

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

October 17, 2014
Vol. 35 No. 10

Bnakwe Giizis
Falling Leaves Moon

Sault Tribe garners nearly \$2.2 million in DOJ grants

BY RICK SMITH

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recently announced the 169 recipients of over \$87 million in grants awarded to American Indian tribes and organizations to enhance justice and safety purposes.

According to an official list of fiscal year 2014 recipients, Sault Tribe is expected to receive an estimated \$330,988 for public safety and community policing,

\$991,394 for corrections and correctional alternatives, and another \$877,208 for programs addressing violence against women for a combined total of \$2,199,590.

The DOJ further indicated the grants enable tribes to enhance law enforcement and crime prevention and intervention in the areas of justice systems planning, alcohol and drug abuse counter measures, juvenile justice and tribal youth

programs. Funds may also be used for buying basic equipment and training.

“This work covers every area of public safety in Indian Country, from supporting children and youth to protecting and serving Native women to the hiring of tribal police officers to strengthening tribal criminal and juvenile justice systems,” Assistant Attorney General Mason said in an announcement. He added that the “programs

are not only critical to reversing crime in Indian Country but are integral in strengthening and sustaining healthy communities.”

Sault Tribe garnered the largest grant of all six Michigan tribes receiving grants with the smallest award of \$446,400 going to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Sault Tribe received the third largest cumulative amount nationwide among 169 grants distributed to 114 tribes and American Indian

supportive organizations.

The grants are made through the DOJ Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation process launched in 2010. The process allows for the submission of a single application for most of the department’s grant programs for American Indian tribes and agencies. Since process was put into practice, the DOJ has awarded over 1,200 grants amounting to more than \$530 million.



Community members pray before the opening of the Newberry powwow on Sept. 6. Look for more fine photos by tribal member Stephen King in our middle spread.

Tribe awarded \$2.4 million to create healthier communities

SAULT STE.MARIE — Sault Tribe was awarded a grant of \$810,000 a year for three years to create and promote environments which provide commercial tobacco free living, active living, healthy eating, and healthy and safe physical environments for all tribal and community members who in live in Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce, Alger Schoolcraft, Marquette and Escanaba counties.

The Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) awards are part of a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initiative to support public health efforts to reduce chronic diseases, promote

healthier lifestyles, reduce health disparities, and control health care spending. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will administer the grants, which will run for three years, subject to availability of funds.

Overall, HHS awarded \$50.3 million in new grant awards to 39 local health agencies. PICH is the newest generation in CDC’s long history of community efforts to create and strengthen healthy environments that make it easier for people to make healthy choices and take charge of their health.

Governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations will work through multi-sector community coalitions to reduce

tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, improve nutrition, increase physical activity, and improve access to programs for preventing and managing chronic diseases. Projects will serve large cities and urban counties, small cities and counties, and American Indian tribes.

Aaron Payment, Sault Tribe Chairperson, said, “This grant will help our people regain our Anishinaabe way of life. Before European settlement, our lives were inherently healthy. Now we have to reeducate ourselves, and put in practice, a healthy way of life, and this grant will greatly assist us in this process.”

Specifically, the work that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians will be doing

includes increasing access to tobacco-free outdoor recreation areas; reducing youth initiation of commercial tobacco products including electronic nicotine delivery devices and dissolvable nicotine products; reducing exposure to secondhand smoke; increasing access to healthy foods and beverages in early childhood settings, schools and the community-at large; and providing increased access to physical activity in schools and in communities through community design standards to increase walking and biking.

“The cost of managing chronic diseases is growing,” Payment added. “Chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are the leading causes of death,

disability, and health care costs.”

Bonnie Culfa, Sault Tribe Health Division Director, said, “By changing environments within our communities, schools, and tribal grounds, and creating a culture where the healthy choice becomes the preferred and the easy choice, the Sault Tribe Partnerships to Improve Community Health project will reduce rates of chronic disease and continue to improve the health of our members and all who live in our area long after the project grant period has ended.”

To learn more about the Sault Tribe’s prevention and wellness projects, visit www.up4health.org

SEE “TRIBE AWARDED \$1.6 MILLION,” PG. 18

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State must act on Mackinac Straits oil pipelines

Representatives of dozens of environmental groups, businesses, and governments – and thousands of citizens – on Oct. 6 called on Governor Snyder to take swift and meaningful action to protect the Great Lakes from a catastrophic oil spill from a pair of 61-year-old Enbridge pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac.

The Oil and Water Don’t Mix campaign contends that Michigan is long overdue in applying state law – specifically, the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act – to the aging “Line 5” pipelines.

According to the campaign, the law requires the state to conduct an open public process to evaluate the likely risks and impacts to not only the Great Lakes waters and ecosystem, but also the affected communities, in the event of an oil spill.

This public process, in turn, would address the question of whether the Enbridge oil pipelines in the straits warrant greater regulation, repair, replacement, or removal.

Gov. Snyder has created a pipeline safety task force – which meets behind closed doors – but has not initiated the open review such a significant threat to the Great Lakes requires. The pipelines push almost 23 million gallons of oil a day through the Straits.

Tribal Chairperson Aaron Payment, said, “As natural stewards of the land and with both a sacred responsibility over the water and shared legal authority over our Great Lakes fisheries, American Indians in Michigan are extremely concerned with the imminent threat of a spill of a million gallons of oil.”

Payment was working in the Battle Creek area when the Enbridge spill happened in the Kalamazoo River in 2010. Over 300 homes had to be evacuated due to the toxicity in the air.

“While original estimates were a \$5 million clean up, the total costs have exceeded \$1 billion,” said Payment.

“People are shocked when they first learn about the Enbridge oil pipelines lurking at the bottom of the straits,” said Jim Lively, program director at the Michigan Land Use Institute. “Many people wonder whether oil pipelines should have ever been allowed in the Great Lakes in the first place.”

To see a University of Michigan simulation of a straits oil spill, visit <http://bit.ly/1r6smWb>.

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Resolutions passed at Sept. 23 board meeting

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Sept. 23 in Munising. All board members were present with the exception of Lana Causley.

The board passed 17 resolutions, 10 by unanimous vote.

Res. 2014-163: Partial Waiver of Convictions for tribal member – The board, pursuant to Tribal Code Chapter 76 granted a partial waiver to a tribal member for a misdemeanor domestic violence conviction in 2009.

Res. 164: Partial Waiver of Convictions for tribal member – a partial waiver was granted to a tribal member for felony criminal sexual conduct, 3rd degree, from 2010.

Res. 165: Approving Central Michigan University Graduate Research Survey – Sutton: A graduate student at Central Michigan University and tribal member, Robin Sutton, was granted permission to perform an anonymous survey with employee's to complete her final graduate coursework for her Master's Degree. The surveys will focus on ways to increase employee morale, reduce turnover, and motivate staff members using methods other than monetary

compensation within the Sault Tribe, for possible publication. The information she collects will be for use solely by her to conduct research and all other records will be destroyed after the research is concluded.

Res. 166: Approving Separation and Release Agreement: A proposed separation and release agreement between Tony Goetz, COO of Kewadin's five casinos, and the Sault Tribe that was previously approved by the Management Board of the Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority, was ratified and approved.

Res. 167: Re-Appointment of Jay S. Finch as Appellate Judge (Attorney Position) – Jay S. Finch was reappointed by the board to serve as appellate judge for the Sault Tribe Court of Appeals for a subsequent term of four years, expiring Sept. 2018.

Res. 168: Re-Authorizing Health Center Eligibility Policy: The delivery of health services to individuals who are not otherwise eligible for health services in accordance with the requirements of Section 813 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act was approved by the board.

Res. 169: IHS Special

Project Funding for Sanitation Projects Wequayoc, Newberry, Manistique, and Munising – Authorization was granted to submit an application to the Indian Health Services requesting \$15,000 for a Special Projects Grant to drill a well at the Wequayoc site. The board also authorized similar grant applications be submitted for each of the additional projects and directed Sault Tribe Housing Authority to administer successfully funded grants on behalf of the tribe.

Res. 170: Approving Purchase Zeiss Cirrus Photo 600 Instrument for Optical Financed Through Building Fund – The board approved the purchase of a Zeiss Cirrus Photo 600 device for \$74,550.

Res. 171: Continuing Funding Authority for FY 2015 Sept. to Aug. and Oct. to Sept. – The board approved continuing funding for designated cost centers for fiscal year 2015, at their 2014 spending levels, for a period not to exceed 30 days.

Res. 172: Housing – BE-12 G80 Sanitation FY 2015 Budget Modification - The FY 2015 budget modification was approved for an increase in

Federal IHS revenues of \$33,364 with no effect on tribal support.

Res. 173: Housing – BE-13 J11 Sanitation FY 2015 Budget Modification – Approved for an increase in Federal IHS revenues of \$270,000 with no effect on tribal support.

Res. 174: Housing – BE-14 J36 Sanitation Establish FY 2015 Budget – Approved with Federal IHS revenues of \$8,250 with no effect on tribal support.

Res. 175: Fisheries – USDA Heavy Use Establish FY 2014 Budget/Nunn's Creek Fisheries FY 2014 Budget Modification – The FY 2014 budget for USDA Heavy Use with Federal USDA revenues of \$46,004 was approved with a transfer in from Nunn's Creek Fisheries of \$23,363 with no effect on tribal support.

Res. 176: Employment – WIA Work Experience, On The Job Training, And Administration FY 2015 Budget Modifications – FY 2015 budget modifications to WIA Work Experience, On The Job Training and Administration was approved for an increase in Federal DOL revenue of \$12,589. These budget modifications reflect the actual award amounts with no effect on tribal

support.

Res. 177: ACFS – 2011 Tribal Governments and Sexual Assault Services Establish FY 2015 Budgets – The board approved the establishment of FY 2015 budgets for 2011 tribal governments with Federal DOJ revenue of \$137,419 and Sexual Assault Services with Federal DOJ revenue of \$154,543 with no effect on tribal support.

Res. 178: Communications – Newspaper FY 2014 Budget Modification – Approved the FY 2014 budget modification to Communications Newspaper for an increase in tribal support of \$22,719.

Res. 179: Approving Agreements Replacing Life and Disability Insurance Through Sun Life with Insurance Through UNUM – The board approved the agreement with UNUM to provide life and disability insurance to the employees of the tribe, on similar terms as that were previously offered, except with the expected decrease in cost to the tribe and employees for premiums.

To view the roll call, voting matrix, and resolutions in their entirety visit www.saulttribe.com.

NCJFCJ observes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Public challenged to learn more about impact of domestic violence on youth and to seek solutions for the problem

Throughout the month of October, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and communities across the country will observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Activities in honor of victims and survivors of domestic violence will be as varied as the communities and individuals who organize them.

The council would like to

observe the month by challenging the public to learn more about children and youth exposed to domestic violence. To that end, the council developed the Children and Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence Awareness Month Fact Sheet (<https://t.e2ma.net/click/i9aqi/i1s21/6bhjzd>) that highlights important research findings on the prevalence, impact, barriers, parent-child rela-

tionships and effective interventions in domestic violence cases.

One research finding will be released every day during the month of October on social media. To view the fact sheet in its entirety, please visit <https://t.e2ma.net/click/i9aqi/i1s21/m4hz-jd>.

As a result of recent events involving Ray Rice and the National Football League, the

council received requests from courts and communities on how to use these events to bring attention to domestic violence during this important awareness month. While the council encourages engagement in activities that increase awareness of and promote solution-seeking to the problem of domestic violence, we also urge courts and communities to avoid re-victimizing the

victim, include broader social and cultural considerations into these discussions and keep victim safety and batterer accountability at the forefront of these conversations.

In an effort to promote those principles, the council also developed questions to guide these discussions. To access the guiding questions, go to: <https://t.e2ma.net/click/i9aqi/i1s21/2wizjd>.

MIEA announces 2014 scholarship winners

The Michigan Indian Elder Association would like to congratulate the following winners of the 2014 MIEA scholarships.

There were 44 applicants from the 12 Michigan tribes for the nine scholarships. Four judges had the difficult task of selecting the winners.

The three \$1,000 winners were Jullian Mutcher-Nottawaseppi, Steven Smit-Nottawaseppi and Jamie Cheske-Pokagon.

The six \$500 winners were, Jesse Lassila-Sault, Joel Fluette-Little River, Jessica Coullard-Sault, Kimberly Kang-Hannaville, and Megan Swick-Sault.

Watch for the article announcing the 2015 scholarship information in the month of May.

If you have questions about the scholarship email tdewint@hotmail.com.

Photo by Angeline Bouley

Scholarship Winner —

Dorothy Karr of Munising received the John P. Carr Scholarship for a college student from Unit V. She is majoring in radiology at Northern Michigan University. Pictured, left to right, Unit V Board Representative Rita Glyptis, Karr, former Unit V Representative Joan Carr-Anderson and Chairperson Aaron Payment.



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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
Rick Smith.....Staff Writer
Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary

Win Awenen Nisitotung welcomes submissions of news articles, feature stories, photographs, columns and announcements of American Indian or non-profit events. All submissions are printed at the discretion of the editor, subject to editing and are not to exceed 400 words. Unsigned submissions are not accepted.

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

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

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

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

See our full, online edition at www.saulttribe.com.

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

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

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10 reasons Natives should vote November 4

BY MARK TRAHANT

Why vote? It takes planning, some time, and the rewards are not always visible. The same problems will surround American Indians and Alaska Natives before and after the election.

It's easy to be trite and type, "This election matters more than most," and then cite specifics to make that case. But it's not true. Win or lose (no matter who we support) life will go on.

But there are reasons to vote. Examples big and small that show how we can make a difference. Here we go.

1. Because voting is an act of sovereignty.

The late Billy Frank Jr. used to articulate different ways that we practice sovereignty today. Taking a fish is an act of sovereignty. Using an eagle feather is sovereignty. Or picking berries.

I would add voting to that list. There's a great example going on right now: the Independence vote in Scotland. Every Scot citizen, 16 years and older, will have a say about their future country. But that voice is only possible now because of Scotland's participation in the United Kingdom's electoral process. The idea of returning power had to be ratified in Parliament, a proposition demanded and promoted by the elected representatives from Scotland. Other countries have gone to war over independence. But Scotland is voting. The ultimate use of sovereignty.

2. Because too many folks don't want you to vote.

Too many government officials are taking steps to make casting a ballot harder, limiting early voting options, alternative polling spots, or failing to account for native languages. Across the country there are lawsuits seeking resolution.

But the smartest act of defiance is to vote. Every vote is reprimand of the philosophy to

limit access. One of the worst examples of that notion surfaced last week when a Georgia state senator said he preferred "educated voters" to any increase from new voters.

3. Because climate change is real and any candidate who says it's not, should be ruled out as a leader.

The science is clear 97 percent of all peer-reviewed papers say the same thing: Global warming is real and humans are the cause. (This graphic from NASA is one way to see it for yourself.)

Why does this matter? Because our political leaders are going to have to make tough choices in the years and decades ahead on issues. Indian Country is already being impacted and that will only get worse as communities will need significant new resources for mitigation or even relocation. If you vote for your children, this might be the most important single reason.

4. Because the Affordable Care Act matters.

American Indians and Alaska Natives have been calling for full funding for the Indian health system for, well, since the Treaty era in the 19th century. But never in the history of the country has Indian health been adequately funded. For all it's problems, the Affordable Care Act opens up a mechanism to significantly increase the revenue stream for Indian health.

And the alternative from critics? There is not one.

5. Because the Violence Against Women Act represents how politics can serve the greater good.

So roll back the clock to a time when there were not enough votes in the U.S. Senate to pass

the Violence Against Women Act with the provisions to give tribes additional authority. Then on April 25, 2012, at a news conference on Capitol Hill, then-Tulalip Tribal Vice Chairman Deborah Parker told her powerful personal story about abuse. Her story carried on YouTube and across the nation via social media as well as legacy media changed everything. The Senate passed the measure. Then the House leadership supported an extraordinary deal. According to Talking Points Memo: "The Rules Committee instead sent the House GOP's version of the Violence Against Women Act to the floor with a key caveat: if that legislation fails, then the Senate-passed version will get an up-or-down vote."

That made it possible for Congress (and the president to sign into law) the renewal of the Violence Against Women Act.

6. Because friends matter. Even when they disagree.

Most of the time, anyway. The Violence Against Women Act is a good example of why friends matter. Oklahoma's Tom Cole was able to convince his Republican leadership about the importance of the act. This law would not have happened without him. Cole, and Idaho's Rep. Mike Simpson, have been important voices within the Republican caucus on matters ranging from VAWA to the limiting the damage from sharp budget cuts.

And that brings me to seven ...

7. Because there should never, ever be another Alaska Exception.

If the Violence Against Women Act represents the best in politics, the Alaska Exception is the opposite. Alaska has epidemic levels of sexual violence and rape. So what does Congress do? It takes away a tool that tribal

communities might be able to use to turn the situation around.

What's worse is that the exception was inserted into the bill by Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski who owes her election to Alaska Native voters and corporate spending. (I know this undermines Reason 6.) The Washington Post said last month: "Now, after pressure from Alaska Natives, Murkowski is reversing her position and trying to repeal the provision she inserted." There are no heroes in Congress on this provision, including Alaska Sen. Mark Begich, a Democrat, who also supported the exception. He, too, has reversed himself.

The promise unfulfilled is that Congress would revisit this issue. Something that has yet to happen. But this whole episode should be a warning; a never again moment.

8. Because Congress must pass a Carcieri fix.

The Supreme Court ruled in 2009 that limits what land the Department of Interior can take into trust. This has significant impact on tribal economic development. Montana's Sen. Jon Tester, chairman of the Indian affairs committee, told Indian Country Today Media Network that while he believes in a clean fix, "many of my colleagues in the Senate don't agree."

The way to change that is pressure from voters.

9. Because your votes counts more than the gazillions spent by those with money.

Turn on a television and you see that money at work, ad after ad, dark images, somber music, and words about the evils of certain candidates. Politics should be about ideas and policies more than personality. What do we want out of government? How do we pay for that? Those are the big questions. The best way to do that is to ignore the campaigns and just vote.

10. Because women matter.

More than half the population of the country is female yet representation is only about one-fifth in the Senate and even less than that in the House. As The Washington Post reported this week: "The Congress has always been and continues to be the domain of white men." I think of the words of the late Wilma Mankiller. She said Cherokee treaty negotiators asked the United States team, "Where are your women?" Cherokee women often accompanied leaders at negotiations and so it was inconceivable that the federal government would come alone. There must be balance if we want to become the democracy that we can be.

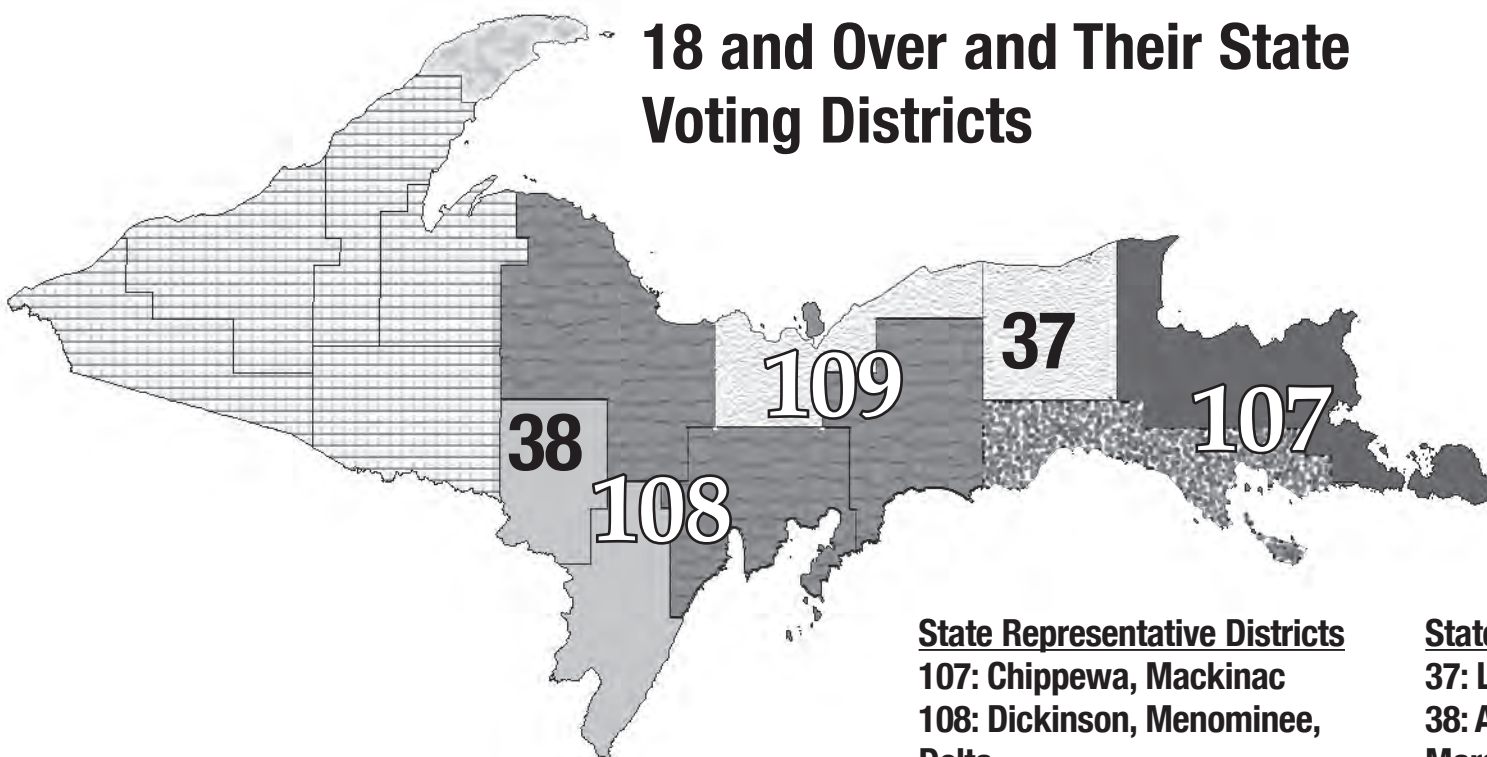
Finally, in the spirit of Spinal Tap, let's turn this vote meter to 11. Why 11? Because it's not 10. Where can you go from there? 11. One louder.

So reason number 11. Because we can win.

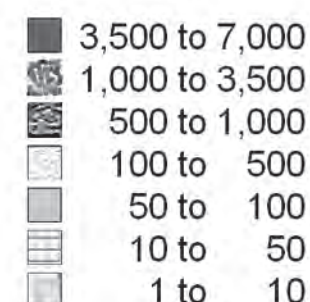
I started this post by mentioning the election coming up in Scotland. Some 4.2 million citizens signed up to vote, a 97 percent registration. Imagine what would happen if American Indians and Alaska Natives voted with those kind of numbers. It would upend politics in from Alaska to Wyoming. Local leaders would be replaced and we would have a far greater say in programs and policies. Already there's evidence that the Native vote makes a difference, but that influence should be growing. We have a younger population and in a low turnout election, we could call the shots. We could be one louder.

Mark Trahan holds the Atwood Chair at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He is an independent journalist and a member of The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Download the free Trahan Reports app for your smart phone or tablet.

Sault Tribe Service Area Voters 18 and Over and Their State Voting Districts



Total Population



State Representative Districts

107: Chippewa, Mackinac
108: Dickinson, Menominee, Delta
109: Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce

State Senator Districts

37: Luce, Chippewa, Mackinac
38: Alger, Schoolcraft, Delta, Marquette

Michigan candidates in tribe's service area

In his column on page 4, Native columnist Mark Trahan gives us plenty of good reasons to vote.

The races in our service area in the eastern U.P. of Michigan directly affect us in our daily lives. The representatives we end up with will be making decisions about everything from our land and waters to our elders and children.

On our ballot this Nov. 4 are races for governor, U.S. senator, U.S. representative, state senator, and state representatives.

Here are five questions to ask your candidates to assess their positions on tribal matters:

1. Do you support the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver?
2. Do you support tribal treaty rights?
3. Do you support Medicaid expansion?
4. Do you support the Michigan Indian and Family Preservation Act of 2013?
5. What ideas do you have to support joint efforts on tourism and tribal economic development?

Here are the candidates with their email addresses and phone numbers:

Please Vote "No" on both Wolf Referenda

• Vote November 4 • Vote November 4 • Vote November 4 • Vote November 4 • Vote November 4 •

Governor



Incumbent Rick Snyder, Republican, migov@exec.state.mi.us, (517) 373 3400.



Mark Schauer, Democrat, info@markschauer.com, (517) 321-6700.

U.S. Senator



Terri Lynn Land, Republican, terri@terrilynnland.com, no phone number listed.



Gary Peters, Democrat, info@petersformichigan.com, (248) 799-0850.

U.S. Representative



Incumbent Dan Benishek, Republican, communications@benishekforcongress.com, (202) 225-4735.



Jerry Cannon, Democrat, info@jerrycannon.com, (231) 384-8185.

37th District Senator



Wayne A. Schmidt, Republican, WayneSchmidt@house.mi.gov, (231) 883-3737.



Phil Bellfy, Democrat, phil4senate@gmail.com, (906) 632-8060.

38th District Senator



Incumbent Tom Casperson, Republican, sentcasperson@senate.michigan.gov, (517) 373-7840.



Christopher M. Germain, Democrat, cmgermain@live.com, (906) 420-2783.

107th District State Representative



Lee Chatfield, Republican, lee@leechatfield.com, (231) 881-0287.



Jim Page, Democrat, jcpage@nodinwif.com, (906) 630-1740.

108th District State Representative



Incumbent Ed McBroom, Republican, edmcbroom@house.mi.gov, (906) 396-6838.



Grant Carlson, Democrat, grant@votegrantcarlson.com, (906) 221-1347.

109th District State Representative



Incumbent John Kivela, Democrat, johnkivela@house.mi.gov, (906) 228-3761.



Pete Mackin, Republican, peter_mackin@yahoo.com, (906) 569-1474.

— COMMUNITY NOTICES —

Drug abuse support groups meet

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) meets on the third Wednesday of each month, 5:30 p.m., at the Huntington Bank meeting room in Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, call (906) 203-8959, email Chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org or visit www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org.

Meeting dates for November and December are on Nov. 19 and Dec. 17. FAN — your connection

for information, resources, and support. It is our mission to raise awareness of the prescription opiate drug abuse epidemic, reduce the stigma, change the face of addiction, educate about the dangers of prescription drug abuse and its potential to lead some to illegal narcotic use and to support those affected by drug abuse or addiction.

Also look into the Prescription Drug Abuse Support Group. Have

you experienced loss, heartbreak or diminished relationships due to someone else's use of prescription drugs? The Prescription Drug Abuse Support Group meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 6 p.m. at the Huntington Bank in Sault Ste. Marie. Coming meetings take place on Oct. 20, Nov. 3, Nov. 17, Dec. 1 and Dec. 15. Please call Linda at (906) 440-7252 or Suzy at 248-3545 for more information.

Thanks for help with burial of loved ones

To the Editor,

A very big thank you for all the food and the burial we had for Peter and Barbara Gaudreau Sept. 8 at the Epoufette Cemetery. We appreciated it very much. The Indian burial was very impressive. A special thank you to Darcy Marrow for her help.

Thank you again, Mary M. Salter

Unit I elders fundraisers

BAKE SALES, NOV. 5 AND DEC. 3

Bake sales take place each month at the monthly elders meeting, coming dates are Nov. 5 and Dec. 3 (first Wednesdays of every month).

PIE SALE, NOV. 26

Pie sale, Tuesday, Nov. 26, at the Sault health center, from 8

Unit I elders annual trip Dec. 1-2

The Unit I annual elders trip is scheduled for Dec. 1 and 2 to Mt. Pleasant, Mich., to see New Odyssey's Holiday Show — three guys, 30 instruments. Unit I elders aged 60 and over and their spouses are welcome to attend. The cost is \$100 per person. Currently, 15 people have signed to go, but the minimum needed for the trip is 30, with a maximum of 54.

a.m. to noon.

RAFFLE, DEC. 9

Holiday raffle, drawn at the elders Christmas party on Dec. 9 at Kewadin Casino.

Dates for fundraisers planned from January through September 2015 are yet to be announced.

For information call Annette King at (906) 635-0718.

The Holiday Show "features outstanding arrangements of almost every style performed on 30 different musical instruments ranging from Beethoven to the 40s and from the Swing Era to the 80s and 90s top 40 and, of course, some of your favorite Christmas tunes."

For information or to register, contact Annette King at (906) 635-0718.

Spirit feast set for Nov. 1

The Sault Tribe 2014 annual spirit feast is scheduled to take place at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building on Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. Bring your loved ones' favorite foods, pictures and stories to share. Feast bundles wel-

come.

For more information, please contact Colleen St.Onge or Josh Homminga at (906) 635-6050 or by email at cstonge@saulttribe.net or jhomminga@saulttribe.net.

Tribal Health Board members

- UNIT I
 - Sally M. Willis-Goebel, (906) 322-1314, salwillis@email.phoenix.edu
 - Shauna L. Cardinal, RDMS, (989) 714-6911, shaunacardinal@hotmail.com
 - Isaac McKechnie, (906) 635-6050, ext 26999, (906) 440-6661 or 632-0424
 - Leslie Ruditis, (906) 440-7637, leslieruditis@gmail.com
- UNIT II
 - Marlene Crisp, Vice Chair 2, (906) 484-6888, gardenlady-mar@yahoo.com
 - Frances Hank, Vice Chair 1, (906) 297-6561, (906) 322-6561

- UNIT III
 - Reinette Murray, RN, MSN, Unit III, (906) 430-0309, lucy49757@gmail.com
- UNIT IV
 - Pearson, Darlene, (906) 789-1280, gardenladydar@live.com
 - Thomas Tufnell, (906) 341-2842, tuffnellj@yahoo.com
 - Sharon Barber, Unit 4, (906) 450-2849, cliffbarber@charter.net
- UNIT V
 - Paul Gerrish, DDS, Chairman, (906) 249-1028, (906) 250-2292

Rustic Grill opens doors, offers homemade comfort foods

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

A new restaurant has opened its doors just outside of Sault Ste. Marie and offers freshly cooked “down home” all American meals in a North Country atmosphere. The Rustic Grill, owned by Sault Tribe members Sherri (nee Wilkins) Bloomfield and Mike Povey, is located at the corner of Mackinaw Trail and 9 Mile Road.

They offer a full breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu along with daily lunch and dinner specials. Sherri said they want people to remember them for their home cooked meals and delicious homemade pies, breads and soups made daily. They also cook ham and turkey every morning; you won’t find processed meats in any of their dishes.

Sault Tribe members and employees – if you show your employee badge or tribal card you will receive 10 percent off your entire meal. Law enforcement officers who stop by in uniform will also receive 10 percent off their meal. As you are dining, you will also have free wireless Internet access.

The Rustic Grill will be celebrating their official grand opening the week of Oct. 14-19. Bloomfield said everyone is welcome to come by and enter to win some great prizes and receive additional discounts.

Waitressing since the age of 14 when she began her first job at the old Woolworth’s Cafe, Bloomfield said she also has restaurant management experience and had always wanted to open her own restaurant. “It’s been busy but I don’t have any regrets,” she said. “We are ecstatic to be doing this. I am pretty well rounded when it comes to the restaurant business.”

The former motel/restaurant had been sitting vacant for a number of years before being purchased by Bloomfield. They demolished 11 of the 12 motel rooms, keeping one for office and storage space. They fixed up the duplex in the back of the property and have renters in the two units. The restaurant area received a facelift both inside and out and new septic and boiler systems

were installed. Bloomfield said from the day she bought the property on Jan. 21 until they opened on July 7 it was non-stop work getting it ready.

Thinking ahead to the cold winter months, Bloomfield said the local snowmobile association has offered to put a knife and fork sign on the trail and will have it groomed from M28 to their doorstep on 9 Mile Road. With the start of bow season this month, rifle season in November and snow and snowmobilers right behind them, she expects to stay busy this fall and winter.

Their menu offers a good start to every morning with a build your own omelette, or pick the Farmers, Southern, Country or Ham & Cheese. In addition to their delicious omelettes, try the biscuits and gravy, or pancakes, waffles, French toast and a Rustic Special with eggs, bacon, sausage, ham and a choice of potato and toast. Of course there is the much loved and talked about Dorothy’s Special, two eggs over easy served on top of a generous heap of corned beef hash with a side of bacon and toast. They also offer choices of sides and beverages along with specials of the day.

Hungry for a good home cooked lunch? You won’t be disappointed with their selection of salads, sandwiches, baskets and soups. They also offer their “Construction Burger,” with a ½ pound of burger, served with coleslaw and crispy fries. To create your own version, just add one of the available toppings from cheeses, to bacon and grilled mushrooms or onions, olives, lettuce, tomato and onion tangles.

Did you say dinner? Dinner entrees are served with a choice of potato, garlic bread and a house salad or bowl of soup. Entrees include ribeye steak, pasta with gravy, chicken dinner, pork chops, whitefish, and grilled sirloin. Don’t forget their beef tenderloin dinner or turkey dinner with stuffing and cranberry’s.

Appetizers? Of course! Try their delicious potato skins, cheese sticks, deep fried pickles or cauliflower, onion rings, gar-



Above, Rustic Grill owner Sherri Bloomfield with two of her employees.

lic roasted mushrooms, poutine, chicken wings (bone in or out) in five flavors and chili cheese fries. Beverages range from coffee and teas to hot chocolate, milk, juice, Hawaiian Punch, root beer floats, shakes and Pepsi products.

Their homemade pies are earning their own reputation, and Bloomfield said she has customers come back later in the day just for pie and coffee after they leave full from a hearty breakfast or lunch.

Hungry yet? If you would like to enjoy a great meal in a cozy cabin style atmosphere, stop by the corner of Mackinaw Trail and 9 Mile Road and give them a try, or call The Rustic Grill at: (906) 259-7010.

Right, Sherrie Bloomfield in front of the Rustic Grill family restaurant.



Transformation Coalition promotes biking in Newberry

BY DONNA NORKOLI

Newberry residents and visitors now have a safe place to park their bikes as they visit downtown Newberry. As part of initiatives designed to increase physical activity and reduce chronic disease for Luce County residents, the Newberry Community Transformation Grant Coalition provided funding for bike racks to be installed in downtown Newberry. These bike racks were designed with a moose theme and constructed by the Sault High School welding class. The Village of Newberry painted the bike racks and installed them in each block in the downtown area.

Funding for the bike racks was provided to the community of Newberry for participating in the Let’s Get Moving Community Challenge sponsored by the Sault Tribe Community Transformation Grant. The coalition members

decided to purchase the bike racks in response to a survey regarding biking and walking in Newberry. Many Newberry residents commented on the lack of bike racks at businesses they frequent which creates a barrier to bicycling as a means of transportation.

According to a recent study conducted by the Michigan Department of Transportation, bicycling provides an estimated \$668 million per year in economic benefit to Michigan’s economy. Also, statewide, 39 percent of households report using a bicycle for transportation last year and nearly 800 people are employed by bicycle-related industries in Michigan.

“The Newberry coalition is a fantastic collaboration of the Sault Tribe, the Village of Newberry, Luce County MSU Extension, Helen Newberry Joy

Hospital, the Tahquamenon Area Schools, the Tahquamenon Area Recreation Authority, and LMAS District Health Department” said Donna Norkoli, grant project coordinator. “This dedicated group of citizens is working to improve the health of Luce County residents and to make Newberry a more vibrant, liveable community.” The coalition recently applied for Michigan Safe Routes to School funding and the Village of Newberry and Tahquamenon Area Schools was awarded \$231,150 in funding to improve and promote walking and biking to and from school.

The Sault Tribe Community Transformation Grant is working in the Sault Tribe service area to increase physical activity and access to healthful foods as well as to decrease tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke. For more information about the

initiatives or meeting times of the Newberry Strategic Alliance for Health Coalition, please contact Donna Norkoli, Sault Tribe Community Transformation Grant

Project Coordinator at dnorkoli@saulttribe.net or at 293-8181. You may also visit the website at www.up4health.org and like us on Facebook.



Newberry Community Transformation Grant Project Coalition provides moose bike racks for downtown Newberry.

Mustangs help folks in need through service learning project

By Rick Smith

Students in all grades at Malcolm High School in Sault Ste. Marie, home of the Mustangs, recently finished a multi-faceted service-learning project to help needy folks in the community. The project was one of the ways the students participated in this year's 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.

A little over half of the students enrolled at the home of the Mustangs are Sault Tribe members, according to outgoing advisor to American Indian students, Allison Campbell.

Nicole Kilgore of AmeriCorps Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) noted the students learned needed information, honed certain skills and discussed project options in sessions conducted at the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District on Sept 3. In one of the sessions, for example, Kilgore led students in practicing budgeting and math skills. The Michigan Nonprofit Association Civic Engagement Program and the LEAGUE of Michigan were also involved in the sessions.

Later on, the students chose their project — gathering food and hygiene supplies as well as making fleece tie-blankets and distributing them to the local Salvation Army and the Chippewa County Supportive Housing for Youth Program.

The students contacted local businesses and organizations

seeking donations of goods for the project; when that was not enough, they went shopping for items still needed.

On Sept. 12, the students along with Malcolm faculty and staff gathered in the gym of Malcolm High to assemble four different varieties of packages to aid young individuals or families in need or emergency situations. Captain Amy Voss of the Salvation Army and Michelle Gilbert of the Supportive Housing for Youth Program in turn addressed the students about their respective services and expressed their gratitude for the help. Kilgore said about 78 food packages containing a wide assortment non-perishable food items were prepared as were 62 packages of personal hygiene needs. Further, the students made 10 fleece tie-blankets for the project.

According to Kilgore, the project received support from the Michigan Community Service Commission, the Michigan Non-profit Association, Volunteer Centers of Michigan and the Michigan Campus Compact. She expressed particular gratitude for support to Kewadin Casino and Hotel, Sault Tribe member Lou Anne Bush, and various offices and organizations in the area.

Photos by Rick Smith

Right, above, students prepare food packages in the Malcolm High gym on Sept. 12 alongside other students, below, who prepare tie-blankets.



TOURNAMENTS

Roll 'em High Craps

(Seeded \$300 per registered player)

KEWADIN SAULT STE. MARIE

October 24-26

\$15,000 Video Poker

KEWADIN SAULT STE. MARIE

October 31-November 2

\$15,000 Spin to Win

KEWADIN ST. IGNACE

November 21-23

Play Like a Champ

\$20,000 CHAMPIONSHIP

KEWADIN ST. IGNACE

November 1-2

For details and official rules see kewadin.com.

Kewadin Party Pits

KEWADIN CHRISTMAS

Every Tuesday 7-11 p.m.

KEWADIN ST. IGNACE

1st & 3rd Tuesday 7-11 p.m.

Prizes • Match Play

Kewadin Credits

Table Trivia Tuesdays

KEWADIN SAULT STE. MARIE

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month from 7-11 p.m.

Kewadin Credits

Kewadin Gift Certificates

KEWADIN KLASSIFIEDS

Oktoberfest 2014
ALL SITES

Earn entries from September 15 to Event Night - October 25!
You could be one of 5 winners to receive a **Trip to Oktoberfest Germany!**

Event night October 25
Random cash draws from 6-11 p.m. event night!

MANISTIQUE • ST. IGNACE • HESSEL • SAULT STE. MARIE • CHRISTMAS



RECYCLED PERCUSSION

SAULT STE. MARIE
KEWADIN CASINOS
DREAMMAKERS
THEATER

Friday,
October 31, 7 p.m.
Doors: 5:30 p.m.
\$22.50 & \$15.50

CALL 1-800-KEWADIN or 906-635-4917 or visit www.kewadin.com for tickets.

Halloween Bar Parties

ALL KEWADIN SITES

Friday, October 31

Costume Contest with Prizes!

Spooktacular Drink Specials!

Party starts at 6 p.m.

Hunt for Cash

ALL KEWADIN SITES

November 1 - Event Night

November 29

Earn entries to

Win a Hunting Trip to Montana!

Camo cup and drink specials for the first customers to register on event night!

Random draws for cash & prizes!

Register at Northern Rewards

Tie in Tuesday

Come in Tuesday & earn up to \$10 in Kewadin Credits at all Kewadin sites!

Drink Specials Random Draws

Fab Friday

Earn up to \$25 in Kewadin Credits on Friday if you play on Tuesday at all sites!

Drink Specials Random Draws

Visit kewadin.com or Northern Rewards for official rules and details.

Keys & Credits Monday

St. Ignace, Christmas, Hessel, Manistique

Every Monday 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Your Chance to Win

A Vacation or Trip on us!

Northern Rewards Club hours vary by site.

IHS eligible individuals can claim “shared responsibility payment”

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Individuals eligible to receive health care from an Indian Health Service (IHS), tribal or urban Indian health program provider, are now able to claim an exemption from the “shared responsibility payment” through the tax filing process. Starting in 2014, everyone needs to have health coverage or make a payment on federal income tax returns called the “shared responsibility pay-

ment” or be exempt.

This benefit was previously only available to members of federally recognized tribes (including Alaska Native shareholders). American Indian and Alaska Native individuals will continue to have the option of submitting the exemption application through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Prior to this week’s announcement, only individuals who were

members of a federally recognized tribe were able to claim an exemption through the federal tax filing process. Individuals who are eligible to receive services from an Indian health care provider are eligible for a separate hardship exemption but were required to obtain this exemption through the Health Insurance Marketplace by filing a paper application.

The availability of the online

tax filing process to apply for the hardship exemption will save time and reduce duplication of effort. Qualification for the Indian exemption can be established by attestation of membership in a federally recognized tribe or eligibility to receive services from an Indian health care provider.

Secretary Burwell first announced this updated rule at the Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee meeting on Sept.

18. This benefit of claiming the exemption through the tax filing process was initiated based on requests by tribal leaders. The IHS worked closely with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Internal Revenue Service to extend these options to individuals eligible to receive services from an Indian health care provider.

Wequayoc Cemetery project fall update

BY ALAN BARR

Aaniin, we completed the series of community planning sessions in each county of our tribe’s service area over the spring, summer and early fall of 2014. About 317 people attended these sessions. The youngest participant was 15 while the oldest was 100.

Further, 190 participants completed surveys to gather demographic data along with some pre-project information as to their knowledge of Wequayoc Cemetery and its policies, etc. Of these, 59 were men and 123 were women. Included among the participants were 27 military veterans. The interest and diversity of participants was amazing and very helpful.

Now that the sessions have been conducted and the community input gathered, I am compiling and analyzing the information and creating a working document – a sort of interim report. This working document has already been presented to the Elders Advisory Committee and has gotten their blessing to take to the board. We still need to present the working document to the tribal youth council, the Cultural Department and the board of directors. Once these groups have given their blessings to proceed, we will convene a small working group of volunteers from each of the tribe’s units to assist in forming the formal policies, procedures and ordinances for

Wequayoc Cemetery. This working group will help create a set of formal recommendations that we can then present to the board of directors.

Once this committee of folks complete their work, and the board makes its decisions, a report documenting the entire project will be created, allowing the tribe to use this project as a template not only for other cemeteries but for any future community-driven efforts as well.

If you have any questions, or would like to share your thoughts privately with me regarding Wequayoc, please contact me, Alan Barr, at (734) 904-3210 or at alanb@creativechange.org.

Chi miigwech!

VA schedules free flu shot clinics for veterans

IRON MOUNTAIN – The VA clinic in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., set free walk-in flu shot clinics to veterans enrolled in the VA’s health care system.

The Sault VA clinic offerd the vaccinations Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 15-16, from 1 to 4 p.m. and Friday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon at 509 Osborn Blvd, Suite 306.

No appointment is necessary.

Veterans may also request the flu shot at their regularly scheduled doctor’s appointments.

In addition, the VA expanded access for receiving vaccinations by partnering with Walgreens to

provide flu shots to veterans and having it entered directly into their VA medical record without filling out VA forms or carrying paper records.

Walgreens accepts most insurance plans, including Medicare. There may be a cost to the veteran. However, as part of the agreement, VA funded the first 75,000 flu shots provided by Walgreens to enrolled veterans nationwide.

Veterans may also call (800) 215-8262, extension 38994 to confirm vaccine availability and walk-in clinic dates for all VA clinics in the Upper Peninsula and northern Wisconsin.

“I keep the covers away from his face”

“She likes to be really warm”

“I’m aware of him all night, I would know if he had trouble breathing”

“She is so comfortable on the soft couch”

“I put pillows next to him so he won’t roll off”

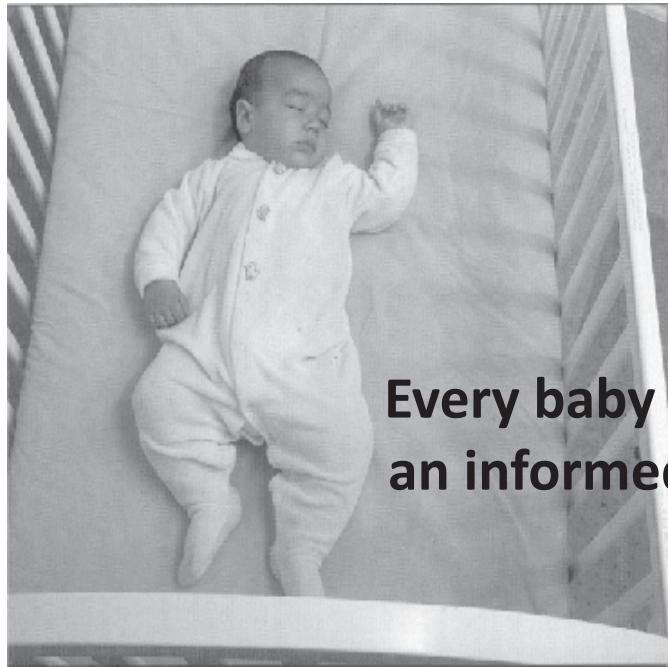
“It’s safe and natural when breastfeeding to have baby in bed with you”

“I slept with all my other babies and they were fine”



Have you had these thoughts when putting an infant to sleep somewhere other than in a crib, on their back?

..... so did the parents of the **120 infants who died last year in Michigan** sleeping in an adult bed, on a couch, with too many covers, face down, or in some other unsafe way. Any baby in an adult bed is at risk for **suffocation from covers, pillows, other bedding, or being rolled on or smothered.**



Accidents can happen to any family. The safest way for infants to sleep is alone, on their back, in a crib in their parent’s room, without extra blankets or any toys in the crib.

Every baby counts, every sleep time counts. Make an informed choice about where your baby sleeps.

More info at: www.michigan.gov/safesleep

Sponsored by Inter-tribal Council of Michigan Healthy Start/MDCH Safe Sleep Project





Tribal member Lee Barnhill took a 467-pound black bear in Montmorency County on opening morning, Sept. 20, 2014.



In 2011, the Edmunds moved from Munising to Tok, Alaska. Above, tribal member Cody Edmunds bagged his first moose this season. It had a 62.5 inch spread and an estimated weight between 1,500 and 1,650 pounds. He shot it at Four Mile Lake, near Tok.



Tribal member Cassie LaDuc got her first bear this year, taken in Cheboygan county. It dressed out at 270 pounds. Above, she poses proudly with her husband Steve.

SAULT TRIBE COMMUNITY FLU CLINICS FOR 2014 FLU SEASON

Check flu clinic schedule for your area —

SAULT AREA

Sault Tribe Health Center
(Diabetes Day)

Thursday, Sept. 18 8:30-4 p.m.

Sault Elder Care Meal Site
(Adult Only)

Wednesday, Oct. 1 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sault Tribe Health Center

Wednesday, Oct. 6 8:30-4 p.m.

Sault Tribal Health Center

Wednesday, Oct. 17 8:30-4 p.m.

Sault Kewadin CASINO
(Employees Only)

Wednesday, Oct. 29 8:30-4 p.m.

Sault Tribe Health Center

Wednesday, Nov. 5 12-4 p.m.

Sault Tribe Health Center

Wednesday, Nov. 12 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

HESSEL AREA

Hessel Tribal Health Center

Monday, Oct. 6 11 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-4 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 13 11 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-4 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 20 11 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-4 p.m.

MANISTIQUE

Manistique Tribal Health Center

Monday, Oct. 6 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-4 p.m.

MARQUETTE AREA

Marquette Tribal Health Center

Monday, Oct. 6 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 13 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

MUNISING AREA

Munising Tribal Health Center

Friday, Oct. 10 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

NEWBERRY AREA

Newberry Tribal Health Center

Wednesday, Oct. 15 1-4 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 13 1-4 p.m.

ST. IGNACE AREA

St. Ignace Elder Care, McCann School

(Elders only)

Thursday, Oct. 2 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 7 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 17 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 22 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 29 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Shores Casino

(Employees Only)

Thursday, Oct. 30 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sault Tribe Members and other Natives from a federally recognized tribe: **FREE.**

Non Native Employees with or without insurance will be billed a co-pay of up to \$10.

Non Native spouses will be billed \$10 co-pay.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CLINICS:

- Escanaba Health Center at 786-2636
- Hessel Tribal Health Center at 484-2727
- Manistique Tribal Health Center at 341-8469
- Munising Tribal Health Center at 387-4614
- Newberry Tribal Health Center at 293-8181
- Sault Community Health Program at 632-5210
- St. Ignace Tribal Health & Human Services at 643-8689



Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.

Ronald D. Sober
Cory J. Sober

105 Water Street
Sault Ste. Marie,
Michigan, 49783

(906) 635-5238

CLIP & SAVE

JKL students get help building birch bark canoe



Photos by Brenda Austin

From Sept. 29 through Oct. 3, JKL instructor Chris Gordon's MS ezhichigeying class built a full size wiig-waas-jiimaan. The birch bark canoe was built at the JKL School on Marquette Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie. Master builder Ron Paquin worked with the class each day from 1:55-2:45 p.m.



Master builder Ron Paquin worked with Chris Gordon's class to teach them how to build a traditional style birch bark canoe.

Fourth annual Recovery Walk held at Chi Mukwa



Photos by Brenda Austin

The fourth annual Recovery Walk was held Thursday, Sept. 25, from 4-7 p.m., at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center. The walk is an event sponsored by the Tribal Court and Sault Tribe Behavioral Health to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders as well as to spread the messages that behavioral health is essential to health, that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people do recover from mental and substance use disorders. The event featured the walk from St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church to Chi Mukwa, craft table for kids, motivational recovery speakers, a cookout, games and prizes. Brother John Hascall delivered a recovery speech in Marquette Hall at 4:30 p.m., and the walk began at 5 p.m. The first 120 registrants received a free t-shirt. This event is supported by the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, SAMHSA, Access to Recovery, Tribal Court, Sault Tribe Behavioral Health, and people in and supportive of recovery.

Diabetes Day and flu shots at tribal health center



Registered dietitian Julie Testrail and Traditional Foods Grant coordinator Connie Watson.



Community Health technician Jody Hoglund, clinical social workers Denise Lyons and Malinda Lumsden.



LSSU nursing student Lauren Koss checks Ann Marie Woodall's blood pressure.



Jethro Payment Jr. gets a flu shot.



Student nurse Laiken Holbrook and Devin Smith, RN



Grace Piche gets her blood pressure checked.

Faces from the September's Newberry powwow



Left to right, Cal Burnside and Becky Parish.



Unit II Representative Catherine Hollowell.



Cindy Paquin and son Whyatt, 10.



Above, left to right, sisters, Priscilla Pine and Deb Pine. Left, a beautiful shawl dancer.

Photos by Stephen King

More scenes from the 2014 Newberry powwow



Above, everybody dances in the intertribal. Below, time for frybread.



Above, Newberry tribal elders conduct a bake sale. Below, Jow Paquin's chainsaw art.



It takes teamwork to quit smoking.
It's hard to quit smoking all by yourself. You need the support of friends and family. And we give you the added support of a professional Quit Coach for free. We'll customize a quitting strategy around you. To get your own FREE Quit Coach, call **1-800-QUIT-NOW** (1-800-784-8669).

Munising powwow moves indoors for 2014



The 2014 Munising powwow took place on Sept. 13. Due to weather conditions, the powwow was moved from the City Park to the Alger Ice Arena. Volunteers pitched in to decorate the arena. Vicki Walden and her kitchen staff prepared the feast. This year's powwow committee members are Angela Satterlee, Deseree Bosley, Katy Matson and Unit V Director Rita Glyptis. Above, left, Rosalie Storm. Above, right, flag and staff bearers.



Above left, Katy Matson; center, TJ Derwin; right, Luci DeVoy. Below, left, 5-year-old bicycle winner Matina Varta with, left to right, her father, Chairperson Aaron Payment and Unit V Representative Rita Glyptis. Right, drum.



Great Lakes woman struggles to educate people about pollution from Flambeau Mine

Mining advocates using Court of Appeals reversal - based on a technicality - as example of "environmentally responsible" mining

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

A Minnesota woman has been struggling to educate people and change a wrongful perception that pro mining is using to garner support – and has found herself in an uphill climb. Laura Gauger of Duluth, Minnesota, is a citizen plaintiff in a Clean Water Act lawsuit against Rio Tinto of London.

The case, over now, centered on illegal discharges of pollutants into a stream at Rio Tinto's Flambeau Mine near Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Gauger, originally a farm girl from Wisconsin, and her co-plaintiffs won the case in U.S. District Court and exposed the pollution from the metallic sulfide mine.

The stream at the center of the lawsuit is a tributary of the Flambeau River and was added to the EPA's list of impaired waters recently due to copper and zinc toxicity linked to the mine operation. Gauger said, "This proves our case had merit, and also suggests to me that the mining lobbyists in Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin and Alaska who to this day tout the Flambeau Mine as an environmental success are either misinformed or intentionally misleading the public in an effort to further their own selfish interests."

One example, Gauger said, of the Flambeau Mine being touted as an "environmentally responsible" mining operation is the misinformation on the Eagle Mine website's Frequently Asked Questions section, which poses the question: "Has there even been a metallic mineral mine that succeeded in protecting the environment?" Their answer: "Yes. The Flambeau Mine in Ladysmith, Wisconsin was successfully designed, operated, and reclaimed a sulfide host metallic mineral mine while protecting the environment from adverse impact..." (<http://eaglemine.com/about-us/faq>)

In a blow to the plaintiff's case, late last year the Court of Appeals reversed the lower courts decision and denied a petition for a rehearing. The court then ordered the plaintiffs, including Gauger as an individual, to pay Rio Tinto's court costs totaling over \$60,000. Gauger recently reported that she is about \$1,500 short of paying off her \$20,500 share of the court costs awarded to Rio Tinto, thanks to very successful fundraising efforts by organizations and individuals who supported her efforts.

The Court of Appeals, however, did not dispute the lower court's finding that Rio Tinto had discharged contaminated runoff from the Flambeau Mine site into public waters since at least 2006. Gauger said the decision was based on a technicality that allowed errors made by the State Of Wisconsin in its administration of the Clean Water Act to shield Rio Tinto from prosecution. The Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources had never required Rio Tinto to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit, a requirement of the Clean Water Act that would have put strict limitations on the amount of pollutants discharged to the stream.

"The DNR regulated the mine under a state authorized mine permit," she said, "and they apparently felt they had their bases covered by what was required by that permit. But that permit did not address the discharge of pollutants into the stream that was the subject of our lawsuit. I feel the Wisconsin DNR messed up, but now what is a citizen supposed to do? Take on the Wisconsin DNR? I think the court set a really bad precedent. It is now being put out there by mine supporters that this ruling means the

tiffs scored a victory on two different fronts in the lawsuit. The first being a victory for the environment: "The court case provided a means for exposing, under oath and with credibility, the serious water pollution problems at the Flambeau Mine site. So the next time the Flambeau Mine is held up by supporters of PolyMet or Twin Metals (Minnesota), Lundin (Michigan), GTac (Wisconsin), the Pebble Partnership (Alaska) or anyone else as an example of how mining can be done 'without polluting local waters,' you will have solid ammunition to use in the defense of your clean water," she said in her latest press release.

She said the second is a victory for the "little guy." Gauger said supporters rallied around the plaintiffs to send the following message to Rio Tinto and other corporate polluters: "Enough! You cannot ride roughshod over citizens who are simply trying to protect public waters, and you cannot keep us



Laura Gauger enjoying a day out in her canoe.

Flambeau Mine is this wonderful example of environmental responsibility when really it is not."

"The mining company has not been held accountable," she said. "They got off scot-free, but not because the water over there is clean – but because they found a way to skirt the law. You tell someone you didn't violate the law and it implies that the water is clean, but that is not the case. It just means the mining company was able to find a way to get around being legally responsible for the pollution."

Gauger says she does feel that she and the other plain-

tiffs scored a victory on two different fronts in the lawsuit. The first being a victory for the environment: "The court case provided a means for exposing, under oath and with credibility, the serious water pollution problems at the Flambeau Mine site. So the next time the Flambeau Mine is held up by supporters of PolyMet or Twin Metals (Minnesota), Lundin (Michigan), GTac (Wisconsin), the Pebble Partnership (Alaska) or anyone else as an example of how mining can be done 'without polluting local waters,' you will have solid ammunition to use in the defense of your clean water," she said in her latest press release.

She said the second is a victory for the "little guy." Gauger said supporters rallied around the plaintiffs to send the following message to Rio Tinto and other corporate polluters: "Enough! You cannot ride roughshod over citizens who are simply trying to protect public waters, and you cannot keep us

down. We 'little guys' watch out for each other, we have each other's backs, and we are tenacious. You may as well give up on your latest mining proposals because we will ultimately prevail in this battle to protect the water and the 'little ones' whose voices need to be heard," she said.

Gauger praised the legal and scientific team that represented her in court. Attorney Jamie Saul and his colleagues at McGillivray, Westerberg & Bender (Madison, WI) handled the four-year federal court case from start-to-finish. In addition, Dr. David Chambers of the Center for Science in



Laura Gauger with the late Roscoe Churchill, believes protecting the water protects everything we love - including bluegills!

Public Participation (Bozeman, MT) drafted scientific reports. Gauger said, "This fine team of lawyers and scientific consultants truly believed in the case and did their best to deliver the kind of truthful information to the court that was needed to expose the serious water pollution problems at the Flambeau Mine site. Their expertise, passion for environmental justice, and understanding way and kindness shown in working with me on finances will not be forgotten."

With her fundraising goals in sight to pay off her portion of the legal fees, Gauger said Freshwater Future in Petoskey helped design her fundraising

campaign. Another group critical in helping her is Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA); a non-profit law firm out of Madison, Wisconsin that agreed to serve as her fiscal sponsor for the fundraiser. "I wanted to have a non-profit sponsor for the fundraiser to give transparency to the whole thing, all contributions are handled by MEA. That way people know the money is going where it was intended to go, and that there is an account set up by MEA for donations.

For more information on Laura Gauger and her Clean Water Act case against Rio Tinto, go to: <http://flambeaumi-neexposed.wordpress.com>.

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JKL Bahweting Anishnabe PSA enrollment increases

Administration says schools achievements have been phenomenal, third highest scoring in district

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Carolyn S. Dale, Ed.S., director of Curriculum, Instruction, Accountability and Special Programs at JKL Bahweting Anishnabe PSA said the school increased its enrollment this fall to almost 500 students by using its discretionary seats. The school serves students in kindergarten through the eighth grade.

The first few weeks of school were busy ones, with middle school students taking part in a team building camp at the Clear Lake Education Center where they participated in hands on activities such as a high ropes course.

Students also began the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing, which will provide school staff with information about each student's strengths and weaknesses. "Our goal this year is to put instructional strategies into place for each student based on the results of this assessment," said Superintendent Theresa Kallstrom.

Dale said the school is highly regarded in the community and has had military families return to the area so their children can attend JKL. "We are



Coach Travis Theel entertains at Family Fun Day.

the third highest scoring school in the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermural School District (EUPISD); 12th among public charter schools in Michigan and in the top quarter academically for all public schools in Michigan," she said.

Schools are ranked by their achievement on the MEAP test, given to students in grades three through eight. "Today's education requires a careful

balance of meeting state expectations while facilitating the learning of the whole child," Dale said.

The average ratio of students to teachers is 12:1, with an exception in some of the lower grades where the student to teacher ratio is even lower. This year's average class size is 22, including a teacher and para-professional.

The after school program has

been restructured to offer help to students on an individual basis with homework and includes extracurricular activities such as sports.

Kallstrom said a series of Parent Forums are being held each month through February, each with a different theme that will provide families with simple ideas for extending student learning outside of school. The school is also sponsoring School

Success Workshops throughout the year with local speakers addressing topics such as creating and maintaining efficient household budgets.

Dale added, "Schools have come to realize the importance of investing in the lower grades to make for a lasting foundation into the higher grades."

Visit JKL's website at: www.jklschool.org.



The Nichols family enjoys lunch during Family Fun Day.

Colorado Yoopers hold annual fall picnic in Littleton

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

If you are from Michigan's Upper Peninsula but currently reside in Colorado and still consider yourself a "Yooper," you may want to get online and check out a site called Colorado Yoopers at www.coloradoyoopers.com.

The group formed 17 years ago when Ron Kaminen, from Rock, Mich., was working as a food demonstrator at Costco when a woman approached him and asked if he was from the Upper Peninsula. She said he sounded like a yooper. That woman was Pam Martin, Bob Martin's wife – Bob is from Bessemer, Mich., and is a barber in Parker, Colo.

Deciding to visit Bob's barbershop for a cut, it wasn't long before the men began planning a Yooper gathering with one of their favorite U.P. foods – pasties! So they began putting together a list of Yoopers they knew that were residing in Colorado. They also recruited another friend, Bill Norkoli of Colorado Springs, to supply a list of Yoopers from his area.

And so began an annual event they now call the Colorado Yoopers Picnic. Sept. 28, 2014, marked the 16th anniversary of the group's picnic held at the north end of Sterne Park in Littleton. Over 200 people attended this year's event and there are about 325 Colorado Yoopers on their mailing list.

For this year's picnic, 500 pasties were ordered from the U.P. area and were handmade by a Yooper. Carl Johnson, from Escanaba, owns the U.P. Golf and Lake Resort in Nahma, Mich., but lives in Colorado where he works for his own accounting firm. He makes about seven trips to the U.P. each year and on his

most recent visit drove the frozen pasties back with him for the picnic. The group encourages people to preorder their pasties and they also purchase enough to sell at the picnic where people can choose to eat a hot one or take them home frozen.

Johnson's accounting practice handles the financial end of things for the group, including the donations they make each year to non-profit organizations. "All the revenue is deposited and expenses paid for, and whatever is left is divided up and goes to non-profits in the U.P.," Johnson said.

Some of their donations have helped a women's shelter in the Sault, Bay Cliff Health Camp, Beacon House in Marquette, St. Ignace High School's senior year book, a drug rehab house in Munising, the YMCA and the Red Cross. They once provided a Bessemer family with money



Ron Kaminen from Rock, Mich., one of the groups founders, sits with Kris (center) and Kathy (right) from Hancock, Mich.

for gas and lodging when their daughter was fighting cancer and had to travel to the Mayo Clinic for treatments. Johnson said this year the group had nine requests from U.P. non-profits for their yearly donations. The funds for the donations made to the

non-profits come from sales of the pasties, Yooper t-shirts made in Ishpeming and sold at the picnic for \$15 each, their door prize drawing at the picnic and donations from individuals and businesses.

Plans are underway to sell Yooper advertising on their website to help pay for costs associated with the website's upkeep.

Johnson said, "Everybody still has that Yooper friendship and camaraderie." Johnson also sponsors the group every three years for a winter night out at the Fox Theater in Aurora when they

play the movie "Escanaba in da Moonlight," or to an Upper Peninsula hockey game, either NMU or Tech.

Kaminen said, "A lot of the young people that have moved out here with high tech industries want to meet people from the U.P., so they come to the picnic. We had a call from a young gal who had just moved to Colorado and heard about the Yooper picnic and wanted to know where it was." Kaminen's wife, Elaine, said they have a door prize drawing, a silent auction, play Yooper trivia, ask who in the group is the oldest and youngest who were born in the U.P. and who has come the longest distance to attend the picnic.

Kaminen worked on the Soo Line Railroad for 41 years and spent a lot of time in the Sault working on switch engines. He occasionally lived at a rooming house across the street from the Sault Line Depot on Magazine St. and also rented a 2-room unit during the winter months from the Long Ships Motel on Portage Ave., when he would go on runs from Marquette to the Sault. He hasn't been back to the Sault

since 1962.

He also remembers eating at the old Manhattan Café, which used to be across the street from the Ojibway Hotel and taking the ferry across the river into Canada for 10 cents to eat at a Chinese restaurant. He said that was in 1956 and 57, just before construction on the international bridge began in the early '60s.

"You never needed a passport to go to Canada, you just jumped on the boat and went, it took about 10 minutes to go across the canal," he said. Kaminen said he took a black and white photo of the last Soo Line train to leave the Sault on March 5, 1960.

Another member of their group, Susan Thornton, is from Manistique. She said the picnic is "fun and cheerful and we all eat way too much. I don't know most of the people who attend, so it's fun to meet new people and hear the U.P. accents. People come from the metro Denver area, Wyoming, and Minnesota to join us." Thornton has been involved with the group for 10 years and has become more involved recently by helping the Kaminen's with pastie orders, mailing lists and applications for funding from U.P. non-profits.

Donations to the group are not tax deductible, but if you wish to send yooper memorabilia for next fall's picnic, they can be sent to: Susan Thornton, 474 W. Easter Ave., Littleton, CO 80120.

If you have suggestions for the picnic or know of yoopers in Colorado, or have a non-profit in the U.P. you would like to see funded, contact Carl Johnson at JCP Financial, Inc., by calling (303) 987-3626 or visit the Colorado Yoopers website at: www.coloradoyoopers.com.



One of Michigan's Colorado Yoopers.

Blueberry freezer jam

From the kitchen of Bob Flowers

Freezer jam is a favorite in our home. It has a few advantages over cooked jams and jellies, first of which is that it tastes more like natural fruit. In the case of blueberries, the jam is also more healthful as cooking berries destroys important micronutrients. Freezing leaves the full nutritional value intact.

I think it's important to stress that though blueberries are more healthful eaten in their raw state, other fruits and vegetables won't release their nutrients until cooked. Learn about the foods you eat and the best ways to prepare and eat them.

Ingredients:

4 cups wild or frozen whole blueberries, crushed to make about 2 1/2 cups.

3 cups sugar

12 tsp. lemon juice

1/2 cup water

1 package (1 3/4 ounces) powdered fruit pectin

Combine the blueberries, sugar and lemon juice in a large

bowl. Let stand for about 20 minutes, stirring every five minutes until sugar is completely dissolved.

Mix the water and pectin in two-quart saucepan. Heat to a rolling boil, while stirring constantly, for one minute. Pour hot water-pectin mixture into the macerated blueberries. Stir for a full three minutes to make sure the pectin is evenly distributed through the jam.

Using a funnel, ladle the jam into freezer one-pint freezer containers, leaving half-inch headspace. Wipe the rims of containers with a clean, damp cloth. Seal the lids. Let the containers sit at room temperature overnight or until set.

Finally, place containers into freezer, saving one container to place in the fridge. The jam will be good for up to six months in the freezer or about three weeks in the fridge. Remember to thaw the frozen jam in the refrigerator when you need a new pint.

DNR briefs tribes on silver carp eDNA

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are collaborating to assess a recent positive environmental DNA (eDNA) result for silver carp – a species of Asian carp – within the lower Kalamazoo River, Allegan County, Mich.

Two hundred water samples were taken in July 2014 along the Kalamazoo, from below the Caulkins Dam in Allegan County to the mouth of the river. Laboratory results, which take several months to process, were reviewed by the DNR Oct. 2. One of the 200 samples tested positive for silver carp eDNA. The positive sample was taken from just below the Caulkins Dam.

An additional 200 eDNA samples were collected in the same vicinity in June and resulted in no positive results. The July sample represents the first time that Michigan has experienced a positive result for Asian carp eDNA in Michigan's Great Lakes waters outside of Maumee Bay.

The findings indicate the presence of genetic material of silver carp, such as scales, excrement or mucous. However, there is no evidence that a population of silver carp is established in the Kalamazoo River. In addition to live fish, genetic material can enter water bodies via boats, fishing gear and the droppings of fish-eating birds.

Although not conclusive, this finding heightens the level of vigilance for monitoring and sets into motion a specific response by MDNR. As part of ongoing collaborative efforts, the MDNR will work with partner organizations, agencies and anglers on next steps to protect the Great Lakes and its tributaries against this significant threat.

In response to the finding, the MDNR:

— Requested last Friday additional assistance from the USFWS to implement a third eDNA surveillance effort on the

lower Kalamazoo River. The collection of an additional 200 samples begins today. Analysis of the samples will be expedited and results should be available within a month. The results from this third round of sampling will inform and guide any future assessment and response actions for silver carp in the Kalamazoo River.

— Will increase the presence of MDNR staff along the Kalamazoo River to enlist anglers to report any Asian carp sightings.

— Will place additional information regarding Asian carp identification and reporting in local bait shops to broaden public awareness.

Over the past year, MDNR has had significant effort towards assessing the fish populations of the Kalamazoo River with specialized gear that is capable of capturing carp. The MDNR has received no reports from anglers in this area that indicate the presence of live Asian carp.

The Kalamazoo River results further points to the urgency of the Great Lakes states to be vigilant in seeking all solutions to keep Asian carp and other invasive species out of the Great Lakes basin. Michigan continues to advocate for hydrological separation between the Mississippi River basin and the Great Lakes basin as the best long-term solution to the threat of Asian carp.

Asian carp, including bighead and silver carp, pose a significant threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem, the \$7 billion fishery, and other economic interests dependent on the Great Lakes and its tributaries. Silver and bighead carp are likely to compete with native and recreational fish species and are known to quickly reproduce.



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Story reprinted from 1922

The following article was sent to the newspaper by our subscriber, Russ Vizina. It is a from the Vol. 42, No. 22, of the L'Anse Sentinel, Friday, May 19, 1922. The Sentinel had recently reprinted it in its historical section.

SAULT STE. MARIE – From a position of supposed wealth to one of the poverty is the condition in which 300 families of the Sault Ste. Marie band, at one time one of the most important branches of the Chippewa tribe, find themselves.

The band, until a few days ago, believed the United States government owed to the 300 families a fortune running into millions as payment for lands taken over by the white men. They based this supposition on the Treaty of 1855.

About two months ago, the chiefs of the band gathered and decided to send an envoy to the great white father at Washington and ask that their money be given them. Henry C. Ashmun of Sault

1922: Sault Band denied restitution for land; federal government tries to remove Sault Band to Minnesota.

Ste. Marie, after weeks spent in conference with the department of Indian affairs and the department of the Interior at Washington, returned with the information that the government owes the Indians nothing, and that they have no claim whatever to the vast acres in this district the tribe once ruled as its own.

Out of the gloom that has descended over the band shines a single ray of hope. Mr. Ashmun was informed in Washington that both the Indian Affairs and Interior Departments are prepared to urge Congress to grant each

Indian family 80 acres of land in the Cass Lake National Forest Reserve in Minnesota. The hope is expressed that the 300 families, remnants of a once mighty Indian band will be able to migrate to their new home next year. The land that government officials propose to offer is cut-over territory with exceptionally good soil, it is said.

The bill providing the grant already had been introduced in Congress and the representatives of the local Indians returns with information indicating it has a good chance of passage.

If the grant is made, the government has pointed out, it will be in the nature of a moral, not a treaty obligation.

The tract is to be visited during the coming summer by a government surveying party that will report on the character of the land. This will be done for the information of Congress.

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Medical providers attend diabetes conference

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe Community Health Diabetes Program presented a conference Sept. 17 at the Cislser Center on the campus of LSSU geared towards tribal medical providers, nurses, Community Health technicians, registered dietitians and other health care staff from throughout the tribe's service areas.

The conference, called "Because We Care, We Learn," focused on diabetes standards of care and best practices.

Community Health Diabetes Case Coordinator and Diabetes Nurse Linda Cook, said, "We were honored to have Marion Franz, MS, RD, LD, CDE, a world renown speaker present to our providers." Franz is a nutrition and health consultant with Nutrition Concepts by Franz, Inc.

Cook said about 60 tribal employees attended the con-



Dr. Rebecca Werner, medical director; Marion Franz, MS, RD, LD, CDE; conference speaker; Bonnie Culfa, RN, MSN, Health Division director; Linda Cook, RN, BSN, diabetes nurse case manager; Jenni O'Dell, RN, BSN, interim diabetes program manager.

ference. "In order to give our people the best care, we try to keep health providers up to date. There have been some changes

in diabetes care over the past few years, such as the target range for blood pressure has changed, and we can now use



Community Health technician Tom Sauro

A1C levels to diagnose people rather than just fasting blood sugars. There have also been changes in the nutrition aspect of diabetes care," she said.

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program practitioner Harlan Downland was also a featured speaker. Cook said, "Harlan talked about diabetes from the Native healing aspect. What I took away from Harlan's session is that we have

many medications that can help treat diabetes and its complications, but the main focus should be to prevent diabetes by being active and eating healthy."

The one-day conference began with opening remarks at 10 a.m. from Diabetes Nurse Linda Cook and Health Division Director Bonnie Culfa.

The Sault Tribe Diabetes Program offers comprehensive, state-of-the-art, clinical diabetes care through a multidisciplinary approach. The diabetes education program offers one-on-one professional diabetes education and nutritional counseling services and diabetes prevention activities in communities. Please contact your local tribal health clinic to schedule an appointment or for more information about the diabetes program.

Tribes meet with the new Health and Human Services Secretary

In September, the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee, also known as STAC, met with new Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell.

According to STAC member and Sault Tribe Unit I Director Cathy Abramson, the group discussed government-to-government relationships, Affordable Care Act implementation, Indian Child Welfare Act implementation and Indian Health Service advance appropriations. They also discussed Public Law 102-477, which allows federally recognized tribes and Native Alaska entities to combine federal employment and training formula-funded grant funds.



Front row, left to right, Marshall Gover, president, Pawnee Nation; Larry Curley, director of Health, Navajo Nation; Roger Trudell, chairman, Santee Sioux Nation; Jefferson Keel, lieutenant governor, Chickasaw Nation; back row, left to right, Andrew Teuber, council member, Wood Island Tribal Council; William Micklin, first vice president, Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska; Aaron Payment, chairman, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; Stephen Kutz, council member, Cowlitz Indian Tribe; Cheryl Frye-Cromwell, council member, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe; Arlan Melendez, chairman, Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell; Gary Hayes, council member, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; Brian Cladoosby, chairman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; Cathy Abramson, council member, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; W. Ron Allen, chairman, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Ken Lucero, council member, Pueblo of Zia; Dana Buckles, council member, Fort Peck Tribes; Chester Antone, council member, Tohono O'odham Nation; and Tino Batt, council member, Shoshone Bannock Tribes.

Tribe awarded \$1.6 million to drive down chronic diseases

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians was awarded a grant of \$325,000 a year for five years to implement interventions and strategies that improve the health of the Sault Tribe community through culturally adapted policies, systems, and environmental changes, increasing the availability and use of traditional and other healthy foods, opportunities for physical activity and eliminate exposure to second hand smoke to prevent heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes in all seven counties of the Sault Tribe service area.

Aaron Payment, Sault Tribe chairperson, said, "On behalf of our community I can say we are very happy to receive this grant, which will help our people regain our Anishinaabe way of

life. Before European settlement, our lives were inherently healthy. Now we have to reeducate ourselves, and put in practice, a healthy way of life, and this grant will greatly assist us in this process."

The Comprehensive Approach to Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country awards are part of a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initiative to support public health efforts to reduce chronic diseases, promote healthier lifestyles, reduce health disparities, and control health care spending. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will administer the grants, which will run for 5 years, subject to availability of funds.

Overall, HHS awarded \$11.2 million in 22 grants to prevent

heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and associated risk factors in American Indian tribes and Alaskan Native villages through a holistic approach to population health and wellness. Grantees will work to reduce commercial tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, improve nutrition and physical activity, increase support for breastfeeding, increase health literacy, and strengthen team-based care and links between community resources and clinical services.

Half of the awards will support tribes directly and the other half will support tribal organizations to provide leadership, technical assistance, training, and resources to tribes and villages in their Indian Health Service

administrative areas. The program is financed by the Prevention and Public Health Fund of the Affordable Care Act.

According to the 2013 Sault Tribe health survey, Sault Tribe members have higher rates of tobacco use, obesity, and physical inactivity, while having lower consumption of fruits and vegetables—important risk factors for chronic diseases, said Bonnie Culfa, Sault Tribe Health director.

"Through the work of the Sault Tribe Health and Wellness in Indian Country Project, we will address these disparities to improve the overall health and quality of life for all Sault Tribe members and their families," Culfa added.

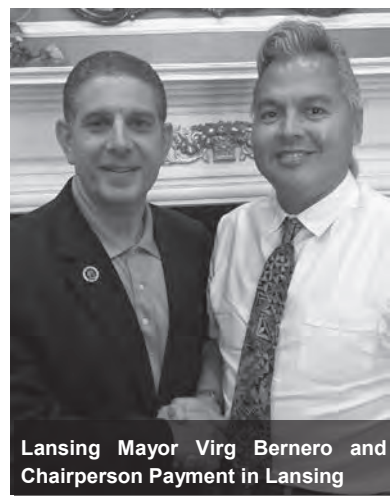
Specifically, the work that

the Sault Tribe will be doing includes developing effective community chosen and culturally adapted policies, systems, and environmental changes to address commercial tobacco use, healthful nutrition, physical activity, health literacy, increase access to healthy traditional and other healthy food and beverages, and offer alternatives to less healthy food and beverages. Sault Tribe also plans to address and implement systems changes to increase community-clinical linkages to support prevention, self-management, and treatment of diabetes, hypertension, and obesity.

Learn more about Sault Tribe's prevention and wellness projects at www.healthysaulttribe.com.

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As you know, in 2012, the members voted to expand our gaming to additional venues outside of the UP. If we are ever to expand services to better meet members' needs and expand our Elder dividend back to an amount (or more) when I was chair the last time, we have to secure new sources of revenues. Our petition to the U.S. Department of Interior has been submitted. We anticipated an adverse opinion at the regional solicitor's office, but the issue will instead be reviewed by the national solicitor and decision made by the Assistant Secretary of Interior.

At this point, we could use support rather than the negativity of some board members. I was not 100 percent in support of gaming expansion until the members voted for it via tribal referendum. Since returning to office, I have pushed to make the proposal worthwhile. Now, it is up to us, as a Tribe, to present a unified and professional front rather than a unstable picture of board discord. To be honest, I don't bother to look at the nonsense others write but the unprofessional depiction is threatening our entire future. That is not leadership, it is dysfunction.

TRIBAL UNITY: LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

While Director Sorenson has characterized our efforts at our nation's capitol as "begging," I have a very different view. In the 1836 Treaty of Washington, we ceded millions

of acres of land that allowed Michigan to become a state just a year later. In doing so, we secured the benefits of "health, education, and social welfare" benefits for "as long as the rivers flow, grass grows, and wind blows." **We are not begging,** we have "paid in full" for these benefits. We travel to DC to remind Congress of their federal trust obligation here. No matter how successful our gaming or economic enterprises become, I intend to continue to hold the US Government accountable to fulfill this "Trust Obligation." Ignorant and assimilated people simply do not understand this but I am proud of the work we do here.

LEGISLATIVE VICTORY: General Welfare Exemption

One major victory we have accomplished is the passage by the U.S. House and Senate to make benefits we provided via gaming revenues non-taxable. As an example, tribal scholarships or Elder Dividend supplements will not require 1099 tax reporting and members will not have to pay taxes on these types of benefits. We accomplished approval last month during our National Congress of American Indians -National Indian Health Board Tribal Unity Days in DC. Please see a series of photos at the bottom of the page. During the 2013 annual NCAI meeting where I was elected the Midwest VP for NCAI, we passed legislation to push for the "General Welfare Exemption." Less than a year later, we accomplished this huge victory that benefits our members.

SPECIAL DIABETES PERMANENT FUNDING

With the legislative victory above, I will sponsor new legislation for NCAI to push for Congressional action to permanently and fully fund the Special Diabetes Program Initiative as it has shown great promise for improving all health metrics related to heart disease and diabetes, which will extend the lives of our Elders, save their limbs and improve their quality of life.

HEALTH TEAM OUTSTANDING!

I am so proud of our health team as lead by our outstanding Tribal Health Director Bonnie Culfa. In this edition of our paper is a write up of new funding in the amount of over \$1.2 million a year to address issues of obesity, diabetes, heart disease though the promotion of exercise, good nutrition, and tobacco free living. Information and opportunities that promote wellness are important to extend our lives.

I want to acknowledge that since joining our Health Team in 2005, Bonnie Culfa (a Sault Tribe member from St. Ignace) has increased our IHS funding by millions and specifically met my challenge to her to increase third party insurance revenues from \$1.5 million in 2005 to nearly \$8 million today! When we restructured, gained accreditation, and adopted a medical model for behavioral health, we were able to raise third party revenues. I foresee that within a few years, we will exceed \$10 million in collectibles. With a IHS budget of over \$18 million and third party revenues of \$8 million, our health division has proven itself to be self sufficient at an overall budget of \$26 million. No other single source of revenues in the Tribe right now (not even the casino) contribute this amount to services. Thank you to our Health Division Team for such great work!

MY BROTHERS' KEEPER

I am pleased to announce that I have convened a planning session to discuss our Tribe becoming a participating tribe in the My Brother's Keeper Initiative, which was established by President Obama to align existing services and opportunities for young men of color who represent a disproportionate number of juveniles who find themselves adjudicated or incarcerated. I recognize myself as a person of color. I think back to the many points where my live could have ended up very differently. Given environmental factors, I am amazed I did not end up with a juvenile criminal record. I of



ten acknowledge the saying, "There for the grace of God go I." I think my faith and the interventions of good people and opportunities like those represented through our JTPA Program, Upward Bound and a college student (Norma Dean) who interned with our substance abuse program at the Shedawin building made the difference for me.

MBK is an alignment of resources and a re-dedication and renewed commitment to our youth. While it is framed as "my brothers" keeper to focus on the worst of the worst statistics young men of color face, the expected benefits for our young girls will be equally evident. I will provide updates as this project proceeds.

MACKINAC OIL SPILL IMMINENT

Please watch the simulation in the attached link of what WILL HAPPEN when the Enbridge Pipe breaks under the Mackinac Bridge. I did an interview with a CBS affiliated on Tuesday and I spoke at a press conference in Lansing recently. The Enbridge Pipe line is 5 miles long and has a pipe that ranges from 20 inches to 30 inches in diameter. For every mile, there is 200,000 gallons of oil. Thus, for the length of the bridge, there is approximately 1 to 1.5 million gallons of oil. While Enbridge installed a valve to shut off additional oil in case of a spill, a million gallons will nonetheless spill into Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

What is at stake is our fisheries and water quality in the Great Lakes which represents 20 percent of the Earth's fresh water supply. Our white-fish population has already declined from 1 million 10 years

ago to about 450,000 today due to sea lamprey, quagga mussels, and declines in zooplankton. This additional impact to the ecology will most likely decimate our fisheries. It will also destroy the sports fisheries including the walleye population.

I worked in the Battle Creek area when the Enbridge spill happened in the Kalamazoo River in 2010. Over 300 homes had to be evacuated due to the toxicity in the air. The expected clean up to return the water quality to the pre-spill ecology is over 100 years. While original estimates were a \$5 million clean up, the total costs have exceeded \$1 billion. The million gallon spill at the Kalamazoo River was somewhat contained. Containment in the Great Lakes, however, is nearly impossible and will likely be a cost of multiples of the Kalamazoo spill given the different inlets and tributaries it would affect.

Take a stand! Get involved.
Let's protect the lifeblood of our Mother Earth!

<http://ecowatch.com/.../pipeline-rupture-beneath-great-lakes.../>

For tribal members who live in Michigan, please remember to vote on Nov. 4. I am going to spare you who I plan to vote for (email me if you really want to know) but I urge you to exercise your right. Natives are hunters but we only "take what we need and leave the rest." We don't eat our brother *Maengun* (wolf) so I urge you to...

PLEASE VOTE NO!

**ON BOTH MICHIGAN
WOLF HUNT REFERENDA**

National Congress of American Indians-National Indian Health Board Tribal Unity Days in DC: R to L, Senator Jon Tester (D-Montana), Chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee; Mary Pavel, Legislative Chief of Staff for Senate Indian Affairs Committee; Congressman Tom Cole (R-Oklahoma); Senator Mark Begich (D-Alaska); Dr. Yvette Robideaux, Interim Director for Indian Health Service; retiring Senator Tim Johnson (D-South Dakota), each providing updates and demonstrating support for Indian County though their actions.



Call: **800-793-0660** Cell: **906-440-5937** Email: **chairpersonpayment@saulttribe.net** Facebook '**Aaron Payment**'

WATCH SAULT TRIBE BOARD MEETINGS ON LIVESTREAM: **<http://new.livestream.com/TOSSABCS2>**

Enough immature tactics, egos, cowboy politics



CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

With the departure of
Kewadin's chief operating officer,

it is the obligation of the Gaming Authority to provide oversight of risk management during this transitional period. Any transition poses risks. What we want to avoid is crisis. Unfortunately, the last 60 days has demonstrated a disregard for that notion and basic principles of corporate governance:

— First, was rescinding a resolution that gave a measure of insulation for our top-level management against retribution, by requiring a majority vote by the authority for employment actions. You can take a guess what employment actions soon followed.

— When a procedural interpretation was not in accordance with the personal opinion of a certain board member, they attempted to resign — in writing — their seat on the Gaming Authority! Resignation is not an option. It comes part and parcel with your constitutional duties as an elected representative of the tribe: "94.105 (1) The Authority is a subordinate organization of the Board of Directors of the Tribe established pursuant to Article VII Section 1(n) of the Tribal Constitution. The Authority is an instrumentality of the Tribe but enjoys autonomous existence."

— 94.108(4)(5) of the Charter provides for the creation of an executive committee consisting of the chairman, treasurer and secretary of the board to exercise management authorities. No sooner was the executive committee created, it was dissolved again. Apparently some board members would like to micromanage casino operations and could not see fit to delegate that responsibility to an executive committee.

— The chairman — who professes to want to be more than just a "figurehead" — has announced his abdication of any role of responsibility during this period of

transition!

— What we are left with is a power vacuum at the top and bare knuckle politics riding rough shod. This board of directors, through its role as the Gaming Authority, has a duty and obligation to manage the risk of transition, to avoid a crisis, and turn the situation into a prosperous opportunity for our gaming enterprise. Enough with immature tactics, egos and cowboy politics. There is too much at stake.

Please contact me anytime with questions and concerns.

(906) 484-6821

unit2tribal@gmail.com

Tribe is going through many changes this fall



JENNIFER MCLEOD,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin Anishinaabek, like the leaves on the trees, our tribe is going through many changes this fall, some are good, some are not so good and some it remains to be seen.

The good changes include new grants received to support services to tribal members, the board of directors working (and implement-

ing) organizational and procedural changes. There is a generalized "stepping it up" in areas of efficiency/proficiency, and it appears that we have a budget that might work (barring any unforeseen dilemmas). The "not so good" changes include a "brain drain" of sorts as important, and even vital staff have sought employment outside of the tribe. One can hardly blame them, after many years of absolutely no raises in pay of any kind, not even a simple cost of living (COLA) allowance. What remains to be seen is how this board of directors responds to a growing need for services to members, the loss of institutional knowledge as long term employees find employment elsewhere and the needs of a tribal government (that in my opinion) has grown too large and inefficient.

I'm not pointing fingers at anyone or trying to assign blame anywhere, as I keep being told "this is how we've always done

it." I am simply sharing with you the issues that the board is dealing with. You've read in my monthly articles that I believe our tribe needs to prioritize. I have even shared with you what my priorities are. But recently a tribal member's question to the board of directors caused me to stop, think and then realize that we have something missing for the future of our people.

One evening during the tribal members' concerns segment of our board of directors meeting, one of our strong Anishinaabe women asked each board member to write down their vision for our tribe, share it with each other and then find where we have things in common. I have been thinking about her request.

As a woman who follows many of our old ways, being asked for one's "vision" for the tribe meant serious business and deserved respect and attention, not a flip political "platform" of promises.

I learned that my vision for our tribe meant that all children, adults and elders would have the opportunity to learn and speak our language. That the values and sensibilities that make us a tribe would be strong. I see our people regularly coming together in huge numbers, as we once did. And because of this, everyone felt connected. The loneliness, darkness and despair that brought drugs, abuses and even death to our people no longer existed, and in its place were happy, strong families.

My vision includes a tribal government that looks and acts more "tribal" than westernized. It's a government grounded in the declaration of our predecessors to perpetuate our way of life and provide for the welfare and prosperity of our people.

Lastly, my vision for our tribe includes large tracts of tribal land, where we are free to be Anishinaabe. When this happens, we will LIVE in our sovereignty,

free of local and state interests that seek to reduce us to nothingness.

This is my vision. I know it is not the only one for our people. But I offer it up, to be shared. As an educated woman, I can see the challenges, and I can already hear the mockery of a vision that is very idealistic. I understand that it requires a major shift and it won't be easy. But we used to be that way at one time, I see nothing in our modern times that would prevent us from going back to our future. In fact, finding ways for all to learn our language may be even easier because of "modern" technology."

So, there it is. I am an idealist to be sure, but not naive. I believe that we are capable of changing our world, we just have to WANT to.

Miigwech,

Jen,

(906) 440-9151,

jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com;

http://jmcleodsaultribe.com

Tribe must apply policy and procedure equally



DJ HOFFMAN
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Part of the oath of office each and every member of the board recites consists of the following: "In discharging those duties, I will honor the seven teachings of our people: love, respect, honesty, humility, truth, wisdom and bravery."

As I write and re-write my report, I keep those words in mind. I will continue to focus on the issues facing the tribe, some positive while others not. I do not believe these reports are meant as a pulpit for mudslinging or character assassination. Quite honestly those actions are contrary to the very oath taken and counterproductive. I am a member of the board of directors. While I may not agree with an action or inaction, or cast a vote in the same manner as the majority at times —

I still must assume responsibility as a member of the board.

Workshops and meetings

Over the course of the last month, countless hours have been spent in workshops and meetings related to budgets and overall operations. While a great deal of time and resources were utilized to hold these meetings/workshops, they were not as productive as they could have been. The tribe needs to establish policies and procedures for these activities to ensure their productivity and to essentially stop wasting the valuable time of employees who have jobs to accomplish. Too often at these meetings/workshops, entire departments sit idle in hallways waiting, standing by for their opportunity to make their respective presentations.

It is my goal to work with members of the board, as well as the chair, to incorporate a more productive and efficient process.

Casinos

By the time this unit report arrives in your homes, our tribal casinos will have commenced the transition from its current COO to a temporary structure. While I would prefer to state that this process was planned out efficiently and effectively, it was not. Prior to the execution of this decision, a transitional plan should have been implemented. There are consequences when actions are taken without planning.

Within the tribe and its enterprises we have become a reactionary environment. We, as a tribal government, have worked on the issues that face our tribe in the interim, reacting to the situations at hand. We must become progressive and take an active approach to ensure stability of membership services.

For our tribe to become progressive, we need to change the way we operate. Accountability, profitability and efficiency must be enforced and adhered to. In the workplace, if individuals are not performing, replace them. If businesses are not performing, restructure them.

Gaming Authority

Chapter 94 of the Tribal Code establishes the Gaming Authority. Under Chapter 94.108 Management of Authority:

(2) *The Management Board shall consist of all of the members of the Board of Directors. No member of the Management Board shall continue to be a member thereof after he or she ceases to be a member of the board of directors.*

Over the years, while many may wish to deny it, this has been one of the largest impediments to the overall success of our casino operations. It is essential that we remove tribal politics from the B\ businesses of the tribe. The only thing that the tribal board should be concerned about related to our

businesses is the bottom line. We as a tribe need to separate the businesses from the politics to ensure profitability and accountability. We need to commence changing the structure of the Gaming Authority composition itself to insulate it from these politics.

Policy adherence

Tribal, casino and enterprise employees have certain rights established in the personnel policies and procedures adopted by the tribal board of directors. Unfortunately, it has become apparent that these rights are not being equally applied to team members.

Too often, policy and procedure have been, quite honestly, not adhered to. The following are just some of the recent examples:

— Positions have been filled on an interim basis.

— There is no adopted interim policy.

— Positions have been filled while still posted, prior to their respective closing dates.

— Postings have been shortened from 30 day postings to 3-4 day postings.

In addition, recently I had the unfortunate opportunity of serving on an appeal board for [REDACTED]. What I can say is that [REDACTED] was not equitable treatment of a [REDACTED]. The entire process was [REDACTED]. I realize that these blacked out areas appear confus-

ing; however, this is being done intentional to make a point. The process itself was done differently, information was omitted and quite honestly, all appeals, regardless of the team member, should be handled in accordance with adopted policy, and consistent with the existing procedures for appeals.

These are just a couple of examples to illustrate the breach in adherence to tribal resolutions and adopted policy. I state these examples merely to illustrate the types of activities occurring. We have adopted rules, regulations and policies — and it doesn't matter who you are, you must adhere to them. Those who believe they are immune from policy or accountability do not serve the tribe, they serve themselves.

Ultimately, the board (collectively) has not taken a corrective approach to these actions and inactions. Ensuring accountability is essential to protecting the assets of the tribe, which is a duty of each and every member of the board.

To ensure that these types of issues cease, I will continue to insist on adherence to adopted tribal policies and procedures. In addition, I will be advocating for a Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance, which would include a Tribal Employment Rights Office to ensure for the fair treatment in hiring and retention of employees.

See "Hoffman," Page 20

Gaming Authority eliminates CEO position



DENISE CHASE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

The tribal Gaming Authority eliminated the position of chief operating officer with the desire to restructure the executive level casino oversight. An RFP was prepared and sent out to invite those with executive casino leadership experience to bid on what they have to offer to help us improve our revenues, customer service and team member morale. We have over a half-dozen interested parties

who are scheduled to present to the Kewadin Gaming Authority. We are very excited to hear the various ideas and fresh approach to how we can improve.

Over the last few weeks, the board has been meeting with the executive directors, CFO and division directors to review their FY 2015 budgets. Although we reviewed some budgets, the board wanted to make sure that services were not left unfunded for a period between expiration of the fiscal year 2014 budgets and approval of the fiscal year 2015 budgets. So the board approved a continuing resolution for a period not to exceed 30 days for about 73 program cost centers. The board will be attending more budget meetings for the next couple of weeks to review the remaining 2015 budgets with staff.

Marlene Glaesman, Rural Health director, has informed the board that they are in the process of selecting and relocating to new office space for the Marquette site. She will be bringing the lease and information forward

to the board for a vote at the next scheduled board meeting. This will allow for Community Health nursing, Community Health tech and registered dieticians to continue to distribute medications, do home visits and office visits for health promotion, monitoring, education and counseling services to re-establish foot clinics. This was an area that was identified by the Ad Hoc Committee to revitalize health access.

Two-percent

There is no new update on the fall 2014 2 percent dollar amounts available for distribution or which projects will be awarded funding. We have not received the requests or applications yet. The fall cycle distribution applications were being accepted through the Sept. 30 deadline. We should be able to give you an update in the next issue of the paper.

Heating assistance

The tribe's LIHEAP (energy) program will open up on Nov. 1. For more information or to request an application or appointment, call Viola Neadow

at 341-6993 or 1-800-347-7137. I have been receiving many calls for heat assistance, so make sure to call and get your application in ASAP!

Indian Pointe, Nahma, Mich.

I was able to attend the blessing of the new Indian Pointe cross in Nahma, Mich. A Catholic blessing along with a traditional blessing and ceremony was done in our Native language by Chairman Payment and John Miller also sang and drummed. I would like to thank both of them. Thank you to the elders who shared their memories of attending church there. I would like to say megwetch to everyone who was involved with the set up and the blessing and to those who provided a meal after the ceremony. Chi megwetch to Lucas Bradshaw and his fellow iron workers who constructed and erected the 20-foot cross.

If you are interested in attending cultural or language classes in the western end areas, please call myself or Director Morrow. We are in the process

of compiling a list of names of individuals interested. We will forward the list and your contact information to the Cultural Department director. This is very important because in order to get cultural or language classes brought back or funding and expanded to the western end, we have to identify the need and/or number of individuals to participate.

The board of directors approved the purchase of a Zeiss Cirrus Photo 600 device for \$74,550. This optical assessment tool will assist clinicians in diagnosing and managing glaucoma, diabetic retinal disease and age related macular degeneration. Diabetes causes many serious retinal problems and by purchasing this piece of equipment should improve patient care and treatment.

If you need to contact me, call (906) 322-3819 or by email at dchase@saulttribe.net.

Thank you,
Denise Chase

Tribe faces tough times until debt is paid down



RITA GLYPTIS
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

At the Sept. 23, 2014, board of directors meeting in Munising, the John P. Carr Scholarship was awarded to Dorothy Karr from Munising. She is a student at Northern Michigan University majoring in radiography. Congratulations, Dorothy!

The 2014 Munising powwow was held on Sept. 13, 2014. After

a few bumps in the road, including a cold and windy weather forecast, the decision was made to move the event from the City Park to the Alger Ice Arena. As it turned out, this was a very good choice. Thanks to everyone pitching in, and a great decorator, the ice arena was transformed into a beautiful powwow venue. Thank you to ALL who volunteered their time and expertise to this wonderful community event. A special thank you to Vicki Walden and her kitchen staff who did an excellent job with the feast.

This year's powwow committee members are Angela Satterlee, Deseree Bosley, Katy Matson and myself. As a new powwow committee, we learn more each year. With the patience, understanding and help of our members and tribal elders we will continue to improve and educate ourselves. Congratulations to the bike giveaway winner, 5-year-old Matina Varta, the granddaughter of tribal member Remy Florek of Manistique.

We need a short term and long term plan. A lot of discussion goes on about what direction the tribe needs to take to create a productive plan to ensure financial stability and the growth of our businesses. We are facing tough times until our debt is paid down to a manageable level. I support temporarily bringing in a professional management team to assist us in turning this around. An outside management team can be unbiased in regard to history, family ties and past practices. A temporary team can be used to provide mentorship to our team members to put them in a position to take back the reins. The goal will be to provide education and training to our own members to step into these positions when ready. Managers and interim managers are in place at all five casinos and we are meeting with them on a weekly basis.

We are currently reviewing 2015 budgets for government and enterprise departments. This is a long process but I feel it is

necessary especially for the new board members to understand where and why money is spent. Department managers and staff have been working hard to meet our requests for information, justification and changes. Thank you to all staff for your patience.

Due to a change in the lease agreement for the Marquette Health office currently located at the medical center on Fair Avenue, we have found it necessary to find a new location. A new office space has been found and is awaiting approval from the board of directors. We will continue to be at the Fair Avenue office for the rest of October and an announcement will be made as to the new location as soon as it is approved.

On Sept. 20, the Munising Health Center walking track officially opened with an open house, a tour of the facility, a short presentation by Chairman Payment, Bonnie Culfa, Marlene Glaesmann and a prayer said by former Unit V Director Joan

Anderson. We had a good time "walking a mile with the chairman" and the view is spectacular from the third floor. Thank you to all who attended and a special thank you to the Sault Tribe elders for their support of this great addition to our health services. Open hours for the walking track are currently Mon-Fri from 4:30 – 8 p.m. Any questions, please call the Munising Tribal Health Center at 387-4721.

The Marquette Elders Committee has scheduled their Thanksgiving holiday dinner for Nov. 13, 2014, at the Holiday Inn in Marquette. All Marquette elders and their children are invited to attend. For more information, please call Joe Gray, subcommittee chairman, at (906) 249-3303.

Flu shots are still available; call your health center for details.

Please feel free to contact me at (906) 202-3224 or at rglyptis@saulttribe.net.

Rita Glyptis,
Unit V Director

Budgets in a crisis but no decisive action from board



KEITH MASSAWAY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Around and around we go. I have been on our council for over eight years and the cycle of issues keep revolving. Our budgets are

in a crisis but no decisive action is undertaken and the board kicks the can further down the road. At the last council meeting, the council passed a continuing funding resolution for the divisions that were fiscally coming to an end. That means that last year's budgets continue, the same amount of money, the same structure, same personnel and the same expenditures. That does not address the current short fall in dollars, the changes in personal and equipment and the requests for needed improvements or upkeep of buildings.

We have gone through the budgets but most of the board is not satisfied at the information we are receiving and want more; more what, I don't know. Delays in making hard decisions is not productive but, like I said, I have

seen this over and over again. The council is reluctant to make decisions on the governmental side but seems relatively complacent to let our businesses fall apart with little support or planning to help them. Repeatedly over the years, we have reduced their operating capitol to run the government without fully funding the capitol improvements or employees. I have heard the board demand the casinos to increase the gross profit and for them to grab more of a share of the market but that is an impossible task that leaves everyone upset and disappointed. The trending nationwide is a downturn in gaming and the forecasts still show a downward trend.

The council tends to change focus after each election. That is fine except the items that were

being worked on and ironed out tend to be left languishing without direction and new concerns are raised to the forefront. These new concerns are usually old issues that were shelved or resolved but not to the satisfaction of the new council that didn't like or doesn't understand why it was done that way. After the 2012 election, many items changed in a hurry and some were good and some were a reversal of direction of the previous councils. Now, some who supported the changes are seeing why those changes were done by a previous board and admit that they were reacting to a minor problem with a sledgehammer instead of using a screwdriver to tighten it up.

I have been on five different councils now and none of them are bad or have bad board mem-

bers. It is just we tend to not fully resolve or explain anything we do. This all leads to misunderstandings and distrust between the council and everyone else. I only touched on a couple items that repeat, but it is so many more — culture, membership, voting, Big Bear, child care, JKL, marketing, health, family services and so many more. It is our job to work through all of these things but we fail to see the good work previous councils have done and try to rewrite and reinvent everything over and over.

Thank you for all the e-mails and calls.

Keith Massaway,
702 Hazelton St.
St. Ignace, MI 49781,
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Reorganization of tribe's five Kewadin casinos



LANA CAUSLEY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

I would like to take this opportunity to update our members about the structure and reorganization of our five casinos. As stated in the last paper, I explained that the Gaming Authority (chair

and board of directors) have been meeting on a weekly basis to discuss and prepare plans for the businesses once our chief operating officer departs this month. As stated, Mr. Goetz offered valuable insight and recommendation upon his departure. We honored the recommendations for interim management at the Sault and Christmas sites and will continue to meet weekly as an authority board to discuss future plans.

The board is NOT involved in the interviews or selection of positions this remains the same through Human Resources and management. At this time, we will be seeking a professional firm to assist us in retaining a main interim manager for our northern casinos. (All designated managers are still in place at their respective casinos and this position will be

in the place of the former chief operating officer.) This came with many hours of discussion and debate at the board level; I won't bore you with those dynamics, but this is the path that was supported by a majority of the board. I don't always personally agree with a decision but once it's voted on, I do stand by it.

The plan as it stands is that we have also requested proposals from management firms (I fully support this) to assist in our business operations. We need professionals with extensive knowledge and expertise in gaming to overcome some of the shortfalls we have within our operations. This being said, I'm confident in the area managers we have to hold down areas that they are responsible for. I'm hoping that each and every manager and team

member will assist in holding our own until we can accomplish a solid plan for our businesses. This is where the people can stand out and up for our tribe in their positions. This will separate the naysayers from the leaders when it comes to our business operations.

Although it is difficult times in all aspects of gaming, we are constantly facing shortfalls with our revenue due to the economy. But, we also face shortfalls when it comes to team members feeling appreciated and policies being followed for a satisfied workforce. As I stated earlier, I won't bore you with the debates at the board, but I'm at the table expecting and participating in a solid plan of action to have professionals advise us, that is what is has come down to. We have done surveys, attempted to bring in consultants

and all seem to stall for true increase in revenue or real results of team members' input.

I will say that the management did create the Kewadin improvement team and I'm hearing very good things from this committee of team members and I hope this continues. I will be the first to say the board of directors cannot manage on a day-to-day basis; we must have skilled and experienced professionals to attempt to increase our revenue, reduce operating costs if possible, secure a detailed capital improvement plan and work toward a satisfied workforce. The changes are a work in progress and, please, be patient as we get through this trying time.

I would also like to send a sincere recognition to our former. See "Kewadin casinos," pg. 23

Busy working on budgets and planning for 2015



KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello, it has been another busy month working on budgets and

planning for 2015. Financials issues continue to dominate the majority of our meetings. One of the main things we need to do is prioritize our needs. It seems like something this simple does not get done when politics and personal feelings come into play. But, as a team, we offer each other feedback and come to a compromise that benefits our tribe.

I attended a tribal enrollment meeting this month. The main topic of discussion was parents not enrolling their minor children (children under the age of 18). Once a child reaches the age of 18 and they haven't been enrolled, they are no longer eligible to apply for membership. Most of these young adults don't

even realize they haven't been enrolled until they try to utilize one of our tribal programs and are asked for proof of membership. The enrollment committee has drafted a resolution to allow children, of fully documented members, from the age of 18 to 21 to apply for membership on their own. Since this has to be voted on by the board of directors, I will keep you posted or you can check the Sault Tribe website at saulttribe.com.

Parents please take the time to make sure you children are enrolled before the age of 18. To check on this matter, you can reach the Enrollment Department at 1-800-251-6597 or email them at enrollment@saulttribe.net.

saulttribe.net.

I was asked by Deana Knauf, health educator at Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, to be part of a tobacco focus group with the Michigan Tobacco Quit Line. The program's goal is to find ways to assist individuals to quit smoking in a four-step plan. We had a very diverse group, which consisted of a previous smoker, a closet smoker, a social smoker, an ex-smoker who started smoking again after ten years, a smoker with health problems related to smoking and a non-smoker. So we had ideas from every scale of tobacco use. One of the main concerns is why people who start the four-step plan never finish all four steps. Some of the reasons were stress

and social life. If anyone needs assistance or is interested in trying to quit using tobacco they can contact the Michigan Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-748-8669 or www.michigan.gov/tobacco. You can also contact the Sault Tribe Health Center Tobacco Cessation Program at (906) 632-5210. Both programs offer such things as coaching, tips to help you quit, educational materials and free nicotine replacement therapy if you qualify.

I would like to thank those who have contacted me with ideas, suggestions and concerns. You can reach me at (906) 203-1930.

Thank you,
Kim Gravelle

We are seeing the fruits of tribal staff's labor



CATHY ABRAMSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

I'm obviously behind in my unit reporting. In August, Unit I board members had our annual steak dinner/luncheon for our elders. This year, Theron King donated lake trout, which was a real treat. I would like to thank Cheri Goetz and her staff for all the extra work they do for this special luncheon! Some of us board members used to help a lot with the cooking. I do think this is a polite way of our elders letting us know they would rather have us use our "other skills" and leave the cooking to the experts.

By the way, congratulations Tony and Cheri Goetz on their very recent brand new beautiful baby girl! After all is said and done, you have both been truly blessed!

I am very proud our tribe was host to the Centers for

Disease Control (CDC) and had representation during this weeklong event. We were able to showcase our areas of Munising (farmers market), Manistique (ceremony: traditional feast and youth drum), St. Ignace (Cherokee stickball) and tours of our health facilities with a trip to Mackinac Island. Thank you to Connie Hill Watson and Colleen Commons for all the hard work they did with our program. Unfortunately, this was a grant that is no longer going to be funded to any tribe through CDC. Even though many feel it was highly successful, CDC included Traditional Foods in another grant and tribes applied for those dollars.

Another honor we received is our Bemidji Area was chosen to host the CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting and 11th biannual tribal consultation session. I am our Bemidji Area representative for the Tribal Advisory Committee. Our meeting was held at the Grand Traverse Hotel in Acme, Mich., in August. Principal Deputy Director Ileana Arias, Ph.D. (second in command to Dr. Thomas Frieden) and Dr. Judith Monroe, deputy director of the Office for State, Tribal Local and Territorial Support, spent the whole entire time with us. While we were there, the National Indian Health Board put on a free tribal public health law training. We also coordinated our

Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes along with this meeting. Dr. Roubideaux, director of Indian Health Services, also conducted a tribal consultation session on our last day there. Valuable input was shared with CDC and IHS.

GREAT NEWS, THOUGH! Just recently, our tribe received word that we were awarded a grant of \$325,000 a year for five years to implement interventions and policies, systems and environmental changes, increasing the availability and use of traditional and other health foods, opportunities for physical activity and eliminate exposure to second hand smoke to prevent heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes in all seven-counties of our service area. Again, great work Connie and Colleen! Congratulations on a job well done!

MORE GREAT NEWS! Our tribe was also awarded \$810,000 a year for three years to create and promote environments that provide commercial tobacco free living, active living, healthy eating, and health and safe physical environments for all tribal and community members who live in Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce, Alger, Schoolcraft, Marquette and Escanaba counties.

Our staff works hard and we are seeing the fruits of their labor. I'm proud of our health program. It is because of the dedication and commitment to our people

that we can all take pride in these accomplishments.

In September, I attended the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee and met our new Health and Human Services Secretary, Sylvia Mathews Burwell. Some of the issues we discussed with her were: government-to-government

From "Hoffman," Page 20

FERC

The following excerpt is taken directly from the Cloverland Electric website:

"The economic and financial stability of the entire Upper Peninsula is in jeopardy as a result of the recent Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC) decision. This decision proposes that all electric bill paying accounts across the U.P. assume 100 percent of the operating cost and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) upgrades needed for the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette.

"Under the proposed formula, Cloverland Electric Cooperative would pay 22.5 percent or approximately \$21.8 million per year. This amounts to an average residential member using 1,000 kWh seeing an increase of \$30 per month on the bill. A typical commercial account using 15,000 kWh would see an increase of \$500 per month. Industrial customers using thousands of kWh per month could

relationship, implementation of Affordable Care Act, Indian Child Welfare Act Implementation, P.L. 102-477 Implementation and IHS advance appropriations.

I have to get this in by noon so I will sign off for now! Take care! To contact me, please call my cell at (906) 322-3823 or e-mail me at cabramson@saulttribe.net.

be forced to close."

This is a major issue facing our tribe as a whole. It impacts individual members in the Upper Peninsula, impacts tribal services such as Low Income Energy Heating Assistance Programs, and is a serious threat to our casinos and enterprises.

For more information please visit: http://www.cloverland.com/homepageScroller/calltoaction_copy1.aspx

Or watch the presentation at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlBmO3nGcso>

Economic development

The key to our tribe's financial successes is diversification of our business enterprises. While I may appear to be a "broken record" on this topic, I will continue to stress its importance as a member of the board. We need to make this an area of focus and empower individuals with the expertise to move us forward in this regard. I will be focusing heavily on this area in my next report.

Sorenson asks: Can the board get it together?



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Can the board get it together?

There will be changes coming to our team member insurances. The board voted to switch from our current provider (Sun Life) to Unum for life and disability coverage. The switch will save both the tribe and employees almost \$63,000 each a year with the same coverage. This is good news because it will also open up enrollment to those current team members that do not currently have short-term disability. While I was a team member, people would say I don't have the coverage, I don't need the coverage or I can't afford the coverage. My message is that nobody plans to break a leg, have an unexpected surgery, etc., but life happens and if you have limited sick and vacation hours to cover your time off work, how will you pay your bills? The cost is minimal when you think about it. It may cost less than a night at the movies, six pops a pay period or a few packs of cigarettes. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO ENROLL in short term disability for January.

The board will be voting on a 10 percent health insurance premium increase at our Oct. 7 meeting. This increase will apply to both the employee and employer. Nobody wants to increase costs for team members especially when we have not been able to provide raises in years. Unfortunately, our costs are skyrocketing along with everyone else's in America. Last year, when the insurance adhoc committee surveyed the team members, the team members voted that they would rather see an increase in premium rather than a loss of benefits. The tribe's plan has always been considered a Cadillac plan when looking at what other employers provide. If the increase passes, it will be effective Jan. 1, 2015. I would encourage all covered team mem-

bers to read all of the changes prior to Jan. 1.

The board will also be voting on the Indian Housing Plan for 2015 at our Oct. 7 meeting. Section 102 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) requires the submission of an Indian housing plan guiding and accomplishing housing activities to meet community housing needs. The funds are made available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Native American Programs. Included in this plan is \$100,000 toward the down payment assistance program, homeowner rehabilitation of \$450,000, furnace and water heater replacements of \$75,000, \$60,000 in rental assistance to help low income families rent a house, \$50,000 for the Odenaang water and sewer infrastructure, \$25,000 towards the culture camp, \$6,000 for the K-9 dog, \$60,000 in emergency housing services through ACFS, and \$2,200,000 for a 10-2 bedroom unit elder complex in St. Ignace. The elders complex project will continue on a smaller scale because we have been unsuccessful in securing tax credits towards the 20-2 bedroom project.

Director Massaway and I tried to amend the New St. Ignace Midjim Store resolution at the Sept. 23 Munising meeting to just approving a plan to proceed on verifying cost, researching traffic studies and soil samples, etc. but the board voted to table it. This is the second time the issue was tabled by the board. I am still dumbfounded as to why this is such a big issue to some. The estimated payoff is 9 years. What other business has an estimated payoff of 9 years? The proposed Manistique Midjim is projected to have a 25-year payoff, and Hessel a 44-year payoff. The new store and new location would cost \$445,725 more than the cost to fix the current store tanks and parking lot. How many people get gas at a Meijer gas station, Sam's Club gas station or Glen's gas station because they are located outside of the store's parking lot? The decision to just deal with the current store is like putting a band-aid on a severed vein.

Many of the governmental positions in the tribe are paid for by grants. Some positions may be a small percentage and others are entirely funded by a grant. It is very beneficial for the tribe and its members to secure these grants to provide services. When the

grant funding expires, the team member's positions that are paid for by the grant are then not funded. This usually results in those team members being terminated. Where I get frustrated is when team members who have worked for the company for years and have designed and implemented programs and services and management includes their position in the grant that was prior funded and then the team member loses their job. Team members do not have a choice to be covered by a grant. Team members need to be told up front that their position is grant funded and subject to termination when the grant ends. There should also be core services listed that will be funded with or without grants. I understand using grants to cover wages but when the grant is ending and the services are core services than they should be funded. Some positions are only created because of a grant. In this case, team members should be told in the interview that the position would only last as long as the tribe retains the grant funding.

We had the same problem last September when we didn't know if we would be getting the re-authorization of the special diabetes program. Positions in this grant to me are vital with or without the grant. Some of our professional staff have to stress continuously whether or not they will have a job. Would you want to work under that uncertainty? These positions used to be funded by the IHS funding. Now that we qualify for grants we pay wages out of the grants for these positions and use that money elsewhere.

Our casinos are in chaos like never before. The board never had a plan in place when we started to make changes in executive management. The gaming authority (board of directors) approved an executive committee made up of the chairman, treasurer, secretary, HR director, CFO and executive director for the purpose of creating a draft plan of options and presenting to the gaming authority within 14 days. This committee met a couple of times trying to find companies to help turn our casinos around. We did report to the board on the 14th day with an update. We continued to meet going over org charts, a CEO job description, chain of command, and possible appointments until we had a solution. When I tried to discuss this plan in Munising it was said that our committee was not charged with these tasks. Well to those

of us on the committee we just wasted our time because some of the board felt like we were making decisions without them. They were all invited to our meeting and no decisions would be effective unless voted on in a dually called meeting. The board voted to disband this committee.

The board met to discuss management authority and could not come to a consensus on who could be temporarily in charge over the five casinos. There have been some interim appointments where staff has vacated positions and unfortunately we do not have a policy or procedure to appoint people and how to compensate them. Some people are told other duties as assigned per all job descriptions and others will be compensated for their extra duties. This is wrong until we have a policy and procedure defined. We can't create them after the fact. Some board members worry that the interim appointments will become permanent. All these positions need to be posted and interviewed. They need to follow the hiring preference. In the normal business world, management or a business owner would come to a qualified employee and explain what they need and how they will be compensated. In tribal politics some people get appointed because someone likes you and you may get paid a certain sum and you might not. Our whole process is ridiculous. Someone needs to fill in for these positions when a person leaves. They can't be put on hold until we get a new management structure or the board gets their sh— together. Business must go on.

We are losing many key team members who have institutional knowledge and have dedicated their careers to the tribe. Why is this happening? We don't try to keep people. We don't value education. We think everyone is replaceable. Team members are bashed on Facebook. We haven't been able to give raises or contribute to their 401Ks. The industry pays more and their job descriptions do not reflect what they actually do. Bad decisions seem to be made when it comes to staffing. There seems to be no job security. What happens when too many of these key employees leave? Only time will tell.

Some of the board members insist that the chairman should be in charge in the COO's absence. I disagree. The membership voted that they wanted a separation between the chairman and CEO.

The board did vote in 2012 to delegate him some authority but it does not specify the casinos. The chairman has publically said he has limited business experience. He is out of town on government business probably a week or more each month.

As I write this report, the board has yet to approve the 2015 budgets. On the agenda at the Sept. 23 meeting in Munising was the 2015 budget excluding internal services. The total budget is \$33,696,816 of which \$683,036 comes from tribal support. There was a motion to table and there was not enough support so we voted on a continuing resolution. I voted no because I believe we need to pass it so divisions are spending according to their 2015 and not their 2014 budget. The continuing resolution passed. This \$683,036 is only 3.8 percent of our \$18 million tribal support dollars. The majority of those dollars consisted of ACFS (tribe's social services), education and elderly.

The board has since directed staff to give them specific information regarding the budgets and for all levels to approve them. It is very unfortunate that we have been going through this process since August and cannot get a budget passed. I believe that the number one cause is lack of communication. The chairman supervises the budget department so we get whatever information he tells them and when to give it to us. The budget department should be reporting to the CFO like they did in the past. We have wasted our time, our staff's time and our membership's time by not having the correct information in a timely manner.

This chaos is going to continue until the board comes together with a strategic plan and priorities on what is important to the membership and the direction of the tribe. With no current direction we are going in circles and not accomplishing anything. We can't pass a budget, make business decisions, stick to an agenda, etc. I have never in my life been more stressed or frustrated with working with a group of people.

Please remember that the LIHEAP applications should be available Nov. 1 for those who need assistance for heating.

Thank you to all the members for your continued support and kind works. I can be reached at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, 430-0536, or Bridgett91@yahoo.com.

Reorganizing the tribe's five Kewadin casinos

From "Kewadin casinos" pg. 22 chief operating officer, Tony Geotz. Tony has been with us for 25-plus years and has witnessed many struggles, successes and has been instrumental in our operations. We mutually separated and again he has assisted us to the end. I wish him and his wife, Cheri, a blessed road for his next endeavor and know that he will be an asset to any business he chooses. Chi miigwech, Tony, and I appreciate all your years of hard work and attempting to balance out the needs for our business.

Our 2015 governmental budgets are also still a work in progress, we have secured a plan that all department managers and executives communicate together about any recommendations and changes they foresee in the budget for next year. Once the budget is passed everyone needs to be on the same page as to the operations of governmental services and the priorities we have. I secured support from board members to discuss and look toward a improved budget presentation plan (performance-based budgets)

for next year...the only way to identify where are money goes is to see how many members benefit from a program. This is how we were presented the budgets in the past for a short time and it failed to remain that way, getting back to a performance-based budget will cut the fat and secure funding to go toward direct services for the members I will update next month on the final outcome for 2015.

In closing, I think that this season has to be the prettiest I have seen in a long time. My

little ladies have started the big school and lots of changes in the air, it seems so recent that they were only tiny. I love fall because of the changing times and that everything gets ready to rest.

During the winter we can tell stories and work on our regalia for next year's season. During this fall we will hold our annual ghost feast and pipe ceremony to get ready for the end of another year. All are welcome to the Hessel tribal center on Nov. 1 to feast together and feed our ancestors. In all our lives, once in awhile,

we all need direction and healing either physically or spiritually, please join us in celebrating and honoring our traditions. I always have vivid and good dreams while I sleep after a ghost feast and I hope anyone that has a chance will come to our gathering. Please contact me anytime if you need to discuss or meet with me.

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