consensus; no one opposed it.

If you would like to call me, contact the office toll free at (800) 793-0660 or locally at 635-6050. Also, remember to look at our new web site — www.saulttribe.com — for updates and information.

Sincerely,
Joe Eitrem

At the new year: Reflections, corrections, goals



DJ MALLOY, DIRECTOR,
UNIT I

December was a short meeting month for the board, so I will take this opportunity to cite a few reflections, corrections and goals.

REFLECTIONS

In 2011, we were without a chairman for more than 100 days. We have gone over four months without filling the Unit I seat emptied when Chairman Eitrem gave up his seat to take on the responsibility of the chairmanship. These lapses in representation are due to the fact that politics are part of the process to fill vacancies. I still believe a process needs to be put in place that represents the will of the people and validates your vote. But this is something that will have to wait until after the June 2012 general election, due to restrictions on code changes close to and during an election cycle.

As long as the board has the power and ability to decide who is going to represent you when a seat is vacated, there is going to be board concern as to whether or not the person appointed will

agree or disagree with this side or that. I have to admit that I, too, found myself guilty of this mind set when given the ability to choose. It's a human thing. Remember when we were kids and we would have to pick teams for a game or sport? First the "team leaders" would stand in front of the rest of us and they would take turns choosing who they wanted to play on their team. The players were looked over with an eye for what each could bring to the team so as to increase the chances for "our" team to win. Another way, and what seemed a more fair way to choose teams, was to do a "one, two, count off" and have the team leaders flip a coin for who got the "one" players and who got the "two" players. At least it was a fair process and both sides were denied an opportunity to stack a team.

Also in 2011, we allowed a county in Michigan to prosecute, sentence and incarcerate fishermen exercising their treaty rights. I am not making a statement on the guilt or innocence of these fishermen. I am, however, baffled by the tribe's refusal to stand on our rights and exercise jurisdiction in our own court system. In doing so, we have given a foothold to future attempts to erode our sovereign right to govern ourselves.

CORRECTIONS

In November, I asked the chairman if he had paid the vice chair a dividend for performing her duties as designated in the Constitution. I brought it up in a workshop and I implored the

chairman to make an announcement to the public at that night's meeting; because, whether or not I agreed with the payment, failure to make it public would be viewed as a "backroom board deal." It was not an easy discussion and there were heated words. My contention was that we had, on several occasions, and in several venues, assured the members that there would be no payment given or accepted for Vice Chair Causley to fill her obligation, per the Constitution, until a new chairman could be seated. To make payment after that meant we had an obligation to inform the members. No more, no less. Both agreed to make it known in the next issue of the tribal newspaper.

As promised, in the December issue of the Sault Tribe newspaper, Chairman Eitrem made the announcement. However, the article stated the decision to pay Vice Chair Lana Causley was voted on with a 6-3 vote in favor of paying her. And . . . the article also stated we appointed the vice chair as "interim chair," which is a title that does not exist in our tribal Constitution and there was no such appointment.

During the Dec. 13 tribal board meeting, Chairman Eitrem admitted this was "a poor choice of words" and agreed to correct the information. For the record: Chairman Eitrem made the payment because he believed he had the authority to do so without board action. There was no board appointment of an "interim chair" and no meeting vote for the purpose of granting additional pay to

Vice Chair Causley. If there had been a meeting, I believe it would have taken a positive majority of seven "yes" votes and not six (due to my belief that the action should have required a budget modification). That being said, we can move on.

GOALS

It is my hope tribal leadership will come together and finally take steps to implement the constitutional amendment passed in March 2010 removing the duties of the CEO from the chairman's position. This is another step in taking the politics out of day-to-day business operations.

It is my hope the leadership will acknowledge the conflict presented in having the courts under the purview of the board and work to put forth a ballot question on separation of the courts. It is the court that should interpret the Constitution and have the ability to sanction the board for failure to follow the Constitution and/or Tribal Code. Checks and balances!

It is my hope that we realize a larger voter turnout in 2012. If you are not registered to vote, or want to find out if you are registered, please call the Enrollment Department at (800) 251-6597 or locally at 632-8552. This is also the department that handles changes of addresses. As I said in my October report, "Not everyone or every household will receive this newspaper. Not everyone has a computer with the internet to access this article, so it is important we share this information with our tribal friends and family. Please pass this informa-

tion on. If you know of someone who has not received a ballot, a paper or has moved, please give them this article or information. Without a tribally-based voter registration drive, it is up to us as citizens to make sure we have secured our right to vote by keeping our address current with the Enrollment Department, and making sure we have registered to vote."

In 2011, the unit meetings in Kinross were, for the most part, unattended and I wound up dropping the room reservation because no one was showing up. However, I would like to state that I continue to meet with members via phone, email or in person to answer questions or assist in resolving issues you may have.

You can reach me at (906) 440-9762 or djmalloy@saulttribe.net and I will be happy to make an appointment with you.

Respectfully submitted,
DJ Malloy

Moving?



TRIBAL MEMBERS!

When you move, let tribal enrollment know where you are headed! That way you won't miss one issue of your tribal paper.

Call (800) 251-6597

Educate members about healthful choices



BERNARD BOUSCHOR,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Dear tribal member,
The major emphasis of the tribe's board of directors has been health. The tribal board established a liaison committee of board members: Cathy Abramson, Deb Pine, Lana Causley and I (Bernard Bouschor), to meet with the Health Division. We listened to the issues of retention and recruitment and how it had a direct impact on members' lack of access to health care. The tribal health program had over 30 staff that had left employment with the tribe.

The liaison committee and health staff developed a plan for

recruitment and retention and the tribal board approved it in 2010. The implementation of the plan has proved to be a success. Today, we have very few vacant positions, staff have a positive attitude and performance objectives have been exceeded and numbers of members seem at our clinics is at an all time high.

The opening of the St. Ignace Hospital and Tribal Health Clinic is another success. Members have access to added services in the area and northern lower Michigan. This was a partnership between the tribe, community hospital, city and state and federal legislatures

in building a new hospital and tribal health clinic on land that the tribe donated to make the project possible.

The tribe was awarded a competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Sault Tribe Community Transformation Grant objectives: tobacco prevention, nutrition, physical activity, clinical prevention increase control of high blood pressure and cholesterol, and healthy and safe physical environments. The tribal board has appointed Cathy Abramson and DJ Malloy and

I to the committee. I attended a required meeting with health staff. Information that the CDC provided: the life expectancy of the younger generation is less than ours, tobacco second-hand smoke is a major health issue, and poor nutrition has impact on health and contributes to diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol.

The Sault Tribe continues to look at health indicators and to educate members as to the long-term values of healthful choices. I can be reached by calling (906) 440-4407.

Bernard Bouschor,
Tribal Council Unit I

Odenaang is valuable but underused resource



DEBRA PINE, DIRECTOR,
UNIT I

tell everybody about is the following:

JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy in conjunction with Sault Tribe has hired the firm C2ae to conduct a feasibility study regarding possible expansion or new construction at Odenaang. C2ae will facilitate a community forum on Thursday, Feb. 23 in the JKL Bahweting Library at 6 p.m. to give the Sault Ste. Marie community an opportunity to provide feedback on options for expansion.

This is just a feasibility study. After the information is collected, the various boards involved will make a determination as to whether or not we expand in the current area or build new at

Odenaang. What I will tell you is that this will not affect the tribe's financial picture and I want to make sure there are no rumors about it taking money from the elders. I don't know how to be any more point blank than that. There are areas of the tribe that are not connected to each other financially and this is one of those areas.

There is a bigger picture going on here for us. Our tribe has a Head Start program that needs to be moved from its current location due to safety issues, plus we need the room. We have our JKL school that has not met its original charter, which states it will expand, but its current location doesn't allow for it. In addition, the current location has a

big safety issue with the traffic at drop off and pick up times. And lastly, we have Odenaang that, for whatever reason, has stagnated in its growth and development.

Odenaang is basically underutilized trust land, which is a waste of a valuable resource, in my opinion. At Odenaang, there is enough room for a new school and it would jump start community development.

We just recently hosted community forums on Odenaang and they went very well. People are excited about the potential development. Our Housing staff is working diligently to capture grant monies to allow water and sewer hook up with the city of Sault Ste. Marie. This has the

potential of helping bring costs down for everybody in the area.

My goal is to create a well balanced tribe that looks at the needs of all the members and this includes our binoojiinhak (children). Our focus cannot just be the businesses or just the elders — it has to include everyone. I'm fortunate to work with Housing, which this year was able, with more liberal income guidelines, to provide monies for home repair and improvement for tribal members who don't reside on the reservation.

Have a good year and God bless.

Sincerely,
Debra-Ann Pine
440-1334
debrapine@yahoo.com

Tribe switches to NGS as manager of self-insured health plan



TOM MILLER, DIRECTOR,
UNIT IV

results in a good quality health plan for our employees.

Elders' checks will go out on Jan. 6 and will be in the amount of \$575.

All 2 percent grants are out and awarded and as always, there are many more requests than funds to go around. We try to choose the best grants that have the most return to the communities in which they will be implemented.

The board is still working diligently on economic development projects that will help us increase our revenue stream. Hopefully, we will see several come to the implementation point in the near future.

Denise and I are still working with the board to initiate action against the State of Michigan in defense of our treaty rights which, in this case, involves fishing rights. Our two tribal commercial fishermen continue to be held in the Delta County jail. I consider this a great injustice to our treaty rights.

The possible expansion of the JKL Bahweting school, is still being worked on. A feasibility study is now being conducted by the Bahweting school that will help determine what the need and direction of that expansion should be.

We are nearing the election cycle so I will ask you now for your patience. The rhetoric that can take place is sometimes not in

the best interest of the tribe as a whole or the individuals who are running for the unit positions.

Please stay well and enjoy the

winter; I don't think we have a choice. If you have any questions, please contact me at (906) 644-3334 or (906) 322-3827.

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors 2012 Meeting Calendar

Jan. 10	Sault Ste. Marie	July 10	Sault Ste. Marie
Jan. 24	Sault Ste. Marie	July 24	Sault Ste. Marie
Feb. 14	Sault Ste. Marie	Aug. 14	Sault Ste. Marie
Feb. 28	Sault Ste. Marie	Aug. 28	Hessel
March 13	Sault Ste. Marie	Sept. 11	Sault Ste. Marie
March 27	Manistique	Sept. 25	Munising
April 10	Sault Ste. Marie	Oct. 9	Sault Ste. Marie
April 24	Sault Ste. Marie	Oct. 23	St. Ignace
May 8	Sault Ste. Marie	Nov. 13	Sault Ste. Marie
May 22	Sault Ste. Marie	Nov. 27	Sault Ste. Marie
June 12	Sault Ste. Marie	Dec. 11	Sault Ste. Marie
June 26	Sault Ste. Marie		

Per the Constitution and Bylaws, Article 1 – Meetings of the board of directors, Section 1: . . . provided that at least one meeting per year shall be held in each of the five election units established pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the tribal constitution.

General meetings of the board are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

All general meetings start at 6 p.m. All Sault meetings will be held at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center, other locations to be announced.

All special meetings will be announced.

For further information please call Joanne or Tara at the Administration Office, (800) 793-0660, locally at 635-6050, extension 26337 or 26338.



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Please make sure you are registered to vote —



CATHY ABRAMSON, DIRECTOR,
UNIT I

Happy new year to you and yours! It was great to see such a nice size crowd at the Sault Tribe's annual New Years Eve Powwow. The weather was exceptionally beautiful that day, which I'm sure helped bring everyone out. Jackie Minton and Josh Homminga did a great job planning such a successful gathering.

The 2012 election will soon be upon us. I have listened to a wide range of tribal members who, I am happy to say, have no problem telling me exactly what they think. While there are many satisfied members, there are also those who are not. The 2012 election will

....And please make sure your address is up to date in order to receive your ballot. Call the Enrollment Department at 1 (800) 251-6597 to make sure!

provide you with an opportunity to vote the candidate of your choice.

I'd like to take this time to

stress the importance of you and your family members making sure you register to vote. Because all ballots are mailed, it is also important that you make sure that you and your family members' addresses are up to date with our Enrollment Office. You may contact them at 1 (800) 252-6597.

Director Hollowell and I are co-sponsoring a resolution that will approve an environmental defense task force. This task force will be made up of tribal board members and appropriate staff who will start more serious discussions in regards to the tribe's overall environmental stances and

strategies. By doing so, we hope to develop environmental policies with standards that would have to be adhered to.

Our tribe has been on record with protecting and preserving the St. Marys River and opposing the Mascoma plant in Kinross, Mich., among many other environmental issues, but we need to discuss the bigger picture of defending our environment.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (906) 322-3823 or email me at cabramson@saulttribe.net. Thank you for your support and please contact me any time!

Origins of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

(The following article is an overview of the origins of the modern day Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. It may also be read on the tribe's website, www.saulttribe.com, along with more information about our history, culture, politics, treaty rights and a plethora of documents. In subsequent issues of Win Awenen Nisitotung, please watch for more articles on our history. Miigwech. — J. Dale-Burton, editor)

The Anishinaabeg (which can mean 'Original People' or 'Spontaneous Beings') have lived in the Great Lakes area for millennia. Some of the oldest legends recall the ice packs breaking on Lake Nipissing and archeologists have found Anishinaabeg sites from 3000 B.C. Legends speak of immigrations to and from the Great Lakes over the centuries.

Sault Tribe's ancestors were Anishinaabeg fishing tribes whose settlements dotted the upper Great Lakes around Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, throughout the St. Marys River system and the Straits of Mackinac. Anishinaabeg gathered for the summers in places like Bahweting (Sault Ste. Marie) and broke up into family units for the winter.

They hunted, fished and gathered and preserved food for the winter. They were respectful to their elders and treasured their children. They conducted ceremonies for good health, thanksgiving, war, funerals and other things and strove to conduct their lives in a good way.

Anishinaabeg lived this way for hundreds of years until the arrival of European settlers in the 1600s. The Anishinaabeg had dealings with first the French, then the English, then the United States. The Anishinaabeg lifeway began to deteriorate as the people were placed on reservations, sent to boarding schools, along with other attempts to matriculate them into American mainstream society.

European Settlement

The roots of today's Sault Tribe go back to the 1940s, when a group of Sugar Island residents gathered to talk about their common history. Discussions turned into action plans and meetings grew larger and more formal.

The Sugar Islanders were descendants of Anishinaabeg who greeted the French from Montreal to the Sault to obtain beaver pelts for the emerging fur trade.



When French sovereignty ended in 1763, the English took over the wealthy fur trade. By 1820, the British had been replaced by Americans. In the 1820 Treaty of Sault Ste. Marie, the Anishinaabeg at Sault Ste. Marie ceded 16 square miles of land along the St. Marys River to the United States to build Fort Brady.

A second treaty, the 1836 Treaty of Washington ceded northern lower Michigan and the eastern portion of the Upper Peninsula to the United States. In return, the Anishinaabeg of the Sault received cash payments and ownership to about 250,000 acres of land. But over the next 20 years, they watched as white settlers moving into northern Michigan violated terms of the treaty. So in 1855, the chiefs signed another treaty, 1855 Treaty with the Ottawa and Chippewa with the Americans that allotted lands to Michigan Indian families.

The Struggle for Federal Recognition

The Sugar Island residents came to understand that while the treaties granted large tracts of land to the federal government, the documents did not end their sovereignty or terminate their ancestral right to hunt and fish on the ceded lands and waters of the Ojibwe.

On Dec. 24, 1953, the residents became the Original Bands of Chippewa Indians and Their Heirs. At that time, Sault Ste. Marie and Sugar Island contained no lands for their people and the federal government considered them members of the Bay Mills Indian Community.

The descendants did not feel part of the Bay Mills Indian Community, located 30 miles west of Sugar Island. Bay Mills had not extended services to the Sugar Island residents and had not represented their needs at tribal council meetings. As a result, the Sugar Island group pushed for recognition as a separate tribe. The impoverished community in which they lived motivated their actions. Many of their friends and family members lacked employment or adequate housing and lived along unlit, unpaved streets.

Federal recognition would let the tribe contract with the federal government for basic services.

Gaining recognition was not easy. The descendants had no financial resources, no political support and little information on how to present their claims to the federal government. Fortunately, the federal government had recently changed its policy toward Indian tribes with the passage of the Indian Reorganization Act. The Act ended an era of Indian

removal and assimilation policies by creating laws to encourage tribes to reorganize their traditional economies and communities into self-governing nations.

The descendants saw the Act as a way to improve their community. Federal recognition would restore their sovereignty as a separate nation within the United States, give focus to their land claims, open the door to elect a government able to take land into trust and lead to the recognition of their treaty rights to hunt and fish.

Federal recognition took more than 20 years to complete. The descendants built their case by searching archives, gathering historical documents and culling census rolls, church records and military records. In the mid-1960s, the group included members from six historical Ojibwe bands: Sugar Island, Sault Ste. Marie, Drummond Island, Garden River, Grand Island and Point Iroquois.

In the early 1970s, the leaders of the Original Bands of Chippewa Indians traveled to Washington and successfully submitted their historical findings and legal argument to the Secretary of the Interior, who granted the tribe federal status in 1972.

Once recognized, the Original Bands became the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Land was taken into trust in March 1974

and Sault Tribe members adopted the tribe's Constitution in fall 1975.

When the tribe adopted its Constitution, it had fewer than 10 employees, almost no outside funding and no revenues of its own. It gradually opened member service programs such as health, housing and education that were funded by the federal government and the State of Michigan. But member needs far outstripped those meager funding sources.

To close the gap, tribal leaders created a business-based economy. Businesses could provide added revenues and jobs for tribal members. The tribe has spent the past 25 years building a tribal economy providing employment and revenues to its people while making a positive impact on surrounding communities' economic welfare.

Sault Tribe Today

Today the Sault Tribe is 44,000 strong. While the tribe headquarters in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., its economic impact extends for hundreds of miles. The tribe has landholdings, businesses, housing and other service centers throughout Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The tribe's seven-county service area is made up of the easternmost seven counties of Michigan's Upper Peninsula — roughly the area east of Marquette to Escanaba.

Indian Country's election year begins now

By MARK TRAHANT

Happy new year! Or, I should say, happy election year. From now on the national election for president as well as for the House and the Senate shifts from a vague threat to an actual election.

But not just any election, because the 2012 result represents a significant threat to Indian Country.

No matter who or which party wins, there will be ginormous changes in federal programs and dollars that are invested in American Indian communities. Remember, both Democrats and Republicans are promising significantly less spending as we enter a new era of contraction.

The reasons for that policy shift are complicated by the nation's debt levels and the aging demographics of the country.

Still, there remain major policy differences between President Barack Obama and the Republican challengers for the office about how to make these cuts and what alternatives might be put in place to cushion the blow.

The Obama administration has done a pretty good job of protecting funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service recognizing decades of underfunding. That will not happen if any of the Republican candidates are elected (and the more strident



Left to right, Wenona Benally Baldenegro (Navajo) in Arizona and Derek Bailey, chairman of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, in Michigan.

GOP candidates are promising to eliminate the BIA and to strip tens of millions of dollars from IHS).

Elections are about choices. Do we choose to participate? And, if we do, what person or party is the better alternative? And, most important, can we win the day?

I hear from and appreciate the views of those who choose not to participate in American elections. That is a choice — and one that means that decisions will be made that impact your life without you.

The American Civil Liberties Union in a 2009 report (www.aclu.org/pdfs/votingrights/indiancountryreport.pdf) said that "South Dakota also used an alleged lack of Indian interest in state elections to justify denying residents of some counties the



right to vote or run for county office." In fact, one reason to get excited and engaged in the 2012 election is that many Republican-controlled state legislatures (www.protectingthevote.com) are trying to restrict voting or dilute American Indian votes. (www.aclu.org/voting-rights/court-overturms-election-procedures-dilute-american-indian-vote-wyoming)

Historically I think you can make the case that there are merits and missteps from both parties when it comes to Indian Country. Many Democrats supported termination and the modern framework of self-determination surfaced during a Republican administration. But in this election cycle, that is not the case because the Republican Party has moved so far to the right.

There are code words for termination hidden in the details of Republican budgets. There is no room for tribal self-determination or even a way to build a native economic community when the defining philosophy is anti-government. The current Republican premise is incompatible with Indian Country.

Can we win the day? Only if Indian Country gets engaged. The Native Vote 2012 (www.nativevote.org/page/key-states; a project of the National Congress of American Indians) identifies 13 states where American Indians and Alaska Natives could be decisive. Any list would start with Alaska were the Native vote (www.aknativevote.com/faq) was decisive in re-electing Sen. Lisa Murkowski after she had lost her primary in 2010.

The presidential campaign this time around will be different than the last one. In 2008, for example, one of the accomplishments of the Obama campaign was a 50-state strategy. This time around Obama is more likely to focus on what it will take to win 270 electoral votes.

In that scenario, Indian Country's influence will be key in six states, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. The Center for American Progress in a report, "The Path to 270: Demographics versus Economics in the

2012 Presidential Election," (www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/11/path_to_270) says these states (I added Arizona to the center's list of states in play) are all "marked by fast growth and by relatively high and growing percentages of minority voters ..." as well as an advantage for Obama among white college graduates. This could result in an effective election coalition.

In Arizona (see Wenona-Benally-Baldenegro-for-Congress on Facebook) and Michigan (see www.derekbailleyforcongress.com) you also have American Indians running for Congress and that could increase both enthusiasm and turnout. The recall election in Wisconsin (www.wisdems.org/about/caucuses/The-American-Indian-Caucus) is also generating a campaign infrastructure that could win there.

Nearly four years ago there was tremendous excitement in Indian Country because of the election of Barack Obama. But along the way we forget that it takes elections — not an election — to make hope and change so.

Mark Trahant is a writer, speaker and Twitter poet. He is a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and lives in Fort Hall, Idaho. Trahant's recent book, "The Last Great Battle of the Indian Wars," is the story of Sen. Henry Jackson and Forrest Gerard.

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Sault Ste. Marie,
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**The Guess Who &
Little River Band**
Saturday, January 28 at 7 p.m.
Sault Ste. Marie,
Michigan



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Saturday, February 11 at 7 p.m.
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Wachters celebrate 60 years

On Saturday, Aug. 13, 2011, Wayne and Mary Wachter celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family at L' Attitude Restaurant in Marquette, Mich.

Wayne Francis Wachter and Mary Agnes Goudreau were married Aug. 4, 1951, at St. Francis Church in Manistique, Mich. The wedding party included

bridesmaid Adelle (Gregurash) Deloris and Betty (Burns) Belongia. Groomsmen were Vincent Vallier and Wilbert Belongia. The couple honeymooned in Niagara Falls.

They moved to Marquette in 1952 and still live there. Wayne was a commercial fisherman in Marquette and Naubinway. Mary was an elementary teacher in Germfask and Marquette.

The Wachter's have two children, Cynthia Crowley Hanson and Michael (Patricia) Wachter, both of Marquette; five grandchildren, Kevin (Tabatha) Crowley, Milan, Mich., Meghan (John) Sehl, Gaylord, Mich., Jessica (Bryan) Durnion, Ishpeming, Toni (Eric) Kucharezyk, Negaunee and Ryan Hanson, Marquette; and two great grandchildren, Madison and Brendan Durnion.

Wayne and Mary spent many winters in Florida and summers in Seul Chaix and Marquette.



Golden Eagle gets his elk

Robert Ginew (Golden Eagle) St. Andrew of Moran was the lucky recipient of a Sault Tribe Elk tag from the elk permit lottery, which he filled Dec. 4 after two days of hunting on private property between Hillman and Atlanta. St. Andrew ended up with tag that was not filled in an earlier hunt. What makes him even luckier is that his wife won and filled her Elk tag just last year.

St. Andrews' 4-by-3, 3.5-year-old male dressed out at 500 pounds. His rifle was a 7 mm magnum, bolt action. "We were very fortunate," said St. Andrews, who added that they

don't hunt for the trophy, they hunt for the meat. "This meat will provide many meals for us and our families."

It is also a great time for the couple, who were on hand for each other's hunt.

They also work to fill their deer tags, filling up their freezer and those of their family and elders. St. Andrew said that his wife also cans quite a bit of the meat they harvest. "Canned venison can last up to four years in jars and it's perfectly good," he said. Not only is it good for when you come home tired and hungry, it's very tender besides, he added.

St. Andrews drives a truck for a living and can be gone from home for long periods. He likes to get outdoors as much as possible. "I'm really glad to be able to do this; more tribal members should take advantage of it."

He sent many thanks to Sault Tribe Conservation and Inland Fish and Wildlife for providing the opportunity to hunt elk on his Native lands.

St. Andrews tries to spread the word. "It's so easy to apply, so easy to get tags and chances are good in the lotteries," he said. "There might be limited permits, but there are limited applications, too."



Winners!

Ale McLeod, 11, and her brother Kaleb McLeod, 13, won the coloring contest at the New Year's Eve powwow. They each received a brand new bike, courtesy of Sault Tribe Law Enforcement.



There were jingle dress dancers of all ages at the powwow.





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