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WIN AWENEN NISITOTUNG

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

Sault Tribe members rally in support of Idle No More

By RICK SMITH

Four women in Saskatchewan sparked a grassroots movement of demonstrations, flash mobs, circle dances and other functions beginning last November in support of the sovereign rights of American Indian governments of Canada, commonly called the First Nations. Aided by modern electronic communications gadgetry and networks, the Idle No More movement formed on Dec. 10 and soon engulfed the rest of the country, spilled into the United States and Central America, jumped to the European, African, Asian and Australian continents as well as the isolated country of New Zealand. And the movement continues to gain momentum.

The phenomenon is a response to what Idle No More advocates describe as, essentially, the appearance of the Canadian federal government having severed diplomatic ties with the First Nations while several legislative bills that contradict treaty rights

are under consideration.

The movement hit the cold, darkened streets of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on the evening of Dec. 27 through Sault Tribe members who took up the cause, joined by folks from the Bay Mills Indian Community in addition to the Garden River Indian Reservation and Batchewana First Nation, both of Ontario.

About 70 to 80 people gathered in the Sault Tribe Cultural Learning Center and Library in downtown Sault Ste. Marie before filing outside to brandish signs, staffs and flags while others sang and danced in accompaniment to hand drums in front of the Sault Tribe administration buildings.

According to the organization's blog at idlenomore1.blogspot.com, Idle No More began with four women, Sylvia McAdam, Jess Gordon, Nina Wilson and Sheelah McLean, began raising awareness about Bill C 45 at events in Saskatoon, Regina and



Photo by Rick Smith

Anishinaabeg from both sides of the St. Marys River rallied in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Dec. 27. Batchewana First Nation Chief Dean Sayers, right, speaks on the what the movement means for all the First Nations peoples. At press time, 10,000 individuals stood in solidarity outside Prime Minister Harper's office in Ottawa, refusing to enter, after Harper ignored their invitation to meet with them the morning of Jan. 11, according to Sayers.

Prince Albert. An omnibus budget bill, C 45 passed the Canadian Senate by a vote of 50-27 on Dec. 5. The bill includes proposals sig-

nificantly changing laws protecting Canadian tribal sovereignty in decisions on tribal land management, waterways, environment

fishery and the Indian Act, all without any consultation with Indian Country on the matters.

Don MacKenzie, director of Intergovernmental Affairs with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island, told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that the changes "go to the heart of aboriginal and treaty rights" and that the government is, essentially, trying to ram it through into law without hearing from the First Nations. The C 45 bill is one of several current and coming bills seen as threats to tribal sovereignty in Canada.

In addition to the Idle No More movement, Chief Theresa Spence of the Attawapiskat First Nation in northern Ontario continues a fast she started on Dec. 11. She vowed no end to her fast until either Prime Minister Stephen Harper agrees to meet with her and the leaders of other First Nations for discussions or until she dies.

See "Idle No More," page 17

Board approves market adjustments for underpaid

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors approved the allocation of the 3 percent grid adjustment budget at its last meeting of the year on Dec. 18. Sault Tribe employees underpaid for their positions will get a market-based adjustment to the starting level of their salary range, effective Jan. 1.

In 2011, Sault Tribe Human Resources introduced a new market-based compensation system to tribal governmental, casino and enterprise operations. Human Resource Manager Jennifer Mitchell, along with Compensation Specialist Brenda Kwiatkowski, said they want to thank the tribal board of directors for "being receptive to and moving forward with this process."

Mitchell added, "We would also like to thank executive management for their input and

guidance and Tribal employees for their patience during this process."

Human Resources introduced the new system to tribal employees, informing them of their new salary ranges based on national surveys, going from a minimum compensation for their position to a maximum for that position, according to Mitchell.

The ultimate goal of the new system is to get employees up to the midpoint of their range. But at the time of the switchover from the old system to the updated market-based system, it was found that many team members were being compensated below the minimum rate of pay for their line of work.

On Dec. 18, the board voted to use the allocated monies to get all team members up to their

minimum with a resolution that, in part, states, "...the distribution of the grid adjustments in FY 2013 will occur in such a manner as to bring team members identified as being compensated below the minimum rate of pay for the position that they occupy up to the minimum rate of pay for the position and these adjustments will be effective for the pay period including Jan. 1, 2013."

According to Mitchell, the range starts with "entry level" compensation. Mid-range is achieving "proficiency with acceptable job performance." Maximum level for a position is what one would be paid as an "expert" in that job.

A national survey of tribal government operations was used for tribal government while a national survey of the same types of enter-

prises and sales levels was used for tribal enterprises. A national survey was also conducted of Indian Gaming operations. The market data system that the tribe chose not only collects market data, but also has the ability to use a cost of living model that allows us to "compare apples with apples" Mitchell said.

As part of getting the market-based compensation system in place, supervisors and managers were asked to rewrite all job descriptions, more than 700 in all, to a standard format provided by Human Resources. All this led to the end of phase one, according to Mitchell.

Mitchell added that the "ultimate goal" is to employ as many tribal members as possible at the proper wage for their work. And, over time, market changes will

make changes to the minimum to maximum ranges for jobs.

Now, said Mitchell, the tribe is in the second phase of the process — developing how to move through the compensation range using performance, cost of living, or a combination of both. A plan will be developed and reviewed with the tribe's board of directors in the near future, she added.

Kwiatkowski added that the process is about more than just compensation, it's about the many pieces adding up to "total rewards." Benefits, time off, work environment, culture and employee recognition are some of those pieces.

"Value in the workplace — non-monetary things you can do to make people happy with their job is key to a successful company" said Kwiatkowski.

Human resource director sought

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has an opening for its Human Resource Director. This position is primarily located in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., with travel throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Sault Ste. Marie is a town of approximately 18,000 located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and boasts some of the country's best snowmobiling and skiing in the winter, and fishing and boating in the summer. With a four year University, the community offers plenty of extra-curricular activities, and is an outstanding location to raise children.

Position summary: Under the general policy level oversight of the tribal board of directors with operational supervision provided by the membership/internal

services executive director, performs a wide range of difficult to complex human resource (HR) administrative functions including oversight and direction of the HR Division. Exercises considerable independent judgment. Requires diverse, advanced knowledge and extensive experience related to HR management, governmental administration, gaming and economic development and management. Provides leadership and advice in the area of staffing, HR development, compensation, team member safety and health issues and employee relations.

Qualifications: Native American Preferred. A bachelor's degree in human resources and at least seven years of executive level HR management experience

required. Preferred qualifications include a master's degree in business or public administration, labor, industrial relations or human resources or a related field and at least five years of executive level management experience. Senior professional in human resources and/or tribal human resource professional certification desired. Upon hire, must work towards and obtain both certifications.

Salary is negotiable and will be commensurate with education and experience. For more information, please contact Sault Tribe Human Resources toll free at (866) 635-7032 or the Tribal Chairperson's office toll free at (800) 793-0660 or apply online at www.saulttribe.com.

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Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement

What is This About?

The *Cobell v. Salazar* Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

The final deadline if you need to file a claim form for the Trust Administration Class is March 1, 2013.

Am I Included?

The Trust Administration Class includes:

- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
 - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
 - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government's records as of September 30, 2009.

Do I Need to File a Claim Form?

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:

- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

You must fill out a claim form and mail it to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877, postmarked by **March 1, 2013** in order to receive a payment.

How Much Money Can I Get?

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least \$800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

For a claim form or to update your contact information:

Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109 or Visit: www.IndianTrust.com

Elders checks mailed Jan 4.

Tribal elders checks were issued by the Sault Tribe Accounting Department on Friday, Jan. 4. The checks are for \$553, of which \$536 is nontaxable and \$17 taxable. The \$17 could be taxable on an individual basis, so please consult your accountants and tax return preparers to be sure.

Any questions regarding the checks can be made to the Sault Tribe Accounting Department, (906) 635-6050.

Inland Committee opening

The Sault Tribe Inland Conservation Committee has one vacant seat. Interested tribal members should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from tribal members to Tara Benoit, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie. Please contact Tara at 635-6050 or tbenoit@saulttribe.net with any questions.

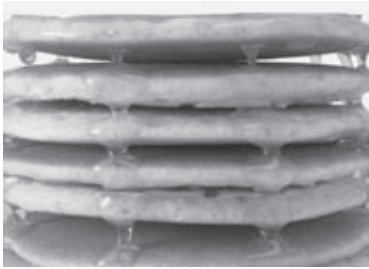
Beware of Cobell settlement scams

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Scams have arisen due to the recent authorization of Cobell v. Salazar Settlement payments. This class action lawsuit claimed the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments, approved in December, are underway.

Most of those affected by the settlement are members of federally recognized tribes west of the Mississippi River. Although possible, it is extremely unlikely a Sault Tribe member is a beneficiary. This settlement pertains not to tribes but to individual landowners for whom the federal government had a trust asset account, called an individual Indian money account. These accounts primarily contain money collected by the federal government from farming and grazing leases, timber sales, mining, oil and gas production, and other activities on trust land.

Scams have arisen over the settlement. Please do not respond to any letters, flyers, emails or phone calls to your home asking you to provide information for the settlement. These are scams to get your personal information and perhaps your bank account number or Social Security number.

However, if you believe that you may be part of this settlement or want more information, please contact the Indian Trust Settlement toll-free at (800) 961-6109, or email Info@IndianTrust.com.



Pancake supper slated for Feb. 12

Sault Tribe Unit I elders' annual pancake supper is scheduled at Nokomis-Mishomis Place at 2076 Shunk Road in the Sault on Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., offering pancakes, sausage, eggs and beverages. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids ages 5-12 and children under 5 are free.

Culture Dept. moves next door

The Sault Tribe Culture Department relocated from its perch in Sault downtown administration building to the place next door. Staff offices are behind the community learning center and across the hallway from the River of History Museum. Tribal members who want to meet with staff for personal reasons will have better access and privacy.

Phone numbers and email addresses remain the same, the address is now 531 Ashmun.

Membership liaisons on board

Three membership liaisons, all Sault Tribe members, have been hired to work with the chairperson's office on membership issues and concerns. The

job is complex, requiring knowledge of not only the tribe and its practices, but a great deal of administrative experience, the ability to work with data, and

reporting, and to organize special projects and events. They will also respond to and follow up on membership issues to ensure they are resolved.



Rita Glyptis covers Units IV and V, spending her time between the Manistique and Munising Tribal Centers. Although she is still setting up her office and phone, she can be reached by email at rglyptis@saulttribe.net.



Clarence Hudak will cover Units II and III. Until his office in the Lambert Center is ready, he can be reached at the Sault Tribe Administration Building in Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 635-6050, or chudak@saulttribe.net.



Jennifer Tadgerson will look after Unit I, and also function as Chairperson Aaron Payment's executive assistant. Tribal members may reach her at (906) 635-6050 or jtadgerson@saulttribe.net.



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See Sault Tribe's official website for news, information and jobs!

Soo Jr. Lakers Squirt AA 2012-13 Bridge Brawl champions

ST. IGNACE — The Soo Jr. Lakers (Woolver Blades) defeated the Kensington Valley Rebels 2-1 in overtime during the championship game at the Bridge Brawl Tournament in St. Ignace. The two teams battled during a 5-minute overtime period and had to settle the score in a three-player shootout. The Laker's goaltender, Trevor Renard, stopped all three Kensington shooters while the Laker's Dalton Graham scored on his shootout attempt for the game winning goal. Tyler Dunbar scored the lone goal during regulation for the Lakers.

The Lakers defeated the Lansing Spartans 6-1 during the semifinal game. Renard was the winning goaltender. The Lakers were lead by goals from Dunbar, Alec Armstrong, Elijah Clow, Kevin Smith, Jack Swan and Nick Gerrie.

During round robin play, the Lakers defeated the Northern Avalanche 15-2. Logan Raffaele was the winning goaltender. Smith led the team with seven goals. Gerrie, Dunbar, Clow, Dalton Graham, Kristofer Kritselis, Robbie Landis and Kasen Reffruschinni all chipped in a goal for the Lakers.

George's Auto Body was

defeated 11-1 by the Lakers in round robin play. Renard was the winning goaltender. The Lakers were led by a pair of goals from Smith, Reffruschinni and Graham. Swan, Kritselis, Dunbar, Noah McKechnie and Bazzil Moran rounded out the scoring.

The Kensington Valley Rebels handed the Lakers their only loss in round robin play with a score

of 6-2. Goals for the Lakers were scored by Dunbar and Moran. Goaltending duties were shared by Renard and Raffaele.

Roster: Trevor Renard (JKL Student), Kevin Smith (Sault Tribe Member, JKL Student), Kasen Reffruschinni (Sault Tribe Member, JKL Student), Elijah Clow, Bennette Swanson, Nick Gerrie (JKL Student), Tyler Dunbar, Jack Swan (Sault Tribe

Member, JKL Student), Kristofer Kritselis, Robbie Landis, Bazzil Moran (Sault Tribe Member, JKL Student), Dalton Graham (Sault Tribe Member, JKL Student), Noah McKechnie (Sault Tribe Member, JKL Student), Alec Armstrong and Logan Raffaele

Coaches: Al Dunbar, Kevin Smith, Stathi Kritselis, Rob Landis, Adam Raffaele and Tom Swanson



The Soo Jr. Lakers defeated the Kensington Valley Rebels 2-1 in overtime to win the Bridge Brawl Tournament in St. Ignace.

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

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

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Obama continues tribal nations conferences

By Rick Smith

President Barack Obama greeted hundreds of representatives from American Indian bands from across the country at the fourth annual White House Tribal Nations Conference on Dec. 5. While the conferences never became an issue during the last national election, no one could be certain the meetings would continue under a change in the presidency. Obama, however, pledged to build on his policy of working with Indian Country to foster strong sovereignty and self-determination among tribes. “Over the next four years,” he said, “as long as I have the privilege of serving as your president, we’re going to keep working together to make sure that the promise of America is fully realized for every Native American.”

The president paid homage to Sonny Black Eagle, a revered and recently deceased elder of the Crow Nation, who adopted Obama as an honorary Crow citizen during the 2008 campaign. Obama spoke about how Black Eagle knew the Crow ways and the ignorance and injustice visited upon him and his people by others, either through official misguided attempts of forced assimilation or encounters with the mean-spirited. He noted how Black Crow also saw how the U.S. government “turned the page on a troubled past and adopted a new policy toward Native Americans” to strengthen government-to-government relations and self-determination in Indian Country over the past 40 years.

Obama reflected on his administration’s accomplishments in changing or enacting several laws important to the needs of Indian Country and boosting the administration’s insight into tribal situations by including a number of staff American Indian advisors. He mentioned measures such as the passage of the Tribal Law and Order Act, the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act and the resolution of the long-standing Cobell case.

“These are all important steps,” he said. “But we’ve got more to do.”

There is hope for the future in Indian Country, too, because of its citizens, Obama noted. He cited a young man named Nick Tilsen from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. While the Pine Ridge is one of the poorest places in the United States with rampant unemployment, the president said a more promising statistic is found among the people there because Tilsen heads a non-profit and, with the support of some grants and other members of his tribe, built a community center that serves as a site for young and old to live healthier lives.

“So today,” Obama noted, “he’s building something bigger — a clean-energy community that will provide affordable housing for folks who need it and help more Lakota small businesses get off the ground.”

The United States and Indian Country must continue working together, said the president, in order to continue making progress now and into the future.

Prior to the president’s remarks, according to the official agenda, the tribal representatives heard from some of the administration’s Cabinet members. What follows are brief highlights of the remarks by those individuals:

Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar

Salazar highlighted some of the many accomplishments of the last four years by the administration in regards to Indian Country and noted the department’s intent keep up the momentum. A few of the accomplishments he mentioned included the settlement of the long contested Cobell case; passage of the HEARTH Act, which enhances tribal self-determination and economic development bringing sweeping reform of regulations regarding tribal lands and streamlined the approval process for home ownership and business development; passage of the Tribal Law and Order Act, which is improving safety in tribal communities; and the development of tribal consultation policies in all federal departments.

Further, he said the administration is working to increase recruitment in the Bureau of Indian Affairs by 500 percent, the largest hiring increase in the agency’s history; developing a national education reform to better serve Indian children; and working with Congress and Indian Country leaders to bring a solution to the Carcieri decision to ensure homelands are restored to all tribes.

“We all know that the federal government’s history with Indian nations is long and troubled,” said Salazar. “We live with a somber legacy of injustice and broken promises. For me, and for this administration, that memory drives our commitment to do right and to turn a new page in the relationship between our nations. It is nothing short of a moral imperative.”

Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan

Duncan told tribal leaders that his department recently released a report detailing American Indian graduation rates in 47 states, Washington, D.C., and the Bureau of Indian Education. The report indicates graduation rates across the board are unacceptably low and nine states, mostly in the west, have graduation rates lower than 60 percent. He said the lack of education deprives young people from good jobs and robs tribes of well-prepared leaders. “Your children are ready,” he said, “they want to be challenged, they want to be successful. They just need a light to show them the way. And that is why we must be their champions now, so they can lead in the future.”

He indicated the Department of Education worked closely with the Interior and Health and Human Services “to tailor federal education programs that meet the specific needs of Native youth, including instruction in and preservation of indigenous languages.

Another highlight, the State-Tribe Education Partnership, the STEP Program, launched earlier this year as a result of ideas put forth by tribal leaders. The program provides tribes with more opportunities to participate in the



Photo courtesy of the White House
United States President Barack Obama speaks at the 2012 White House Tribal Nation Conference on Dec. 5 in Washington, D.C.

education of their children.

Duncan also cited school improvement grants that have made lasting positive changes on Indian reservations as well as increasing partnerships between states and tribes that foster programs to increase academic achievement. “The truth, though,” he said, “is that we all know we still have a great deal of work to do to provide that world-class education to every child. And as we continue to work to meet that urgent challenge, we’ll continue our close collaboration with those people who know their students and communities the best — tribal leaders.”

Department of the Treasury Deputy Secretary Neal Wolin

Wolin announced what is described as key economic development initiatives to address the unique challenges faced by Indian Country. One initiative is a proposed guidance on broad exclusions of tribal benefits to members as taxable income. Such benefits include assistance with utility bills, tuition payments or assistance for the elderly.

Wolin outlined new procedures for tribal economic development bonds to help improve access to capital in tribal communities. He indicated the bonds are an excellent way to spur development on tribal lands, but historically difficult for tribes to acquire. He said \$1.8 billion remains to be used out of \$2 billion authorized for those bonds under the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The new procedures, he indicated, are geared to helping tribes access those bonds to spark jobs and growth in their communities.

Department of Commerce Acting Secretary Rebecca Blank

“For the past three years, we’ve seen steady economic growth in Indian Country and across the U.S.,” said Blank. “But as the president has said many times—we’re not going to rest until everyone who wants a job, has a job. That’s why our top priority at the Commerce Department—and across the administration—is to accelerate economic growth in order to bring more jobs, more opportunities and more prosperity to all Americans.”

Citing examples of the department’s endeavors to help bring prosperity for all to

Indian Country, Blank noted the Minority Business Development Agency is working on reorganization, including the development of five new business centers meant to serve budding entrepreneurs and established businesses alike in Indian Country. All along the department has been seeking guidance from the communities in shaping the reorganization.

Another example she indicated is the Economic Development Administration, which she said has strong connections to Indian Country and makes investments that are critical to speed business development among financially poor tribes.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is another bureau working with Indian Country in bringing improvements to tribal communities. This agency, she said, is “connecting communities to each other and to the world through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.”

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

“When President Obama took office, he recognized that we needed more than a series of individual success stories,” said Sebelius. “We needed a comprehensive approach. And if you look back over the last four years, you can begin to see what that has meant for Indian Country. Four years ago, the Indian Health Service had a budget of \$3.8 billion. Today, it’s 29 percent larger at \$4.3 billion. Four years ago, the Contract Health Service budget was \$579 million. In most places, IHS could fund only life or limb referrals. Today, the Contract Health Service budget is \$843 million, a 46 percent increase that has allowed many more patients to get the referrals they need.”

And, she noted, more than budget improvements have been realized in the last four years. She cited the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act after more than a decade of languishing in Congress. The law brought a number of beneficial changes such as health coverage for employees through the Federal Employees Health Benefits program. Another improvement came with the approval of all tribal health facilities to receive medical staff from the National Health Service Corp coupled with financial incentives for medical and dental professionals to practice in underserved communities.

“Four years ago,” said Sebelius, “because of the complicated certification process, fewer than 60 IHS and tribal facilities were eligible for corps members; today, there are 587.”

She also cited an agreement between the VA and IHS for the reimbursement of health services provided directly to veterans at IHS facilities, making it easier for tribes to arrange their own agreements with the VA.

Sebelius further cited improvements in working with child welfare systems, strengthening drug and alcohol abuse prevention and rehabilitation, updated tribal consultation policies and the establishment of regular meetings with

the first Cabinet level committee of its kind — the Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee.

Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

Working on protecting sacred sites led the list of accomplishments pointed out by Vilsack. He said the department collaborated with tribes, federal agencies and councils in developing a lengthy and detail report on the matter.

In addition, he said the department has conducted about 2,000 meetings annually with tribes since Obama took office, settled the Keepseagle lawsuit and appointed an advisory panel — the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching, worked with tribes to provide healthful meals and increasing the varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables available in the tribal commodities food distribution programs, supported the expansion of distance learning and tele-health networks as well as access to clean, safe drinking water and sanitation systems.

Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood

LaHood announced the distribution of \$15.5 million among 72 tribes (not including Sault Tribe) and legislation passed last summer, known as the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century or MAP-21, that will bring \$450 million to Indian Country through the Tribal Transportation Program for each of the next two years. The funding will include \$9 million especially for tribes to address transportation safety concerns and \$60 million for transit projects on tribal lands.

He further indicated the Federal Highways Administration provided nearly \$1.5 billion to tribes for roads and bridges, convened two national tribal safety summits and 15 statewide tribal safety summits bringing tribes together with state and local agencies to identify challenges and solutions.

Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis

The Labor Department finished its tribal consultation policy, according to Solis, which establishes standards for a formal process for government-to-government tribal consultation and collaboration with appropriate tribal officials in the development of federal policies that involve tribal implications. The policy was mandated by Executive Order 13175 issued by President Clinton and resurrected by President Obama.

All of the Cabinet officials indicated much still needs to be done and expressed optimism in continuing their efforts in working with Indian Country in developing a better world for all concerned.

Learn the basics of computers and the Internet to help your kids — Keeping up with technology can be difficult but, as teachers and parents, it is important to understand the digital world in order to help students with school work and to teach kids to safely navigate the internet and to be good online citizens. www.digitalliteracy.gov is a great site to learn the basics. There is also a useful “Find Educator Tools” section that will help you locate educational resources.

Snyder signs wolf hunting bill into law

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON
 State legislation reclassifying the gray wolf into a game species, SB 1350, was signed into law Dec. 28, according to a press release. The new law, Public Act 520, allows the state's Natural Resource Commission to create a gray wolf season in Michigan. PA 520 also establishes a wolf hunting license and sets fees for resident and non-resident licenses.

The Michigan tribes, individually and together under the United Tribes of Michigan, along with Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Humane Society of the United States, are all formally opposed to wolf hunting. The tribes do not consider hunting an effective method of managing habituated individual wolves or individual wolf packs.

Sault Tribe is "unequivocally opposed" to any recreational hunting of wolves in the 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory.

The Humane Society of the United States also expressed its "disappointment" over Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's signing of the legislation, serving notice that the Humane Society and

The Fund for Animals "will file suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore federal protections for Great Lakes wolves under the Endangered Species Act."

Jill Fritz, Humane Society Michigan director, said it is already legal in Michigan to kill wolves that threaten livestock or dogs, making a trophy hunting season unnecessary. "People don't eat wolves, and they would be killed just for fun and trophies. Sport hunting of these rare creatures is unnecessary, especially when the wolf population is just starting to recover," said Fritz in a statement.

In 2012, Wisconsin and Minnesota instituted a wolf season over tribes' objections. In Michigan, Sen. Tom Casperson introduced legislation to reclassify the wolf a game species, citing problem wolves on the Upper Peninsula's west end.

Sault Tribe is opposed to wolf hunting for three equally important reasons. First, the gray wolf is an important cultural and spiritual species to Anishinaabe people. Second, the gray wolf was delisted in the Great Lakes in 2011 after a long recovery period

and the Endangered Species Act requires a five-year post delisting monitoring period. Three, the lack of meaningful consultation called for by the 2007 Inland Consent Decree.

The Anishinaabeg consider the wolf our brother — our oldest and original companion sacred to us. According to oral tradition, Nanaboozhoo (Original Man) and Ma'iingan (Wolf) were close companions until the Creator told them to go their own ways. But they would always be connected — what happened to one would happen to the other.

Because of state agencies — Wisconsin, Minnesota and now Michigan — allowing hunting of a species that was recently listed as endangered, the tribes have concerns regarding the long-term viability of wolf populations within the 1836 Ceded Territory. The tribes want the federal government to revisit the 2006 post-delisting plan to ensure that tribes share management authority over wolves within their ceded territories and states are held accountable for the sustainable management of wolves based on sound wildlife management prin-

ciples. The post-delisting plan should have appropriate population goals based on contemporary wolf abundance and distribution estimates for each state in the Great Lakes region as well as acceptable population goals for

each ceded territory.

Sault Tribe recently presented the tribes' views to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C., during the White House Tribal Nations Conference in December.



Ma'iingun & Nanaboozhoo

AS TOLD BY JIMMIE MITCHELL

Nanaboozhoo was placed on the earth at the beginning of time and given instructions by G'tchi Manitou to walk the earth to name the plants, animals, insects and the entirety of everything that comprised the world. Throughout his travels, Nanaboozhoo began to notice that the animals he was tasked to name came in pairs and also had the ability to repopulate their species.

Seeing the various animal families throughout all of creation, Nanaboozhoo became lonely, and so he spoke of his feelings to G'tchi Manitou and asked, "Why is there no other like me?" G'tchi Manitou answered, "I will bring you someone to walk, talk and play with," and in his infinite wisdom, G'tchi Manitou sent ma'iingun (the wolf) to be with Nanaboozhoo, and together they set out to complete the task that G'tchi Manitou had asked.

In their journey, they became very close to each other, like brothers. It was through this closeness that they soon come to realize that they were also brothers to all of creation.

Once they had finally completed the task that G'tchi Manitou asked of them, they talked with the Creator once again. G'tchi Manitou was pleased with what he heard,

but this time Creator curiously replied, "From this day on, you are to separate and go different ways. What happens to one of you will also happen to the other. You will be feared by some, respected by others but misunderstood by all of the people who will come to inhabit these lands."

Reluctantly, ma'iingun and Nanaboozhoo set off on their different journeys, their shared sadness evident by ma'iingun's cry that can still be heard wherever the wolf still roams the earth on his separate journey.

The teachings of Nanaboozhoo and ma'iingun serve as an important reminder for Indian people to this day. All of what G'tchi Manitou said to Nanaboozhoo and ma'iingun has come true. Indian and ma'iingun have come to experience the same things, both the good and the bad that life has to offer. Both take a mate for life, have a clan system and also are part of a tribe.

Both have been stripped of their land and hunted for their skin. Both have been pushed to the brink of extinction yet somehow miraculously survive to this day.

It is our belief as Indian people that our ability to foretell our future is evident by looking at the wolf, who remains one of the most significant cultural indicators to our continued existence.

State Indian Family Preservation Act signed into law in Lansing

BY RICK SMITH

Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley signed the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act into law on Jan. 2, one of 49 bills he signed into law on behalf of Governor Rick Snyder.

The new law provides for child welfare proceedings involving American Indian children to remain consistent with federal law, specifically the Indian Child Welfare Act. It greatly improves protections for Indian families and tribal interests.

As reported in the October edition of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, the Michigan Senate passed the bill on Sept. 27 and the Michigan House of Representatives passed the

measure on Dec. 12. The law clarifies and codifies the federal Indian Child Welfare Act for courts and social agencies in the state. It adds Chapter XIIB, the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act, to the Michigan Probate Code.

The Indian Child Welfare Act, enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1978, is a law intended to stop the erosion of American Indian communities and cultures through the loss of children placed into foster homes of people with different ancestry. The language of the law has gaps that leave room for interpretation among states, according to Senator Judy Emmons, the primary sponsor of the Michigan

Indian Family Preservation Act. The gaps cause inconsistent implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act among states and among individual state jurisdictions.

"We need to set one uniform set of guidelines and clarify as many of the misconceptions as possible," said Emmons in October. "In many of our state courts, cases can be impacted by the ICWA, and we need to make sure that everyone has the proper tools to preserve the tribe's most precious resource, the family."

The Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act, Senate Bill 1232, can be viewed in its entirety by visiting www.legislature.mi.gov.



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Tribal team members giving to community

Throughout the year, Sault Tribe team members join together to give to others. Employees contribute toward Thanksgiving dinner baskets, Christmas dinner baskets, Christmas presents, employee emergencies, fundraisers for tribal members in need, Halloween candy and make a big push to United Way contributions. Here are a few of their charities.

United Way

Sault Tribe raised over \$13,000 in United Way pledges from its employees in its 2012 Sault Tribe United Way Campaign. Sault Tribe employees who contributed to United Way were entered into a prize drawing.

The \$500 grand prize winner was



Heather Webber

Heather Webber, a Kewadin Casino bookkeeper. Weber is a 20-year employee who said she began donating to United Way in the first year Sault Tribe began participating in the Workplace Campaign. Weber said she was really surprised to hear that she had won and planned on spending the windfall to finish her Christmas shopping.

Theresa Patten, John Wernet, Julie Norton, Sheryl McKerchie each took home \$100. Dinner for two gift certificates went to Lani Hoshaw and to Jake Sillers, show tickets for two went to Shelly Vieau and to Penny LaHaie while Cassandra Rutledge and Barbara Smolinski each took home a one-night stay at any Kewadin property.

Early bird winner Tony Nertoli took home \$100 in a special drawing for early pledges.



Tribal Chairperson Aaron Payment pledged to give away half his annual earnings, and he did. For Christmas he pitched in \$3,500 to kids' Christmas parties and another \$500 to Tribal Unit I Director Denny McKelvie's secret Santa program, which gives thousands of dollars to needy children. Pictured is Payment with his staff members (L-R) administrative assistant Ashley Macklin, executive assistant and Unit I membership liaison Jennifer Tadgerson, Payment, Unit II and III membership liaison Clarence Hudak, Membership Services Director Angeline Bouley and Unit IV and V membership liaison Rita Glypsis.

Children's Christmas parties

Every Christmas, communities throughout the tribe's service area get together to throw parties for the kids and their families. The parties feature food, games, presents for the kids and a visit from Santa.

This year, Sault Tribe associates pitched in almost \$10,000 to make their parties even better: Aaron Payment, \$3,500;

Moore Trosper, \$1,000; Martin Waymire, \$800; Autore Oil, \$500; Oscar Larson, \$500; Wilmer and Cutler Pickering, \$500; Plath Meats, \$200; Rodenroth Motors, \$200; Erickson Appliance, \$200 Secret of the Islands, \$200; Iron Bridge Group, \$200; Econolodge, \$200; Wheeler Manufacturing, \$200; Madigan Pingatore, \$200;

Pearson Asbestos, \$200; Semco Engergy, \$200; Commercial Kitchen Services, \$100; Mark's Tire, \$100; Wayne's Electrical Service, \$100; Mr. Clean Septic, \$100; Soo Coop Credit Union, \$100; Roy Electric, \$100; Florstar Sales, \$100; Northern Mich Review, \$100; and Entertainment Destination, \$100.

Advocacy Resource Center



Sharon Hovie, Sault Tribe Accounting, is the first place winner of \$2,980 in the Advocacy Resource Center's 50-50 Christmas raffle. Hovie said she banked the money and will be using it to purchase plane tickets for a vacation for her and husband, Steven. She was also going to use some of it to help purchase Christmas presents for family members.

Hovie said the ARC is a very worthy service and she feels strongly about paying it forward and being as helpful to others as she can. She said she was shocked when she found out she had won.

Second place winner of a Kindle Fire HD was Patrice Munro and third place was Jamie Harvey who won a \$50 certificate for MidJim.

Thank You

Miigwech

The Children of Sault Tribe Thank Each & Every One of You for Making our Christmas So Much Brighter!

Aaron Payment	Mr. Clean Septic
Autore Oil	Northern Mich Review
Commercial Kitchen Services	Oscar Larson
Econolodge	Pearson Asbestos
Entertainment Destination	Plath Meats
Erickson Appliance	Rodenroth Motors
Florstar Sales	Roy Electric
Iron Bridge Group	Secret of the Islands
Madigan Pingatore	Semco Engergy
Mark's Tire	Soo Coop Credit Union
Martin Waymire	Wayne's Electrical Service
Moore Trosper	Wheeler Manufacturing
	Wilmer & Cutler Pickering

Tribal Programs and Enterprises

Sawyer Village

Sawyer Village, in Gwinn, raised \$200 from dress down funds in order to sponsor a family for Christmas.

They met with the mother of five children, all girls, ages 8 to 16 to get a Christmas gift list from her for the children, purchasing a set of glasses, toy doll stroller set, CD player, hair straightener and hairspray, drawing pad, drawing pencils, earrings and a variety of make-up for the older two children.

A resident came into the office on the day staff were wrapping presents saying he had purchased one skateboard too many for his children, which he contributed to the pile. Secretary Lisa Weaver also went out and purchased additional items with her own money for a donation to the family.

DeMawating Development

On Dec. 13, Mark Spring and Dave Erickson assisted with the community senior Christmas dinner at the Kinross Recreation Center. They served food, helped seniors in and out of the building and assisted with cleaning. Over a hundred seniors attended the dinner.

On Dec. 15, Theresa Germain helped at a kids Christmas party at the Kinross Township Hall.

The party was sponsored by the Orioles of Kinross (a civic organization) and was for the members' children. Our money is raised through fund raisers and donations. There were 45 children and 20 adults.

On Dec. 16, Brenda Jeffreys and Germain collected their dress down funds and bought gift certificates to help some tenants

ACFS SAYS MIIGWECH

ACFS would like to take this opportunity to say thank you! Your donations during the Christmas holiday season put a smile on the face of 80 children in foster care.

Personal donations:
Bonnie Culfa
Sault Tribal Health Center
staff personally donated gifts to children in foster care.

Local business donations:
U.P. Abstract
Soo Welding
Sault Tribe departments dress down fund donations to ACFS:
MIS and Telecommunications
Tribal Court
Gaming Commission
Accounting
ACFS and Behavioral Health
Tribal-wide dress down month

Gift Cards left over from the children's Christmas party

out for the holidays. Each family received a card, box of candy, an ornament and a \$60 gift certificate for Family Dollar.

On Dec. 22, Germain rang the bell for the Salvation Army collection at Kinross Coop and helped deliver Christmas baskets to area families in need.

The Orioles of Kinross Ladies Auxiliary adopted 10 area families and donated over \$1,300 for presents. Food baskets were also given to each family.

Tribal Court

Tribal Court staff and members of the Drug Court teams filled Thanksgiving baskets for our four Drug Court participants and their families, as well as the two families involved in family preservation court. We provided them with turkeys, bread, milk, vegetables, fruits, juices, desserts, and snacks and delivered them two days before the holiday — surprising all of the recipients.

For Christmas, each of our Drug Court participants received a gift from the team.

The two male participants received \$50 gift cards to Dunham's as they are both avid outdoorsmen.

The two female participants, who thought they were getting picked up to perform community work service

See "Tribal Giving," page 7

Sault Tribe Health Center

Thirty-two health center staff members participated in the 2012 food basket donation project through dress down funding, raising \$3,525 for 32 baskets of food to 120 people with about \$110 worth of food in each basket. Each family receiving a basket also found a greeting card accompanied by candy canes for every family member. Project coordinator Lisa Perry expressed gratitude to all who took part, especially Jerry Gates and Joe McKerchie for the extra help they give.

"They are the ones who come to the store with me early in the

morning and haul everything out and deliver it to the health center," she said.

In addition, a Christmas mitten tree bearing 45 mittens was set up in the clinic. Each mitten contained the age and gender of a child aged from newborn to 17 years. Staff picked out mittens and bought gifts for ACFS to deliver to foster children.

Beyond facility-wide efforts, Contract Health staff donated all of their dress down money to ACFS children, and Community Health staff bought gifts for clients in need.



Staff of the Sault Tribe Health Center in Sault Ste. Marie conducted the annual preparation of Christmas food baskets on Dec. 17 for distribution to needy families in the area. Seen here, left to right, Tracy Smart, Kerrie Jones, Rita Lewis and Amanda Lewis holding just a few examples of items included in the baskets.

JKL Bahweting School

JKL Bahweting School, in partnership with OneMain Financial, participated in a food drive for the local Salvation Army. Students and staff brought in non-perishable food items from Dec. 10-14. In this short five-day period, 26 classrooms brought in 1,514 pounds of food — enough to feed 50 families.

Competing for bragging rights and an ice cream party for the top class, Kirstyn Beaulieu's and Jennifer McGahey's first grade class brought in the most with 312 pounds. Mrs. Purple's middle schoolers were second with 133 pounds and Mrs. Nettleton's and Mrs. Clement's Kindergarten students were not far behind with 112 pounds.

At left, Mrs. Beaulieu's and

Mrs. McGahey's first grade class poses with the 1,514 pounds of food brought in by the JKL staff and students.



Rayce Rizzo brought in the most items in the entire school and helped his class win an ice cream party.

Kewadin Casinos

From food banks to toy drives, each Kewadin casino had a special program to help others this season. Customers and employees at Kewadin Manistique collected and distributed 6,360 pounds of non perishable items for St. Vincent DePaul and the Good Neighbors Food Bank.

At Kewadin Christmas, 10,400 pounds of non perishable items were collected and delivered to the local St. Vincent DePaul.

Christmas employees also organized a 50/50 raffle raising \$1,300 that allowed them to adopt a local family and give them an unforgettable Christmas.

The Hope Chest Food Pantry in St. Ignace received 2,100 pounds of canned goods to fill their shelves during the holiday season and to help keep it full throughout the year.

In Hessel, employees and customers donated new toys, bound for the Hessel tribal children's Christmas party.

Various departments at Kewadin Sault held fundraisers throughout the year and used that money towards adopting families for the holidays. The Convention Sales and Hotel staff raised just over \$750 to buy Christmas gifts for six children. Kewadin's Accounting staff raised money from dress down events and donations for their giving program, giving thanksgiving dinner baskets to three families and adopting three families — five children all together — for Christmas. Slot Department employees pitched in to donate pet food to the Chippewa County Animal Shelter.



St. Vincent de Paul's Jake Verbunker, Kewadin Christmas's security supervisor Tiger Nikunen and Maintenance Joe Perron, and St. Vincent de Paul's Bill Nash (L-R) with one of the food loads delivered as part of the Christmas Canathon 2012.



Tim Gordon and Ken Gaus of Kewadin Sault's Slot Department dropped off bags of pet food for the animals at the Chippewa County Animal Shelter on Christmas day.

Sault Tribe hunting and fishing licenses

SUBMITTED BY STLE

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) is the entity that issues all treaty-regulated hunting and fishing licenses. The time for renewal of Great Lakes fishing licenses is upon us and the inland fishing and hunting licenses require renewal in the near future. Please see the applicable section below to find out more about what is required to obtain any of these licenses, including which set of rules regulate which type of licenses.

Regardless of the type of license you are requesting, there are several requirements that apply across the board: members must provide a current copy of their tribal cards (cannot be expired); all fees must be paid by checks or money orders only (STLE does not accept cash, credit, or debit); reporting requirements must be met; and applications are required for each licensing season.

All requirements are published on each licensing application for convenience.

STLE strongly encourages members to contact STLE prior to arriving or mailing your appli-

cation if you have any questions regarding any of the required documents for processing your licensing application. STLE can be reached at (906) 635-6065, and Inland Fish and Wildlife Department (IFWD) at (906) 632-6132 specifically for Inland licensing harvest report questions.

Great Lakes subsistence/gill net licenses (Jan. 1-Dec. 31): Chapter 20 of tribal law/code regulates these licenses. All subsistence and gill net fishing licenses expire Dec. 31 each year. STLE begins issuing the coming year's licenses in mid-December. Great Lakes subsistence licenses are free of charge; however, if you are applying for a gill net license in addition to the subsistence and you are between the ages of 17 and 54, please be sure you have a \$20 check or money order.

Tribal members are not required to have a subsistence license to fish on the Great Lakes; you can fish with just your tribal enrollment card (cannot be expired) as long as you follow state rules and regulations. **By applying for and accepting the Great Lakes subsistence and gill net licenses, you are**

agreeing to comply with the mandated monthly catch report submission, due by the 10th of each month. This report is required whether you go fishing, and whether you catch anything. If you do not go fishing, just write "did not fish" on the report. If you did not catch anything, just write "no catch." Each license issued has a specific ST number assigned; this number typically stays with members throughout their lifetime, and should be included on the monthly catch report every time so STLE can ensure proper submittal credit is given.

If you do not have access to your license/ST number at the time of report completion, please just put your birthdate.

When you obtain one or both of these licenses, if at any point through the year you know you will not be engaging in fishing activity for longer than a few months, you can turn in your license(s) with a current catch report and request that we inactivate you in the licensing and reporting system. This eliminates having to submit a monthly catch report. Once you decide you want

to fish again, all you have to do is contact our office and your license will be returned to you and activated once again in the system.

Great Lakes commercial fishing licenses (Jan. 1-Dec. 31): Chapter 20 of tribal law/code regulates these licenses. All commercial fishermen are required to contact Kasey Povey at STLE to schedule an appointment when applying for this license.

Because there are more steps involved in processing these particular licenses, the appointment requirement is strictly enforced. It is recommended that you call to confirm your appointment prior to arriving as well. Povey needs the time to ensure that once you arrive at STLE, she can process you through quickly.

Various fees apply, depending on the type you are requesting. When calling Povey for an appointment, please indicate what type of license you are requesting and she will let you know what it will cost. Again, you must pay in the form of a check or money order only.

Inland fishing and hunting licenses (April 1-March 31):

Chapter 21 of tribal law/code regulates these licenses. All members between the ages of 17 and 59 must pay a \$15 fee in the form of a check or money order. All tribal members born after 1960 who are new applicants must provide a proof of hunter safety in order to obtain the hunting portion of the license, but are able to obtain just the fishing and gathering portion without hunter safety.

This license has an annual harvest report requirement that is due by Feb. 1 each year with any catch or kill up to that date. This report is also required whether you go hunting or fishing and whether you catch or kill anything while hunting or fishing. We cannot process any current year applications without your harvest report for the prior year.

Harvest reports are available online, at STLE or by contacting the IFWD. If you submit your harvest report online, you will need to contact IFWD to verify they have received it. STLE issues the licenses, IFWD receives harvest reports and provides STLE with the verification that members did submit one.

Are these reports really necessary?

Inland fishing and hunting harvest reports due Feb. 1

BY CLARENCE HUDAK, MEMBERSHIP LIAISON

This is a friendly reminder for all members who currently hold Sault Tribe harvest/fishing permits. The catch reports are due by Feb. 1 and must be returned to Inland Fish and Wildlife Department at P.O. Box 1829, Sault St. Marie, MI 49783.

I've been made aware that there are members who question why these reports are necessary and some complain that it's inconvenient to get them completed and back in time, so I will try to give everyone a couple of examples of their importance in the hopes that they will better understand why the information is gathered and what it is used for.

To begin with, the 2007 Consent Decree requires catch reports by the tribes. During the negotiations, the state pushed for harvest information related to any high impact activities such as spearing, but was willing to leave

the form and mechanism of the reports up to the tribes.

The tribes, for their part, agreed to the reports and were happy to show that their members are good stewards of the resources that the Creator has provided. This helps to ensure sustainability of harvest and matches up with our tradition of using only what is needed and leaving the rest unharmed.

Thus, by having a record of harvest we can keep an eye on various species and the amount of pressure that may be put on them. This gives our tribe a marker with the capacity to try and stay ahead of any situation that could cause harm to population numbers. If, by chance, the population of a certain species starts to decline, the tribe can reference the collected data to see if harvest pressure is part of the cause and adjust bag limits to reduce vulnerability. Conversely, the data may show that harvest pressure should not be having an impact on the numbers but instead could be the result of factors such as habitat loss or environmental change.

Secondly, the database that

is being formed can, and will, be used to discredit any attempt to accuse our members of over-harvesting game. Unfortunately, there are a few non-tribal people who will never accept our treaty right to hunt, fish and gather and they will intentionally try to whip up social animosity towards us by claiming that we are "killing all the deer" or "spearing all the fish."

Armed with our catch reports, we can show that the amount of harvest that the tribe is responsible for just is a fraction of what is taken by the state license holders. Also, it's reassuring to know that our database is much more complete and accurate than the state could ever hope to attain for its harvest numbers.

While it does take some time and effort to complete the reports and get them back on time, our members should take satisfaction with knowing that they are providing a very important service to our tribe. We all benefit from them because they help to strengthen our treaty rights, defend them from unwarranted attack, and protect them for our children and future generations.

Nate's birthday buck



Sault Tribe member Nate LaCost got himself a record-breaking birthday present with his bow in a 30-yard shot from a treestand in Arizona.

Trappers announce workshop

HERMANSVILLE – Maybe your son or daughter (or grandkids) are interested in hunting, fishing or trapping but you have never done any of these things. So where do you begin?

If they are interested in trapping, the place to take them is the eighth annual Midwinter Trappers Workshop, which is being held at the community center in Hermansville on Saturday, Feb. 2. This is an all-day event with free admission, free trapping supplies for the youngsters, trapping and fur handling demonstrations and fun for all.

Doors open at 9 a.m. Rich Clark from North American Fur Auctions and Willow Tree Fur will be preparing raccoon, mink, muskrat, and other furs for market. He will also answer questions on properly handling additional kinds of furs. Local trappers will be showing kids how to trap various furbearers. Everyone is invited (both adults and kids) and lunch and refresh-

ments will be available for purchase throughout the day.

Young trappers will have the opportunity to "win" free trapping supplies and other useful items. The U.P. Trappers Association will do their best to see that every youngster attending walks out with something free.

Rich Clark, (920) 897-3618, will be buying fur and he and Scott Burton, (906) 450-4554, will be selling trapping supplies.

Doors will close around 4 or 5 p.m. For directions or more information call Mike Lewis at (906) 774-3592 or visit www.uptrappers.com.

To introduce kids to hunting or fishing, the U.P. Trappers Association would also recommend marking your calendars for the fourth Saturday in September – National Hunting and Fishing Day – held at the Great Lakes Sportsman's Club in Escanaba – another great event for kids, hosted by local outdoorsmen.

2012 furbearer harvest registration requirements

As trapping season comes to a close for 2012, we wanted to give a summary of Sault Tribe's furbearer harvest registration requirements. The registration requirements must be presented by the member who harvested them. Furbearer harvest may also be registered at a local Michigan Department of Natural Resources office. If you have questions please contact the Inland Fish and Wildlife Department at (906) 632-6132.

Species	Requirement	Sample Taken by IFWD
Bobcat	The skull and pelt for sealing	Lower Jaw
Fisher	The skull and pelt for sealing	Lower Jaw
Marten	The skull and pelt for sealing	Lower Jaw
Otter	The skull and pelt for sealing	Lower Jaw
Incidental catches*	The entire carcass and pelt	Entire carcass

* This includes wolves, lynx and over-harvest of badger, bobcat, fisher, marten and otter.

Paquin wins one of 12 national fellowships

By RICK SMITH

Hot on the heels of winning the Minnie Jackson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways, Sault Tribe elder Ron Paquin of Cheboygan, Mich., became one of 12 American Indian artists from across the United States to receive a 2012-13 fellowship of \$10,000 from the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation.

The organization announced the awards on Dec. 4. The foundation awards the fellowships to practitioners of six artistic disciplines, which include dance, film, literature, music, traditional and visual arts. Paquin won in the traditional arts category.

"It is the foundation's mission to provide support and to nurture the creativity of this country's Native artists through our fellowship and other grant programs," announced the organization's president and CEO, T. Lulani Arquette, a Native Hawaiian. "We congratulate the 2013 fellows for inspiring the nation; for their vision, their innovation, and for bringing the creative spirit of Native peoples to the world."

One of the other awardees also hailed from Michigan, Chippewa musician Bobby Bullet of Iron River, while the remaining recipients come from Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico and New York.

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation is a national, non-profit organization whose stated mission is to revitalize and perpetuate indigenous arts of the United States.

Paquin is a master at building birch bark canoes, basket weaving and other skills. According to his biography, he was a resident of St. Ignace, Mich., for over 55 years and moved to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., in 2001 and on to Cheboygan, Mich., in 2010. He is a self-taught artist who worked as an interpreter for the Museum of Ojibwa Culture in St. Ignace for over 15 years.

Building full-sized traditional Anishinaabe birch bark canoes are Paquin's specialty and he has constructed over 30 of the vessels. He also makes model canoes, black ash baskets, birch bark containers, antler carvings, knives, porcupine quill boxes, dream catchers, and jewelry and creates carvings from all kinds of antlers, often employing the



Sault Tribe elder Ron Paquin

symbol of his clan — the eagle. In keeping with the practices of ancient ancestors, Paquin uses all natural materials and gathers most of it himself. His materials include birch bark, cedar bark, red willow, diamond willow, sweet grass, basswood and spruce roots.

Paquin has garnered nine Master Artist grants from Michigan State University — six for building birch bark canoes, one for weaving black ash baskets and two for constructing

birch bark containers. Further, he received an Art Serve Michigan grant to teach birch bark canoe construction to tribal adults and youngsters and served as an artist in residence under several other grants and programs. The Sault Area Arts Council bestowed Best of Craft awards to Paquin in 2002 and 2009 and the Ziibiwing Center commissioned him to create over 70 pieces.

He made cedar and birch bark lodges for the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in Grand Haven, Mich., the Allegan County Children's Museum and for the Soo Locks Festival commemorating 150 years of operation.

He is featured in many annual and special events in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula demonstrating canoe construction and especially enjoys regularly teaching a variety of traditional art forms to students at the JKL Bahweting Anishinaabe Public School Academy in Sault Ste. Marie and the Sault Tribe's culture camp on Sugar Island.

In addition to picking up a 2003 Michigan Heritage Award, Paquin participated in several Great Lakes folk festivals in

East Lansing, Mich. He was awarded the First People's Fund Community Spirit Award in 2006 for his work in passing on the tradition of building birch bark canoes and received a Cultural Capital Fellowship from First People's Fund in 2009 and recently published a DVD with an accompanying booklet detailing his canoe construction techniques. He also received a 2010 Longhouse Cultural Society grant award for building canoes and more recently received the 2011-12 Longhouse National Native Master Artist Initiative grant.

He co-authored *Not First in Nobody's Heart — the Life Story of a Contemporary Chippewa*, an autobiography.

Paquin continues teaching at sold-out workshops every year throughout Michigan and he believes passing on his skills and traditional art forms is important. His works are available directly through him, art shows, various gift shops and galleries and he accepts wholesale inquiries. He resides in Cheboygan, Mich., with his wife, Molly.

For information about his workshops or for any questions, call (231) 268-3344.

Arizona man pleads guilty to illegally selling golden eagle and other migratory bird parts

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A Tuba City, Ariz., man pleaded guilty in federal court in Phoenix to illegally selling golden eagle and other migratory bird parts, a felony criminal offense, announced Ignacia S. Moreno, Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division, and John S. Leonardo, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Law Enforcement in coordination with the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife. The case was prosecuted by the Environmental Crimes Section of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona.

Nicholas E. Chavez, Special Agent in Charge of the Southwest Region, called the case an "example of how working with our tribal law enforcement partners can lead to a successful outcome."

"The Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife is committed to protecting raptors, including golden eagles. These birds are not only biologically important but are also culturally significant to the Navajo people," said Gloria Tom, Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife. "Commercializing these birds and their parts is illegal and is detrimental to our eagle populations on the Navajo Nation. The department is committed to fostering our partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deter wildlife crimes on the

Navajo Nation."

According to the plea agreement recently filed in U.S. District Court in Phoenix, in January 2008, Patrick Scott, 46, used the Internet to illegally offer to sell a golden eagle fan for \$950. An undercover law enforcement officer exchanged emails with Scott and ultimately agreed on a purchase price of \$900. In February 2008, a second undercover law enforcement officer went to Scott's house and bought the golden eagle fan by making an initial payment of \$550 and later deposited the remainder directly into Scott's bank account in two installments. Also according to the plea agreement, between July 2007 and February 2009, Scott sold, purchased, and/or offered to sell other migratory bird parts, from species including bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, golden eagle, crested caracara, anhinga and rough-legged hawk.

Golden eagles and other migratory birds are protected by federal laws and regulations. Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it is unlawful to possess, offer to sell, sell, offer to purchase or purchase any migratory bird or migratory bird part, or any product that consists, or is composed in whole or part, of any such bird or bird part. It is a federal enforcement priority to prosecute those who violate federal laws by engaging in commercial activities involving federally protected bird feathers or other bird parts. The objective of these enforcement efforts is to reduce and eliminate the unlawful taking of federally protected birds by prosecuting not only individuals

who kill protected birds but also individuals who seek to profit from the commercialization of federally protected birds or their feathers or other parts. This helps to ensure that golden eagle and other bird populations remain healthy and sustainable.

"The Department of Justice will not tolerate the commercial exploitation of federally protected birds, which are important not only as protected species but also as sacred elements of the religious and cultural traditions of many Native Americans," said Ignacia S. Moreno, Assistant Attorney General of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "This is why the department recently published a policy to clarify that while the possession and use of migratory bird feathers and other bird parts is permissible for religious or cultural purposes by members of federally recognized tribes, it remains illegal to buy, sell, or trade in them for compensation."

U.S. Attorney Leonardo added, "While we recognize, and respect, that many Indian tribes and their members use federally protected birds in the practice of their religion and in the expression of their culture, we will hold accountable through prosecution those who seek commercial gain by selling protected birds, their feathers or their parts."

The maximum penalties for the unlawful sale of migratory birds include two years of incarceration and a fine of \$250,000. U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Steven P. Logan set Scott's sentencing for Feb. 26, 2013.

Bay Mills member convicted of assault on a federal officer

MARQUETTE, Mich. — Lorne Anthony Lyons, 50, of Brimley, Mich., and a member of the Bay Mills Indian Community, was convicted of assault upon a federal officer with a dangerous weapon after a two day jury trial, U.S. Attorney Patrick A. Miles, Jr. announced Dec. 7. The jury found that Lyons assaulted, resisted, opposed, impeded, or interfered with a Bay Mills Tribal Police officer through the use of a sword.

The charge arose from an incident on May 7, 2012, during which Lyons sent text messages claiming he had committed a suicidal act. Bay Mills Tribal Police responded to an emergency call, and with the assistance of U.S. Border Protection agents,

searched Lyons' residence trying to locate him. Lyons, who was hiding in a closet, refused to come out when asked by the officers, and instead produced a short sword, threatening the officers and throwing it at one of them after he was shot with a taser.

Lyons faces a prison term of up to 20 years and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing is scheduled for May 23, 2013, before Senior U.S. District Judge R. Allan Edgar, who presided over the trial.

The Bay Mills Indian Community Tribal Police, U.S. Border Patrol and the FBI investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul D. Lochner prosecuted the case.

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Symbolic dreamcatcher donated to ARC

FROM ARC

Patti Goforth Kelly of Stringing Things Patti recently donated a dreamcatcher to the Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center.

Here is her description of the dreamcatcher: Purple, teal and white are all colors depict-

ing issues in domestic violence. Purple (domestic) and teal (sexual) are traditionally the colors for violence in the home, while white is indicative of child abuse and child molestation.

This peace sign is made from a metal hoop, wrapped in velvet purple ribbon. Each bead making up the center of the peace sign is different, depicting the differences in people and their lives. A purple ribbon hangs from a butterfly, which is indicative of the freedom one can achieve from finding a life other than one of violence.

A piece of fluorite hangs from the bottom of the peace sign. Fluorite is full of energy that helps one find clarity in their decision-making abilities. It also provides channeling of positive thinking, leading to higher self-esteem.



Letter to the editor: Tribal member says outside firm should run elections

To all citizens of the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians,

The official election report was “finally” printed in the paper. Because it was submitted on the deadline date. Many unanswered questions.

1. It does not say how many ballots were actually printed.

2. Has a system been devised to share addresses with all the other tribal systems, if not when is this going to be instituted? A deadline for instituting this should be set.

3. “Undeliverable ballots.” It states the box remains at the post office. Is it sealed when it is picked up or the day of the election count?

4. “The Election Committee feels that 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 sys-

tem 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.”

No. 4 Is a direct quote from the Election Committee report. To me, it sounds like the Election Committee is begging to continue to be in charge of the election process. It is my desire, and the desire of many others, to have an outside entity have “control” of the ballots, from the printing, mailing, receiving and tabulating the ballots. The outside entity should

have “no” connection to the tribe.

Our election is about 18 months away, that really is not a very long time to get this instituted unless we start on this process very soon, like January 2013.

Please send me an email if you do or do not support a private entity to be in charge of the ballots of all elections and referendums. Please include a short commentary (100 words or less) of why you feel this way. Send to: moshercj@hotmail.com. Place “ELECTION PROCESS” in the subject line.

If you prefer, you can send me your response via USPS to CJ Mosher, 110 N. 2nd Street, Manistique, MI 49854.

Awaiting your response. I will post the results via a letter to the editor in the March 2013 issue.

Miigwech.
CJ Mosher,
Manistique, Mich.

Bishop family builds carpet care business

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Michael and Holly Bishop wanted to be more in control of their finances. They had just had their second child and after doing some research, they decided to take out a small loan in 2006 to purchase a portable carpet cleaner. That was the start of EZ Clean Carpet Care.

Michael Bishop got to know the carpet cleaning business when he worked for Grand Rapids business that offered painting services, carpet removal and clean-

ing. At first they used their family vehicle to transport the cleaner to job sites, but since that time they have invested in a truck mount cleaning system, which they had installed in a new van.

“We have taken small steps but we don’t owe a lot of money,” Holly Bishop said, a Sault Tribe member who works in the Sault Tribe Health Center’s Radiology Department.

“We are trying to expand gradually as we can afford to and not go broke doing it. I am happy

with where the business is going and I hope it just keeps getting better,” she said.

Bishop said they focus on providing their clients with a high quality product for the money and offer 10 percent senior, tribal and military discounts. She said in the event that something unexpected happens, they are willing to work out billing arrangements.

As their client list grows — and the business along with it — the Bishops are setting their sights on local business hoping to

pick up some monthly jobs. They have been doing between four and 12 jobs a week and would like to have that number increase to four a day.

“It is rewarding,” Bishop said. “It makes us feel good that we can do something good for people and that when we leave their house their carpeting looks great. If we weren’t able to get something out or if something came back after we cleaned we always tell our clients to call us right away and we will come back and

fix it at no additional charge. We want to make sure our clients are satisfied with our services.”

Their children are 7 and 9 years old and occasionally help their parents when they go out on carpet cleaning jobs. Bishop said she hopes the business becomes successful enough for their children to someday take it over and run it.

If you would like to make an appointment to have your carpets cleaned, or have questions, call the Bishops at (906) 440-3439.

U.P. Snowmobile Museum named one of best NAUBINWAY MUSEUM MAKES TWO-PAGE SPREAD IN WORLD’S NUMBER ONE SNOWMOBILE MAGAZINE

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Snowmobiles are a must-have item for many northern Michigan families. And, in barns, shops and sheds throughout the area antique snowmobiles sit, forgotten for decades as newer models are advertised in glossy magazines and make their way into a more accessible location in the garage or parked in the yard.

Unknown to most Michiganders, the small village of Naubinway — located at the northernmost point of Lake Michigan — is home to the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum. The only one of its kind in the state, the museum was just ranked in the top 13 snowmobile museums in North America by SnowGoer magazine in its January 2013 issue.

The museum has been open since July 2007 and is home to over 70 vintage sleds. You’ll find prototypes such as the 1972 Bell and Howell “Howeller,” the 1050 Dupras and the 1967 Mercury 200, a 3-cylinder race sled. Naubinway is well known for its annual snowmobile show and ride, which it has hosted for



Charlie and Marilyn Vallier, owner/operators of the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway, Mich. This photo was taken in 2008 for the Oct. edition of Win Awenen Nisitotung.

almost two decades. In 2003, the idea for the museum was born by a few show regulars.

The sleds on display are diverse, but because there are more than the current location can handle, about once a year some are moved into storage and others that were being stored are placed in the museum for the public to appreciate. In addition to the more common Arctic Cats, Ski-

Doos, Yamahas and Polaris sleds, stand-out sleds include the metal-flake bronze 1971 Phantom, the 1972 Sno-Coupe featuring side-by-side seating with an enclosed cockpit and the 1969 Sno Ghia that was built in Turin, Italy. Museum goers will also find old snowmobile dealer signs and promotional items from yesteryear on the walls and countertops throughout the building. Today’s

kids will do a double take when they see the vintage snowmobile clothing and helmets on display that were considered state of the art when their parents were young.

A group of over 20 snowmobile enthusiasts have sleds displayed at the museum. Hosts of the non-profit museum Charlie Vallier, chairperson, and his wife, Marilyn, the museum’s office manager, had at last count over 200 sleds with other collectors having 20 to 150 each. Vallier said he has been collecting sleds since 1971 and has traveled to Minnesota and as far as New Hampshire to add them to his collection.

Both Valliers serve on the 10-person board of directors. With the museum outgrowing its current location, a fundraising effort is underway to build a new higher profile facility with a larger display area, meeting room and on site snowmobile library. The museum is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on Tuesdays. Visit its website at snowmobilemuseum.com. The museum is located

at W11595 Center Street in Naubinway, 42 miles west of the Mackinac Bridge on US 2. For more information, call the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum at (906) 477-6298 or email info@snowmobilemuseum.com. For appointments after regular business hours, call (906) 477-6192.

The 21st annual Historic Long Riders Relic Ride for charity sponsored by the Schoolcraft County Snowmobile Association is slated for Saturday, Feb. 9 at Jack Pine Lodge in Manistique. Sign-up will take place on both Friday night and Saturday morning at the Jack Pine.

On Saturday, breakfast is at 8 a.m., loud pipe and vintage wear contest is at 10 a.m. and the start is at 11 a.m. The relic ride will cover 45 miles with gas stops in Steuben and Boot Lake Bar before returning to Jack Pine. New and older sleds are welcome.

Questions? Call Jack Pine Lodge (906) 573-2414, Big Spring Inn 644-2506, or email moreinfo@jackpineup.com.

What the new tax law means for Natives, tribes

On New Year's Day 2013, Congress passed the American Taxpayer Relief Act (ATRA) of 2012. President Barack Obama signed the bill into law on the following day. The new law addresses many of the tax issues that were debated by Congress at the end of 2012, referred to by many as the "fiscal cliff."

Here is a brief summary of how this new law might impact your paycheck and certainly your tribe.

The law includes a one-year renewal for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) at the current funding level of \$150 million.

On a tribal level, the law postpones the upcoming sequester by two months, giving Congress time to work on a balanced plan to end the sequestration permanently. Sequestration of all federal programming across the board

would have affected all of the Sault Tribe's federal programs with significant cuts to health services, Head Start and Early Head Start, early childhood education, services for people with disabilities, housing, law enforcement, Tribal Court, Inland Fish and Wildlife operations, Inter Tribal Fisheries and Assessment operations, transportation, environmental operations, Anishinabek Community and Family Services and all tribal grant funded programs.

The law calls for permanent extension of the middle class tax cuts, an expanded child tax credit, a marriage penalty relief and a permanent alternative minimum tax fix. In addition, it:

- Extends emergency unemployment insurance benefits to two million people for one year.
- Extends the child tax credit, earned income tax credit and

the president's new American Opportunity Tax Credit (which helps families pay for college) for five years.

- Fix the sustainable growth rate formula — which means no cuts to the Affordable Care Act or to beneficiaries — Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid — through the end of next year.

- Extend the Farm Bill through the end of the year, averting a sharp rise in milk prices, among other products, at the beginning of 2013.

Did you notice a change in your most recent paycheck? According to USA.gov, the following is what the new law addressed and how it might impact you and your family:

- The "Bush-era tax cuts" — The new law permanently extended reduced tax rates on income and capital gains and dividends if you make less than

\$400,000 (\$450,000 if you're married and file jointly). If you make more than that, the marginal tax rate for income beyond the new levels rose from 35 percent to 39.6 percent.

This change also increased the top tax rate on long term capital gains and dividends from 15 percent to 20 percent and made changes to several other tax credits, the marriage penalty and education-related incentives.

- The estate tax rules — ATRA permanently extended the estate tax laws as they currently exist, except for the top tax rate, which was increased from 35 percent to 40 percent. Now up to \$5 million of an estate's worth is exempt from taxes.

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 tax provisions — The child tax credit, some provisions surrounding the earned income

tax credit and an education tax credit, the American opportunity tax credit, were all temporarily extended through 2017.

- The payroll tax reduction — There was a two percent reduction in the amount of money you paid through the Social Security payroll tax that Congress put in place in 2010. This tax reduction was not extended as part of ATRA. As a result, the tax rate reverted back to the original amount — 6.2 percent for employees and 12.4 percent for the self-employed. You may notice a change in the amount of your take-home pay in your first paycheck of the 2013 calendar year.

The ATRA also addressed several other issues, including unemployment, Medicare and other health provisions and the farm bill.

Compiled by Win Awenen Nisitotung staff.

Living on less: Making a plan, sticking to it

FROM MSU EXTENSION

When the family faces reduced income due to the loss of a job, reduced hours or other factors you need to take immediate action to stop all excess spending. Delaying spending cutbacks can lead to financial disaster. Whether your situation is temporary or extended, you need to get the most for your money.

Studies have found that many families do not adjust their lifestyle for about six months after their income is reduced. Those six months of ignoring the situation can bring disaster. When you take charge of your financial situation immediately you are making a positive contribution to your family's well-being now and in the future.

Following basic money management principles can reduce stress and help you adjust to living on less income. Here is a list of research-tested principles:

- Make a list of the family's most important expenses while you have less income, this means things you must have or do.
- Make a family spending plan to determine where your money will go.

- Develop a family budget you can use to cope with your income situation.

- Decide where you will spend your money. Stick to your spending plan. With less income, each spending decision is critical.

Most people give high priority to fixed expenses such as rent or mortgage payments, insurance premiums, car payments, and installment debt. Flexible expenses such as food, utilities, clothing and household expenses can be more easily adjusted to fit your income. Most people find it easier to cut back on flexible expenses.

All family members need to work together to reduce spending. When everyone pulls together, you are more likely to succeed at living on less. Together, the family should go through the following list under each of the flexible expense categories. Check the ideas you think would help your family reduce spending. Add your family's ideas to each list.

As you go through the list, ask how spending can be reduced:

- Can we substitute a less costly item?
- How can we conserve resources and avoid waste?

- Are there opportunities to cooperate with others by trading or sharing resources? Can we save if we do it ourselves?

- Can we do without?

During challenging financial times, it is very important to control spending. Restrict purchases to "needed items" and go without items that are just "wants." Before buying an item, ask yourself the following questions:

- Do we already own one?
- Can we do without it?
- Can we postpone its purchase?
- Can we substitute something else that costs less?
- Can we use our skills to make it?

For additional resources on controlling spending go to Michigan State University Extension's MI Money Health website at www.mimoneyhealth.org or the national Extension Personal Finance resource page at www.extension.org/personal_finance.

LOW MONEY FUN

There are many things families can do together that don't cost anything, or very little, that can save money, bring families



Staying at home to play a board game with family is fun, makes memories and costs nothing.

together and provide teachings for children. Below are a few examples.

Take advantage of local public resources:

- Spend time together at the park or local community festival.
- Go for hikes or bike rides.

- Go for a family picnic.
- Go swimming at the local pool, lake, ocean or springs.

Take advantage of free programs offered by the library, museums, community music or other free community events.

- Check out books, music and videos for free from the library.

Find cheaper entertainment at home:

- Have a family game night.
- Rent or borrow movies, pop some popcorn and have a family movie night at home.
- Bake or cook together as a family.
- Read stories to one another.
- Go on evening walks together.

Help your children learn new skills and ideas:

- Teach children how to garden.
- Teach children craft skills you enjoy and spend time doing these together.

Support the Native American Languages Preservation Act

FROM THE FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) is urging support for reauthorization of the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act. The act funds programs that support and strengthen Native American language-immersion programs — including language nests, survival schools and restoration programs.

The act was named after Esther Martinez, a 94-year-old teacher and storyteller who was devoted to preserving the Tewa language. The act was signed into law by President George W. Bush in December 2006, and it

expired in fiscal year 2012.

On Sept. 15, 2012, members of the New Mexico congressional delegation introduced legislation, S3546, to extend the program for another five years. Your support is needed to get the bill passed.

"Preserving our Native languages is critical to the survival of our cultures. At the same time, a growing body of research concludes that bilingualism improves a child's cognitive development," said NIEA President Dr. Heather Shotton.

Take action now! Call Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairman Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, at (202) 224-2251 today,

and urge him to use the "clearance process" for a quick passage of the legislation.

In your message, tell Sen. Akaka that:

- The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act strengthens tribal language, culture and identity.

- The survival of American Indian and Alaska Native languages is essential to the success of tribal communities and Native ways of life.

- The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Act provides tribes with critical support to establish and maintain immersion programs that revitalize Native languages.

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2013 elderly committees meeting schedules

Unit I Sault Elderly Subcommittee meetings — Feb. 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4.

The subcommittee meets on the first Wednesday of every month after the noon meal at the Nokomis/Mishomis Center 2076 Shunk Rd.

For questions, call the Elders Services at 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Unit II Hessel Elderly Subcommittee meetings — Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16.

The subcommittee meets on the third Monday of every month after the noon meal at the Hessel Tribal Center.

Unit II Newberry Elderly Subcommittee meetings — Jan.

18, Feb. 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18 Nov. 15, Dec. 20.

The subcommittee meets on the third Friday of every month at 11 a.m. before the meal at the Zellars Village Inn in Newberry.

Unit II Naubinway Elderly Subcommittee meetings — Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 27, April 24, May 29, June 26, July 31, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 30, Nov. 27, no December meeting.

The subcommittee meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Naubinway Pavilion.

Unit III St. Ignace Elderly Subcommittee meetings — Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13.

The subcommittee meets

on the second Friday of every month after the noon meal at the McCann Building.

Unit IV Manistique Elderly Subcommittee meetings — Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11.

The subcommittee meets on the second Wednesday of every month after the noon meal at the Manistique Tribal Center.

Unit IV Escanaba Elderly Subcommittee meetings — Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19.

The subcommittee meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Willow Creek Professional Building, second floor meeting room, 3500 Ludington Street.

Catered meals at 5:30 p.m. are followed by the meetings.

Unit V Munising Elderly Subcommittee meetings — Jan. 7 and 21, Feb. 4 and 18, March 4 and 18, April 1 and 15, May 6 and 20, June 3 and 17, July 1 and 15, Aug. 5 and 19, Sept. 2 and 16, Oct. 7 and 21, Nov. 4 and 18, Dec. 2 and 16.

The subcommittee meets at the Munising Tribal Center (Lincoln School), on the first Mondays of the months; dinner is at 5 p.m.

On the third Mondays of the months, meetings take place at 4 p.m.

The Entrance to the building is off Munising Ave. (M-28) across from the American Legion. Please use the west entrance.

Unit V Marquette Elderly Subcommittee meetings — Jan. 3, Feb. 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 4, Aug. 1, Sept. 5,

Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5.

The subcommittee meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn.

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

Elderly Advisory Committee Meeting — March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 28.

The committee will meet at 12:30 p.m. at the Newberry Tribal Center.

Representatives from all elder subcommittees attend on the fourth Mondays for months March through October.

Did you know the federal government has an auction website?

Shop for anything from homes to computers and jewelry at www.govsales.gov.

Hessel youth serve elders appreciation dinner

Hessel area youth council members prepared and served an appreciation dinner to 18 local elders on Dec. 27. They also delivered meals to three homebound elders.

Morgan McQuiston, Matthew Landreville and Val Jean LaTour, shown at right, served the dinners (Greggory Currie missing from photo due to illness).

During the dinner, youth introduced themselves and expressed their appreciation of elders. Val Jean LaTour thanked elders for being a part of the community and sharing teachings with the youth to help them grow. Matthew Landreville thanked the elders for their wisdom. Morgan McQuiston thanked the elders for their teachings and for coming to the lunch.

Youth Service coordinator Lisa Burnside and Youth Service assistant Robin LaTour assisted the youth.



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

\$15,000 Poker Blast

Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie
February 15-17, 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!



GREAT GADGET GIVEAWAY

MONDAY THROUGH SUNDAY AT EACH SITE!

JANUARY 7-27, 2013

Top 5 base point earners at each site will WIN GADGETS*!

Each week 5 second chance random draws* will be held at each site.

*Must register to participate. See Northern Rewards for official rules.



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Voted Best Entertainment Venue in the Eastern U.P.



April Wine, Sweet & Head East

Saturday, February 9 at 7 p.m.

DreamMakers Theater

Sault Ste. Marie, MI



Rick Springfield

Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m.

DreamMakers Theater

Sault Ste. Marie, MI

CASH AND CHOCOLATES GIVEAWAY!

All Kewadin Sites

OVER \$45,000 in Cash & Credits!

Earn entries for every 25 base points beginning Feb. 1 until 10 p.m. on Feb. 14 for the Grand Prize Draw on Feb. 14 at 10:15 p.m.

Valentine's Day, February 14

• Random Kewadin Credit draws of \$100 each from noon until 4 p.m.!

• Random draws from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. for cash up to \$500!

• "Dinner on us" beginning at 5 p.m.

Win your share of \$7,600 between all five sites!

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

Annual elders Christmas dinner served at Sault Kewadin Casino



Above, Ted Aikens, Dorth Jarvis, Louie Aikens (L-R). Below are Volunteers Bev Black, Cindy Benson, Sharon Barnett and Sharon Hovie.



Above, Clyde Bunno and Bill Wagner (L-R). Below, Evert Eagle and Betty Currie.



Above, Lynette Marsh and Theresa and Jim Little (L-R). Below, Bridgett Sorenson, Cheri Goetz, Sally Valentine, Keith Massaway and Aaron Payment.



Tribal members Bell and Dietz travel to Rome for canonization of first Native American saint

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American saint, was canonized Oct. 21 in Rome. Tribal members from Bay Mills and Sault Ste. Marie made the pilgrimage to participate in the historic ceremony at the Vatican. The Diocese of Marquette was represented by 61 Catholics, who were able to visit some of the religious sites in the vicinity of Rome as well as being treated to authentic Italian cuisine.

Sault Tribe member Lisa Dietz and her husband Harvey Bell of the Batchewana First Nation

attend St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church in Sault Ste. Marie. They had been saving their funds for over 18 months to afford the pilgrimage. The couple left for their trip Oct. 18 and returned a week later.

According to Dietz, there were over 700 Native Americans at the Vatican for the ceremony, representing tribes such as the Mohawk Nation, Navajo, Hopi, Cherokee and First Nations from Canada. Brother John Hascall, a Sault Tribe member and the pastor at St. Isaac Jogues, also attended the canonization.

Dietz said special seating was reserved for attendees from geographic regions representing the people to be sainted. With a crowd of more than 100,000 people, it was mostly standing room only, she said.

St. Kateri has two namesake churches in the U.P. — Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Mission in Bay Mills and The Most Holy Name of Jesus / Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Parish in Assinins. The parish in Bay Mills was officially re-named “Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Mission” at a Nov. 4 Mass presided over by Bishop

Alexander Sample.

The ceremony in St. Peter’s Square took about two hours, Dietz said, and in addition to Kateri Tekakwitha, six other men and women were also canonized. St. Kateri was known as the “Lily of the Mohawks” and learned her faith from her Catholic Huron mother who died when Kateri was 5. Tekakwitha converted to Catholicism at the age of 18 and died at 24.

“We were in good company,” Dietz said. “We can be really proud of all the Native people that attended the ceremony.”

In addition to attending multiple Masses, including a Thanksgiving Mass in the Mohawk language at St. Peter’s Basilica, they visited the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi and saw the church at Orvieto. They were sponsored for dinner at the North American College, where they ate in a courtyard surrounded by orange trees. They saw the tomb of John Paul II, the Trevi Fountain and the Coliseum, and attended a supper hosted by the Vatican in a private garden.

Dietz said the trip was reasonably priced, about the same



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

as going to Cleveland for a week from her home in the U.P. Contributions to help send Native Americans to attend the ceremony came from individuals and missions, who also helped arrange for guides and tours. She said Bay Mills Indian Community covered much of their cost with donations and fund raising.

“We now have one of our own in the calendar of saints,” she said. “The next one to be recognized will be Venerable Bishop Baraga. It was an honor to be able to attend and I feel very happy for all the young Native girls who can now look up to Saint Kateri as a role model.”



Sault Tribe member Lisa Dietz and her husband Harvey Bell at the Vatican for the canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

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If you have questions please email Isaac McKechnie at: imckechnie@saulttribe.net

Frechette helps Team Rubicon with Operation Greased Lightning relief in New York City



Sault Tribe member Dan Frechette, at far right with black sleeves, stands among other Team Rubicon volunteers at FOB Hope, a forward operating base in Brooklyn, N.Y. Some of the founding leaders of the organization are among the faces in the photograph.



Remains of one of the many homes in Belle Harbor, N.Y. destroyed by Superstorm Sandy. The storm not only brought high winds and flooding, it caused fires, heavy sand deposits and other problems over a large, heavily populated area.



Boardwalk in Belle Harbor along the Atlantic Ocean ripped from its anchorages and pushed against buildings along the beachfront.

Sault Tribe member Dan Frechette recently took some vacation leave from his job as an officer with the Sault Tribe Police Department to help people in New York overwhelmed by the destruction and chaos left in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. He joined Team Rubicon as a volunteer last spring. This fall, he was called upon to help Operation Greased Lightning, a fast emergency response organized by Team Rubicon to bring immediate aid to residents of New York City.

He joined with five other first-time volunteers in Dearborn, Mich., in taking a 16-hour trip to Brooklyn, N.Y. Team Rubicon volunteers from more distant areas flew courtesy of Jet Blue Airways.

Frechette was based out of Brooklyn and was on scene with the volunteer rescue and relief organization from Nov. 10 to Nov. 17. He was assigned to relief operations in Belle Harbor, a neighborhood in the Borough of Queens on the western half of the Rockaway Peninsula. The peninsula separates the Atlantic Ocean from Jamaica Bay.

The devastation he found was indescribable, "You can't comprehend it unless you've seen it," said Frechette. He was greeted by burned out homes and vehicles, deep blankets of sand swept into streets and yards, twisted and tossed boardwalks plus numerous other startling images testifying to the power of the storm.

Frechette, a 22-year veteran of the Soo Township Volunteer Fire Department, 12 years as fire chief, along with nearly 13 years on the Sault Tribe Police Department, joined other volunteers from Team Rubicon and other outfits in daily trips into stricken areas to help residents trying to recover in the wake of the catastrophe. The teams moved quickly in clearing debris and taking care of preparation details for restoration of damaged homes. They moved water logged furnishings, such as couches and mattresses, out

of stricken homes and took measures to combat mold. At one point, Frechette noted, a team he was with worked on five houses in one day.

"There were people, elders, who had tears in their eyes trying to express gratitude," he said. "Contractors, if you could get one, were charging around \$12,000 for what we did for nothing."

As horrific as the scene was to the eye, Frechette heard accounts from residents that painted clear pictures of the deplorable situations some of the residents experienced. One older gentleman related how his son watched fire approaching his house as he stood at a second-story window with his two young sons. They were on the second floor because the first floor and the area around their home was submerged in water about five feet deep. With one boy in one arm and the other boy in the other arm, the father waded into the water and left the house to take his boys to safety. The father quickly realized another hazard jeopardizing their safety as the fire approached — the water reeked of gas and fuel oil. Eventually, the man and his boys escaped their predicament.

Team Rubicon volunteers based in Brooklyn were housed in an old warehouse and their forward operating base (FOB) was a parking lot in Belle Harbor designated FOB Hope. Volunteers slept on cots and ate assorted available food at the warehouse. Showers, though, involved a mile-long walk to a YMCA, gym club or other suitably equipped facility. The locals were more than happy to accommodate the "Gray Shirts," according to Frechette, that included eats and drinks. "Everywhere we went," he said, "the Gray Shirts were recognized."

Frechette described a typical day in team relief efforts. Volunteers rose at about 6 a.m. each morning, had breakfast, briefings and updates before receiving workorders.

Schoolbuses took the volunteers to their assigned areas where they worked as fast as they could in executing the workorders. At the end of it, they caught buses back to FOB Hope.

Operation Greased Lightning is Team Rubicon's largest mission so far. According to the organization, emergency response teams were deployed from Boston to Washington, D.C., on Oct. 29, just as Sandy was bearing down on the northeastern United States and call went out to its roster of 6,000 volunteers composed mostly of military veterans and professional emergency personnel. The original goal was to get 1,000 volunteers, they reached about 1,200 individuals who answered the call to bridge the critical time gap between the devastation of the looming storm and the arrival of conventional aid. In addition, the organizational structure allowed for the successful leadership of over 10,000 other spontaneous volunteers.

After over three weeks of service, Team Rubicon began the process of shifting its operations, in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management, to Americorps and NY Cares, a couple of partner organizations that specialize in long-term recovery operations. Once the transition was complete, Team Rubicon officially ended its mission on Dec. 3.

Other partnerships with Team Rubicon included the likes of Jet Blue, Home Depot, the Clinton Global Initiative, Goldman Sachs, Palantir Technologies, Verizon Wireless and many others. Team Rubicon indicated it completed over 700 workorders on the Rockaway Peninsula in addition to search and rescue operations, route clearance, and operating emergency operations centers and shelters.

The award-winning organization was formed by military veterans in 2010. Learn more at www.teamrubiconusa.com.



Frechette, front right, with three other Team Rubicon "Gray Shirts," including the gentleman on the far right in the Detroit Tigers ball cap, and a half-dozen on-scene "civilian" volunteers during Operation Greased Lightning.



Appearing much like the aftermath of combat action, another scene of some of the destruction around Belle Harbor.



A Belle Harbor street partially cleared from sand swept inland by Superstorm Sandy.

Text by Rick Smith, photos courtesy of Dan Frechette

Grade reports for incentive awards due Jan. 31

Attention all students: Sault Tribe Higher Education is now accepting grade reports for the Self-Sufficiency Incentive Awards.

As of Dec. 1, 2012, until Jan. 31, 2013, the department will be accepting student grade reports for the fall semester Self-Sufficiency Incentive Awards.

The awards are offered to any Sault Tribe member who is currently enrolled in a two or four-year college or university. The program is effective for fall semesters only.

Each student will receive an estimated \$30 per credit hour for any class passed with a C or better and as long as it is not a repeat course.

The limited funding is divided by the total number of credits hours submitted by all students and this determines the amount granted per credit hour. Due to limited funding, we can not accept late reports.

Students are required to have a 2012-2013 Higher Education application, W-9 form and copy of their Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of

Chippewa Indians membership card on file with the Education Department. All students who submitted 2012-2013 documentation were mailed a confirmation letter.

If you think you submitted the paperwork but did not get a letter, then please contact our office.

Student grade reports must be in the college's original format. It must include the student's full name, the college's name, term, number of credit hours and the grades per class.

Students may NOT handwrite any of this information on to the report. We can NOT accept grade reports that are copied and pasted into emails. We are unable to open links to the reports if the student is required to log-in first.

We recommend that students obtain a copy of their "unofficial" transcript and submit this to our office. Please do NOT rely on financial aid officers or other school officials to submit your grade report for you; each student is responsible for their

own documentation.

Anyone with questions, or to confirm that your documentation and grade report were received, please feel free to contact Brandi MacArthur, administrative assistant for Higher Education, at (906) 635-7784 or bmacarthur@saulttribe.net.

If you would like to fax your paperwork directly to my office, please fax to (906) 635-7785 and keep your fax confirmation sheet as documented proof as having submitted your grade report on time.

Munising harvest dinner and Christmas party



Munising's youth drum at the Munising harvest dinner.



Enjoying one of the fun activities offered during the harvest dinner.



A sample of the foods offered.

Munising Public School's Native American Education Program along with our Youth Education and Activities program provided a harvest feast for all students.

The students had the opportunity to sample venison, partridge, corn, wild rice and cranberries.

At the end of the week, all students enjoyed a presentation from our local Native American drummers, along with students participating in drumming class.

Munising children were invited to a Christmas party with crafts and activities as well as food and snacks during the annual event.

SUBMITTED BY KIM SWANBERG

Santa met with many Munising area children on Dec. 16 to hear their requests for Christmas.

Title VII Indian Education Director Cindy Blank and Youth Education and Activities coordinator Linda Hutchinson worked together with community volunteers to make this year's party spectacular.

Children played games and decorated cookies while parents and grandparents were entertained with the night's activities. Food was provided by Christmas Kewadin Casino, and cookies were provided by Joan Anderson, Karen Derwin, Sue Golisek and Donna McNally.



Photos by Cindy DeJong, Title VII coordinator



Youth wait in line for one of the many fun activities offered during the annual Munising children's Christmas party.

From "Lewis" page 16

after a short illness on Dec. 26, 2012, at his home surrounded by his family.

Jim was a Sault Tribe elder. He was employed at Kewadin Casino after retiring from the U.S. Navy. He was a special man who brought much laughter and humor to family gatherings. He also liked to read and play keno.

He was preceded in death by his lifelong partner, Rose Menard; his parents; his sister, Pam Cryderman; his brothers, Bill Lewis and Jon Lewis; and his brothers-in-law, David Kinney and Al Goodrich.

He is survived by his step-daughters, Tiffany Menard and Miranda Menard (and her partner, Chrissy); his sisters, Nancy (Art) Swartz, Marge Kinney, Mary Goodrich, Geri (Mark) Steele and Betty Lewis (Dan Wyers); his sisters-in-law, Laurie Lewis and Tel Fox; his brothers, Marty (Sofia) Lewis, Al Lewis, Steve Lewis and Jeff (Rita) Lewis; Rose's brothers, Buck, Scott, Mike, Ron and Tom Menard; Rose's sisters, Pat Willette and Dorothy Leach; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held on Jan. 2, 2013, at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral followed by a Mass of Christian Burial. Clark Bailey Newhouse assisted the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Hospice of the E.U.P.

JOHN MCCALL

John "Ray" McCall, 86, of St. Ignace, died Dec. 7, 2012, at Hospice House of Eastern Upper Peninsula in Sault Ste. Marie.

He was born in Moran Jan. 24, 1926, to Alfred and Maude (nee Rabideau) McCall.

He married Arvilla Johnson in 1992.

He was an ironworker who helped build the Mackinac Bridge, the railroad bridge in Sault Ste. Marie and the Renaissance building in Detroit. After working for 30 years, he retired and then went on to work for the U.S. Forestry for several more years.

He belonged to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He was a member of the VFW and American Legion. He served as Post Commander of VFW Post 5114 for seven years. He was formerly a Moose Lodge member. He was a member of St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church.

He was an avid Detroit Tigers



fan, and nothing could interrupt him while the Tigers were playing.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, Larry and William, both of St. Ignace; daughters and their families, Lynne and Mike Clark of Escanaba, Debbie and Farrel Guilbeau of Mosella, Miss.; a stepson and his family, Kevin and Debbie Montie of Sault Ste. Marie; seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

He was preceded in death by three sisters, Hazel, Florence, and Pearl; seven brothers, Buster, George, Bud, Russel and Carl McCall, Louie and Albert Conguy; a grandson, Robert; and two sons, Charles and Mike.

A memorial service was held Dec. 13 at Dodson Funeral Home with Father Pawel Macwel officiating. The American Legion conduct services with presenting of the flag and "Taps."

Interment will be at a later date in Gros Cap Cemetery.

Dodson Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

JON FRANCIS LEWIS

Jon Francis Lewis was born June 24, 1957, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Alfred and Shirley Lewis. He passed away unexpectedly Nov. 19, 2012. He was a proud Veteran of the U.S. Navy and a Sault Tribe Elder.

Jon loved to laugh, family gatherings, and loud classic rock music.

Jon is survived by his soul-mate and best friend, Tel Fox, with whom he proudly shared life's journey. He is survived by daughter, Jessica Daley; brothers, James Lewis, Marty and Sofia Lewis, Alfred Lewis, Steve Lewis, and Jeff and Rita Lewis; sisters, Nancy and Art Swartz, Marge Kinney, Lavina (Mary) Goodrich, Geri and Mark Steele, and Betty Lewis and Dan Wyer; and sister-in-law, Laurie Lewis. He is also survived by Tel's family, Don, Charlie, Isadore, Paul, Mae and Rhonda; his friend, Gordon, from Wiky; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Pam Cryderman; his brother, Bill Lewis; brothers-in-law Dave Kinney and Alan Goodrich; and his friend David (Kromo) Komarnizki.

No memorial service was held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sault Ste. Marie Veterans Associations.

KATHLEEN MARIE SMITHSON

Kathleen "Kathy" Marie Smithson, 55, of Eastland, Texas, passed away Monday, Dec. 3, 2012. She was born Aug. 3, 1957, in Newberry, Mich.

Kathy was a member of the Gunsight Baptist Church and was the assistant manager of Higginbotham-Barlett Co. in Eastland. She was a mom, sister and friend will be greatly missed by everyone she touched.

Survivors include her son, Jamey Paquin and wife, Betsy; a daughter, Sandra Paquin; brother, Joe Paquin; sisters, Sandra Gomez, Shon Taft, Vicky Smithson, Sharon Davis, Lois Bryant, Donna Bell and Elizabeth Reed; and two grandchildren.

Kathy was preceded in death by her parents, Louis P. Paquin and Deloris June Hood; her husband, Wesley Smithson; a brother, Louis Paquin; and one grandson.

Memorial services were Dec. 8 at the River of Life Church in Eastland. The family received friends on Dec. 7 at the Edwards Funeral Home in Eastland.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions be made to Goodfellows.

LLOYD JOSEPH REISS

Lloyd Joseph Reiss, 75, passed on Dec. 7, 2012. Lloyd was born in Milwaukee, Wis., and lived a good part of his life in Colorado before moving to Chandler, Ariz.

He was a veteran of the United States Air Force and a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Lloyd retired from the Chandler Unified School District and since that time has enjoyed travel, golf, horseshoes and spending time with his wife and many friends at Sunbird Golf Resort.

He will be missed by his loving wife, Ellie; son, Barry, and daughter, Kathryn, both of Everett, Wash.; granddaughter, Heather, of Kearns, Utah; sister, Dorothy Henry of Chandler; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Dec. 17 at the Sunbird Clubhouse in Chandler. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to Hospice of the Valley (www.hov.org). Arrangements were made by Bueler Chandler Mortuary.

PATRICIA R. LAPINE

Patricia R. LaPine, 74, of St. Ignace and Mackinac Island, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012, at Hospice of the EUP in Sault Ste. Marie.

She was born Sept. 27, 1938, to Levi and Susan (nee Andress) LaPine on Mackinac Island.

She was employed at the North Bay Inn in St. Ignace for many years, and for the past 13 years, she was employed at the Windermere Hotel on Mackinac Island.

She belonged to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and was a member of Ste. Anne's Catholic Church on Mackinac Island.

She is survived by her children and their families, John Cadotte of Mackinac Island, Howard Cadotte of St. Ignace, Cindy Prater of Tennessee, and Cheryl Cadotte of Moran; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a brother and his family, Porky and Caroline LaPine of Mackinac Island, and a sister and her family, Mickey and Smi Horn, also of Mackinac Island.

A gathering was held at the Tribal Elder Center in St. Ignace Dec. 2.

Dodson Funeral Home of St. Ignace assisted the family with arrangements.

DORIS L. BEAUDRY

Doris Lorraine Beaudry, 92, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died Jan. 3, 2013, in Sault Ste. Marie. She was born July 9, 1920, in Escanaba, Mich., to Frank and Rose (Cloutier) Macabbe.

Doris grew up in Manistique, Mich. She married Ovela "Val" Gerard Beaudry on Dec. 27, 1938, in Manistique.



They owned and operated Doris & Val's Restaurant in Kinross, Mich., during the 1940s and early 1950s. After they closed the restaurant, they moved to the Milan, Mich., area where Doris worked in the kitchen at the state hospital for 12 years. She and Val returned to the Kinross area in the early 1980s when they retired.

Doris was a member of the Kinross Heritage Society. Doris loved baking, and according to her family, she baked the best cherry and strawberry pies ever made. She also enjoyed playing cards and sitting outdoors on her swing.

Doris is survived by two daughters, Diane (Vick) Baglio of Naples, Fla., and Cecilia (Gary) England of Belleville, Mich. two sons, Robert Beaudry of Kinross and Michael Beaudry of Belleville; grandchildren,

Thomas L. (Tyne) Beaudry, James Richard "Rick" Beaudry, Cheryl A. (Orville) Gregg, Troy (Michelle) Adams, Daniel (Sarah) Adams, Eric (Erika) Adams, Jason England, Chiffon England, Rebekah England, Bryan England, Jennifer Beaudry, David Beaudry, and Courtney Beaudry; great-grandchildren, Ryan Beaudry, Preston Beaudry, Michelle (William) Shields, Trevor Gregg, Taylor Adams, Aniken Adams, Kyle Adams, Josh Adams, Madylynn Adams, Baby Adams, Jordan England, Bobby England, Star Dashandra England, Catilynn England, Di Mon England, Floyd England, Kelly England, Catherine Beaudry, John Sutter, Tabatha Beaudry, and Elena Beaudry; and great great grandchildren, Ashlynn Alexandra, Lucinda Paige, Izabelle Aiyonna and Ava Marie. Also surviving is one brother, Robert (Shirley) Macabbe, of Escanaba.

Doris was preceded in death by her husband, Val; sister, Eva Grondin; brother, Frank "Bud" Macabbe; and daughter-in-law, Mary Beaudry.

Services were held Jan. 8 at Reamer Galer Funeral Home in Pickford. Final resting place will be Kinross Township Lakeview Cemetery.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.reamergalerfuneralhome.com.

MARVEL M. PROTON

Marvel M. Proton, Ph.D., died on Dec. 19, 2012, at age 77. Retired teacher and counselor, Warren Schools.

Beloved wife of the late G. Philip Johnson, Ph.D. Dear sister of Louis Proton (Judy), Marianne Hennessey, Delina Belongea, and the late D.



Ruth Hillman and Peter Proton. Step-mother of Reed Johnson, Neal Johnson, Althea

Walworth and Laurel Johnson. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and step-grandchildren.

The Memorial Mass took place Jan. 5 at St. Andrew Catholic Church, Rochester, Mich.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, Rochester Branch.

View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com.

FIRST NATION "IDLE NO MORE" MOVEMENT SPREADS ACROSS NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT, THEN GLOBE

From "Idle No More," page 1

According to The Canadian Press, Former Prime Minister Joe Clark, concerned that the Canadian government and the First Nations are "headed in a dangerous direction," met with Spence and called her goal of resuming discussions "humble and achievable." Indeed, Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued an announcement on Jan. 4 of a planned meeting with a delegation of First Nations leaders coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations set for Jan. 11.

Harper noted he was pleased to participate in the historic Crown-First Nations Gathering that took place on Jan. 24, 2012. According to the announcement, the governments of Canada and First Nations

committed to pursuing a half-dozen improvements in building stronger bonds and more appropriate governing structures, enhancing individual success through education and opportunities, strengthening communities, accelerating economic development and respecting the role of First Nations' culture and language in Canada's history and future.

"The government of Canada and First Nations have an enduring historic relationship based on mutual respect, friendship and support," Harper said in the statement. "The government of Canada is committed to strengthening this relationship."

More locally, in the region around Sault Ste. Marie in southern Ontario, Chief Dean Sayers of the Batchewana First Nation has been drawing attention to Idle No More

and the recent controversial issues through public speaking appearances throughout the area, including a roadblock on the Garden River Reserve and the downtown Sault Ste. Marie demonstration on Dec. 27.

Sayers indicated Spence is only one of many across North America on a hunger strike in support of the Idle No More goal, a goal shared by the regional rallies and events surrounding old Bawating. "All of those kinds of thing that we paid the biggest price for by sharing our resources, they're trying to take those little things away that we still have," he said. "What we're hoping is that Canadians will call the prime minister and ask him to sit at a table and help us in creating a proper implementation plan for the historical relationship that has never really been defined. And it

needs to be brought together in the form of what they call the spirit and intent of our historic relationship."

However, on the eve of the Jan. 11 summit, some tribal leaders and groups balked at the validity of the meeting since it would not include the representative of the crown, Governor General David Johnston. Those planning to boycott the summit insist on the presence of both the prime minister and the governor general at a summit and not separate meetings as planned. Among those planning to boycott are Chief Spence and some members of the Assembly of First Nations.

Learn more at www.idlenomore.com or log onto Facebook.com and visit the Idle No More News Group.

Kewadin Casinos team members of the month



Congratulations to Joe Starnes, gift shop, and Kewadin Sault's Team Member of the Month! Joe started work in August 2006. Thanks for your commitment and dedication, Joe!



Congratulations to Don Braman, Christmas Team Member of the Month for December! Don has been working here for just over 1.5 years as a Northern Rewards Club clerk. Way to go!

Wallis graduates from boot camp Births...

Private Robert Thomas Wallis, 18, a Sault Tribe member of Pickford, was graduated from boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Dec. 14, 2012.

Private Wallis, from Platoon 2113, successfully completed 13 weeks of intensive basic training.

While in basic training, Wallis was a fire team leader and placed as rifle expert.

He will report to Camp Pendleton for Marine Combat Training on Jan. 14, then Military Occupation Specialty School for

Amphibious Assault.

He is the son of Mark and Sheri Wallis of Pickford.

His parents, grandmother Ellen Wallis, sister Brittnie Wallis and friend Justina Watson were all in attendance for the ceremony.

Haley Krull makes Dean's List

Sault Tribe member Haley Krull, daughter of Tamara and Rich Roche, granddaughter of Cheryl (nee Leask) Ordiway and Lynn Ordiway and great granddaughter of Edward (Chum) Leask, all of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., made the Northern Michigan University dean's list for the 2012 fall semester.

Haley is enrolled in the radiography program. She has a younger sister, Helenna, and younger brother, RJ.

Congratulations, Haley, on your accomplishment.



ARIEANA SUE LUKE

Terry Luke and Cheyanne Cassibo are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, Arieana. Arieana Sue Luke was born at 5:05 p.m. on Dec. 27, 2012, in Grand Rapids, Mich. She weighed 7 pounds and was 19.5 inches in length.

Grandparents are Terry and Cynthia Luke, of Grand Rapids, and James and Nancy Howard, of Kincheloe, Mich.



TRENT JACKSON KEITH

Trent Jackson Keith was born on Nov. 7, 2012. He weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces.

Trent is the son of Lesley (Nelson) and Dillyn Keith, both LSSU graduates.

Grandparents are Anita Louise (Bebo) and James Nelson, of Munising, Dennis Keith of Coldwater, and Valerie Cushing of Niles, Mich.



Walking On

JAMES HOFFMAN

James Hoffman of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away at his home unexpectedly on Dec. 24, 2012. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Jan. 25, 1994.

Surviving James Hoffman are his mother, Debra (Rick) Vagaski, and his father Gerald Hoffman of Sault Ste. Marie; his grandparents, Beatrice Barcelou of Fall River, Mass., Robert Hoffman, Mary Hoffman and Henrietta King, all of Sault Ste. Marie; his brothers, Mark Hoffman and Denis (Alicia) Berube Jr.; sisters, Laura (Michael) Quinn and Stacy Elizabeth Hoffman, all of Sault Ste. Marie; his aunts and uncles, Laura Hoffman, Cheryl Hoffman, Robin Hoffman and Wendy Hoffman, all of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Liz Vagaski of Clarkston, Mich., and Steve Cateon of Fall River, Mass. James is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins, and his best friend, Kelsi Burse of Sault Ste. Marie.

James was preceded in death by his grandfather, Frank Barcelou.

Services were held at the Sault Tribe Cultural Building on Dec. 29, 2012.

RUTH SHARON BURCH

Ruth Sharon (nee DePlonty) Burch, 53, of Brimley, Mich., passed away on Dec. 15, 2012, at home with her loving family.

Ruth was born on Oct. 2, 1959, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was a member of the Sault Ste.

Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and was employed with the Sault Area Public Schools until illness forced her to resign.

Ruth loved animals and was a volunteer at the Chippewa County Animal Shelter. She also loved camping and spending time with her husband, Pat, at their camp in Canada.

Ruth is survived by her husband of 33 years, Pat Burch of Brimley; her daughter, Amanda Burch, of Southfield; her son, Josh (Jamie) Burch, of Kincheloe; and her grandchildren, Kobe and Adeline. She is also survived by her mother, Caroline DePlonty of Sault Ste. Marie; her brother, Ross (Marcie) DePlonty, of Marquette; her sisters, Annette (Wayne) King of Sault Ste. Marie and Laura (Larry) Hammock of Brimley.

Ruth was preceded in death by her father, Milton DePlonty, and her brother, Raye DePlonty.

Per Ruth's wishes her remains have been cremated and a small memorial service in her honor was held Dec. 21 at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Chippewa County Animals Shelter or Hospice of the EUP. Condolences may be left online at www.csmulder.com.



NINA JO HOUSNER

Nina Jo "Tootie" (nee Cadreau) Housner, 46, passed away on Dec. 24, 2012, at her home in Sturgeon Bay, Wis. Nina Jo was born June 3, 1966, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Joseph and Nina (nee Peake) Cadreau. She was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Nina Jo spent her younger years in Trout Lake, Mich. She later moved to Green Bay, Wis., where she married and raised a family.

Nina Jo was a kind, easy-going, good-hearted person who loved to laugh. She enjoyed spending time with family, friends and her faithful dog, "Hercules."

Nina Jo is survived by her daughters, Sarah Ann Housner (Brian Lemens) and Beth Leean Housner; a granddaughter, Katie Mae Lemens, all of Sturgeon Bay; step-daughter, Amanda Housner, of Green Bay; her father and step-mother, Joseph and Bridget Cadreau, of Trout Lake; her mother, Nina Cadreau (Wally Kaniecki), sister, Tonya Cadreau, two nephews, Nathan and Nicholas Cushman, all of Sault Ste. Marie; step-sister, Meegan Flannery, Marquette, Mich.; best friend and father of her children, Craig Housner, Sturgeon Bay;



loving companion, Eric Hansen, Sturgeon Bay; several aunts, uncles, many cousins, and special cousin, Stacey (nee Cadreau) Mills of Eckerman.

She was preceded in death by an infant granddaughter, Catherine Marie Lemens; a brother, Quinton Philip Cadreau; grandparents, Joseph and Elaine (nee Siegwart) Cadreau and Homer and Dorothy (nee Kanzler) Peake; an aunt and uncle, Gayle (nee Cadreau) and Joe Beaudoin; and step-father, Raymond Kokko.

Forbes Funeral Home (www.forbesfuneralhome.com) of Sturgeon Bay assisted the family. According to her wishes, cremation has taken place. Burial will follow in the spring at Lakeview Cemetery in Trout Lake.

MILTON H. BAZINAU SR.

Milton H. "Milt" Bazinau Sr., 69, of Fremont, Mich., passed away Dec. 31, 2012, at his home. He was born on July 5, 1943, on Mackinac Island, Mich., to James and Caroline (St. Onge) Bazinau, and after his father passed away he was raised by Robert LaPine.

Milt was a US Army Veteran of the Vietnam Era and was a self-employed carpenter. He was a member of the St. Ignace VFW



Post, loved fishing and hunting, and going to Florida.

On June 2, 1976, he married Rosanne "Rose" Thenikl, and she survives him along with nine children, Bernadine Bazinau, Tammy Fagan, Milt Bazinau Jr., Mary Anne (Martin) Bolthouse, Stephanie (Rich Deater) Strong, Heather Bazinau, Robert (Kim) Bazinau, Jaysen Bazinau, David (Tamara) Bazinau; 18 grandchildren and six great grandchildren; his parents, Robert and Caroline LaPine; one brother, Dwight LaPine; and two sisters, Gwen Gabbey and Millie Henry.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Randy and Wally Bazinau.

There will be no visitation. A Memorial Mass was held Jan. 7 at All Saints Catholic Church in Fremont with Fr. Peter Omogo as Celebrant. Military rites were conducted immediately following, provided by the Newaygo VFW Post #4249.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be given to the family to help with expenses. Condolences may be left at www.kroeze-wolffis.com. Arrangements were made by Kroeze-Wolffis Funeral Home Inc.

JAMES L. LEWIS

James Leo Lewis was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Jan. 3, 1950, the son of Alfred (Whitey) and Shirley Lewis. He walked on

See "Lewis" page 17

Family history and your health — what can you do?

SUBMITTED BY INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN

Did you know that your family's health history can play an important role in assessing your risk for many chronic diseases, including cancer?

Relatives share more than brown eyes or curly hair. Chronic illnesses and other health problems also run in families. Family members share many of the same genes, lifestyles and environments - all factors that work together to determine health. Knowing your family health history can give you important

clues to unlock your past for a healthier future.

Look for these "red flags" when asking about your family's health history:

- Cancer in two or more family members.
 - Heart attacks before the age of 55 in men or 65 in women.
 - Sudden unexplained death before age 40.
 - Chronic diseases, such as diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol.
- Other important information:
- Ancestry (different ethnic

groups have an increased risk of certain diseases).

— The age that a family member was diagnosed with a condition.

- Age and cause of death.
 - Number of family members affected.
- What can you do?
- Talk about it with your family. Let your family know that diseases like cancer, diabetes and heart disease can run in families. Find out what conditions are in your family and how old people were when they were diagnosed.
 - Write it down. Record your

family's health history. Update your information as changes occur. Try to include information on at least three generations.

— Pass it on. Tell your health care provider about the diseases that run in your family. Ask whether you need to be screened.

Share the information with your children and others in your family.

To learn more, visit www.MIGeneticsConnection.org, [www.cdc.gov/genomics.public.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/genomics/public.htm), www.geneticsalliance.org, or www.cancer.org.

Sault Tribe health survey: Helping future generations live longer and healthier

BY COLLEEN COMMONS, HEALTH EDUCATION SUPERVISOR

During the month of December, randomly selected Sault Tribe households received a postcard informing them that they have been selected to receive the Sault Tribe Health Survey. Some households may have already received their survey and some surveys may have lost their way in the clutter and shuffle of the holidays!

If you are one of those households who received a postcard but did not receive a survey, stay tuned as on Jan. 10 another survey will be mailed giving you the opportunity to participate.

Sault Tribe household members receiving the survey will be asked questions about their health and health care needs. Results

from the survey will be used to better understand and address health issues facing the tribal community through the Sault Tribe Community Transformation Grant Project.

Great care has been taken by the tribe and the Michigan Public Health Institute to ensure that the privacy of all information used for this study is protected. All data collected in the Sault Tribe Health Survey will not identify individual responses in any way.

Community Health would like to thank those who already received and returned their completed survey. If you have any questions regarding the survey or need assistance completing the survey, please contact Colleen Commons at (906) 635-5241 or Donna Norkoli at 635-8844.

Increasing access to healthy foods

BY COLLEEN COMMONS, HEALTH EDUCATION SUPERVISOR

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians was awarded a Community Transformation Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in September 2011.

One goal of the Sault Tribe's grant project is to increase the availability, accessibility, affordability and identification of healthy foods in the tribe's seven-county service area. To accomplish this goal, Sault Tribe Community Health, in collaboration with Michigan Public Health Institute, Marquette Food Co-Op and Michigan State

University Extension, plans to work with partners throughout Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette and Schoolcraft counties to look at existing regional food systems and determine how to make improvements.

Several meetings will take place during the months of January, February and March. If you would like more information or would like to attend a meeting in your local area, please call Donna Norkoli at 635-8844 for Sault Ste Marie, Marquette, St. Ignace and Newberry, or Kerry Ott at 341-9561 for Manistique.

'Honoring Our Children' gathers community concerns, ideas

BY MICHELLE WILLIS, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Are you a parent, grandparent, aunt, or uncle concerned about the future of your child? As tribal people, we value the support we receive from our family and community to raise our young children. Stop and take a moment to think about how you believe a happy, healthy Anishinaabe child looks. Are there barriers standing in the way of children in your community, preventing them from being that child you see in your heart and mind?

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation are partnering with all of Michigan's tribal commu-

nities to define what we believe a healthy, happy Anishinaabe child age 0-8 should look like. We want to hear from each community to identify the problems that our young children are facing and take a look at the strengths and resources that each tribe contributes to addressing these needs. Through this process, we hope to engage tribal leaders and citizens to create a plan to improve the full range of factors important to the well being of tribal children ages 0-8, including quality education, safe communities and good health.

The work of gathering these ideas and concerns has already begun in some communities. Children are gifts from creation.

It is our job to work together to make sure, they reach their full potential and help carry on the legacy of our ancestors. We honor our children best when we are dedicated to their proper care and respect their rights as tribal citizens. To learn more about the Honoring Our Children initiative and make sure your voice is heard, please contact:

Michelle Willis, Honoring Our Children Initiative Program Director, 2956 Ashmun St., Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783, (906) 632-6896.

Join us on Facebook by looking up "Honoring Our Children initiative," or go to www.itcni.org and click on the Facebook link.

The new year is a great time to go commercial tobacco-free!

BY LAUREN KROSS

In recognition of New Year's resolutions to quit commercial tobacco use, the Sault Tribe Community Transformation Grant Project, Sault Tribe Community Health and the Chippewa County Health Department, partners of the Chippewa County Tobacco-Free Living Coalition are encouraging people to take steps to make their resolution successful.

There are numerous proven and effective methods available to Michigan residents to quit tobacco use:

The Sault Tribe Community Health Program provides individual counseling for youth and adults, which includes problem solving, cessation medications, printed materials and support. For more information, call 632-5210 or visit healthysaulttribe.com.

For Chippewa County residents, self-help materials and information on referrals are available by calling the Chippewa County Health Department at 635-3636 or visiting chippewahd.com.

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Tobacco Quitline, (800) 784-8669, provides free telephone coaching for the uninsured and those with Medicaid and Medicare, and free nicotine replacement medications for those who qualify. The Quitline includes extra help for pregnant and postpartum women.

Information on quitting smoking and a free printable Michigan Smoker's Quit Kit are available through MDCH by visiting michigan.gov/tobacco.

The free, interactive website BecomeAnEX.org shows people who smoke how to re-learn life without cigarettes. The site, developed by the American Legacy Foundation in partnership with Mayo Clinic, offers a free, personalized quit plan and an online support community to help people prepare to quit and stay quit.

Tools from the American Cancer Society are available to help with quitting. For more information contact the American Cancer Society at (800) 227-2345.

Your individual healthcare provider is also a very important resource who can provide counseling, nicotine replacement medication and referral to services.

According to the American Cancer Society, the benefits of quitting smoking are immediate. Within 20 minutes blood pressure drops and within 24 hours a person's chance of heart attack decreases. The benefits continue for years, including reduced risk of lung cancer, stroke and heart disease.

For more information, please contact the Chippewa County Health Department at 635-3636, the Sault Tribe Community Health Nicotine Dependence

Program at 632-5210, or call the Michigan Tobacco Quitline at 800-QUIT-NOW. You may also visit healthysaulttribe.com or healthypupcommunities.com for information on quitting tobacco use and preventing exposure to secondhand and thirdhand smoke.



The Sault Tribe Health Division would like to thank you for supporting our efforts in providing a tobacco free environment

All Health Center Campuses are now Commercial Tobacco-Free

Keep Tobacco Sacred
Kchi Piitenim Semaa

Logo artwork used with permission from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

Project 562: On the roads of northern California

By RICK SMITH

Seizing on a singular opportunity to look deeper into the realm of Indian Country, Win Awenen Nisitotung asked professional photographer Matika Wilbur if we, the members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, could tag along with her as she travels across the United States building a compilation of photographs and observations for a pictorial documentary of the indigenous peoples of the land. She graciously agreed and, thanks to modern technology, we will be keeping in touch as she progresses across this vast country.

“Our goal is to unveil the true essence of contemporary Native issues, the beauty of Native culture, the magnitude of tradition and expose her vitality,” said Wilbur about her endeavor, called Project 562. Reports will appear here as circumstances allow. While it is impractical to fully convey all of her experiences as she becomes acquainted with so many citizens of Indian Country, we hope to at least expand our knowledge about our neighbors of the realm.

She began in the far northwest of California visiting 13 American Indian rancherias and reservations.

The term *rancheria* derives from the Spanish language to describe communal American Indian settlements in place throughout the southwest and present day California back when Mexico provided large land grants, known as ranchos, to encourage settlement by its citizens. The term also became associated with clusters of buildings that housed ranch hands on those land grants.

One of the communities she visited, the Smith River Rancheria, was established in 1908, according to its website. It was the largest Rancheria in the state and occupied 160 acres. During the termination era, the community lost all but a few acres of land, which consisted of an offshore rock, a cemetery and a church. These days, the Smith River Rancheria is a federally recognized tribe of the Tolowa Indians situated three miles south of the Oregon-California border on 500 acres of land with 1,442 members.

Much like Sault Tribe, a seven-member tribal council governs the rancheria and council members are elected by the general membership. An administrator oversees tribal support programs and services.

The Smith River Rancheria property holdings include a drinking water system, administrative offices, gaming agency offices, seniors' apartments, a cemetery, an island, a medical and dental clinic, childcare facilities and a community hall. Enterprise holding include a casino, a convenience store and a day care center. A recreational vehicle park and a hotel are in the planning stages of development. The community employs about 200 people.

The Tolowa people have survived a history of continued removal, genocide and discrimination within their homelands by the explorers, settlers, miners



Photos courtesy of Matika Wilbur

Above, Sheryl Steinruck with an infant in a traditional Tolowa cradle basket crafted from hazel shoots, split spruce roots, dentalium shells, glass beads and cotton. The piece features pillows, straps and a tumpline. A tumpline is a type of strap configured to carry objects by placing the strap across the front of one's head. Below, Loren Bommelyn donning a traditional Tolowa dance headdress made from tanned deer hide and woodpecker plumage.



and ranchers who “colonized” the area, according to the tribal website. The Landless California Indians Act of 1906 made appropriations for the purchase of lands for landless Indians but the federal trust with the Tolowa people was terminated and community lands were allotted to individuals. The termination was overturned

in the settlement of a class-action lawsuit which was based on the fact that the Tolowa people of Smith River, along with 13 other tribes, never stopped acting as a government.

“Our government, culture and traditions survived colonialism and termination because we persisted and never gave up our

identities. We continue our traditions of strong government with comprehensive tribal programs and our culture with traditional activities,” the website notes.

One of the first things most folks notice about Smith River Rancheria member Sheryl Steinruck is the “111” tattoo on the chin of her radiant face.

The tattoo reflects an old and nearly gone Tolowa tradition. It historically applied to young girls when entering their child bearing years. The tattoos could also convey other significance such as origin, lineage or wealth.

Steinruck said all Indian tribal groups in the regions of present day California, Oregon, the Pacific and the Pacific islands tattooed all or parts of the face and body.

She recalled that, when she was a child, only the very old women bore wide and dark tattoos because the practice was outlawed in California during the 1920s.

She described an incident from her childhood that clearly illustrates the near complete disconnection of the Tolowa from their ancestral traditions. “In 1966, I was 12 years old when our elders began meeting every Saturday to teach dance songs, prayers, our history and stories. The elders were strict teachers, making sure we learned it right. We listened quietly, obeyed their instructions, and practiced while the elders sang, recited prayers and told age-old stories,” said Steinruck.

She told of the time the youngsters were allowed to dance in full ceremonial regalia as they had been practicing quite diligently. When she happened to steal a glance at the watching crowd of elders, she saw tears running down their faces. Steinruck thought, “Man, we are really going to get in trouble; we made them cry because our performance was so bad.” The reality was, the elders were shedding tears of joy and gratitude at seeing a tradition forbidden since 1906 passed on so well to their younger generation.

Steinruck continued a lifetime of learning about her cultural heritage and acquired degrees to facilitate teaching others about their ancestral language and ways. “I became determined to do all I could throughout my life to perpetuate our language, heritage, and culture,” said Steinruck, a language specialist with the Smith River Rancheria.

Loren Bommelyn is a Tolowa of the Smith River Rancheria who lives in Crescent City, Calif., just southwest of the rancheria. He, too, is a Tolowa traditionalist who began singing as a young boy. His parents observed changes coming over their ancestral culture and took steps in urging tribal elders to teach young people the songs, dances and ceremonies of the Tolowa people so they wouldn't be lost.

These days, Bommelyn is a tradition bearer committed to preserving the tribe's songs, language and basketry. He is also a member of the tribal council.

His family and friends host two dances each year to promote singing and drumming with an eye to get many more people interested and involved.

According to the website oyate.com, the Tolowa were hunter-gatherers who reaped the bounty of the land and waters. In addition to regional flora, salmon was their chief food staple and the only crop they cultivated was tobacco.

New nature preserve established near DeTour

Little Traverse Conservancy, a non-profit land trust that works in northern lower and eastern upper Michigan, recently received a donation of the 120-acre James V. Foster Hartley Lake Preserve. Located near DeTour, the new nature preserve includes the nearly 25-acre Hartley Lake.

Born in Iowa in 1934, Jim Foster was raised with a love of the outdoors. In 1951, he became an Eagle Scout and his summers were spent lifeguarding and teaching swimming lessons at a state park beach. After graduating from the (then) State University of Iowa in 1957, Jim served in the U.S. Air Force in Germany during the Berlin crisis of 1961. A business career brought him back to the Midwest and in 1983, he returned to small town living as president of a small bank in Huron County of Michigan.

Through a colleague, Jim took advantage of an opportunity to purchase 120 acres in the eastern Upper Peninsula in the early 1980s. He envisioned the land as a place where his family could gather and find respite from their regular lives. For nearly 20 years, this is exactly what he and his son's family did.

I started taking the kids up there in the '90s, during their formative years. They just loved it," said Jim's son, Brad. "We used to visit at least once a summer. We had a flagpole near the entrance and when we'd arrive, we'd put the flag up and then drive further back to camp. It was just a place that we could get away and be together."

The family has always referred to the lake as "The Beaver Pond."

"We loved hearing loons fly in and call from the lake," Brad said. "I had a color Michigan Wildflowers book with a checklist in the back. The kids and I would hike all around the property and write our initials down with the species that we saw, just as a way that we helped them learn to appreciate the outdoors. All of my kids are still comfortable in and love being outside."

Yet as the children grew and moved into their own lives, the family wasn't able to make the journey to Michigan as often.



Jim returned to his home state of Iowa for retirement and, more recently, to the Iowa Veterans Home.

"The land meant so much to him and he would have preferred to retire and live out his days there," said Jim's daughter, Lindi Strobel. "But that scenario was not to be. So, knowing of his deep-seated love for open land, along with his happy previous connection to the Conservancy, this course of action seemed like a winning combination."

The Fosters have been longtime members of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with special connections to the organization's Pine Butte Guest Ranch in Montana. So when they first had the idea of conserving the land, the siblings contacted the Michigan chapter of TNC. TNC staff suggested they go with the more locally-based Little Traverse Conservancy instead.

The donation was officially completed just this past October. "I have to say, it helps me feel better," Brad said. "I've had this enduring mental picture of this land as a place to relax out in the woods. While it won't include the cabin that we always envisioned, in many ways this is even better."

Since 1972, the Little Traverse Conservancy has been working as the oldest regional, non-profit land trust in Michigan. With the support of more than 4,100 members, the Little Traverse Conservancy works with private landowners and units of local

government to permanently protect ecologically significant and scenic lands from development. Since it was founded, nearly 45,000 acres and 110 miles of shoreline along our region's lakes, rivers, and streams have been set aside to remain in their natural state within Charlevoix,

Cheboygan, Emmet, Mackinac, and Chippewa counties.

Information about Little Traverse Conservancy preserves can be accessed through its new smartphone app available on Google Play and the Apple app store by searching "LTC Explorer."

More than 4,000 young people participate in a Conservancy environmental education outing every year. For more information about the Little Traverse Conservancy and land protection options for your land, please contact their office at (231) 347-0991 or visit www.landtrust.org.



Brad and Jim Foster (right). Jim donated the 120-acre James V. Foster Hartley Lake Preserve to the Little Traverse Conservancy, a non-profit land trust that works in northern lower and eastern upper Michigan. Located near DeTour, the new nature preserve includes the nearly 25-acre Hartley Lake.

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YOU DESERVE BETTER THAN PROTEST VOTES



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

I want to begin my report to the Members by apologizing to the Elders for the nominal amount of the annual Elder checks and explain to the Elders why I did not submit a letter to accompany the Elder Dividend checks. Besides the amount having been so drastically reduced since the last time I served as Chair (down from \$1,600 marking nearly a \$1,000 cut), I did not write a letter to try to contextualize the reduction or my efforts to balance the budget because following the letter I sent in November to the Elders to have them register to receive their Elder checks, a Board Member took a rather extreme position and expressed her opposition to the content of the letter. Secondly, yet another Board Member chose to write a negative piece of about this same issue in her unit report. Rather than give more canon fodder in which to object, I choose not to author a letter to accompany the Elder checks. Instead, I simply copied verbatim, the same letter sent for the last two years and asked that the Board author the letter to eliminate any possibility of objection. Unfortunately, there was no agreement among the Board on the letter so, no letter was sent.

VOTING NO OUT OF PROTEST!

We all know that at least a few Board Members did not support the will of the majority of the Members' elective choice for Chairperson. It has been over seven months and some continue to look for points of opposition. Nonetheless, the Members have spoken. Respect the outcome. In many respects, I am reminded of the kind of incivility in the U.S. Congress where retribution politics have become the norm. Since I have entered office, I have introduced several different pieces of legislation. A select few Board members have voted no on almost every single piece of legislation I have presented. This is unfortunate, because no matter the

content or merit of the legislation I have drafted, some simply vote no.

One example occurred this fall when I introduced a resolution to save nearly \$200,000 annually by collapsing four positions into two. Specifically, I proposed that we combine the Chief Financial Officer position with the Financial Comptroller position and combine the Education Director and Assistant Executive Director for Membership Services positions. By combining these functions from four positions to two, we saved a great deal of money that aided us in balancing the Tribal Budget. Out of protest, some voted no.

A more recent example deals with a proposal to modify the budget to move a low paying grants specialist position into a grants director position. This was a self contained proposal which would not require an additional allocation of Tribal Support dollars yet create a higher level grants function to become more competitive in seeking grants by collecting primary data of Members' needs. Such an effort would clearly show the greater needs as they exist in the outlying areas. Currently, we must rely on U.S. Census data which chronically under represents our needs. Such a function is desperately needed. Not since I left office in 2008 has our Tribe had a real commitment here. Currently, though we have many employees who write grants, we do not have even one dedicated grant writer for the Tribe. Unfortunately, the proposal failed to be adopted. When I was in office previously, we not only had a planning director, but an entire division of at least five team members dedicated to grant application, compliance, and data collection and analysis.

In some cases, Board Members have argued that they were not prepared to make a decision. This is difficult to understand given we have a five day notice requirement for all legislation and without exceptions, those items Board Members have voted no on, are items for which they did not ask questions ahead of time or suggest alternative legislation. This is a bit frustrating as it seems the opposition only arises while we are in the meeting and they subsequently vote NO!

DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

I think the Members expect us to do things differently. They certainly deserve

better. One such reform I am proposing is to schedule all legislative items for review at least one week in advance to discuss at length any suggestions to improve said legislation so select Board members don't simply vote no. Meeting an entire week in advance during a legislation mark up session gives us two days (subsequent to discussing draft legislation) to make any needed changes, and to gather any data Board members feel is essential to voting.

Additionally, at the request of some Board members, we are reinstating what was previously called quarterly updates from the programs, services, enterprises, and operations of the Tribe. Rather than requiring quarterly updates which in the past, a few Board members did not show up for or spent time texting or stepping out of the room for extended periods of time, I am scheduling these to occur semi annually. It is my intent to video record or live stream these sessions so Members can have the benefit of these updates. To do so, however, I will introduce a budget modification to the Tribal Communications budget to cover the additional costs.

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL

Over the last two years, the Tribal Board directed a wage study to determine if governmental and casino team members are paid what the market will bear. They engaged a company called *Payscales* and began the laborious task of reviewing all job descriptions comparing them against normed data for similar positions. Last year, approximately two-thirds of the team members were adjusted to bring them up to at least the minimum of what the market suggests these positions be paid. The remaining one-third did not move up to at least the minimum; probably due to the prior administration's mixed messages to executive staff about whether or not to comply. Thus, until just recently one-third of the team members languished behind and received less pay than they should have received.

What is even more alarming is that while one-third were underpaid, there is a population of team members who are overpaid to the tune of nearly \$1 million. There are many reasons why they are overpaid and in a few cases, this may even be justi-

fied. However, what is unfortunate is that while a minority of the population of team members just got an adjustment to bring them to the minimum, there are NO RAISES PLANNED for the remaining team members.

This is unacceptable for two reasons. First, the cost of inflation and consumers' price index suggest that the value of the dollar is worth less tomorrow than it is today. Thus, if there is no raise, people lose ground. This is especially true, with an anticipated health insurance premium jump expected to be significant. The second reason is that while we now have all team members paid at least the minimum and in alignment with the local and regional market, this is made immediately out of date if there is no cost of living increase. In other words, within a year or two, we will need to start all over with another wage study.

SOCIALISM OR COMMON SENSE?

Some might suggest this is *socialistic* type thinking but I would argue that it is a very *capitalistic* perspective. Why pay someone beyond what the market will bear? In some cases, those paid over the max are paid tens of thousands over what the market suggests they should be paid. If we were not to pay them over the max, would they be able to expect similar pay in the regional market? The answer is clearly no. Again, while a select few may be justified, more often than not, these bloated salaries are the lingering vestiges of previous political administrations who rewarded political loyalty.

TRIBAL FUNDS FOR TRIBAL SERVICES

Again, call me a socialist, but I view that the fruit of our efforts should be to provide services and to expand services to our Members. There is a lot we could do with the nearly \$1 million we are over paying those who are paid over the maximum. This amount redistributed would mean about a 1 percent COLA for all team members. Or, it would represent a \$200 increase in our Elder checks. Or, it could easily pay for any additional costs realized for implementation of a new Constitution. Or, it could reinstate the college student scholarships to the \$700,000 we paid out annually when I was Chairperson previously while we now paid out just

over \$150,000. So, while many policy or business decisions suggest it is a policy option to do nothing in this case, we are sitting on nearly \$1 million while all of these other possible benefits are under funded.

BCBS LAWSUIT GREEK LAWSUIT

A lot of strange things happened after I left office. First, though we were sued by the Greeks and unsecured creditors for over \$170 million, the previous Board has reduced this liability to about \$2.77 million. While one of our former so-called Greek partners is suing us to hold up the settlement, some Board Members continued to push us into new proposals for doing business with the Greeks in New Boston and beyond. This might be explained through reports of a Board Member holding an election victory party in the Greek's hotel in 2010. It puzzles me that some continue to want to do business with someone who put down \$24,000 and walked away with a \$268 million promise made to the Greeks by the Chairman in 2000.

I am also mystified by the idea that our Tribe could have entered a better health insurance arrangement than the plan in place while I was Chair. For most of my term, there was no premium increase, and our team members (employees) had a health insurance plan comparable to Blue Cross/Blue Shield in every way except annual premium costs and overall costs to the Tribe. Nonetheless, the Board voted to change the employee insurance carrier which cost about \$4 million in additional costs to date. Where this change was to save \$2 million annually, it cost that and then some. The Board recently voted to litigate BCBS as they were manipulated into switching to the Blues. I support this decision, but it occurs to me that we have to do better than to allow ourselves to be manipulated in the first place.

I realize this report has somewhat of a critical tone. For that, I apologize but in order to improve, we must recognize and learn from our mistakes. Since returning to office, I have tried to improve upon our Lansing project and feel we are moving in the right direction. With a bit more cooperation and foresight at the Board level, our future will be brighter than ever.

Chi McGwitch, Negee, Aaron

Office: 906-635-6050 **Cell:** 906-440-5937 **Email:** aaronpayment@yahoo.com

On Facebook 'Aaron Payment' and on the 'Sault Tribe Guide' on Facebook.

How to make things better: Census, plan, action



DJ MALLOY, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

With the new year, people tend to make “new year resolutions” about things they want to change in themselves or their lives. With that concept in mind, I thought this a good time to give my assessment of what I believe needs to change in our tribe and where I would like to see improvements. Because it is meaningless to complain without offering a solution (in my mind anyone who just complains about everything is part of the problem), I will just mention a few things that I believe would make the most difference to our people by pointing out what I see as some general problems and how I believe we can begin to make them better.

First and foremost, I would

love to see forward movement. Nothing of real consequence has been accomplished in two years that would provide for a better life for our citizens. Instead, we are bogged down in politics. I love government, but have an aversion to politics. I especially dislike “unit politics.” While it is important to represent your constituency, every decision we make affect the entire tribe in some way. If we would spend half as much time working together as we spend looking for ways to dismantle or obstruct each other, you would be far better off.

Thank the Creator for tribal staff! It is they who truly work for you! And, they do so in spite of us, the board. We make it as difficult as possible, but they get the job done anyway. So in this new year, I hope we can get over our differences and work together for the greater good of the members. We can do this through providing enough respect for one another that we listen without criticizing or becoming defensive.

In order to go forward, we need to have a plan. Novel idea, right? As it stands now, we have no strategic plan for the tribe. We have no tribal census or plans to collect the data that would allow us to assess the real needs of our membership. What should the priorities be for our government? Is

it housing? Do we need improved roads, health-specific programs, mental health services, inpatient substance abuse programs, teen suicide prevention and hotlines? What are the needs of the members outside the service area? How do we plan to address their needs or fulfill our obligations to them as members? Does the membership want more programs that share our rich culture and pass down our language and traditions to any and all who seek it? Without being able to gather and evaluate this kind of information, planning for the future is next to impossible.

We NEED a full tribal planning department that includes statistical data gathering analysts, and a tribal-wide grantwriter to complement the staff we already have doing the transportation and roads planning. But so far we won't fund the positions. Our tribe counts on grants for a good portion of our operating funds.

Most new grant opportunities are sought out departmentally and provide, for the most part, temporary enhancement or development ideas within existing tribal programming. Programs and services aren't really expanded by these grants; instead, they are given a temporary influx of money to provide R&D for future programming or to pick up where the last

grant ran out. ARRA funds are exhausted, Homeland Security funds are narrowly focused and we have no strategic plan to replace this funding when the grant period ends. Instead, we float down the stream doing little to nothing about determining what our needs will be next year, let alone 10 years out. Without this integral piece, we are committing ourselves to forever be a reactionary government. I still believe that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

I have become disenchanted with government. I'm too practical. If I seem a bit harsh in this report, it's because I am intolerant of idleness. I am frustrated by our constant efforts to beat a subject to death while opportunity and advancement passes us by. We discuss things ad nauseum and spend weeks if not months doing little to nothing more than making sure our individual opinions have been voiced. I've been guilty of it myself.

Meanwhile, we languish as a tribe and staff must spend precious time presenting again and again incorporating our tweaks to their plans. We spend time offering our views on things we sometimes know little about. And, in the end, our educated, professional staff must endure, and even appease, our whims at the cost of

time, money and downtime.

I apologize for this uncharacteristic report. But I am so frustrated with our lack of progress that I am disheartened. I am not cut out for a job that just goes in circles. For me, satisfaction comes from knowing I did my best, contributed to the whole, and participated in making a difference. It mostly comes from the phone calls and email I receive from you folks. And if it weren't for that, I would have certainly gone mad by now.

I want to end on a positive note — Sault Tribe has the best employees anyone could ask for. It is through them that we succeed! Our staff carries us on their backs. I am so proud of our workforce! They never fail to step up to a challenge and I am always amazed at what they are able to accomplish with little resources. Happy new year to every Sault Tribe employee! Thank you for your continued dedication, innovation and positive attitude. Well done! You have collectively earned my respect and admiration.

As always, you may contact me by writing to dmalloy@saulttribe.net or by calling (906) 440-9762.

Respectfully submitted,
DJ Malloy

Idle No More movement affects Anishinaabeg



DEBRA PINE, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Idle No More! — Hi folks! That's the big news happening up here and it's been spreading. Idle No More is a movement that was started in Canada by our Native brothers and sisters. The bill C-45 in the Canadian Parliament is the spark that ignited a nation to mobilize. This is brief overview from the www.CBC.ca reporting on this movement:

CBC News — Posted: Jan 5, 2013 8:17 AM ET — What is Bill C-45? That's the number of the bill introduced by the Harper government on Oct. 18 with the title, “A Second Act to Implement Certain Provisions of the Budget Tabled in Parliament on March 29, 2012, and Other Measures.” The bill passed and then received royal assent on Dec. 14 and is now known as the “Jobs and Growth Act, 2012.”

That doesn't sound like something that would spark a protest movement, especially an aboriginal rights movement. What's the issue? C-45 is better known as the second omnibus budget bill. The act changes the legislation contained in 64 acts or regulations. The act itself runs over more than

400 pages.

The changes that most concern the Idle No More movement are the ones to these acts: Indian Act, Navigation Protection Act (former Navigable Waters Protection Act) and the Environmental Assessment Act.

In addition to the changes, those involved in the movement were angered by what they call a lack of consultation with indigenous peoples. The movement has also expressed concern about other acts and bills from the Harper government.

What are some of the movement's key objections to the changes to those three acts? Indian Act: First Nations communities can now lease designated reserve lands if a majority attending a meeting called for that purpose vote to do so, regardless of how many people show up. Previously, approval required the support of a majority of eligible voters.

The Aboriginal Affairs minister can call the meeting to consider surrendering band territory. The minister can choose to ignore a resolution from the band council that's in opposition to a decision at the meeting.

Idle No More says these changes allow “for easier opening of treaty lands and territory.”

Navigation Protection Act: Under the act, major pipeline and power line project advocates aren't required to prove their project won't damage or destroy a navigable waterway it crosses, unless the waterway is on a list prepared by the transportation minister. Idle No More claims the amendments remove that protection for 99.9 percent of lakes and rivers in Canada.

Environmental Assessment Act: The first omnibus budget

bill had already overhauled the assessment process and the second one reduces further the number of projects that would require assessment under the old provisions. Idle No More objects to the faster approval process.

What's the connection between the hunger strike by Chief Theresa Spence and Idle No More? It was on that National Day of Action that Spence, chief of the troubled Attawapiskat First Nation in northern Ontario, announced in Ottawa that she would be starting a hunger strike the next day. Her hunger strike has helped generate media attention for Idle No More and she has become an icon for Idle No More activists.

Substandard living conditions in Attawapiskat attracted widespread media coverage after Spence declared a state of emergency in late 2011 due to a housing crisis in the community.

Why should we be interested or care about this? Many reasons. I will say, the first time I had heard about it, I was scratching my head. It felt to me like our Canadian brothers and sisters were experiencing what would be the equivalent of our AIM movement was for us back in the '70s. However, on further exploration of the topic and after speaking to some elders on it, I realized that we must lend our support to the movement.

We, as Anishinaabe nations across Canada and the United States, have never given up the idea that we are one nation. Just because there is a border between us does not negate the fact of who we are and where we came from. My concern is that the world is watching this unfold, and if the Canadian government thinks it can get away with doing what they

are doing to First Nations people, what makes you think this government isn't going to try the same tactics with our tribal nations?

This omnibus bill also provides for the opening of numerous waterways that go through Native lands and reserves, it weakens environmental laws that were in place to protect Mother Earth and it further erodes at the treaties in place between the Canadian government and the First Nations people. Again, why should we care?

Many of those waterways flow right into our Great Lakes. At home here, in the St. Marys River, we have had to deal with fecal matter floating in the river and it was traced back to the Canadian water treatment facility. It is a very good example of how their actions affect us.

On Dec. 27, we protested in

support of our Canadian brothers and sisters. Chiefs from across the river came and spoke. We held a round dance on Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. People had their children with them, our elders braved the cold and held signs in support. It was uplifting.

Pollution does not know any race. All Canadian and United States citizens need to be aware of the laws politicians try to pass or implement that hurt our sacred mother. Pollution kills across all cultural boundaries. Please remember, this is the legacy we will be leaving our children and our children's children. This should be a concern for all people who reside on this Mother Earth.

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

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors 2013 calendar

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

General meetings of the Board of Directors take place on the first and third Tuesdays of the months.

- Feb. 5 Sault Ste. Marie
- Feb. 19 St. Ignace
- March 5 Sault Ste. Marie
- March 19 Manistique
- April 2 Kincheloe
- April 16 Munising
- May 7 Sault Ste. Marie
- May 21 Naubinway
- June 4 St. Ignace
- June 18 Escanaba
- July 2 Sault Ste. Marie

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

All special meetings will be announced.

For further information, please call Joanne or Tara at the administration office, (800) 793-0660, extension 26337 or 26338.

- July 16 Sault Ste. Marie
- Aug. 6 Kincheloe
- Aug. 20 Marquette
- Sept. 3 Sault Ste. Marie
- Sept. 17 Munising
- Oct. 1 Sault Ste. Marie
- Oct. 15 St. Ignace
- Nov. 5 Manistique
- Nov. 19 Hessel
- Dec. 3 Sault Ste. Marie
- Dec. 17 Sault Ste. Marie

Drug Abuse Tribal Action Plan moves forward



LANA CAUSLEY, DIRECTOR, UNIT II

We held a very productive TAP (drug abuse Tribal Action Plan) meeting this past month. We have scheduled a two-day training for the end of the month with Fox Valley to come in to our advisor group and facilitate a comprehensive training to hold the focus groups and community forums we have scheduled to begin in February 2013. Many professional team members, board members on the advisory

group and the chairman will be taking part in the two-day training. The plan is to be out in the communities by February and begin to gain the input and recommendations from our members on their thoughts, experiences, expectations on identifying and prioritize challenges in each area.

I have committed to this project as my priority and have scheduled the first three focus groups with elders in my unit to start the process of the goals mentioned above. I will be accompanied by Director Hollowell and professional staff.

The dates are Hessel/DeTour/Drummond/Pickford elders at the regularly scheduled elders meeting on Feb. 18 at the Hessel Tribal Center. Newberry elders, Feb. 15 regularly scheduled meeting at Zella's Restaurant and Naubinway Feb. 27 at the scheduled elders' meeting at the pavilion.

For the elders in our area, please attend so that we can gather the input and advice from

you to move our project forward. At the Jan. 2 board of directors' meeting, I requested that we acquire a 24-hour, seven-day a week hotline at our tribal health centers for crisis situations. I shared the information with our advisory group and all agreed this is a priority result we can do now. The board awaits that information and hopefully this will be secured in the very near future.

The other priority in our unit is to secure health services in the DeTour/Drummond and other outlying areas. As printed and stated last report, the board passed a resolution to name an adhoc committee to identify and create a plan.

I'm happy to announce that we have scheduled our first meeting for Jan. 21, again the deadline for our health division and adhoc committee to have a plan secured and to be presented to the board is April 2013. I write all this each month so that this stays a priority in our agenda for services! Call your

reps who are on this committee as well, we are all committed to this.

Back two years ago, we began the wage grid study and identified team members who did not make the minimum for positions they were in and created a plan to be financially responsible and increase accordingly. We budgeted last year for a percent increase to team members, but did not have the total amount to bring all up to the minimum, so some only have seen part of the study increase. This past month we were able to complete our goal of the study and the remaining team members will be receiving the remaining increases to at least the minimum per their job description and the study. This was planned out over a two-year process to afford the increases, I'm sorry it took that long. Planning the dollars for the raises was a responsible thing and I'm happy that we have completed the wage study and made some team members a

much-deserved increase.

I have never been part of the board when we held any wind-fall of money so I don't promise the raises and all the political ploys, I'm simply grateful we did the study and responsibly planned for the increases that are well deserved and hope we will focus on the lower level team members wage increases for the future.

In closing, I would like to say miigwech again to all the women in our communities who made our children's Christmas parties so good. There are so many to name, and I hope I don't miss some — Lisa Burnside, Robyn Latour, Dorothy Currie, Mona Gugin, Barb Galer, Terry Woods, Joan Shaw, Dorothy and Rich Royer, Marylynn MacArthur, Lois Bryant, Shirley Kawalke, and, last but not least, Michelle Derusha. I heard that the party in Newberry was the event of the year, so thank you all. Our community members expressed to me their gratitude and you've made many families happy.

Washington, D.C., lessons for representatives



JENNIFER MCLEOD, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin Anishnabeg!
I hope that your holidays with your families were heartwarming, mine certainly were.

This year our 2-year-old granddaughter, Bella, danced in the powwow circle for the first time. What joy there was watching her get up on her toes, twirling, skipping and nodding her little head in time with the beat of the drum.

December was a beautiful time for me personally and professionally. I made my first trip to Washington, D.C., on behalf of our tribe. I reflected on the importance of this journey, and thought about our ancestors who had made this journey before me. I realized that our mission has not changed: To meet with federal leaders to educate them about our people; to advocate for the fulfillment of treaty rights; to push for support of legislation favorable to tribal people; to create new partnerships and strengthen existing ones; to find new sources of support for our people; to be a "visible voice" for the tribe known as the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

I was in DC for five days. Our tribal delegation consisted of Chairman Payment, Director Abramson, Director Massaway, Mike McCoy (government relations director) Meghan Kelly

(federal liaison) and I. Although I was not allowed to attend the meeting with President Obama (only Chairman Payment and Director Abramson were invited), I was privileged to "walk the Hill" and meet with various members of Congress, high level staff and tribal leaders from across the United States.

I want to acknowledge all of the work that all of our tribe's program directors and staff did to help our delegation be a success. I was so proud of the professional and informative folders, brochures and information sheets (known as "white papers") that were created. I want you all to know that the legislators were impressed and I could not have done my job without the tremendous support of our people back home!

The following is a very brief breakdown of who I met, and what we talked about. I was often part of a "team presentation," however, there were times when scheduling required that I present on my own. It was an intense time with daily early morning tribal delegation strategy sessions held prior to "walking the Hill."

I began with a half-day meeting with the National Congress of American Indians at its embassy. There were numerous presenters, all focused on FY 2014 budget recommendations. Then I attended a meeting regarding the Department of the Interior budget strategy. These meetings were specifically for, and about, tribal people. Leaders from tribes across the country gathered to share stories of common need, and how tribal nations effectively advocate for change at a federal level.

Our tribal delegation met with Congressman Dan Benishek, and we presented him with a beautiful black ash basket made by tribal member Bernadette Azevedo. We educated him on the history of the Charlotte

Beach issue. Congressman Benishek was keenly interested in the Special Diabetes Program for American Indians (SDPI), and the funding inadequacies for the Bemidji Area. He requested a follow-up meeting with me later in the week.

We met with a congressional staff member in Senator Carl Levin's office. Our purpose was to strengthen and reinforce an already positive relationship. We presented our "white papers" and urged support for the coming SDPI.

In Congresswoman Candice Miller's office, we met with her new "tribal" staff person. This was an excellent meeting! We discussed the sequestration, budgetary issues, SDPI and the inadequacy of tribal healthcare funding. It was great to have a congressional "staffer" dedicated to tribal issues!

Our meeting with Congressman John Dingell Jr. was outstanding. A long-time supporter of our tribe, the meeting focused on the "fiscal cliff" and our planned mandatory trust applications for land. Congressman Dingell was especially impressed by the success of our tribal energy program. Chairman Payment and Director Abramson have a longstanding relationship with Congressman Dingell, and I learned a great deal from them in this meeting.

We had separate meetings with congressional staff from Congressman Camp, Peters and Clarke's offices. We discussed the sequestration, budgetary issues, SDPI and the inadequacy of tribal healthcare funding. We also spoke of the unique nation-to-nation relationship between tribes and the federal government. I led a meeting in Congressman Upton's office, explaining the tribal energy audit, and urging additional funding appropriations for tribal programs.

Senator Stabenow's was

a very successful meeting!

Chairman Payment presented her with a "strawberry" black ash basket. In addition to the "white paper" issues, we discussed sewage pollution in the St. Mary's River, and other natural resource topics. Senator Stabenow was very receptive, and knowledgeable about our tribe, and concerned about our needs.

We had additional meetings with "staffers" from other congressional offices as well, and with each we presented "white papers," spoke of funding needs, and in short, told our stories.

As with most people, politicians also like to know when something they've done has helped. I closed out my time in DC with a second meeting in Congressman Benishek's office. I believe there is genuine concern regarding the lack of healthcare funding in our Bemidji area and I look forward to his support.

I wish to say miigwech to Aaron Payment, Cathy Abramson, Keith Massaway, Mike McCoy and Meghan Kelly for helping me navigate the streets of DC, the many buildings and the politicians. Their insights and guidance were invaluable. This trip made me realize how important it is for our tribe to be represented "on the Hill." Washington, D.C., is vast and the federal legislators are inundated daily by texts, emails, phone calls and letters from individuals, corporations and special interest groups. It would be easy for them to forget about us, and now I understand completely that which our ancestors clearly knew — telling our stories "in person" matters.

Miigwech to all of you for the opportunity to serve our tribe as my ancestors have done. It is an honor for me to stand before federal Congress personnel and say, "I represent the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians."

Please continue to contact me

with your thoughts and concerns. You can reach me through my personal phone, email, Facebook or Twitter. I appreciate those of you who have already contacted me and I encourage others to reach out to me as well. Miigwech to all,

Bamapii,
Jen
(906) 440-9151

Email at Jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com.

Tribal Giving

From "Tribal Giving," Page 7 on a Saturday morning, were surprised when the court staff person instead brought them to The Cutting Room salon to have their hair cut and colored.

These events were supported through our Drug Court fund, which is funded by costs assessed to defendants convicted of crimes relating to, or involving, substance abuse.

In November, the Tribal Court also issued twelve backpacks filled with school supplies to juveniles involved with the Court. This is an annual project the Court engages in supported by our Juvenile Fund, which is funded by costs assessed in some criminal cases.

Admin Complex

As always, the Administration Complex in Sault Ste. Marie put together overstuffed Thanksgiving dinner baskets for local families in need, this year for 19 families. Halloween is also a fun time of the year at the complex, as the staff gathers together loads of candy for the downtown trick or treat events, this year matched by tribal chairperson Aaron payment. The complex also participated in a United Way Fair with face painting and a bake sale, to help raise yet more funds for United Way, as well as donating project backpack supplies for the beginning of the school year.

Director Chase reports to Unit IV members



DENISE CHASE, DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

I pray that you and your families all had a peaceful and blessed Christmas and new year holidays. I don't know about you, but the month of December flew by too fast.

Director Morrow and myself were busy in our unit with the Christmas activities held for the children and elders.

Manistique and Escanaba area children got to see Santa and receive a candy cane and present, then ate a lunch of pizza, chips, cookies, pop and juice. There were many children who attended along with their parents and or grandparents. I would like to thank the volunteers who helped with the parties, we couldn't have done it without you. I wouldn't try to name everyone in this report, because I don't want to forget anyone. We will put a write-up in the next paper with the thank you and list of volunteers and pictures.

We also had the chance this year to attend Marquette's children's Christmas party. The Unit V Marquette Elder Committee puts on its party and does an excellent job. The children saw Santa, ate pizza, cookies and drinks. They also had a clown there making balloon animals for them and received presents and stockings filled with treats.

I would like to make a minor correction from my last unit report. The newspaper didn't print the correct resolution I provided with the individual names who were appointed to the Adhoc Health Access Exploratory Group. Following is a list of board members:

- Chairman – Aaron Payment
- Unit I – Cathy Abramson
- Unit I – Deb Pine
- Unit II – Lana Causley,
- Catherine Hollowell
- Unit III – Keith Massaway
- Unit IV – Denise Chase
- Unit V – Joan Carr Anderson

I believe there are additional board members who want to be added to the list.

The board approved the capital outlay 2013 expenditures for the casinos. Manistique Casino will be receiving a handicap lift for its shuttle. This is an issue the elders and casino staff have been bringing forward for quite some time. This will only enhance the casino and shuttle drivers' customer service. To safely pick up handicapped patrons going to the casino, and elders for concerts.

The following resolution: Youth Mentoring Program, program guidelines, and youth mentoring license application were approved at the Newberry meeting.

Call Sault Tribe Law Enforcement for more information at (906) 635-6065.

The Inland Fishing and Hunting Committee has been working on this program and workshopped it with the board of directors, made recommended changes and brought back with their final recommendation for approval.

YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Inland Fishing and Hunting Committee desires to establish a Youth Mentoring Program whereby tribal families may pass on hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the greatest goal of the program is to assist tribal members in teaching our youth the importance of protecting and respecting our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the program will allow children nine years old and below to hunt small game, turkey and deer; trap furbearers; fish all species; and gather under Sault Tribe regulations under the tutelage of a qualified adult.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Youth Mentoring Program is hereby enacted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Sault Tribe Law Enforcement is hereby empowered to take all reasonable steps to administer the program.

Sault Ste Marie Tribe Youth Mentoring Program

Introduction

As part of our Anishinaabek culture, we pass our traditional knowledge and beliefs along to our youth by modeling the way; we teach by example. The Youth Mentoring Program establishes a means by which tribal families may continue to pass on hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering knowledge within the legal framework of the Sault Tribe Conservation Code. The greatest goal of the Program is to assist tribal members in teaching our youth the importance of protecting and respecting our natural resources. Parents may decide when a child 9 or under is ready to take on the responsibility of hunting, trapping, fishing, or gathering and take part in the Youth Mentoring Program. A mentor aged 21 and over is chosen who, if not the parent, must sign a form along with the child's parent or legal guardian acknowledging the responsibilities of participating in the program. Each youth will receive a license, tag for each harvest opportunity that they will pursue and a harvest report.

Youth license

The youth license is a package deal for youth age 9 and below. It allows the youth to hunt small game, turkey and deer; trap furbearers; fish all species and gather under Sault Tribe regulations.

Guidelines for mentors

The mentor must be 21 years of age or older and possess a license for the activity in which they wish to mentor. The main goal of the Youth Mentoring Program is to pass on our Anishinaabek culture to our youth. Teachings on the spiritual aspects of hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering are welcome; mentors and youth may review the attached Teaching "Giving in Return for What We Receive" shared by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Cultural Division. Mentors are encouraged to teach the youth to always respect the land, animals, plants, and other beings while hunt-

ing, trapping, fishing and gathering.

The mentor must:

- Obtain permission from the parent of the youth, if the mentor is not the parent. The Youth Mentoring License Application must be signed by fully-informed parents, parent-mentors or non-parent mentors and youth.

- Be responsible for the safety of the youth at all times. A mentor's greatest priority is the youth that he or she is mentoring. The equipment, terrain, weather conditions, and physical and mental requirements involved in hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering are serious for youth of any age, especially the ages involved in this program.

- Be responsible for the youth's actions while in the field. Mentors must be vigilant about watching over the youth. Hunting and trapping devices, fishing hooks, deep or fast-moving water, steep hillsides, poisonous look-alike plants and fungi, and the presence of other people within range, make both minor and deadly mistakes possible.

The mentor is responsible for what happens while mentoring.

- Ensure that the Sault Tribe Conservation Code and all other applicable laws are followed. All violations of the Code are the responsibility of the mentor.

- Ensure that no more than a total of two hunting devices are possessed among the mentor and mentored youth hunter(s) while hunting in the field.

- Ensure the hunting device is adequately fitted for the youth. This will assist in providing a safe environment and enjoyable experience for the youth.

- Keep the youth at no more than arms length when in the act of hunting.

- Provide ear and eye protection when necessary. Ensure that both the youth and mentor are wearing appropriate attire for the season, considering weather and visibility needs.

- Plan for medical emergencies. Prior to going out in the field, notify at least one other adult of where the mentoring will take place and for approximately how long, and if/how the pair can be reached

while in the field. Discuss with the youth what to do in case of emergency in the field prior to going out. Bring adequate water and food for the activity.

- Properly tag any harvest. Ensure that the harvest is field dressed and/or otherwise properly taken care of and treated with respect.

- Ensure that the youth complete a harvest report and return it to the Tribe's Inland Fish and Wildlife Department as required.

- After two years in the Youth Mentoring Program, youth are required to take a hunters safety course.

Remember to strive for positive experience for the youth, to learn and grow in a good way: mino-bimaadiziwin! If you'd like to learn more Anishinaabek Teachings, you may look to our elders and Sault Tribe resources such as the Cultural Division and Traditional Medicine Program, among others.

The board recently approved a resolution amending the Child Welfare Code sections 30.1201 and 30.1204.

The board determined that it is in the best interests of the tribe and its children to increase the number of Child Welfare Committee members to 10 instead of nine. The board also approved if any member of the committee who has three consecutive absences within a 12-month period, shall forfeit membership on the committee.

The board also approved that a quorum shall consist of not fewer than six members of the committee and that ACFS Director Juanita Bye shall submit an attendance report of committee members within 30 days of Child Welfare Committee meeting to Joanne Carr.

Our board schedules have been changing on a weekly basis if not daily at this time. It's very frustrating while trying to attend community functions or scheduling office hours. I ask you to bear with us as your Unit IV reps work through the board of directors scheduling issues. Please contact me at 322-3819.

Thank you,
Denise Chase
Vice Chair

Tribe's Drug Task Force needs Unit IV youth



DARCY MORROW, DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

During the month of December, I spent 138 hours combined on the road and attending meetings, this time does not include constituent phone calls, emails, or reading material.

December is a busy time for Unit IV reps. We held our two

community Christmas parties in Escanaba with 148 children and their families attending and Manistique served 306 children and their families this year. The Marquette elders put on their Christmas party this year at NMU with 30-plus children and their families attending.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped make these events a success! Director Chase and I also attended the Elder Christmas dinners in Manistique and Escanaba, both had a fantastic turnout this year.

Due to a schedule conflict myself and Director Chase were unable to attend the Marquette Elder Christmas dinner; we heard it also had a great turnout.

Director Chase and I are on the Sault Tribe Drug Task Force and we are seeking a tribal youth from the community to be the voice for the tribal youth in the Unit IV area. We know drugs

and alcohol are a problem in all areas we need your input to help find solutions to these big issues.

If you have a child or grandchild that is interested in joining the task force please have them contact Director Chase at (906) 322-3819 or myself at my contact information below. In the near future, the task force will be holding focus groups and community forums in all units, so please attend so we can have all the communities' input. We will advertise these events in advance or you can contact myself or Director Chase to get any info.

RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS

I made a motion to utilize the income \$34,070 from the cellular tower leases to put back in place the Youth Sports sponsorship program that was eliminated in 2008. This was approved by the whole board. To utilize this program, you can contact Jessica Dumback at the Sault Big Bear (906) 635-

4782.

On June 12, 2012, a motion was made regarding the Fisherman's Trust Fund to identify the priorities for the fund, which are access sites, emergency equipment, treaty rights, and marketing of the fish. The motion carried unanimously.

The board approved a resolution to purchase standard survival suits estimated at \$260 a piece for approximately 95 eligible captains or helpers with the expenditure not to exceed \$24,700 for Sault Tribe commercial fishers from the Fisherman's Trust Fund.

The board approved a Youth Mentoring program with the greatest goal of the program is to assist tribal members in teaching our youth the importance of protecting and respecting our natural resources and the program will allow children 9 years old and below to hunt small game, turkey and deer; trap furbearers;

fish all species; and gather under Sault Tribe regulations under the tutelage of a qualified adult. After two years in the Youth Mentoring program, youth are required to take a hunter's safety course.

Myself and Director Chase have been trying to set up office hours throughout Unit IV. Currently our schedule changes weekly and sometimes daily so it has been a challenge to set dates and times up that do not conflict with the board schedule we currently are working off from. We are hopeful that next month we will have a concrete schedule with our office hours set up.

Please feel free to contact me any time.

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

Unit III director's first six months in office



BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

I thought this month I would report on my first six months. I have to admit, there is definitely more work and time involved than I imagined. I was used to a crazy schedule with working various shifts and days at the casino. Many people think that the board members just attend a couple of meetings a month and some workshops. This could be the minimum that a director does but for the most part we have many meetings weekly with committees, elders' meetings, unit meetings, office hours, financials, grievance hearings, interviews, phone calls, emails, etc.

I think we have a very committed group of people to move the tribe in a very positive direc-

tion. The things that are disappointing to me are the games that get played, personal agendas and power struggles.

I will always do what needs to be done, knowing that I will never please everyone but for the most, a majority of the people. I am very proud to be representing my tribe. I am eager to learn and be involved and helpful as much as possible. I have a voice and am not afraid to let it be heard or ask questions when I need to.

I truly believe directors should have to work for the tribe before being eligible to run for office. Otherwise, you have so much to learn and cannot see things from an employee's perspective. I will continue to work hard and will not live in fear of not being re-elected because of decisions I make that don't benefit someone's agenda. I am not afraid to work and can work multiple jobs if need be.

I would like to thank all the cake bakers, game volunteers, food servers, craft teachers, setup and clean up volunteers for our Unit III Christmas Fun Fair. Thank you also to Keith Massaway's family and my family for all your help. Thanks to Chairperson Payment for his donation and prize recruiting. We had a great turnout with 163 kids. They each received a \$10

gift certificate for the local book store. I was excited to give out educational gifts while keeping the business local.

I have been voicing my concerns with the need to increase revenues in our casinos and am happy that we have finally set a date to spend a day discussing this. I am very passionate about the casinos and our businesses and we have so much riding on their success. I am also going to encourage my fellow directors to establish a priority list of things that need our immediate attention. I want to also establish a time line of bringing things back to the tribal members and team members of things that have been suspended.

One program that will be reinstated soon will be the youth scholarship fund that helps pay for driver's education, sporting equipment, registration fees, etc. This program paid up to \$150 per applicant. This is great timing since many of our schools are charging a "pay to play" fee and many youth are battling obesity. When the program is ready we will publish information in the tribal paper.

One issue I would like to address is the concern about our at-large members not feeling like they are part of the Sault Tribe. I guess I don't understand because

I have always lived in the seven-county service area. I have many family members who live outside the area and would love to offer services to every tribal member, but currently we cannot even offer all of our services to those who live in this area. Members can use tribal clinics in their area and are always welcome to visit our clinics.

The best analogy I can come up with is this: If my son leaves home, he is not here for family gatherings or daily events but he is still a part of this family. I cannot be there to help with his every need but can listen to him. If he chooses to move back home, I will be able to help him more.

We can't offer many services to our at-large members currently, but if they do come back home the door will be open. I am not trying to be rude, just realistic. I realize that not everyone can or wants to move back to Sault Tribe country. Some have been born and raised elsewhere, some left for better opportunities and some want to move back but can't for various reasons. I just want you to know that I can be your voice. You can always email me with your concerns, questions or ideas. It may appear that we care more about the members who live inside our units, but that is not the case. We just see and hear from

these members most often. I welcome your emails.

We are moving forward with our Tribal Action Plan Drug Advisory Task Force meetings. We will be meeting at the end of January and learning how to facilitate focus groups to be held in our communities in the near future. Addiction is such a huge problem and will not be stopped or cured overnight. We cannot cure the epidemic completely but have to have prevention, intervention and recovery programs in place and resources available at the time of need. We look forward to involvement from our communities to prevent any further deaths.

Members have been wondering why the new board members' pictures are not up yet. We did have our pictures taken in July by a photographer in the Sault but when we received the pictures in October, they were not to our satisfaction. Many of us had so much makeup we looked like we were ready for the morgue. We returned the photos with a letter of refusal of payment. We are going to be taking new pictures elsewhere.

As always, feel free to contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, (906) 643-2123 (office) or 430-0536 (cell).

Our children cannot dream if they are gone



CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Substance abuse and death in our tribal community —

Ensuring our grandchildren can dream of a better future for our people is a prayer we all hold dear, but our grandchildren cannot

dream if they are gone.

In August 2012 I wrote in my unit report about our community's substance abuse crisis. Since then, we have engaged in preliminary organizing in order to face this crisis head on. Unfortunately, the loss of our youth and young adults marches on unabated. We have an epidemic on our hands. It affects each and every one of us. We cannot move forward in a good way without facing this heartbreak in our own tribal community.

In this month's unit report, Director Causley has provided a specific update on the Tribal Action Plan (TAP) that we are assembling. As Lana states, "The plan is to be out in the communities by February and begin to gain input and recommendations from

our members on their thoughts, experiences and expectations on identifying and prioritizing challenges in each area." We need your help with this. It has to be grassroots if we hope to make a difference. For our Unit II constituency, please look for a written notice in your mailbox in the coming weeks.

Clearly our youth have to be an integral part of this effort. In fact, I hope they can lead us to the source of the pain. As well, we need to allow our young people a role in shaping our future. As elders, I believe we all pray to the creator for a natural order where our children and grandchildren do not "walk on" before us.

Restoring health care in our rural areas —

We're finally making prog-

ress on our effort to restore much needed health services in our most rural areas. In Unit II, we have identified the DeTour/Drummond Island area as being woefully under served. We've passed a "resolution of support" that creates an ad hoc committee in order to drive this effort to a successful outcome. We are scheduled to have our first committee meeting on Jan. 21 and we will be out in the community to share information and updates shortly after that date. Again, to our Unit II constituency, please look for notification in the form of a newsletter in your mailbox in the coming weeks.

Chi miigwech! —

I want to thank the chairman for organizing a full, comprehensive and vigorous agenda through

March of this year. This has been helpful in identifying our "must act" priorities as well as providing a framework for long term strategic planning.

To each and every Unit II member who contributed their time, talents and labor to making our community stronger, happier and all around better in 2012: Chi miigwech! So many new faces, as well as familiar faces, make our tribal communities thrive.

To all those who walked on 2012: We will honor you and we will not forget you.

To the Creator: Give us the strength, the courage, the compassion and the confidence to do the right thing.

Catherine Hollowell
Unit2tribal@gmail.com
(906) 484-6821

Fending off taxes on tribal funds and services



KEITH MASSAWAY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

In early December, a Sault Tribal delegation was sent to Washington, D.C., to advocate and educate our national Congress. Chairman Payment, Cathy Abramson, Jennifer

McLeod and myself attended many meetings and had conversations detailing our tribal needs and concerns.

In the last edition of the tribal paper, an article on the delegation was printed. I will not rehash the same information, but augment it with some of the activities that I did separate from the main group. I attended the tribal leader discussion on tax and investment reform. This was held in a hearing room of the Senate Dirkson building. Attending this session was important for the tribe. It gives clues on how the federal government understands the relationship between the tribes and themselves.

We have been hearing for years on how certain parts of the federal government want to tax our casinos. We always interject that we are a sovereign nation and, there-

fore, not taxable unless we allow it. This meeting is always a bit dry and often very long but watching who attends and listening for subtle hints has become second nature to myself.

What I ascertained is although many still want to impose taxes and controls on tribal dollars, the current administration has quietly suppressed these actions. The current administration wants the tribes to succeed and prosper. They feel that although some tribes are struggling greatly, most are finding firm footing and are building strong governments and capable economies.

Some of the attendees were, Senator Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), chairman of Indian Affairs; Senator John Brarasso (R-Wyo.), member of Indian Affairs; Steffan A. Cochran, vice chair-

woman of the National Gaming Commission; Congressman Tom Cole (R-4th Okla.), co-chair of the Native American Caucus; six other senators, four other congressmen and Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary of Indian Affairs.

It was quite a line up, most talked on the mounting debt and taxing the American people. We knew by the end of our three days in D.C. that a complete resolution to the coming fiscal cliff crisis was not going to happen by Dec. 31.

One of the other major points we hammered home was that the Special Diabetes Program for Indians program had not been re-approved by Congress and it is one of the best examples of a program that is doing great things for our people. If the funding was

not re-approved, we would lose nurses and doctors along with many other professionals in the field. As a Native people we are much more susceptible to diabetes than the general public. I am proud to say Congress approved it for another year. We did not get the multi-year re-approval we asked for but it is a major win for Indian Country.

These are some examples of the direct benefits we get from sending representatives to D.C. and talking to the federal government on a government-to-government basis.

Thank you again for all the email and phone calls.

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(906) 643-6981

Educating state, federal reps neverending job



CATHY ABRAMSON, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

2013! Here we are and where are we going? For several months now, I have been actively knocking on legislators' doors to educate and remind them of their trust responsibilities to our tribal nations. Is this necessary? Haven't we done that enough? Don't they know us by now? The answer is that we will always have to meet with them. New people get elected. New staffers need to be updated. New contacts and communications need to be made. It's part of our job as your tribal representative to meet with federal and state legislators on your behalf.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Much has happened since the last time we have been together. One of the biggest and most important events that has occurred since then is the one-year extension of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, which Congress passed and President Obama signed into law on Jan. 2. Achieving a one-year renewal of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians at the current funding level of \$150 million brings the SDPI forward to Sept. 30, 2014.

Many of the tribes reached out to the Michigan Congressional Delegation during this past year and during the holidays to contact House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton. Having congressional members who hold leadership positions, such as Representatives Camp and Upton, hear from the Michigan tribes played a critical role and made a difference!

Now that SDPI will continue through September 2014, tribes can continue to make a significant difference in the lives of people who must manage diabetes on a daily basis. However, our work is not done. Multi-year reauthorization efforts must continue and you will be hearing more about that in 2013. The NIHB SDPI online resource center is a wonderful resource for your SDPI programs, policy and advocacy. Please visit it at www.nihb.org

As we all know by now, the fiscal cliff — when sequestration would go into effect without congressional action to address deficit, taxation and spending issues plaguing the nation — was averted with the Jan. 2 passage of legislation providing a temporary fix. However, the "fix" will only take us through March 30, 2013. The Continuing Resolution allows spending for FY 2012 to move

forward only until March 30.

Sequestration still looms large and it could take place on March 30, 2013. If Congress does not act, the across-the-board cuts sequestration requires WILL happen April 1. This would mean an 8.2 percent cut across-the-board cut for all discretionary spending (with limited exception). The Indian Health Service is among those programs that would be subject to sequestration.

NIHB is writing a letter to the Office of Management and Budget this week through which we will make arguments that Congress did not intend the IHS to be part of the 8.2 percent cut and would rather be subject to the 2 percent cut required by law. Clearly — even 2 percent is too much! NIHB is fighting all across-the-board cuts in sequestration, since such a policy would cost American Indian and Alaska Native lives, livelihoods and homes!

We will ask you to be part of this outreach effort very soon.

It's important to let you know that, because of these critical deadlines, it's expected that President Obama's budget will be late reaching the Congress. The President's budget traditionally reaches Congress the first Monday in February. If Congress has not yet acted on the sequestration issue by this time and specifically acted on the Department of Defense spending, the President will likely wait to release his budget.

TRIBAL NATIONS CONFERENCE

The month of December was quite an exciting and busy time for me. I was honored to be able to join Chairperson Payment to the meeting with President Obama. The reason I was able to attend is that I am a primary member of Secretary Sebelius' Tribal Advisory Committee. All 12 primary representatives of this committee were invited.

While attending this meeting, I introduced our chairperson to as many "in the know" people as I could. It is my hope that he will follow up with these agency heads to share our issues and concerns. I have no doubt that he will do so. I remain committed to assist him in any way that I can. Developing good working relationships is important for our tribe.

I was honored to meet our three remaining Navajo Code Talkers and, yes, to actually meet our President of the United States. I will always remember my mom, Helen McCoy, and Francis Smith, tell us how proud they were when we went to President Clinton's inauguration. They both cried to know that our people were represented. I know they and our other ancestors were right there with us.

Directors Massaway and McLeod both joined us in DC. While the chairperson and I were at the White House meeting, these directors met with many congressional offices to discuss our issues with health care, education, environment, sequestration, etc. Because there were

four of us there, we were able to meet with more people. It was great that we were able to cover so much ground and bring our issues to these legislators. I thoroughly enjoyed our meeting with Congressman John Dingell Jr. He is an honorable man and has been very supportive of our tribe. Another interesting meeting we attended was with BIA Budget Director Thomas Thompson. We need our tribal leadership involved in the tribal budget process at a national level. I have encouraged our Chairperson to be that representative. We need to give input at this level.

While there, I attended the Indian Health Service listening session with IHS Director Dr. Yvette Roubideaux. I was able to tell her our Sault Tribe story in regards to the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS

We have been a recipient of this grant since June 1, 1998, and of the Health Heart grant since Sept. 30, 2004. With this funding, we have been able to hire quality staff to educate patients regarding prevention and management of diabetes. We've purchased laboratory and optical equipment, educational materials and medications for the control of blood sugars, blood pressures and cholesterol levels to supplement our formulary. Patients have also been able to have podiatry assessments, therapeutic shoes and inserts to prevent foot complications.

We have been successful in improving the health of our people. In 1997, 39 percent of patients with diabetes had A1C levels less than 7.6. In 2012, 63 percent have A1C levels less than 7. In 1997, 42 percent had total cholesterol levels less than 200 mg/dl, and in 2012 that figure was up to 70 percent. Blood pressure control also improved with 53 percent with blood pressures of less than 130/80 in 2012.

Although we received the recent good news, we must not stop letting our legislators know this must continue! SDPI is making a tremendous difference in the health of our Native peoples, who are disproportionately burdened with Type 2 diabetes at a rate of 2.8 times the national average. The program currently supports over 450 IHS, tribal and urban programs in 35 states. The SDPI is currently set to expire in September 2013. If this valuable program is not reauthorized, all the progress that we have made with our peoples health will be irreparably harmed. Our people will continue to die with this horrible disease.

Diabetes is a human and financial burden, affecting over 26 million Americans with a cost to the U.S. economy of approximately \$174 billion. In Michigan, according to 2008 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports, 8.6 percent of the state's population are diagnosed with diabetes, many of them suffering from serious diabetes complications or conditions. The direct and indirect cost of diabetes in Michigan is \$5.4 billion.

The following week I returned to Washington, D.C., to strictly focus on the reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. I attended the Special Diabetes Program for Indians symposium. I was honored to introduce former Senator Byron Dorgan, who was a champion for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. Senator Dorgan fought for continued support of SDPI and has remained a champion of SDPI and improved health care quality for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Congress created SDPI in 1997 to address the growing epidemic of type 2 diabetes in tribal communities. The program has grown and is our nation's most strategic and effective federal effort to combat diabetes in our tribal communities. As chairperson of the National Indian Health Board, I with the National Indian Health Board met with many legislators and chairs of committees to give them data that shows that the SDPI is a successful program.

Because of all the hard work done by legislators, tribal leaders, staff and community members, we were able to prove that this is one government program that actually works and is saving lives.

Please contact your representatives and thank them and let them know that it must continue to get funded.

HERE AT HOME

On a local level, I attended our Joseph K. Lumsden Fiduciary Committee meeting. Unit I board members are working closely with our JKL Bahweting Anishinabe School to make improvements for our youth's educational endeavors. At this time, we are looking at a location change to expand our school.

This is not concrete and much research and development must continue to be done. Our school's

superintendent is doing a great job on improving our school and she is very understanding and cooperative of our desire to meet the special and unique needs of our tribal children.

We met with representatives from the City of Sault Ste. Marie to discuss bringing city water to our housing site at Odenaang. This was a very encouraging meeting and the working relationship that we have with our city has been one of cooperation.

I attended our New Year's Eve Powwow at the LSSU Norris Center this year. We all had an excellent time! Jackie Minton and Linda Grossett did a great job planning and working it! Many people I talked to really liked it at the Norris Center. I know many want to have it back at our Big Bear Recreation Center and we will have that discussion. **IDLE NO MORE!**

My daughter and I attended a ceremony in Sault, Ontario, at the Indian Friendship Center on New Year's Day. There were many pipes there and many prayers were said for Chief Theresa Spence who (at the time of this report) was on a hunger strike until the prime minister agrees to meet with her and the other First Nations chiefs. A bill passed Dec. 5 drastically changes Canadian law regarding sovereignty and environmental protections. At the same time, a movement called Idle No More has flashed across Canada, the U.S., and the world in support of First Nation sovereignty, including events here and across the river. Let's hope it continues!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me on my cell phone (906) 322-3823 or home phone 635-3054. My e-mail address is cabramson@saulttribe.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Tribal updates



DENNIS MCKELVIE, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy new year and that everyone was able to spend them with their families.

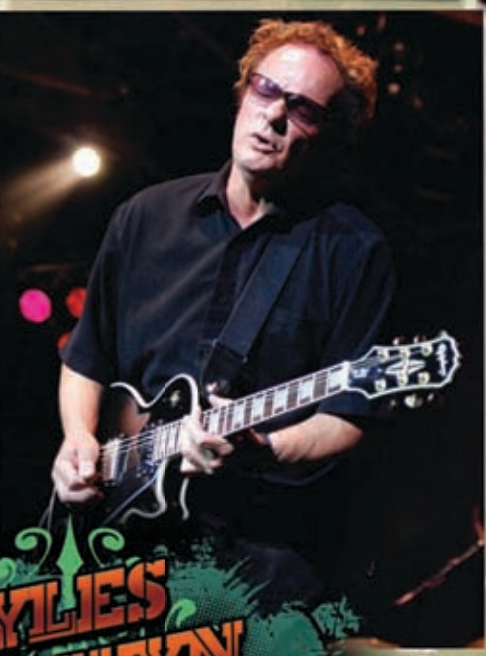
The first area that I would like to give an update is the Sault Ste. Marie MidJim store. In mid December MidJim started the necessary replacements of their two gas tanks. The store is still open for cigarettes and convenience items. Normal gas operations are expected to be up and running by end of January. The total cost for this project replacement is \$557,000. It will take

MidJim 3.48 years to pay off the replacement costs of these tanks as the store only makes 12 cents for every gallon of gas sold.

The second area that I would like to discuss is treaty fishing. I received a call from a tribal fisherman who asked that I clarify a misconception regarding this program. The misconception being that the tribe gets a "cut" from the fishermen who pay for their licenses. There is a fee for the license holder to renew on a yearly basis but the fees collected do not cover the operational costs to administer the program.

Finally, I am happy to report that the tribe will have an outside firm conduct efficiency audits throughout several departments within the tribe to get a sampling of efficiencies and deficiencies within the tribal organization. Getting this information will help us maximize and more efficiently use our assets and manpower. I will give more details of the audit when it's completed.

Please feel free to contact me at (906) 632-7267 or (906) 203-6698 with any issues or questions you may have.



APRIL WINE
SWEET &
HEAD EAST

MYLIE'S
GOODWYN
AND
APRIL
WINE
LIVE 2013

SATURDAY,
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JANUARY

Oak Ridge Boys

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

FEBRUARY

April Wine, Sweet & Head East

9th | 7 p.m. | Saturday | \$38.50, \$35.00 | On Sale Now

MARCH

Rick Springfield

21st | 7 p.m. | Thursday | \$38.50, \$35.00 | On Sale Now

APRIL

B.B. King

4th | 7 p.m. | Thursday | \$58.50, \$55.00 | On Sale Now

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