

# Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

This issue is dedicated to our friend, Maingan



Sault Tribe reps in Washington, D.C., visit long time friend, Representative John Dingell (D-Michigan), while Unit III Director Keith Massaway was attending a tax meeting: (L-R) Legislative Director Mike McCoy, Unit I Director Cathy Abramson, Rep. Dingell, Unit I Director Jennifer McLeod, Tribal Chairperson Aaron Payment and tribal member and D.C. consultant, Meghan Kelly Starling.



**JUNIOR SINGERS** — Loaghyn Lesley Ailing, 4, and Kewaquam Gibson, 5 (L-R), at the Sault Tribe's Veterans Powwow in Kinross, sit with their fathers' drum, the Sturgeon Bay Singers from the Petoskey/Harbor Springs area. (See more on pg. 2.)

The next powwow is Dec. 31 at the Lake Superior State University Norris Center. Sault Tribe is hosting the 2012 New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow.

A feast will be held at 4 p.m., a three-person hand drum competition at 6 p.m. (prizes!) and grand entry at 7 p.m.

The Little Spirit Moon Spiritual Gathering will be held prior to the powwow on Saturday, Dec. 29, 12-6 p.m. at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building, 11 Ice Circle. There will be a lunch social at noon, a teaching circle at 1 p.m. and a give-away at 5 p.m.

## Tribal reps go to DC

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment, Unit I Directors Cathy Abramson and Jennifer McLeod and Unit III Director Keith Massaway, along with Legislative Director Mike McCoy, attended the Dec. 5 White House Tribal Nations Conference at the Department of the Interior. Sault Tribe leaders connected with President Obama along with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Treasury Deputy Secretary Neal Wolin, Commerce Acting Secretary Rebecca Blank, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, among other officials.

Tribal leaders made the most of their time in D.C. with a full slate of legislative visits, including the Michigan Congressional delegation and representatives.

Top issues were restora-

tion of tribal provisions in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program, Inland Consent Decree implementation appropriations, and a number of consequences arising from a possible 8.2 percent cut in the federal budget, which would negatively impact the tribe's membership services, especially children.

The tribal officials participated in an Indian Health Service Tribal Listening Session as an additional opportunity for tribal leaders to provide input and dialogue with the IHS director. Payment also met with Transportation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials.

This was the fourth White House Tribal Nations Conference for the Obama Administration, as the president continues to build upon his commitment to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with Indian Country. (See Chairperson Payment's report on page 19.)

## Effective Nov. 1: CHS notice of change in covered priorities

Contract Health Service (CHS) is a federally-funded program. Those eligible are Sault Tribe members whose permanent residency is in the CHS seven-county delivery area in Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce, Schoolcraft, Alger, Delta and Marquette counties. Our fiscal year is from Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2013.

Due to concerns over "sequestration" (at the federal level), which could lead to a 2-8 percent cut in monies budgeted for CHS for this fiscal year, the CHS Review Committee recommended addressing this potential decrease in funds now in lieu of waiting for January 2013, when we hope that a formal agreement will be signed by the current Administration (Congress) on the amount that CHS will be receiving.

To be pro-active for the upcoming fiscal year CHS priorities of coverage for outside referrals has changed as of Nov. 1, 2012, to cover the following categories:

Category 1: Emergent/ acutely urgent care services — Diagnostic or therapeutic services that are necessary to prevent immediate death or serious impairment.

Category II: Acute primary and preventative care services — Aimed at prevention of disease and disability, such as screening colonoscopies, f/u stress tests in patient with known CAD (most of these services are available at tribal facilities, such as pap

smears, PSA testing, mammograms, and therefore not covered under CHS).

Category III: Specialty diagnostic testing as ordered by tribal clinic physicians, such as cat scans, stress tests, MRI, etc. tests that cannot be provided thru our tribal clinics.

The CHS Review Committee has recommended covering common exceptions due to increased morbidity associated with untreated disease — cholecystectomy for recurrent biliary colic, sleep studies in patients meeting criteria, ortho surgeries to correct instability created by acute injury, and also to repair nerve impingement, physical therapy for patients referred outside of the Sault to contracted providers-12 visits, rheumatology care for RA for DMARD treatment, nephrology for diabetics with declining renal function, pulmonologist for management of pulmonary sarcoidosis, surgical repair of abdominal hernias, ortho/interventional radiology — epidural steroid injections for spinal stenosis/disc herniation.

The CHS Office is located at the Tribal Health and Human Services Building, third floor, 2864 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, phone 632-5220 or (800) 922-0582. Staff are CHS Utilization Manager Tina Fox, CHS certifier Carol Pages-Montie and patient care coordinators Kim Menard (A-G), Nicole McKechnie (H-N) and Claudette Crook (M-Z), and elder worker Barbara Dietz.

Photos by Josh Homminga

**FEAST** — Local veterans were honored with a feast on Nov. 9 at the tribe's ceremonial building and they were remembered at a powwow on Nov. 10 at the Kinross Recreation Center in Kincheloe, Mich.



Veteran Les Ailing, right, and his son, Loaghyn Lesley Ailing, 4.



Veterans and their families getting ready to enjoy a meal and good company.



Veterans and their families and friends celebrating an early Veteran's Day Nov. 9, honoring Sault Tribe members who are military veterans.



Photos by Brenda Austin

Celebrating our veterans continued Nov. 10 at the annual Honoring Our Veterans Powwow at the Kinross Recreation Center. Above, flag carriers posting the colors after the grand entry. Below, left, an intertribal dance. Below, right, Jingle dress and fancy shawl dancers.



# Resident members must register for tax benefits

Sault Tribe members living in and around the tribe's service area are eligible for tax benefits. The tribe and the State of Michigan signed a tax agreement that benefits many members whose principal residence is within specific agreement areas which are often on or near tribal reservations. The complete tax agreement and maps of agreement areas are available on the tribe's website at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

Members living in the agreement area receive state tax discounts on many purchases.

The agreement applies to the Michigan sales tax (six percent of retail price), use tax (six percent of purchase price), motor fuel tax, cigarette tax and the single business tax.

Members are also entitled to an annual income tax refund check, which is four percent of adjusted gross income and must be filed when filing your income taxes. Members who do not live in the agreement area are not eligible to receive sales tax discounts, tax exemptions or an income tax refund. However, they are able to receive gas, die-

sel and cigarette tax discounts at certain retail stores located in the agreement areas. Fuel and cigarette tax discounts are realized at the time of purchase.

If you are age 16 or over and want to receive these tax benefits, you are required to sign a Sault Tribe tax agreement registration card to verify your residency in an agreement area.

Before you can request an annual tax refund or tax exemption, you must first sign and return a registration card to the Sault Tribe Tax Office to verify your residency in a tax agree-

ment area. This is mandatory for all members. After your residency has been verified by the tax office, a letter will be sent to you confirming your status in the agreement area.

If you are unsure if you are registered, please call Candace Blocher at the tax office at 632-6281, or toll free (866) 632-62811, to verify your card is on file. Once registered, members are then required to fill out certain tax forms and submit it to the state or tribe's tax office.

It is the member's responsibility to notify the tribal tax office

when they change addresses, even if the address change is still in an agreement area. Please note, if you have moved out of a tax agreement area and still receive certain tax benefits or exemptions through the agreement, it may be considered tax fraud. Please contact your personal accountant or call the tribal tax office with questions.

Members are responsible for complying with the agreement and are encouraged to contact the Sault Tribe Tax Office with any questions about any of its provisions.

## Higher Education Committee opening

The Higher Education Committee has an opening for one tribal member. The selected candidate will help review scholarship essays for the annual scholarship competition, and review and recommend policies regarding our Higher Education programs.

Interested members should submit a letter of consideration stating why they are interested in serving on the Higher Education Committee and a copy of their tribal card to: Angeline Bouley, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Please contact Angeline Bouley at (906) 635-6050 or [abouley@saulttribe.net](mailto:abouley@saulttribe.net) with any questions.

## Bidding open for outboard motors

The Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program is accepting bids on two 225hp 2002 Honda outboard motors with four stroke, electric start, power trim and tilt, and gasoline. Dry weight is 599 pounds.

One motor is counter rotating. These motors have been well maintained. Minimum bid is \$4,500 for each.

Contact the Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program, 179 W 3 Mile Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, Mary Menominee – [mmenominee@saulttribe.net](mailto:mmenominee@saulttribe.net), (906) 632-0072.

All bids should be sent to Tamara Roche, Sault Tribe Purchasing Department, 2186 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Deadline is Dec. 28, 2012, by 3 p.m.

## Sault Tribe Housing Authority consolidates

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority is pleased to announce that the Resident Services office and staff have moved to the Housing Administration building, 154 Parkside, Kincheloe, Mich. The Housing Authority Force Account staff recently completed construction on the addition to the Administration building.

The new location allows all Housing Authority staff to be under one roof. For many years, the Housing staff has worked from several different locations. The vision of a one-stop shop for all Housing services is now a reality.

Contact Information:

Sault Tribe Housing Authority, 154 Parkside, Kincheloe, MI 49788, (906) 495-1450, 1 (800) 794-4072;

(906) 495-1456 Fax - Resident Services/Homeownership;

(906) 495-5981 Fax - Maintenance/Modernization.

## Sault Tribe Law Enforcement holiday greetings

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

If you choose to celebrate during this holiday season, please remember to do so responsibly. If you drink, don't drive. Use a designated driver.



## LEARN HOW DETECT IDENTITY THEFT

The best way to detect identity theft is to monitor your accounts and bank statements each month and check your credit report regularly. Learn how to detect identity theft. If you discover that you are a victim of identity theft, take steps to respond and recover as soon as possible. You can find forms, sample letters and other tools from the Federal Trade Commission.

# Constitution review in progress



Photo by Rick Smith

A group of about 30 members of the tribe's Constitution Committee, Elders Advisory Committee, board of directors, legal staff and others recently began review sessions on the revised language of the preamble and 14 articles of the Sault Tribe Constitution. The initial series of sessions took place over a three-day period from Nov. 9 through Nov. 11 at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie. Sessions will likely continue until the review is completed and the public is invited to observe the proceedings.

# Hessel Community Committee elected

After celebrating one of the most successful powwows in Hessel, the Mukkwa Giizhik Community Committee elected members and officers during the Oct. 4 meeting.

Members include Dorothy Currie, Steve Smith, Sam Doyle, Bonnie Jensen, Josh McLarahmore, Becky Parish, Helmut Umbrasas and Terry LaTour.

Elected officers are John Causley and Joe Parish as cultural and spiritual advisors; Calvin Burnside as sergeant-at-arms; Joanne Umbrasas, public relations; Robin LaTour, treasurer; Terrie Milligan, secretary; Lana Causley, co-chair; Lisa Burnside, chair.

The Mukkwa Giizhik Community Committee planned the second annual Gathering of the Pipes Ceremony on Nov. 3. Future agenda items include fundraising for the 21st annual Gathering of the Eagles Powwow on Aug. 16, 17 and 18, 2013,

and fundraising for the Mukkwa Giizhik Drum to attend a powwow in South Dakota.

I would like to thank everyone for giving your time to the Mukkwa Giizhik Community Committee. We truly have a cultural committee with each member bringing with them special gifts that makes our committee a strong spiritual committee.

I would like to thank Chairman Aaron Payment for your support and the extra funding toward our 20th annual celebration. Chi miigwetch to Unit II Director Catherine Hollowell for your guidance, time and energy you put into making our powwow a success. Chi miigwetch to Unit II Director Lana Causley for your continued support in serving as co-chair on the Mukkwa Giizhik Community Committee. The leadership and dedication you provide to our cultural programs is sincerely appreciated and is setting the example for many to follow.

I would also like to thank the Mukkwa Giizhik Community Drum: Terry LaTour, Phil Andrews, James Landreville, Jeanette Landreville, Matthew Landreville, Gregory Currie, Val-Jean LaTour, Morgan McQuiston, Josh McLarahmore, Josh Salvador, Joe Dutcher, Ian Dutcher and John Dutcher.

Chi miigwetch to our community members not listed for your support with our cultural activities, we can not succeed without our community support.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Burnside  
Mukkwa Giizhik Community Committee co-chair

Find us on Facebook

Look for the logo for our official Facebook page!



"For All Your Tire Needs"



**U.P. TIRE**

Complete Tire Sales & Service

BRIDGESTONE Firestone

(906) 632-6661

1-800-635-6661

1129 E. Easterday Ave., Sault, MI 49783

## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

December 14, 2012  
Manidoo Giisoonhs  
Little Spirit Moon  
Vol. 33, No. 12  
Circulation 20,000

Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor  
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.

Win Awenen Nisitotung is funded by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of

Chippewa Indians and is published 12 times a year. Its mission is to inform tribal members and the public about the activities of the tribal government, membership programs and services and cultural, social and spiritual activities of Sault Tribe members.

Win Awenen Nisitotung, in Anishinaabemowin, means, "One who understands," and is pronounced "Win Oh-weh-nin Nis-toe-tuhng"

See our full, online edition at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

Subscriptions: The regular rate is \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. Please call for

other foreign countries. Subscribe by sending your name and mailing address to the address below with your check or money order made out to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Or, call (906) 632-6398 to pay by credit card.

Advertising: Contact D. Renee St. Andre, 970-375-9352, ext.101.

Submission and Subscriptions:

Win Awenen Nisitotung  
Attn: Communications Dept.  
531 Ashmun St.,  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
Telephone: (906) 632-6398  
Fax: (906) 632-6556  
E-mail: [saulttribenews@saulttribe.net](mailto:saulttribenews@saulttribe.net).

# Michigan tribes huddle over changing health policies

By RICK SMITH

Representatives of the United Tribes of Michigan, Indian Health Service, National Indian Health Board and others met in Sault Ste. Marie at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center on Nov. 8. The officials met to discuss changes in health care that will be coming in the next two years under provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

In general, the presentations included an overview of the Affordable Care Act and discussions on the functions and benefits of online health insurance exchanges with a focus on tribal preparation for participation in state or federal exchanges and Medicaid expansion.

The idea behind health insurance exchanges is that, by 2014, they will provide competitive and consolidated marketplaces to shop and compare affordable health insurance options for individuals and small businesses. According to the federal government, the exchanges will bring new transparency in shopping for health insurance and allow comparisons of plans based on price and qual-



Photo by Rick Smith

Officials representing interests of Michigan's American Indian tribes met at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie on Nov. 8 to discuss issues related to coming health insurance exchanges and Medicaid expansion.

ity. The increasing competition between insurance companies and the ability of individuals and small businesses to band together to purchase insurance will help

lower costs.

According to the Tribal Education and Outreach Consortium, the Affordable Care Act allows for the creation of

health insurance exchanges in each state, but the federal government will conduct exchanges in states that do not commit to the program. States across the coun-

try have received grants to establish exchanges, but not all states have committed to establishing exchanges at this time.

The exchanges will be found on online websites where individuals may buy health insurance for themselves and their families, small businesses may do the same for their employees and tribes may buy policies for their members. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2014, there will be exchanges in every state in the country operated by either states or the federal government.

The State of Michigan received a total of \$10,849,077 in federal grants to plan and establish a health insurance exchange. Governor Rick Snyder favors having Michigan run its own exchange and some Senate Republicans agree with a state operation, but House Republicans opposed to "Obamacare" have so far balked at establishing a state operated exchange. Consequently, Snyder and his administration have been developing an exchange largely run by the federal government with a limited role for the state.

## Tribe asks for dismissal of state suit

LANSING, Mich. — The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians on Nov. 12 asked a federal judge to dismiss the state of Michigan's lawsuit seeking to block the tribe from starting the process to take land into trust under the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act for a Lansing casino.

On Sept. 7, State Attorney General Bill Schuette filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan to stop the Lansing casino project. The tribe asked U.S. District Court Judge Robert J. Jonker to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing it is totally without merit.

"The essence of our motion is this: because the state's lawsuit is utterly without merit, it should be dismissed and dismissed quickly," said Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment.

of Lansing and the tribe continue to move full speed ahead on all plans for the casino.

On Nov. 1, the city and tribe completed a critical step in their effort to win federal approval of the \$245 million casino, which will be built adjacent to the Lansing Center in the heart of the city's entertainment district. On that day, the tribe completed the agreement to purchase the city-owned land adjacent to the Lansing Center where the casino will be built.

Pending the outcome of the litigation, the tribe will soon apply to the federal government to take the land into trust, clearing the way for the construction of the 125,000-square-foot casino. The casino is expected to create an estimated 1,500 permanent jobs at the property and more than 700 construction jobs.

The Sault Tribe has success-

fully operated Indian casinos in the state since 1984 and currently owns five Kewadin Casino properties in the Upper Peninsula. With more than 40,000 members, the Sault Tribe is the largest federally-recognized tribe east of the Mississippi and one of the largest job providers in Northern Michigan with 1,900 employees at its casinos, other businesses, and tribal government agencies.

The tribe will use casino revenues to improve programs and services to members, including health care, education, housing, elder care, social services and more.

The City of Lansing will use its annual revenue payments from the facility to create the Lansing Promise, a program to fund four-year college scholarships for Lansing School District graduates.

The land transaction com-

pleted on Nov. 1 includes a parcel adjacent to the Lansing Center at Michigan Avenue and Larch, which the tribe acquired for a total cost of \$280,000, plus \$9,000 in closing costs. The purchase price reflects the full fair market value of the land. The agreement between the city and tribe is for the tribe to close on the other two other parcels of land over time at a price already agreed to by all parties, assuming all approvals for the project are secured.

Plans for the casino include up to 3,000 slot machines and 48 table games with assorted bars and restaurants in an urban modern-themed property. The project has been approved by the Lansing City Council, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors and the Sault Tribe membership in a tribal referendum held earlier this year.

## MOVING?



Don't forget to call Tribal Enrollment at (800) 251-6597 with your new address so that you don't miss an issue of your tribal newspaper.

Please fill out a U.S. Postal Service moving kit as well, so that they know your new address is correct. You can do it all online by visiting [moversguide.usps.com/icoa](http://moversguide.usps.com/icoa) and get \$500 in valuable coupons at the same time.



**10 Minute Oil Change Center**

*Great gifts for mom, dad, college students, as stockings stuffers and holiday tips!*



**CAR WASH**

*Tribal Member Owned and Operated!*

3165 I-75 Bus. Spur in Sault Ste. Marie MI

Monday thru Friday open 8:30 - 6  
Saturday open 9 - 4  
Closed Sunday

**UNLOCK YOUR DREAMS!**



*Get into a Reliable Vehicle before Old Man Winter Hits with Financing as low as **2.9%***

- SPECIAL FINANCING, Buy Here Pay Here.
- Conventional Rates AS LOW AS 2.9%.
- Hundreds of Quality Fleet turn-ins to choose from. Call Today!
- Call our Experts and let us put you in a ride TO YOUR FUTURE, NOT YOUR PAST.

**Onaway Auto & Finance Co.**

21061 M-68 Onaway, MI 49765    989-733-8191 or 877-956-7368

[www.onawayauto.com](http://www.onawayauto.com)

★ ★ We are happy to assist Resident Tribal Members with their tax exemption certificates! ★ ★

# Sault Tribe 2012 general election end report

**FROM THE SAULT TRIBE ELECTION COMMITTEE**

Listed below is the election end cycle report, it includes total ballots mailed out, total ballots counted, post office summary, issue summary, mail-out report from post office and daily summaries from post offices (ballots received).

As with all elections, the information is provided to the board of directors and concludes the election cycle.

Total ballots mailed	
Unit I	6,629
Unit II	2,008
Unit III	2874
Unit IV	2106
Unit V	1057
Total	14,674

Ballots counted	
Unit I	3,471
Unit II	1,004
Unit III	1,034
Unit IV	908
Unit V	465
Total	7,482

**POST OFFICE REPORT**

Mail received and charged for by the United States Postal Service from June 6 through June 28, 2012:

Total charged 7,516

Please note that the 34 item discrepancy between ballots counted and what the post office charged is attributed to additional items being placed into the ballot box and incorrectly charged to our account, these items included several pri-

mary ballots, LSSU housing and Christian Freedom Fund return mail.

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

We had several issues regarding the count for the general election. Listed below were the issues and how the Election Committee addressed them:

**Chairman posting** — As previously reported to the board of directors (attached explanation) following the general election count, the Election Committee experienced a posting issue regarding the tabulation of the chairman results. The steps we take to ensure accuracy allowed us to note a problem with the posting. The Election Committee immediately took action to locate candidates and inform them of the posting issue. We knew the posting of the numbers were not keeping up with the actual count, we also knew the outcome would not change. We informed the candidates of said action and made note to the public.

**UNIT IV BATCH REPORTS** — During the investigation of the posting issue, it became apparent to the entire committee that we were unable to print off any Unit IV batch reports on count night. Batch reports are used to make sure the scanners are accurately reflecting what is being counted. The Election Committee then had batch reports made for the entire unit and conducted a hand-count to verify the scanner count. The Election Committee concluded the scanner count was 100 percent accurate.

**UNDELIVERABLE BALLOTS** — Following the contest period, the Election Committee retrieves the second ballot box. This box is the undeliverables as determined by the post office. We keep the second box at the post office as to not allow access to additional ballots during the election cycle, its one of the security measures we place on ourselves to prevent the perception of possible ballot tampering. Upon receipt of the box, we had 712 undeliverables.

This was a significant increase to our usual 70-100 we normally received. Assisted by Enrollment, it has been determined that only a small amount (eight) were genuinely good addresses and should have been mailed. The remaining hundreds were, in fact, bad addresses. Our Enrollment records have been updated and steps are being made to address the high number of bad addresses the tribe has — additional newspaper postings are planned. The tribe as a whole may also want to look into a process to allow and mandate address sharing among all the tribe's vast services.

**UNIT I POSTING** — Recently (Sept. 12), the chairman made the Election Committee aware of a second posting issue made on election night. Pictures were provided that illustrated a series of postings that were concerning. Specifically, they showed Unit I results reflecting where only two candidates received votes, then in the next instance all the candidates had votes and it seems as one of the two gained additional votes and the other lost votes.

This was very concerning to the entire committee and we investigated it immediately. It has been determined that the results posting for only two candidates, were in fact the results for the chairman for just Unit I. They were erroneously placed in the directors spot, thus only reflecting that two candidates received votes. What must be noted is this occurred during the posting issue and attempts were being made to have the posting of the chair results accurately updated. At no time did we have any issues with the counting of the ballots, it simply was a posting issue.

Other systems do not allow for posting of results as they are tabulated — we do. The Election Committee has gone through great steps to ensure accuracy and at the same time, keep the membership informed at the count. Unfortunately, we experienced a problem this time. The

important part was that we found it and took the necessary steps to correct it. The committee informed the candidates, noted the public and corrected the posting issue. Steps are being made to ensure this does not happen again — better training, more rigorous testing, etc.

**CONCLUSION**

Despite our posting issues, the Election Committee feels that this is still the best system to accurately reflect how the membership votes. We conduct the election in an open public count and post the tabulation as it occurs, if any problems do arise—we have the ability to check into and address concerns. The Election Committee received no contests to any actions the committee has taken or to any of the counts conducted.

The Election Committee feels it is important to note that it is our sovereign right to hold our own elections. We take steps to make sure our elections are secure and maintain our integrity to make sure the system works. The system works; we only experienced a posting issue. Whom the membership wanted as their representatives are serving. Let's move forward to ensure that continues. We look forward to working with the board of directors in strengthening this tribe. And finally we ask our board of directors and the community to have faith in the election process and encourage members to actively participate in events, meetings and most importantly their right to vote.

As with all end-cycle reports, the Election Committee took the time to compile and check all the information to ensure accuracy. Historically, we present this in the second week of October but understand the board's desire to review as quickly as possible. With that, this concludes the 2012 general election report.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Michael McKerchie.

**DISTRICT VOTING RESULTS**

UNIT I	District Voting		
	Inside	Outside	Total
Cathy Abramson	1098	906	2,004
Bernard Bouschor	923	388	1,311
DJ Hoffman	856	678	1,534
Dennis McKelvie	958	631	1,589
Jennifer McLeod	715	861	1,576
Christine McPherson	696	737	1,433

---

UNIT II	District Voting		
	Inside	Outside	Total
William Baker	249	150	399
Lana Causley	368	225	593

---

UNIT III	District Voting		
	Inside	Outside	Total
Patrick Rickley	325	414	739
Bridgett Sorenson	469	409	878

---

UNIT IV	District Voting		
	Inside	Outside	Total
Tom Miller	291	120	411
Darcy Morrow	355	120	475

---

DISTRICT	District Voting for Chairman		
	Inside	Outside	Total
Joe Eitrem	2133	1091	3,224
Aaron Payment	2134	2016	4,150

---

DISTRICT	District Voting for Chairman	
	Joe Eitrem	Aaron Payment
Unit I Inside	1113	815
Unit I Outside	522	958
Unit II Inside	336	279
Unit II Outside	157	218
Unit III Inside	428	345
Unit III Outside	305	530
Unit IV Inside	128	531
Unit IV Outside	51	193
Unit V Inside	128	164
Unit V Outside	56	117

## Sign up for a digital subscription for a chance to WIN an iPad!

Here at the tribal newspaper office, we are very concerned about the costs of rising postage.

This January, we will see a hike of 2.57 percent. That will cost the tribe another \$2,000 per year added to the \$84,000 it already spends mailing the newspaper. Now that we have become very good at building a great digital newspaper, exactly like the hard copy except on the screen instead of your hands, we are offering it in place of the mailed copy. Everyone who signs up will receive the newspaper much earlier than when released in print.

Just fill out the form to the right; you also have the option of signing up for email news.

The deadline for the iPad drawing is Jan. 30. Call (906) 632-6398 with any questions. Miigwech and happy holidays!

### WIN AN iPad mini

**TRIBAL MEMBERS!** Sign up for the digital edition of the tribal newspaper and enter a drawing for a new iPad mini with 32G and wifi. Fill out the form below. Your address will be removed from the mailing list for a minimum of one year.

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you agree your name and address can be deleted from the mailing list.

Check here if you would like regular tribal news updates in between newspaper editions.

**Mail to: Sault Tribe Communications Dept., 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.**

## Roy Electric Co. Inc.

INDUSTRIAL \* COMMERCIAL \* RESIDENTIAL

[www.royelectric.us](http://www.royelectric.us)

2901 Ashmun St. (M-129)  
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Bus. (906) 632-8878  
Fax. (906) 632-4447

**Your COMPLETE  
Underground Utility Contractor  
Over 30 - Years Experience**

**SEPTIC SYSTEMS  
SEPTIC TANKS & DRAINFIELD  
WATER & SEWER INSTALLATIONS**

COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL

*Belonga*  
Plumbing & Heating  
Master Plumber  
License #6078

115 Elliot Street  
St. Ignace  
(906) 643-9595  
Monday - Friday 8 to 5

# Tribe hires former legal aid attorney as prosecutor

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Justin Derhammer has been hired to replace the vacancy left by former Sault Tribe prosecuting attorney Eric Blubaugh. Derhammer, a Sault Tribe member, has spent the past two years working for the tribe's Advocacy Resource Center as a legal aid attorney.

Derhammer graduated in 2009 from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing and also holds a Bachelor's degree from NMU in political science.

The 34-year-old from Cheboygan has an exciting year of new beginnings ahead of him, in addition to his new position he and his wife will be celebrating their first anniversary in January and are expecting the birth of their first child in March.

Overwhelmed by the amount of support he has received from the local community, Derhammer said former prosecutor Eric Blubaugh has offered his guidance and Associate Prosecutor Micky (Catherine) Casthene has also offered her help during his



**Justin Derhammer recently accepted the position as the tribal prosecutor. For the past two years he has been working for the Advocacy Resource Center as a legal aid attorney.**

transition between the legal aid and prosecutor's office.

Derhammer said he is looking forward to his new duties. "We have a really great team and I am excited to be a part of it," he said. "The board of directors

and program directors have been really supportive. I would like to thank the board for this opportunity — I appreciate their trust. My door is open and I would encourage people to contact me with questions or concerns," he said.

The prosecutor's office has moved from the third floor of the tribe's administration building to the tribal court building.

Blubaugh, who was the tribal prosecutor for the past four years, has accepted a position as the Chippewa County District Court Magistrate and Family Court Referee. His new position with the county was created to combine the duties of the former district court magistrate and the former family court juvenile referee. And with the retirement of the county's probate judge, the county felt there was a need for an attorney to hear the matters formerly assigned to the judge, the referee and the magistrate.

Blubaugh said, "I am honored to be given such an important role in the county justice system

and I look forward to all of the challenges." Although he has moved on, Blubaugh said he misses "all of the great people I worked with at the tribe. My four years as tribal prosecutor were very rewarding. I have a lot of faith in Justin and know that he will do a good job as the tribe's

new prosecutor. As the former legal aid attorney he should have a smooth transition to his new position."

The board of directors also recently approved a resolution to hire an attorney to work with Indian Child Welfare Cases and the Child Welfare Committee.

## Savard graduates Michigan State Police Academy

On Oct. 19, 2012, Sault Tribe member Brian Savard graduated from the Michigan State Police Academy as a member of the 123rd Recruit School in Lansing, Mich.

Savard is the son of Kathleen and David Savard of Sault Ste. Marie. Brian is a graduate of LSSU and was formerly an officer with the Sault Tribe Police Department. Prior to joining the State Police Brian was employed with the Grand Blanc Police Department for 4.5 years. He is stationed at the Tri-City Post in Saginaw, Mich.



# Menard grew up on reservation that he now patrols

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

As a young boy living on the Sault Tribe reservation in a house behind the tribe's police station, Dan Menard used to look up to his uncles' friends when they stopped by in uniform to say 'hi.' Today, he is working with those same officers that as a young boy he thought were so cool and who provided him with good role models — Officers Mike Pins and Mike Povey and Chief of Police Bob Marchand.

Menard, 22, was hired last March as an emergency dispatcher for the department and in July he left that position to attend the 17-week Kirtland Regional Police Academy located downstate near Roscommon, Mich. After an intense week at the academy he would make the 3-hour



drive home each weekend to spend time with his girlfriend, Abbi Fegan, and their three dogs, Biggie, Baby and Jazzabelle — American bull dogs and a pit bull.

He said having her there to support him, along with family and friends, made attending the academy less stressful. He has known Fegan since they were 11 years old, and two years ago they bought a home together. Fegan is a nursing student at LSSU and will be graduating this spring.

Menard graduated in 2008 from Sault Area High School and attended LSSU for four years majoring in criminal justice. He has just under a year of class work left

**Dan Menard, 22, was hired last March as an emergency dispatcher for the Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Department.**

before attaining his bachelor's degree.

He said the police academy was a great experience, with the first eight weeks being similar to a boot camp. He received an award for being the top of the class in patrol tactics. He began his duties as an officer Nov. 5 and will be working for the next 14 weeks with Field Training Officer Mitchell Smith, who will be training him until he is ready to go out on patrol on his own. He is also spending time with Officers Jimmy McLeod and Eric Rye doing traffic stops and observing other calls.

Menard's mother is Kim Menard, who works for the tribe's Contract Health Department, and his grandparents are Joyce and Don Menard. "I couldn't have done it without them," he said.

## Calling all Sault Tribe artists! Tribal Court requesting proposals for art

The Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court seeks tribal artists to create artwork representing our Anishinaabe way of life (mino-biimadiziwin). In an effort to further reflect the importance of our Anishinaabe culture in our justice system, the Tribal Court obtained funding through a grant from the Department of Justice, award number 2011-IC-BX-0008, to purchase tribal artwork for display in the George K. Nolan Judicial Building. These funds could be awarded to an individual artist, a consortium, or divided among additional artists depending on the proposals.

The committee is looking for a wide variety of proposals covering all types of artwork and crafts. For example, a tikanagan (cradle board) could represent the grandfather, Love. Ultimately, we would like to have various types of traditional artwork representing our culture displayed, such as quillwork, appliqué, black ash baskets, etc., in the courtroom, as well as a painting or drawing to appear on the curved wall in the foyer of the judicial building.

In addition, we are seeking submissions of woodland floral design to appear around the top of the courtroom.

All artwork acquired through this project will be owned by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

A letter of interest, including the artist's concept, proposed pricing, and installation schedule (rough sketches including scale are also recommended), a copy of the artist's tribal card and samples of artwork should be submitted to:

Purchasing Department  
Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
2186 Shunk Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
Attn: Tamara Roche

Key criteria for the selection process will include art of the highest quality, artist's qualifications and background commensurate with the scale and cost of the proposal and the maintainability of the piece or pieces. Finalists will be asked to interview with the selection committee to discuss their ideas and concepts for the artwork.

For more information, please contact Tribal Court at (906) 635-4963 or via email at [tribalcourt@saulttribe.net](mailto:tribalcourt@saulttribe.net).

The deadline to submit a proposal is 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 4, 2013.

## Seeking community member for Sault Tribe appellate judge

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians seeks a qualified community member for the position of Appellate Judge in the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Appellate Court.

The appellate court meets monthly. Oral arguments are conducted in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Appeals filed vary from year to year, but typically can be anywhere from one to four per year.

This position includes a \$200 per month stipend, unless you are an employee of the tribe. If a licensed attorney, this position also pays at the rate of \$150 per hour with a maximum billing of \$5,000 per year.

Qualifications for community member position includes membership in the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians or another American Indian tribe.

If an attorney, applicant must be a member in good standing with a State Bar.

To further be considered for these positions, applicants should be able to demonstrate that they have substantial education and experience working with tribal, state and federal law, extensive

knowledge in juvenile, criminal and child welfare proceedings and knowledge and understanding of the history and traditions of the Sault Tribe.

A letter of interest, resume and application should be submitted to Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court, 2175 Shunk Rd., P.O. Box 932, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, Attn: Court administrator.

Applications can be picked up at the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court or found at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com), in the download section of Tribal Court's webpage under the Government tab. A copy of Tribal Code is also available to view at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

The deadline to submit an application is Dec. 28, 2012.

**For more information,  
contact the court  
administrator's office  
at (906) 635-7747,  
or via email at  
[tswan@saulttribe.net](mailto:tswan@saulttribe.net).**

# Repatriation assistant hired

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Colleen St. Onge is excited to be working for the Sault Tribe in her new position as the cultural repatriation assistant. She became involved in tribal activities at a young age, participating in the Youth Education and Activities Summer Youth Program and as the president of the St. Ignace tribal youth council.

She declared her major and minor her first semester of college, setting herself up to come back and work for her tribe. "That was my goal and I did it," she said.

St. Onge graduated last May from Central Michigan University with a degree in political science and a concentration in public administration with a minor in American Indian studies. She said her master's degree in public administration is her next goal and she is also considering master's programs in culture or language from universities in Ontario, Canada.

Prior to accepting her current position, she worked with the Sault Tribe Alive Youth project for three months at the end of their grant cycle.

Although St. Onge is originally from Mackinaw Island, she resides in St. Ignace and makes the 50-mile drive to the Sault each morning for work.

In addition to acting as the assistant cultural repatriation specialist, she is writing a Institute of Museum and Library Sciences grant for new software to update the library's outdated system and potentially hire a librarian to help with that process. Under that same grant proposal, she is working with YEA Administrative Assistant Dee Eggert in Education to find funding for the tribal youth councils to travel to cultural

events and participate in traditional crafts and teachings in an effort to help sustain tribal culture. She said she would be acting as a liaison between the youth councils and grant-



funded presenters. She is also in the process taking on the duties of a current grant the department has in addition to responding to notifications of ancestral remains which have been found, potentially could be found or are about to be released back to the tribes for reburial.

Helping out where she can and learning administrative duties is not new to St. Onge. "I stood in front of the board of directors and had a resolution passed as a teen. The tribal youth councils had a Celebrate Native Health grant through UNITY and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and each council prepared a resolution to bring to the board. As president of the St. Ignace council, I presented our resolution to not have any soda pop funded or available at youth events — and it passed," she said.

St. Onge is housed in the Sault Tribe Ojibwe Learning Center and Library across from the former American Café.

# Amber Nolan hired as Law Enforcement dispatcher

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Amber Nolan recently joined the staff of Sault Tribe Law Enforcement as a dispatcher. The work, she said, is interesting and keeps her busy.

Nolan is a 2005 graduate of Sault Area High School and is taking classes at Bay Mills Community College. She is working towards a business degree and hopes to graduate next year.

Those of you familiar with the Sault area may have seen her at her previous places of employment — Clyde's Drive In and Woody's One Stop.

From Sugar Island, Nolan has a brother, Nick, who is attending Central Michigan University and parents Willard and the late Lisa Nolan. She said her grandmother June Nolan was the first tribal registrar back in the 1970s.

Nolan just purchased a home on Sugar Island with her boyfriend Josh Horner and their dog, Patsy Cline.

Emergency Dispatcher and Permitting Coordinator Kasey Povey has been training Nolan in her new position. Nolan and others from the tribal Law Enforcement will be attending a Law Enforcement Information Network training this month at central dispatch in Kinross as part of their annual training requirements.

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement is housed in the George K. Nolan Judicial Building on the tribe's reservation.



## Shop locally for Christmas



### Community People You Know™

As the holidays are approaching, we would like to thank our local merchants for all they do in support of the community. Whenever there's a project to make our community a better place to live, you will find them with their sleeves rolled up in the middle of it all. Show your support by shopping locally for Christmas this year.

Open your account today by stopping at one of our 7 local banking offices!



**"We're Right Here at Home"**

Branch Offices at:  
NORTH BAY & MORAN TOWNSHIP, ST. IGNACE  
CEDARVILLE • MACKINAC ISLAND  
NAUBINWAY • NEWBERRY

Member FDIC

132 N. State St. • Ph. (906) 643-6800  
P.O. Box 187 • St. Ignace, MI 49781

Visit us online at [www.fnbsi.com](http://www.fnbsi.com)

Trust the Eastern Upper Peninsula's oldest community bank, celebrating 124 years of continuous service to the area.



Member FDIC

# Home Improvement Program now accepting applications

The Home Improvement Program (HIP) is administered by the Sault Tribe Housing Authority and is now accepting applications to develop a priority list for 2012.

You may be eligible to receive HIP assistance if you meet the following criteria:

Applicant must be a Sault Tribe member residing within the seven county service area; your annual income does not exceed guidelines; your present housing is substandard, you own your home or land; you have not received HIP assistance after Oct. 1, 1986, did not acquire your present housing through participation in a federal government-sponsored housing program and you have no other resource for housing assistance.

Applications can be picked up at Sault Tribe Housing Authority, 154 Parkside Drive, Kincheloe, MI 49788. To have an application mailed to you, please call (800) 495-5598 or 495-5555.

Examples of possible repairs include, but are not limited to the following:

- Electrical
  - Plumbing
  - Heating system
  - Roofs and gutter systems
  - Foundations
  - Porches and landings\*
  - Additions\*
  - Weatherization
  - Exterior painting for preservation purposes
  - Floor covering\*
  - New home
- \* Restrictions apply.

# Chi Mukwa Summer Recreation Program receives grant to help fight obesity in kids

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

The 10-week Summer Recreation Program at Chi Mukwa Recreation Center has received a grant from the Intertribal Council of Michigan (ITCMI) to help address childhood obesity.

ITCMI was awarded the grant under a program through the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) in November. Ten agencies, including ITCMI, were selected to participate in a pilot program to increase physical activity and improve healthy eating habits for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The \$915,000 grant targets before and after school and summer programs for children.

grant, ITCMI announced it would be disbursing grant monies to four tribes with qualifying programs: The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for their Parks and Recreation After School Program; the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for the Chi Mukwa Summer Recreation Program; The Hannahville Indian Community After School Program and the Bay Mills Indian Tribe Ojibway Charter and Brimley School Boys and Girls Club.

Chi Mukwa Events Manager Tammy Graham and Youth Program Administrator Dianna Allan said they have been awarded \$10,000 initially and could be receiving more. The funds will be used to provide two healthy snacks a day for kids in the

program along with nutritional education. They will be working with Connie Watson from Sault Tribe Community Health for the nutritional component of the grant.

“Our staff are role models for the kids and if they see us participating in eating healthy snacks and having a positive attitude about it there will be a trickle down effect. They will think it’s cool that Miss Dianna is eating an apple and dipping it in yogurt,” Graham said. “It will be easier to implement because all of the kids will be eating the same thing.”

Last summer there were about 93 kids enrolled in the program and Graham said they are anticipating between 120 to 140 this summer. The 10-week program

begins the second week of June and is for kids ages 5-10.

The Summer Recreation Program offers three options — a morning, afternoon or all-day program. Last year they extended the program two weeks for those wishing to pay the additional fee. The program is for any child whose parent wishes to sign them up, tribal or non-tribal. Fees are: tribal member, half-day \$400 and full-day \$800. Non-tribal half day \$500 and full day \$1,000.

Program Manager at the ITCMI Cathy Edgerly said day care type centers is where kids spend much of their time. “For this reason, after school, boys and girls clubs and summer recreation type programs are prime arenas for intervention efforts related to obesity prevention

behaviors. These are locations where structured physical activity and health behaviors can be easily modeled and reinforced,” she said.

According to MDCH Director James K. Haveman, obesity affects 17 percent of children and adolescents today. Which, he said, is triple the rate from just one generation ago.

Graham said that when you divide out the cost of the Summer Recreation Program it comes to less than what most people in the area pay for day care. The cost of the program also includes field trips and a t-shirt. Payment options are available.

For more information about the Chi Mukwa Summer Recreation Program, call (906) 635-7010.

# 12 tips of Christmas to help de-stress your holiday season

Submitted by **SAULT TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

It has been said and even sung, that the holiday season is the most wonderful time of the year! While that may be true, no matter what holiday your family celebrates this time of the year can also be extremely stressful. Here are 12 ways to help de-stress your family holiday season.

1. Simplify! Simplify! Simplify! Simply gifts, decora-

tions and gatherings...remember the reason for the season.

2. Stay organized. Make a list or create a calendar of “things to do” and “events to attend.”

3. Teach children that giving is from the heart not the wallet or piggy bank.

4. Be creative. Creativity helps reduce stress. Personalize holiday gift making or offer a service such as babysitting, house cleaning or walking pets.

5. Create a budget and stick

to it. Reduces stress now and later.

6. LAUGH MORE, LAUGH OFTEN and BUILD MEMORIES!

7. Repeat something you did last year that everyone enjoyed. Start a new family tradition.

8. Remember good nutrition, sleep and exercise...very important in reducing stress.

9. Be realistic with your time. It is okay to say “no” to over scheduling, over giving and over

doing it!

10. Dealing with difficult relatives during the holidays can be stressful. Don’t expect they’ve changed. Plan ahead, limit time with them and changing your attitude can help you cope.

11. Recognize the signs of stress within yourself and your family. Children may become whiny, overly emotional and defiant. Adults may become whiny, overly emotional and defiant. It is true the busyness of

the holidays can drain us all of energy.

12. Take time to calm down and take a good look at the big picture. Then remember to breathe, meditate and/or pray.

For further questions or assistance please contact STBH at 635-6075 or (800) 726-9105.

Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Program wishes all a happy and blessed season.

(Source: Prevent Child Abuse Illinois)

## TOURNAMENTS

**\$15,000 Spin to Win**

Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie  
January 25-27, 2013

**\$15,000 Spin to Win**

Kewadin St. Ignace  
February 8-10, 2013

## POKER MANIA

**Weekly Texas Hold'em Poker**

Every Sunday - 4 p.m.  
Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie  
Every Wednesday - 6 p.m.

Kewadin St. Ignace

*Weekly winners will be invited back at the end of each month to play in Poker Mania!*

## WEEKLY SLOTS OF FUN

January - December 2013

Every Monday - Christmas & Hessel

Every Tuesday - Manistique

*\$500 in weekly prizes at each site. Grand prize payout in December at each site.*

## BLACKJACK BONANZA

**Selected Sundays**

Kewadin Manistique & Christmas  
*Top 50 players will be invited back for a \$2,500 Grand Prize Tournament!*



## NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

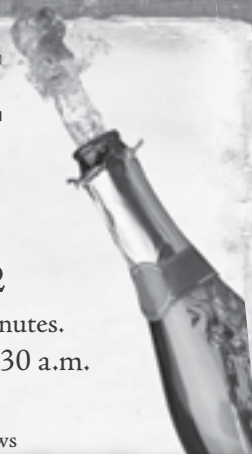
All Kewadin Sites

Monday December 31, 2012

Random draws 4 p.m.-11 p.m. every 20 minutes.  
Grand Prize Draws at 11:15 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

**OVER \$45,000 in CASH!**

Must have 25 base points to qualify for the draws



*Kewadin's DreamMakers Theater  
Voted Best Entertainment Venue  
in the Eastern U.P.*



**Queensryche**

Saturday January 12 at 7 p.m.  
DreamMakers Theater  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI



**Oak Ridge Boys**

Friday January 25 at 7 p.m.  
DreamMakers Theater  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

## CELEBRATE THE DAWN OF A NEW AGE

All Kewadin Sites

December 21, 2012

Earn base points for prizes!  
*(while supplies last)*

## THE GREAT GADGET GIVEAWAY

All Kewadin Sites

January 7-27, 2013

Monday through Sunday at each site

Top 5 Base Point Earners at each site will

**WIN GADGETS!**

*MUST register to participate.*

## PLAYERS DAY SUNDAY

All Kewadin Sites

Earn 25 base points on your Northern Rewards Club card during regular club hours\* to receive \$5 in Kewadin Credits and be entered into random cash drawings from 4-8 p.m.

*\*Please note that Club hours vary by site.*

## FANTASTIC FRIDAY SOCIAL

All Kewadin Sites 4 p.m.-10 p.m.

• Random draws on slots & tables

Earn Double & Triple Points • Top 3 each Friday

• Plus one entry each Friday for the Grand Prize Draw!

## FOOTBALL IN THE BARS!

All Kewadin Sites

Sundays and Mondays

Beer Specials and Wings\* plus Draws!

**Come watch the games!**

*\*Please check each location*





# Grayce McCoy receives a Sault Tribe Special Needs Scholarship

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Little Grayce McCoy, 7, likes to talk to people and tell them her story. She was determined to be a part of the interview for this article when her mother was contacted to set up a day and time for the meeting. She walked in holding her mom Brandy's hand and sat down next to her on the couch in the newspaper reception area.

We talked for a bit about her pets to break the ice. She has two dogs, one big and one small. Their names are Ralph and Zoie. She also has a pet lizard that left a wet spot on her mom's shirt that she likes to giggle about, chickens that lay eggs and a rooster that doesn't. She is a first grader at JKL Bahweting Public School Academy and has a punching bag at her house she likes to use.

Grayce likes school, but that has not always been the case, according to her mom. Until this year Brandy had never seen her daughter's face light up at the mention of her school day. She was in the middle of the first grade when they realized she needed extra help and made the decision to hold her back in the first grade again this year. She was diagnosed a year ago in September as having ADD, ADHD, ODD and learning disabilities. She was started on medications last February and her mom said that in the next four months she jumped four reading levels.

Brandy said her daughter has had a lot of one-on-one help since kindergarten and all the hard work has paid off. "Grayce told me when she was in kindergarten that she wasn't going to go to college," McCoy said. "Her confidence this year compared to her first two years of school has really grown. She never used to talk or raise her hand in class to ask for help. Her first grade teacher, Mrs. Baylis, still to this day helps us. We have monthly meetings with her para-pro and special education teacher and discuss things she has improved on and things she still has to work on. I don't know what I would do without their support," she said.

She said the first two years Grayce was in school there were a lot of tears and uncertainty. "I am trying to make it as easy for Grayce as possible," McCoy said. "I had never heard her say she loves school until this year."

She added, "Grayce is a very smart girl, she just has some setbacks."

Grayce and her mom would

like to thank the staff at JKL School and most especially Mrs. Baylis, Ms. Allison, Ms. Morrison, Ms. Davey and her reading recovery teacher from last year, Mrs. Hoffman.

Grayce recently found out from her mom that she has been awarded a Sault Tribe Special Needs Scholarship for \$1,000, which they are going to use to

had cut short last summer. She has come a long way from the little girl who used to sit quietly in her special spot in her clothes closet at home and be uncommunicative.

Asked where they were going to buy her new computer, Grayce said she didn't know but her grandma was going with them, "because my grandma knows



Photo by Brenda Austin

Brandy and Grayce McCoy after their interview with the tribal paper.

purchase a computer and educational software. Grayce attends a special education class 10 hours a week to help her with math and reading skills.

Her mom said they have ordered some software that she is pretty excited about: Reading Egg, School Zone and Sylvain Learning Center. McCoy said she found the Reading Egg online last year and went to the school with it. They thought it was such an exceptional program that they ordered it for the entire school.

"They thought it was a good program even for children without reading difficulties, it's educational but it's also fun," she said. "The School Zone software comes with workbooks so she can do the reading and math work at home. She learns better listening to audio and taking verbal tests, scoring about 50 percent higher on tests when the questions are read to her."

Grayce will be using her new computer and headphones in her special education class and will also be able to incorporate the programs into her every day studies.

McCoy said Grayce now walks into school with her head held high and no longer hides behind her long hair, which she

how to get a good deal," she said.

As she talked and fidgeted a bit she said her favorite book is Dr. Seuss's "Green Eggs and Ham" and that she likes to draw with pencils. She has a brother Dwayne, 12, and a little sister, Shelby, 4. And she loves school.

Four \$1,000 Special Needs Scholarships are offered to members of the Sault Tribe who have a documented physical, learning or emotional disability each year. Two are for youth under the age of 18 and two for those 18 and over. The scholarship must be used for educational purposes.

To learn more about scholarships offered by the Sault Tribe, visit [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) and click on the Membership Services link on top of the page, then scroll down the drop-down menu to Education. Towards the bottom of that page you will see the heading "Higher Education Program." Click on that highlighted link and it will take you to a listing of available scholarships, including the Special Needs Scholarship. For further information, contact Higher Education Administrative Assistant Brandi MacArthur at (906) 635-7784 or toll-free (855) 635-7784. She can also be contacted by email at: [bmacarthur@saulttribelnet](mailto:bmacarthur@saulttribelnet).

## Elder scholarship winners



Jordan Schwartz is the recipient of an elder scholarship. She is a full time student at Bay de Noc Community College pursuing a degree in actuarial science and works as a teller at Upper Peninsula State Bank. Next fall she plans to transfer to the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.



William Carr is the recipient of an elder scholarship and would like to say thank you to the elders and tribal members for the scholarship. He said it will be a huge help paying for tuition and books. Carr attends Wayne State University and is majoring in biology. His goal is to go to medical school for orthopedic surgery. He loves sports, hunting, fishing, paintball, reading and watching movies.

### REMEMBER: HAND WASHING IS IMPORTANT

It is flu and cold season and hand washing is one of the most effective ways of preventing the spread of common illnesses such as cold, flu, pinkeye and more.

Wash your hands properly by rubbing them together for at least 30 seconds with soap and water. Simple soap will do — you don't need antibacterial products. In fact, studies have shown that antibacterial soaps are not any more effective at killing germs than regular soap. If you cannot wash your hands, use an antibiotic hand washing gel product.

### DIAL 211 FOR HUMAN SERVICE RESOURCES IN THE U.P.

Who can use 211?

If you're looking for assistance with a problem and you don't know where to turn, or you simply want information on a particular human service issue, 211 is for you.

When can I call?

211 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

How does 211 work?

If you're in one of the communities covered by the 211 service, just pick up your phone and dial 211, if outside the served communities or calling by pay phone or cell phone, you can reach the call center directly by dialing (866) 561-2500.

## Grade reports for the Self-Sufficiency Incentive Award are due

### FROM SAULT TRIBE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPT.

College students who are interested in the Self-Sufficiency Incentive Award Program must submit semester grade reports between Dec. 1, 2012, and Jan. 31, 2013. The program only pays for classes passed with a C grade or better and does not pay for repeat courses.

In order to be eligible for the program, students must submit

a completed annual application packet available online at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) (Get the applications from the downloads folder on the left of the Education page, which listed under Membership Services). The application packet includes a checklist and timeline for submitting paperwork, a 2012-2013 Higher Education application, a W-9 form and a reminder to submit a copy of the student's Sault Tribe membership

card. We can not accept expired tribal cards and we do not keep tribal cards on file.

The grade report must have the student's first and last name, list fall 2012 as the current term, list the name of the college, list each course and its credit hours and the final grade received per course. The report must be printed directly from the college website or printed by the college. Unofficial transcripts work best.

Please scan the report and email it to [bmacarthur@saulttribe.net](mailto:bmacarthur@saulttribe.net) or fax it to (906) 635-7785. We cannot accept grade reports that have been copied and pasted into word or onto an email. It must be in its original format.

Due to the high volume of applications, please keep a copy of your fax confirmation sheet or a copy of the email. We cannot accept any late reports, so it is imperative that all of your

required paperwork is submitted prior to Jan. 31, 2013.

This program is for the current 2012 fall semester only. We cannot pay for winter, spring, summer or back-date for previous fall semesters.

Please feel free to contact Brandi MacArthur, administrative assistant, Sault Tribe Higher Education, if you have any questions, [bmacarthur@saulttribe.net](mailto:bmacarthur@saulttribe.net) or (906) 635-7784.

# Photographer intends to document all U.S. tribes

BY RICK SMITH

Matika Wilbur, a young woman of the Tulalip (pronounced TUH-LAY-LUP) Tribes of western Washington, recently embarked on an extraordinary journey that will span the United States to develop a current photographic document of all federally recognized tribes in Indian Country. She estimates her arrival to be sometime in the coming spring to visit tribes in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Wilbur, a professional writer, photographer and educator, calls the ambitious tour Project 562. "My goal is to create a book and exhibition representing Native people from every tribe," said Wilbur. "By exposing the astonishing variety of the American Indian presence and reality at this juncture, we will build cultural bridges, abandon stereotypes and renew and inspire our national legacy."

She indicated over a century has passed since such an expansive photographic expedition focused on American Indians in detail. The last such effort was in 1906 when renowned photographer Edward S. Curtis was commissioned by financier J.P. Morgan to capture the "disappearing race." Back then, the work was seen as an opportunity to pay respect to a way of life before it was forever lost. Wilbur hopes to show the enduring richness, complex variety, tenacity and promise of the still beating heart of Indian Country.

She comes from Tulalip ancestry, but Wilbur was raised on the Swinomish Indian Reservation



of the Puget Sound area. She is a graduate of the Rocky Mountain School of Photography in Missoula, Mont., and the Brooks Institute of Photography of Santa Barbara, Calif. Her work has been shown at the Royal British Columbia Museum of Fine Arts, Nantes Museum of Fine Arts in France, the Seattle Art Museum, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture and the Tacoma Art Museum.

Her fine art subject matter has delved into American Indian images across the socioeconomic and generational lines from rural tribal communities to hardcore urban enclaves, from traditional elders to assimilated teens.

"All the work that I have done until this point has prepared me

for this project," she said.

Currently based out of Seattle, Wash., Wilbur started her cross-country journey this month heading south through the states — Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona. She intends to travel in a recreation vehicle equipped with a photographic studio, dark-room and sleeping quarters until she visits all 562 federally recognized tribes. She anticipates the project will keep her on the road until the first month of 2015.

Most of the funding for the project was acquired through [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com), a "crowd sourcing" site featured in a May 2011, article in *Win Awenen Nisitotung*. The site is an Internet platform where contributors can



Photos courtesy of Matika Wilbur

Left, Matika Wilbur, founder of Project 562, devised the idea to create a modern snapshot of the American Indians in the U.S. Above, a promotional photo for the project.

pledge funds to help creative projects get started. Project 562 initially asked for \$30,000 in funding, but 556 backers pledged \$35,428.

"My main concern is the amount of ground that we actually have to cover in the time frame," Wilbur noted. "We have 1,095 days to complete this project; which means we need to visit about four different tribes per week to finish shooting by January of 2015." To that end, she plans on visiting several potlatches, powwows and gatherings to increase the number of encounters with the different tribes.

More about Wilbur and Project 562 can be found online at [www.matikawilbur.com](http://www.matikawilbur.com) and her blog at [www.matikawilbur.com/blog](http://www.matikawilbur.com/blog) or

on her Facebook page.

*Editor's note: Seizing on a singular opportunity to look deeper into the realm of Indian Country, Win Awenen Nisitotung asked Matika Wilbur if the members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians could tag along on her journey through regular updates in this newspaper. She graciously agreed and, thanks to modern technology, we will be keeping in touch as she makes her way across this vast country to develop a contemporary pictorial document of the indigenous peoples of the United States.*

### Free training

If you own a small business — or are thinking of starting a small business — get the training you need to help your business succeed. The U.S. Small Business Administration offers FREE online courses to help you start a business, manage a business, finance a business, work with the government as a contractor, and more. Visit [www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/counseling-training](http://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/counseling-training) to see the offerings.

## Interior announces new leasing regulations for trust lands to accelerate tribal advances

BY RICK SMITH

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn recently announced revised streamlined regulations for tribes to lease tribal trust lands for residential purposes or commercial developments. The new regulations were formed with an eye to expedite increased home ownership along with speeding business developments on tribal lands.

The regulations become effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register on Dec. 5, 2012, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). The new guidelines essentially set time limits for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to render decisions on leases. The limits are set at 30 days to render decisions on leases for residential purposes and 60 days for commercial or industrial development. If the BIA does not finish reviews of

proposed leasing agreements submitted by tribes within those time frames, the agreements will go into effect automatically. Further, the new rules establish separate, simplified processes for the different types of leases of either residential purposes or business and renewable energy development.

The DOI describes the reforms as comprehensive and indicated they were developed through tribal consultations and public comment.

"This reform will expand opportunities for individual landowners and tribal governments to generate investment and create jobs in their communities by bringing greater transparency and workability to the Bureau of Indian Affairs leasing process," Salazar said in the announcement. "This final step caps the most comprehensive reforms of Indian land leasing regulations in more than 50 years and will have a

lasting impact on individuals and families who want to own a home or build a business on Indian land."

According to the DOI, the department holds about 56 million acres of land in trust for American Indian tribes and individuals. In other words, the DOI owns those lands and holds them in trust for the benefit of tribes and individuals. The trustee of those lands must ensure the lands are protected and used for the benefit of the tribes and individuals. Congress enacted laws

requiring the DOI to approve leases on lands in Indian Country. DOI regulations are meant to guide how its trust responsibility is carried out under those laws. The recently completed regulation reforms correct 50-year-old policies that became seen as inadequate for the present day needs of American Indians.



Gallagher  
Benefit  
Services, Inc.

Ronald D. Sober  
Cory J. Sober

105 Water Street  
Sault Ste. Marie,  
Michigan, 49783

(906) 635-5238

**FARMERS Local Agents**

**BOUSCHOR & SHERMAN AGENCY**

2681 Ashmun Street (M-129)  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
1-906-635-0284  
1-866-635-0284  
NEW LOCATION

Call for a free insurance quote  
Auto - Home - Specialty - Commercial  
Ask about our Life Insurance Program

Loans  
For Any  
Worthwhile  
Purpose!

SOO  
CO-OP  
CREDIT UNION

536 Bingham Ave.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Apply Online [www.soocoop.com](http://www.soocoop.com)

Auto's • Boats • Motor Homes  
Recreational Vehicles  
and much more!

Brimley • Bay Mills • Kinross • Cedarville

# Learning the art and science of building bows

By Rick Smith

Among the most instrumental possessions in the lives of our ancient Anishinaabe ancestors were bows and arrows. Made of natural materials found in their surroundings, the old ones fashioned bows and arrows which were key to the acquisition of food and raw materials for food, clothing and many other needs of their times. Men took pride and exercised considerable patience in developing the skills needed in making and employing those weapons. The bow and arrows formed good characteristics in men as much as the men formed bows and arrows.

But the art and science of building and using bows and arrows, which were such crucial elements of the old ways, became one of the many cultural casualties on our way to the modern era. One can only imagine how it must have felt to build a bow and then bring home the bounty bestowed by the first kill in the same way as one's ancestors. Surely it was a profound rite of passage for a boy in becoming a man. Though building bows in the way of the old ones and passing the skills down to following generations has largely disappeared, one still might be curious about what it must have felt like to have success on a hunt with a bow of one's own making.

"There are few pleasures associated with hunting that I have found as meaningful as hunting with a piece of equipment that you made with your own hands and without the aid of modern power tools," said Ryan Halbert of Penn Yan, N.Y.

Halbert said his interest in building his own bow was likely sparked by his first experience in shooting a friend's longbow a few



Photos courtesy of the Penn Yan Chronicle Express  
Ryan Halbert with two bows and a war club he made.

years ago. "The instincts involved in shooting a traditional type bow as opposed to a modern piece of equipment with high tech sights intrigued me," said Halbert.

While on a hiatus from college a few years ago, he began researching available literature on making traditional bows. After some extensive research, he found the volumes of the Traditional Bowyers Bible.

"Through these books I began reading about Native American history and the detailed and lengthy science of creating a functional bow from scratch without using any modern materials,"

said Halbert.

He added he is confident in saying that those books are the most valuable resources for anyone trying to make a bow in the American Indian fashion, outside of learning from an experienced traditional bowyer.

Among the many things Halbert said he learned is that any bowyer must have patience. "According to what I have read and my personal experience, almost nobody makes a functioning primitive bow on the first attempt," he said. "There is simply too much involved with making a traditional bow that cannot



From top, an unstrung bow made by Halbert that was dyed green using clumps of grass, Halbert's war club, a strung bow made by Halbert and a modern, commercially manufactured bow.

be learned by reading about it. You just have to get out there and start learning through trial and error."

Introduced to archery and hunting with compound bows as a lad though his father, Halbert was off bow hunting with friends when he was legally able to do so at the age of 14 and took an eight-point buck in his first year. He turned to deer hunting with shotguns at the age of 16 and, while he had many successful hunts, his interest in hunting waned to the point where he stopped.

Several years later, a friend introduced him to fiberglass-backed longbows. "The first time I shot his longbow was probably what sparked the idea of creating my own bow. The instincts involved in shooting a traditional type bow as opposed to a modern piece of equipment with high tech sights intrigued me," said Halbert.

So, too, did the idea of building bows and soon he started searching for anything he could learn about the ancient craft. Along the way, he learned about and tried skills such as brain tanning hides, gathering material for bows and other crafts.

After two failed attempts, he

produced his first functional bow made of hickory and continued to make more bows. "When hunting season began approaching this year, I decided I should try to take a deer with one of my traditional bows," said Halbert.

He downed a young doe on the first shot in the hunt. "I was surprised to find that the arrow passed all the way through the deer, killing it swiftly and effectively."

Halbert indicated he is not a trophy hunter and subscribes to the creed of using all of the resources provided by the kill. "I don't know if I will kill again with one of these bows," he said, "depends on my mood really. For the most part I actually like deer, and it conflicts with my personal philosophy to take the life of a creature unless it's absolutely necessary. Really what drew me to hunt with these bows was my interest in history. I wanted to experience what many before me have experienced for so many thousands of years past."

Further, Halbert added, "I would love to share what I have learned with others who are interested." He can be reached via email at Rh5lax@aol.com.

## Sap gathering apps online

Pursuant to tribal code 23.405, Sault Tribe can issue permits to allow members to gather maple sap on national forest land for the purpose of making maple syrup.

In order for Sault Tribe to issue a permit to gather sap, specific terms and conditions must be agreed upon by the tribe and the U.S. Forest Service. This process may take up to two months. Members interested in sap collection on national forest lands this coming spring should submit an application by Jan. 15, 2013, to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement.

Applications can also be found online at [www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/natural-resources](http://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/natural-resources) or by contacting the Sault Tribe Law Enforcement at (906) 635-6065.



Photo courtesy of Laurie Mansfield

Brynn Mansfield, 13, from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., shot this nine-point on Nov. 15 while hunting with her father, Don Mansfield, at his family's camp, the Partridge Camp. This is her first buck.

## Emerald Elementary receives \$2,000 Plum Creek grant

By Kerry Ott, Strategic Alliance for Health

Tim Gerou, senior resource forester with Plum Creek Timber Company was in Manistique on Nov. 16 to award a \$2,000 grant to Emerald Elementary School to help fund an ongoing project to create a new ball and activity field in an open lot behind the school.

According to Erik Mason, Principal at Emerald, when the ball field project is completed, the play area will increase physical activity opportunities not just for students of Manistique Area Schools, but for all residents in the Manistique area.

"We recognize the need to provide safe and accessible play areas for all children and families in Manistique," Mason said. "Thanks to the help of the Plum Creek Foundation, we are getting closer to the completion of this new play area."

Since 2009, the Manistique Area Schools' Coordinated School Health Team has been using various grants to complete additional stages of the field. So far the School Health Team has been able to install the backstop and sections of fencing along the



Photo courtesy of Sault Tribe Strategic Alliance for Health

Left to right, Emerald Elementary Principal Erik Mason, physical education teacher Chris Marana and Plum Creek senior resource forester Tim Gerou.

first and third baselines.

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Strategic Alliance for Health Project provided a grant in 2010 which paid \$2,387 to install the backstop fencing on the field. In 2011, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Building Healthy Communities program provided another \$2,390 for additional

fencing and to install a gate (for mowing access) along the first and third baselines. In 2012, a Healthy People 2020 grant provided another \$1,500 for an additional 70 feet of fencing along the first baseline (street side). With the Plum Creek Foundation grant, the school needs another \$3,700 to finish the play area.

# IRS makes clear tribal member tax exclusions

*Editor's note: On Dec. 6, the Internal Revenue Service issued clarifications for federal tax exclusions for certain benefits provided by Indian tribes — great news for the tribes. The draft provisions were released earlier this year for comment and are now being published after consultations with the tribes, according to the IRS. Included in the exclusions are honoraria for medicine or ceremony.*

What follows is an abridged version of the Application of General Welfare Exclusion to Indian Tribal Government Programs notice that appeared in the IRS GuideWire, an email newsletter for tax professionals. Next month, we will bring you an analysis of the language, but for now, here it is as published:

This revenue procedure describes general principles for the general welfare exclusion and provides safe harbors under which the Internal Revenue Service will presume that the individual need requirement of the general welfare exclusion is met for benefits provided under Indian tribal governmental

programs described in sections 5.02 and 5.03 of this revenue procedure, and will not assert that benefits provided under programs described in section 5.03 of this revenue procedure represent compensation for services. Consequently, under this revenue procedure, the Service will not assert that members of an Indian tribe or their spouses or dependents must include the value of their benefits described in section 5.02 or 5.03 of this revenue procedure in gross income under § 61 of the Internal Revenue Code or that the benefits are subject to the information reporting requirements of § 6041.

Application of the general welfare exclusion to programs of Indian tribal governments. Indian tribal governments have a unique legal status. They have inherent sovereignty and a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Indian tribes have developed a broad range of programs to address their unique social, cultural, and economic issues. In developing these programs, Indian tribes give significant consideration to the needs



**The IRS clarified on Dec. 8 that honoraria for those conducting our ceremonies, traditional medicine and other like duties are not included in their gross income when figuring taxes.**

of the entire community. The general welfare exclusion applies to payments by Indian tribal governments no less favorably than it applies to payments by federal, state, local or foreign governments.

Payments by Indian tribal governments qualify for the general welfare exclusion if the payments are (1) made pursuant to a governmental program of the tribe; (2) for the promotion of general welfare (that is, based on individual or family need, and, uniquely in the case of programs of Indian tribal governments, to help establish Indian-owned businesses on or near a reservation); and (3) not compensation for services.

Payments under Indian tribal governmental programs meeting these requirements qualify for the

general welfare exclusion whether the revenues that the Indian tribal government uses to fund the programs derive from levies, taxes, service fees, or revenues from tribally-owned businesses.

This revenue procedure applies to Indian tribal governments and members of Indian tribes, their spouses, and dependents.

Application of general welfare exclusion to Indian tribal government programs

If section 5.01(1) or 5.01(2) of this revenue procedure applies, the Service will not assert that members of an Indian tribe or their spouses or dependents must include the value of the applicable benefits in gross income under § 61 or that the benefits are subject to the information reporting requirements of § 6041.

(1) If an Indian tribal government provides a benefit (whether in cash or in kind) meeting the criteria specified in section 5.02(1) of this revenue procedure and described in section 5.02(2) of this revenue procedure, the Service will conclusively presume that individual need is met for each tribal member, spouse, or dependent of a tribal member receiving the benefit.

(2) If an Indian tribal government provides a benefit meeting the criteria specified in section 5.03, the Service will conclusively presume that individual need is met for each tribal member, spouse, or dependent receiving the benefit and that the benefit does not represent compensation for services.

Benefits provided by a tribe for which individual need is presumed. Section 5.01(1) of this revenue procedure applies to benefits meeting the general criteria of section 5.02(1) of this revenue procedure and described in section 5.02(2) of this revenue procedure.

(1) General criteria. To qualify for exclusion under this revenue procedure, a benefit described in section 5.02(2) of this revenue procedure must meet the following requirements:

(a) The benefit is provided pursuant to a specific Indian tribal government program;

(b) The program has written

— See "Tax Exclusions," p. 26

## Department of Labor publishes final tribal consultation policy

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Labor recently published its finalized tribal consultation policy in the Federal Register, which establishes a formal process through which the department will engage in consultation with federally recognized tribes on actions or policies that will have a significant impact on tribal nations. This policy requires that the department's government-to-government consultation with the federally recognized tribes involve appropriate tribal and department officials.

"The finalization of the Department of Labor's tribal consultation policy constitutes an important step in our ongoing efforts to more meaningfully engage with Indian Country," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "Implementation of this policy will ensure that the department honors the government-to-government relationship shared between the United States and the federally recognized tribes."

President Obama previously has cited Executive Order 13175,

which was issued by President Clinton, tasking executive branch departments and agencies with engaging in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have tribal implications.

Following the president's charge, the Department of Labor began devising a plan. The Department of Labor held a series of consultative listening sessions, including meetings with representatives of the Native American community, the department's Native American Employment and Training Council, and the National Congress of American Indians, preceding the finalization of the tribal consultation policy. A draft version of the policy was published in the Federal Register on April 18, 2012, followed by a comment period that ended June 18.

The final policy can be viewed in the Federal Register at [www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/12/04/2012-29246/tribal-consultation-policy](http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/12/04/2012-29246/tribal-consultation-policy).

## — Miigwech —

Our family would like to extend a very special thank you to everyone who supported us through Raye's illness and memorial service.

Thank you to Dr. Abau Daya, Ashley, Dr. Ockenfels, the wonderful staff of War Memorial Hospital, and a special thank you to the exceptional staff of the Pulmonary Rehab. Dept. Your care, understanding and kindness of Raye during his illness helped to ease his mind and suffering.

A special thank you to Brother John Hascall for the lovely service, and to Joanne Carr for doing the readings.

Special thanks to all who worked in the kitchen to provide

us with a nice luncheon after the service. Thank you to Clint Mulder, C.S Mulder Funeral Home, for your kindness and understanding of our needs.

Thank you to all the staff of the Sault Tribe, especially the kind staff of the administration offices for their continued support of Raye.

So many special people came forth with kind words, prayers, flowers, food and other donations that it would be hard to name them all without forgetting someone. We are blessed to have you in our lives. Everyone has our heartfelt gratitude.

— The family of Raye DePlonty

## 25th Annual 2012 Sobriety POWWOW

Everyone Welcome!

New  
Location!

December 31 at  
LSSU NORRIS CENTER

Host Drum: Spirit Lake

Co-host Drum: Spirit Mountain

Invited Drums: Sturgeon Bay Singers  
and Bahweting Singers

Head Veteran: Graz Shipman

Head Female and Male Dancers:

Hunter Captain and Joe Pine

Head Junior Dancers:

Ashley Hackworth and Dion Syrette

Arena Director: Tracey Heath

Emcee: Josh Homminga

Grand Entry — 7pm  
3-Person Hand Drum Competition — 6pm  
Feast — 4pm (Niigaanagizhik Building)

Call Jackie Minton or Josh Homminga at  
(906) 635-6050 for more information.

Manido  
Giizisoons  
Little Spirit  
Moon  
Spiritual  
Gathering

Saturday, Dec. 29,  
12-6 p.m.

Niigaanagizhik Building  
Cultural Center,  
11 Ice Circle

12 p.m. Lunch Social  
1 p.m. Teaching Circle  
5 p.m. Giveaway

3-PERSON HAND  
DRUM COMPETITION

(No Exceptions!)

Norris Center, 6pm

1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$500

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$300

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$200



Midnight Countdown!

Games!

Vendors!

Give-away!

Sponsored by Sault Tribe Powwow Committee

**Absolutely no Drugs or Alcohol**

# American Indian Veterans National Memorial unveiled



Above, left, the centerpiece of the memorial in Phoenix, Ariz., dedicated on Nov. 14. Right, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient of the Cherokee Nation who spoke at the dedication.

By RICK SMITH

Dedicated as the first national memorial to American Indian veterans of the United States and their ancestors in arms who served in any conflict during the past 300 years, the American Indian Veterans National Memorial was dedicated in a ceremony on Nov. 14 at the Heard Museum of Native Cultures and Art in Phoenix, Ariz.

The centerpiece of the memorial is a 10-foot, 2,000-pound sculpture titled *Unconquered II* created by the late Chiricahua Apache artist Allan Houser. The work is the last piece created by Houser, who lived from 1914 to 1994. The statue is accompanied by two smaller statuettes, titled, *He's My Brother* and *The Gift*, by Michael Naranjo, a blind veteran who is a citizen of the Santa Clara Pueblo in New Mexico.

The memorial is a permanent, large outdoor plaza and also features four, bronze-toned, inscribed panels on concrete walls extending 15 feet in height. Among the components of the panels are artwork, odes and narratives of American Indian contributions in defending the home soil from the 17th century to modern times. In addition, a highlight regarding American Indian recipients of the Congressional

Medal of Honor is included on the first panel. Another component of the plaza is a permanent water feature.

The memorial was designed by John Douglas Architects and built by the Kitchell Corporation through funding from the TriWest Healthcare Alliance. According to the Kitchell Corporation, attendees at the dedication ceremony included a color guard from the Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 of Sacaton, Ariz., to post the colors. The post is part of the Gila River Indian Community. A citizen of the Navajo Nation gave a blessing and singers from the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation sang an honor song. Speakers included a Cherokee recipient of the Medal of Honor and representatives from the Heard Museum and TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

Since its founding by Dwight and Maie Bartlett Heart in 1929, the Heard Museum carries out a mission to educate people about the historic and contemporary ways of life among indigenous peoples of the Americas with a focus on American Indian tribes of the Southwest, according to the museum's website. It has grown to gain international recognition for the quality of its collections, educational programs and festivals.



Above, veterans stand during the dedication with colors representing the United States and American Indian nations from across the country. Below, a view of the illuminated memorial at night.



Below, left, some of the participants and spectators at the dedication. Right, American Indian veterans with colors pass in review en route to the dedication ceremony.



A veteran takes a close look at the memorial's main statue.



*Photos courtesy of the Heard Museum of Native Cultures and Art*

# Musician and artist teaches self how to make latex and silicone masks

## WORKING WITH BROTHER TO PROMOTE, DEVELOP AND DESIGN BUSINESS

By BRENDA AUSTIN

When you think of a mask, does it bring to mind Halloween, Mardi Gras and maybe the Chinese New Year? Or if you attended the local high school, maybe it brings to mind art class and making a form fitting mold of your face with two little holes to breath through while you waited for it to dry?

Sault Tribe member Tony Rogers is a graphic design professional, artist and musician. His journey into mask making began almost three years ago when he was a bass player in a band called Clown Sack. The band members wore masks and prosthetics, which cost about \$75 and lasted for about four or five shows before needing to be replaced. According to the labels on the masks, they should have lasted for 10 applications. So he decided to make one of his own.

He jumped online and spent about a month watching YouTube videos and doing research before attempting to make the first one. He learned how to make a cast of his face first and then made a sculpture over top of his face cast. That way when he made a prosthetic it fit his face perfectly. And since they are made from latex they stretch to fit any face.

His first sculpture was of a clown face. "I had no idea I could sculpt," he said. "I can draw but working three-dimensional is

a little different. I finished the sculpture and it was better then the mask I had been using. I was amazed that I could do it."

Rogers now has nine molds he uses to make his prosthetics and four molds for the full head designs. He has also made a silicone mold, or Matrix mold, which he says is the most complicated mold to make.

Molds are made from each sculpture. When he makes a mask he pours the foam latex mixture into the mold and presses the life cast of his own face or a generic face cast into the back of the mold for the mask and when it comes out of the oven the inside of the mask fits perfectly over his face. He made his own oven to bake the masks in, first building a frame, then adding insulation and a fan to circulate the heat. His heat source is an electric griddle. "It works perfect," he said.

He said he can make about 200 masks from one mold. A prosthetic is a frontal facemask that glues onto your face using spirit gum. Pros Aide or medical adhesive. Prosthetics are very flexible, showing every expression your own face makes under it. They are also very lightweight and often only go to just below the nose. They can be painted with latex paint or an oil based makeup. The masks come in only one color, white. Rogers said the masks can be pre-painted so it

takes less time to apply makeup. He then dusts the mask with baby powder to dry the makeup and blend it in more smoothly.

White unpainted foam latex prosthetics sell for between \$35 and \$60, a full head mask averages about \$90 to \$120 and the base price for an unpainted silicone mask is \$500, if he paints the mask the price averages \$600.

"Silicone is what they use in the movies," he said. "Silicone masks pick up every facial expression you make and the mask fits right to your face."

Rogers said he has an advantage over most people that make masks and prosthetics because he is an artist. He does illustrations using watercolors, oils, pencil, colored pencils and some pastels. He said he likes to be well rounded with the types of art he practices.

If your taste runs to the terrifying and horrifying he can make it — from scary monsters to space orcs and zombies. From pouring to painting, he can create a personalized work of foam latex or silicone art to meet your needs.

Once when Rogers was on his Facebook page he noticed a picture of a model with a painted prosthetic on and recognized it as his own. A friend of Athena Zhe, who owns and operates Athena Entertainment specializing in body painting, live shows and event planning, purchased one of his prosthetics and

sent it to her.

Zhe is an award winning body painter whose work has been on national TV, in music videos and in publications. She also participated in season two of Syfy's Face Off, a competition and elimination series that explores the world of special-effects make-up artists. Face Off competitors are judged on special effects make-up, including prosthetics, 3-D design, sculpting, casting and molding.

Rogers said when he saw his prosthetic on the model he messaged Athena who told him who she got it from. They corresponded and he sent her a copy of each of his designs, which she has used in her showings and conventions, and on a live television talk show.

Rogers is ramping up to go into business with his brother, Jay, who enjoys special effects and design. He said that in addition to the Halloween crowd, he also sells his masks to Haunted Houses, special effects people who use the prosthetics on models to demonstrate how to apply makeup and collectors who purchase them to display.

In addition to his mask making skills, Rogers is involved in a new music adventure and is also illustrating a children's book. To see some of his creations look for him on Facebook or visit his web site, which is currently under construction, at: happysadguyfx.com.



Face sculpture using his nephew Michael McLeod as a model for the original face cast. This sculpture was made using chavant clay.



Face cast and mold. Once the foam latex is poured into the mold (right) the face cast (left) is pressed into the back of it so that the finished mask fits over the wearers face.



Rogers airbrushing one of his full-head latex masks. Photo by Sherrie Lucas



Full-head sculpture made of monster clay and shown here in the molding process. The light grey clay under this sculpture and the walls surrounding it are made of what is called WED clay, which was developed by Walt Disney.



*Tony Rogers and some of his illustrations, which are on display at 31 North Gallery & Tattoo Studio at 416 Ashmun St. in downtown Sault Ste. Marie. Rogers' logo (left) HSG FX stands for his business name: HappySadGuy FX.*

Photo by Sherrie Lucas



Full-head latex mask that Rogers airbrushed.



Full-head latex masks that have been airbrushed.

# Malcolm High observes Thanksgiving spirit

The ninth annual Malcolm High School Thanksgiving celebration in Sault Ste. Marie once again featured American Indian drumming, dancing and singing along with generous helpings of good food, cheer and guests of honor.

Students, school faculty and staff along with invited elders from the Hearthside Assisted Living Facility listened to Chris Gordon, Ph.D., of JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy explain some of the significance behind drumming and dancing and how they are appropriate for such an occasion. The Ogimaa-Minisinoos Drum and accompanying dancers, from JKL, performed with pride and gusto before inviting all others present to join in dancing. At one point, one of the elderly guests of honor joined in a dance with the aid of a walker.

Afterwards, all enjoyed a sumptuous traditional Thanksgiving dinner featuring tasty contributions from the school staff and faculty, students and the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center.



Above, the JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy Ogimaa-Minisinoos Drum and dancers sing at the start of the Malcolm High Thanksgiving feast as guests from the Hearthside Assisted Living Facility, seated at the table seen near the middle of the photograph, observe along with students, staff and faculty. Below, right, the dancers swing and sway to the beat of the drum.



A view of the main buffet laden with traditional Thanksgiving fare. The feast also featured a dessert table.



Malcolm High students, faculty and staff join the dancers during the opening ceremony.



Some of the elderly guests from the Hearthside Assisted Living Facility begin to enjoy their meals.



Photos and text by Rick Smith

# Daughter shares memories for father's birthday

*My father, Reino Emanuel Syrjala, turned 90 on Aug. 2, 2012. There was a "grand" celebration for him at the community center on Sugar Island, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012. My sons and I missed out on it, but I wanted to read this to him that day.*

I never used to miss a chance, to crawl across the floor, and wait for daddy to get home on mom's back porch.

When he'd arrive I'd ask him, "Is there something in your dinner bucket today?"

Sometime a yes and sometimes a no, but it didn't matter to me anyway.

Suddenly I'm 9 years old, livin' at the "big farm,"

with a woodstove I'll never forget, that kept us all so warm.

Not long after that, daddy build a sleigh, and a harness for the team.

We'd slide on down to

Osborn's house, to me 'twas like a dream.

During these rides, he'd take me back to Sugar Island when he was young, how he and his daddy would hitch up their team, before the day would begin.

They delivered milk to neighbors and friends, people recall it to this day.

But dad will never forget the day his daddy handed him his reins.

Just a short time later, while bailing hay one evening, my sister's boyfriend gave us his horse, with a coat so black she looked blue.

Daddy said, "She's too big for you, you'll have to wait a few more years,

but ride Queenie anytime, just always watch a horse's ears."

One day I asked dad, "Can we please hitch up the team?"

He said, "P.J. look, it's 20 below, maybe in your dreams."

But he decided to help me some because I had the team all hitched.

So we sailed on down the road, when my fingers began to itch.

In spite of all the choppers I wore, my hands were feeling pain.

Dad took one look at them and that's the day he handed me the reins!

Come one summer I'm finally allowed, to get on Ebony's back.

I sat so tall in that saddle, once gone, I seldom came back.

To this day I pray my brother-in-law always knew, the wonderful freedom he gave to me.

For the day he gave us his "Ebony," was the day he gave my legs to me.

Now I'm 58 with two sons of

my own, one 33 and one 29.

Who'd of thought it would be me to carry on our name in time?

And when I'm gone I do

believe I'll see, dad on Ebony,

In the snow with one hand up

on her reins and the other waiving back at me.

Sail on shining daddy —

Your daughter,

Penny J. Syrjala

Kincheloe, Mich.

## Evan Pierson turns 1!



**Evan Pierson will turn 1 on Dec. 9, 2012.**

*I learned to laugh and squeal, then sit and stand.*

*Now I can walk if you hold my hand.*

*But the fun has only just begun,*

*Look out, I'm turning one!*

Parents, Sarah Schmalz and Derek Pierson

Grandparents, David and Linda Schmalz, and Al and Cherrie Pierson

## In loving memory of Gloria "Shine" Paquin

Sept. 6, 1928-Nov. 12, 2007

Mom, I miss you each and every day since you went away.

They say it will get easier yet days, months and years have come and gone.

But "Dear Mother Dear" I still have wept.

For, you see, if I could do it all again, I would tell you each and every day how much I love you and why I do. Not to wait until the strokes started taking their toll. Thanks to God, your mind was still fine until the end of your time.

I miss getting you up each and every day with the smile I and everyone loved.

I miss our talks we had every day that only a mother and daughter share.

I miss riding the back roads with you laughing and joking around, the fun we had fishing, enjoying the outdoors, with the sound of sparkling water, happy birds singing in perfect harmony with fresh air blowing softly through the leaves on the trees.

I take comfort in knowing that I love you and you loved me too.

And there is no pain for you anymore.

I always feel your love, see your face and I hear you call my name. I always will take pride in you being my mom.

I miss all the things. But most of all, I miss you, mom.

I will love you always and forever.

So, shine on, my Shining Star,

Until we meet again,

Love you always and forever.

Daughter,

Connie Paquin

## THANK YOU

Our family would like to extend a very special thank you to everyone who supported us through Raye's illness and memorial service.

Thank you to Dr. Abau Daya, Ashley, Dr. Ockenfels, the wonderful staff of War Memorial Hospital and a special thank you to the exceptional staff of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Department. Your care, understanding and kindness for Raye during his illness helped to ease his mind and suffering.

Special thanks to Bro. John Hascall for the lovely service and Joanne Carr for doing the readings. Special thanks to all who worked in the kitchen to provide us with a nice luncheon after the service. Thanks to Clint Mulder, C.S Mulder Funeral Home, for your kindness and understanding of our needs.

Thanks to all the staff of Sault Tribe, especially the kind staff of the administration offices for their continued support of Raye.

So many special people came forth with kind words, prayers, flowers, food and other donations that it would be hard to name them all without forgetting someone. We are blessed to have you in our lives. Everyone has our heartfelt gratitude.

— *The Family of Raye DePlonty*

For the health of our community  
Sault Tribe Health Center  
campuses will be  
Commercial Tobacco-Free  
*beginning*  
**January 1, 2013**  
*We appreciate your cooperation!*

**Keep Tobacco Sacred**  
**Kchi Piitenim Semaa**

## Anna Wilson's report —

My cousin Aaron Payment is the tribal Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He takes care of the tribe. My cousin Aaron is trying to approve for a vote, a new Constitution to the tribe. This new Constitution will be like the United States of America's Constitution instead of a single corporate branch. Mr. Payment cares a lot for our tribal members

and works very hard every day to make a better world for us.



**Anna Wilson reports from Ms. Bur's third grade class.**

## Birth —

Travis and Desiree Pace of Casper, Wyo., are the parents of a son, Liam Michael, born Sept. 25 at Wyoming Medical Center. He weighed 6 pounds, 7.4 ounce-

es and was 21 inches in length.

He joins a sister, Heighden, and a brother, Lane, at home.

Grandparents are Mike and Dianne Pace of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Gene and Charlene Pace of Phoenix, Ariz., and Dale and Dee Wurtz of Ft. Pierre, S.D.

## Meyers earns black belt



**Alysén Meyers, 10, a Sault Tribe member in Colorado Springs, Colo., recently earned a black belt in karate during last summer. She started her studies of the martial art at age five. She is the daughter of Ron and Heather Meyers and the sister of Josh, 17, and Jonathon, 14. She is also the granddaughter of Sault Tribe member Audrey (nee Myotte) Meyers Combs of Arboles, Colo.**



## FLORENCE J. LACoy

Florence J. "Molly" LaCoy, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died Nov. 22, 2012, at her home. She was born July 31, 1941, in Raco, Mich.

She belonged to the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She was a life member of the VFW. She enjoyed playing bingo, slots, cooking big meals for family and friends and playing cards. She will be missed by her pets Neegee and Holly.

She is survived by her children, Robin Jackson, Frank LaCoy Jr., Karen (Dan Hummer) LaCoy, and John A. LaCoy; her grandchildren, Scott LaCoy of Nashville, Tenn., Brandi LaCoy, Ellis LaCoy, David LaCoy and Daniel LaCoy, all of Santa Barbara, Calif., Angela Jackson, Michael LaCoy, Taylor LaCoy and Trevor Mounts, all of Sault Ste. Marie, Trena Mounts of Titusville, Fla., Madelyn LaCoy and Ashley (Chad) Macklin of Sault Ste. Marie, and Brian Vogel of Dallas, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank E. LaCoy; daughter, Tracy LaCoy; parents, Alfred and Nancy Fish; granddaughter, Taren Mounts; and daughter-in-law, Glenda LaCoy.

A funeral mass was conducted Nov. 27, 2012, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Sault Ste. Marie with Father Piotr Zaczynski as celebrant.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Hospice of the EUP would be appreciated.

Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family.

## GERALD D. JOHNSON SR.

Lifetime area resident, Gerald D. Johnson Sr., 73, of Manistique, Mich., died Nov. 6, 2012, at Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital.

He was born on Oct. 5, 1939, in Fayette, Mich., the son of Benjamin and Bertha (nee Jensen) Johnson. He attended Manistique area schools and was a graduate of Manistique High School.

On July 2, 1960, he married the former Donna F. Carney in Manistique. They lived and raised their family in the Manistique area. Donna preceded him in death on Oct. 28, 2007.

Gerald was a "jack of all trades" and worked for various area businesses. One of those was the Curran Chevrolet automobile dealership where he was employed for over 20 years. He was also self-employed, owning the River Road Lumber Company for 11 years. Most recently, he worked for the Sault Tribe maintenance, retiring in 2004.

He loved spending time with his grandchildren. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, playing poker with the guys and going to the casino. He will be remembered by his family as someone who liked to tease, make people laugh and was gen-

erous in making sure he helped others.

Gerald is survived by his sons, Gerald (Heidi) Johnson Jr. of Manistique and Robert (Sheila) Johnson of Manistique; daughters, Penny Carlson, Debbie Johnson and Deanna (Andy) Clifton, all of Manistique; 13 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; brothers, Dan (Eva) Johnson of Manistique and Mike Johnson of Manistique; along with several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his brother, Ben Johnson Jr., and his sisters, Bertha "Babe" Peterson, Beverly Johnson, Marjorie Johnson, Carol Daigneault and Marguerite "Muggs" Smith.

Visitation was held at the Messier-Brouillere Funeral Home in Manistique followed by memorial services with Mr. Del Alden officiating.

Memorial condolences appreciated to the family or to the charity of your choice through the funeral home. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.mbfuneral.com](http://www.mbfuneral.com)

## JOHN RICHARD ALLEN

John Richard Allen of Orlando, Fla., passed away, Sept. 27, 2012, after an extended illness.

John retired from the United States Navy after 20 years of dedicated service. He will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with military honors at a later date.

He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Teresa; his former wife, Jackie, of Bay City Mich., his son, John of Bay City; his son, Leland, and wife, Julia, of Virginia Beach, Va.; his mother, Dolores Thorne Blanchard, and his sister, Patricia Faella Allen, of Norfolk, Va.; brothers, Michael of Williamsburg, Va.; Christopher, and his wife, Nancy, of Noblesville, Ind.; and three grandsons, John Michael and Steven of Bay City, and Harrison of Virginia Beach; and his favorite niece, Erin Nicole Allen. He also left behind many relatives and friends.

Anchors aweigh.

## JOHN EDWARD FORGRAVE

John Edward Forgrave, age 65, of Brimley, Mich., died on Nov. 29, 2012, at Hospice of the EUP in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He was born May 6, 1947, in Sault Ste. Marie, the son of Thomas Holt Forgrave and Helen Florence (nee Parish) Forgrave.

John grew up in Brimley and was a graduate of Brimley High School. He served in the United States Army for two years. John married Deborah Marie Bender on June 20, 1970 at St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church in Goetzville, Mich. They lived in Goetzville for 20 years while he worked at Great Lakes Dredge and Dock and then at the lime-

stone quarry in Cedarville. For the past 20 years they have lived in Brimley while John worked at the Corps of Engineers in Sault Ste. Marie. He retired three years ago.

John enjoyed fishing and collecting guns.

John is survived by his wife, Deborah; daughter, Vanessa (Darrell) Warner of Goetzville; son Ryan Forgrave of Brimley; and grandchildren, Jordan, Hayley, and Zane Warner. He is also survived by two sisters, Gail (Allen) Hanson of Kincheloe, Michigan and Judy Tadgerson of Brimley; two brothers, Charles (Linda) Forgrave of Sault Ste. Marie and John's twin, James P. (Serena) Forgrave of Goetzville; and his in-laws, Edwin and Dolores Bender of Goetzville.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Tom and Helen; infant daughter, Jill Marie Forgrave; and brother, Thomas S. Forgrave.

Burial was interred at the St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Goetzville on Dec. 1, 2012. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Reamer Galer Funeral Home in Pickford served the family. Condolences may be sent to the family online by visiting [www.reamergalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.reamergalerfuneralhome.com).

## NORMAN URBAN PAYMENT

Norman Urban Payment of Greenville, S.C., died Nov. 27, 2012, after a long illness with cancer. He was born on July 8, 1966.

Norman graduated from Currituck County High School in 1984. He was a drum major in high school and at North Carolina State University where he graduated with an English major. In 2003, he also graduated from the College of Technology in Greenville, earning a degree in computer technology. He enjoyed the outdoors and being with friends and loved his family very much. Norman took pride in his Native American heritage as a Chippewa Indian.

Norman's smile and laughter will be missed by all and the family card games.

He is survived by his mother, Madeline Payment, of Grandy, N.C.; grandmother, Dorothy MacDonald Hillier, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; a brother, Michael (Judy) Payment; three sisters, Shelley (Ravi) Kannan of Atlanta, Ga., Ginger (Fred) MacDonald of Atlanta, Ga., and Bonny Blanchard of Harbinger, N.C.; nieces and nephews, Heather, of Grandy, Chloe, Chelsey, Zak and Madeline, of Atlanta, and Adana and Sarah of Harbinger. Norman was also survived by a daughter, Nicole Miller of Virginia, and recently became a grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his father, Merlin H. Payment.

A memorial service is planned for a later date. Any condolences to the family may be mailed to the Payment family in care of Madeline Payment, P.O. Box 265, Grandy, NC 27939.

## MARY T. "TERRY" BARR

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, daughter, sister and cousin, Mary Thresa "Terry" (nee Mastaw) Barr of Sugar Island, Mich., and Ft. Meyers, Fla., walked on Nov. 12, 2012, at Hospice House Hiland Cottage in Petoskey, Mich. She was born March 28, 1931, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

A loving mother and wife, Terry was a talented home decorator and remodeler, world traveler, boat captain, ordained minister at Peace Community Church and member of the Inner Peace Movement. She belonged to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Stanton Barr; children Roberta 'Bobbie' Walters, Marsha G. Proctor, Stephen S. Barr; step-sons Jim Barr, Rick Barr; grandchildren Michael, Christopher, David, Adrian, Sarah, Brittney, Dakota, Dallas, Joey, Alyse, Brea, Jerica and Luke; great grandchildren Michael, Lacey, Kyle, Jeremy, Skyler, Ace, Summer, Joshua, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Mischa and Vadim; great great granddaughter Sophia; and siblings, Elaine McMaster, Brian Mastaw, Patricia Cox, Gerald Mastaw, John Mastaw, Richard Mastaw, Franklin Mastaw, Darlene Mastaw, Nancy Evans and Daniel Mastaw.

Terry will be greatly missed by over 50 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Alphonse and Agnes Mastaw; siblings Charles Mastaw, William Mastaw, Geneva Smith, Mary Cathrine Mastaw and Carol Mastaw; grandson Jason; and step-daughter Sandra Barr.

The celebration of Terry's well-lived life began Nov. 15, 2012 at the Niigaanaagizhik Ceremonial Building. Visitation and the welcoming ceremony began that evening and lasted through Nov. 17. Brother John Hascall celebrated the funeral mass at Niigaanaagizhik. In keeping with Terry's wishes, cremation follow. Memorial contributions to the Hospice House Hiland Cottage, One Hiland Drive, Petoskey, MI 49770 would be appreciated. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

## GLORIA M. BORLUND

Gloria Marie (nee St. Onge) Borland passed away on Nov. 16, 2012, in her home. She was born to Francis Glen St. Onge and Amanda Marie (nee LaPine) St. Onge on Mackinac Island, July 12,

1952. She attended Mackinac Island Public High School and graduated in 1970.

She met William Borland in 1981 and they were married. Mrs. Borland worked for Kewadin Casinos, several nursing homes, and the former State Bar in St. Ignace. She enjoyed hunting, fishing, canning, baking and making Christmas baskets for her family.

Mrs. Borland was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

She is survived by two sons and their families, William Lee Borland II and Lindsey, and Vincent Carl Ingalls II and Summer; grandchildren, Shelby and Wyatt Ingalls, and William Kaleb and Xavier Lee Borland; her stepmother, Elizabeth (nee Bennett) St. Onge; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Bill and Marge Borland; three brothers and their families, Glenn and Deana St. Onge, Frank and Bonnie St. Onge, and Mike St. Onge; five sisters and their families, Pamela Sue St. Onge, Mary and Michael Cope, Marilyn and Michael Wakefield, Ida French, and Dolores and Joel Raville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Doris Buchannon, and brother-in-law, Ron French.

A memorial service will be held May 4, 2013, at St. Anne's Church on Mackinac Island, where she was baptized, with a luncheon to follow.

## RAYE M. DEPLONTY

Raye Milton DePlonty, 50, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Nov. 9, 2012, at War Memorial Hospital.

Raye was born Feb. 11, 1962. He was a lifetime resident of Sault Ste. Marie. He

was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and was employed by the Sault Tribe's Chippewa cleaning services until illness forced him to resign. Raye loved nature and was an avid fisherman and gardener. He also loved baking and often took his finished recipes to share with family and friends.

Raye is survived by his mother, Caroline DePlonty of the Sault; his brother, Ross (Marcie) DePlonty of Marquette, Mich.; three sisters: Annette (Wayne) King of the Sault, Laura (Larry) Hammock of Brimley, Mich., and Ruth (Pat) Burch of Brimley; three nieces, April (Dave) Emmons of Syracuse, N.Y., Tina (CJ Weisenburger) King of the Sault and Amanda Burch of Southfield, Mich.; two nephews, Grant (Rachael) Hammock of Coloma, Mich., and Josh (Jamie) Burch of Kincheloe, Mich.

Raye was preceded in death by his father, Milton DePlonty.

Per Raye's wishes, his remains were cremated and a memorial service took place on Nov. 15, 2012, at the Niigaanaagizhik Cultural Building with Brother John Hascall officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the family to help cover funeral expenses.



# REPRESENTING YOU IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



At the Meeting with the President

**Aaron A. Payment, MPA**  
Tribal Chairperson  
"Representing All Members Everywhere"

I cannot tell you how honored and pleased I am to represent you as Chairperson during our recent visit to Washington, DC. Our delegation included Tribal Board Secretary Cathy Abramson, Keith Massaway (Unit 3), Jennifer McLeod (Unit 1), Legislative Director Mike McCoy and Meghan Starling ~ our Washington based government liaison.



Cathy Abramson, Chair  
American Indian Health Board

I believe we did a great job as a team, but I wanted to highlight the excellence and impassioned work and leadership of Cathy Abramson. During the last several years, we simply have not had this kind of leadership from the Chair's office nor the dedicated resources to represent our Tribe in DC. Despite this, Cathy has done a wonderful job by becoming appointed the Chair of the American Indian Health Board and working with our Tribal Member ~ Stacy Bolan who is the Executive Director of the American Indian Health Board. I witnessed Cathy's ease of relationship with key officials in the Indian Health Service.



President Obama

Neera Darling, BIA Executive Assistant and Potawatomi friend.

US Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar

Not since George Nolan's role with the National Indian Housing Board have we had such advocacy of our issues. She is perfectly suited for this role and I appreciate her work. Thank you Cathy.

While I am addressing the issue of health, I would also like to recognize our health division team expertly lead by Bonnie Culfa and operated by Joel Lumsden, Tony Abramson, Jackie McLean, Dr. Wagner, Dr. Anderson, and Dan Frye and many others. Last month, an article suggested that the health division nefariously hid an amount in the budget presumably to have funds as a sort of slush fund. Not only is this characterization unfair, it is patently false.

When I became Chair the first time, I tasked Health Director Bonnie Culfa with increasing our third party revenues (insurances) in order to decrease our Tribal dollars spent on health. Bonnie worked with Jackie McLean and all health team members to raise third party revenues from \$1.5 million to a projected 2013 amount of \$7 million. So not only is the health division not costing us any Tribal support funds, they have pulled through to balance our budget by generating more than a million dollars. Rather than publicly condemn these folks for their excellent work, we should honor them. I appreciate the work they do as they lead us forward with the many challenges the *Affordable Care Act* will represent.

Since I have returned as Chair, Director Abramson and I pushed hard to establish a regional health Board to advocate for more Indian Health Service funding

for our people. We hosted a special United Tribes Health Summit to discuss what opportunities we will have including offering some level of coverage to ALL Members. While other complain and stall, we'll continue to lead. In fact, we recently introduced a resolution to create a Tribally Designated Health Entity to allow our health division to operate more autonomously and entrepreneurially to expand and reinstate health access to areas like Escanaba, Marquette, Detour/Drummond, Kinross, and for new creative ways to expand clinic hours in partnership with hospital like the Mackinac



Work Group on Health, Education and Youth. My friend Phyllis Davis, Gun Lake Councilwoman

Straights hospital and other hospitals for after hour care. More to come.

During this DC trip, we met with Congressional members: U.S. Representatives Dan Benishek, John Dingell, Sandy Levin, Dave Camp, Fred Upton, Hansen Clark, and Senator Debbie Stabenow and a staffer from Senator Carl Levin's office. We heard from several U.S. Cabinet leaders like Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Deputy Treasurer Secretary Neal Wolin, Acting Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank, Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary Tom Vilsack, Secretary Ray LaHood, Secretary Hilda Solis, Assistant Secretary and BIA Director Kevin Washburn, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Director of Indian Health and JoAnn Chase, Director of the American Indian Environmental Office who has pledge to help us figure out how to fix the pollution issue in the St. Mary's River north of Sugar Island.

I am pleased to have met and shook hands



Of the 566 Federally Recognized Tribes, over 250 attended. It was an awe inspiring and moving event. Here I was trying to get leaders to do a American Indian Movement Fist raise. Jimmie Mitchell met the challenge. Also shown is Phyllis Davis of Gun Lake and Bob Kewaygoshkum of Grand Traverse Band.

Chi McGwitch, Negee, Aaron

Office: 906-635-6050 Cell: 906-440-5937 Email: [aaronpayment@yahoo.com](mailto:aaronpayment@yahoo.com)  
On Facebook 'Aaron Payment' and on the 'Sault Tribe Guide' on Facebook.



Navajo Code Talkers and Color Guard Jingle Dress Dancers who were also military veterans in their own right. We were honored.

with the President. I am so proud to see our fellow tribal leaders from across the country working together to advocate for our people. If we could adopt this focus back home, we would have more to show for ourselves. Let's work toward that goal.



JoAnn Chase, Director  
American Indian  
Environmental Office

Finally, the photo to the top right is the of Navajo Code Talkers. They were like rock stars at our meeting. I felt privileged to meet them. During this holiday season, remember peace and good will toward man but also thank a veteran for the right to exercise our freedoms.

**Merry Christmas!**  
**Please join me at the New Years Eve sobriety pow wow. Be safe, Negee!**



Jackie Pata, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians

# Scenes from the Tribal Nations Conference



*Every year I look forward to this event. It's especially wonderful to see so many friends that I've gotten to know from various nations all across the country. You guys inspire me every single day, and whenever I've traveled to your home states there's been such a warm welcome that I've received. So I'm truly grateful to all of you.*

*— President Barack Obama,  
2012 Tribal Nations Conference*

Photos by Cathy Abramson and Aaron Payment

President Obama greets the crowd. He opened his speech by honoring the life of Sonny Black Eagle, a revered elder who passed away this year.



Navajo code talkers preside in honor at the conference.



One of numerous break out sessions.



Invited to the conference were 566 federally recognized tribes from across the U.S. and here they wait for President Obama to speak.



Hail to the chief! No visit to the capitol would be complete without a tour of the White House.

# Local animal shelter gets non-profit and pro bono services from Chippewa Animal Clinic



**DEBRA PINE, DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Ahniin kina gwaya, I hope you all are very blessed with this upcoming holiday season.

Recently, my husband and I have had some very serious issues arise in our personal life. My home had serious water damage due to a burst pipe, following that, we had a fire at our restaurant. A great big "thank you" to the Brimley and Bay Mills Township Volunteer Fire Department and to the employees who helped get the doors back open for business. It's been a rough three months to say the least, however, I apologize for having missed my unit reporting in the paper. I did make the local elders unit meetings so I kept up that way.

In addition to these other catastrophes, my husband and I find ourselves under attack by the currently seated chairperson.

Lines were crossed and I requested that a retraction be printed. So far, nothing. Our businesses employ many tribal members, most of which ARE NOT my family even though we have come to view them as such.

Growing up, both my husband and I took the concept of "self-sufficiency" to heart. It was a concept; a plan and an ideal that the elders back in the '70s and '80s championed and pushed us

to do. The elders have long since passed, however, "self-sufficiency" is still the goal.

It is still the goal for the tribe and should still be advocated to our young people. I don't believe the elders ever thought that the tribe was meant to be a stopping point but rather a stepping stone to being self-sufficient and when you got to that point, we were taught that you were to turn around and help others on the path to reaching their goals.

Please allow me to share with you some facts about a situation that we have been having issues with. I believe it is fair to put this out for the membership to see since I have been unfairly libeled and slandered by the chairperson. It's been a frustrating and maddening issue. I certainly don't appreciate the unwarranted attack and we have to protect our businesses because we have so many people counting on us for a paycheck. I thank you for your patience in this matter.

To Sault Tribe Chairman Aaron Payment, tribal members and the Sault Ste. Marie community:

Recently, Sault Tribe Chairman Aaron Payment made statements that Sault Tribe Board Director Debra Pine, has "embezzled/launched/filtered" money back to herself through appropriation of Kewadin Casinos 2 percent monies via the Chippewa County Animal Shelter, Friends of Caring Animal Shelters (F.O.C.A.S.) charity, Guardian Angels for Animals charity, Chippewa Animal Clinic and eventually to Director Pine. To those who don't know, I am Dr. Christopher Hall, owner of Chippewa Animal Clinic and husband of Director Pine. In Chairman Payment's foul version of politics aimed at Director Pine, he leaves behind a wake of potential collateral damage. I wrote this letter for the multiple charitable organizations, the Chippewa County Animal Shelter, the volunteers, fundrais-

ers, countless need-based people and, of course, animals that have been helped by these organizations.

The charitable organizations and shelter provide an avenue for people who cannot afford veterinary medical care for their animals as well as benefit the community as a whole. This is done entirely by fundraisers and private monies. Each of these charities and the shelter have their own boards and policies to determine how their hard earned money is spent. Chippewa Animal Clinic is only one of the multiple clinics these organizations have used over the course of these last two years. Due to the despicable politics of Chairman Payment and his threat of potentially taking away funds from those that are in need of assistance, I am explaining Chippewa Animal Clinic's role in this community service.

Chippewa Animal Clinic has always provided care to the various organizations for decades. As a veterinary professional, I have personally put an enormous amount of time and money into helping all regional organizations, including those in Canada and tribal reservations for over a decade. Since Director Pine has only been a board member for two years and Chairmen Payment's unfounded accusation is recent, I will limit my focus to 2011 as an example. Please keep in mind I have been helping our community for many years prior and will continue for many years to come.

Chippewa Animal Clinic in 2011 provided to these organizations approximately 460 spay/neuter surgeries (the proportion of male to female dogs is even) and a minimum of 86 medical cases. We do not charge office calls or receive a profit from these organizations. All services are provided to these organizations below or at cost. Simple breakdown as follows:

Average dog spay charge is \$280 without charity discount. Our cost of doing a spay is on average \$224 with materials and overhead. Charities are charged \$84. That's a loss of \$140 per animal x 230 animals per year = (negative)\$32,200.

Average dog neuter charge is \$221 without charity discount. Our cost of doing a neuter is on average \$177 with materials and overhead. Charities are charged \$62. That's a loss of \$115 per animal x 230 animals per year = (negative) \$26,450.

86 Medical office calls at minimum \$41 each would be \$3,526; at no charge.

Therefore:

Spay/neuter LOSS in revenue is \$58,650 + \$3,526 in medical office calls = (negative) \$62,176 of "at cost" services for 2011 only.

My complete LOSS if including profits from these animals is (negative) \$73,906 per year. This number does not include all medications/vaccines that were given (at cost) or treatments (at cost) for shelter animals. This is a loss from profits and overhead that would increase the above number further. There are also many costs not included due to taking up much more time than I felt needed to prove a point (i.e. on call emergencies by police and animal control; writing reports for neglect cases, time taken off for court cases etc.).

In addition, I am having to write a letter to justify the amount of money given yearly in charitable services due to a reckless politician that couldn't care less about who is affected by his erroneous claims. Ultimately, the 2 percent monies from tribal dollars are given directly to Chippewa County and the manager of the Animal Shelter. The manager then allocates the funds as they see fit to the various clinics. Considering the fact of services at Chippewa Animal Clinic are given consider-

ably below cost to these charities and the 2 percent monies are under the Chippewa County's supervision, I'm again at a LOSS as to how Chairmen Payment thinks Director Pine is profiting and "lining her pockets."

Needless to say, we at Chippewa Animal Clinic provide our share of community support, but it is still those hard working charities that will be affected and ultimately tribal and non-tribal community members and their pets who will suffer. If you feel this is unjust or have already been helped by these charities, please contact Chairmen Payment and tribal board leaders to relay your feelings regarding continued tribal support.

This is the first and last time I'll be public about what Chippewa Animal Clinic does for our community. I was raised with humility in mind. I do this because I'm proud of who we are and what we stand for as Native people. I love this community and tribe and was taught to give back without expecting anything in return. I was also taught to respect people. Chairman Payment and all those who have forgotten our Seven Grandfather teachings thereby exhibiting this constant hatred need to be brave and learn to be honest and truthful. The respect from that wisdom will take them much farther in this life than slimy politics ever would.

Thank you very much,  
Dr. Christopher Hall

In closing, I would like to say that I believe we have bigger issues for this tribe to be worried about. Our chief should be neutral toward members of the board and as I have reminded him many times already, we all deserve fair representation, and that includes me.

Sincerely,  
Debra-Ann Pine  
(906) 440-1334  
debrapine@yahoo.com

## Tribal elder numbers will double in 15 years



**KEITH MASSAWAY, DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

First of all, I would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. This time of year is so busy, but please take a moment to reflect on family and friends because the love and affection they give is the best gift of all.

The board had a briefing from the Enrollment Department in a recent workshop. Some of the

questions we have received lately have had to do with different aspects of our membership, so it would be prudent and informative to give some of the answers to everyone. The tribe, as of Nov. 13, 2012, consists of exactly 40,812 members. That may surprise many of you but we add members every day by birth. On average, we add 800 children to our rolls each year. If a child is not enrolled by the 18th birthday, they will be unable to be added to the rolls since our rolls are still closed for adults.

The Enrollment Department is also showing that the membership is aging. In 2012, we have 4,442 elders. In a graph, the department showed the elder population will grow exponentially. In 2017, they project 6,210 elders. In 2022, it is 8,857. So, in 10 years we approximately double the number of elders. That shows how the baby boomers will affect the elder dividend checks in the near future. The projections end

at 2027, 15 years from now, are 12,345 elders.

This is a reality the tribe has to face. The strain that an aging membership will put on our services will be huge. We must plan now to be ready for it. Prescriptions, medical facilities, housing and other services will be exhausted if we don't plan now. I fear that this fact was not acknowledged by some of the board. If we fail to plan now, no plan will work in the future because it will be too late to implement.

At the last board of directors meeting in November, an ad hoc health access group was formed with a member of the board from each unit and several health professionals. I am proud to say I will be the representative from Unit III. The group is charged with exploring how to bring health care access to our membership, including expanding outreach to rural members and to expand access to after hours care.

We are to report back to the full board with possible increased services in the neediest areas as soon as we can.

Our Information Systems Department reported that our computing infrastructure is in dire need of upgrades and overhauls. It seems our primary operating system has now been deemed archaic and is not being supported anymore. That means we have to replace it. Sounds easy, but it is not easy or inexpensive. The JD Edwards upgrade alone will cost over \$1 million. The changes in servers, computers and email systems with all the ancillary support will cost \$7.4 million over the next four years.

As I said earlier, we have to plan now because it will be too late to plan later. The decisions the board makes today will be what a future board will inherit. So, good decisions will make a future board look good and bad ones will only compound the problems later. Again, I wish all

of you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and thank you for all the cards and email.

Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace MI 49781, (906) 643-6981, kamssaway@msn.com.

### Information Resources —

Have a question for the Sault Tribe Enrollment Department? Call them at 635-3396 or toll free at (800) 251-6597.

If you are a tribal member residing in the seven-county service area and would like information about commodities through the Sault Tribe USDA Food Program, call 635-6076.

Have a question about tribal services or don't know how to reach a department or employee? Call Sault Tribe administration at 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660, or Kewadin Casino at 632-0530 or (800) KEWADIN.

# Constitutional assembly carries on with work



**CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

The constitutional review assembly is up and under way. Thanks go first to Chairperson Aaron Payment, who — through the Elders Advisory Committee — brought the completed draft document off the shelf and onto the table for review. It was long overdue.

The hard work and effort of the original Constitutional Committee deserves to be acknowledged. Much thought and heartfelt effort was invested by the original drafters of the document. It is apparent that they strove to perfect a document that would provide constitutional protections for tribal citizens, a separation of powers between the respective branches of government and honor to our traditional ways of governing. A belated miigwech for the fruits of your labor.

And now, for the first time ever, we have begun a formal, open and transparent review of the draft. Again, miigwech to

our Elder Advisory Committee, Elder Sub-Committee, original Constitution Committee and tribal public citizens who have devoted considerable time to comb through the document, line by line, and offer comment.

No “actions” have taken place, other than a “consent of the assembly” to “move on” from one section to the next, after all input has been recorded. It has been a very productive and open dialog. Very refreshing. The process is moving slower than some would like, but it’s necessary in order to be thorough and to allow all voices to be heard. It gives me hope that a good outcome will unfold.

And, a special “thank you” to staff facilitator Angeline Boulley and transcriber Cheri Goetz. Both have done an outstanding job of keeping the discourse respectful, meaningful and productive. Tribal member Tom Biron has lent his media production talents to the process and has live streamed every meeting for real time viewing on the Internet (you can find a link to his site TOSSABCS2 on our website: saulttribe.com). The assembly will reconvene on Jan. 7, 8 and 9, 2013.

## **An unfortunate incident**

I don’t enjoy having to report on a recent incident that occurred at the tribal board level. However, the chairperson used his large mailing list to engage tribal citizens in a “call for input.” Therefore, I feel compelled to address the situa-

tion:

One of the board’s “rights and responsibilities” per Tribal Code, is to confirm the selection of key executive employment positions. At the Nov. 20 meeting held in Marquette, the board, on a 10-2 vote, did not confirm a particular candidate for a key position. Various reasons were expressed for not confirming this candidate, but the vote speaks for itself.

The chairperson took exception with the board’s decision not to confirm this candidate and promptly (Nov. 21) called for a “special board meeting” with one item on the special meeting agenda: “Rescind Delegated Authority to the Chairperson.”

Let me say right here — no one, not one board member, expressed any such idea of rescinding the authority we conveyed to the chairperson at the commencement of his administration. There is no truth to that idea even being talked about. The “special meeting” to consider rescinding the authority of the chairperson was simply a poorly conceived over-reaction of the chairperson, in response to the board’s decision not to confirm the candidate he desired for a key executive position. And the chairperson admitted as much (and apologized) and issued an order to cancel the special meeting (Nov. 24). He also informed us he would not be available to attend.

Herein was the problem with cancelling the meeting: We have

written tribal law that specifies how we enact and conduct duly noticed special board meetings. The question posed: Within tribal law, under what authority can a “special meeting” be canceled or postponed? The long and short answer is: 1.) In the event of extreme emergency (weather, fire, etc.) “If the Chair believes that proceeding with the meeting would be dangerous to those present,” or, 2.) The authority of the chairperson to cancel a meeting if there is an absence of a quorum (though this is accomplished at the meeting itself by the chair calling for a motion after determining that a quorum is not present). So now we had a conundrum.

If the chairperson had seen fit to show up at the special meeting he called for, he could have dispensed of the whole mess he created: by cancelling for lack of quorum (only a handful of board members attended at the duly noticed time). That way, we could have respected the “rule of law” and been done with it. The chairperson argued that there was “precedence” for cancelling the meeting (“It’s been done before”). In the time I have served on the board of directors, no such thing has been done. Nor were any concrete instances brought forward to support that statement. Nor do I plan to “set precedence” by disregarding the “rule of law.”

And, I wouldn’t spend time reporting on this unfortunate

incident except for the way the chairperson did see fit to spend his time by sending a message to his vast tribal email list, implying some eminent threat to his delegated authorities. The message was a call to action offering a false choice between “Cancel the Meeting — or — Revoke Chairperson Authority !?” Needless to say, over 100 tribal members were alarmed enough to respond in writing, urging the board not to take away the chairperson’s authorities. Now that’s what I call the height of manipulation.

The real irony is this whole incident occurred in the shadow of the ongoing constitutional review assembly. So maybe it’s a good reminder to all of us that neither the current Constitution nor the draft Constitution are worth the paper they are written on if we are willing to disregard and ignore the rule of law when it’s inconvenient.

I want to end by wishing everyone a blessed holiday season to you and your families, our workforce, communities and our tribal nation. I am hopeful that 2013 will bring us many blessings. We have a bright and able chairperson and, although he may not realize it, he has a board that supports him to get good things done (with a healthy respect for checks and balances).

This is the season to pray and celebrate good tidings and remember to show our love to one another. Merry Christmas, everyone!

# Learning about the Affordable Care Act and us



**CATHY ABRAMSON, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT I**

Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

It’s been an extremely busy month for me. On Nov. 7, our tribe hosted a United Tribes of Michigan special meeting regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Mim Dixon, who is the nation’s expert on the ACA was there to explain and answer questions. I am happy to say that this was the largest United Tribes of Michigan meeting as many tribal leaders and their health, legal and billings staff were in attendance. Everyone in attendance was very impressed with the information provided and the hospitality shown to them. I would like to take this time to thank our chairperson, Aaron Payment, for his

cooperation and assistance in planning and complementing this important meeting. Miigwech to directors Pine and McLeod, and to Peggy Hemengway and Keith Smith, for helping to cook our traditional feast we provided to our fellow Anishinaabeg neighbors. Chi miigwech to our Kewadin Casino staff who outdid themselves in preparing our foods, our meeting room, and our services. Outstanding!

The outcome of this meeting will hopefully help all tribes in Michigan to understand the changes that the ACA will bring to our Anishinaabeg.

On behalf of our tribal chair-

person, I attended a meeting with Dr. Dave Zinley and Dr. Saliya in regards to establishing and promoting our internship program for our tribe in partnership with Lake Superior State University. A workshop presentation to the tribal board will be planned after the new year. Our chairperson plans to meet with LSSU’s president and provost for more detailed conversations. I support this effort and look forward to working with LSSU.

At this time, I am attending a quarterly National Indian Health Board meeting and will soon travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with President Obama as a

member of Secretary Sebelius’ Tribal Advisory Committee. I have the opportunity to join Chairperson Payment in meeting our president. We have an extremely busy schedule while in D.C. and I will report our activities next month in my next unit report.

Until then, I wish you all a joyous Christmas and I hope to see you at the New Year’s Eve Powwow. Cheers to you and your family and remember, “Jesus is the reason for the season!”

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at cabramson@saulttribe.net or call me at (906) 322-3823.

# Board activities update and holiday wishes



**JOAN (CARR) ANDERSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V**

As a board member, I can tell you we have all been on the road again, busy traveling to every unit. It has been pretty hectic with our out-of-control scheduling. It has been hard to get to all our local meetings because we make our plans and then they have been canceled or changed. So members, be patient with all of us until we get some kind of system in place.

Update on some issues that have been started and are being worked on — Wage reviews, Constitution, insurance and enrollment. A lot of our time has been working on the Affordable Care Act. We wrote a resolution

called Ad Hoc Health Assess Exploratory Group where we will analyze, determine feasibility and recommend opportunities and expansions for health access revitalization to areas such as Escanaba, Marquette, Kinross and DeTour. Also, after hour clinic access in partnership with St. Ignace and Marquette, with additional areas to identify. The group we are going to have working on this is made up of board members from all units, so I will be the one from Unit V. I am looking forward to this and I need your input on some of your needs.

Another resolution put into

place was the development and implementation of a tribal action program for treatment programs. Such concerns will be alcoholism and other substance abuse. I really feel treatment and help with substance abuse in communities is necessary for our members.

Also, we are working on all of our properties in and around the areas that we are trying to get into trust. One example in the Unit V area is the Knotty Pine property that just went into trust; this is the Christmas Casino parking lot. Another property we are waiting on in Unit V is the Lincoln School. So this is great news for our area.

On the 2 percent monies, the check should be mailed out by the time you read this report. I tried to do my best, again and gave to school academics, outreach programs, food pantries, elders programs and other requests from all Unit V areas.

So I will leave you all by saying, “’Tis the season for giving and forgiving.” This is what Christmas is all about. Remember, don’t forget who you are and where you came from as we are all the same.

Keep the emails and phone calls coming.

Sincerely,

Joan Carr Anderson

# Setting record straight on constitution meetings



**DARCY MORROW, DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

During the month of November, I spent 184 hours combined on the road and attending meetings, this time does not include constituent phone calls, emails or reading material.

On Nov. 1, myself and directors Chase and Sorenson drove to Lansing to see the chairperson sign for our Lansing purchase of a parcel adjacent to the Lansing Center at Michigan Avenue and Larch. The agreement between the city and tribe is for the tribe to close on the other two parcels of land over time, assuming all approvals for the project are secured.

This is a great accomplishment for our tribe with the revenue of this facility we will be able to bring back services that have been either decreased or eliminated all together. Such as

the funeral fund that went from \$3,000 and no income guideline to \$1,000 with income guidelines, community/health centers eliminated in Escanaba and Marquette areas; elders' checks decreased significantly and sports sponsorships for children eliminated. These are some at the top of my priority list as a board member!

## **Constitution ad hoc committee:**

I would like to let you know what has happened so far during the Constitution meetings but, before I do, I need to set the record straight on an attendance record some are taking. The issue of having these sessions taped was discussed it was decided taping would be done by the tribe's entertainment department.

The day of the first meeting they had individuals taping the session and also a live feed being broadcasted. Some elders and staff had issues with themselves being taped. They made a request to the mediator and chairman that they not be taped by outside individuals or broadcasted. One elder who had an issue was the chairman of the original Constitution Committee. He left that day and has not returned, how terrible to lose such knowledge. Staff felt intimidated that if they spoke for or against it may reflect in their jobs. So, after a vote was done and the live feed and individual taping was able to continue, me

along with a few others stepped outside the room. I was able to talk to the elders and staff, they informed me that the tribe paid to have a study done by Anderson Tackman on the financial impact of this document, which I have still not seen to this day.

Directors Chase, Anderson, Sorenson and I were back into the room just as they were starting the document review. I have no problem with myself being taped as a seated official, but out of RESPECT for our elders and staff that made requests, things could have been handled differently. I know how staff can be intimidated by politics. I was an employee for 20 years and I have seen first hand how team members are treated when they aren't on the right side of politics. I have always supported Chairman Payment and I lost my job in November of 2008 after the election.

The review is being done by this committee. Unfortunately, we are under represented from the western end. Currently, we have five members from the original committee, which started with 29 members. With people having to work, gas prices, etc., we understand everyone can't attend, but the tribe should be willing to bring this document out to other areas for membership's input. After the ad hoc committee and board's review it should be

brought out to the membership so we are all comfortable with this document and it is right for our next generations.

## **Resolutions:**

At the Escanaba board meeting, Director Chase, myself, and Chairman Payment presented an efficiency resolution to have an efficiency expert come in and go through our whole organization. This was approved by the board. This is long overdue with the size of our tribal operations. I am sure we will get some good advice from these experts and we will start to see the tribe become more efficient. With the economy seeing the impact, we also see the impact, and if there are areas we can make more efficient, then why wouldn't we do it for the betterment of the tribe?

Director Chase, myself and Chairman Payment also presented a resolution at the Marquette meeting to start the health staff to work on establishing and renewing services that were taken in 2008 from Escanaba and Marquette for no reason. This resolution also has the health staff looking at renewing services in other areas that were removed as well as looking at after hour care services in Manistique, Marquette, Escanaba and St. Ignace. This was approved by the board.

Director Chase has continued since 2008 to work on putting

these much needed services back into Escanaba and Marquette. Director Chase and I both know what a detriment this was to our tribal communities when these centers were closed down and we will continue to work on providing the members with much needed services.

## **Special meeting:**

The chairman called a special meeting for Nov. 26 and on the agenda was a resolution to "Rescind Resolution 2012-146 Limited Delegation of Authority to the Chairperson." The chairman ended up canceling the meeting. I did not support this resolution, nor did I think we needed to have a special meeting about it.

I used to hear people complaining that most board members were automatic "yes men." I hope people are seeing that the days of bobble head board members are gone. Unfortunately now, if you don't vote a certain way, then you are against someone. The days of dictators are over, we have a democratic board and I for one use that vote for the good of the membership. They are my agenda.

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Thank you,  
Darcy Morrow  
Cell: (906) 203-6699  
Email: DMorrow@saulttribe.net; P.O. Box 441  
Manistique, MI 49854

# Sorenson makes comprehensive unit report



**BRIDGETT SORENSON, DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

On Nov. 5, we had financial reviews and some interesting facts are we can hold 25 kids at a time in the Juvenile Detention Center, but the average is 12-14 kids per day. We budget for \$5,000 per powwow for areas in Hessel, Munising, St. Ignace, Manistique, Kinross, Sugar Island and Newberry. The Fourth of July powwow in the Sault is budgeted for \$50,000-\$55,000. We will need to replace all of our computers that are older than 2008 because we need to be off of XP by 2014.

On Nov. 5, I attended the Inland Hunting and Fishing Committee meeting. There were many issues discussed such as having problems with hunters not reporting a bear harvest within a 72-hour time frame. There was discussion on whether to issue fines or to affect future license opportunities. The committee has been working on guidelines for the youth hunting mentor program.

On Nov. 6, we had our work-

shop and meeting in Escanaba. Some of the local fisherman came to voice their opinions on some of the fines and treatment they have experienced with law enforcement and tribal court. It seems that not everyone is being held to the same standard. At the meeting Director Chase brought it forward to approve for up to \$5,000 to be used for meals, travel and hotel rooms for members of the ad hoc committee (past Constitution Committee members, Elders Advisory Committee and the board) that are reviewing the proposed constitution for Nov. 8, 9 and 10 in the Sault.

On Nov. 8, the United Tribes of Michigan held a meeting in the Sault to discuss the possible sequestration and Obama Care. There was a great turnout from many area tribes.

On Nov. 8 and 29, our tribal Action Plan Advisory Board met and we are moving forward with volunteers being trained on conducting focus groups. In January or February, we will be coming into communities to have focus groups to learn about additions and how they are affecting our communities and what we can do to combat the issues.

On Nov. 9, we had our first day of our ad hoc constitution review committee meeting. It did not go well because not all were in agreement for the review to be live streamed and video taped to be aired on the Sault Tribe Guide website when we already had the tribe's entertainment department recording it. There were committee members, the Constitution Committee chairman and four board members,

including myself, who walked out of the meeting. We were not afraid of being recorded as we are used to this during our meetings, but we felt that it was not fair to some employees or committee members to possibly be scrutinized for what their opinions may have been. I was very disappointed that we did not respect our elder, John Causley Jr., who was the chairman of the Constitution Committee, when he stood and stated he did not want to be taped. The other argument was that if the tribe records it, it is the property of the tribe not for individuals to do whatever they want to with it. The four board members did return after lunch to take part in the actual start of the review.

On Nov. 10, I did not attend the review as planned and attended my son's hockey games in Cheboygan.

On Nov. 11, I attended for 2.5 hours in between my son's hockey games in the Sault.

On Nov. 9, we had a conference call with other tribes and a representative of the governor's office to discuss the wolf hunting proposed legislation. The tribes feel it is a violation of our Consent Decree and the state did not allow the tribes to testify, only the DNR. The tribes are continuing to pressure the state into stopping the wolf hunt.

On Nov. 13, we had a workshop in which we discussed ways of changing long term allocation of 2 percent funds for 2013. This will be a long process because each unit fights for its own share of the funds for their communities.

On Nov. 20, we held our workshop and meeting in Marquette and voted to purchase 71 acres with a newly constructed building in Huron Township in the vicinity of the Detroit Metro Airport.

On Nov. 26-28, we had our second set of Constitution review meetings. We had a lesser turn out than the initial review. The meeting was live streamed and also video taped by the tribe. Out of the six days we have met so far, we have only been able to get through six pages of the proposed 22-page document. We will be meeting again Jan. 7-9 from noon to 8 p.m. at the Sault casino. We need to make sure we don't make the document too restrictive.

On Nov. 27, we had a workshop and had a presentation from DeVere Construction as a possible mentor under the 8(a) status mentor program. The mentor program is a nine-year program and it is divided into development and transitional stages. Terri Fitzpatrick, vice president of the Tribal Business Development of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation also gave a presentation of her partnership with the tribes. This is an opportunity the tribe needs to capitalize on.

On Nov. 28, I attended a Native American Housing and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) training. The act was signed into law in 1996 and provides tribes with block grant dollars. The primary objectives of the program are to assist and promote affordable housing, give better access to mortgage markets, promote self-sufficiency, plan and integrate infrastructure

and to promote the private capital markets. Our block grant is \$4.7 million for 2013. This was an interesting training and we are a very fortunate tribe to be able to access such grants.

In closing, I would like to say that I realize that there needs to be amendments made to our current Constitution, but I would like to see us prioritize our needs as a tribe. Business should be one of our top priorities as we use the revenue for programs and services. I wish we would spend as much time and effort on this area as we are dedicating to the proposed Constitution. Hope everyone has safe and happy holidays!

If you have concerns, please email bsorenson@saulttribe.net, or call (906) 643-2123 (office) or 430-0536 (cell).

## **NEW USFS OFFICE**

The U.S. Forest Service has a new service desk at the USDA Service Center office at 2847 Ashmun St. in Sault Ste. Marie. A Forest Service rep will normally be available at the desk or by phone Monday—Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In the event that staff is unavailable due to illness, field work or other unforeseen circumstances, self-serve information will be available. Services normally available will include such things as recreation information and firewood permits.

The phone number is 635-5311. Customers are encouraged to call ahead with specific needs.

# Updates: tribal action plan, health services



**LANA CAUSLEY, DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

We are moving forward on our tribe's Tribal Action Plan for drug assessment and a tribal-wide plan to combat the problem. I've written about this many times in past reports and many families suffered and remain suffering. I'm very happy to post the below resolution that the board of directors recently passed to officially organize, hold attendees responsible to attend and complete objectives.

In the text, you'll see that a representative from each of our tribe's departments SHALL attend as well as a member of the board from each unit (if a member cannot make it, they MUST send a delegate). As stated in the past, we must have all decision makers and muscle at the table to be serious and consistent on this project.

I'm so grateful to the staff, community members and board members who have taken this to a level of law per a resolution. We now can schedule and attend community meetings in all areas to have your input and involvement with the task, the group has scheduled a plan to hold the community forums February through April, with focus groups for our service providers and team members in December. I have received emails and calls about this and please keep them coming. We will be placing all public meetings on our Sault Tribe website (saulttribe.com) as well as posting in tribal centers. Once again, we have great professionals from Fox Valley assisting. I would like to recognize our tribal court staff on securing that funding. It's a solid start and I'm grateful its law to recognize and implement real plans and goals to accomplish.

Here is the full text of the resolution:

To Develop and Implement a Tribal Action Plan for a Comprehensive Prevention and Treatment Program for Alcoholism and other Substance Abuse

"WHEREAS, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, 25 U.S.C. 467 et seq; and

"WHEREAS, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe exercising full powers of self government, including comprehensive law enforcement and judicial services program; and

"WHEREAS, the Indian

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Act of 1986, as amended by the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, proclaims alcoholism, addiction, and alcohol and substance abuse are among the most severe public health and safety problems facing American Indian and Alaska Native individuals, families, and communities, resulting in devastating social, economic, physical, mental and spiritual consequences, and

"WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs officials publicly acknowledge that alcohol and substance abuse among Indians is the most serious health and social problem facing Indian people, and

"WHEREAS, Congress declared that the Federal government has a historical relationship and unique legal and moral responsibilities which include the treaty, statutory, and historical obligation to assist Indian Tribes to meet the health and social needs of their members, and

"WHEREAS, Congress declared that Indian Tribes have the primary responsibility for protecting and ensuring the well-being of their members and are providing resources to assist Indian Tribes in meeting that responsibility, and

"WHEREAS, the Tribe finds that alcoholism and other substance abuse is a threat to our Tribe, affecting the physical, mental, social spiritual, and economic wellbeing of Tribal members and other Indians living within the Tribal jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, the Tribe elects to join the Federal government to combat the damaging effects of alcoholism and other substance abuse, and to recognize the intent of the Memorandum of Agreement, and

"WHEREAS, the purpose of the Tribal Action Plan shall be to coordinate a comprehensive prevention and treatment program for alcoholism and other substance abuse and will include not only existing resources, but will identify the additional resources necessary to combat these problems, and

"WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have identified major areas of common interest in health promotion and disease prevention as youth alcohol and drug abuse, nutrition, curricula development for health promotion and disease prevention, training for community health representatives, health aides, Tribal judges, law enforcement personnel, education and social service personnel, youth suicide, child abuse and neglect, teen pregnancy, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribe endorses the establishment of a Tribal Action Plan Advisory Board and designates the following positions on the Advisory Board: the Tribal Chairperson, three (3) members of the Board of Directors, the Chief Judge, the Chief of Police, the Director of

Sault Tribe Behavioral Health, the ACFS Division Director, the Housing Director, the Tribal Prosecutor, the Court Administrator/Magistrate, the Specialty Court Coordinator, the Health Division Director, a community representative, a representative from the Cultural Department, the Assistant Membership/Internal Services Executive Director, a Human Resources Manager, the Elder Services Division Director, a representative from Youth Education and Activities; and a representative from Planning and Development.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Tribal Action Plan Advisory Board is provided full Board of Directors' support to work with the assistance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Agency and Bureau of Indian Education where appropriate, and the Indian Health Service, the Office of Justice Programs, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, as those agencies are mandated by the Tribal Law and Order Act in fulfilling the Advisory Board's mission; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Tribe recognizes the importance of an active Board in developing and implementing the Tribal Action Plan and requires that all members of the Board prioritize their role on the Advisory Board and make every effort to attend all scheduled meetings and trainings, and only in the event that they cannot attend, send a designee on behalf of their department/agency; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Tribal Action Plan Advisory Board is provided full Board of Directors support with the authority to develop and implement a Tribal Action Plan; have the responsibility for on-going review and evaluation of, and making recommendations to the Tribe relating to the Tribal Action Plan; have the responsibility for scheduling Federal, Tribal, or other personnel for training in the prevention and treatment of alcohol and substance abuse among Indians; to identify and address problems that arise concerning service coordination; and incorporate minimum standards for this program and services which it encompasses, and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Tribe charges the Tribal Action Plan Advisory Board to prioritize services to Indian youth in the development of the Tribal Action Plan; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Tribe has prioritized alcoholism and substance abuse prevention and treatment as a primary issue to deal with, and has directed that a comprehensive program in compliance with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, P.L. 99-570, be developed to address the needs of Tribal members and other Indians living within the Tribal jurisdiction."

At the November board meeting we also hired an executive director for our tribe, Christine

McPherson. Christine is a tribal member who has worked for our tribe many years. As the past ACFS director, she was instrumental in the creation of our Binogii Placement Agency and helped establish many of the programs we have in place now. She's fair, understanding and approachable for our members but she is also tough so the funding sources can't bully her and neither can the board of directors. I'm happy she was selected and look forward to her continued work for our members.

We held two three-day work sessions on the constitution. It seems the process is to go over the complete document again and those attending are making changes as discussed by the attendees. I have not made all the sessions but plan to attend as much as possible. Unit II has two dedicated elders from our sub-committee groups attending, "thank you" to them. They have an opportunity to see and explain their position on it. Last time the board was not to get involved whatsoever, this time, board members are changing items completely.

As always, I'm supportive of making amendments to our constitution, that way we all understand the specific change and we vote as a tribe on each one. I'm not clear as to where this process will take us and if it's a completely new document again, please read carefully once it's complete. Keep calling me on your thoughts about this; it's a crucial item for our tribe as a whole and I'm treading lightly to represent our members and concerns on both paths for the project. We need changes but not all members want a completely different document, but changes are needed and I support making those. I have been discussing the separation of powers with an attorney who is a member of our tribe but is not employed by the tribe. Together, we are discussing the creation of legislation that would separate the board

of directors from the court; this would be a start and one of the priority changes needed and that I hear about the most from members. A good solid plan will be forthcoming and on the table for the board's discussion, review and input.

We have discussed, and I'm happy to report, we are truly seeking and coming up with a plan to reinstate health services to those who live in the outlying areas. We passed a law that puts a deadline on bringing back information and stats on the plan to have those services again. Both Director Hollowell and I will be at the table to be part of this and the deadline for a full board detailed presentation is scheduled for April 2013 — this gives the department plenty of time to secure existing funds and make the arguments that those living in the out lying units NEED services in those areas. This will be a priority on my agenda until we see the services back in our Units II, IV and V.

Well, Christmas time is here. Our children's Christmas parties were scheduled for Dec. 8 (Hessel, DeTour), Dec. 11 (Newberry) and Dec.15 (Engadine). The ladies and families who organize these put their hearts into making them special for our youth, so please thank them in your communities. The chairs for the community parties are Lisa Burnside, Marylynn McCarthy, Michelle Derusha, Lois Bryant and Shirley Kowalke. Miigwech!

In closing I would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas time with your families; I'm so grateful for mine. My girls are healthy, happy and full of spirit. I can't ask for anything else! Remember and pray for our active and retired veterans and pay close attention to all those 'lil Christmas miracles because they happen every day. Merry Christmas!

Baamaapii, Lana Causley  
(906) 484-2954 (home)  
(906) 322-3818 (cell)  
lcausley@saulttribe

## Merry Christmas and happy New Year!



**DENNIS MCKELVIE, DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

I would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and happy New Year! I have been busying myself with Christmas business and do not have much to report but wanted to say that we will have a good finish to 2012. I am looking forward to a new year working for the good of all tribal members.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank You,  
Dennis McKelvie  
DMcKelvie@saulttribe.net  
(H) (906) 632-7267  
(C) (906) 203-6698

# Working to get west end health offices opened



**DENISE CHASE, DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

An ongoing issue for our unit has been the closing of the Escanaba Tribal Health Center and the Marquette office. They were both closed down in 2008. There was no financial reason for those centers to be closed down.

Since Chairman Payment took office, I have been consistently pushing this issue forward. Directors Morrow and Carr-Anderson have also voiced their support to re-establish those services. Director Morrow, myself and Chairman Payment met with Bonnie Culfa, health director, and Marlene Glaesmann, rural health director, and had discussion on this issue. Myself and Darcy were already working on a resolution to support this.

After our meeting, myself, Director Morrow and Chairman Payment presented a resolution to set up a committee to work on putting back in place the services that were cut in 2008. Following is the exact resolution passed and the individuals appointed to the ad hoc health access exploratory group:

“Establish Ad Hoc Health Access Exploratory Group

“WHEREAS, health access for Tribal Members is of critical

importance and has been consistently rated as one of the top three priorities for the Tribe; and

“WHEREAS, the health division team has been phenomenally successful in virtually eliminating the need for “tribal support” revenues by accessing grants and increasing “third party” revenues, thereby demonstrating the self-sufficiency of operations; and

“WHEREAS, the United States Affordable Care Act of 2010, provides many new opportunities for Tribes to expand health access through innovative and entrepreneurial efforts.

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby directs the creation of an Adhoc Health Access Exploratory Group to analyze, determine feasibility, and recommend opportunities for health access revitalization and/or expansion in the geographic areas of: Escanaba, Marquette, Kinross, DeTour, and after hour clinic access in partnerships in St. Ignace, Marquette, and additional areas to be identified.

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following individuals from the Tribe’s governing board are hereby appointed to the Adhoc Health Access Exploratory Group:

“Tribal Chairperson: Aaron A. Payment

“Unit 1: Cathy Abramson

“Unit 1: Debra Pine

“Unit 2:

“Unit 3:

“Unit 4: Denise Chase

“Unit 5: Joan Carr-Anderson

“...and the following health division team members are also appointed: Bonnie Culfa, Health Division Director; Rebecca Werner MD, Medical Director; Krysta Hinman OD, Director of Optemtry; Tony Abramson, STHC Clinic Manager; Marlene

Glaesmann, Rural Health Clinic Manager; Bruce Anderson, DDS; and Jackie McLean, Health Care Administrator/Business Office Manager; Joel Lumsden, Operations Manager; and Dan Frye, Health Division Data Analyst.

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Adhoc Health Access Exploratory Group is hereby directed to report back to the Tribal Board of Directors preliminary findings by April 30, 2013 and with final recommendations made by May 30, 2013.

“BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Adhoc Health Access Exploratory Group shall also evaluate and bring back a recommendation for the creation of an autonomous Tribally Designated Health Entity patterned after the Tribal Housing Commission.”

Another resolution that myself, Director Morrow and Chairman Payment brought forward was to hire an outside independent efficiency auditor. I feel this will be a great tool for the tribe, to receive a list of recommendations for improving efficiencies in our organization. In fact, it would have been valuable to have this done prior to the 2008 cuts.

Following is the resolution that was passed. We will update you in the future of the finding and recommendations:

“Efficiency Auditor

“WHEREAS, the Sault Ste. Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors have a responsibility to the Membership to run an efficient and profitable operation to provide services.

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes Chairperson Aaron A. Payment, William Connelly, CFO, Angeline Boulley, Asst. Membership/

Internal Services Executive Director, & John Wernet, General Counsel to hire an outside independent Efficiency Auditor with experience working with casinos, enterprises, and all subordinate governmental programs, services and operations.

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the above said efficiency auditor will provide the Sault Tribe Board of Directors with a list of recommendations for improving efficiencies.

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors shall review and act on the list of identified recommendations for improving efficiencies.”

Fall 2 percent applications:

Director Morrow and myself reviewed the fall 2 percent short term applications and selected a variety of projects throughout our unit. Unfortunately we had only \$68,061 to distribute.

Some of the projects approved were substance abuse prevention and education, Christmas giving baskets program, hospital equipment, welcome newborn programs, Title VII public schools programs, cultural awareness programs, tutoring programs, cultural enhancement presentations, field trips/school supplies, feast meals/guest speakers, school community garden, teaching mini powwows, community meeting space, tutoring and activity space, college days/career planning, after school tutoring lab, senior class honor ceremony, honorariums for community teachers/elders and regalia/students.

Our unit has always supported the schools Title VII project 2 percent applications.

I know each of the Title VII school coordinators in our unit do a great job with the students. I hear a lot of good feedback from parents and the youth on the vari-

ous cultural and education programs they provide.

The board will be reviewing the long term 2 percent, we had discussion at the recent workshop on this issue. There are some long term 2 percent commitments expiring and its time for a discussion on how to fairly divide the long term 2 percent funds among the five units, so we all get a fair slice of the pie. We can do a lot more with the long term funding being fairly divided among the units. It would be good to be able to fund more projects or be able to do increases to some of the school programs, if funding permits. I look forward to this discussion in the near future and will update you on the results.

As you all know, we are moving forward with the Lansing casino project. The revenue generated by the Lansing casino will be used to increase direct services to our members and improve health access, health care, education benefits, allow us to put back in services and programs that were cut or reduced in '08, like elders' checks, funeral assistance, youth sports sponsorship, \$50 Christmas gift card to elders, \$50 Christmas gift card to employees, etc.

We received a report from the Enrollment Department this year. In 2012, we will have 4,442 elders eligible for an elder's check and the numbers are growing each year. Over the next 15 years, our elders population will triple; by 2027 tribal elders 60 and over will be around 12,345. That's why it's so important that our revenue making projects be the board's top priority like the Lansing casino.

Thank you, have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, Denise Chase, Vice Chair, (906) 322-3819

# Members' needs should be tribe's top priority



**JENNIFER MCLEOD, DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Greetings, Anishinaabeg!

This unit report has been a difficult one for me to write. I sat and wondered what would I share with you this month? Certainly I've been busy. I have attended many, many meetings (some were quite heated). I've met with the elders, served on the Drug Court Committee, chaired the JKL Fiduciary Committee, attended board of directors workshops and meetings, Health and Housing trainings and spent days meeting over the “new Constitution.”

I've come to know and appreciate program directors and

staff, and have enjoyed the many opportunities I've had to chat with members wherever we happen to run into each other. I want to assure you that your board of directors is a good board. Although we do not always agree (which can be a good thing), I have found my fellow directors to be respectful, patient and helpful to me as a new board member. During the election campaign, I asked you to “put a teacher on the team!” Well, looking back over the past five months as a board member, I am here to say that THIS teacher is not satisfied.

As a professional educator, I've been trained to be “results oriented,” to prioritize and do first things first, to understand that meeting the needs of the students is the reason for my work. Now, however, instead of students, I serve tribal members. YOU are the reason for my work. Meeting YOUR needs comes first. In my humble opinion, we have spent much of the last five months meeting the needs of government, not the needs of the people. I am not saying that our government does not need work, I'm simply disagreeing with it being such a high priority right

now. Throughout my years as a teacher, one of the greatest skills I learned was to “reflect,” to look back at my activity, think about what took place and find a way to improve my teaching for the benefit of my students. I have applied these same concepts to my work as your Unit I director.

Truthfully, I have difficulty spending so much time and thousands of dollars on creating a new Constitution, when there are tribal families living in campers instead of warm, safe homes. I understand why we need constitutional change, I do. I helped author that document. However, I've already spent two years of volunteered weekends, the tribe has already spent over \$400,000 on it and we are still spending more! I understand the need, I've heard all about the corruption and abuses that occurred in the past, but looking at the time, money and energy that we are spending on re-writing our governing document, I have to ask, “What should come first, a new Constitution or emergency housing, a new Constitution or new businesses and jobs, a new Constitution or real pay raises for our employees?” I am not saying “no” to a new Constitution, but I

am saying it can wait.

We need to focus on what matters to our people. I think five months is more than enough time to “figure out” staffing in the administrator's office. I think five months is more than enough time to “hammer out budget issues.” I think two years, and \$400,000 (and growing) is more than enough time, money and other resources devoted to the Constitution, when we still have tribal members who need a safe place to live, who don't have enough to eat, who can't afford their medications and who are affected by drug, alcohol and other abuses.

I've said before that I am not a very good politician, especially when it means sitting in meetings that do not directly result in perpetuating our way of life or the welfare and prosperity of our people. I can't defend our actions when a tribal member tells me, “Look how far we've come with the old Constitution in 40 years. Leave the Constitution alone.” They raise a good point. I cannot agree to spend MORE time and money making our government better when our people are cold, hungry or sick. I can only speak for myself, but I know that I am

not the only director who feels this way.

I expect to receive some harsh criticism from those who are very “pro” Constitution, and that's okay, it's part of the job, right? But if you feel like I do, that people come first and government last, that we need to take care of even the most basic of human needs (food, clothing, shelter and health) before we fine-tune a government that has taken us from “dirt poor to casinos” in less than 40 years, speak out! Let me know, let the other unit directors know, let the chairman know! I do believe there needs to be some constitutional change, just not right now. **FIRST THINGS FIRST!** You have a good board of directors — let them know what you want them to do.

Miigwech niibowaa (Thank you very much), and I look forward to hearing from you,  
Jen  
(906) 440-9151  
Email at Jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com.

P.S. I wish all of you a safe and joyous holiday season, from my house to yours. Happy belated Thanksgiving, merry Christmas and happy New Year!



### Ojibwemowin pronunciation key

**SHORT VOWELS** (are said short, or quick)

/a/ = "uh" like u in up

/i/ = "ih" like i in sit

/o/ = "oh" like o in wrote

**LONG VOWELS** (twice as long, or just longer)

/aa/ = "ah" like a in father

/ii/ = "ee" like ee in keep

/oo/ = "oo" like o in nope


/e/ = "eh" like eh in get


**TIP:** As you read a word, look for syllables with (consonant+vowel) or (consonant+vowel+consonant) combinations, like: Babaa (About, around, here and there), ba + baa (buh + bah)

# Learning lesson for kids' morning routine


BY AMY MCCOY SAYER




ingii-agoodoon nibabiinzikawaagan 


ingii-anokii 



nigii-zagakinaan nibimiwinaan 


niwii-kanawaabandaan mazinaatesejigan 


niwii-izhaa agwajiing 



nigii-wiidookawaa awiiya

nigii-kiziibiiginaagane 

7:30 ingii-onaabandaanan onow:   
 nibewayaan    
 mazina'igan 

7:40 niGiziibiigazhe 

nigii-piisikaan ninibewayaan 

nigiziiyaabide'o    
 nigii-wiinisakwe'o 

Begish sa minobawaajigeyan!  XOXO

### From "Tax Exclusions," p. 26

guidelines that specify how individuals may qualify for the benefit;

(c) The benefit is available to any tribal member who satisfies the program guidelines;

(d) The distribution of benefits from the program does not discriminate in favor of members of the governing body of the tribe;

(e) The benefit is not compensation for services; and

(f) The benefit is not lavish or extravagant.

(2) Specific benefits. Benefits provided under the following programs are benefits described in this section 5.02(2).

(a) Housing programs. Programs relating to principal residences that:

(i) Assist in making mortgage or rent payments for residences on or near a reservation;

(ii) Enhance habitability of housing, such as by remedying water, sewage, sanitation service, or

(iii) Provide basic housing repairs or rehabilitation; and

(iv) Assist in paying utility bills and charges (such as water, electricity, and gas).

(b) Educational programs. Programs to:

(i) Provide students (including post-secondary students) transportation to and from school, tutors, and supplies (including clothing, backpacks, laptop computers, musical instruments, and sports equipment) for use in their studies;

(ii) Provide tuition payments for students (including allowances for room and board for the student, spouse, and dependents) to attend an accredited college or university, educational seminars, vocational education, technical education, adult education, continuing education, and alternative education; and

(iii) Provide job counseling and programs for which the primary objective is job placement or training, including allowances for:

(A) Expenses for interviewing or training away from home (such as travel, auto expenses, lodging, and food);

(B) Tutoring; and

(C) Necessary clothing for a job interview or training (for example, an interview suit or a uniform required during a period

of training).

(c) Elder and disabled programs. Programs for individuals who have attained age 55 or are disabled that provide:

(i) Meals through home-delivered meals programs or at a community center;

(ii) Home care such as assistance with preparing meals or doing chores, or day care outside the home;

(iii) Local transportation assistance;

(iv) Travel expenses for doctor appointments or other medical care;

(v) Transportation costs and admission fees to attend educational, social, or cultural programs offered by the tribe or another tribe; and

(vi) Improvements to adapt housing to special needs (such as grab bars and ramps).

(d) Other qualifying assistance programs. Programs to:

(i) Pay bus, taxi, or public transportation fares from the

Indian reservation to public facilities (such as medical facilities and grocery stores);

(ii) Pay for the cost of transportation and temporary meals and lodging of a tribal member, spouse, or dependent while the tribal member, spouse, or dependent is receiving medical care away from home;

(iii) Provide assistance to individuals in exigent circumstances (such as victims of abuse), including the costs of food, clothing, shelter, transportation, auto repair bills, and similar expenses;

(iv) Pay costs for temporary relocation and shelter for individuals displaced from their homes (for example, when a home is destroyed by a fire or natural disaster);

(v) Provide emergency assistance in the form of bus fare, a hotel room, or meals for an individual who is stranded off the Indian reservation; and

(vi) Provide or reimburse the

cost of nonprescription drugs.

(e) Cultural and religious programs. Programs to:

(i) Pay or reimburse travel expenses (transportation, food, and lodging) to attend an Indian tribe's cultural, social, or community activities such as powwows, ceremonies, and traditional dances;

(ii) Pay or reimburse travel expenses (transportation, food, and lodging) to visit other Indian reservations or sites that are culturally and historically significant for the tribe;

(iii) Pay or reimburse the costs of receiving instruction about an Indian tribe's culture, history, and traditions (for example, traditional language, music, and dances); and

(iv) Pay or reimburse funeral and burial expenses and expenses of hosting or attending wakes, funerals, burials, or similar bereavement events.

Benefits provided by a tribe that are presumed not to be

compensation for services.

Except as provided in this section 5.03, section 5.01 of this revenue procedure does not apply to benefits that are compensation for services. However, section 5.01(2) of this revenue procedure applies to benefits provided under an Indian tribal governmental program that are items of cultural significance (not lavish or extravagant) or nominal cash honoraria provided to medicine men or women, shamans, or similar religious or spiritual officials to recognize their participation in cultural, religious, and social events (for example, powwows, rite of passage ceremonies or funerals, wakes, burials or other bereavement events). The Service will conclusively presume that individual need is met for the tribal officials receiving these benefits and that the benefits do not represent compensation for services.

# Sault tribal artists show off wares downtown

PHOTOS BY JOSH HOMMINGA

Sault Tribe's Culture Department held its first tribal artisans show Nov. 24 in the tribe's office building in downtown Sault Ste. Marie. The building also houses the River of History Museum and the tribe's Culture Department and Library. Numerous artisans turned out not only to sell their art but demonstrate it.



Marsha Nolan-Ailing demonstrates her beadwork. She also had on display her hand made necklaces, chokers, dreamcatchers and leatherwork. Shawn Payment (left) was making a necklace and had rawhide rattles for sale.



Cathy DeVoy shows of her handmade wreaths while her daughter Luci demonstrates jewelry making.



Lori McDonald and her son, Scott Franklin, display their work, Franklin munching on the frybread that was available at the event along with other favorite foods.



Jane Homminga had on display a number of jewelry items made from glass seed beads, turquoise, bone, metal beads and leather.



Bernadette Azevedo demonstrating how to make a black ash basket.



Tribal artisans turned out in force to display their arts in a plethora of mediums — beads, wood, sweetgrass, black ash, on canvass — there was no lack of talent and creativity.



Cathy Boling selling her hand made crafts. Here she demonstrates dreamcatchers.



# ENTERTAINMENT

DreamMakers Theater + Sault Ste. Marie, MI

1-800-KEWADIN | kewadin.com

## QUEENSRÛCHE

Saturday, January 12

at 7:00 p.m.



### DECEMBER

#### Urban Myth Band

31st | 9 p.m. | Monday, New Year's Eve

FREE SHOW

### JANUARY

#### Queensrÿche

12th | 7 p.m. | Saturday | \$32.50, \$28.50

On Sale Now

#### Oak Ridge Boys

25th | 7 p.m. | Friday | \$38.50, \$35.00

On Sale Now



## OAK RIDGE BOYS

Friday, January 25

at 7:00 p.m.

MANISTIQUE · ST. IGNACE · HESSEL · SAULT <sup>DE</sup>MARIE · CHRISTMAS