

Win Awenen Nisitotung



"One Who Understands"

Zilsbaakdoke Giizis: "Maple Sugar Moon"

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

March 9, 2007 • Vol. 28 No. 3

Briefs

Public Hearings for Draft Constitution

The following is a list of dates and times public hearings will be held in the seven county service area for public response to the final draft of the Constitution Committee Project. A complete draft of the proposed new constitution is available for review on pages 28-31 of this issue.

Meeting locations will be posted online at www.saulttribe.com at a later date when they are available.

- Sault Ste. Marie (Unit I)
March 15, 6-9 p.m.
- Kinross (Unit I)
March 16, 6-9 p.m.
- Cheboygan
(Proposed District 6)
March 17, 10-1 p.m.
- St. Ignace (Unit III)
March 17, 3-6 p.m.
- Newberry (Unit II)
March 23, 6-9 p.m.
- Munising (Unit V)
March 24, 10-1 p.m.
- Marquette (Unit V)
March 24, 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- Hessel (Unit II)
March 29, 6-9 p.m.
- Munising (Unit IV)
March 31, 10-1 p.m.
- Escanaba (Unit IV)
March 31, 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- Grand Rapids
(Proposed District 7)
April 14, 12-4 p.m.
- Detroit (Proposed District 8)
April 21, 12-4 p.m.

Employee Payroll Deduct at MidJim

Employees can now payroll deduct at MidJim stores in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace. Employees must first apply for a payroll deduct account with Kewadin Casino. Applications are available at MidJim stores. Alcohol cannot be payroll deducted and there is a minimum purchase required of \$5. For an application contact Jamie MacDonald at (906) 635-4782.

April 3 Board Meeting Rescheduled

The Board of Directors meeting scheduled for April 3 on Sugar Island has been rescheduled for April 10. The open community hour for public comments starts at 5 p.m. For a complete meeting schedule, meeting agendas, draft resolutions, and approved resolutions please visit the Sault Tribe's official Web

Bahweting teachers vote out of union

By Rick Smith

Teachers at JKL Bahweting Public School Academy in Sault Ste. Marie opted out of union representation by the Michigan Education Association (MEA) by a vote of 19 to 13 on Feb. 23. The vote ended a highly contentious situation that began in October of 2005, when the teachers approved the MEA to act as their bargaining agent with a vote of 23 to 9.

The voting was conducted under the supervision of the Michigan Employee Relations Commission. The commission is an entity of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth tasked with resolving labor disputes by various means, such as conducting employee elections to determine if union representation is favored.

The school is under lease from Sault Tribe and receives funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs through the tribe. The tribal board of directors saw the move to unionization as an infringement on tribal sovereignty and intended to sever the lease, withdraw federal funding and operate the school as a tribal institution if the union continued.

This was the first case of MEA

involvement in a school with any tribal affiliation in the state. Few tribal schools in other states have teachers' union bargaining agents.

The MEA, an affiliate of the National Education Association, claims to represent about 157,000 teachers, faculty and education support staff throughout the state.

According to the non-profit, non-partisan Mackinac Center for Public Policy, the first time in recent memory that MEA representation was voted against was in 2001 when teachers at a public school in Eaton Rapids voted 12-1 to dismiss the MEA. About three months later in 2002, teachers at another school in Lansing voted against compulsory membership in the MEA. Other reports note the MEA has seen gradually declining membership since 2001 for a variety of reasons.

Bahweting is a kindergarten through eighth grade charter school under the guiding support of Northern Michigan University and, as such, students are not required to attend the academy based on school districts in which they live, as with mainstream public schools. Charter schools must be able to satisfy parents that their children are receiving the optimal education possible in a given



JKL Bahweting students board buses to go home after another day of school is done.

locale. Indeed, JKL Bahweting Public School Academy has garnered several state awards and other recognition in recent years for academic excellence.

Payment indicated a lack of communication played a primary role in the rift that began as the school was escalating standards. He pointed out that the teachers didn't convey any disquiet or insecurities before moving to initiate union representation.

In any case, Payment seems inclined to a spirit of reconciliation in moving forward. At a parent's meeting prior to the

vote, he said, "I hope we would get a chance to go back and fix it." Asked what assurances parents have that bargaining with the teachers would be done in good faith, Payment said, "Because, it's in our best interest to get it right."

Payment added, "Sault Tribe would like to reaffirm its dedication to assist the teachers... We will strive to work out a long-term lease agreement, assist in the development of a long-term charter agreement with NMU, promote longer employment agreements, and strengthen the employee policies and procedures."

New Secretarial Election board announced

Sault Tribe's legal team determines Mackinac Band members are eligible to vote

By Cory Wilson

ST. IGNACE, MI—The Sault Tribe Board of Directors acknowledged the verbal resignation of Vice Chairman Dennis McKelvie from the Secretarial Election Board at the Feb. 20 board meeting held in St. Ignace.

Unit I Representative Dennis McKelvie announced that he resigned from the Secretarial Election Board as of February 19. With the vacancy of Mr. McKelvie's seat, the Board of Directors chose to fill his seat and appoint two additional members to the election board, increasing the election board to five members. Joining current Secretarial Election Board members' Richard Mastaw and Gerald Parish is Board Secretary Joanne Carr, Unit I Representative Todd Gravelle, and Constitution Committee Chairman John Causley, Jr.

In other related news, a federal regulation outlining who is eligible to vote in the Secretarial Election was brought into question by the Secretarial Election Board. Section 81.6 subsection D of the federal regulations came

under scrutiny which states, "For a recognized tribe to amend its constitution and bylaws, only members who have duly registered shall be entitled to vote provided, that registration is open to the same class of voters that was entitled to vote in the Secretarial Election that affected its reorganization, unless the amendment article of the existing constitution provides otherwise."

The statement outlined above was found to be subject to interpretation, and could be interpreted that only those who originally voted in 1975 to adopt the Sault Tribe's Constitution and bylaws (or those who are direct descendants of the original voters) are the only members truly eligible to vote in the upcoming Secretarial Election. This interpretation of the law could have precluded a large contingent of Sault Tribe members from the Mackinac Band and those who were adopted into the Tribe; from voting in the upcoming Secretarial Election.

A legal opinion issued on February 16 by the Sault Tribe's five member legal team concluded

that, "Because the members of the Mackinac Band are entitled to enrollment as members of the Sault Tribe, ALL enrolled members of the Mackinac Band who are 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote in the Tribe's elections, and therefore, they are eligible to register for and vote in the Secretarial Election." Therefore based on this opinion, the Sault Tribe believes Mackinac Band members are entitled to vote. The opinion also claims adopted members and all members entitled to vote in tribal elections, are also eligible to vote in Secretarial Elections.

The Sault Tribe and the Secretarial Election Board also requested a legal opinion from the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding this area of the federal regulations. The BIA opinion is still pending and their interpretation may be the determining factor, since the BIA is ultimately responsible for conducting Secretarial Elections and is regulated by federal law, not tribal law. A complete version of the Sault Tribe's legal opinion is available online at the Sault

Tribe's official Web site at www.saulttribe.com

The Secretarial Election is a federal election conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to amend the Sault Tribe's Constitution and Bylaws. A vote of the Sault Tribe membership will decide if there will be a change to the Constitution regarding candidate eligibility of elected officials. A separate voter registration is required specifically for this election. Voter registration forms will be mailed March 1. Ballots are scheduled to be mailed April 6. Election day is May 1.

Notice of Secretarial Election

IMPORTANT: Separate voter registration is required for the Secretarial Election. Even if you are registered to vote in tribal board of director elections, YOU MUST register to vote with the Secretarial Election Board. Voter registration packets were mailed March 1.

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PRINTED AND
DISTRIBUTED BY
SULT TRIBAL CENTER
2601 S. UNIVERSITY AVE
SAULT STE. MARIE, MI 49783



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72204-1000

Master black ash Ojibwa basket maker Marge Bekins passes on art to next generation



Strawberry basket takes about a week to make and sells for \$45.

Photos by Brenda Austin



Marge Bekins working on a small basket with others she has made in the foreground.



The butterfly design on this basket has been handed down since the 1800s to those willing to learn.



Bekins made this basket for her apprentice, Jeremy Stoppa, from black ash that was given to him by Charlie Shadawin. The colors chosen for the basket represent Stoppa's spiritual colors. Below: a close up of one of Bekins baskets.

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Marge Bekins had a dream as a little girl, to learn how to make black ash baskets like the ones she used to see on display in store fronts in St. Ignace.

Her dream now a reality, she is a master craftsman who is very passionate about passing on her art to Jeremy Stoppa, her apprentice and anyone else with the dedication, patience and time to learn.

Bekins and Stoppa have been working together since last summer and applied for and won a training grant for \$2,000 from the Michigan State University (MSU) Museum Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program. Bekins said, "Basket maker Charlie Shadawin and I won the same grant in 1997 when I was his apprentice. When I was finished, he honored me with his wife Harriet's eagle feather and told me I was now the basket maker. I wasn't that good back then but I have progressed and today am a master artist. I enjoy basket making and want to teach others, this art is almost lost because no one is doing it anymore."

The MSU Museum Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program promotes traditional arts, pride and respect for the artists work. The grant allows master artists to teach their skills to others interested in learning their craft, while allowing the artist to buy supplies, pay for travel expenses and pays the artist a small fee for their time.

Bekins has spent many hours visiting with tribal elders to learn new weaving designs. Some of the designs used for the baskets are from the 1800s, such as the butterfly design shown in the picture.

Bekins and Stoppa will be

teaching classes and doing demonstrations this summer at the Ojibwa Museum in downtown St. Ignace.

"Years ago, our people made baskets for survival. You can't make money on basket making. During the depression years, baskets would sell for 50 cents to two dollars. Enough to buy bread and milk," she said.

Some of the baskets Bekins make take a week to complete. "You can't make a traditional basket overnight," she said. "One of the first times I worked with Charlie in the woods, I learned a lesson I never forgot. We harvested a black ash tree from the forest and hauled it back to his house to work on. We worked on that tree pounding it to separate the growth rings most of the weekend and it wouldn't process. I thought Charlie was joking when he said we had to find another tree and start over again." Marge lived in Grand Haven, Mich. and had to drive an additional 354 miles back to the Sault to process another tree.

According to Bekins, once you find the right black ash tree in the forest with the correct thickness of growth rings and a tall straight trunk, you cut it down and take it to where it will be processed. First the bark is stripped from the tree and notches are cut into the wood around the trunk. You then pound the debarked tree with a mallet to separate the growth rings. You can get as much as four growth rings that come up at one time. You take them off and continue around the log. Once you do that the long thin growth rings are split in two and peeled to reveal the white of the black ash tree. The next step requires practice, you have to be able to feel how thick the strips are to

separate them into piles for the frame, curls and the weavers.

Once that process is completed you can dye the strips different colors to use in your weaving. This process takes a day to do. "Most of the baskets dating back to before 1910 were all natural with no dyes. Natural dyes used at that time included strawberries, blueberries, onion skins and boiled black ash to make a brown color. Rit dyes came out in 1910.

Under the grant program Bekins is teaching Stoppa from February through this August.

Bekins said it takes her a week to make a strawberry basket which she sells for \$45. "I had an elder once tell me that if you can make a strawberry basket you have accomplished black ash basketry," Bekins said. Taking two weeks to make and selling for \$500, she has made hampers which are now the property of Grand Valley State University and a resource center in Muskegon.

"If I worked eight hours a day it would take me a week to make a butterfly design basket which I sell for about \$100," she said.

In addition to making baskets, Bekins also does beadwork, loom work, makes buckskin dresses, shirts and jewelry. When working with buckskin, she said she makes it the old way with the blemishes, including fly bites, right in the skin.

"Michigan cultural traditions are a treasured resource to be nurtured for future generations," Bekins said.

If you are interested in learning traditional basket making, Marge Bekins will teach you free of charge. She can be contacted at (906) 430-7115.

Bekins is a resident of St. Ignace and is the mother of three children.



Membership Q & A

Q: There seems to be quite a bit of in-fighting and differences of opinion on what direction the Tribe should take. What's going on with all of this?

A: I certainly will not cross the line and start commenting on the current political atmosphere of our Tribe as that would be one sure way of having the pen taken out of my hand. I will however, try to address how we often get trapped into confronting one another on issues that we may just agree upon.

We must be very careful not to be tricked by those that use the tactics of "Divide and Conquer." Many times in our history this scheme was used against individuals but ultimately, the entire Tribe suffered the consequences. A good example of this comes from the early attacks on the leadership structure of the Tribes. Our ancestors had two kinds of leaders, War Chiefs and Civil Chiefs, and these individuals earned the right to lead by their decisions on the battlefield or in the counsel lodge. The people looked to them for protection and guidance because they knew a true leader had the best interest of the entire Tribe in mind and over time this trust helped to develop a solid system of leadership.

The downfall came when the colonist helped to create a different kind of Chief, one that has been called the Medal Chief. This was an individual in the Tribe who sought power and stature for personal gain and while they may have had some influence amongst the people, they had by no means earned the right to be one of the



true leaders. The colonist took this conspirator aside and a deal was struck. Several beautiful gifts were heaped upon them and many times a medal was presented with the proclamation that they would now recognize this person as the Chief. Now, we all can picture what resulted from this, a warranted resentment which led to division and an eventual complete breakdown of the leadership structure of the Tribe.

So my point is this, regardless of what your visions are for the Tribe, we must be willing to put our individual desires second to what is best for the Tribe as a whole. Our fight should not be amongst ourselves but against those that threaten our very existence. Fight against the abrogationist, those hateful people that want to abolish our treaty rights, or the lawmakers that want to force more taxation on our casino revenue or impose sanctions that would allow private individuals to own gaming establishments. Give of yourself by doing what is best for the Tribe and accept the fact that if we do not put our individual differences aside and firmly stand together, the opposition will work to divide us and hang us separately.

Respectfully, Clarence Hudak

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS COMMITTEE VACANCIES

HOUSING AUTHORITY
1 Vacancy Unit IV

JOM COMMITTEE
3 Vacancies (different units)

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE
1 Vacancy

HEALTH COMMITTEE
2 Vacancies (different units)

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE
1 Vacancy

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
1 Vacancy for a non-commercial fisherman

Send one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation (tribe members only) to:

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Board of Directors
Attn: Joanne Carr

523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

(906) 635-6050, (800) 793-0660,

fax (906) 632-6696

Email: jcarr@saulttribe.net

Storytelling time



Edye Nichols (left) and Melissa Causley prepare food for the feast of the sixth annual Anishinaabe winter storytelling at the Cultural Center Building on the reservation in Sault Ste. Marie. The popular gathering focuses on having a good time while carrying on an ancient tradition.

Photo by Rick Smith

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but it's nowhere in sight?

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Win Awenen Nisitotung THE SAULT TRIBE NEWS

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

March 9, 2007,
Vol. 28, No. 3
Circulation 17,000

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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 not an independent newspaper, it is funded by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

and is published 13 times a year by the Communications Department. Its mission is to inform tribe members and non-members on the activities of the tribal government, membership programs and services and cultural, social and spiritual activities of tribe members.

Our name: Win Awenen Nisitotung; in our native language means, "he/she/it one, who well or fully understands." The complete Ojibwe spelling is Wini Wewent Nisitotung. The name is pronounced, Wenen Weweni Nes-ta-tongue.

Visit us online: This newspaper can be viewed online in its entirety via the Internet at www.saulttribe.com the date the newspaper is distributed.

Subscriptions: The regular rate is \$13 per year, \$10 for senior citizens, \$25 to Canada, and \$35 to other foreign countries. Subscribe by sending your name and mailing address to the address below with your check or money order made out to the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

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NOTICE OF ELECTION

(Released and Posted on March 1, 2007)

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

At the request of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' Board of Directors, the Midwest Regional Director Bureau of Indian Affairs, has authorized a Secretarial Election to permit the qualified voters of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to adopt or reject a proposed amendment to Article IV § 3 of the Tribal Constitution. (See "Proposed Amendment A" below)

THE SECRETARIAL ELECTION DATE IS: May 1, 2007

The election will be conducted in accordance with the regulations set forth in Title 25, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 81 (25 CFR § 81).

Adult members of the tribe who are 18 years or older on May 1, 2007 and who register to vote, may vote in the election.

Voter registration packets are being mailed March 1, 2007. An adult tribal member who does not receive a voter registration packet in the mail, should request one from the Election Board Chairman or contact an Election Board member. The voter registration card must be completed and returned to the Election Board Chairman (using the prepaid self addressed envelope) no later than 4:30 p.m. eastern time on March 30, 2007. Voter registration cards received after that date and time will not be accepted.

The Registered Voters List will be posted April 6, 2007, in all tribal offices, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and will be available to view on the Tribe's Web site at www.saulttribe.com.

All voting in this election will be done by mail.

A copy of the proposed amendment is included in each voter registration packet and is also available in all tribal offices, the tribe's Web site and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Michigan Agency, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

The ballots will be counted May 1, 2007 starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Bear Arena, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. After the ballots are counted, the election results will be posted in all tribal offices and at the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Election Board appointed to conduct the election is composed of the following people:

Gerald F. Parish, Election Board Chairman
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Michigan Agency
2901.5 I-75 Business Spur
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-6809 extension 3111 Fax (906) 632-0689
Toll-Free 877-659-5028

Joanne Carr, Member, Cell: (906) 440-7642.
John Causley, Jr., Member, Cell: (906) 298-0783.
Todd Gravelle, Member, Cell: (906) 322-3822.
Richard Mastaw, Member, Cell: (906) 322-3828.

EVEN IF YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN TRIBAL BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS, YOU MUST REGISTER TO VOTE WITH THE SECRETARIAL ELECTION BOARD.

Proposed Amendment A

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

Article IV – Governing Body Sect. 3 shall be amended by requiring newly elected members of the Board of Directors to resign as tribal employees and/or surrender rights in any contracts they may have with the Tribe, prior to assuming office. Article IV sec. 3 shall be amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE IV – GOVERNING BODY

SECTION 3. The members of the board shall be qualified voters of the tribe, eighteen (18) years of age or over.

Any Person elected or appointed to a position on the board who is either an employee or independent contractor of the Tribe shall voluntarily resign his or her employment position and/or surrender any rights under any contract with the Tribe prior to assuming the duties of office or taking the oath of office. Failure to voluntarily resign and/or terminate the contractual relationship with the Tribe shall bar the elected or appointed individual from assuming the duties of office or taking the oath of office.

SECRETARIAL ELECTION SCHEDULE

(To vote on the Proposed Amendment to Tribal Constitution)

<u>March 1, 2007</u>	Notice of Election published, voter registration packets mailed.
<u>March 30, 2007</u>	Deadline for return of Voter Registration Forms.
<u>April 6, 2007</u>	Registered Voters List posted.
<u>April 6, 2007</u>	Ballot Packets mailed.
<u>April 19, 2007</u>	Last day to challenge the names/or absence of names on the registered voters list.
<u>April 20, 2007</u>	Decide challenges to voter registration list and post corrected registered voters list (if necessary).
<u>May 1, 2007</u> Tuesday	ELECTION DAY

<u>May 1, 2007</u>	Count Ballots - Election Results Posted
<u>May 4, 2007</u>	Last day for a Qualified Voter to Challenge the Election.

Severance agreements invalid; jury trial pending

By CORY WILSON

The honorable Judge Charles Johnson released a 25-page opinion on the civil suit filed by the Sault Tribe against former Chairman Bernard Bouschor, seven key employees, and the law firm of Miller Canfield pertaining to the unauthorized payouts of \$2.66 million in severance agreements.

The judge's opinion, released on Feb. 9, cites decisions by the court that will prove pivotal for the jury trial scheduled for April. The tribe's key claims of breach of fiduciary duty, constructive fraud and legal malpractice will continue to jury trial as directed by the court.

The tribe will get to argue to a jury that the seven key employees participated with Bouschor in violation of Bouschor's fiduciary duties. The tribe will also get to argue to the jury that the seven key employees engaged in constructive fraud. The key employee defendants claim that they simply perpetrated an "innocent misrepresentation" against the tribe has

been dismissed by the judge.

Bouschor had argued in his pleadings to the court that he "did not engage in any wrongful acts," because he had the authority to make the severance agreements. The court explicitly ruled that Bouschor "had no delegated authority to make the severance agreements." The court stated clearly, "He did not, and he knew it..." The court also ruled that "Bouschor possessed no inherent authority to enter into the severance agreements."

Several counter claims filed against the tribe by the key employees were dismissed because the tribe did not waive its sovereign immunity and is therefore immune from these lawsuits. The authority of Bouschor to make employment agreements and to waive sovereign immunity in conjunction with such agreements under his previous authority was terminated on Aug. 20, 2002. Therefore, the purported waivers of immunity in the severance agreements were not properly au-

thorized and are thus ineffective.

According to Judge Johnson, "The secrecy surrounding this transaction, the way that the tribe's usual accounting controls were circumvented, the timing and manner of the delivery of the checks and the way that the checks were all cashed early in the morning following the election, all represent facts and circumstances from which the jury could infer that there was an agreed upon plan or scheme, and that the parties truly did not intend a firing..." The court finds that the issue of whether the key employees quit or were fired is a fact question for trial. If the key employees quit they are not entitled to severance under the employment agreement.

The claim against the law firm Miller Canfield for legal malpractice will continue to jury trial. According to the judge's written opinion, "The court found genuine issues of material fact on the legal malpractice liability of Miller Canfield."

The judge also stated, "The

nature of the specific acts alleged here involve Bouschor secretly negotiating severance agreements, after his authority... was expressly revoked." The judge therefore explicitly denied Bouschor's claim for "absolute executive immunity." The defendant's argument that the severance payment issue was already addressed in tribal court and cannot be litigated again in state court was unfounded and further dismissed by the judge.

The tribe's claims involving breach of contract and tortious interference were dismissed, based on the judge's determination that the key employees' actions do not qualify as such. The tribe's claims of conversion against the key employees were dismissed. Because there is no independent civil cause of action for conspiracy, this claim against the key employees was also dismissed.

As stated in the judge's written opinion, "If the jury finds, that he (Bouschor) conspired with key employees to permit them to quit

while being paid the large lump sum payments involved in this case, this clearly constitutes a breach of fiduciary duties, rendering him (Bouschor) liable to the plaintiff (tribe)." The claim of constructive fraud against the key employees will depend on factual claims of fiduciary duty derived from the jury trial.

The key employee defendant's request to dismiss the bulk of the claims against them was dismissed by the judge. The tribe is now able to proceed to trial. Because the defendants requested a trial by jury and there are disputed facts in the case, the case must continue to trial with the jury determining the facts and ultimate outcome.

According to Board Representative Todd Gravelle, "Perhaps the most significant ruling from the court was that even if the jury concludes that Bouschor fired the key employees, his individual liability depends upon whether he carries his burden of proving (to the jury) that the payments were made for the tribe's benefit."

New chapter in the Tribal Code

National Forest Gathering Code: Chapter 23

By BRENDA AUSTIN

Newly developed Chapter 23 of the Tribal Code regulates tribal member gathering rights on National Forest lands within the tribe's ceded territory.

The tribe and the Department of Agriculture executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on exercising gathering rights in August 2006. The MOU required the tribe develop a "model gathering code" which is now Tribal Code Chapter 23: National Forest Gathering Code.

"Tribe members were gathering plants for ceremonial and medicinal purposes using their rights under the treaty of 1836 but were taking a chance of being prosecuted, we now have an agreement in place with the federal Forest Service allowing members legal access with a tribal permit," said Charlie Matson, fisherman's advocate.

Tribal members interested in gathering plants for medicinal or

traditional reasons are required to apply for a permit which must have their address listed on the front. "Our tribal cards currently do not have addresses on them so we are trying to figure out a way to do that," Matson said.

Tribal members registering for a gathering permit will be provided with a map of federal forest service land in the ceded territories showing where they can go to gather. In some cases, private property is located inside federal Forest Service land.

When filling out the application requesting a gathering permit, members are required to list the areas they plan to gather in. "We need to know what township or county members are gathering in," said Dan Tadjerson, Sault Tribe environmental manager. "Members are not required to report to us what is being picked as long as it is not an endangered plant. Harvesters must follow the guidelines set out by the federal

Forest Service when it comes to harvesting endangered plants. If we see a big influx of gathering in one area, we can review that area and make sure the resources are not being depleted," Tadjerson said.

Matson said members should know the proper way to gather the particular plant they are seeking and should also know what time of year to gather that plant in. "We are developing a protocol on harvesting different plants in different seasons. We want to do it in the most traditional way so as not to harm any natural resources. We are working with the Culture Department and the Culture Committee to develop a handout which should be available this spring," Matson said.

Members seeking to gather for commercial purposes will be issued a separate permit. "Protection of our natural resources is our priority because abuse of those same resources is

the only way our rights to gather can be taken away from us," said Matson.

Structure permits will also be available for fish camps, sugar bush in designated areas and hunting blinds made from natural materials found in the forest. There is a time and size limit on structures.

Dead or down trees can also be gathered for personal or commercial use with a permit. The Forest Service may designate spots live cutting can occur for commercial use.

"We are currently pursuing fee exempt camping for traditional gathering purposes. There will be a list of these campgrounds inside the Tribal Code of which members will be given a copy. You have to be using your gathering rights to stay there on a fee exempt basis; you can't be there for a baseball game or other activity. Some of the campgrounds not on our list have concession-

ary contracts in place to help pay campground hosts and until those contracts expire we won't be able to renegotiate for fee exemptions," Matson said.

"As long as members are picking blueberries, gathering fire wood or fishing on the lake, they can use the fee exemption. There are state restrictions on the exemptions which members will have to follow," Tadjerson added.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of their gathering right should first read Tribal Code Chapter 23 which can be found online at the tribe's Web site at www.saulttribe.com, go to the blue bar on the left of the page to government documents, tribal code.

Dan Tadjerson can be reached at (906) 632-6898 or Charlie Matson at (906) 635-6050 ext. 26302 or (800) 793-0660 for questions.



FARMERS Local Agents

Bernard Bouschor

1130 E. Easterday Ave.
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Tribe donates to Bay Cliff

By Marlene Akins

Bay Cliff Health Camp, located in Marquette County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, has helped over 10,000 children with physical disabilities in its 70-year history. According to Tim Bennett, a member of the Bay Cliff campaign cabinet, about 15 percent of the children the camp has helped have been Native American.

The camp currently operates six months out of the year from May through October, but is in the process of a major fund-raising campaign to renovate and winterize existing facilities, build new construction, provide greater accessibility to the Lake Superior waterfront, create trails and add landscaping.

Towards this effort, the Sault Tribe has donated \$25,000 to the camp and has authorized up to \$10,000 in funds to Sault Tribe Construction Company to assist in

the construction of the camp. The tribe's board of directors approved the resolution on Jan. 16, 2006.

The original buildings at Bay Cliff were part of a dairy farm that was built between 1913 and 1918. Because of its age, the buildings do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and have outdated heating, plumbing and electrical systems. The main focus of the camp is a two-month therapy program serving children with speech, hearing, vision and orthopedic problems. The camp also offers adults with physical disabilities the opportunity to attend a week-long recreation and therapy session.

Once the changes have been made to the camp, it will be able to offer its services to disabled children and adults year-round. Phase I of the \$7,200,000 plan was completed June of 2002 with the renovating and winterizing of

the Big House, which is used as a gathering place for meals and activities. Since that time other parts of the project have been sponsored and completed.

Bay Cliff was established in 1934 as a non-profit, non-denominational, state licensed summer health camp for children. It is a private 501(C)(3) organization. According to camp representatives, over 100 non-profit organizations in the U.P. have expressed an interest in using Bay Cliff to help serve children with mental, emotional and behavioral disabilities in addition to the children currently served there during the summer months.

There are still projects available for sponsorship. Contact Bay Cliff Health Camp at P.O. Box 310, Big Bay, MI 49808 or by phone at (906) 345-9314. E-mail: baycliffhc@aol.com or visit their Web site at www.baycliff.org.

Sault Tribe, Greektown Casino dismiss claims in lawsuit filed by former CEO

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich.

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, majority owners of Greektown Casino located in downtown Detroit, denounced allegations of wrongful termination outlined in a lawsuit against Greektown Casino recently filed by Bernard Bouschor former Greektown CEO. The former Chairman is seeking \$1.4 million in damages from Greektown Casino due to his claim of a breach of his employment contract.

Prior to Bouschor filing suit against Greektown Casino, the Sault Tribe filed a civil lawsuit against Bouschor and seven others for resigning their employment positions while conspiring to receive payouts totaling over \$2.66 million. Bouschor, who failed to win re-election as tribal chairman, immediately accepted the resignations of seven high ranking employees of the Sault Tribe's administration shortly after the 2004 election. Additionally, he orchestrated a similar resignation and improper payout involving a key employee at Greektown Casino.

To prevent any further improper payouts, Chairman-Elect Aaron Payment took action to restrict Bouschor to his lawful spending authority for the balance of his term of office.

The new chairman, along with Director-Elect Todd K. Gravelle, filed a temporary restraining order against Bouschor to prevent further adverse actions against employees and to protect tribal assets. Bouschor's actions at the administrative level, brought concern of the possibility that similar adverse actions might be planned at Greektown Casino.

The day after the 2004 chair-

man election, the Greektown Casino's management board voted by "consent by majority" to suspend Bouschor and revoked his authority to hire, fire and further imposed a spending limit.

Days later, at an emergency Greektown Casino Management Board meeting called for this purpose, the management board voted to suspend Bouschor's employment pending the outcome of an internal investigation.

Several months later, Bouschor was then terminated "for cause" by a vote of the Greektown Casino Management Board. Cause is defined as an act of personal dishonesty, incompetence, willful misconduct, failure to perform duties, violation of policies or laws, breach of fiduciary duties or material breach of contract on the part of the employee.

"Bouschor's latest action could be some kind of legal counter-measure related to the current civil suit already in progress," stated Chairperson Aaron Payment.

Payment also added, "I am truly sorry that our tribe and employees have had to endure such a hateful act from our former chairman. This lawsuit targeting our Greektown Casino is just another unjustified attempt to raid tribal funds which are used to fund membership services. I am disheartened that the former chairman is suing his own tribe and would want to take this money away from tribal members...The lawsuit filed by Bouschor is completely unjustified and we will vigorously defend the tribe and Greektown Casino."

New economic development commission coming

By Rick Smith

Sault Tribe is going to make another try at diversifying revenue sources after the board of directors approved forming a new economic development commission (EDC) at a meeting last Oct. 10. A previous tribal EDC formed in 1991 was decommissioned in 2004.

Shortly after passage of the measure, Unit I Representative DJ Hoffman noted in a tribal newspaper report, "I am extremely excited that the board overwhelmingly approved this starting point for tribal economic diversity. Diversification is the key to our tribe's long-term success."

Wording in the nearly unanimously approved resolution asserts it is vitally important to plan for the future of our tribe in a sound fiscal manner with

an eye towards diversification and increasing tribal revenues. According to the document, the EDC will be composed of seven appropriate tribe members and the board of directors. Unit I Representative Dennis McKelvie said it is likely the seven members will be drawn at random from a pool of volunteers. The board directed that the first task of the EDC was to prepare a thorough evaluation of its charter and mission and report back to the board before Jan. 15 with recommendations for a charter, mission statement and new tribal code provisions.

Developing the charter and code for the new EDC is expected to take a few months.

The board does not intend to sprout new ventures overnight, it intends to eye possibilities,

conduct studies of the potential economic growth of those possibilities, find funding sources for candidate projects most likely to be successful and evaluate if the tribe is in a practical position to use tribal funds on those projects. After determining favorable ventures, and if it can be funded prudently, the tribe could act fast to take full advantage of attractive opportunities.

What appears to be foremost on the minds of most board members is that, sooner or later, the growing number of casinos in Michigan may clog the historically robust revenue flow our tribe has experienced. Should casino saturation develop, it would jeopardize members' services, and careful economic diversification could prevent that from happening.

GOP leader calls for massive gambling expansion

By Roger Martin

Some Republican leaders have renewed the call for a massive expansion of casino gambling in Michigan, proposing a 2008 statewide ballot question that would ask voters to approve slot machines at six or more new "racinos" in the state.

The effort to expand casino gambling in Michigan is being led by GOP Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Hartman & Tyner Inc., a Southfield-based company that owns and operates a horse racetrack in suburban Detroit and horse tracks with slot machines — also known as racinos — in other states.

Because Michigan voters overwhelmingly approved Proposal 1 in 2004, any future gambling expansion requires state and local voter approval. So, voters statewide would have to approve the new racinos at the ballot in 2008.

In addition, voters in each community where a racino is proposed would also have to approve the gambling expansion in a local election held where they live.

Patterson and others said they are pushing the largest gambling expansion in Michigan history as a way to help address the state's budget crisis and as a way to pay for an expansion of Cobo Hall, Detroit's main convention center. The state's 2007 and 2008 budgets are projected to be about \$3.5 billion in the red. Opponents will argue that turning Michigan into a major gambling state is no way to address a much more serious budget problem that requires a fundamental change in the state's overall tax structure. They will also argue that thousands of jobs, tens of thousands of tourists and millions of dollars in taxes and other revenues will be drained from Michigan communities and

tribes that currently rely on casino gaming.

Sault Tribe officials are keeping a close watch on the racino issue and will inform members as more details become available.

Greektown had a strong January and the permanent casino construction is on schedule.

Greektown Casino started the year with a relatively strong performance, recording a two percent revenue increase in January 2007 compared to January of last year.

In addition, work on the permanent Greektown Casino resort continues on schedule and on budget. The permanent casino is being built in two phases. Phase one includes a new, 3,000-space attached parking garage that is on schedule to open this fall. Phase two includes a 400-room hotel, new restaurants and a gaming floor expansion and is slated to be completed fall 2008.

Relocation of Sault Tribe's Health and Human Services programs in Munising

SUBMITTED BY MARLENE

GLAESMANN, RN, MPA, RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians announces the completion of the renovation of the old "Lincoln School" facility in Munising, Mich., from a vacant building into the Munising Tribal Community Center.

The facility will offer ambulatory health care services, social services, traditional medicine services and community gathering spaces.

The Munising Tribal Health Center, located in Wetmore, Mich., and the tribe's ACFS pro-

gram, located at 418 D Mill Street in Munising, will be relocating into the new facility March 14 through 16. Clinic services will be coordinated by calling either (800) 236-4705 or (906) 387-4721. Patient care services will resume as usual on Monday, March 19, at the new Munising Tribal Community Center located at 622 W. Superior Street.

Members accessing services should enter the facility using the back entrance off Superior Street. A public open house for the new facility will be announced soon.

The next deadline for submissions to Win Awenen Nisitotung is March 27 at 9 a.m.

Win Awenen Nisitotung welcomes submissions from our tribe members by mail c/o Communications, 531 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, via e-mail at saulttribenews@saulttribe.net or fax (906) 632-6556. Any questions concerning submissions can be answered by calling (906) 632-6398.

Wisconsin tries to take elder's land claims money away from nursing home resident, Sault tribe attorney intervenes

By Brenda Austin

Nancy M. Radmer is a 71-year-old tribal elder residing in a nursing home in Marinette, Wis. Every year she looks forward to receiving her annual elder's land claims check in the amount of \$1,600, which she uses as her clothing allowance for that year.

This past January, the Marinette County Department of Human Services decided her land claims check was "budgetable income for medical assistance purposes" and tried to take her money away from her. Marinette County prorated her payment over 12 months increasing her monthly cost of care by \$133.33.

Nancy's sister, Martha Burns, stepped in and made some phone calls and mailed letters to the Sault Tribe administration building requesting help. Both sisters agreed what the State of Wisconsin was trying to do was wrong but, not knowing the law, didn't know what they could do about it. Their correspondence first went to Sault Tribe Fixed Asset Manager Jake Sillers, who forwarded their information on to membership liaison Clarence Hudak. After reviewing the women's request for information Mr. Hudak brought it to the attention of tribal attorney Courtney

Kachur.

Kachur, a former resident and attorney from Wisconsin, advised the women how to officially protest the nursing home's decision. "When her sister, Martha, came to us, we were informed that Nancy didn't have money to afford the basic necessities, such as clothing," Kachur said. "Nursing home care costs about \$42,000 a year. Elders in Wisconsin receive free care in a nursing home but there are asset and income limits that apply. For example, if the nursing home resident owns a home and has equity in that home the state of Wisconsin will put a lien on it to help pay for the care of that individual. The state will take the equity in their home first and any other assets they own to help pay for their care. After those resources are exhausted, care is free for the remainder of that elder's life," Kachur stated.

All income received by a medically assisted recipient in a Wisconsin state nursing home, in this case Nancy Radmer, is budgeted unless stated otherwise by law. The law, which should have protected Radmer's land claims check, wasn't interpreted correctly by the State of Wisconsin. Section 111 of the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act, states in

part, "... distributions under this Act by a tribe ... shall not be considered as income, resources, or otherwise when determining the eligibility for or computation of any payment or other benefit to such tribe, individual, or household ... " A hearing was held Nov. 13, 2006, to review the decision by the Marinette County Department of Human Services to take Ms. Radmer's land claims check to help pay for her care. Tribal attorney Courtney Kachur attended this hearing to represent the interests of all Sault Tribe members residing in the State of Wisconsin. Armed with the Michigan Land Claims Settlement Act and the Medicare Eligibility Handbook, which lists payments that are not to be counted, Kachur addressed the hearing. The Wisconsin Medicare Eligibility Handbook states, "All funds held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior for an Indian Tribe and distributed per capita to a member of that tribe are excluded from income."

Kachur said, "There are many Sault Tribe members in Wisconsin but that state didn't realize the

federal exemption applied to our members. The Sault Tribe was not specifically mentioned by name in their list of exemptions. However, Section 111 of the Michigan Land Claims Settlement Act was listed, which applies to the land claims checks. "I went to the hearing and presented them with the tribe's Resolution explaining that the elder payments were in fact coming from the Settlement Act."

After hearing Kachur's arguments, the State of Wisconsin Division of Hearings and Appeals determined that, "The \$1,600 yearly payment to petitioner (Nancy Radmer) from the Sault Ste. Marie land claims settlement is disregarded for medical assistance purposes. Now, therefore, it is ordered that the matter be remanded to the county with instructions to disregard the \$1,600 land claims settlement payment to petitioner, retroactive to the date that it was counted."

On behalf of Nancy Radmer, and other Sault Tribe members living in Wisconsin nursing homes, Mr. Kachur, Mr. Hudak and Mr. Sillers were able to make

a difference and have our members' rights recognized.

According to Kachur the nursing home is now trying to claim, in Nancy Radmer's name, the \$3,000 burial benefit available to all tribal members at the time of their death. "They are saying that even though she is alive, when she does pass away she is entitled to \$3,000. By their reasoning, she has \$3,000 in available assets. The nursing home is trying to count the \$3,000 burial benefit towards her medical assistance fees even though, technically, the tribe could take that benefit away from its members or reduce the amount members receive depending on available funding. I am hoping I can fix this one with a phone call, this is just ridiculous," Kachur said.

If you are a tribal elder residing in a Wisconsin nursing home and have experienced similar problems with your elder land claims check, contact tribal attorney Courtney Kachur at (800) 793-0660 or (906) 635-6050.

Tribe's donation supports LSSU powwow



Sault Tribe Board of Directors Unit I Representative Cathy Abramson (center) poses with our tribe's donation of \$5,000 along with, left to right, Stephanie Sabatine, director of the Lake Superior State University Native American Center; Nichole Causley, LSSU Native American Student Organization (NASO) secretary; Jeff Gaus, NASO coordinator; Ken Peress, LSSU vice president for student affairs; Betty Youngblood, LSSU president; and Naomi Weber, NASO president.

Photo by Rick Smith

By Rick Smith

The Sault Tribe recently helped the Lake Superior State University Native American Student Organization (NASO) through dire financial straits for its languishing annual powwow. A donation of \$5,000 was approved at a meeting of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors on Feb. 6. The campus powwow committee has had to cancel the event over the last two years for lack of funds, according to Stephanie Sabatine, director of the school's Native American Center and NASO advisor.

Over the past school year, Sabatine said the five-member committee had fundraisers, such as Indian taco sales, that raised about \$600 — but much more

was needed.

"We just thought that the Sault Tribe and the Bay Mills Indian Community would be good contributors since we have a lot of stuff to do. A large part of our expenses will be a catered dinner, honorariums for the powwow head participants and the giveaway," said Nichole Causley, chair of the powwow committee and NASO secretary. Causley represented the committee at the Feb. 6 meeting to bring the issue before the board. "I was just so excited and shocked that it was so much. It covered about 90 percent of our expenses. So the Sault Tribe really made our powwow a reality with their \$5,000 donation," she said.

This year's powwow is scheduled for March 23-24 at LSSU.

Goodwill, Inc. expands in the EUP

By Rick Smith

A boon for bargain hunters and people with disabilities desiring vocational training services is on the way to the eastern Upper Peninsula.

Sharon Huntley, director of communications for Goodwill Industries of Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc., noted in an announcement, "A recent U.S. census reported that more than 3,000 individuals in Mackinac and Chippewa counties have identified themselves as having some level of disability. Most of these lack a medical diagnosis and are therefore ineligible for government-funded programs. In response to this need, the decision was made to expand Goodwill's services in the area. In support of these expanded services, Goodwill will open a retail store in Sault Ste. Marie in the summer of 2007."

Committee explores fish marketing strategies

By Rick Smith

The Sault Tribe Fish Marketing Committee is looking at new ways to improve the tribal fishery infrastructure and marketing. Mainly, the committee wants to enhance and modernize fish processing capabilities, experiment with more convenient packaging for consumers, pursue wider federal grant opportunities and make better use of minority preference for acquiring state and federal purchasing contracts.

"We are looking to either build a processing facility or add-on to an existing operation," said Charles Matson, Sault Tribe fishermen's advocate and member of the committee.

Matson also indicated they are examining how to make fishery products more appealing to consumers using "value-added" methods of packaging such as

"We are already in the communities," said Huntley. "We have one full-time job coach and two part-time workforce development specialists in the area." She said the job coach and one of the specialists are based in Sault Ste. Marie and a part-time specialist has an office in St. Ignace.

The current staff has been in place for about two years, they were recently joined by Jana Hutcheson as the workforce development regional manager. According to the announcement, Hutcheson will oversee the expansion of vocational training programs, job placement services and support programs to disabled people offered through Goodwill.

Huntley said much of the funding to support the Goodwill mission comes from the proceeds of sales of high quality donated clothing and household items. She said donated items are subjected

to sorting to meet a variety of standards, and the primary standard is quality. "If a donated item doesn't meet our standards, it may be sold or donated to another organization where it may be of use. For example, clothing that doesn't meet our standards may be sent to an organization that aids poor people living in developing countries."

"We have an agreement in writing to lease two-thirds of the old Glen's building and look to open around July," said Huntley. More recently the building housed Northern Hospitality before that business moved downtown last November.

The announcement noted Goodwill's goal is to work in partnership with area agencies and organizations to fill current gaps in services and carry on the mission of helping people achieve their full potential.

Members of the Sault Tribe Fish Marketing Committee are Jason Grondin, Cathy Abramson, Carl Frazier, Charles Matson, Dave King and Ralph Wilcox. Sault Tribe administrative staff who support the committee are Tom Gorenflo, Aaron Schlehuber, Dan Tadjerson, Joann Carr and Lori Jump.

Matson said the fishing tradition has long been part of the Anishinaabe life. He said fish accounted for about 65 percent of the diet of ancient ancestors. Matson added the importance of fish to our ancestors is hinted at in the sixth provision of Article four in the Treaty of 1836 where the United States agreed, as a tiny part of a much larger sum, to pay the Ottawa and Chippewa nations 100 barrels of salt and 500 fish barrels annually for 20 years.

Tax agreement recap

By Rick Smith

The Sault Tribe and the State of Michigan signed a tax agreement in December of 2002, which benefits many members of our service area whose principal residence is within specific agreement areas.

Those members meeting the agreement guidelines receive state tax discounts on many purchases. The agreement applies to the Michigan sales tax, which is six percent of a retail price; use tax, which is six percent of a purchase price; income tax, which is four percent of adjusted gross income; motor fuel tax, 19 cents per gallon of gas and 15 cents per gallon of diesel; cigarette tax of \$1.25 per pack; and six single business tax, which is 1.9 percent of the applicable tax base.

Fuel and cigarette tax benefits are realized at the time of purchase of those items. Members must submit forms along with other appropriate documents to file for quarterly refunds on taxes for certain large purchases such as personal vehicles, homes, home improvement materials and so on.

The agreement does not create an exemption from property taxes. Members are responsible for complying with the agreement and encouraged to contact our tribe's authorities with any questions about any of its provisions.

If you are age 16 or over and want to receive the agreement benefits, you must be registered. You are required to sign the Sault Tribe's tax agreement registration card to verify your residency in an

agreement area.

Also, before you can submit the state form to collect your quarterly taxes on large purchases as it pertains to this tax agreement, you must first sign and return a registration card to the Sault Tribe tax office to verify your residency in a tax agreement area. This is mandatory for all tribal members. Registration cards were mailed to all members in 2005.

If you are unsure if you have registered, please call the tax office and Candice Blocher at (906) 632-6281 or toll free, (866) 632-6281, to verify your card is on file. Once registered, members are then required to fill out a state form pertaining to tax agreements and submit it to the state.

Project helps in building indigenous nations — arizonanativenet.com

By Rick Smith

Turning one-year old this month, the educational Web site arizonanativenet.com was conceived as an Internet solution to reach and help build indigenous nations. Recently, the site added a new feature that brings some college level education to all in Indian Country. As a bonus, it's free of charge and there's no homework.

One of the site's founding partners and project leader, Professor Rober A. Williams Jr., director of the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program at the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law and a member of the Lumbee Indian Tribe of North Carolina, said the site serves as a free, one-stop shopping place for research, overviews and links on American Indian governance, law, health, education, language and culture.

On its Web site, Arizona Native Net is described as a virtual university, designed for use especially for American Indian communities. It is a higher education, multifunctional, outreach and distance learning telecommunications center/network/web-portal entry page.

"It has endless possibilities for getting information," said Williams. He recommends any American Indian with a general interest to visit the site, but especially present and future tribal leaders.

Last month, a video module, titled "The History of Federal Indian Law and Policy: The European Doctrine of Discovery and American Indian Rights," was introduced on the site as part of its federal Indian law and policy for tribal leaders program. The video module is the first of many more planned for installation.

Williams, who is also the instructor in the video module, said the Web site collaborators are especially proud of the Doctrine of Discovery module not only because of its qualities and the contributory possibilities it gives to Indian Country, but also because it may be the first of its kind in the world.

Arizona Native Net is the result of a founding collaboration of the University of Arizona, the University of Arizona Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program, the Native Nations Institute and the Native Peoples Technical Assistance Office. Participating collaborators now involved with the project, units of the University of Arizona with a focus on American Indians, are the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences American Indian Programs Office, the American Indian Studies Program, the College of Medicine Native American Cancer Research Partnership at the Arizona Cancer Center and Native American Student Affairs.

Tribes and First Nations form alliance for a clean St. Marys River

Following the historic signing of the St. Marys River Treaty in November, 2006, two Canadian first nations and two Native American tribes have formed a new alliance that will work to protect the ecosystem of the St. Marys River. The Anishinabeg Joint Commission had its first meeting on Feb. 12, 2007, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and promises to rekindle ties of family and culture that were inhibited by the imposition of an international border through Ojibwa territory.

Many years of pollution, diversion of water, destruction of fish and wildlife habitat and the introduction of invasive species such as the sea lamprey, have damaged the St. Marys River which has been the lifeblood of the Anishinabe nations on both sides of the river for generations beyond count. The Joint Commission will work to ensure that the governments of Canada and the United States follow through on their promises to protect and restore the ecosystem of the St. Marys River.

The original name for the Sault Ste. Marie area was Bawating, and it was an extremely important place for the gathering of people from all Native nations long before Europeans arrived in North America. Part of the reason was that the St. Marys River and the rapids in particular were so rich in fish, game and furs. The river

provided for all the families that lived here and also for the people who arrived each year to trade, visit and socialize.

Environmental degradation of the St. Marys River has especially affected native people. Today over 80% of the water that used to flow through the rapids is diverted to create hydroelectric power and many of the wetlands that supported the amazing fishery have been destroyed. Native families that once freely fished anywhere in the river are separated by the border and fishing is restricted. Pollution, including raw sewage, has contaminated water and beaches on native lands causing a health risk and stifling economic opportunities.

Although tribes and first nations work with non-native governments in many areas including fisheries and environmental efforts, this is the first time that the original people of the St. Marys River have breached the border and formed a united organization to address environmental injustices. The Joint Commission is currently working on a mission statement and objectives to address important issues on the St. Marys River and beyond.

The Joint Commission is comprised of the Batchewana First Nation, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Garden River First Nation and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Soo Co-op Credit Union launches free tax preparation services for low-income families, individuals

Soo Co-op Credit Union has launched an innovative Web-based program to provide low to moderate income individuals and families with free access to file for state and federal income tax credits and refunds. The program is available from the credit union's Web site at www.soocoop.com.

Upper Peninsula home buyers wanted

Upper Peninsula residents in need of a loan to either buy a home or repair their own have found help from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA Rural Development can make owning a home affordable for low-income home buyers. Our direct loan program allows families to buy a home with no money down and affordable monthly payments.

In Chippewa County, a family of four can qualify with an adjusted income of up to \$40,950. The applicant must also demonstrate the ability to repay the loan.

The maximum amount an ap-

plicant can borrow anywhere in Chippewa County is \$142,900.

However, other than the maximum cost, there are few restrictions on what type of home can be purchased. For example, a borrower can choose to purchase an existing home, a traditionally constructed new home or purchase a new modular or manufactured home.

Home owners with difficulty affording needed repairs may also be able to take advantage of Rural Development programs. Home repair loans of up to \$20,000 are available with an interest rate of only one percent. Grants of up to

\$7,500 may also be available for homeowners over age 62.

Both home repair loans and grants have maximum income requirements. In Chippewa County, a household of two can make up to \$20,500. The loan or grant must be for essential repairs such as a new roof, furnace, plumbing or electrical repairs. Connecting your home to a municipal water or sewer system is another eligible expense.

For more information on Rural Development's loan programs call (906) 632-9611 ext. 4.



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MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS CONTACT INFORMATION

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Follow the link to the 13th Annual Anishinaabemowin Teg Language Conference

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Kewadin Convention Centre 1 (800) 539 2346

No member shall be denied their right to vote!

Political retribution firings: legislative remedy sought



Aaron A. Payment, MPA
Tribal Chairperson

Your right to vote

Following the publication of my last Chairperson's report, it was suggested by a Tribal Board Member that I misquoted Director McKelvie regarding his objection to descendants of the Mackinac Band (about 15,000 of our Members!) being allowed to vote in the upcoming secretarial election to decide the issue if you can be on the Tribal Board and work for the Tribe at the same time. Director McKelvie's statements are listed below.

Dennis McKelvie: "...But, I will tell youse right now, reading the federal regulations, I've talked to seven board members and had them read it and they interpret it the same way I do."

The only members who can vote on this constitutional amendment, are like people who voted on the original constitution which is the six original bands.

I will not vote on that unless this Board approves it. The reason bein' your gonna p'ss off over 1/2 the Tribe because MACKINAC BAND WAS NOT IN THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION AND THEY DO NOT GET TO VOTE, BY MY INTERPRETATION, and... quite a few other board members have - I haven't heard anyone disagree with me. Uh...this board is gonna vote on their interpretation of that because its gonna t-off a lot of people. It's in the federal regulations, let anyone read it. My concern, IF ITS GONNA BE ON MY BACK - OKAY - I DON'T THINK SO."

If you have RealPlayer capabilities and would like a copy please send me a response email and I will send you a copy.

Shortly after I published my last report calling attention to the matter, during a closed workshop of the Tribal Board, I was warned that I shouldn't go any further on this issue and "what's it going to take to get you to stop?" Threats didn't work on me by the former Chairperson and they certainly don't intimidate me now.

I got the distinct feeling that a removal petition would not be far behind based on some made up charges possibly related to the latest email investigations of Tribal members which violates their civil rights and constitutes an illegal search and seizure which violates both the U.S. and Tribal Constitutions! I realize this sounds outrageous, but recall it was just a few years ago that over 10 removal petitions were submitted within the span of one year until Michel Lumsden was removed on made up charges.

Though I believe a few Board members desired me to disquiet the issue to avoid controversy, I was very concerned that Director McKelvie was fully authorized to decide our positions on the Secretarial election and had made such an irrational and unsupported conclusion that threatened to prevent 15,000 of our Members from voting on upcoming Constitutional Amendment votes.

What is further disturbing is that prior to February 5, 2007 Director McKelvie requested a written legal opinion (from Richard Mastaw, who also serves as one of our Appellate Court judges, and is licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan and in our Tribal Court) on who is eligible to vote in the upcoming election. In a correspondence dated February 5, 2007, the response was clear that all members of the Tribe 18 years of age and older are eligible to register to vote - this includes the Mackinac Band descendants.

Director McKelvie had possession of this legal opinion for over two weeks; keeping it secret from the Tribal Board! Is this because this legal opinion he received in secret conflicted from what he wanted to believe? The attorneys in our Tribal Legal Department and our federal level attorney unanimously agree that everyone 18 years of age and older are eligible to register to vote in the Secretarial and upcoming Constitutional Amendment elections.

Was Director McKelvie ever planning to inform the Board of the legal opinion he received? I found out about the first written opinion Director McKelvie requested and kept secret when I spoke with Mr. Mastaw about the upcoming election. He inquired if I had seen the opinion. I responded that I had not even heard of the opinion as Director McKelvie failed to report to the Tribal Board his request of the opinion or results. I then asked Mr. Mastaw to fax a copy directly to me so I could provide a copy to the Tribal Board at the 2-20-07.

I received dozens of calls and emails from Tribal Members in response to the verbatim statement from Director McKelvie. Below is just one example:

I don't believe anyone has come out to explain why they would want to prevent these descendants (15,000) from voting? Aside from the obvious reason, they are scared to death that the votes will possibly get you re-elected. Is this the only concern as to why certain people don't want these descendants from voting? If our tribal government can be allowed to change election policies for such reasons as to prevent votes in your favor, then our tribal government is nothing but one for all and all for one! You are the first leader who has brought goodness to members outside of the service areas...

"We the people" make up a tribe, not board members alone!

"We the people" do matter!

"We the people" are only a vote and they shouldn't be allowed to take the one and only right away from us!

"We are the people" and we can do something about it!

Help us to help you fight for all tribal members and the good things that you have brought to us. It's so sad to have to fight ourselves but if that is what they want then I am sure I speak for many members, we are ready to defend our rights as tribal members!

TRAVEL CONTROVERSY

During budget workshops late last year, members of the Tribal Board tried to create an issue regarding my travel expenses incurred while holding meetings with Members who live outside of the service area and within the several units including Sault Ste. Marie, Sugar Island, Kincheloe, Newberry, Naubinway, Hessel, St. Ignace, Escanaba, Manistique, Marquette, Munising, Cheboygan, Lansing, Okemos, Grand Rapids, and Detroit with meetings planned for Petoskey, Brimley, Mackinac Island and additional locations as the Members request it and population warrants it.

Director Lana Causley demanded a copy of my travel. My response was that we should provide a copy of our travel to Tribal members publishing it on the Tribal webpage. Her response was a threat to publish the travel of staff members who report to me. This was unmistakably a threat but it is an empty threat as my staff and I have nothing to hide. Again, the staff who report to me, and I, limit our expenses to actual

or allowable expenses. In fact, since Director Causley created the controversy, staff who report to do not travel with me (for the most part) and they pay for their own hotel costs when they do. This way, they are no longer targets for threats or retribution.

For some reason, some board members are threatened by my meetings throughout the service area and outside of the service area, as I try to represent your interests. This is puzzling because this is what you elected me to do. The amount of traveling I do is very tiring as I try to visit with you in each community in Michigan monthly, or every other month, but it is the only way I can try to directly represent your interest. Rather than be threatened by this approach, I invite Board members to join me in meeting with you.

POLITICAL RETRIBUTIONAL TERMINATIONS?!

During the appropriations process last fall, several employees were targeted for terminations by select Board members through the suggestion to not appropriate the funding for their positions. Below are several specific examples:

• One individual targeted for termination previously supervised and terminated a Board member in a staff position before the Board member was elected;

• Another was targeted for termination because of his role in supporting the federal recognition of the Mackinac Band and a conflict of interest this Board member has with an immediate family member;

• Yet another was targeted for his personal views opposing our inland hunting and fishing negotiations;

• Several individuals' positions were threatened relating to the funding source from 'indirect' because they report to me providing direct services to the Members;

The 2007 budget submitted for enactment at the December 19, 2006 Tribal Board meeting, included most of the positions above. Individual Board members threatened, however, that if the budgets for these positions were not excluded they would veto the entire budget. They deny this now and have made several implausible and foolish excuses for voting against funding for these positions, but the proof is in the fact, that we had to selectively place these positions back into the budget for individual enactment.

In all these cases, the

appropriation votes resulted in tie votes. As Chairperson, I proudly voted to break these tie votes thus protecting employees jobs. Tribal Members: We are at a critical time in our Tribe's history in that we have some Board members who want to use personal politics to exercise retribution on their political foes 'investigating their emails' or eliminating their jobs. Join with me in opposing this. Call your Board and insist they pass the following resolution.

RESOLUTION: BUDGETS NOT TO BE USED TO INTIMIDATE EMPLOYEES

Whereas, the annual appropriations process is not intended to be used to selectively layoff individuals or to circumvent the employment due process established in the Tribe's team member manuals which include the right to grieve and appeals terminations;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Directors shall in the future not be allowed to terminate individual team members through the budget process or adversely effect the employment of team members by restructuring without the Administration's concurrence and not without a 2/3 super majority by the Tribal Board of Directors.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please contact me by Email at apayment@saulttribe.net or call (906) 632-6578 or toll free at (888) 94-AARON.

2007 MEMBER MEETINGS

Unit	1	Time	Location
Mar	19th	6pm	Sugar Island Culture Camp
Apr	16th	5pm	Kincheloe, MI

Unit	2	Time	Location
Mar	21st	5pm	Naubinway Pavilion
May	16th	5pm	Newberry Tribal Center

Unit	3	Time	Location
Mar	26th	6pm	McGann School, St. Ignace

Unit	4	Time	Location
Apr	4th	5pm	Escanaba TBA

Unit	5	Time	Location
Apr	14th	11am	Marquette

Detroit	Time	Location
Mar	11th	12pm Detroit, Grosse Pointe Casino-Olive Rm

Mid/ West Michigan	Time	Location
Apr	22nd	12pm Nokomis Center - Okemos, MI
May	20th	12pm Grand Rapids TBA

N. Michigan	Time	Location
Mar	25th	2pm Petoskey, Comfort Inn, 1314 N 31
Mar	25th	6pm Cheboygan, Inverness Township Hall

Locations are subject to change. Call to confirm:
1-888-94-AARON

Vote Yes to end double-dipping



Todd K. Gravelle
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

By the time you read this unit report, you should have received your voting packets for the special election to amend our constitution. You must register to vote if you want to participate in this election. Tribal members may believe that they are already registered for tribal elections and are not required to fill-out the new

registration card. This is not true!

Since this is a special election to amend our constitution, federal regulations require us to register all tribal members again. Please take a few minutes to fill-out the registration card mailed to you and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope by March 30, 2007. Once the cards are received and processed, a voter registration list will be compiled. On April 6, 2007, official ballots will be mailed to tribal voters who registered for this election. Election day is scheduled for May 1, 2007, for counting of the ballots.

Given the short turn-around time, please send in both your registration forms and ballots as soon as you receive them. Whatever your position is on this critically important issue, I strongly encourage all tribal members to register and ultimately vote so that your voice is heard.

Many tribal members may be aware of the results of a recent election at the JKL Bahweting Public school academy to decertify a union at the school. The

teachers at the school voted to reject the union. This is great news for the Tribe since the Board of Directors took the position that the Tribe would not renew the lease at the school with a union at the school. Now that the union issue is resolved, we must move quickly to resolve all issues of concern at the school to demonstrate the stability of the school to our teachers, our community and most importantly, the children who attend our school.

The Tribe's Board of Directors must work together to address four key issues to insure the long-term stability of the school. We must provide a long-term lease for the school, help encourage a long-term Northern Michigan University charter for the school, approve multi-year contracts for the teachers and strengthen employment policies and procedures to address their due process concerns. If we are able to address these issues to the satisfaction of all parties involved, this will provide stability for our school without the year-to-year

wrangling that seems to plague the school. What this issue is really about is the education of our tribal youth and we must work together to solve these issues once and for all. If we are able to resolve these issues positively, the Tribe can move forward towards expansion of the school to add additional grade-levels to continue the outstanding education that these students receive at our award-winning school.

We also need to refocus our efforts towards achieving congressional approval to settle our land claim at Charlotte Beach. Recall, in an agreement with then Governor Engler, the Tribe agreed to drop our land claim at Charlotte Beach in exchange for the opportunity to purchase land downstate and operate a casino on this newly purchased Tribal land. We are now in the strongest position that we have ever been on this issue!

One of the locations that we have been given is the option to purchase land at or near the city of Romulus. We have the

strong support of Congressman John Dingell, the congressional representative for the area of Romulus who is now the new chairman of the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee. With his strong support, we now have a realistic opportunity to achieve congressional approval of our casino site plan if we act now. Sadly, we have no one actively working on this issue at the federal level and it would be yet another tragedy in the making if we wait one day longer than we have to. I strongly encourage the Chairman and the Board of Directors to act swiftly and decisively toward developing a plan of action towards seeking congressional approval of our land claim settlement by securing a casino site in the city of Romulus.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at Todd K. Gravelle, 713 Maple, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. My new phone number is: (906) 322-3822.

18-year olds encouraged to vote in election



Denise Chase
Unit IV Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

At the Feb. 20 board meeting a resolution was presented to amend the employee drug testing policy by repealing the random drug testing component but still do pre-employment and reasonable suspicion drug testing. No action was taken, the resolution will be discussed at a board workshop and brought back to a future meeting.

The board is meeting with the HR Department and reviewing current employment policies. We

have directed the HR Department to make sure that all employees are given a opportunity to view the current policies and give their input before recommendations are being brought back to the board to review and vote on.

A motion was made and passed by a board member to appropriate \$5,000 from special appropriations to fund and hire an outside investigator to identify certain individuals or groups involved in writing harassing or slanderous e-mails targeted at Sault Tribe members, Sault Tribe government officials, board members or the chairman. It is a federal offense to annoy anyone on the Internet without identifying yourself. Board members should finance their own investigation on the slanderous or salacious e-mails that attack them and then retain their own legal counsel to prosecute any individuals identified in the investigation.

The board of directors also approved a resolution directing Enrollment and the MIS Departments to prepare and submit a list of members who will be 18 years of age or older on May 1, 2007, along with their mail-

ing addresses to Gerald Parish of BIA for use in the upcoming Secretarial Election that will amend, if passed, the tribe's constitution Article IV, section 3. This Secretarial Election will decide if a tribal employee can remain employed by the tribe if elected to the board of directors.

The first Gathering of the Clans Powwow will be held on June 16-17 at the Manistique Tribal Community Center. The Powwow Committee has been meeting regularly. The committee is still signing up volunteers, call the Manistique Tribal Center at (906) 341-6993.

The Powwow Committee is also looking for donations of new or hand-crafted items to be used for the auction at the powwow. Proceeds raised from the auction will go towards next year's powwow.

Craft supply donations are needed too. If you have any of the following craft supplies available and could donate them to the powwow, please drop them off at the Anishnabek Community and Family Services in Manistique at (906) 341-6993 or contact Shirley Shampine at (906) 341-2435.

Shirley has been instrumental in starting a crafting bee to make items to sell at the powwow.

Items needed are beading thread, sinew, suede lacing, craft wire, beads (seed-pony-bugle), earrings/kits, french fish hook wires, bead cord, suede leather pieces, metal cones, dream catcher thread, bees' wax and metal or wooden hoops (6, 10, 12 or 15 inches).

If you would like to donate a hand-made craft item to the powwows craft table, please call the number above. Megwetch!

Elaine Wright, cultural training specialist will be holding a planning meeting at the Manistique Tribal Center on March 9 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. She will meet with representatives of the casino, government and Human Resources employees and area elders and community members. She would like to get input on what cultural teachings the community would be interested in. She will set up a schedule after getting input to plan in-services for staff and community teaching circles. Community members and elders have been requesting cultural teachings for some time.

Bud Biron will hold a hand drum making camp at the Manistique Tribal Center on April 28. To sign up or get more information, call Patty Teeple at (906) 341-3362.

We have also got requests from Escanaba and Gwinn areas for teaching circles and cultural classes and workshops to be held there.

Marquette county or Gwinn tribal members can contact Gary Carr at "The Gathering Place," 269 Avenger, Gwinn, MI. (located at the former KI Sawyer AFB) phone (906) 346-3758 if you need to pick up various tribal program applications, like education, USDA or heating assistance.

Representatives from the Elderly Advisory Committee stated that they have still not gotten their concerns addressed from their meeting held with the board. They would like a reply so they can bring the answers back to their individual committees. They would like the dress code resolution for board members voted on — this will be on the March 6 board meeting agenda.

As always, if I can assist you call me at (906) 341-6783.

Time to investigate e-mails?



Shirley Petosky
Unit V Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Greetings, dear friends, as I'm writing this, "ole man winter" is starting to show he's still in control. Looks nasty out there.

The Marquette elders meeting was cancelled because of the weather as were many other activities in and around the U.P.

In St. Ignace, at the last board meeting, a long discussion took place on the matter of investigating the e-mails that go to all of us unsigned or with a pen name. All kinds of criminal things are mentioned about board members and others.

Some felt that we were in danger of starting a 'witch hunt.' Where will we draw the line as to what can be said anonymously and what will we declare criminal. I understand where these directors are coming from and it's not an easy task before us. But I did argue that if anyone has anything to say about anyone else they should sign their name to their missile. Then it can either be proven as

false or admitted to. However I do feel there are things that are not criminal but just plain nasty and that the accuser should have to be exposed for their irresponsibility.

I voted to have these e-mails investigated — I understand all the reasons for not doing this, but I also feel all the reasons to investigate have great merit.

On a brighter note — everything is going great at Lincoln School — when it's ready I'll put the coffee on and you bake the cookies and we'll get together in the community area.

Our casino in Christmas has had some nice changes in the dining area, go out for dinner one evening. You'll be impressed.

Powwow planning is gearing up in the Munising area as well as in the rest of the units. Munising plans to have a great gathering

Sept. 22. This will be a one day only event. Sure hope you can join us.

Well kids, the wind is blowing and I'm tired so I'm going to grab some chocolate and a book and settle in for the night.

Remember, count your blessings, stay warm and fight nice. Until next time,

Shirley Petosky
(906) 387-2101
shirleypetosky@yahoo.com

Moving? Don't forget to contact the Sault Tribe Enrollment Department and give them your new address. Call enrollment at (906) 635-3396 or (800) 251-6597.

Naubinway, Unit II March and April elder meetings

March 28,
Beary Patch
Restaurant
in Engadine.

April 25,
Horse Shoe Bay
Restaurant
in St. Ignace.

Truth and consequences



Dennis McKelvie
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

When will the board and chairman start to put our tribe's future first? As we fight amongst ourselves, external and internal forces are trying to force us out of our biggest business venture, Greentown. Greentown is our future. Greentown has made many rich; these are the payments I am talking about.

Minority Partners put in -0-, received \$7,484,102.

Greeks put in \$1,000, received \$226,943,618.

Don Barden put in -0-, received \$16,720,000.

Tribe put in \$102,783,257, received \$83,383,382.

City/state taxes \$400,000,000.

Development costs \$119,000,000.

Now, you realize how important it is that we maintain control of our most valuable financial asset. This is the kind of money we can look forward to after all of the debt is paid.

In the past edition of the tribal paper, as well as many different e-mail reports, it was stated that I was threatening to resign from the Election Board if the Mackinaw Band were allowed to vote in the upcoming constitutional amendment vote.

THIS IS NOT TRUE!

I relayed a concern to the tribal board of directors about the language provided by the Bureau of

Indian Affairs regarding the eligibility of voters in the election. I asked the BIA for an opinion and requested a legal opinion. I said that "I" would not be the sole individual making the decision, and that the board would have to determine the meaning of the language and its relation to our constituents. Of course the chairman jumped all over this topic, misleading the membership.

The chairman is also attempting to make issue of board members travel to Greentown Casino for weekly construction meetings. Greentown is vital to our financial future as a tribe. It is ironic that the chairman would show concern over the expense of tribal board members attending meetings in Greentown when he showed no concerns by giving an individual a \$200,000 raise, an apartment and government vehicle to work out of Greentown.

At the last board meeting in St. Ignace, Director Eitrem made a motion to investigate the slanderous, anonymous e-mails that have been occurring. I commend Director Eitrem for his efforts to stop this harassing behavior of our membership and leadership. First and foremost, it is against federal law to anonymously harass anyone via e-mail. Secondly, it is an act of pure cowardice to attack individuals and their families hidden behind a secret screen name. There are those that shout freedom of speech, or violations of tribal members' rights. If you are anonymous, how does anyone know you are a tribe member? Their actions are clearly a violation of federal law.

Members need to be careful when utilizing Contract Health. When you receive a referral from your doctor and they tell you it is covered under a life or limb (priority 1A). It will not be covered unless it is life or limb.

I can be contacted at (906) 632-7267.

Working hand in hand with legislative lobbyists



Keith Massaway
Unit III Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

I would like to start today by thanking the many people for their great input and positive approach to the many difficult and complicated situations the board members work with every day. Some of the private and personal problems the members bring to me are very difficult to rectify. It usually takes many personnel,

including membership liaisons, division directors and support staff to remedy these problems. I want to thank you all for all you have done for me and the members. You do so much and you get very little recognition. I hope this small gesture shows you how much you are needed and appreciated.

The past month has been a busy one. The board has been very involved in getting our concerns heard by the state and country's leaders. Working hand in hand with our legislative lobbyist and consultants, we have been able to have our interests listened to and not disregarded as insignificant. With the board being more involved in this process, we not only make important personal connections with other elected officials, but we have a better understanding of their processes and procedures. The Greentown Hotel and parking garage are coming along on schedule. The foundations and caissons are complete. The cranes have been

brought on site and are poised to begin erecting the prefabricated concrete sections. On the inland fishing, hunting and gathering code I can say that we are moving forward every day and the next meeting is June 28 before the Judge. If all parties agree on the AIP, we could have a new agreement with the federal government on those rights. These could become law in late summer or early fall if everything goes smoothly. In the marketing committee meetings, the new TV ads will be coming out late spring. You may have seen the billboards with the animals on them. These animals will be the main characters in the TV commercials. We know this ad campaign will be a big hit and it will be reinforced through many other marketing and promotional events. Thank you again for the phone calls and letters. Please feel free to call me anytime at (906) 643-6981 or write me at Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace, MI 49781.

Board of directors meeting protocol needs more work



Tom Miller
Unit IV Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

I hope this report finds everyone in good health and enjoying our winter which, as I look out the window, seems to have returned in force. Our board of directors meetings have certainly been interesting as we struggle with our efforts to conduct them in a more professional manner. The St Ignace meeting of 2/20/07 certainly indicates that we have not worked all the problems out in the manner in which we conduct business. I have indicated in the past that these board meetings are to conduct tribal business; not debate, argue or display for the audience. Denise Chase and myself will be attempting to convince the board to reverse a decision that allows any item that a board member wants to address, regardless of whether it is a true emergency or if it has been seen or discussed by the board, to be placed on the agenda that night. The five day prior requirement is circumvented at will, which effectively eliminates it as a safeguard for surprise items. This is something that we need to work on and if this process of five days prior notification is followed, which allows for debate and discussion, you will see less

sessions such as the end of the 2/20/07 board meeting.

We also need to ask the community members to be respectful of the board's attempts to conduct a professional board meeting. Some community members, who are obviously frustrated, seem unable to control themselves from outbursts and personalizing their comments into attacks. Help from the community members is definitely needed if the business meetings are to flow smoothly.

On a more positive note, I believe we have the budget process under control with the projected deficit definitely within a break even amount for the year. Although you may hear to the contrary, we have the money situation in hand, the sky is not falling. Next year's budget will be a slightly more challenging proposition, but should be the last year before the revenue begins to rise back to necessary levels.

The questioning of the Bureau of Indian Affairs language for the conducting of a Secretarial Election certainly got blown out of proportion. The government's language was a bit gray and the request to clarify it, certainly not a threat, has put the question to rest. The Mackinaw Band members can vote. I believe it was a misunderstanding by both parties involved. We continue to work to clarify the St Ignace casino situation with the powers that be and I believe that will be decided in our favor. The Greentown permanent casino project is well underway and, at this point, seems to be on schedule and budget. Completion of this project will most definitely have a very positive effect on the revenue available to the tribe to provide services to the tribal population. The litigation process in the 7+1 is well underway with the trial date, April 17. The

Escanaba clinic is functioning well in its new home, the Willow Creek professional building in Escanaba. The space is no longer so confined that the staff has to go outside to change its mind. We are working on a permanent place to conduct meetings in the Escanaba area, so community members please bear with us. The Sawyer building is now set up and serves as permanent meeting facility for tribal members in that area. The proposed expansion of the JKL school is proceeding nicely, with the union question answered by a vote of the teaching staff. The union was de-certified by the teachers in a recent vote. I believe the school will continue to function well, serve the tribal students and retain its status as a high achieving school. The JKL fiduciary board is working closely with the Bahweting public school board to insure a quality education operation.

In the month of March (11-16), some of the board, Denise and I included, will be attending the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes meeting and talking with our Senators and Representatives in Washington, D.C. This is an important role that the board has in influencing legislation favorable to our community. Contrary to popular belief, money does not automatically come from the government. We must stay active if we are to keep the appropriations to the levels that we require.

In closing, I would like to tell everyone that there is a lot of good work being done by the board and the tribal employees. Is everything perfect? No. But there certainly are many more positive things happening than negative. If you have any questions, please contact me at (906) 644-3334 and cell (906) 322-3827.

Accepting applications for rental assistance

Sault Tribe Housing Authority will be accepting applications for the Rental Assistance Voucher Program beginning Feb. 1 to April 13. This will be the only time applications will be accepted for this program.

To be eligible, you must be a currently employed Sault Tribe household that meets the income guidelines posted below.

We will be assisting 10 families within the seven-county service area pay a portion of their monthly rent amount, up to the fair market rent.

For more information or to request an application, please call Heather Alstrom at (906) 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072 or send

e-mail to houheat@saulttribe.net

Family size	Annual income
1	\$ 33,400
2	\$ 38,150
3	\$ 42,900
4	\$ 47,700
5	\$ 51,500
6	\$ 55,300
7	\$ 59,100
8	\$ 62,950

Introduce a young person to hunting in Michigan, courtesy of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Thanks to a new apprentice license program, young and novice hunters in Michigan can turkey hunt with an adult mentor this spring before they complete a hunter education course.

For more information, contact Perrin Anderson or Jonathan Harling at (803) 637-3106, or panderson@nwtf.net or jharling@nwtf.net.

Everyone must register to vote in Secretarial Election



Cathy Abramson
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

The Secretarial Election for tribe members to vote on the adoption or rejection of the proposed amendment to our tribal Constitution is coming up fast. If approved, the amendment would read as follows:

"Any person elected or appointed to a position on the board who is either an employee or independent contractor of the Tribe shall voluntarily resign his or her employment position and/or surrender any rights under any contract with the Tribe prior to assuming the duties of office or taking the oath of office. Failure to voluntarily resign and/or terminate the contractual relationship with the Tribe shall bar the elected or appointed individual from assuming the duties of office or taking the oath of office."

As of today, March 2, no one is registered to vote in this election. **EVERYONE** must register to vote for this Secretarial Election. It

doesn't matter if you have voted in every election since our federal recognition. This is a secretarial election and **EVERYONE MUST REGISTER TO VOTE!**

Mr. Gerald Parish, Superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is serving as the Election Board chairman. Other board appointed election board members include tribe members Richard Mastaw, John Causley, Jr., Joanne Carr and Todd Gravelle. Dennis McKelvie resigned from the Election Board for personal reasons. It is important to let you know that Director McKelvie did not threaten to resign if Mackinac Band members were allowed to vote in this election.

Voter registration packets will be mailed out on March 1. The deadline to return the voter registration forms will be March 30. Only tribe members who are 18 years of age or older on May 1, 2007, and who are registered to vote, will be eligible to vote in this election. Make sure that you register to vote. The ballots will be mailed out on April 6 and election day will be May 1. Make your voice heard by voting in this Secretarial Election.

National Congress of American Indians

I continue to remain actively involved with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Most of the other tribes across the United States send their elected officials to represent them. The majority of people who serve on the important advisory committees are the chairs of tribes.

Established in 1944, NCAI is organized as a representative Congress of tribal delegates to

establish consensus on national priority issues. At these meetings, tribal delegates debate and deliberate on issues of concern and present viewpoints in accordance with their governments' policies, goals and needs. This way, NCAI can monitor national policy and coordinate efforts to have a voice in federal decisions that affect tribal governments.

In January, I attended the NCAI tribal leader legislative strategy session with Bob Nygaard, our legislative analyst and Meghan Kelly Powell, our federal liaison. We brought with us a number of resolutions that our board of directors passed in regards to health care, housing, education, child welfare and environmental issues to name a few.

As a tribe, we share the same issues and concerns as other tribes across the nation. The number one priority of NCAI is the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act which has not been reauthorized for seven years. Although both sides of Congress have changed political parties, our obstacle remains the Administration and, as a result, we will still have a difficult time passing this. Another short term goal is the Meth Grant Tribal Fix. In the 109th Congress, three new grant programs were created for addressing methamphetamine in Indian Country, but tribes were inadvertently left out of the programs. There is broad support to fix this. Another goal is direct tribal funding from Homeland Security. Currently tribal grants are funneled through States and tribal governments often do not receive their federal-

ly allocated funds from the states. Tribes, as independent governments, should work directly with the federal government. These are just small examples of what we are working on together for our people.

National Indian Gaming Commission

While there, I also attended the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) meeting. The discussion was regarding Class II (Bingo) gaming regulations. The reason this is important is because the NIGC had proposed regulations for class II casinos that were so conservative they would have shut down the Indian Class II gaming industry. This is extremely important to us as the option of class II gaming is a crucial factor in our class III gaming compact negotiation process. This would have eventually devastated the Class III gaming tribes which includes Sault Tribe. After two years of meetings, the hard work of Sault Tribe member Ken Ermatinger and six other tribal advisory committee members paid off and the NIGC withdrew its regulations. The manufacturers and vendors of Class II games worked in partnership with the tribal advisory committee. Ken has had to travel many miles and work many hours on behalf of our tribe and Indian gaming. Our members and leaders need to realize that these are the types of battles in which we need to focus. Thank you, Ken, for your dedication and hard work.

Educating the state legislators
At the state level, we continue to work on educating legislators about who we are as a people

and what we have contributed to the state of Michigan. Recently, I, along with Directors Causley, Eitrem, Hoffman and Chairperson Payment attended a presentation to Detroit caucus members. This was the first time that the Lansing and Greentown lobbyists all came together and presented with the board to educate the legislators. They learned that the Detroit casinos are the highest taxed casinos in the United States. They were under the impression that our Greentown Casino, being owned by the Sault Tribe, was an Indian casino that was not taxed. This is the beginning of many educational meetings that we will have with legislators across Michigan.

2008 Budget

I have requested that we begin 2008 budget planning as soon as possible. I would like to say thank you to all our employees from front line to top management for working hard to improve services while helping to meet the financial fiscal challenges. For the next two to three years, our goal should be to maintain the programs and services that we now have. Governmental operating budgets have been maintained with only minimally required increases to cover such things as pay raises and other small programmatic requirements.

You may reach me at my home phone number which is (906) 635-3054 or my cell phone number which is (906) 322-3823. My e-mail address is cabramson@saulttribe.net. My home address is 410 Dawson St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Unit One directors set tentative meeting schedule



Joseph Eitrem
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Aunii, Sault Tribe members! Hope all is well with you and your families. I would like to take this opportunity to inform our members of different activities occurring throughout Unit One as well as with our tribe overall.

The Secretarial Election is still on-going. I would like to remind our members how important it is to complete and return the voter registration for this election. If you do not register, you will not receive a ballot to have your voice on the question at hand. The deadline for returning these registration forms is March 30 and ballots are scheduled to be mailed April 6, with election day occurring on

May 1. The board had previously named Director Dennis McKelvie to the Secretarial Election Committee, along with tribe member Richard Mastaw and Gerald Parish from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Director McKelvie has subsequently resigned from this position and the board of directors has selected tribe members Joanne Carr, John Causley, Jr., and Director Todd Gravelle to serve on the committee. With the additional appointments, this expands the Secretarial Election Committee to five members, instead of the previous three.

Unit One Directors have been holding monthly unit meetings to hear questions and concerns from our members as well as answer any questions you may have. We have tentatively decided on a set monthly meeting to be held on the third Monday of each month, from 6-8 p.m. We selected the third Monday each month due to the fact that the full board of directors meets the third Tuesday each month and if there is anything we can follow up on or raise on your behalf at the regular board meetings, we have those questions and concerns in advance. We have been alternating locations between Sugar Island and Sault Ste. Marie for these meetings. We also have a tribal staff member present to record

any follow up required if we do not have the answers that evening. Please look in the *Sault Evening News* paper for exact locations each month. I would like to invite any member who has questions or would like specific information to contact myself or any other Unit One board member in advance of each month's meeting to ensure we have the information available for you. You are welcome to contact me at any time with your questions and concerns.

Some of you may be aware that we have allocated two percent dollars to the City of Sault Ste. Marie for their proposed construction of Shunk Road between Spruce Street and Marquette Avenue. We are also going to use some of our BIA transportation dollars for this project. Shunk Road is the main road that leads to our Sault Casino, and as those members who reside in this area know, this section of Shunk Road goes from bad to worse every year, and only gets temporary patch jobs every so often. Tribal administration is working with the City of Sault Ste. Marie to ensure that we will have access at all times for the customers of our Sault Casino.

At the Feb. 20, 2007, board of directors meeting, the board authorized via a motion the investigation into the anonymous

e-mails that are being sent to our membership threatening particular board members and their families. There is a federal law that says it is illegal to send anonymous e-mails threatening people or possibly slandering people. If our tribe members want to criticize any individual board member for their personal opinion that individual board members are not doing a good job, and the members put their name to that criticism, then that is legal. It is just anonymous e-mails that are not. As a board member, I personally invite any member to contact me to let me know how I am doing as your representative. I would like to clarify some of the discussions that took place related to this motion. There was a question raised on whether it was proper for me to talk with Roger Merchberger prior to the board enacting this motion. The only reason I talked with Roger is to clarify whether it was even possible to trace these anonymous emails and when he informed me it was possible, I then asked him if he could do it. He indicated that he could perform this task. I then asked him if he would be willing to do it if the board authorized this action and he stated he would be. In the motion I presented, I did include Roger's name, but I also included "or an alternate" if

the board decided as a whole that they didn't want to use Roger for this purpose. I want our members to know that I do not know Roger personally. I was referred to him by someone who told me he is a computer person that could possibly do this activity.

And finally, we are moving forward with the expansion of our Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweing Anishnabe Public School Academy, which houses grades kindergarten through eighth. We are expanding all grades with construction to begin this spring/summer. It is important to the board that we make every attempt to utilize our in-house construction department for this expansion. Sault Tribe Construction, for some of the work and hiring outside contractors only where necessary. Sault Tribe Construction consists mainly of tribe member employees and they do great work. This department built the St. Ignace Casino's hotel from the ground up and did an excellent job!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding the above or anything else that is going on in our tribe today, please feel free to contact me anytime at home - (906) 632-8567, cell is (906) 440-5728, or via email at josepheitrem@yahoo.com.

Honoring our ancestors



Lana Causley
Unit II Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

There have been discussions and possibly some resolve to the issue of whether the 15,000 Mackinac Band descendants that are enrolled in the tribe have the right to vote in our upcoming Secretarial Election and on the Constitutional amendments. I have always believed that every single member of this tribe has a right to vote on any issue, any special election and certainly on the Constitutional amendments. When the Mackinac Band descendants became recognized within the tribe, they took on all rights as any other member and were to be seen and recognized as full members of the tribe. Many members do not even know that there is a difference in there descedency to Mackinac band and other bands such as Sault Ste Marie, Garden River, Drummond Island, Grand Traverse, etc. Each family that is of Indian descent can trace back to a certified role such as the Durant Roll. Listed here, clearly stated what tribe you list back to and includes other information about your family members that had signed back in those early years. When the Sault Tribe accepted these members in the tribe those individuals have ALL the same rights as any other member of the tribe. The misconception is that they are adopted members which is NOT accurate. They were not adopted, as we

have a unique adoption membership code. This code is completely different than those of Mackinac Band descent. We currently only have 220 adopted members of the tribe. There have been many comments made about how the board feels about the Mackinac Band descendants. I personally feel very strongly about the issue as my great-grandmother, Mary Osogawan (Yellow Feather), was Mackinac Band and my great-grandfather, Perry Causley, was Sault Tribe. To recognize both is an honor for me. Those other members who have both or one or the other can feel secure and honored that we will treat them as any other member of the tribe. We did not create the dilemma that we face with the confusion but we can assure our future generations that we will not be kicking anyone out, excluding them from voting or treating some different. We should all be treated just as we are, tribe members! Our last paper indicated that Director McKelvie would be resigning from the Secretarial Election committee because he did not want the 16,000 Mackinac band members to vote. This is completely untrue, he had questions on the way the constitution was worded and expressed that we needed clarification and stated his concern as well as concern from some of his constituents. He did not resign that day and he did not say that they could not vote, he brought questions forward as well as other board members requesting facts and a legal opinion on the issue. NO board member has ever advocated that anyone should be kicked out or unable to vote. The board has the responsibility of resolving this issue in the best interest of OUR TRIBE AND ITS MEMBERS! Without us asking questions so that we all understand, we could never get to the resolve of the matter. To create hysteria over the issue is in direct conflict in our role of being leaders and that is to LEAD, not cause hysteria within our tribe. The comments from the chairman in his last unit report were premature

as we were in the fact finding of the issue and again people must understand so that we can come to resolve on the issue. The Legal Department and an outside attorney (Bruce Greene) did provide the board with the opinion that all members of our tribe have a right to vote in the upcoming elections. You can view this opinion on our Web site or contact the administration office for a copy at (800) 793-0660.

This brings up another major issue that has negatively affected our tribe, and that is the threats and malicious e-mails that have been circulating throughout our members via the internet. Recently, Director Eitem brought forward a motion to investigate the anonymous e-mails that are attacking and making extremely derogatory comments about employees, deceased tribal elders, tribal members and board members. January 2006, President Bush signed into law that it is a crime to send out e-mails that annoy, harass or threaten individuals, anonymously! It is not a crime to write the e-mails if you use your name. In the scenario we have, someone has created an e-mail address and will not place their name on the contents of the e-mails. They have made accusations against our employees, deceased tribal elders, tribe members and some board members. These nameless people have resorted to accusing members of crimes that are completely untrue. Some have suggested that is has been going on for years — why say anything now? It's time and it is unacceptable for the words people spit out using an alias on the Internet; it has been used as a tool to demean, hurt and convict our people with no regard for the truth and this is what is unacceptable. The other reason is because it is illegal. This kind of conduct has to stop. Its hurting our tribe and making wounds within our communities that are very deep. The board spent an entire hour discussing the motion that Director Eitem introduced... in the discussion the chair-

man recommended that we table the issue, suggested that we are limiting people's free speech and recommended that we bring it forward in resolution form so that the membership could override our decision to investigate! Why on earth would we not be trying to prevent this? The board went on to pass the motion regardless of all the recommendations. The motion included that we will hire a company to investigate the e-mails addresses. The tribe can elect to prosecute or the individuals who feel damaged or has been targeted by these people can choose to file charges on their own once the e-mail addresses are connected with a name. The truth is, anyone can write bad things on the Internet about someone, but you must place your name on the words that you write, if you don't, your breaking the law.

These people need to be held accountable for the things that they are saying, they should be exposed and answer for the filth that has been written! Our job is to protect the tribe; these kinds of action are hindering our unity and growth. Since the passing of the motion on Feb. 20, 2007, the three major GHOST writers have closed the accounts. Good has come out of the passing of the motion, they stopped. As leaders, we must protect our tribe and its members using the Internet to spread lies and cause so much hurt is not in the best interest of our tribe. I will be reporting to you who these e-mail addresses were linked to and maybe they can answer for the hurtful words and feelings that they have caused.

We have held our second powwow meeting in Newberry this past month and the committee has come up with a date to hold the event. Newberry will see its first powwow on Sept. 15, 2007, it will be held right in front of the tribal center on the reservation and anyone interested in attending the meetings to plan can contact the tribal health center for the dates of the meetings. The chairwomen for our new Powwow Committee

is Fannie Aslin a tribal elder, many other elders have taken an active role in the planning for this (Miigwetch). It is truly an honor that so many are willing to get involved in this community planning and I look forward to this powwow in the fall, this is what it is all about, bringing people together to secure and teach our cultural to the future generations. Please call your elders in the area; we need your help in the planning and invite your participation for your powwow.

At the last Newberry tribal elders meeting, the elders held the election of officers for the chairperson seat. Our long seated chairwoman, Sally Burke, resigned her seat and Stanley Johnston assumed the role as chairperson for this area's group. When I became a board member, Sally advised and made me aware of needs and issues in your community. I'm thankful that she was there to provide that community input because she truly assisted me just as much, but Miigwetch for all your help to our elders in this area and for helping me with the link to your community. I know they are as thankful as I am. I look forward to working with Mr. Johnston as our new tribal elder chairperson.

In closing, I would like to report that the board of directors will be traveling to Washington, D.C., for the annual Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes meetings this month. During this visit, we have been scheduled to visit numerous representatives and congressmen to lobby on the important issues that face our tribe and its members. Attending last year was productive for us and, with more of the board attending this year, we can and will impact the decision makers on an even greater level. A full report will be included next month. Baamaapii, Lana Causley (906) 484-2954 or e-mail me at lcausley@saulttribe.net.

Focus needs to be on due process policy



Robert LaPoint
Unit II Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Among the questions I get asked all the time is, "Why is the politics of our tribe so rancid?" I think it is fair to say that Bernard Bouchour's followers are part of the reason. The mid term elections are behind us, we have new board and we should be focusing on creating a economic policy for the future. My question is how can we take a break from all the politics and what can we do to

develop the rights of our employees and members.

We are inbetween the old "established spoils systems" and the new management reform being created by our new chairman. I think we need to enact tribal labor laws that are not up to the tribal board or the chairman. The reason I say this is because some of our employees have been singled out by some members of the board in recent budget hearings. My position on this is we are to act as caretakers of our system of employment, not as politicians with a political axe to grind.

It should be obvious that I am fiscally conservative. I do not support unnecessary debt and we have a long way to go to shore up the deficiencies in our financing created by our former chairman. This is my greatest concern.

When we started meeting over the 2007 budget, it did look like we might end up with a \$9 million cost overrun. We worked really hard on the budget and eventually we no longer had a projected negative balance. All this was done in the scope of good governance. We did not

need to talk about layoffs. I'm sorry to say that some of my fellow board members did want to taint the budget process and they had their political mind set on eliminating a few individuals.

One board member used to work for the employee who was a target to have her job eliminated. It appeared to me that this board member desired to terminate this individual by not budgeting the position. I think it is wrong to play politics with an employees job. If her position would have been eliminated she would have no due process or rights to appeal. Having your job eliminated is different then being layed off.

It is also very clear that the board can be just as dictatorial as any chairman. The chairman's power is greatest when it is asserted in concert with the board. Sometimes the chairman must assert when the board has not spoken. The final straw came prior to the passing of the 2007 budget, a threat was made that if two employees were in the budget that some members on the board would veto the entire budget. With this kind of board authority

is when the chairman is made the weakest.

The board forced the budget department to take these positions out of the budget. Because these positions were not budgeted and a continuous resolution was about to expire such that these individuals would in effect lose their jobs or such that the Board would then have to appropriate these funds separately.

Another example and policy perspective has to do with privacy concerns. Those individuals who were singled out had some of their privacy rights violated. Darryl Brown is an ardent supporter of mine. He is also a staunch opponent against the previous chairman. He gave me permission to write about this because it was very public that his position was a target.

Darryl was a target because of his role in the Mackinac Band. A current board member, whose family member was ousted from the Mackinac Band appears to hold a grudge over this and negotiated with other board members, one who benefits from double dipping and a few who support

the previous chairman. They attempted to eliminate Darryl's position. The vote came down to a tie with the chairman breaking the tie. This is not the first time that Darryl has been targeted. The previous chairman did in fact eliminate his position and he was deprived of due process. Beside the fact Darryl has shown he can cover his own cost in newspaper advertising and has brought in close to over \$700,000 while working for the tribe, he is the only individual in all of the tribe's employment who has shown he can cover his own cost. He is also the only one who had to take a pay cut in this last budget process.

Darryl should have been reinstated the first time it happened but without the right to due process he had to come back as a new hire. Of key importance here is how do we defend the rights of our employees from being targeted for political and personal reasons.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me (906) 440-7741.

There is no greater benefit than the truth



DJ Hoffman
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes. — Mark Twain

In the last edition of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, there was major misrepresentation of facts. While I prefer to concentrate the content of this unit report on items that will benefit the membership, there is no greater benefit than knowing the truth.

The last chairperson's report "asserted" actions and commen-

tary of Director McKelvie regarding the upcoming Secretarial Election. The information reported was false. In fact, at the last board meeting in St. Ignace, a tribe member asked the board, on tape, if anyone agreed with the chairperson's claims regarding Director McKelvie.

NO ONE RAISED THEIR HAND IN AGREEMENT!

It is time for the board to concentrate on issues that affect the tribe and the membership. It is sad when individuals malign others in an effort to empower themselves. Appearances can be deceptive; however the truth has a way of coming out in the long run.

In the past few weeks, the board has made progress in several areas, while admittedly lacking in several others such as conduct. The first of which will be a benefit to our employees and membership:

T.E.R.O.

The Human Resources Department is currently working with our legal staff to draft the tribe's first Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (T.E.R.O.). The T.E.R.O.'s intent is to provide oversight, reporting directly to

the tribal board of directors, on the activities occurring within our employment, as well as contracting structures. Its sole purpose is to ensure compliance and to enable tribe member employees, as well as tribe owned business, the protection and opportunity that they rightfully deserve.

License plates and passports

The tribe's Legal Department is still working on the possibility of tribal license plates, as well as the utilization of our tribal identification cards in lieu of passports. I will keep you updated on their progress. I would like to offer a special thank you to the Ojibwe family (Paul and Lenora) for their input on this matter.

Code of ethics

In the next few weeks, I will be submitting a resolution to adopt a code of conduct and ethics for the board of directors. I welcome everyone's input in its content. We must be professional, and we must ensure that the membership is represented in an appropriate way. We do not need to talk about people's mothers, brothers and sisters. We must inform the membership of what is occurring in the tribe and what we are doing to ensure progress.

St. Ignace casino

The board, as well as the tribe's staff, is working diligently to resolve the issues that surround our St. Ignace casino. We are meeting with officials at the state and federal levels in the upcoming weeks and hope to have an amicable solution soon. While I wish I could inform you that it will be resolved by next week, it is definitely going to take some time.

The investigation of the St. Ignace casino project is underway; depositions were taken by an outside investigator last week. The intent of this investigation is to ensure that such mistakes are never repeated.

Economic Development Commission

Beginning in April 2007, the board will begin the process of establishing the NEW Economic Development Commission. This process will include the membership and will be open to all.

Kincheloe

Tribe members in Kincheloe/Kinross will be pleased to learn that in the coming weeks, the gas tax discount will be established in your area. It has taken some time; however, staff has worked

diligently to provide this benefit to your area.

Constitutional amendment vote

In the next few weeks, you will receive a registration card for the coming Secretarial Election on the issue of double dipping/conflict of interest. Everyone must register to vote, no matter where you live. If you do not register, you will not receive a ballot. Regardless of your stance on the topic, it is imperative that you participate in this process.

I will continue to push forward with members of the board that wish to be progressive.

We will work to ensure the protection of services for the membership of the tribe. Make no mistake when I say WE. No one does anything alone to make this tribe move forward; it takes a majority of the board as well as the membership. But make no mistake, one person can make a difference, whether on the board or not!

I can be contacted at home at (906) 635-6945, by cell at (906) 322-3801, or toll free at (866) 598-5804. E-mail: djwhoffman@hotmail.com
Web: www.membership-first.com

ACFS introduces new direct services worker



BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Annette Thibert was recently hired by Anishinabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) as a direct services case worker. She will be processing applications

for different programs offered by ACFS such as the weatherization program, heating and cooling and crisis elder heating program.

Thibert came to ACFS from the tribal prosecutors office where she was the victim witness coordinator. Prior to that, she worked as an events coordinator for Chi Mukwa Recreation Center.

In her previous position at the prosecutor's office she interacted with ACFS staff while working on child welfare and foster family cases. "I like it here, it's a very busy environment which I enjoy and my co-workers are wonderful people," she said.

Thibert's family is from the Sault and White Lake area in lower Michigan, her parents are Gene and Mary Jo Thibert. Thibert's sister, Paula Thibert, is

employed with the Sault Tribe Health Center pharmacy. "My sister and I each have three boys and decided about three years ago when we lived down state that we would move back to the Sault together," she said.

Thibert attended Oakland Community College before transferring to the Detroit College of Business and is a few credits short of earning her business degree.

Thibert's middle son is a SMHA peeewee goalie for Abner's hockey team in the Sault. "We spend a lot of time at hockey events and we also host an Indian's player, Joe Larsen," Thibert said.

Annette Thibert can be contacted at (906) 632-5250 ext. 23171.

Stork Report...

Andrew Aiden Dunn was born Dec. 8, 2006, to Andrew and Stephanie Dunn of Midland, Mich.

He weighed six pounds, eight ounces and was 19.25 inches in length. Andrew's grandparents are Dennis Wheatley of Clarkston, Mich., and Linda Booth of Caty, Wyo., Barbara and Brian Dunn of Okemos, Mich., and Rudy and Ruth Fellie of St. Johns, Mich.

Proud great-grandparents are Bob and Barbara Booth of Prudenville, Mich. Andrew has a sister, Mariah, who loves to help feed and hold her new brother.

Big sister Emma Cadreau would like to welcome Jenna James Cadreau into the world. She was born Jan. 5, 2007, at Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids. Proud parents are James Nelson and Amber Cadreau. Proud grandparents are Clarence

and Chris Cadreau, of Sault Ste. Marie, Carl and Theresa Nelson of Grand Rapids and great-grandparents are Robert and Marjorie Drumm of Cederville.

Caiden Kyler Haas was born on Dec. 13, 2006, at 1:22 p.m.

He weighed nine pounds, 1.6 ounces and was 22 inches in length. His father, Mike Haas, is a tribe member who lives in New Tazewell, Tenn. with his wife, Linda.

Caiden's great grandparents are Joann (Passage-Hargis) and Ben Cardinale of Jonesville, Mich. His paternal grandparents are Karen and Mike Lakatos of McAlpin, Fla., and his maternal grandparents are Frank and Nancy Rycyk of Bradenton, Fla. Caiden has two brothers, Willie and Jimmy Beveridge and a sister, Sienna Haas.

Keira Danielle Kelly was born Jan. 16, 2007, to Jennifer and Shawn Kelly of South Elgin, Ill.

Granddaughter of William and Marjorie (nee Prout) Kelly of Lombard, Ill., great granddaughter of the late Hazel and Manny Prout of Eponette Mich. Grandmother Marjorie is an elder of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Maggie Elizabeth Lewis was born on Dec. 24, 2006, to Eldon R. Lewis, who is a tribe member, and Ramae Lewis of Harrison, Mich. Maggie has two siblings, Eldon M. Lewis and Savannah Moran. Paternal grandparents are Eldon L. and Juanita Lewis, of Harrison, Mich. Maternal grandparents are Joe and Judy Grantham of Harrison, Mich., and Gene and Tonya Bancroft of Harrison, Mich., and two honorary aunts, Elizabeth (Cissy) Mongeon, of Harrison, Mich., and Margaret McCaslin of Lake, Mich.

The next deadline for submissions to Win Awenen Nisitotung is March 27 at 9 a.m.

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Clark brings career and schools into tune



By Rick Smith

When Sault Tribe member Jeremiah Clark was hired as the new band director for the Engadine Consolidated School District for the 2003-04 school year, he saw he had to breath new life into an ailing school music program.

The quality of the music program needed improvement and it needed more student interest in joining the band program. The band program was overhauled, Clark said, to improve the quality and quantity of the bands and music. He realigned a sole seventh grade band and the high school band consisting of students in grades eight through 12. The

seventh and eighth grade band members were combined to form a junior high school band, leaving the high school band with a traditional structure of students in grades nine through 12. The number of participating students climbed from 43 in that first year to 60 performers today.

While a student at Sault Area High School, Clark said he was active in the band program and, after graduating in 1998, he went to study at Northern Michigan University with the sole ambition of becoming a band director. He entered the NMU music department and was in the marching band, pep band, orchestra, brass quintet and the university choir.

Clark added, after a four-month stint student teaching in Cedarville, he graduated with honors in December of 2002.

"I have had multiple experiences working with high school and middle school aged youth in various settings," Clark noted. "While doing my student teaching at Les Cheneaux Community Schools, I began teaching classes on my own during the first few weeks of school. I taught kindergarten through fourth grade general music, fifth grade beginning band,

sixth grade band, middle school band, high school band and eighth grade humanities."

After his student teaching experience, Clark said he was asked by the Aspen Ridge Middle School band director to take over her band program during a maternity leave. "I was responsible for all aspects of running a successful band program including discipline, grading, rehearsing difficult musical works and conducting the spring extravaganza concert. I found this to be a wonderful learning experience and it has helped me grow as a teacher."

Clark's ambition of becoming a band director came to fruition when he was hired for his present position. "To put all of my music and teaching knowledge to the test, I have been teaching in the Engadine Consolidated School District where my duties include kindergarten through fourth grade general music, fifth grade recorder class, sixth grade beginning band, junior high concert band and high school concert band," he said. Clark added that he carried out all management, planning and day-to-day operation of the music program to the best of his ability and without assistance.

Cousins donate hair to Locks of Love

Tiffany Jones and Taylor St. Onge, 12-year old cousins, both decided last summer to grow their hair long to donate to Locks of Love. The hair they donated will go to young cancer patients to provide a wig of real human hair to wear during their treatments.

Tiffany and Taylor would like to encourage other youth to do the same. Before hair can be donated, it must be 10 inches long, braided.

Contact your favorite hairdresser for more information.



Tiffany Jones



Taylor St. Onge

Vadnais and Schoonveld exchanged wedding vows



Katie Vadnais and Paul Schoonveld exchanged wedding vows July 22, 2006, at the Presque Isle Park band shell, with Pastor Paul Weber officiating. A reception followed at the Northern Michigan University's

Great Lakes Rooms in Marquette.

The bride is the daughter of Dave and Elizabeth Vadnais of Marquette. Katie graduated from Marquette Senior High School and Northern Michigan University. She is an institutional research assistant at NMU.

The groom is the son of Bill Schoonveld and Faith VandenBerg of Grand Rapids. Paul

graduated from Hopkins High School and Northern Michigan University. He is employed by Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility in food service.

Wedding honor attendants were

matron of honor Courtney Ranta and best man Mike Stein.

Completing the wedding party were bridesmaids Melissa Thill and Shannon Joachim, cousins of the bride; Jamie Berglund, Jaime Gruttner and Heather Kosonen, friends of the bride; Taylor Evans, sister of the groom; junior bridesmaid Chelsie Vadnais, sister of the bride; groomsmen Brad Chaimson, Mike Barek, Rex Prather, Jake Fiefelski and Aaron Ranta, friends of the groom, and Patrick Schoonveld, brother of the groom; flower girl Alexis Joachim, cousin of the bride; ring bearer Tyler Landsparger, cousin of the bride; ushers Dan Thill and Jason Thill, cousins of the bride.

The couple honeymooned in Antigua, and resides in Marquette.

Stablein and Roberts to be married in August



Mr. and Mrs. Tony Stablein of Valrico, Fla., are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter Kate Stablein to Mr. Chris Roberts. Chris is the son of Helmut and Joanne Umbrasas of Pickford, grandson of Jack and Donna Cottell of Dafer. An Aug. 4 wedding is being planned and will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral in Sault Ste Marie, Mich.

Eldon Lewis makes honor roll



Proud grandparents Eldon L. and Juanita (tribe member) Lewis want to announce that their grandson, Eldon M. Lewis (tribe member), has made the honor roll. He attends Harrison Middle School of Harrison, Mich. We are very proud of him in so many ways that there isn't enough room in the newspaper to list them all. Good job, Eldon!

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Sylvester receives awards



Tomantha Sylvester attends R.J. Wallis Elementary School in Kincheloe. She was presented with six awards at a school assembly on Jan. 31. The awards were Student of the Month in physical education, Silver Certificate for fitness in physical education class, top walker in the Mileage Club for walking 65 miles which was a first for the school, honor roll for first and second semester (In the second semester, she had all A grades), certificate for participation in Recognition of Kitchen Technician and perfect attendance for the first nine weeks of school. Above, front, Tomantha with her mother Jackie Sylvester, on her right.

Social Security warning about "scams"

By EDWIN DWYER, DISTRICT MANAGER

Social Security recently has had to issue a warning about several "scams" that have surfaced throughout the United States. The agency has received many reports about telephone calls or e-mail messages from people who falsely claim to be Social Security employees. In each case, the person attempted to obtain personal information, such as a Social Security or bank account number, from the Social Security recipient. The scam artists who identify themselves as Social Security employees have used a variety of approaches to get personal information. In two cases, callers said that the Social Security Administration was sending out replacement Social Security and Medicare cards and needed to verify the person's information. In another, the caller posed as an employee who needed to verify the person's direct deposit information.

Earlier this year the Agency had warned the public of an email scam which directed readers to a Web site designed to look like Social Security's Internet Web site. Once directed to the phony Web site, the individual is asked to confirm their identity with Social Security and bank information. Specific information about the individual's credit card number, expiration date and PIN number is then requested.

Social Security Commissioner Jo Anne Barnhart has said that she finds "it very troubling that our most vulnerable citizens are being

targeted by these unscrupulous people. Whether on our online Web site or by phone, Social Security will never ask you for your credit card information or your PIN number. I caution everyone to be extremely careful about releasing personal information."

"Basically, we advise you to always take precautions when giving out personal information," said Ed Dwyer, District Manager in Escanaba. "You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the telephone unless you initiated the contact, or are confident of the person to whom you are speaking. If in doubt, do not release information without first verifying the validity of the call."

If there is any doubt at all about someone who claims to be a Social Security representative, contact your local Social Security office or calling Social Security's toll-free number at (800) 772-1213 to verify the legitimacy of the call. (If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call Social Security's TTY number at (800) 325-0778. In the meantime, our Office of Inspector General is working closely with other Social Security officials to investigate all reports of suspicious activity.

To report suspicious activity, please call the OIG Hotline at (800) 269-0271. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the OIG TTY number at (866) 501-2101. A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at the OIG's Web site: www.socialsecurity.gov/oig/.

Sugarbush time is almost here

Sugarbush is coming beginning mid March and ending in mid April. The Mary Murray Culture Camp will be keeping a Native tradition going.

If you are interested in attending please contact the Culture Camp for dates and to sign up. Dates will vary based upon weather.

For information please contact (906) 635-6050 for Bud Biron, Culture Camp coordinator at ext. 26144, Melissa Causley, assistant coordinator at ext. 26145, or Josh Homminga cultural outreach at ext. 26146 or stop by the Cultural Division at 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Evans nominated for state award



SUBMITTED BY TOM PINK, LSSU PUBLIC RELATIONS

Biology professor Barbara J. Evans, Ph.D., has been nominated by Lake Superior State University for the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Award through the Presidents Council of State Universities in Michigan.

The award invites nominations from all of Michigan's 15 public universities, each of which are encouraged to select the professor who has the most impact on undergraduate students through advising, support of undergraduate research and other experiential

learning environments and contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Three professors will be chosen for the award by a committee made up of five provosts selected from Michigan universities. The committee will announce the award recipients in February and recognize them at an awards ceremony in April.

"Faculty members at Lake Superior State University take pride in the personal relationships they develop with students inside and outside the classroom," said Bruce Harger, LSSU provost.

"One aspect of this relationship is the opportunity afforded undergraduate students to engage in collaborative research with faculty members. In the biological sciences, students begin their involvement in research in the freshman year, develop research proposals in the junior year, and make presentations, sometimes at professional conferences, as seniors. Dr. Evans has been a driving force in this effort."

Evans came to LSSU in 1994 from Stanford University, where she was a visiting post-doctoral scholar for two years. She is a

well-respected teacher at LSSU who is known internationally for her work on retinal development, using sturgeon as a model system. She works with new faculty members to help them develop their teaching and scholarly abilities and she is a productive scholar, publishing research and invited review articles in regional, national and international publications.

"Dr. Evans has mentored more than 60 undergraduate senior thesis projects since she joined LSSU," said Dr. Steven Merrill, LSSU dean of nursing, in his nomination of Evans.

"These projects demonstrate the students' use of solid investigative methodology and the quality of these projects is apparent in that many have led to presentations at professional meetings and some to refereed journal publications - with students as authors."

Evans holds a bachelor's degree in biology from University of Ottawa. Her graduate work was at University of Kansas, where she earned her Ph.D. in biology. She has been involved in post-doctoral research at University of Kansas, University of Oregon and Stanford University.

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Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Meet our education superstars

BY ANGELINE MATSON,
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Of the hundreds of Sault Tribe members who were honored in our Young Scholars Program, five have the special designation of being "Superstars!" Five students received both all A grades and perfect attendance for all four marking periods in the school year. Each of these students will receive a \$150 savings bond, donated by the family and friends of Linda Lou (Kerridge) Bauer. Linda was a Sault Tribe member who passed away last summer. She valued education, earned numerous college degrees and was a school principal.

The Linda Bauer Memorial Education Superstar Award is hereby given to:

Kacie Kuusisto is the daughter of Charity and Howard Kuusisto from Bovey, Minn. She is in ninth grade and attends Greenway High School. Her grandmother is Lola Kuusisto from Hibbing, Minn.

Kacie's favorite subject is biology. Her dream career is to be a marine biologist, specifically a

dolphin and whale trainer. Kacie participates in basketball, volleyball, fastpitch, plays trumpet and violin, and is involved with Bethel Trinity Lutheran Church. The best book she has ever read is *Can I Play?* by J. Dillard. The best advice she has ever received was from her sister, Taryn, who "told me to be myself and to not always follow the crowd." Kacie's hero is Jennie Guyer, her cousin who was killed in a car accident at age 20. "She taught me to work hard, show respect and laugh often."

Molly Michaels is the daughter of Merence and Michele Michaels from Manistique, Mich. She is in eighth grade at Manistique Middle School. Her grandmother was the late Diane Lavina Michaels from Manistique.

Molly's favorite subjects are band and math. Her dream career is to become a Supreme Court justice. She participates in cheerleading and cheer competition, quiz bowl, band, First Baptist Church youth group and

bell choir. The best book she has read is the Bible. The best advice Molly has received is from her parents, "Know what you believe in and believe in what you know!" Her role model is Sandra Day O'Connor because she was the first lady Supreme Court justice.

Tessa Opalka is the daughter of Jean Opalka and Isaac McKechnie, from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She is in seventh grade at Sault Area Middle School. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Opalka from Goetzville, Mich., and the late Isaac and Annie McKechnie from Sault Ste. Marie.

Tessa's favorite subject is math. She would like a career in computers. Tessa participates in skating, reading, swimming and walking. Her favorite books are the Harry Potter series. The best advice Tessa has ever received was from her mom, "Anything worth doing is worth doing well."

Casey Reikowsky is the daughter of Fred and Carrie Reikowsky, from Raleigh, N.C.

Casey is in ninth grade and attends Leesville Road High School. Her grandparents are Fred and Gail Reikowsky and Cary and Ron and Joyce Kohake.

Casey's favorite subject in school is Science. She would like to have a career in graphic design. Casey has been involved with Girl Scouts for 10 years.

Her favorite book is *What My Mother Doesn't Know* by Sonya Sones. The best advice she has ever received is from her Girl Scout leaders, "Always be prepared." Her role models are her parents because, "They are always there for me and I want to be just like them when I grow up."

Michelle Sierant is the daughter of Chris and Diane Sierant, from Oakland Township, Mich. Michelle is in seventh grade and attends Van Hoosen Middle School in Rochester, Mich.

Her grandparents are Marilyn Milatovich from Munising, Mich., and George Sierant from Birmingham, Mich.

Michelle's favorite subject is math and she would like to

become a doctor. She participates in basketball, ski club, Girl Scouts, band, and magic soccer (she placed first at the Traverse City autumn tournament). Her favorite book is *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi.

Michelle says the best advice she ever received was from her mother who taught her to always try her best, and then do even better. Her hero is Sally Ride, the first woman astronaut to orbit earth. Sally Ride believes girls who like math and science can do anything.

Higher Education Programs

BY JANICE M. LEWTON,
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

2006-07 Self-Sufficiency Program — As of Feb. 22, we processed 866 student fall session 2006 incentive award checks totaling \$375,714.90.

The 37 locations of the schools they attended, the number of students and the award amounts are as follows:

Alabama - 2	\$833
Arizona - 15	5,819.75
California - 10	4,359
Colorado - 9	3,740
Connecticut - 9	4,500
Florida - 14	6,480
Georgia - 8	2,920
Hawaii - 2	860
Illinois - 14	6,332.50
Indiana - 8	3,600
Kansas - 1	500
Kentucky - 1	500
Louisiana - 1	500
Maryland - 1	120
Massachusetts - 2	1,000
Michigan - 646	279,381
Minnesota - 13	5,760

Missouri - 4	2,000
Nebraska - 1	120
Nevada - 4	1,940
New Jersey - 2	480
New Mexico - 4	1,666
New York - 4	1,766.50
N. Carolina - 6	2,173
Ohio - 7	2,633
Oklahoma - 4	1,720
Pennsylvania - 4	2,000
Rhode Island - 1	333
Tennessee - 5	2,940
Texas - 6	2,860
Utah - 4	2,000
Vermont - 1	333
Virginia - 4	2,000
Washington - 8	2,892
West Virginia - 2	413.15
Wisconsin - 32	15,380
Canada - 4	1,860

No checks will be processed without a 2006-07 application on file.

If you changed your name or address since you submitted your 2007-07 application, you need to complete a W-9 form or you will not get a check. Please go

to the tribe's Wweb site located at www.saulttribe.com and under "Education" print off the form and fax it to us at (906) 635-7785.

2006-07 Grant Program — For those who qualified for the winter/spring semester 2007 grant award, checks have been sent to your school. If you were less than full time, you became ineligible.

There were 164 students eligible for \$59,739. They're attending 26 Michigan state-supported schools:

Bay de Noc CC - 1	\$375
Bay Mills CC - 5	1,875
Central Michigan - 17	6,111
Delta College - 1	375
Eastern Michigan - 1	375
Ferris State - 10	3,750
Grand Rapids CC - 2	750
Grand Valley - 15	5,442
Henry Ford CC - 2	750
Lake MI College - 1	375
Lake Superior - 31	11,210
Ma Comb CC - 1	375
Michigan State - 15	5,625
Michigan Tech - 8	2,923

Mid-Michigan CC - 2	750
Montcalm CC - 1	375
Mott CC - 1	375
N. Central Michigan - 3	1,125
Northern Michigan - 19	6,605
Northwestern MI - 2	750
Saginaw Valley - 4	1,500
Schoolcraft College - 1	375
U of M - Ann Arbor - 8	3,000
U of M - Dearborn - 2	750
U of M - Flint - 1	375
Western Michigan - 10	3,448

For questions or concerns, please call us at (906) 635-7784 or (800) 793-0660 (ask for Higher Education) or e-mail at jlw@saulltribe.net. Or, if you're in our area, please stop by our office located at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center (Big Bear Arena), 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste Marie, Mich.

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Head Start success stories

SUBMITTED BY TRISH STERLING, EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS MANAGER AND HEATHER BIRD, EHS EDUCATION/DISABILITY COORDINATOR

One of the goals of Head Start is to provide a holistic approach to assisting pre-school aged children get ready for the public school system and encourage life-long learning. Head Start also encourages parental involvement by volunteering in the classroom, on committees and even working at Head Start. This approach assists the entire family and, therefore, the community. We currently have several former and current Head Start parents working at our centers. We even have some former Head Start students working at our centers. Please share with us in our successes. Here are just some stories to illustrate how Head Start supports more than just the children.

Miss Ruthie Clow — My daughter became a student in Head Start several years ago. As a parent, I learned how much Head Start put into their curriculum. I became interested as being part of the staff! So here I am as a teacher aide and bus aide.

Heather Bird — I began my journey into Head Start in 1989 as a Head Start student. In 2004,

I enrolled my daughter into Early Head Start. I then became a policy council representative. I started my degree in early childhood that same year and was offered to substitute in Early Head Start. My daughter is now a Head Start student and my son has now started Early Head Start. I am still active in the policy council. In 2006, I finished my degree and applied for and received the position as education/disabilities coordinator.

Sheryl Hammock — I started my Head Start story with my daughter being accepted into Head Start in 1999. I volunteered and participated in parent meetings and book nights. In 2000, I received parent volunteer of the year. I also did my internship for Lake Superior State University at Head Start this year to finish my associate degree in early childhood education. In 2001, I was hired as a Head Start teacher. In 2003, after finishing my bachelor's degree in early childhood education, I decided that I wanted to do more, and also year round. So, in 2004, I applied for and was hired as the health coordinator. In 2005, I had added to my job responsibility of being the EHS supervisor. I love my job with Head Start.

Terri Allan — I started my

career with Head Start as a policy council parent in 1993. I served on the council for two years. I learned a great deal about the program. In 1995, I was hired as the teachers aide in St. Ignace. In 1998, I completed my CDA and was promoted to teacher. Since, I have completed my associate degree and have enjoyed teaching my own children, Brooke, as a Head Start student and Desiree as a high school student worker, as well as several nephews and a niece. It is a great pleasure to serve the children of our community.

Janet Farrish — My first experience with Head Start was in 1996 when my daughter, Tori, attended a local head start agency. My son, Tanner, also attended Head Start in 1999. I graduated with my bachelor's of science in 1999 and I accepted the position of family services coordinator at Sault Tribe Head Start in August of 2003. I continued to work towards my master's of social work degree with the full support of a wonderful management. I have since completed my master's degree and hope to get more involved in the mental health aspect of Head Start. My granddaughter, Aubrey, is now in Head Start and loving every minute of

it.

Laura McKechnie — I started working for the Sault Tribe Head Start program in June 2000 as an education/disabilities coordinator. I received my bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in early childhood education from LSSU. Sociology became my passion as I was really interested in people and the society that we live in. I served as the interim director of Head Start/Early Head Start for 11 months and now I am back in my current position of education/disabilities supervisor. Working for Head Start is unique and very rewarding.

Alicia Gervais — Our children are our future leaders and the survival of the Ojibwe way of life depends on the actions we undertake today.

I started out at the Child Care Center as a part time aide. I applied for a full time Head Start aide position after three months at the Child Care Center and got the position. I have now been there for two years. I have learned so much and have had great experiences with the children and my job. I wouldn't want to be any where else.

Susan Jones — I began working at the Child Care Center last summer. I feel lucky to have

found a job as rewarding as this one while still being able to attend school at the same time.

Lynette Rogers — I started working as an aid for Head Start in October of 2004. It is now going on three years and I love it. The experiences I have shared with the children will last a life time. Knowing that I have been there from the start of their schooling and being able to help them learn is a great feeling.

Trish Sterling — I began my Head Start career in 1992 for the Sault Tribe Head Start as a teacher's aid. I worked and went to school full time and earned an associate degree in early childhood education and became a Head Start teacher. I earned a bachelor's degree in human resources management with minors in early childhood and sociology. I worked for ITC as a Head Start Center director at the Pokagon Band and most recently at the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. I received my master's degree in public administration in 2005 and I am currently at Sault Tribe as the early childhood programs manager. I now have my own child to raise and it will be much easier with the experience I have working with Head Start.

Eastern Upper Peninsula receives early childhood grant

SUBMITTED BY GARY DAVIS, EUP GREAT START COLLABORATIVE COORDINATOR

The eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) is the recipient of a \$120,000 grant from the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) to evaluate and strengthen a comprehensive early childhood system in Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties.

The grant was received through the work of the EUP Pre-birth to Five Interagency Collaborative Committee, with the EUP Intermediate School District acting as the convening agency, and will be instrumental in broadening the collaborative efforts of area agencies, businesses, faith-based organizations and parents by forming the Eastern Upper Peninsula Great Start Collaborative (EUP GSC).

At a ceremony to announce the grant, Judy Y. Samelson, chief executive officer of ECIC explained that, "ECIC is a unique public,

nonprofit corporation created by Governor Granholm to champion the early childhood development needs of children from birth to five and their families. ECIC is working locally and state-wide with all sectors of the state to evaluate the current infrastructure for early childhood, address how to fill gaps and implement the changes that will create positive systemic change for Michigan's children."

A comprehensive early childhood system is a single, interconnected and intertwined network of public and private services and supports working together in a community to accomplish better results for young children and families.

Essential components of early childhood growth and development have been identified through research and are being used by ECIC as key parameters that, if developed to their full potential in

each child, will have all children ready to begin kindergarten safe, healthy and ready to succeed in school and life. Gary W. Davis, EUP GSC coordinator, stated that the key areas are physical health care, social-emotional health care, parent education and family support, early care and education, and basic needs — economic security and child safety.

The formation of parent coalitions in each of the EUP counties is a component of the grant that is designed to fortify the input of parents in the review of data and creating change that will meet the needs of area parents. Parent coalition facilitators have been identified with Russ Passage covering the Sault Ste. Marie portion of Chippewa County and Stephanie Steikar providing support for the Chippewa out-county regions. Rebecca Pillion in Luce County, and Sara Johnston in Mackinac County, will also be working to

engage parents in early childhood issues. The EUP GSC is required to have at least 20 percent parent representatives as members.

The core responsibilities of the EUP GSC include conducting a local early childhood system assessment that has three required elements:

- The collection of data on the current status of infants, young children and their families in the community that will be used to complete a strategic review and will serve as the basis for a summary report of the data for the general public;

- Completion of a strategic review of local Great Start system components;

- Completion of an early childhood infrastructure review that examines existing early childhood system infrastructure including policies, procedures, funding, data collection and sharing, accountability and formal interagency

agreements.

Additional efforts will be to enhance existing agency collaborative work in early childhood programs and services and adopt and enact a strategic plan for the development of a comprehensive system of early childhood services and supports accessible to all children from birth to kindergarten and their families. An overriding endeavor will be promoting community awareness of early childhood issues as well as serving as advocates for quality early childhood programs and services in the EUP.

Anyone seeking more information regarding the EUP Great Start Collaborative can contact Gary Davis at (906) 632-3373, extension 119, or go to www.eupkids.com.

LSSU robotics team captures honors in national events



TEAMWORK — LSSU engineering professors Morrie Walworth, far left, and Jim Devaprasad, far right, pose with senior engineering students who designed and built a mobile robotic workcell. Left: Kate Kuuskman, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, John Benjamin, Owosso, now working as a robotics engineer for ABB Inc. in Auburn Hills; Brad Bertels, Ironwood, now working for ROBOTek Contracting and Consulting in Brighton; Leith Nader, Milford, now an applications engineer with Kawasaki Robotics in Wixom; Greg Johnson, Sault Ste. Marie, now a manufacturing engineer with Hydro Automotive Structures in Holland, Mich.; and Ben Mitchell, Kalkaska, now working with the Peace Corps in Tansila, Africa.

TOM PINK, LSSU PUBLIC RELATIONS

An effort to take the robotics lab into school classrooms and national competitions and conferences has earned recognition for the team of Lake Superior State University engineering students who were behind the design.

The group of six students was recognized this year at two competitions held at professional conferences when it presented *Mobile Robotics Workcell — Using Robotics to Lure Young Minds to Manufacturing Engineering*.

Under the direction of Prof. Jim Devaprasad, the team designed and built a mobile robotics workcell that showcases various automation technologies. "Given the national need to encourage young minds to seek careers in math and science fields, we hope to entice these individuals to the exciting opportunities in engineering and technology by demonstrating this mobile robotic

workcell," said Devaprasad. "It has already been showcased many times at LSSU in the summer engineering camps and for visitors in the engineering departments."

The workcell's robot demonstrates two projects: automatic solving of a user-scrambled Rubik's cube, and the automated assembly of an automotive distributor. The unit can be taken into classrooms and exhibitions to showcase engineering and the manufacturing process.

Devaprasad said it demonstrates technologies such as automated system control, machine vision, robotic tool change and manufacturing sensors, all of which are taught to students enrolled in the robotics and automation option in the engineering programs offered through LSSU's School of Engineering and Technology.

The students completed the workcell as part of their senior project, a required part of their

degree which has them design, build and demonstrate a project for a client.

Project team member Kate Kuuskman, a mechanical engineering senior from Sault, Ontario, and Leith Nader, a mechanical engineering senior from Milford, presented a paper on the project that received honorable mention at the Pan American Federation of Engineering Societies convention in Atlanta last fall.

Fellow teammate and alumnus Brad Bertels presented the project at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' international conference of manufacturing science and engineering. The project took second place in the ASME student design competition behind University of Florida — Gainesville, and ahead of University of Michigan — Ann Arbor. For more information visit www.engineering.lssu.edu.

Manning earns bachelor's degree from MSU



Constance E. Manning graduated on Dec. 8, 2006, from Michigan State University with a bachelor of arts degree with a major in hospitality business. She is a 2002 graduate of Sault Area High School and made the dean's list in the fall semester of 2005. She is the daughter of Jan Manning, Dan and Pam Manning of Alpena, and the granddaughter to Dale and Elaine Manning of Alpena and Gordon and Connie Corbiere of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Way to go, Connie!

Hicks graduates cum laude



Lesley R. Hicks of Newberry graduated cum laude from Northern Michigan University during commencement exercises held on Dec. 16, 2006, at the Superior Dome in Marquette. Hicks received a bachelor of science degree in math/biology secondary education. While at NMU, Hicks performed with the NMU choir and was a member of NMU women's club volleyball team. Hicks, who did her student teaching at Munising High School, began her teaching career Jan. 22, 2007, at Stephenson High School as a math teacher. Hicks is the daughter of Mary Lou Hicks and the late Dr. Sam Hicks of Newberry.

National Indian Youth Leadership Project

This summer camp program for 40 middle school students is sponsored by the Nah Tah Wahsh Public School Academy and funded by a grant through the Corporation for National and Community Service to the Hannahville Indian Community.

The National Indian Youth Leadership Project is sponsoring a national camp in New Mexico for the twenty-fifth year in 2007 and the school has sponsored 21 other similar camps at Lake Nesbit and Clear Lake over a period of 20 years.

The primary objective of the National Indian Youth Leadership Project Camp is to address the issues of today's youth, developing the skills needed to become functional, competent, independent adults and the leaders of tomorrow. Recognizing the importance of education in general and leadership education in particular, this seven-day summer program at Nesbit Lake in the Ottawa National Forest has been created to develop specific competencies and skills in students who will assume leadership roles in the future at the family, school, community, tribal and the national levels.

The symbol of this program for American Indian students is the medicine wheel. It is important for any program to address the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all participants. All activities will address these needs, and all students are expected to participate in each activity to the fullest. Each participant is also expected to follow all rules of their school or Indian education

or youth program and the camp program.

This camp uses a model developed by the National Indian Youth Leadership Project. Hands-on activities include a group obstacle course, high ropes course and cooperative games. Students also help prepare, serve and clean up after the meals. They also help with many of the cultural activities. Recreation will include swimming, games, canoeing, nature hikes and many other activities. Although this program is well structured, there is a lot of time for students to enjoy themselves as part of the group. There are no television sets, radios, CD players, cards or other distractions to the program.

Activities at the camp focus on self-esteem building, group cooperation and communication, problem solving, leadership skills, self-confidence, physical exercise, spiritual growth, social skills and responsibility to self and community. The main activities include recreational team building and problem solving activities, cultural activities, a major service learning project, high ropes course, canoe trip and leadership development.

In addition to students from the Nah Tah Wahsh school, other Indian youth programs are invited to send up to four participants and one adult to the camp.

Applicants must currently be in grades five, six or seven, complete a registration form and have an adult complete a recommendation form. While grades in all classes are important, desire and potential in leadership is more

important. Selection will be made on the basis of the application and space available.

Students will be expected to participate fully in all activities of the camp. It is important to the success of the students that they take part in all group and individual activities for service, leadership, recreation and cultural awareness to the best of their abilities. Students will live in the cabins of the camp and eat most meals in the dining commons. At all times they will be under the supervision of the camp staff, including Nah Tah Wahsh PSA staff and other adults and college students.

Staff members include Rich Sgarlotti, camp director, who is projects coordinator at the Hannahville Indian School/Nah Tah Wahsh PSA, and April Lindala, interim director of the Center for Native Studies at NMU. The camp is also currently taking applications for all staff positions.

Parents will be required to sign a permission waiver for students to participate in all activities. There will also be a form to list any insurance carrier and to allow treatment in case of a medical emergency. These forms will be provided when the student is accepted to the program.

For information or camper or staff applications, contact: Richard Sgarlotti, camp director, Nah Tah Wahsh PSA, N14911 Hannahville B-1 Rd., Wilson, MI 49896, phone (906) 466-2952 ext. 124 or e-mail richs@hvl.bia.edu

LaPointe speaks to Native American literature class



This past winter Mr. Houghton's Native American literature class at Sault Area High School was honored to have Catherine LaPointe speak. Mr. Houghton invites local elders to have the opportunity to speak to his students. Catherine talked about what it was like to grow up Anishnabe in Hessel, Mich. She opened her presentation by speaking in her Native language. She is one of our Sault Tribe members who still know and retain our language. The beauty of her presentation could not be surpassed. The students each wrote and designed their own special thank you cards. Catherine ended her speech with a song in the Native language. She did an outstanding job and Mr. Houghton said his class would like to have her come back. Above left: Jessica Leboeuf, Joe Dotson, Leissa Mishoe, Catherine LaPointe (seated), Corey Cook, Nick Moran and Breann Martin.

Headlands Indian Health Careers Program

NORMAN, OKLA. - The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center is now accepting applications for its 2007 Headlands Indian Health Careers Program, to be held June 9 through July 21, 2007, on the OU Norman campus. American Indian high school seniors and first-year college students who are interested in pursuing a career in the health professions are encouraged to apply for this intense six-week enrichment program offering

mini-block courses in calculus, chemistry, physics and biology. These courses are designed to increase the students' knowledge and prepare them for the required college-level math and science coursework in pre-health programs.

Applications for the Headlands program can be found on the Web at www.headlands.ouhsc.edu or call (405) 271-3090 ext. 46885.

Application deadline is March 15, 2007.

Nominations being accepted for LSSU Outstanding Native American Student award

The Native American Student Organization of Lake Superior State University is now accepting nominations for the Outstanding Native American Student Award. This award will be given to a graduating senior at LSSU who has shown remarkable character during their time at LSSU.

Candidates may nominate themselves or be nominated by a peer. The nomination packets

must include GPA, at least one letter of recommendation explaining why the candidate is an outstanding student, any activities they participate in on or off campus, tribal affiliation (Canadian students may apply) and a brief letter stating goals after graduation.

Nominations can be hand-delivered, mailed, or faxed to LSSU Attention: Stephanie Sabatine, director, Native American Center

and Campus Diversity, 650 West Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783; phone (906) 635-6664 or fax (906) 635-2848. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 16.

The Native American Center is looking forward to choosing the recipient for this award and wish all applicants the best of luck.

The next deadline for submissions to *Win Awenen Nisitotung* is March 27 at 9 a.m.

Moving? Call the Enrollment Department to update your address at (800) 251-6597 or (906) 635-3396.



Vote



To APPROVE The Amendment To End Double-Dipping

A Tribal Constitutional Amendment question is headed to your home. Please read it and Vote to Approve the Amendment. By Checking the vote YES, I vote to amend article IV, section 3 of the Tribal Constitution, you stop Board Members from the practice of holding two positions within the Tribe known as Double-Dipping and put an end to the terrible Conflicts of Interest that surround these Board Member/Employees.

Approving The Amendment Will End:

- **Conflicts of Interest**, where Board Members who work as Tribal employees wield huge and unchecked power as Tribal employees. They are not treated like typical employees since they report to no one and are never reprimanded which leads to abuses of power and corruption;
- **Board Members Who Are Employees** are too powerful. They use their board seats to set Tribal budgets, hire their friends and family and fire Tribal employees with whom they disagree with on either a personal or professional basis. They control the Tribe's Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Branches of Government. We need to end these abuses now! We must protect employees who fall out-of-favor with these Board Member/Employees;
- **Double-Dippers** take Tribal jobs from members who lack the political power to compete for the same positions on an equal basis;
- **Double-Dipping**, the practice of holding two positions in the Tribe, pushes some board members salaries to exceed well over \$100,000 per year.

END THIS CORRUPTION BY APPROVING THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT:

"Any person elected or appointed to a position on the board who is either an employee or independent contractor of the Tribe shall voluntarily resign his or her employment position and/or surrender any rights under any contract with the Tribe prior to assuming the duties of office or taking the oath of office. Failure to voluntarily resign and/or terminate the contractual relationship with the Tribe shall bar the elected or appointed individual from assuming the duties of office or taking the oath of office."

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Kewadin's Lucky HOT Seat

All Five Kewadin Casinos

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Random Draws from 9am to

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Player's Day

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Beginning
Sundays, March 4th in
Christmas &
St. Ignace.
Mondays, March 5th in
Sault Ste. Marie

Tuesdays, March 6th in
Hessel & Manistique
Receive \$5 in Kewadin
Gold Tokens
with your 1st 25 points!
2 for 1 Drink Specials!
Random Draws!



Upcoming Events

Cross The M.O.T.E To Kewadin's Cash

April 2 - 24 on Mondays & Tuesdays
Random draws off Slots & Tables

M = Mondays

O = Odds

T = Tuesdays

E = Evens

Draw times on Monday on the Odd hours
from 1pm - 9pm

Tuesdays on the Even hours 2pm - 10pm.

Find the right lily pads to "HOP" your way
across the M.O.T.E.

Tournaments

St. Ignace

Video Poker

March 30 - April 1, 2007

Hessel

\$8,000 Spin To Win

March 9 - 11, 2007

Christmas

Spin to Win

March 30 -

April 1, 2007



BOBBY VINTON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4TH
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

Northern Pines Entertainment
Schedule
Comedy Shows start at 9pm
Live Music starts at 9pm
Wed. Mar. 7th - Comedy
Grandma Lee & Tom Costello
Fri. & Sat. Mar. 9th & 10th
Duke Ugly
Wed. Mar. 14th - Comedy
Dobie Maxwell & Jimmy Turner

Manistique Comedy Night
Every Friday Night
Starting at 9pm
Mar. 9, 07 - Comedy
Grandma Lee & Tim Costello
Mar. 16, 07
Dobie Maxwell
& Jimmy Turner
Mar. 23, 07
Kurt Green & Brad Gibson

Entertainment



EVERCLEAR
SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

Tickets on Sale Now



DIAMOND RIO
SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH
ST. IGNACE, MICHIGAN

Promotions cannot be changed without prior approval by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa
Indians Gaming Commission. Promotions can be cancelled at Management's discretion.

May Luck be with You and Yours!

Happy
St. Patrick's Day!



Upcoming Events

March 17th, 2007
St. Patrick's Day Special
Dream Catcher's
Restaurant
Sault Ste. Marie
Horseshoe Bay Restaurant
St. Ignace

Steamed Snow Crab/Herb
Roasted Prime Rib
~Leprechaun Corn Cob's
~Dublin Lamb Stew
and much more!

St. Patrick's Day Buffet
Mariner's Cove -
Manistique

Alaskan King Crab & Prime Rib
Plus... many Irish dishes!

St. Patrick's Day Party
Northern Pines Lounge -
St. Ignace

6:00 p.m. to Midnight
Cash Prizes
Find the Irish In You!

Environmental Protection Agency intervenes on Yellow Dog Plains project

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER DALE

Federal regulators concerned with the safety of drinking water raised a red flag that could delay the metallic sulfide mine proposed by Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company in northwestern Marquette County indefinitely, even if the necessary state permits are granted.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently notified company officials that at least one federal permit will be required before construction may begin.

In a letter to Kennecott representatives, EPA Water Division Director Jo Lynn Traub urged the company to submit previously requested information regarding a treated water infiltration system proposed by Kennecott. The proposed system is a series of pipes buried underground that allows treated water to trickle back into the ground, impacting the entire aquifer.

"This permit is required to ensure that the infiltration system would not endanger an underground source of drinking water," Traub wrote. Acting indepen-

dently of state regulators, the EPA official went on to state that, upon receiving the requested information, the agency will "make a determination about other potential requirements."

Michelle Halley, attorney for National Wildlife Federation (NWF), described EPA's involvement in the issue as an important step. "With the oversight of the EPA, the people of Michigan gain another layer of protection for our groundwater resources," she said. Halley, who is familiar with the legal and regulatory nuances surrounding the project, indicated that an EPA permit could stall the project for an unknown period of time, depending upon the information that is provided by the company and whether it satisfies EPA requirements.

A public hearing and comment period will also likely occur as part of the federal permit process. Up until six months ago, when EPA began querying Kennecott for the absent information, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality provided the only oversight of the proposed project. Those familiar with the

processes of both agencies say federal government requirements are typically more rigorous than those at the state level, possibly requiring Kennecott to further research environmental impact before a permit would be considered.

The Michigan DEQ had previously indicated the possibility of an announced decision in May. Halley said the EPA permit adds a new wrinkle to that timeline. "In the event that the DEQ decided to approve the mining permit application, it could not take effect until all other necessary permits are in place, including any federal permits," she explained.

NWF and others who have objected to the proposed project on the basis of permit application deficiencies and an inappropriate location are still advocating for a MDEQ denial of the application.

State regulators will hear from the general public at a series of hearings in March, beginning with a three-day hearing in Marquette March 6-8, followed by a March 12 hearing in Lansing.

EPA offers tips for electronic waste reuse, recycling in Michigan

Chances are you bought or received some new, high-tech electronic equipment over the past year or during the holidays. Even newer, higher-tech gear was recently introduced at the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

What happens when changes in technology render your gadget obsolete? It becomes "e-scrap," one of the planet's fastest growing environmental concerns. E-scrap contains heavy metals and other toxins that can be hazardous to human health and the environment. For example, monitors and TVs can contain between two and eight pounds of lead and smaller amounts of other contaminants like cadmium and mercury.

Americans discarded more than 154 million computers in 2005, not counting the latest generation of game systems, cell phones, PDAs and MP3 players that will soon enough lose their glow and be replaced with some shiny new device.

To keep hazardous materials out of landfills, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encourages Americans to

recycle or reuse old electronic equipment.

"Recycling electronic equipment isn't quite as easy as leaving it in a bin in your front yard, as we've learned to do with paper and plastics, but health and environmental benefits of recycling e-scrap are tremendous," said EPA Region Five Administrator Mary A. Gade. "Also, we know that half of the devices thrown away still work. They can be donated to non-profit organizations, which keep the devices out of the landfill, but with the added benefit of a charitable contribution."

Gade pointed out that some manufacturers have established recycling programs for their electronic products, and that many communities in Michigan have drop-off points where people can take e-scrap for proper disposal.

For more useful information on recycling electronic equipment, visit www.epa.gov/ecycling. A great national reuse and recycling resource is www.earth911.org. Michigan residents should check www.michigan.gov/deq.

The U.S. Department of Education is pleased to announce the newly remodeled and updated Federal Resources for Education Excellence (FREE) Web site. Check it out today at <http://www.free.ed.gov/>



I wish
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smoking.

When you smoke
around your kids
it's like they
are smoking.

As a matter of fact, if you smoke around children from birth, by age 5, they'll have inhaled over 100 packs. Protect your children from secondhand smoke. Make your home a smoke-free one. Secondhand smoke not only hurts lung growth but can permanently damage lung functions. It can cause bronchitis, pneumonia, ear infections and asthma in children.

To learn how to quit and keep smoke away from your children, call the FREE Michigan Tobacco Quit Line

1.800.480.7848

Michigan Department
of Community Health
MDCH
Jennifer M. Granville, Governor
Joel Greenwald, Director

Secondhand Smoke -
It's nothing to kid about

Sault Tribe Insurance Department



Insurance Department staff.

The Insurance Department was initially established in 1996. Prior to 1996 the department was part of Human Resources, however, as the tribe grew and there became a need for additional services, the team members diversified and the Insurance Department began. Shortly thereafter, the tribe became self-insured and still operates this way today.

The department provides benefits, such as health, disability, life and supplemental insurance products for the team members. Safety and Worker's Compensation programs are administered through the Insurance Department. The Insurance Department, through the safety program, promotes a safe work environment by providing team member training,

building audits and ensuring compliance with federal safety regulations. The department feels a proactive approach to prevention of workplace injuries is essential. Workers' Compensation is the sole remedy for a team member who experiences a work-related injury; the tribe is governed by Tribal Code Chapter 45: Tribal Worker's Compensation. Claims are administered in-house by the Workers' Compensation segment of the Insurance Department. The department works in conjunction with injured team members, their supervisors, medical providers and other pertinent individuals to ensure an effective return to work for the team members.

General liability, property and automobile claims are administered in-house as well.

The department has recently experienced restructuring and would like to announce the "new" team members.

Kristin Green is the assistant insurance manager. Kristin, while new to the department, is a long-time team member of the tribe. Kristin has a HRIS certification,

which relates directly to employee benefits and safety. Kristin is a 2002 graduate of Lake Superior State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Caryn (nee Royer) Routhier is the Workers' Compensation assistant. Caryn has been a team member with the tribe since 2000 and brings much enthusiasm and experience in medical billing and policy and procedure writing.

Eric Clement is one of the department's safety officers. Eric has experience in the construction industry and building maintenance. Eric is currently a student at Lake Superior State University and is enrolled in the fire science program.

Melanie Lyons is a part-time administrative assistant. Melanie also works part-time in accounting. She is currently attending Bay Mills Community College and is working toward her associate degree in business administration.

Combined, the Insurance Department team has over 72 years of experience with the Sault Tribe. A variety of the team

members hold various designations including certified Workers' Compensation professional, property and casualty, life and health and BC/BS agents licenses, certified pool operators and Red Cross CPR trainer/instructor designation. Team members have also had training in NFPA life safety, boiler inspection, respiratory standards, I.H.S. injury prevention, OSHA standards, OSHA reporting, ergonomics, machine guarding, emergency management, hazardous materials and other related areas.

Contact information: Holly Haapala, insurance manager; Kristin Green, assistant insurance manager; John Odell, safety supervisor; Charlie Waucaush, safety officer; Eric Clement, safety officer; Jay King, safety officer; Fred O'Rourke, safety officer; Patti Simi, customer service representative (GL, property, auto); Cindy Benson, claims administrator (Workers' Compensation); Caryn Routhier, Workers' Compensation assistant; and Jeri Eby, employee benefits specialist. Phone (906) 632-6336.

Tots enjoy live music at Child Care Center



SUBMITTED BY KRYSTAL TALENTINO, DATA ENTRY CLERK

Left: Terry Talentino on the guitar and Chad Cryderman on drums came and sang some songs for the children at the tribe's Child Care Center. Two-year old Parker Talentino, on the drums, is Terry Talentino's son.

Mackinac Island horses waiting for spring



Horses from Mackinac Island wait out the winter months on this farm in the eastern U.P. of Michigan. As spring returns so will the horses, to begin the busy tourist season. Photo by George H. Snider

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YEA activity updates



Maamwi Niigaanzigwag Grand Tribal Youth Council members attend training during the mid year United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) conference in Arlington, Va., in February. Above left, James McKelvie, member of the Behweting Anishinabek Tribal Youth Council of Sault Ste. Marie, Anzalene Lavigne, member of the Anishinabe Niimki Tribal Youth Council of Manistique and J.R. Cook, founder of UNITY.

Submitted by Lisa Burnside,
Youth service coordinator for
Unit II

Youth throughout the United States attended a mid-year conference to discuss their top issues and concerns. Out of the 34 UNITY affiliated youth council surveys that were handed in and tabulated the top 10 issues are:

1. Alcohol, drug, and substance abuse.
2. Sexual issues (teen pregnancy/sexuality/STDs/HIV/Aids).
3. Cultural preservation.
4. Gangs and crime.
5. Fitness (lack of physical activity and poor nutrition).
6. Education dropout rate.
7. Peer pressure.
8. Life skills and coping skills.
9. Racism.
10. Diabetes, obesity, and other health concerns.

Other identified issues and concerns: Spirituality, strengthening Native families, domestic violence, funding for college, sovereignty, employment and technology.

Our two Grand Council representatives received training with the Celebrate Native Health Project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson foundation that will help address the issues listed above. They reported to UNITY projects being planned by all the Sault Tribe youth councils that include Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Hessel and Manistique.

During the visit to Arlington, council members enjoyed touring the senate building and spent time talking with Kevin Glandon, legislative correspondent for Senator Carl Levin, and met Senator Debbie Stabenow while she was on her way to a senate vote.

They also toured the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of the American Indian.

James and Annie will report to the Grand Tribal Youth Council on the Celebrate Native Health Project in March.

Cindy Blank, YEA Coordinator in Munising, put on a Valentine social for the elementary students. Students had the opportunity to make two different Valentine crafts and they also decorated cookies. About 35 students participated in this event. Next week, the sixth grade students along with YEA, Title VII coordinator and sixth grade teacher will coordinate a field trip to the great outdoors to gather saplings to be

nice people. It is a blast so come on and join in, I know you will want to attend again and again. The program is open to youth in Rapid River, Gladstone, Escanaba and outlying areas. We also made Valentine cookies, wow, so much fun, and we frosted them and ate them, yum yum. Bud and his staff put on a cultural training day for the YEA staff this month and what a great job they did. Much thanks to them, and I look forward to many more training camps with the Cultural Department staff.

Cindy Blank, YEA coordinator, in Munising, put on a Valentine social for the elementary students. Students had the opportunity to make two different Valentine crafts and they also decorated cookies. About 35 students participated in this event. Next



A permanent wigwam structure is currently underway at Munising Schools. Cindy Blank Youth Education Activities coordinator, Title VII Kim Swanberg, and Tom Derwin's sixth grade class begin the construction of a permanent wigwam to be built at the Munising Elementary School. Above: some of the students out collecting saplings. The students had to measure the sapling with a go-no-go gauge and then saw down the sapling. This project will be an on-going process for the next three years.

used in a wigwam that is being built by the sixth grade students. Munising Schools has agreed to have a permanent wigwam structure built in the one of the main lobby areas. I will submit articles and pictures each month during our process of constructing this wonderful project.

Kelly Constantino, Escanaba youth coordinator. Amii everyone, I have to say that here in the Escanaba area, the YEA program is doing fine and we are so glad that we can service this area. Tutoring has been busy. Many of our youth take advantage of the tutoring and we are so glad they do. Education and culture are so important and we stress that to each of them. We continue to hold reading and spelling on Monday, math on Tuesday, media technology on Wednesday with Pat Bissel, teen night on Thursday, culture and craft on Friday. Each day we also include tutoring, computer lab, educational games, homework lab, culture and crafts, art, snacks and drink. Humility is an area we focus on in February, we follow the concept map and each month we study a different area of the concept map. It is time to get things ready for the Circle Of Life Program again. The program runs from the last week of June and will end around the first week of August. Youth in fourth grade through twelfth grade who are interested in attending the program may call me to sign up at this time. We do many different activities and have so much fun and learn so much about our Native culture and meet so many

vent it and who to tell. They were asked questions and were encouraged to participate with the high school students. There was also a dance held on Feb. 23 for all kids in grades 5-8 from 7-9 p.m. The dance was a big success and all the kids had a blast. There was enough food, snacks and fun to go around for everyone. There is also an essay contest for all students in grades 5-8 who would like to type a one-page essay about harassment and bullying. The essay must talk about a situation that particular kid was in and how they dealt with it, what would they do or have they done when they saw someone being bullied, who do you tell if you are being bullied. Essays will be picked up March 16, 2007, from all the 5-8 grade teachers. The first place winner will receive \$50. I helped put on college night here in Sault Ste. Marie. There was good attendance with 58 people showing up. Colleges were here giving out information about their programs and trying to place the students in the best atmosphere they can. There were various workshops and prizes given away, the biggest prize being a lap top computer won by Britney Gervais. We also had chili, fry bread, veggies, chips and much more.

Submitted by Patty Teeple,
Manistique youth coordinator

The Manistique Youth Education and Activities house has been hopping with activity. Coordinator Patty Teeple, and her assistant Michelle Lambert, have been busy making regalia with the kids. Dozens of outfits have been dancing off of Patty's sewing machine. They showed



Kids busy making Valentine Day bags to put their Valentine Days cards in. This is only one project done at one of the many sites.

week the sixth grade students along with YEA, Title VII coordinator and sixth grade teacher will coordinate a field trip to the great outdoors to gather saplings to be used in a wigwam that is being built by the sixth grade students. Munising Schools has agreed to have a permanent wigwam structure built in one of the main lobby areas. I will submit articles and pictures each month during our process of constructing this wonderful project.

Rachel Mandelstamm, Sault Ste. Marie coordinator. The Sault Ste. Marie site has been busy as usual. The tribal youth council has been busy putting on assemblies for grades 5-8 in the Sault area. The assemblies held were to tell students about the dangers of bullying and harassment. The council gave examples to the students by performing different skits and going over what can be done about it, how to pre-

some of them off at the recent drum social in Newberry, where a van full of Manistique area YEA participants attended. If you would like help making regalia, or have some material to donate, give us a call or stop by some day after school.

On another note, we have been stepping up efforts to entertain a following of high tech futurists, by holding regular media exploration sessions. We have been meeting every week, and will continue throughout the school year. We are offering technological training on a variety of subjects having to do with computers, digital photography and high tech media, in both group and individual sessions. We take requests, so if there is something you want to learn, we can help. We don't know everything, but we are pretty good at figuring out where to find the information to figure out anything.

Digital art and animation are the subjects we are covering now. Everyone has been enjoying a neat little freeware program called Pivot, which is used to create animated stick figures. Last month we did a simple activity of tracing pictures from computer graphics projected onto the wall. The kids learned how to search the Internet for just the right picture, and they got to express themselves by the images they chose. I was amazed at how much they liked that activity, and was very impressed by the organized way they took turns and helped each other.

Children are quickly replacing the stereotypical nerdy geek, in becoming the high tech gadget wizards of the future. They fearlessly point, click, push all the buttons and observe what happens. It's my job to teach them technology, but I learn a lot from them too. The kids in Manistique recently introduced me to Peanut Butter Jelly Man, and Weird Al performing White and Nerdy among other things. A lot of it is pretty silly, but sometimes they find some very entertaining stuff. We recently had a pair of newcomers in the lab that had no prior experience with computers. I enjoyed introducing them to the basics about operating the mouse and clicking on the icons. It is unusual to meet a child that isn't a computer expert, in fact, my son first taught me how to use the mouse, many years ago. You can learn a lot from a kid.

It is very exciting to think about the future, and what these youngsters will be doing with it. Their jobs, hobbies, entertainment and social lives will be immersed in hi technology. Digital enhancements and technical difficulties are everywhere. It's a brave new world, and you can get a glimpse of it by just taking a look over the children's shoulders. Feel free to come in and join us in our explorations any time. Contact us at (906) 341-3362 for more information.

Tim Haller, Kinross Youth coordinator

The following is a poem submitted by a 13-year old seventh grade student from Kinross who attends JKL Bahweting School.

"War" BY KATARIA DENTON

Dancing in the moonlit night,
Crickets sing their song of peace,
The sound of the war pipe,
Flows through the air,
Smoke rises into the night,
Drums beating,
Hearts pounding,
Fear rising through the people,
The war song plays into the night,
The war will soon start,
At dawn,
Dancing to the sounds of the night,
War chiefs saying good luck,
Medicine men preying for the warriors to be safe,
The feeling of the war is upon them,
The guilt in their stomachs rise through the body,
The women weep for fear of what to come,
The men and boys shriek into the night with pride in their choices,
They know its time,
Time,
For war.

Michigan celebrates March as Parenting Awareness Month

By ROBYN HILL

Parenting Awareness Month is a statewide campaign to promote awareness, education, and resources - through state outreach and local efforts - emphasizing the importance of effective parenting in nurturing children to become healthy, caring and contributing citizens throughout their lives.

Every year, in our community, a group of very dedicated individuals from assorted disciplines within the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians come together and take time out of their busy schedules to implement strategies that focus on Parenting Awareness for the month of March. These individuals have one thing in mind, they want to bring attention to how very important raising our children is, to celebrate parents who work hard and raise healthy children, and to implement a host of great ideas for developing parenting skills throughout the year.

With those thoughts in mind,

why don't we all take time in the month of March to recognize and celebrate those everyday parents in our community who work every day to ensure that their children are safe, loved and well taken care of. Those are the real heroes and they aren't looking for a medal. They are your neighbors, your friends, and your family who do their best to ensure that children are raised to become the best that they can be.

Join in the fun this month at the following events: March 16- Family Celebration at Chi Mukwa from 5 to 7 p.m. which is planned with assistance from the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District's Great Start program and the Family Day March 17 in St. Ignace at the Little Bear from 1-4 p.m. Manistique staff are making plans for a Family Event at the Tribal Community Center. Be sure to check out the many activities that have been brought to the community and promote healthy parenting all year long!

Nominations sought for annual Bahweting Binogii Advocate Award

April is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevent Month and every year Anishnabek Community and Family Services holds an Advocate Honor Breakfast as a way to show our support and appreciation to those who dedicate themselves to protecting and serving our most sacred gifts, our children. At the Honor Breakfast ACFS present the Advocate of the Year Award for a community member who has made exemplary efforts of behalf of our children. This person can come from any field and will have their name

added to our Advocate Plaque and will also be presented with a plaque of their own. The winner will be chosen by the Sault Tribe Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Please take the time to complete a ballot for someone you know who has demonstrated advocacy for the children in our community. Return ballots no later than March 23 to: Traci Swan, Legal Dept., 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, 49783. For any questions please call Traci at (906) 635-6050 ext. 26324. See ballot form below.

Bahweting Binogii Advocate Award nomination ballot

Nominee: _____
Place of employment: _____
Phone number: _____
Person nominating: _____
Place of employment: _____
Phone number: _____
Reason for nomination: Please include details of how this person advocates for children in our community through their work or above and beyond their job duties. Continue on the back of the ballot or a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

FY 2008 HIP applications are now being accepted

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Anishnabek Community and Family Services will be taking Home Improvement Program (HIP) applications to develop its priority list for 2008. Under the revised HIP regulations, as long as you are a member of a federally recognized tribe and own your own land or have a 25 year or more land lease, and meet the eligibility requirements, you may be able to receive HIP assistance, even if you do not have a house.

If you do not meet the following income guidelines, you will not be eligible for HIP assistance. These guidelines include total combined income (earned and/or unearned) from all permanent household members, 2006 1040 income tax return showing gross earnings will be used to determine your eligibility.

Applications available at Anishnabek Community and Family Services located at 2864 Ashmun, third floor (Sault Tribal Health Clinic), Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Any questions or for income guidelines, please call Kelly J. Smart, Direct Assistance Casemanager I at (906) 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

SUBMITTED BY ANNA ROGERS-STOTT

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Nationwide, communities will come together to remember the courage of sexual assault survivors, honor our accomplishments as a movement and rededicate ourselves to ending sexual violence in our communities.

Sexual Assault Victims can do everything right. She/he can look in the back seat of their cars before getting in, parked their cars in well lit areas, kept their car locked at all times, and keep their keys ready when going to their cars. They can always carry a cell phone and keep pepper spray on their persons. They can never offer or accept a ride from someone they don't know or trust but, no one ever told them that they wouldn't be safe in their own homes. Up to 60 percent of all rapes are committed by someone the victim knows and trusts.

Following are some myths and facts about sexual violence.

Myth 1: Victims provoke sexual assaults when they dress provocatively or act in a promiscuous manner.

Fact: Rape and sexual assault are crimes of violence and con-

trol that stem from a person's determination to exercise power over another. Neither provocative dress nor promiscuous behaviors are invitations for unwanted sexual activity. Forcing someone to engage in non-consensual sexual activity is sexual assault; regardless of the way that person dresses or acts.

Myth 2: If a person goes to someone's room or house or goes to a bar, she assumes the risk of sexual assault. If something happens later, she can't claim that she was raped or sexually assaulted because she should have known not to go to those places.

Fact: The assumption of risk wrongfully places the responsibility of the offender's action with the victim. Even if a person went voluntarily to someone's residence or room and consented to engage in some sexual activity, it does not serve as blanket consent for all sexual activity. If a person is unsure about whether the other person is comfortable with an elevated level of sexual activity, the person should stop and ask. When someone says "No" or "Stop," that means STOP. Sexual activity forced upon another without consent is sexual assault.

Myth 3: If not sexual assault if

it happens after drinking or taking drugs.

Fact: Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not an invitation for non-consensual sexual activity. A person under the influence of drugs or alcohol does not cause others to assault her; others choose to take advantage of the situation.

Myth 4: Most sexual assaults are committed by strangers. It's not rape if the people involved knew each other.

Fact: Most sexual assaults and rapes are committed by someone the victim knows.

Myth 5: Only young, pretty women are assaulted.

Fact: The belief that only young, pretty women are sexually assaulted stems from the myth that sexual assault is based on sex and physical attraction. Sexual assault is a crime of power and control and offenders often choose people whom they perceive as most vulnerable to attack or over whom they believe they can assert power.

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault and would like help contact the Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 635-7705 or (906) 632-1808.

Commodities gourmet style with Melinda Santiago

By BRENDA AUSTIN

Touting healthy recipes, balanced nutrition and help for the asking, Melinda Santiago offers freshly cooked samples to participants of the Tribe's food commodity program. Santiago works for Sault Tribe Nutrition Services with funding from MSU Extension.

Santiago uses only commodity foods Tribal participants in the program receive to make her recipes. "People qualified to receive commodities come into the building and 'shop' from a list and choose foods they like. The commodities program is nutritionally balanced with our fruit in light syrup, low salt products, peanut butter, cheese and tuna fish," said USDA Food Distribution Program Director Tony Nertoli. "She also talks to program participants about exercise, food safety, the food pyramid, portion sizes and preparation," he said.

Santiago talks to people as they sample her newest recipe about preparing commodities and making good food choices. "I also receive referrals from Anishnabek Community and Family Services and Community Health nutritionists and nurses and will go into a client's home and cook with them. Sometimes the younger clients don't know how to measure properly or prepare a meal. Most of the commodities require some type of preparation. We have a lot of fun



Melinda Santiago and Tony Nertoli.

cooking together while they are learning how to cook a nutritionally balanced meal and food preparation and storage safety," Santiago said.

Nertoli said, "We have become a fast food society and sometimes people need help learning how to prepare food. The USDA Food Distribution Program is better than food stamps. You can't come

in here and buy chips and pop like you can with food stamps. We have to get away from making bad choices and choose a healthier lifestyle."

For more information or to apply for the USDA Food Distribution Program, call (906) 635-6076.

Melinda can be reached by calling (906) 632-5205.

ACFS fundraising committee news

Father Daughter Dance, Tribal powwow Activity Center, Promise Dance, Nightmare on Bear Street and New Years Eve coloring contest.

During the month of March, the Fundraising Committee will host a Spaghetti luncheon on the 14th from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and a sunrise breakfast from 7:45-10:30 a.m. on the 20th; both events are at the Tribal Health Center.

Anishnabek Community and Family Services is dedicated to offering youth and family events to the community. As a result, Anishnabek has formed a Fund Raising Committee who offers various fundraising events throughout the year to sponsor a variety of events.

During 2007, ACFS will continue to raise funds for the Family Celebration, April Teen Lock-In, Honor Breakfast and Awards,

On April 4, you can have breakfast with the Easter Bunny from 7:45-10:30 a.m. at the Tribal Health Center in Sault Ste. Marie. You will also be able to purchase a picture with the Easter Bunny.

We have added pledge forms to our fundraising activities. Donations can be made in a variety of payment methods or an annual contribution. Contact Dan at (906) 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093 for a pledge form.

Totzones for the little ones



Nathaniel Greenfield and Eli Stevens practice their coloring skills. Photo by Chi Mukwa staff

Looking for something to keep the little ones busy during the winter? The Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center has the perfect

event for you. Join the facility for the last two Totzones of the season on March 10 and 24.

Here's your chance to let your

infants, toddlers, and preschoolers get out of the cold and meet some new friends. Bring your strollers, push toys, ride-on toys, walkers, trikes, etc. This is a great way for little ones to interact with other little ones, and parents to meet other parents.

The Totzones are held in the basketball court, which is nearly 10,000 square feet of space for the little ones to expend some energy. The facility plays children's music and decorates the gym with disco lights to create a fun atmosphere. In addition, each Totzone has a special theme to make the event more fun. On March 10, the theme is "Pajama Party." Participants will wear their pajamas, bring their blankets and stuffed animals, and enjoy stories with a local librarian. The tots still bring their

ride-on or push toys so they can run around and still be physically active before and after story time. The facility also provides a snack for the participants.

Chi Mukwa designed this event as an opportunity for parents to interact with their children, therefore, adult supervision is required. Many grandparents and caretakers bring children to the Totzones as well. This event also provides a new environment for the little ones, and they get to meet and play with different children. Since January of 2004, the facility has had twenty-eight Totzones. Most of which were during the winter months as they have proven to be most successful. The Totzones have been themed after holidays such as Valentine's Day, Halloween, St. Patrick's Day, and

Christmas. The Totzones are also themed after children's shows such as Dora the Explorer, the Backyardigans, Sesame Street, and the Wiggles. The participants really connect to the cartoon characters.

On March 24, our theme is "Sports Pals." The participants will dress like athletes, bring their favorite ball, and play some basketball, hockey, soccer, or football. The facility plans to bring in some special guests from Lake Superior, Sault High, and the Soo Indians. These local athletes will participate with the tots in their respective sports.

The Totzones are for ages five and under, and there is a fee of \$3 for each tot. For more information, please contact Tammy Graham at (906) 635-4758.

A Bear Necessity After School Program celebrates St. Valentine's Day

A Bear Necessity After school program celebrated St. Valentine's Day with a lot of excitement and activity. The extremely energized children arrived to the Chi Mukwa after a full day of parties at school, with nothing less than a pound of candy each (both in their backpacks and in their bellies). The children participated in a variety of activities put on by the Youth Program Staff. A play castle was blown up for a lot of jumping fun. Children decorated their own sugar cookies with their choice of red, pink, and white frosting, along with red and white sprinkles and milk to drink. They also had an opportunity to have their faces painted, create a card for their loved ones, and play musical hula hoops. At each station, children received a prize and also left for the day with a goody bag containing a Valentine's cup,



Taylor Atkinson creating a Valentine Day card. Photo by Chi Mukwa staff

candy, pencils, and bracelets. A total of 62 children participated in the holiday activities.

A Bear Necessity After School program runs Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.,

with transportation provided from most of the local schools. If you would like your school-aged child to join in on the fun, please contact Christina Wilkins at (906) 635-4777 for more details.

Wilson Joins Chi Mukwa as events coordinator



By BRENDA AUSTIN

Anna Wilson was recently hired as part-time events coordinator at Chi Mukwa Recreation Center.

Wilson comes to Chi Mukwa with a bachelor's degree from LSSU in marketing. She also spent the past year as president of the LSSU Chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) and now serves as their educational outreach chairman.

As a member of the SIFE team, Wilson will be traveling to Chicago with other team

members for their regional competition. "We have about seven projects to use in our competition against other universities. One of the projects involved doing a market demographic research survey at the I-500 snowmobile race and another centered around the 'Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative' relating to the restrictions on the Canadian/U.S. border," Wilson said.

As a part of Wilson's job as an event coordinator at Chi Mukwa, she will be learning about other team members' jobs in case she is called on to cover for them during a break or illness. "We also do locker room and ice/court assignments for team practices and games and monitor all the activities to maintain a safe environment," she said.

Wilson is employed full-time with the Bernard Bouschor Farmers Insurance Agency on Easterday Avenue in the Sault, as a customer service representative. She is also state licensed to sell life, accident and health insurance.

In addition to her already full schedule, she sings part-time

backup vocals for a local Sault band, 2PumpChump. "Terry Talantino and Chad Cryderman, from the Sault make the band and they're pretty eclectic in their music choices, anything from Johnny Cash to Tenacious D. They are one of the more popular bands in the area and they've been good to me. Right now, I am learning how to play keyboard and trumpet and can hold my own on the drums. I hope to record two CDs soon; one is going to be piano and acoustic guitar with a bit of gospel. The other is going to be my own music. I can sing anything, but prefer more mainstream music such as Lily Allen or Nelly Furtado," Wilson said. As a new team member at Chi Mukwa, Wilson noted, "Part of the reason I love working at Chi Mukwa is because I love sports and working with people, and it's nice when you can put everything that you enjoy together in a job."

Anna is originally from the Sault, her parents are Garry and Cynthia Wilson, and her grandparents are Ed and Barb Wilson, Roland and Virginia Keim and Shirley and Woody Bandstra.

Chi Mukwa events coordinator hired



By BRENDA AUSTIN

Rex Matchinski was recently hired at Chi Mukwa as a full-time events coordinator.

Matchinski is currently working on a master's degree in marriage and family therapy at Capella University and has a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in sociology, from LSSU. "I am interested in the concept of trying to make relationships work and figuring out the dynamics of it. I also love working with kids and interacting with them which I get to do in this position," he said.

Matchinski has plans to continue with his education and earn a doctorate. "I used to be in the Army and decided, if I got out, I would go all the way and earn a Ph.D. Some day I would like to have my own therapy practice," he said.

As an event coordinator, Matchinski is involved with locker room scheduling and making sure hockey games run smoothly in addition to some summer time events including the Billy Mills Fun Run and Walk and the Michigan Indian Family Olympics.

Matchinski is engaged to Christal Whysall who, between them, have three children and are expecting their fourth.

"I like the atmosphere at Chi Mukwa and look forward to learning new things and working with the wonderful team members I've met."



Tribal Members FREE

With Proof of Membership

Easter Public Skating



March 31
2:30-4:20pm

- See the Easter Bunny
- Jelly Bean Guess
- Family Dinner Basket Giveaway
- Children's Easter Basket Giveaway

\$1

FREE Skate Rentals

Tribal Members FREE with proof of membership

For more information call 635-RINK (7465)

Time to update your income and health insurance with Contract Health

Changes made to program

Tax time is an excellent time to update your income and health insurance information with the tribe's Contract Health Services.

If you have never registered with Contract Health, now is the time to do so. In addition to an application for Contract Health services, a copy of your federal 1040 tax form and your health insurance carrier are required. If you are a senior receiving Social Security income, a copy of your year end December statement is also needed.

"We ask for people to do this yearly at tax time because most of us have that information readily available making it easier to update with us at the same time," said CHS Office Manager Tina Fox.

"There are a lot of people who don't update their applications until they are requesting services. Unless your application is updated, we can't pay for services. Some services are not covered unless you have been in the system for 90 days prior to treatment," Fox said.

Contract Health Services is federally funded, is not an insurance program, it is a separate program from the tribe's health clinics and is only available to tribe members living in the tribe's seven-county service area.

If you are already registered with Contract Health and wish to update your income and health insurance information, you can scan and e-mail your 1040 form to epmontie@saulttribe.net or you may also send it by fax to (906) 632-5248. Sault Tribe members can request an application by call-

ing CHS at (800) 922-0582 or (906) 632-5220.

Income is used to determine eligibility for alternate resources. CHS is mandated by the federal government to be the payer of last resort. Refusal to access an alternate resource: Tribal clinics available and accessible, Medicare, Medicaid, MiChild, crippled children's programs, vocational rehabilitation programs, Veterans Administration, other state and federal programs, can result in a denial of eligibility for CHS.

Contract Health Service is funded by federal funds appropriated by Congress and then to each area office (Bemidji, Minn.) where they are distributed to tribes. They are used to fund services outside of our tribal health care clinics and providers. The funding level has not increased over the years, and the cost of health care has risen astronomically. For this reason, our tribe has continued to supplement CHS by allocating tribal dollars to help support services to our membership.

CHS is not an insurance policy, or entitlement program. Priorities for coverage under CHS have been established since the funding level is insufficient to provide all the care our membership needs. CHS is under a Priority 1A level of care which are those conditions that are an emergency and a threat to life, limb or senses (diagnosis and treatment of injuries or conditions that, if left untreated, results in uncertain or potentially grave outcomes, even death). Access is through a referral by a tribal clinic provider (or emergency contact to

CHS within 24 hours of emergent care). The referral or emergency room report is reviewed by a CHS medical management team to determine level of priority. Not all referrals from our clinic fall under the Priority 1A category and therefore are not covered under CHS.

Those eligible for Contract Health Services are Sault Tribe members who live in the seven-county contract health service delivery area, the geographic area to those who live on or near Indian reservations as established by the federal government and tribes. The counties include Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce, Schoolcraft, Alger, Delta and Marquette.

Contract Health Services changes

The board of directors has approved a supplemental health fund to assist Contract Health Services. There will be two programs under Contract Health Service beginning January 1, 2007.

Contract Health Services AFA Funds-Priority 1A Services

- Services deemed to be limb or life threatening
- Prescriptions deemed Priority 1A such as heart, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetic medications, etc.

Supplemental Health Fund:

- Non-1A services
- 60 years and older
- Based on income
- Sliding fee scale
- Assist the neediest
- Will not affect if income is at or below \$15,000 for single person, \$20,000 for family of two.

Does not affect any service provided at tribal clinics or non-Native spouses at tribal clinics.

Medications:

- Applies to everyone regardless of age

- All Non-1A medications

- Based on income
- Co-pay of \$0 if income is at or below \$18,000 for single person, \$23,000 for family of two.

- Co-pay of \$15 if income is between \$18,001 and \$24,000 for single person, \$23,001 and \$29,000 for family of two.

- Co-pay of \$30 if income is above \$24,001 for single person, \$29,001 for family of two.

How many tribe members does CHS serve?

12,484 tribe members in the seven-county service area have applied and used CHS at one time or another.

CHS processed 14,614 prescription requests to contracted outside pharmacies for \$1,136,224 in FY'05.

There was a total of 14,152 authorizations (vouchers) requested for providers outside of our tribal health clinics. Each voucher may require possibly two or three letters sent by your patient care coordinator asking for pertinent information to process your claim, for a total of 42,456 letters.

CHS handles around 4,850 incoming phone calls on a monthly basis, averaging 242 a day.

Staff
Tina Fox, office manager;
Carol Pages-Montie, certifier;
Kim Menard, patient care coordinator (A-F); Tina Robinson, patient care coordinator (G-I); Niki Tremblay, patient care coordinator (M-R); Claudette Crook, patient care coordinator (S-Z); Edythe Reno, referral coordinator; and Heather Lester, St. Ignace-Lambert Clinic patient care coordinator.

The Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund (CHEF) was created by Congress to cover medical expenses incurred for catastrophic illnesses and events falling within the CHS program priorities for payment.

Once a member has exceeded medical expenses of \$24,500 (threshold changes each year and based on consumer price index) CHS can apply for additional funds to get back monies over this amount that they have spent. This is not a guarantee that these funds will be available when your catastrophic case happens.

CHS had six qualified CHEF cases in FY'05. Of these cases submitted, there were only three that received additional funding which amounted to \$62,851. The CHEF monies are available for application on the first of October of each fiscal year.

If your case happens at the beginning of the fiscal year, CHEF funding is more likely to be approved. If your case happens in March or after, CHEF funding may be denied.

Contract Health Services is located in the Sault Tribe Health and Human Services Center on the second floor at 2864 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie. Mailing address is P.O. box 1628, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Phone: (800) 922-0582 or (906) 632-5220. Fax: (906) 632-5248.

Training for parents and professionals working with children who have disabilities

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service is sponsoring free parent trainings on special education issues for children with disabilities. The first training will be held on Monday, March 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Bay Mills Boys and Girls Club, 12099 W. Lakeshore Dr. in Brimley. The second parent training will be held on Tuesday, March 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Walker Cislser Student and Conference Center at LSSU. Topics will include eligibility, IEPs, goals, discipline and behavior plans, and complaints.

There will also be a question and answer period. For more information or to register, please call the MPAS Marquette Office at (866) 928-5910 ext. 3 or email jindst@mpas.org.mn

The Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service is also sponsoring a training on special education issues for professionals working with children with disabilities. The training will be held on Tuesday, March 27 from 9:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Walker Cislser Student and Conference Center at LSSU. There is a \$10

registration fee that includes lunch. Topics will include eligibility, IEPs, goals, discipline and behavior plans, and complaints. There will also be a question and answer period to address questions on special education and working with community mental health and Michigan Rehabilitation Services. For more information or to register, please call the MPAS Marquette Office at (866) 928-5910 ext. 3 or email jindst@mpas.org.mn

Recovery meetings at the Shedawin building

The Sault Tribe's American Indian Substance Abuse program (AISA) offers space for a variety of new recovery meetings at the Shedawin Building at 2154 Shunk Road. We are in need of recovering people to volunteer to chair meetings. Days and times that meetings are held include: Sunday 12 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m. Narcotics

Anonymous. Monday no meeting. Tuesday 7 p.m. - Alateen- coming soon - chairperson needed. Wednesday 7 p.m. sewing/craft night. Thursday 7 p.m. - Alanon and Friday 7 p.m. - Gamblers Anonymous - coming soon - chairperson needed.

If you are interested in helping the recovering community by chairing a meeting, contact Karen

Howell or Cindy Thomas at American Indian Substance Abuse at 1022 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call (906) 635-6075 or toll free at (800) 726 9105. Your help is needed to support these meetings. All recovery meetings are open and non-smoking.

Goodsearch.com

Powered by Yahoo, all you need to do is go to www.goodsearch.com and enter United Way of Chippewa County. Be sure to check that it is our United Way as there is also a United Way of Chippewa County in Wisconsin! If even 100 people searched

an average of 10 times a day, in one year \$3,650 would be raised-which is one percent of our campaign goal of \$365,000.

It costs you nothing and wow what a result.

Seema workshop to be presented

On Saturday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sault Tribe Community Health and the Traditional Healing Program will be sponsoring a workshop specially designed for anyone interested who is concerned about preserving culture and important health practices of the Anishinaabe people. Participants encouraged to attend should include Tribal administrators, spiritual leaders, educators or health care staff working with tribal people, youth, elders, and other members of the community.

This workshop entitled "Seema: Our First Medicine" will empower people with ancient and modern knowledge about tobacco. Wisdom shared by our traditional healers, spiritual leaders, Community Health staff and elders will include teachings on the origin,

history, and proper use vs. abuse of tobacco.

Seema or tobacco is one of the first medicines given to the Anishinaabe people. It is sacred because of its many uses. Spiritually it leads us in prayer. When it is prepared and used properly, it also has the power to heal many physical ailments, including childhood sickness, fever, and ear aches.

The workshop will be held at the Nigamagizhuk building across from the powwow grounds. There is no charge to attend but we do ask you to call or fax our facility prior to the workshop so that we can plan for a meal. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210 or fax us at (906) 632-5202.

Native American Cancer prevention forum

Presented by Beaumont Cancer Institute & American Indian Health & Family Services (AIHFS) & North American Indian Association (NAIA)

Saturday, March 17
From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
North American Indian Association of Detroit, Inc.,
22720 Plymouth Rd.
Detroit, MI 48239
(313) 535-2966

Please call to register at (248) 551-1219.
Registration is complimentary but required.

SUBMITTED BY HEATHER SMITH

United Way of Chippewa County, Michigan has been registered on GoodSearch.com since September. This search engine donates about a penny per search to the charity designated by its users.

New help to quit smoking - new medication arrives at Sault Tribe pharmacies

BY KIM SAKIS, BS, CHES
SAULT TRIBE HEALTH EDUCATION
SUPERVISOR

Now eligible clients of Sault Tribe Health Centers will have one more medication to choose from when trying to quit smoking or chewing. This new medication, called "CHANTIX" (active ingredient - Varenicline), is a prescription pill manufactured solely for tobacco cessation (quitting smoking or quitting any other form of tobacco).

Currently there are several medications available for quitting. Bupropion SR (previously known as Zyban) is an anti-depressant. It has been most successful when used to quit along with nicotine replacement therapy (NRT's) such as the nicotine patch, gum, or lozenge. Many people who smoke or chew desire nicotine to help

them deal with everyday stress or mild depression. Basically, Bupropion SR works with the brain to produce dopamine which will help to decrease depression and to "feel better", while the NRT's prevent withdrawal from nicotine such as irritability and anxiousness. NRT's are then downloaded slowly over a period of time so other behaviors and triggers can be dealt with.

In simple terms, CHANTIX works by binding itself to nicotine receptors in the brain giving a feeling of reinforcement and reward in a way that nicotine would provide while smoking (feeling better, less urges, relaxation, etc.). While CHANTIX sits on these receptors, nicotine from smoking or chewing cannot. Therefore, the need or desire of nicotine in cigarettes or chewing tobacco, as

well as in NRT's, is not beneficial or necessary while on the medication.

Although nicotine may make your brain feel better, there are over 4,000 chemicals in tobacco smoke, including at least 50 cancer-causing agents that the rest of your body cannot tolerate. As with most addictions, your brain will trump your body and win, giving in to smoking or chewing, even when you're sick from the source itself. Above all, this is true with tobacco addiction as smoking and chewing is part of a lifestyle, becoming an automatic response to many daily emotional and habitual triggers. In fact, about 200 doses of nicotine are introduced to the brain each day to a person who smokes a pack-per-day.

Chewing tobacco is not a healthy alternative to smoking.

In addition to its many chemicals which can cause cancer, there is two to three times more nicotine in a dip or a chew compared to one cigarette making it highly addictive. However, the classic stogy cigar takes the cake with the chemical equivalent of 20 cigarettes in one cigar.

Although CHANTIX is a promising form of quitting medication, it is not the magic bullet. Just as Bupropion SR works for some and the patch works for others, CHANTIX won't work for everyone. Talk with your provider for more information on CHANTIX to help you quit.

All existing tobacco cessation medications, including CHANTIX will continue to be available at no cost to eligible Sault Tribe clients. Your provider or tobacco cessation consultant can help you consider

which one is right for you. Call Sault Tribe Community Health Services at (906) 632-5210, or your local tribal health center to enroll in the tobacco cessation program or for more information.

There is no good time to quit. Why wait?

You can do it! Quitting for good arrives with an individual plan to include:

- Medication
- Problem solving
- Support
- Stress management
- Accountability

Individual appointments can be made during daily business hours at your convenience. Call Sault Tribe Community Health Services at (906) 632-5210 or your local tribal health center to get started.

Community Health says stay active and eat healthy!

The Get Moving U.P. Program is winding down and Sault Tribe Community Health is gearing up for Nutrition Month and the three-a-day dairy challenge.

Results of the Get Moving U.P. Program through the sixth week of the eight week program are as follows: The Sault Tribe Health Center has 21,698 minutes of activity. Kewadin Casinos Team Members have 8378 minutes and JKL Bahweting School staff members have 5730 minutes.

The winners of the third stage of prizes for weeks five and six are: Beckie Palmer for JKL Bahweting School, Joseph Mahoney for the Kewadin Casinos, and Mary Marshall for the Sault Tribe. Congratulations! But remember everyone who turned in minutes of activity is a winner of good health.

I was reading the Get Moving U.P. Newsletter and was inter-

ested to find out that, according to the American Heart Association, one hour of walking is equal to two more hours of life. Research shows that for every hour of moderate physical activity, you can increase your life expectancy by two hours. So the total minutes of activity entered for the Sault Tribe Health Center, Kewadin Casinos and JKL Bahweting School is 35,806. That means our participants have 1,193 hours of added life for the group. And this doesn't include the fact that the extra hours of life are quality hours!

The Get Moving U.P. program ends on Feb. 25 and the final winners receive a \$20 Wal-Mart gift card.

Our next challenge will be the three-a-day dairy challenge promoted at all of the Kewadin Casinos, Community Health and Rural Health staff will be setting up displays of nutrition informa-

tion and handing out log sheets for participants to track their servings of low fat dairy products. Winners of the challenge will receive baskets filled with dairy products and great ideas for ways to increase dairy intake. Eating or drinking three servings a day of dairy, in addition to regular physical activity, is a great way to build stronger bones and reduce the risk of osteoporosis. Try blending one cup of low-fat milk or yogurt, fruit and ice cubes for a delicious smoothie. Stir low fat yogurt into fruit salads or heat a cup of low-fat or fat-free chocolate milk for an afternoon pick-me-up.

For more information on the three-a-day dairy challenge or general information on physical activity and healthy eating call Donna Norkoli at Sault Tribe Community Health Services at (906) 635-8844.

Soup helps us feel full longer

SUBMITTED BY CHARLA GORDON, RD, HEALTHY HEART PROJECT

It is winter and time for warm, comforting soups. Soup is a wonderful food for helping us to feel "fed" or full for a longer period of time. In fact, research shows that when people eat soup they eat fewer calories and feel less hungry on those days as compared to days when they eat more solid foods or liquid meals from a can. Soup's one downside might be that it can be pretty salty when it is straight from the can - but there are ways to lighten it up.

You may be wondering why we would worry about the salt in soup, and the reason is because the sodium in salt can raise blood pressure in some people. And high blood pressure, or hypertension, is part of life for over half the people in the United States who are over age 60.

We train our taste buds to like more and more salt when we use highly processed foods like canned soups. There are ways to stretch the salt out over more servings when we add lower salt foods to our soup. Let's look at some ideas:

#1 Start with a can or carton of lower sodium soup (use the Nutrition Facts label to help you choose one) like Cream of Chicken or Broccoli and then add steamed, chopped, fresh or frozen broccoli. If you don't have broccoli try steamed California blend. Heat gently and serve.

#2 Canned lentil soup is good with cooked cauliflower or diced potatoes, some diced tomato and

a dash of curry powder. Heat to blend the flavors.

#3 Lower sodium vegetable or chicken broth can be made into a beautiful soup by adding leftover diced chicken or turkey, a package of frozen mixed vegetables and shredded cabbage. Simmer and add some Italian spices.

#4 Add color to a can of black bean soup with frozen corn, diced green and red bell pepper and some cumin to taste. Heat to blend flavors. You get the idea; you start with a can and add some fresh taste and color with fresh or frozen vegetables. It lowers the salt per serving, plus you get a serving or more of vegetables which are part of a special diet for lowering blood pressure.

#5 Another idea is to think about making your own home-made soups. You can cut the salt by using fresh ingredients and adding flavor with herbs and spices. Crockpot cooking can be a great way to cook a meal while you are away.

We want to help you to keep your blood pressure lower - the Healthy Heart Project is designed to reduce the risk of heart disease and high blood pressure is one of the risks for heart disease. As part of the project we offer a class on hypertension. Join us at the Sault Tribal Health Center auditorium for High Blood Pressure - Food Choices and Medications on April 24 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. or April 26 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The class is offered again in July and November. Call (906) 632-5210 for more information.

Niim-Ikwe is coming to Munising

If you haven't had a chance to attend one of the Niim-Ikwe Workshops there is still time. Niim-Ikwe is coming to Munising on March 31. This workshop is designed for women and girls, ages 11 to elder. There are many ways we can have healthy happy lives. Those who have attended this workshop in Manistique and Kinross, praise it for the knowledge they gained and the fun they had. The agenda

will include discussion on topics such as women/girls cultural teachings and keeping physically active with traditional pow-wow dancing, Anishinaabe foods, healthy eating, self-esteem, crafting and much more. There is no fee to attend. Registration forms are available through Community Health, please call (906) 632-5210 for more information. Sign-up early, space is limited.



Niim-Ikwe, Michelle Willis

National Women/Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

National Women/Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is March 10, 2007 and National Native American HIV/AIDS Day is March 21, 2007. The Sault Tribe Health Advisory Program would like to share some updated HIV/AIDS information with the community.

Most women, with AIDS are diagnosed between the ages of 25 and 44, indicating that many are likely infected at a relatively young age. The HIV virus is transmitted more efficiently from men to women during sexual intercourse. Having another sexually transmitted disease (STD) may increase risk for contracting HIV. Most AIDS diagnoses among women/teens are due to heterosexual transmission followed by injection drug use.

Many women with HIV/AIDS encounter barriers to treatment due to postponement of care due

to lack of transportation, are too sick to go to a doctor, and lack of financial stability (low-income).

As for Native Americans, "the numbers for of HIV and AIDS diagnoses for American Indians and Alaska Natives represent less than one percent of the total number of HIV/AIDS cases to the HIV/AIDS Reporting System. However, when population size is taken into account, this population in 2004 was ranked third in rates of AIDS diagnoses, after African Americans and Hispanics. The rate of AIDS diagnoses for this population group has been higher than that for whites since 1995." Centers for Disease Control, April 2006.

An estimated one-fourth of approximately one million persons in this country who are living with HIV do not know that they are infected. That's approximately 250,000 persons

who could be spreading it to their partners unknowingly.

Please take time in March to stop and listen to a speaker on HIV/AIDS, gather STD/HIV information or get tested for HIV at the Sault Tribal Health Clinic ask to speak with Stacey Roy, HIV/AIDS Health Educator (906) 632-5255 or Larry Klein, Program Coordinator about free HIV testing. Testing is available to anyone in the community.



Committee publishes final draft of new constitution

The Sault Tribe's Constitution Committee is pleased to announce that the final **DRAFT** of the new Constitution is now available for public review and comment. The **DRAFT** of the new Constitution represents a work in progress, and all provisions are subject to change.

Since January 2006, the Constitution Committee has held meetings to debate and develop proposed amendments to the Constitution. All meetings have been open to the public. The committee has spent hundreds of hours on a volunteer basis developing **DRAFT** proposals to improve the tribe's current Constitution originally adopted in 1975.

Before the committee makes any final recommendations to the board and the people, the committee will hold public hearings in the tribe's seven-county service area on the latest proposals. All final proposals developed by the committee will be presented to the board of directors to begin the Secretarial (BIA) Election process as required by federal law.

Submit all questions and comments to:
Candice Blocher,
Coordinator, Constitution
Amendment Project
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of
Chippewa Indians
523 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
49783
Tel: (906) 635-6050
Fax: (906) 632-6587
Email: cblocher@saulttribe.net

Constitution DRAFT (Stage #21 - Feb. 16-17, 2007)

PREAMBLE

We, the Baawetung Anishinaabek of the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa, in order to provide for the perpetuation of our Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin, provide for the welfare and prosperity of our People, protect our property and resources, preserve our inherent sovereignty in accordance with the teachings of our Seven Grandfathers, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I - SOVEREIGNTY

Section 1. **Source of Sovereignty.** The People shall be the source of all governing authority and power vested in the Tribe by this Constitution.

Section 2. **Supremacy.** This Constitution shall be the supreme law over the government and all the People of the Tribe. All treaties, laws, compacts, and actions of the government shall be consistent with this Constitution. All laws of the Tribe existing at the time of adoption of this Constitution shall remain in effect so long as such laws are consistent with this Constitution.

Section 3. **Delegation of Sovereignty.** The government shall exercise only the authority and powers granted by the People in this Constitution.

Section 4. **Reserved Powers.** Powers not granted to the government shall be reserved to the People.

ARTICLE II - BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 1. **Bill of Rights.** The government of the Tribe shall not make or enforce any law which:

(a) infringes upon religious or cultural beliefs or prohibits the free exercise thereof nor any law which establishes religion;

(b) prohibits the freedom of speech, expression, or of the press, or the right of the People peaceably to associate or assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances;

(c) infringes upon the right of any person otherwise eligible at any time to seek and hold elective public office;

(d) violates the right of the People to be secure in the privacy of their persons, houses, papers, electronic and telecommunications information, vehicles, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, nor issue warrants but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation signed by a Judge and particularly describing the place, person, house, or things to be searched, the object and scope of such search, and the person or thing to be seized, nor execute an arrest without probable cause, nor exercise a detention without reasonable suspicion, nor conduct any custodial interrogation of a suspect unless recorded visually and by audio;

(e) subjects any person to search without probable cause or to interrogation while in custody without informing the person of their right to remain silent, to have access to an attorney, and to be advised that anything they say can be held against them in a court of law;

(f) subjects any person to criminal prosecution or punishment more than once for the same offense arising out of the same incident, nor compels any person in any criminal case to be a witness against himself or herself;

(g) discharges any person from employment without due process, or takes any private property or possessory interest in private property for public use, without due process and just compensation;

(h) discharges any person from employment or takes any other retaliation against an employee who makes public any information of misconduct by officials or employees of the Tribe;

(i) denies to any person in a criminal or civil proceeding the right to a speedy and public trial, to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be confronted with the witnesses against him or her, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his or her favor, and in a criminal proceeding to have the assistance of counsel for his or her defense subject to income guidelines;

(j) requires excessive bail, imposes excessive fines, or inflicts cruel and unusual methods of interrogation or punishment;

(k) denies to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection, application, or opportunity under the law or deprive any person of liberty or property without due process of law, provided, that the government shall have the power to enact and implement laws that provide employment preferences;

(l) directs a criminal proceeding against a specific individual or group, or punishes conduct after the fact through the enactment of laws or resolutions which criminalize such conduct;

(m) denies to any person accused of an offense punishable by imprisonment the right upon

request, to a trial by an impartial jury of not less than six persons, and all persons shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law;

(n) denies to any person the access to his or her own personal information maintained by the Tribe;

(o) denies to any Person the right to own, bear, and use arms subject to regulation by the Tribe by law.

Section 2. **Pardon Panel.** Upon submission of an application for a pardon, a Pardon Panel, comprised of the Ogema, the Speaker of the Legislature, and the Chief Judge of the Constitution Court, shall have the power to issue a pardon by unanimous vote of the Panel in a public hearing provided that no pardon may be issued until the passage of three years from the date of conviction.

ARTICLE III - TERRITORY

Section 1. **Territory.** The Territory of the Tribe shall encompass all lands which are now or hereafter owned and held by the Tribe or owned by the Tribe and held in trust for the Tribe or Members by the United States, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent or right-of-way in fee or otherwise existing now or in the future. The Territory shall include lands and waters ceded by the 1836 Treaty or any other treaty entered into by the Tribe for purposes of exercising, regulating, and protecting reserved rights of hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and cultural activities. The Territory shall include but not be limited to, the environment, air, airspace, all surface and sub-surface land and water, and any resource severable from the land, minerals, and natural resources. No Territory shall be ceded or conveyed unless authorized by law subject to the approval of the voters in a Special Election. No real property, tangible property, or intellectual property, of the Tribe, shall be transferred, mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered unless authorized by law.

Section 2. **Jurisdiction.** The Jurisdiction and governing authority of the Tribe shall extend to all persons, property, and activities within the Territory and shall include exercising, regulating, and protecting reserved rights to fish, hunt, trap, and other usual rights and privileges of occupancy over all lands and waters ceded by the Treaty of Washington of 1836 or any other treaty entered into by the Tribe. The Tribe shall have the power to assert the Sovereignty and Jurisdiction of the Tribe over all matters that affect the interests of the Tribe. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to limit the ability of the Tribe to exercise its Jurisdiction based upon law or its inherent sovereignty.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. **Requirements.** All persons shall be entitled to membership in the Tribe who possess Indian blood and:

(a) who are validly enrolled as members of the Tribe as of the date of the approval of this Constitution and their lineal descendants; or

(b) who can trace their ancestry to any historical annuity or census roll of the seven historical bands, which shall include Sugar Island, Grand Island, Point Iroquois, Sault Sainte Marie, Garden River, Drummond Island, and Mackinac.

Section 2. **No Dual Membership.** No person shall be a Member of the Tribe who is also a member of any other tribe or band of North American Indians.

ARTICLE V - SEPARATION OF POWERS

Section 1. **Branches of Government.** There shall be one Legislative branch, one Executive branch, and one Judicial branch. There shall be a system of separation of powers and checks and balances between the branches of government. No branch of government or official of any branch of government shall exercise any power granted in this Constitution or properly delegated by law to any other branch of government except as expressly directed or permitted by this Constitution and each branch shall act as a check and balance upon the actions of the other branches as permitted by this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI - JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 1. **Composition of the Judicial Branch.** There shall be one Judicial Branch. The Judicial Branch shall be made up of one Trial Court which shall be called the Court of Gweyakwaadziwin, one Supreme Court which shall be called the Court of Nbwakawin, a Constitution Court which shall be called Ganawendama, a Judicial Commission, and court staff including a Chief Administrator of the Judicial Branch, staff attorneys, a Chief Clerk of each Court, and appropriate subordinate clerks of court. The Judicial Branch shall also include trial level courts of special jurisdiction as established by law.

(a) **Composition of the Trial Court.** The Trial Court shall be made up of one Chief Judge, one Associate Judge, and any other Associate Judges or Substitute Judges as authorized by law. The Chief Judge shall have oversight authority of all matters related to the operations and administration of all trial level courts including the employment and discharge of Court personnel.

(b) **Composition of the Supreme Court.** There shall be five Justices on the Supreme Court. There shall be one Chief Justice and four Associate Justices. The Chief Justice shall have oversight authority of all matters related to the operations and administration of the Supreme Court.

(c) **Composition of the Constitution Court.** The Constitution Court shall be made up of seven Judges including two Judges, one man and one woman, if available, selected by the Judges from among themselves, to preside together in accordance with tradition, over the proceedings of the Constitution Court.

(d) **Composition of Courts of Special Jurisdiction.** Courts of Special Jurisdiction shall be made up of judges or peacekeepers, including appropriate staff, as established by law.

Section 2. Election and Selection of Justices and Judges.

(a) **Election of Justices and Judges.** All Justices and Judges, except substitute Judges, shall be elected directly by the voters.

(b) **Selection of Substitute Judges.** Upon recusal of the Chief Judge and all Associate Judges, the Chief Judge shall select a Substitute Judge from among the current Judges serving on the

Constitution Court, subject to any restrictions imposed by rules of the Courts or by law.

Section 3. Terms.

(a) The term of office for each Judge of the Trial Court or any other trial level court shall be four years and each Judge shall remain seated, unless removed, until an oath of office is administered to a successor. The terms of office for each Justice of the Supreme Court shall be six years and each Justice shall remain seated, unless removed, until the oath of office is administered to a successor. The term of office for each Judge of the Constitution Court shall be eight years and each Judge shall remain seated, unless removed, until an oath of office is administered to a successor.

(b) The terms of office for Justices and Judges of the Trial Court, Supreme Court, and Constitution Court shall be staggered.

(c) In the First Election for purposes of establishing staggered terms of office, the Chief Judge of the Trial Court shall serve for four years, and one Associate Judge of the Trial Court shall serve for two years. In the First Election for purposes of establishing staggered terms of office, two Justices of the Supreme Court who receive the two highest number of votes shall each serve a term of six years, and two Justices of the Supreme Court who receive the next highest number of votes shall serve a term of four years, and one Justice of the Supreme Court who receives the next highest number of votes shall serve a term of two years. In the First Election for purposes of establishing staggered terms of office, four Judges of the Constitution Court who receive the four highest number of votes shall serve for eight years, and three Judges receiving the next three highest number of votes shall serve for four years.

Section 4. Qualifications.

(a) The Chief Judge shall be a Member of the Tribe, an attorney, and reside within a fifty mile radius of Baawetung upon election to office. All Associate Judges shall be Members of the Tribe, at least thirty-five years old or an attorney, and reside in any voting District upon election.

(b) The Chief Justice shall be a Member of the Tribe and an attorney, and at least two other Associate Justices shall be Members of the Tribe. All Justices shall be of voting age and Native American. At least one Associate Justice shall be an attorney.

(c) No person shall be eligible to serve as a Judge or Justice who has ever been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction unless pardoned by the Pardon Panel of the Tribe, or by the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred as long as such pardon is consistent with the constitution and laws of the Tribe.

(d) Judges of the Constitution Court shall be eligible voters of the Tribe, and at least one seat on the Constitution Court shall be reserved for an attorney, but if no candidate is an attorney, then the seat shall be considered an open seat for any otherwise qualified person.

(e) A Judge or Justice cannot be an elected or appointed official of any other government.

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Section 5. Jurisdiction of the Courts.

(a) The Trial Court shall have original jurisdiction over all cases and controversies, both criminal and civil, in law or in equity, arising under the Constitution, treaties, laws, and customs of the Tribe, including cases in which the Tribe or its officials and employees shall be a party. Any such case or controversy arising within the jurisdiction of the Tribe shall be filed and exhausted in the Judicial Branch before it is filed in any other court or in any other jurisdiction, except for an appeal of a final decision by the Election Commission on any election protest or challenge including challenges to a redistricting and reapportionment plan filed in the Supreme Court. This grant of jurisdiction shall not be construed to be a waiver of the Sovereign Immunity of the Tribe.

(b) The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction over any case on appeal from the Trial Court or any other trial level court. The Supreme Court shall also have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any final determination of an election dispute by the Election Commission or on any approved plan to redistrict or reapportion, and such jurisdiction shall include the power to make findings of fact and conclusions of law, and to issue all remedies in law and equity. The Supreme Court shall hear and decide all election disputes within thirty days of filing, or if no decision is rendered within thirty days then the decision of the Election Commission shall be final.

(c) The jurisdiction of the Constitution Court may be invoked by any individual citizen when an action of the government gives rise to any issue arising under this constitution and no individual citizen or group of individual citizens can establish standing in the Trial Court. If the Trial Court or any other trial level court determines that a party has standing, then the Constitution Court shall not be authorized to hear or decide any case arising out of the same incident and raising substantially the same constitutional issue. The Constitution Court shall cancel the proceedings in any case when a case arising out of the same incident or facts and raising substantially the same constitutional issues shall be filed and accepted by any trial level court.

Section 6. Powers and Duties of the Courts.

(a) **Healing.** The primary duty of the Judicial Branch shall be to promote community and individual healing and forgiveness in all matters which come before the Courts in accordance with the laws, customs, and traditions of the Tribe.

(b) Trial Court.

(i) The Trial Court shall have the power to make findings of fact, interpret the Constitution, treaties, and laws of the Tribe, make conclusions of law, and issue all remedies in law and in equity.

(ii) The Trial Court shall have the power to declare the laws of the Tribe void if such laws are not consistent with this Constitution.

(iii) The Courts shall have the power to review and determine if actions of the Executive, including any Department, Board,

Committee, or Executive Branch official are consistent with this Constitution, and to order an appropriate remedy for actions which violate this Constitution.

(iv) All proceedings of the Trial Court or any other trial court shall be recorded for purposes of appellate review.

(c) Supreme Court.

(i) The Supreme Court shall have the power to interpret the Constitution, treaties, and laws of the Tribe, make conclusions of law and make findings of fact in election disputes, and issue all remedies in law and in equity. Decisions of the Supreme Court shall be final.

(ii) The Supreme Court shall have the power to declare the laws and Executive actions of the Tribe void if such laws are not consistent with this Constitution.

(iii) The Chief Justice shall have oversight authority of all matters related to the operations and administration of the Supreme Court including the employment and discharge of Court personnel and the preparation and presentation of an annual budget request for the Judicial Branch. The Supreme Court shall have the power to adopt Rules and Court Procedures governing the Judicial Branch subject to the Rules of the Judicial Commission and the Laws of the Tribe.

(d) Constitution Court.

(i) All seven Judges of the Constitution Court shall hear and decide each case unless a Judge is recused.

(ii) No case or controversy shall be filed in the Constitution Court unless the case has first been filed in the Trial Court and the Trial Court has determined that the party filing the case lacks standing. Any interpretation of the Constitution by the Constitution Court shall be explained in a written opinion and shall not be appealable but shall be final and binding upon all other courts. The Constitution Court shall not have the authority to issue orders. Any party who obtains a final interpretation of the Constitution by the Constitution Court shall be deemed to have standing to seek enforcement of such interpretation in the Trial Court.

(c) **Court Rules.** Each Court shall have the power to make its own rules of court, procedure, evidence, and other judicial matters, subject to the power of the Chief Judge to make or modify such rules, and any rule established by any Court or the Chief Judge shall be subject to the power of the Legislature to make or modify any rule by law.

(f) **Written Decisions.** All orders, judgments, opinions, or final decisions of any Court shall be written and published in a timely manner.

(g) **Final Disposition.** The Courts shall render a final disposition in all cases properly filed.

(h) **Right to Appeal.** Any party to a civil action, or a defendant in a criminal action, who is dissatisfied with the judgment or verdict of a Trial Court may appeal to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall have the right to accept or deny any appeal from a Trial Court. All appeals that are accepted for review by the Supreme Court shall be heard by the full Supreme Court.

(i) **Precedent.** The Courts shall develop rules regarding precedent. The Courts shall

require all parties to a case to present arguments regarding the customs and traditions of the Tribe. In the absence of an applicable written law of the Tribe, the Courts shall separately consider and explain in writing the application of the customs and traditions to the disposition of the case.

Section 7. **Conflicts of Interest.** Judges and Justices shall disclose and recuse when they have a conflict of interest. Any party to a case shall have the right to request a Judge to recuse, and every decision on recusal shall be accompanied by a written explanation for the decision.

Section 8. **Judicial Commission**
(a) **Establishment.** There shall be a Judicial Commission in the Judicial Branch.

(b) **Composition of the Judicial Commission.** The Judicial Commission shall be comprised of five seats to be filled by Members of the Tribe, three seats which shall be selected upon public nomination by the Ogema and two seats which shall be selected upon public nomination by the Chief Justice, all nominations to be subject to confirmation by the Legislature. Members of the Judicial Commission shall serve four year staggered terms of office.

(c) **General Powers of the Judicial Commission.** The Judicial Commission shall have the power to adopt Rules and Court Procedures governing the Judicial Branch subject to the Laws of the Tribe.

(d) **Specific Powers to Regulate the Conduct of Judges, Justices, Attorneys, Advocates, and Officers of the Courts.** The Judicial Commission shall have the power to establish Rules of Ethics for the Judicial Branch to hear any complaints regarding Judges, Justices, attorneys, advocates, or any other Officer of the Courts, subject to law. The Judicial Commission shall have the power, after providing due process, to make recommendations to the Supreme Court to conduct a disciplinary or removal hearing.

ARTICLE VII - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1. **Composition.** The Legislature shall be comprised of fifteen Legislators elected from the eight voting Districts as follows:

(a) The Upper Peninsula shall be divided into five voting Districts with a total of twelve Legislators.

(i) Until the boundaries of the voting Districts are modified pursuant to the terms of this Constitution, the respective boundaries of the Districts shall continue as they existed at the time of ratification of this Constitution except the boundary of District Five shall be expanded to include the remainder of the western Upper Peninsula.

(ii) Until the number of Legislators per District is modified pursuant to the terms of this Constitution, the number of Legislators per District shall continue as they existed at the time of ratification of this Constitution.

(b) The Lower Peninsula shall be divided into three At-large Voting Districts, with one Legislator per voting District as follows:

(i) the Northern At-large Voting District shall include

Antrim, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, and all counties in the Lower Peninsula north of those counties.

(ii) the Western At-large voting District shall include Crawford, Roscommon, Gladwin, Midland, Gratiot, Clinton, Ingham, Jackson, and Hillsdale, and all Michigan counties west of the those counties.

(iii) The Eastern At-large voting District shall include all Michigan counties east of those counties listed in subparagraph (ii) and not listed in subparagraph (i).

(c) **Redistricting and Reapportionment of the Upper Peninsula Districts.**

(i) After the next census in 2010 and every ten years thereafter, the Election Board shall make Findings of population patterns and demographics for purposes of redistricting or reapportioning. The Election Board shall prepare a proposed Plan to redistrict or reapportion the five voting Districts in the Upper Peninsula to achieve an equitable redistribution of Legislators based on the Findings, but each District shall have at least one Legislator.

(ii) The Election Board shall present the proposed redistricting or reapportionment Plan to the Legislature for approval or disapproval. The Legislature shall have the authority to modify the Plan submitted by the Election Board by law. If the Legislature fails to approve or disapprove the Plan by law within sixty days of submission to the Legislature, then the original plan proposed by the Election Board shall be deemed final for purposes of judicial review.

(iii) Any Member of the Tribe shall have standing to challenge in the Supreme Court any redistricting or reapportionment Plan adopted by either the Election Board or the Legislature within thirty days of approval, and any approved plan shall be subject to review by the Supreme Court which shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction, and a decision by the Supreme Court shall be final, provided that if the Court does not make a decision within sixty days of filing of the challenge, then the Plan as approved shall be final and no further judicial review shall be permitted.

(iv) Any redistricting or reapportionment plan approved pursuant to this Section shall be implemented prior to the beginning of the 2012 election cycle, and each ten years thereafter.

(d) At-large voting Districts shall not be subject to redistricting or reapportionment.

(e) Eligible voters of the Tribe shall be permitted to vote exclusively in the voting District in which they maintain their primary residence. Eligible voters of the Tribe who do not maintain their primary residence in any of the voting Districts shall be permitted to register to vote and vote in any one of the three At-large Voting Districts; provided, that once registered to vote in an At-large voting District voters shall not be permitted to change voting Districts unless they establish their primary residence in a voting District.

Section 2. **Terms.** The term of office for each Legislator shall be four years. The terms of office for all Legislators shall be staggered.

Section 3. **Selection.** All Candidates for District Legislator shall be named by District on the same ballot and elected by receiving the highest number of votes in descending order cast by eligible voters of the District.

Section 4. Qualifications.

(a) Every Legislator shall be a Member of the Tribe and of voting age.

(b) No persons convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction shall serve as a Legislator, unless pardoned by the Pardon Panel of the Tribe after holding a public hearing, or by the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred so long as such pardon is consistent with the laws of the Tribe as determined by the Pardon Panel.

(c) Every Legislator shall physically reside in the District which they represent for at least two years immediately prior to the election and for the duration of their term.

Section 5. **Compensation.** Legislators shall be paid a reasonable compensation by law commensurate with a full-time job. No Legislator shall be employed in any other capacity.

Section 6. **Powers.** Legislative power shall be vested in the Legislature.

(a) The Legislature shall have the power to make laws, raise revenue, borrow money, and enact an annual balanced budget for the entire Tribe by law, and take any other action as provided in this Constitution. The Legislature shall not have the power to make a private law.

(b) There shall be one comprehensive annual balanced budget for the entire Tribe. The annual budget shall include all revenue and funds controlled by the Tribe and all revenue and funds received by the Tribe from any and all sources. The Legislature shall have the power to conduct one semi-annual budget assessment and make appropriate modifications to the annual budget by law. Upon request of the Executive, the Legislature shall have the power to make the requested modification to the annual budget by law at any time. No money shall be drawn from the Treasury unless it has been separately and previously authorized by law and included in an approved budget.

(c) If the Legislature fails to approve an annual budget by the start of the fiscal year, then the entire Tribe shall continue to function at the level of the previous year's budget, and no Legislator shall be paid any compensation until a new budget is enacted and Legislators shall not receive any retroactive compensation for the period of time when the previous year's budget was in effect.

(d) The Legislature shall follow a public Legislative Process to enact laws and budgets.

(i) All proposed laws and budgets of the Legislature shall be embodied in a written Bill, unless otherwise indicated in this Constitution. Each Legislator shall have the power to introduce a Bill which shall be read into the public Legislative Record and placed on the public Legislative Calendar. The name of the Legislator who is the primary sponsor of each Bill shall be indicated on the Bill.

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Every Bill shall include a section explaining how the law derives from, comports with, or affects the historical customs and traditions of the Tribe. Every Bill shall include a statement identifying the specific law, if any, to be amended, superceded, or repealed.

(ii) The Legislature or a Legislative Committee shall be required to conduct at least one public hearing in any District held outside the time of a Legislative Session which shall include time for public comment on a Bill prior to passage by the Legislature. The Legislature shall have the power to compel evidence, Records, and witnesses by subpoena. Members of the Tribe shall be afforded the opportunity to address the Legislature privately regarding a personal matter; however, the Legislature shall not be permitted to take any action at such time.

(iii) The Legislature shall be required to publish every introduced Bill in the Tribe's newspaper, Web site, and in other public places at least thirty days prior to a vote by the Legislature, unless the Bill proposes a budget modification made upon the request of the Executive to meet a time-sensitive requirement for securing funding from a source other than the Tribe.

(iv) A majority of the whole number of seated Legislators shall constitute a quorum, and a quorum shall be required to convene a Regular Session or Special Session of the Legislature. The Legislature shall have the power to enact a Bill by a majority vote of Legislators present. The Legislature shall vote on each Bill in public by separate roll call votes. A Legislator shall be present to cast a roll call vote, and the names and votes of each Legislator on each Bill shall be recorded and published.

(v) All Bills enacted by the Legislature shall be presented to the Ogema and Vice Ogema for signature or veto. The Ogema shall have ten days from presentation to sign the enactment into law or to veto the enactment with a written explanation of objections, and if the Ogema takes no action on an enacted Bill, then it shall become law. The Legislature shall have the power to override an Executive veto by a vote of at least three-fourths of the seated Members of the Legislature.

(vi) No law, whether enacted by the Legislature and signed into law by the Ogema or enacted by veto override by the Legislature, shall be valid until it has been published in the Tribe's newspaper and a period of at least ninety days has passed. All laws shall be compiled into one Code which shall be published annually.

(vii) Unless otherwise permitted by this Constitution, any action by the Legislature which does not follow the Legislative Process shall be deemed void and shall not be implemented or enforced by the government, Ogema, or any official or employee.

(c) Beginning two years after the effective date of the Constitution, a permanent interest-bearing trust fund shall be established and the principal of such fund shall remain unencumbered, unappropriated, and unspent. At least 7.5 percent of that part of the Tribe's annual budget revenue derived from the Tribe's businesses shall be

budgeted and deposited into the permanent trust fund. In each annual budget, the Legislature may include up to ninety percent of the available interest from the permanent trust fund for services to Members and reasonable and customary fund administrative fees, and the remaining interest shall become principal of the permanent trust fund.

(f) The Legislature shall select a Speaker from among its Members. The Legislature shall have the power to create internal rules and procedures for the Legislative Branch including the power to establish Legislative Committees comprised exclusively of Legislators. The Legislature shall have the power to employ legislative staff including legislative counsel. The Legislature shall have the power to employ both political staff and career staff.

(g) The Legislature shall have the power to establish executive Departments, Commissions, Boards, Offices, and other subordinate entities by law. All Commissions and Boards shall be established in the Executive Branch. The powers and duties of all Commissions shall be regulatory. No Legislator may be elected, appointed, or employed in the Judicial Branch, in the Executive Branch, or in any other government or its political subdivisions in any capacity including as a consultant, contractor, or otherwise unless specifically authorized by this Constitution, except that the Ogema and Legislators who are otherwise qualified may serve as unpaid members of the business board of any gaming enterprise owned by the Tribe and operated in another jurisdiction.

(h) The Legislature shall not have the power to enact, adopt, authorize, or otherwise approve any cession, diminishment, or relinquishment by law, agreement, or by any other means any treaty rights reserved to the Tribe. The Legislature shall not have the power to pass any law or to negotiate any agreement prohibiting or abridging the exercise of any reserved treaty right to hunt, fish, or gather except for temporary conservation purposes which shall be subject to the approval of the voters in a Special Election.

(i) The Legislature shall have the authority to establish by law a process for the extending Full Faith and Credit to the judicial orders and judgments of other jurisdictions.

Section 7. Legislative Sessions.

(a) Regular Sessions. The Legislature shall convene in Baaweting in a Regular Session during the first full week of the month for up to seven consecutive days.

(b) Special Sessions. The Ogema shall be permitted to call a Special Session of the Legislature. A Special Session may be held in any District and the date and location of the Special Session shall be made by public notice. The purpose of the Special Session shall be explained by public notice and only that purpose shall be considered during the Special Session. A Special Session shall last no longer than one day.

(c) Every Regular Session and Special Session shall be open to the public, unless otherwise permitted by this Constitution.

(d) Legislators may vote on matters only during a Regular Session or a Special Session.

(e) The seat of government shall be Baaweting, the traditional gathering place.

Section 8. First Election. The First Election under this Constitution shall be held in the first available even-numbered year. Upon the adoption of this Constitution all persons serving as Members of the Board shall become Legislators for the remainder of their respective terms. For the First Election under this Constitution, the term of office for the Legislators of the Northern At-large voting District and the Eastern At-large voting District shall be four years, and the term of office for the Legislator of the Western At-large voting District shall be two years and a four year term for each thereafter.

ARTICLE VIII - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1. Composition.

(a) The Executive Branch shall be comprised of one Ogema, one Vice Ogema, a Department of Administration including Offices of Property and Supply, Records Management, Personnel, Grants and Contracts, and Procurement, a Department of Culture and Tradition, a Department of Business, Department of Treasury, and any other Departments established by law.

(b) The Office of Records Management within the Department of Administration shall be located at the government headquarters in Baaweting. The Office of Records Management shall secure and maintain all Records of the Tribe. The Office of Records Management shall develop systems to index and access all Records maintained in the Office of Records Management or any other office. Members shall have the right to inspect any Record and shall have the right to obtain copies of any Record for a reasonable fee as may be set by law. The Legislature shall have the power to impose by law reasonable restrictions on access to records relating to private health records, private personnel files, and private information contained in enrollment records.

(c) There shall be one Executive Director for each Department.

(d) The Ogema shall be in charge of the Executive Branch of government. The Office of Vice Ogema shall be subordinate to the Office of Ogema. The Ogema shall be subject to the laws of the Tribes.

Section 2. Terms. The term of office for the Ogema and Vice Ogema shall be four years.

Section 3. Selection. The Ogema and Vice Ogema shall be named together on the same ballot and shall be elected by receiving the highest number of votes cast by eligible voters of the entire Tribe.

Section 4. Qualifications.

(a) The Ogema and Vice Ogema shall be Members of the Tribe of voting age.

(b) No persons convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction shall serve as an Ogema or Vice Ogema, unless pardoned by the Pardon Panel of the Tribe after holding a public hearing, or by the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred so long as such pardon is consistent with the laws of the Tribe as determined by the

Pardon Panel.

(c) The Ogema and Vice Ogema shall physically reside in any District for at least two years immediately prior to the election, and within thirty days of taking the oath of office, shall physically reside within a fifty mile radius of Baaweting for the duration of their terms.

(d) The Ogema and Vice Ogema shall not hold another job in any capacity.

Section 5. Powers. Executive power shall be vested in the Executive Branch. The Executive Branch shall execute, enforce, and administer the laws and budgets of the Tribe.

(a) The Executive Branch shall present a proposed balanced annual budget to the Legislature no later than first day of June of each year.

(b) The Ogema shall serve as the official representative of the Tribe.

(c) The Ogema shall have the power to veto a Bill within ten days of presentation to the Ogema. A veto shall include a written explanation of any objections to the Bill.

(d) The Ogema shall have the authority to introduce a Bill to the Legislature for consideration.

(e) The Executive Branch shall not have the authority to spend money unless previously authorized by law and appropriated in a budget.

(f) The Ogema shall be authorized to select and employ at least four executive political staff persons for the Office of Ogema, and funding for such positions shall be included in the annual budget.

(g) No person shall make or participate in making an executive decision if such person has a direct and personal pecuniary interest in the outcome of the decision.

ARTICLE IX - RECALL, REMOVAL, AND VACANCIES

Section 1. Recall of a Legislator.

(a) A Legislator shall be subject to recall.

(i) A Recall Election shall be initiated by petition signed by at least ten percent of the total number of eligible voters in the District of that Legislator.

(ii) A separate recall petition shall be required for each Legislator subject to recall.

(iii) A recall petition shall be submitted only to the Election Commission. The Election Commission shall determine within fifteen days whether all requirements for the petition are met. If all requirements are met, the Election Commission shall hold a Recall Election after thirty days but no more than sixty days.

(iv) All eligible voters of the District shall be entitled to vote in the Recall Election. A Legislator shall be recalled and removed from office if at least a majority of the votes cast in the Recall Election vote in favor of recall.

(v) A recall petition shall not be initiated or submitted to the Election Commission until at least six months has passed since the start of each new term of a Legislator. A recall petition shall not be initiated or submitted to the Election Commission if six months or less remain in the term of the Legislator. Once a petition is initiated, the petitioners shall have no more than sixty days to collect the requisite number of

signatures. A Legislator subject to an unsuccessful recall vote shall not be subject to another Recall Election during their term unless the basis for the recall is a conviction of a felony in any jurisdiction.

(vi) A Legislator who is successfully recalled from office shall not be eligible to run for any elected office until the original term of the Legislator would have expired.

Section 2. Removal of a Legislator. A Legislator shall be subject to removal for good cause as established by law.

(a) At least one hundred eligible voters of a District may present to the Constitution Court a signed written petition stating good cause and requesting a removal hearing against a Legislator of that District. The Constitution Court shall decide within fifteen days upon receipt of a petition whether the petition states good cause to conduct a removal hearing.

(b) If the Constitution Court finds good cause, the Constitution Court shall conduct a public removal hearing providing due process and make a final determination whether the accused shall be removed from office.

(c) The conviction of a Legislator in any court for the commission of a felony may constitute good cause for purposes of removal. Upon commencement of removal proceedings for a felony conviction, a convicted Legislator shall be suspended until a final determination is made regarding removal. If the Constitution Court fails to conduct a public removal hearing and make a final determination regarding the removal for a felony conviction within sixty days of receipt of a valid petition, then the Constitution Court shall make a written explanation for refusing to conduct a hearing; the conviction shall result in a final determination regarding removal of the Legislator, and the seat shall be deemed vacant.

Section 3. Recall of an Ogema or Vice Ogema.

(a) An Ogema and Vice Ogema shall be subject to recall.

(i) A Recall Election shall be initiated by petition signed by at least ten percent of the total number of eligible voters of the Tribe.

(ii) A recall petition shall be submitted only to the Election Commission. The Election Commission shall determine within fifteen days whether all requirements for the petition are met. If all requirements are met, the Election Commission shall hold a Recall Election after thirty days but no more than sixty days.

(iii) All eligible voters shall be entitled to vote in the Recall Election. The Ogema and Vice Ogema shall not be subject to recall at the same time. The Office of Ogema or Vice Ogema shall be deemed vacant if at a majority of the ballots cast vote in favor of recall.

(iv) A recall petition shall not be initiated until at least six months has passed since the start of the new term. A recall petition shall not be initiated if six months or less remain in the term. The petitioners shall have no more than sixty days to collect the required number of signatures.

— Continued on page 31.

Constitution draft — continued from page 30

The Ogema or Vice Ogema shall not be subjected to more than one Recall Election during the term unless the basis for a second Recall Election is a conviction of a felony in any jurisdiction.

(v) An Ogema or Vice Ogema who is successfully recalled from office shall not be eligible to run for any elected office until the original term of the Ogema and Vice Ogema would have expired.

Section 4. Removal of an Ogema or Vice Ogema. An Ogema or Vice Ogema shall be subject to removal for good cause as established by law.

(a) At least one hundred eligible voters may present to the Constitution Court a signed written petition stating good cause and requesting a removal hearing against an Ogema or Vice Ogema. The Ogema and Vice Ogema shall not be subject to removal at the same time. The Constitution Court shall decide within fifteen days upon receipt of a petition whether the petition states good cause to conduct a removal hearing.

(b) If the Constitution Court finds good cause, the Constitution Court shall conduct a public removal hearing providing due process and make a final determination whether the accused shall be removed from office.

(c) The conviction of an Ogema or Vice Ogema in any court for the commission of a felony may constitute good cause for purposes of removal and a convicted Ogema or Vice Ogema shall be suspended until a final determination is made regarding removal. If the Constitution Court fails to conduct a public removal hearing and make a final determination regarding the removal within sixty days of receipt of a valid petition, then the Court shall make a written explanation for refusing to conduct a hearing, the conviction shall result in a final determination regarding removal of the Ogema or Vice Ogema, and the seat shall be deemed vacant.

Section 5. Removal of a Judge or Justice. The Supreme Court, upon recommendation from the Judicial Commission and after providing due process, shall have the exclusive power to remove a Judge or Justice.

Section 6. Vacancy in the Office of a Legislator. A vacancy in the Office of a Legislator shall be filled by Special Election held after thirty days but no more than one hundred twenty days of the vacancy. If six months or less remain in the term, then the seat

shall remain vacant and shall be filled in the next election.

Section 7. Vacancy in the Office of the Ogema or Office of Vice Ogema. A vacancy in the office of Ogema shall be filled by the Vice Ogema for the remainder of the term of office, and the resulting vacancy in the Office of Vice Ogema shall be filled for the remainder of the term by nomination by the Ogema subject to confirmation by the Legislature.

Section 8. Vacancy in the Office of a Judge or Justice. A vacancy in the Office of a Judge or Justice shall be filled by Special Election held after thirty days but no more than one hundred twenty days. If six months or less remain in the term, then the seat shall remain vacant and shall be filled in the next election. In the respective case of a vacancy in the Office of Chief Judge or Justice, the Senior Associate Judge or Justice shall temporarily assume such duties.

ARTICLE X - NEWSPAPER

Section 1. Official Newspaper. The government of the Tribe shall establish and maintain a newspaper which shall be separate and independent from the political branches of government. There shall be a Newspaper Board comprised of three seated elected officials with one official from each Branch selected by each respective Branch. The Board shall have the power to promulgate rules and regulations for the operation of the Newspaper. The Board shall have the power to appoint and remove a Chief Editor of the Newspaper using personnel practices normally used by the Executive Branch. All official actions of the Board shall be by unanimous vote. The Chief Editor shall conduct the day-to-day operations, including subordinate personnel matters, subject to the laws of the Tribe.

ARTICLE XI - ELECTIONS

Section 1. Election Commission. There shall be an Election Commission comprised of thirteen Members to conduct all elections in a fair and impartial manner. Members of the Election Commission shall be chosen by a committee comprised of the Ogema, the Speaker of the Legislature, and the Chief Judge from a pool of self-nominated applicants comprised of eligible voters.

Section 2. Primary Election, General Election, and Special Election.

(a) The Primary Election shall be held on the 4th Thursday in

March.

(b) The General Election shall be held on the 4th Thursday in June.

(c) Special Elections shall be held when called for by the Legislature by law or by this Constitution.

Section 3. Eligible Voters. Members of the Tribe age eighteen or older who are registered to vote shall be considered eligible voters of the Tribe. Once registered to vote, a voter shall be considered registered to vote in all subsequent elections unless the voter changes his or her residence.

Section 4. Election Challenges. The Election Commission shall certify all election results within three days of the election. Any eligible voter may challenge the certified election results in writing to the Election Commission within three days of certification of the election results. The Election Commission shall decide all challenges within seven days of filing. The Election Commission decision shall be final unless appealed. The Election Commission shall administer the oath of office to newly elected officials within three days of the final certification of the election results by the Election Commission or, if appealed, by the Supreme Court.

ARTICLE XII - SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

Section 1. Sovereign Immunity. The Tribe shall possess Sovereign Immunity. Nothing in this Constitution shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of Sovereign Immunity from suit unless specifically stated herein, except that the Legislature may authorize a waiver of Sovereign Immunity by law. Any authorization by the Legislature to waive Sovereign Immunity shall be specific and for a limited scope and duration.

Section 2. Immunity from Suit by Parties Outside the Jurisdiction of the Tribe. The Tribe and its executive Officials and Employees acting in their official capacity or within the scope of their authority shall be immune from suit brought by any party not subject to the Jurisdiction of the Tribe except to the extent waived in accordance with law.

Section 3. Immunity from Suit by Parties Within the Jurisdiction of the Tribe. The Tribe and its Executive Officials and Employees acting in their official capacity or within the scope of their authority shall be immune from suit except to the extent waived in accordance with law or except for suits in

equity filed exclusively in the Courts of the Tribe by any party subject to the Jurisdiction of the Tribe to enforce rights and duties established by law or this Constitution. Any Member of the Tribe may bring a suit exclusively in the Judicial Branch to enforce the terms of this Constitution. Sovereign Immunity shall not extend to Officials and Employees acting outside their official capacity or beyond the scope of their authority.

Section 4. Suits Against the Legislature and Legislators. The Legislature and individual Legislators acting in their official capacity shall be immune from suit in law and equity. When the Legislature or Legislator is exercising an Executive function specifically authorized by this Constitution, the Legislature or Legislator shall not be immune from suit in equity filed exclusively in the Judicial Branch by any party subject to the Jurisdiction of the Tribe.

Section 5. Suits Against Judges. Judges and Justices shall be immune from suit in law and equity for actions taken in their official capacity.

ARTICLE XIII - REFERENDUM AND INITIATIVE

Section 1. Referendum. Eligible voters who reside within the Territory shall have the right to demand a Referendum election on any law the legal incidence of which falls exclusively on residents of the Territory, or on any law which disparately impacts residents of the Territory, by submitting to the Election Commission a petition signed by at least five percent of such voters. Eligible voters of the Tribe, regardless of residence, shall also have the right to demand a Referendum election on any law by submitting to the Election Commission a petition signed by at least five percent of such voters. In either case, a referendum petition must use a form obtained from the Election Commission and such petition must be returned to the Election Commission within sixty days. Once a petition is submitted to the Election Commission, no new names shall be added, and the Election Commission shall make a determination within fifteen days whether all petitioning requirements have been met. Upon making a finding of a valid petition, the Election Commission shall conduct a Special Election on the Referendum within sixty days.

Section 2. Initiative. Voters of the Tribe shall have the right

to enact a law by Initiative. An Initiative shall not be permitted to enact a budget or budget modification. Eligible voters of the Tribe, regardless of their residence, shall have the right to demand an Initiative election to enact a law by submitting a petition signed by at least ten percent of the number of eligible voters of the Tribe to the Election Commission. A petition for an Initiative election shall include the full text of the proposed law. Once a petition is submitted, the Election Commission shall make a determination within fifteen days whether all petitioning requirements have been met. Upon making a finding of a valid petition, the Election Commission shall conduct a Special Election on the Initiative within sixty days.

Section 3. Results of a Special Election. The results of a Special Election for a Referendum or Initiative shall become law immediately unless otherwise specified in the law. Once passed, the results of the Referendum and Initiative shall be binding and shall not be subject to repeal or modification except by a subsequent Special Election or by a three-fourths majority vote of the Legislature.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Request for an Election.

(a) The Legislature may by a three-fourths vote of the whole number of seats in the Legislature call for a Special Election to amend the Constitution.

(b) The voters of the Tribe may call for a Special Election to amend the Constitution by submitting a petition signed by at least ten percent of the number of eligible voters of the Tribe to the Election Commission. Once a petition is submitted, the Election Commission shall verify the signatures on the petition within fifteen days, and if valid, the Election Commission shall conduct a Special Election within sixty days thereafter.

Section 2. Requirements. The Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the voters who vote in the Special Election in each voting District, provided that the amendment is approved by at least five voting Districts, one of which must be an At-Large District. Any amendment approved by the voters shall become effective immediately unless otherwise stated in the amendment.

NCAI convenes executive council winter session in Washington, D.C

WASHINGTON— Immediate Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) and tribal inclusion in the Combat Meth Act are the most urgent current priorities for Indian Country, Indian leaders announced at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council winter session in Washington, D.C.

"We are currently focusing in on two enormously important priorities for Indian Country," said NCAI President Joe Garcia. "We are closer than ever to improved health services for Indian people and we have to stay strong in our fight against methamphetamine abuse in Indian Country."

The IHCA came close to pas-

sage in the 109th Congress. This session, conditions are favorable that the bill will be introduced early during the 110th Congress and passed quickly by both Houses of Congress, according to NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Johnson.

"I believe with the support of the distinguished Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) and Senator Craig Thomas (R-WY), Vice-Chairman of the SCIA, we are closer than ever," said Johnson. "Senator Dorgan has set reauthorization of the IHCA as a top priority of the Committee."

Johnson said the IHCA National Steering Committee has

been working very closely with the SCIA to get a bill that will greatly benefit Indian Country. "We anticipate that the House will introduce the same bill that the Senate introduces which will help to expedite its passage," she said.

One year after his "Call to Action to fight meth abuse and trafficking in Indian Country," Garcia noted the accomplishments in the last year.

"The White House and Congress listened to our 'Call to Action' and we have forged partnerships and working groups that have made serious inroads in this fight," said Garcia. "The Department of Interior has made public safety and meth two of its top priorities, a public awareness

campaign aimed at combating methamphetamine abuse among Native Americans is underway with the Partnership for A Drug Free America and NCAI's meth task force has grown and gotten stronger."

Now Congress must join this fight by including tribes in the Combat Meth Act, stated Garcia. The Combat Meth Act created three new grant programs for law enforcement; drug endangered children and pregnant and parenting mothers, but inadvertently left tribes out.

"Today I call upon Congress to immediately enact the 'Meth Act Tribal Fix' so tribes have the resources they need to protect vulnerable children and families

who are at risk," said Garcia. "In the Senate, I encourage Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) to work closely together, in a bi-partisan fashion, to get this legislation passed. In the House, I want to thank Representatives Tom Udall (D-3rd NM) and Dale Kildee (D-MI 5th) for leading the charge on this legislation. And I call on the Energy & Commerce Committee and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-3rd CA) to fast track this desperately needed bill."

NCAI's Executive Council Winter Session ran through Feb. 28, 2007.

Deward S. Perault, 71 of 1522 W. US-2, probably died early Tuesday morning, Feb. 13 at his home. He was found Friday, Feb. 16. He was born on Mackinac Island, Jan. 25, 1936. His parents were Deward and Isabelle (Visnaw) Perault. He was one of five children, but his siblings died at birth or shortly after.

Deward attended the Indian Dormitory School on Mackinac Island. He lived on the island until 1973. At one time he drove Taxi for Carriage Tours. He was a carpenter all his life, the old kind, basic and complete. He was a painter on the International Bridge after the original building of that complex. He loved hunting, fishing, wood carving, and was an avid mushroom hunter. He also loved the casino, here in St. Ignace and others. He was a life member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and an elder. He was also an Army veteran.

He is survived by his ex-wife, Marcella whom he married in 1960. Also survived by five sons, Deward "Chip" Perault of Mancelona, John Perault of Mancelona, Michael Perault of St. Ignace, Gordon (Michelle) Perault of Mancelona, and William Perault of Cheboygan. Ten grandchildren also survive: Dewey, Alisa, Travis, Brandon, Summer Rain, Tony, Stephanie, Shawna, Breton, and Sophia; and great grandson, Jaden.

Funeral Mass was held Feb. 20 at St. Ignace Loyola Catholic Church with Fr. James Williams and Deacon Tom McClelland officiating. Burial of his ashes will be on Mackinac Island in May with military honors and tribal honors.

Dodson Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Dorothy Mae Brownlee of Maleport Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away at War Memorial Hospital on Feb. 16, 2007. She was born in Sault Ste. Marie on Feb. 11, 1927. Dorothy was a member of St. Isaac Jogues Church. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren. She liked to go



and visit her family and friends. She took great interest in going to Take Five and enjoyed being with her friends there. Dorothy loved to knit and bowl, and enjoyed life to the fullest. She is survived by her daughters: Mary Ruth (Alvin) Gamelin, Nancy (Wayne) Lowes of Sault, Mich., Kathy Laprairie (Marty) Martell of Shingleton, Mich.; sisters: Georgia (Herb) Levin of Charlotte Harbor, Florida, and Roberta Kaysner; grandchildren: Richard Lowes of Sault, Mich. and Michelle (Gary) Dunkel; great-grandchildren: Christin, Amanda, and Carrie Dunkel of Sault, Mich., Austin, Luci, and Tyler Lowes, of Sault, Mich.; Areka Nolan, and Jessica (Roger) Skindell; great-great-grandchildren: Jaden, Ava, and Collin; as well as many family and friends. Dorothy was predeceased by her daughter, Faith Ann; James Brownlee; mother, Ruth Kaysner; father, Robert McKay; and brother, John McKay. Visitation was held Monday, February 19, at St. Isaac Jogues Church, 1529 Marquette Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Funeral Mass was held Monday, February 19, at 11 a.m. with Brother John Hascall officiating. Final resting place will be Oaklawn Chapel Gardens. Memorial contributions may be made to the Community Action Agency's Take Five program.

Ethel A. Buergermeier (Kazmierczak), 67, late of Cedar Lake, Ind., formerly of Southeast Side of Chicago, Ill., passed away Jan. 11, 2007.

She was the beloved wife of Robert E. Buergermeier, Sr.; loving mother of the late Matthew Kazmierczak, Sherry (Donald) Emerson, Robert Kazmierczak, Evelyn Kwasny and Darlene Yager; stepmother of Robert Jr., William and Michael Buergermeier; devoted grandmother of Aimee, Donald Jr., Ryan, Katelyn, Christopher, Justin, Michael, Joseph, Jenna and Jamie; cherished great-grandmother of Allysa and Adrian; dear sister of Robert, Leo, Darlene, Rose and late Loretta; fond aunt of many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Robert and Marie (Johndrow) Koerzendoerfer and grandparents Joseph and Mable (Brassar) Johndrow.



Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007 with prayers from Elmwood Chapel in Chicago, Ill., to Church of the Annunciation for Mass of Christian Burial, Cemetery private. Ethel was a former employee of South Chicago Trinity Hospital.

Joe Lavake, also known as Melvin Joseph Lavake, died at his home early Wednesday morning, Feb. 14. He was born Nov. 15, 1940 in St. Ignace to Charles and Josephine (Visnaw) Lavake. He graduated from high school, and was a tool and die maker in the Detroit area for many years. He returned to northern Michigan, and was a commercial fisherman over 20 years in the Cheboygan area. He loved to hunt and fish, and was an elder of the Sault Tribe. He loved the casino, and his family was very important to him.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, one son, Joe and Jennifer of St. Ignace, step sons Tom (Anna) Proctor of Lansing, Kenny Proctor of Corpus Christi, Texas, step daughter Dawn (Jeff) Swonigan of Rialto, Calif., daughter, Shilo Kammer of Chesterfield, Mich., brothers, Clayton (Norma) Lavake of Lansing, Earl Lavake of Garden City, Michael Lavake of Sault Ste. Marie and Eugene Lavake in the Detroit area; 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 17 at Dodson Funeral Home with Pastor Marvin Rinesmith officiating. Memorials may be made in his honor to the Moses Dialysis Unit at Mackinac Straits Hospital.

Rev. Allen Goodrich, 58, Pastor of the Bethany Lutheran Church in Mohawk, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Mohawk on Thursday morning, Feb. 15, 2007.

He was born on Aug. 15, 1948 in Kankakee, Ill., a son of the late Charles and Evelyn (Busse) Goodrich. He attended and graduated from the Grand Ledge High School. He attended Lansing Community College and Michigan State University to earn a degree in teaching. In 1971, he began teaching



sociology and economics at the Rudyard School and later went on to work at Lake Superior State University's Upward Bound program, eventually becoming director. He moved to St. Paul, Minn. in 1986 to attend Luther Seminary there. In 1990, he became the pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Mohawk and had been their pastor until the time of his death.

He was instrumental in the formation of Keweenaw Lutheran Ministries which led to the construction of Shepherd of the Sea Chapel in Copper Harbor.

He was an avid guitar player and had started a class at the church where he encouraged all to play and learn.

In his ministry at Bethany Lutheran Church and in the Copper Country, Pastor Al had touched many lives through his willingness to serve in whatever capacity asked of him. He had married hundreds of couples, not only in the church, but wherever the couple requested, whether it was on Brockway Mountain, the Natural Wall or in the Still Waters Garden. He also presided over hundreds of funerals in the area, giving each and every family the care and compassion they needed. He was a genuinely loved man, wonderful pastor, loving husband, dad, friend and will be tremendously missed by his church and the community.

He married the former Lavina Lewis on Aug. 19, 1977 in Sault Ste. Marie. Pastor Al served his country in the U.S. Army and was stationed in West Point. He was the Hospice chaplain at Keweenaw Home Nursing and Hospice and a member of the Sons of Norway.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Myra Goodrich; sister-in-law, Stella (Dahl) Goodrich; brother-in-law, Pete Lentz. Surviving are his wife, Lavina; two daughters, Sonnet Goodrich of Mohawk and Kirsten Goodrich at Northern Michigan University; a son, Matthew Goodrich, stationed at Ft. Campbell, Ky., with the U.S. Army; four sisters, Karen (Jeff) Routson of Mason, Mich., Bonnie (Ron) Broseus of Columbus, Ohio; Donna (John) Magers of Marysville, Ohio and Sherry Lentz of Nicholls, Ga.; four brothers, Dan (Brenda) Goodrich of Churubuseo, Ind., C. Harlan Goodrich of Midland, Mich., David Goodrich of Biola, Kans., and Steven (Sylvia) Goodrich of Dublin, Ohio; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins

and many, many friends.

Funeral services were Feb. 21, 2007 at in the Bethany Lutheran Church in Mohawk with Bishop Thomas Skrenes and Pastors Jay Schrimpf and Peter Vorhes officiating.

In lieu of other expressions of sympathy, the family asks memorials be directed to the Bethany Lutheran Church.

Rodney Alan Fish Jr. of Manitowoc, Wisc., age 28, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 17, 2006. He was born June 6, 1978. Rodney enjoyed disc golfing with his dad, playing drums, listening to music and beadwork.

Rodney is survived by his father, Rodney (Terri) Fish Sr. of Two Rivers, Wisc.; his mother, Emily (Larry) Reiser of Manitowoc, Wisc.; two sisters, Lindsay Fish of Two Rivers, Wisc., and Jamie (Chris) Baird of Missouri; two step-brothers, Travis and Nic of Two Rivers and one step-sister, Bobbie Jo of Manitowoc; two special friends, Vernon Martin of Hayward, Wisc., and Pat Newberry of Manitowoc; any aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Rodney was preceded in death by his grandparents, Alvin and Helen Fish, Nelson Farrish, and his uncle, Larry Fish.

Klein and Stangel Funeral Home assisted the family on Dec. 20, 2006.

Visitation will be held at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building on Saturday, June 16, 2007. Final resting place will be Mission Hill Cemetery on Sunday, June 17, 2007.

Happy birthday, Sis Pauline Stafford Moll March 25, 1923-April 2005

It has been almost two years. We love and miss you.

Sisters Caroline and Linda Brother Ray Stafford, Your family and friends.

Pauline was born in Sault Ste Marie to Thomas and Mae Stafford, she was married to Royal Wilson (Boullley) all deceased. She leaves four brothers and four sisters all members of the tribe.

— Irene Thiele, Sierra Vista, Ariz.

Happy birthday, Sis Pauline Stafford Moll March 25, 1923-April 2005

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— Irene Thiele, Sierra Vista, Ariz.

Thanks for support

The family of Anthony and Forest Lee would like to thank the Hessel casino, Sault Tribe Hessel elders, St. Ignace McDonalds and the community for their support at the benefit fundraiser held for Anthony Lee on Feb. 17, 2007, who is currently receiving medical treatment for aplastic anemia.

— The family of Anthony Lee

—Continued on page 33.

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— The family of Anthony Lee

—From the tribe's mail—

Deward Perault family thanks community

The Deward Perault family wishes to thank the Funeral Assistance Program for their help during our time of grief. Also to Kewadin Hotel and restaurant for rooms and food; and the Causley family. Your donations were greatly appreciated. Chi Megwetch.

To all those who attended the sacred fire, church services or just sent your thoughts or gifts,

megwetch to you all. Traditional burial will be held in the spring at the old cemetery on Mackinac Island. We will notify this paper when the date is known.

— The family of Deward Perault

Dorothy Brownlee family says thank you

The family of Dorothy Brownlee would like to send a thank you to all who helped us through a difficult time with the sudden loss of our mom. As anyone who

knew her, or had just met her, knew she was a kind and very caring person, she is going to be missed by many family members and friends.

A special thank you to the Take Five Program, Connie and Maryann, and all her friends who took part in this very wonderful program. And to the Dial-A-Ride program, thank you, she looked forward to that bus ride home.

Thank you Brother John Hascall for the beautiful Mass and songs you sang, you made our

time of sorrow a time to remember how much mom enjoyed life.

To the women of St. Isaac Jogues church along with parishioners for providing the food for the luncheon on such a short notice, we thank you.

For all the cards and phone calls it truly made us remember all the good times and how lucky we were to have her for a mom, grandmother, great grandmother and friend.

— The family of Dorothy Brownlee

—From the tribe's mail—

Exciting times — moving to the future

Not since we gained federal recognition has there been an opportunity that will have a more profound and positive impact on our people. Brothers and sisters, that opportunity is the rewriting of our Constitution. Please pay special attention to what's going on.

Our existing Constitution has been an albatross around our neck, a burden and a source of distress. It has been a document that impairs effective action. The present document is based on a corporate model and is not at all suited to governing an indigenous people. At the time our leaders were working to gain recognition for our tribe, they were forced, by time constraints and other reasons, to get a constitution prepared and accepted by federal authorities. Regardless of the shortcomings of the original Constitution, we have to be so proud of those dedicated people, especially when you consider what they were able to accomplish, in spite of the great obstacles the government placed in their way. You can be assured that if they had more time and more flexibility, the current Constitution would be a whole lot better.

We have been given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity now. We owe it to the next seven generations to get it right this time. We have a chance to end up with an excellent document, one that may well be a model for all of Indian Country.

Our board showed great wisdom in the manner that they structured this project. First and foremost, they hired facilitators that are both knowledgeable and qualified. Both are Anishinaabe and both are attorneys that have worked with other tribes in rewriting their constitutions. Their special insight and experience have proven invaluable. Secondly, the manner for selecting the committee members to work on this project was well thought out, resulting in a true cross section of our community. Since this document must be fair and workable for all our people, the people working on it should be diverse in every sense. That is the case. Committee members represent a broad range of ages. There are men and women both professionals and non-professionals. There are those who live on our reservations and those who live in communities all across the United States. There are tribal employees and those who work elsewhere, as well as some who are retired. And there is political diversity, with some who favor the previous administration and those who favor the present administration. There is a real healthy mix. Thirdly, the board gave the committee a clear charge "strengthen and improve the Constitution".

Because of the diverse backgrounds and life experiences of the committee members, there has been healthy debate on every aspect of the emerging document. Fortunately, committee members have demonstrated a sincere willingness to put personal agen-

das aside and consider issues in terms of what is best for all our people. You can rest assured that no issue has been treated lightly. Consideration of some of the major issues has spanned several meetings resulting in 20 to 40 or more hours of discussion and debate, before a consensus could be reached. Everyone's interests are being represented and considered in developing the new document. Our present Constitution, while it leaves a lot to be desired, has been in effect for the past 30 years. Hopefully, the new document will gain the acceptance of the people and can be used to govern our people for generations to come.

The proposed Constitution is a very comprehensive document designed to provide for separation of powers by creating judicial, legislative and executive branches of government. Accountability is the cornerstone of the many sections supporting the separation of powers. An attempt was made to blend our customs into the fabric of the document. The new Constitution will cost more to administer, a price we had better be willing to pay in order to be able to move ahead to the future generations with some measure of stability in our government. Will things be different and/or better under the proposed Constitution? Absolutely!

Are we ready for such a drastic change in the way we govern ourselves? We had better be, if we hope to survive as a sovereign nation in these modern and troubled times. We need to create an environment where our people, all of our people, can unite for the common good of our tribe. Then, and only then, can we deal effectively with the threats to our sovereignty by the forces of the white majority. We need to stop fighting among ourselves and direct our energies, talents and resources to preserving our way of life, not only for ourselves, but for our children, grandchildren and the many generations that follow. The proposed Constitution provides the means to accomplish these things.

Each of us must pray for guidance and search deep into our hearts as we consider our vote on this new document. Please don't vote against the proposed Constitution because you don't like one or two parts of it. Look at it as a whole. We have a responsibility to put our petty differences aside and do what is right for our people, all of our people, just as our ancestors did. We cannot afford to be selfish and close minded. We have been granted a once in a lifetime opportunity. Let's do it right.

— Robert S. Menard
Ishpeming, Mich.

Student thanks chairman and Education Department

I am writing to thank you and your staff for all of your support. Dr. Ulin, the chair of my department, (anthropology) has recently informed me that I am being rewarded for my work with the Presidential Scholar Award. This

is the highest honor that an undergraduate can receive at Western Michigan University. This would certainly not have been possible without your assistance and support. So from the very bottom of my heart, thank you.

— Michael Carpentier

Student attains bachelor's degree

I am writing to submit my fall 2006 grades for the higher education program. In the fall I attended Wayne State University. This semester, I received my bachelor's degree and I am very grateful for all of your help. It was very difficult for me to go back to school at such a late age, the program made it easier by paying for all my books and gas each semester. Thank you once again for all your help.

— Susan Marie Coulter

Student attends Notre Dame

Hope you all had a merry Christmas and have a happy new year. Notre Dame continues to be a great experience for me. This past semester proved to be quite difficult for me and was very stressful. However, I still enjoyed it and am looking forward to going back soon. This fall I had a number of good classes, but I had a huge amount of work that was difficult at times to keep up with. I have never written as many essays as I did this past semester.

I enjoyed all of my classes except for my developmental psychology class. The teacher who was supposed to teach that class found out about a week before classes started that she would not be able to teach it and the replacement teacher was very poor. She was a nice person, but she had never taught the class before and did not really know the material. Other than that class, my classes and teachers were alright. In the upcoming semester, I am going to be working in a moral psychology lab for one of my professors, which should prove to be a very rewarding experience. I am also going to be taking some of my final classes for my majors, political science and psychology. I am on track to be able to graduate a semester early if I decide that is what I want to do. Over Christmas break I am also planning on getting in touch with the Holland city government to see what types of internship opportunities are available in the area. Other than classes, I had a number of other things that kept me very busy this fall. I am the co-president of the Native American Student Association of Notre Dame, and this has proved to be very rewarding. We sponsored a number of events including a concession stand and a speech by a Native American motivational speaker, Chance Rush. We are working on holding a Native American film festival sometime this spring as well. The most rewarding venture that we have done is tutoring Native youth from local tribes. The kids range from grades five to 12 and we tutor them three Wednesdays a month. Even when the workload is huge, I still look forward to

the tutoring sessions. I am also involved with the Multicultural Recruitment Committee, and we work with the admissions office to recruit minority students. I am also on an advisory committee for the Notre Dame magazine. Notre Dame continues to be amazing and I am looking forward to another semester. Thanks again for all of the support.

— Anthony Holt

Student thanks Education Department for incentive award

I am writing to say thank you for the educational incentive award I received for my last semester of college. I would like to express my gratitude to the chairman and the other members of our tribal board, as well as to everyone in the Education Department.

The incentive award I received for last semester will pay for all my books for the upcoming spring semester, thank you. I very much appreciate the investment our tribe is making in my education. I will continue to strive to reach my educational goals and to ultimately become gainfully employed in the field of social work, which I am pursuing. Thanks again to the folks in the Education Department for all of your assistance, you are all always very helpful.

— Teresa Petersen

Elder thanks tribe for land claims dividend check

I enjoy reading the tribal paper, and so glad you changed the name back to Win Awenen.

Thanks for the annual dividend check. It comes in handy for these unexpected expenses that crop up.

Keep up the good work, I know tribe members appreciate all that is done for them.

— Marlene Lawrence
Sherman

Member expresses appreciation

I wish to show my appreciation for the two checks received from the tribe in the last several weeks.

The Christmas check was used for a family get together on New Year's day, the other will be used for things around the house and travel.

Although not desperately needed, it is still appreciated.

Thanks to the chairman and the tribe.

— Donald H. LaLonde

Thank you for support

I would like to thank everyone who was there for me when my mother passed on to be with all the other loved ones and our Creator. All the hugs and kisses and cards showed how much compassion your hearts are filled with. I would like to say chi miigwech to Cecil Pavlat and Bud Biron and the Bahweting drummers for being a part of my family. They taught me a lot and how to deal with my loss. Also Cathy Abramson, Kim Green, Karol Pavlat, Joanne Carr, Jeff Holt, Ken Hemming, Jill Romano, Susan McCoy, Susie Stiver, Paulsen, DJ Malloy and all those

in entertainment. You all have a loving and caring heart, and to Nathan Wright who also offered his help.

Thank you for your support.

— Elizabeth Wall Thank you for elder's check

Many thanks for the \$1,600 check received this past week! The older one gets, the more we appreciate the care given us by the tribe. Our prayers are for you to continue your good work.

— Dolores M. Trautner

Thank you for providing care for elders

Here is my yearly thank you to the tribe for the means to keep a roof over my head (taxes) and to pay my house insurance. And I can't forget my \$50 check that bought food for our Christmas dinner. I'm sure that all the elders made good use of this windfall. Thanks again to all who provide such wonderful care for our elders.

— Margaret Robinson
St. Ignace, Mich.

Student thankful for incentive award

Thank you so much for the wonderful monetary gift. I worked very hard last semester and it is nice to be rewarded for hard work. The money will help me out a lot during the spring semester. Thank you again, I am greatly appreciative.

— Emily Muscoe

Helping communities and families

Aanii-boozhoo, nwiiji-maadiz Anishinaabek. Chi miigwech Megan Smith and to all of ACFS staff. Higher Education staff members also need to be recognized. These people help our communities and families as a tribe should. Chi miigwech Bud Biron and Cecil Pavlat. Baawaa'ting Singers and helpers at the Ceremonial Building, thank you all. Baamaapii miinwaa g'gaa waabminim!

— George E. Tessier IV

Member thanks men and women serving our country

I would just like to thank Lance Cpl. Green, his family and all men and women serving our great country. Your story on Lance Cpl. Green and others in the past make me feel proud that I am a Yooper from the Sault. Lance Cpl. Green, I wish you a safe duty and come home safe to your family on Sugar Island. I grew up on the Island too. If I could, I would like to invite this young brave man fishing on Lake George. I would tell this brave man about all my uncles, cousins and my grandpa who also did their duty. Please bring more stories about our troops. They are just men and women doing their job. God bless them all.

— Spc. Paul Steinkohl
A 4/6 Inf. Berlin, Germany,
1980-1983 - "Defenders of Berlin."

The next deadline for submissions to Win Awenen Nisitotung is March 27 at 9 a.m.

Questions? Call (906) 632-6398.

Feb. 1-April 13: Attention Sault Tribe Members. The Sault Tribe Housing Authority will be accepting applications for the Rental Assistance Voucher Program. This will be the only time applications will be accepted for this program in 2007. To be eligible you must be a Sault Tribe household, currently employed and meet income guidelines. We will be assisting ten families within the seven county service area pay a portion of their monthly rent amount. For more information or to request an application please contact Heather Alstrom at (906) 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072.

Feb. 7-March 28: Learn to Sew. An eight week series to be held every Wednesday beginning Feb. 7 at the Nigaanagizhik building from 6-8 p.m. Would you like to learn the basics of sewing and applique work? The Cultural Division will begin a three project series beginning with applique bags. For more details, contact Melissa at (906) 635-6050 ext. 26145.

March 5-21: Lucky Hot Seat promotion at Kewadin Casinos. Are you ready for the hot seat? Kewadin's Lucky Hot Seat that is! Visit any Kewadin Casino location for a chance to win cash prizes! Drawings will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day from all those players using their Northern Rewards Club card with 25 earned points. For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

March 10: Totzone "Pajama party" theme, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center. Totzones are designed for children five and under and require adult supervision. There is a \$3 fee per child to participate. For information call (906) 635-RINK.

March 10: Soo Indians vs. Manitoulin, 7 p.m. at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Free admission for Sault Tribe elders and \$2 admission for Sault Tribe members. Tribe members must present tribal card. For more information, please call (906) 635-RINK.

March 11: Tri County Detroit Area monthly chair meeting, Grecktown Casino, Olive Room, Detroit, Mich., 12 p.m. The tribal membership can meet with the chairperson to hear your issues, answer questions and give updates. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

March 11: Diamond Rio will be performing at the St. Ignace Kewadin Casino, for more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

March 12-April: Sugarbush beginning mid March and ending in mid April. The Mary Murray Culture Camp will be keeping a Native tradition going. If you're interested in attending please contact the Culture Camp for dates and to sign up. Dates will vary based upon weather. For information please contact the Mary Murray Culture Camp at (906) 635-6050 for Bud Biron, Culture Camp coordinator at ext. 26144, Melissa Causley, assistant coordinator at ext. 26145, or Josh Homminga cultural outreach at ext. 26146 or stop by the Cultural Division at 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

March 13 & 15: Move More - Feel Better, Honoring the Gift of Heart Health, March 13, 1-3 p.m. and March 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Have you ever wondered, "What is a healthy body weight and how do I get there?" or

thought, "I workout everyday and I never lose a pound..." Physical activity is an important ingredient in the recipe for "good health". It has the power to shape your insides and outides. We will share many ideas for keeping active and keeping a healthy weight. Honoring the Gift of Heart Health, six-sessions held Jan. 16-March 29 at the Sault Tribe Health Center auditorium, 2864 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. For questions or to register, call Community Health at (906) 632-5210. Registering for classes is recommended so we can inform you of any changes.

March 13: JKL Bahweting Public School Academy Board of Education meeting in the school cafeteria, 1301 Marquette Avenue, at 5:30 p.m. For questions, call (906) 635-5055.

March 14: ACFS Fundraising Committee Spaghetti Luncheon, 11-1:30, Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. To volunteer for Anishnabek Community and Family Services fundraising activities or for more details, call (906) 632-5250.

March 14-Dec. 26: Anishnabemowin language classes Wednesdays from 12-1 p.m. at the former American Café, 531 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. No sign up necessary. Bring your brown bag lunch. For more information, call Nancy Debassige, at (906) 632-6050.

March 14: Unit IV Manistique Elderly Committee will be holding their monthly meeting on the second Wed. at 12:30 p.m. after the noon meal at the Manistique Tribal Center. Questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

March 14: Neuropathy - It Can Affect More than Just Your Feet, group education class, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI. This class provides an overview of the various types of neuropathy (nerve damage) caused by diabetes, how they may affect the body, and the treatments available for management. Call Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

March 15: Brown bag lunch and learn, healthy weight for kids, 12-1 p.m., at the Sault Tribe Health Center. For information, call Donna Norkoli at (906) 632-5210.

March 15: Public hearing of the Constitution Committee project, Sault Ste. Marie Kewadin Casino, 6-9 p.m. This is a public hearing to get member input on the final draft of the Constitution prior to going to the board of directors for the final input. Either the committee or attorney(s) will be going through the document. This hearing will be open for public comment. For more information, call John Causley, Jr. at (906) 484-2921.

March 15-16: The Sault Tribe Health and Human Service Programs (Munising Tribal Health Center and ACFS Staff) will be relocating. Move date: March 15-16. The new address: 622 W. Superior Street, Munising, MI 49862. Limited services will be offered during the move dates. Please contact the Munising Tribal Health Center at (906) 387-4721 with any questions.

March 16: Sault Tribe Job Fair at the Michigan Collegiate Fair, 9-3 p.m., Burton Manor Banquet and Conference Center, Livonia, Mich. For more information, call Barb Gravelle at (906) 635-4937.

March 16: Soup and frybread fundraiser for the LSSU powwow

at the Kewadin Casino Bingo Hall, 2186 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI from 11-2 p.m. Soups include potato, chicken noodle, chili, broccoli, macaroni, white fish chowder, turkey, wild rice and vegetable. Please call Sue Stiver-Paulsen at (906) 632-6578 for information or to volunteer.

March 16: Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society (SIHPS) monthly meeting at the Sugar Island Community Center, Sugar Island, meetings are held the third Friday of every month at 2 p.m. Pubic welcome.

March 16: Family Celebration at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., 5-7 p.m. Free events from local business and programs with information booths and activities for children. Sub line with fruit cups, milk, juice or water provided. Door prizes, free skating from 5:30-6:30 p.m. For information, call (906) 632-5250 ext. 23320.

March 16: Public hearing of the Constitution Committee Project, Kimross, Mich., 6-9 p.m. Location to be announced. This is a public hearing to get member input on the final draft of the Constitution prior to going to the board of directors for the final input. Either the committee or attorney(s) will be going through the document. This hearing will be open for public comment. For more information, call John Causley, Jr. at (906) 484-2921.

March 16: Hank Williams First Nations, 8 p.m., Jamrich Hall 102, NMU, Marquette, Mich. Special guest facilitator, Mr. Aaron Sorensen, director of the film. Brought to you by the Native American Student Empowerment Initiative presented by the NMU Center for Native American Studies and made possible by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. For information, call (906) 227-1397.

March 17: Sault Tribe's Traditional Medicine Program, Community Health and ITC of Michigan are partnering to host a traditional tobacco workshop, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nigaanagizhik building, 11 Ice Circle Dr., Sault Ste. Marie. Lunch will be provided, please bring a dish bag. Tobacco is a plant indigenous to North and South America. For the Anishnabe people it is known as our first medicine. This workshop is a gathering of Anishnabe people to revitalize our teachings of tobacco: its origin, history, and proper use vs. its abuse. Presentations will reflect wisdom from our traditional healers, spiritual leaders, community health staff, cultural staff, and elders. Please plan to attend, if you are a: Tribal leader, including, tribal administrators, spiritual leaders, pipe carriers, health care staff or educators working with tribal people, tribal youth, elder or adult concerned with preserving culture and important health practices of our people. No charge to attend. For more information or to register, call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

March 17: Public hearing of the Constitution Committee project, Cheboygan, Mich., 10-1 p.m. and St. Ignace, Mich. from 3-6 p.m. Location to be announced. This is a public hearing to get member input on the final draft of the Constitution prior to going to the board of directors for the final input. Either the committee or attorney(s) will be going through the document. This hearing will be open for public comment.

March 17: Public hearing of the Constitution Committee project, Cheboygan, Mich., 10-1 p.m. and St. Ignace, Mich. from 3-6 p.m. Location to be announced. This is a public hearing to get member input on the final draft of the Constitution prior to going to the board of directors for the final input. Either the committee or attorney(s) will be going through the document. This hearing will be open for public comment.

March 17: Public hearing of the Constitution Committee project, Cheboygan, Mich., 10-1 p.m. and St. Ignace, Mich. from 3-6 p.m. Location to be announced. This is a public hearing to get member input on the final draft of the Constitution prior to going to the board of directors for the final input. Either the committee or attorney(s) will be going through the document. This hearing will be open for public comment.

For more information, call John Causley, Jr. at (906) 484-2921.

March 17-18: The Native American Students Association (NASA) of Northern Michigan University is proud to announce our upcoming 15th Annual Learning to Walk Together Powwow. At the Vandament Arena on the NMU campus in Marquette, Mich. Grand entries will be at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sat. and on Sun. at 1 p.m. Feast will be on Sat. at 5 p.m. with a hand drum contest. If you have questions call (906) 227-1397.

March 19: Brown bag lunch and learn, childhood stress, 12-1 p.m., at the Sault Tribe Health Center. For more information, call Kim Sakis at (906) 632-5210.

March 19: The Unit II Hessel Elderly Committee will hold their monthly meeting the third Monday of every month after the noon meal at the Hessel Tribal Center. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

March 19: Tribal chairperson open office hours are held one Monday a month. The tribal membership can meet with the chairperson during open membership hours. These meetings are by appointment only. To make an appointment, contact Sue Stiver-Paulsen at (906) 635-6050 ext. 26640.

March 19: The Unit V Munising Elderly Committee will hold their monthly meetings at 4 p.m. at the Comfort Inn the first and third Monday of every month. For questions, please call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

March 19: Unit I monthly chair meeting, Mary Murray Culture Camp, Sugar Island, Mich., 6 p.m. The tribal membership can meet with the chairperson to hear your issues, answer questions and give updates. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

March 20: ACFS Fundraising Committee Breakfast, 7:45-9:30 a.m., Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. To volunteer for Anishnabek Community and Family Services fundraising activities or for details, call (906) 632-5250.

March 20: Inflammation: How the Heat Affects Your Health, group education class, 3-4 p.m., Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI. What is inflammation? How can it affect your health? What can you do about it? Bring your questions and join us at one of these sessions to learn more. For questions, call Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

March 20: Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting, Hessel at 6 p.m. Open community hour is from 5-6 p.m. For further information, call Joanne or Tara at (906) 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660.

March 21: HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Presentation, Native Americans, Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day presentation and brown bag lunch held March 21 at the Sault Tribe Health Center auditorium from 12-1 p.m. This presentation is to promote Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day March 10 and Native American HIV Awareness day on March 21. Dr. Rebecca Werner and Stacey Roy, HIV/AIDS health educator will be presenting on the connection between HIV/STD's and sharing the latest facts on HIV among Natives, women and girls. For more information, call Stacey Roy at (906)

632-5255.

March 21: Sault Tribe Job Fair at the U.P. Collegiate Fair, NMU at the Don H. Bottom University Center, 1-4 p.m., Marquette, Mich. For more information, call Barb Gravelle at (906) 635-4937 ext. 53447.

March 21: Unit II Monthly Chair meeting, Naubinway Pavillion, Naubinway, Mich., 5 p.m. The tribal membership can meet with the chairperson to hear your issues, answer questions and give updates. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

March 23: The Unit II Newberry Elderly Committee will hold their monthly meeting the fourth Friday of every month after the noon meal at the Newberry Tribal Center. For questions, please call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

March 23: Public hearing of the Constitution Committee project, Newberry, Mich., 6-9 p.m. Location to be announced. This is a public hearing to get member input on the final draft of the Constitution prior to going to the board of directors for the final input. Either the committee or attorney(s) will be going through the document. This hearing will be open for public comment. For more information, call John Causley, Jr. at (906) 484-2921.

March 23-25: Laura Stamm Power-Skating School. Focus on developing proper skating technique, balance and control, turning speed and lateral mobility and agility maneuvers. Price is \$179. To register call (800) 320-9558 or visit www.laurastamm.net.

March 24: Honoring our Culture and Dancers Spring Powwow, Lake Superior State University, Norms Center gym, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Grand entries 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Spiritual gathering, March 23, 10 a.m. Hosted by the Native American Student Organization of LSSU. For more information call the Native American Center at (906) 635-2223.

March 24: Totzone "Sports Pals" theme, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center. There is a \$3 fee per child to participate. For more information call (906) 635-RINK.

March 24: Public hearing of the Constitution Committee project, Munising, Mich., 10-1 p.m. and Marquette, Mich. from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Location to be announced. This is a public hearing to get member input on the final draft of the Constitution prior to going to the board of directors for the final input. Either the committee or attorney(s) will be going through the document. This hearing will be open for public comment. For more information, call John Causley, Jr. at (906) 484-2921.

March 24: Sault Tribe Job Fair at the ML Works Sault Job Fair 1-4 p.m. at the Sault Area High School, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. For information, call Barb Gravelle at (906) 635-4937.

March 24: Everclear performing, 7 p.m. in the DreamMakers Theater, Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN.

March 25: Northern Lower Michigan monthly chair meeting at the Inverness Township Hall, Cheboygan, Mich., 6 p.m. Call (888) 94-AARON.

Soo Health Expo!

8am - 4pm, Thursday, March 22

sponsored by **VitalCare**

at Kewadin Casino
2186 Shunk Road



FREE Admission!

Snacks! Doorprizes! Give-aways!
Displays & Interactive Demos!
FREE Screening Services!

Win a FREE High Definition TV!

Aetrex Shoes - #1 Manufacturer of shoes for painful feet! See the wide assortment of "Deep Comfort" shoes for arthritic and diabetic feet. Many traditional styles for both men and women.

Cedar Brook Assisted Living - senior living and respite care

Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action - Meals on Wheels, in-home services, Take 5 Adult Daycare.

Freighter View Assisted Living - Sault assisted living program

Golden Technologies - lift chairs, power mobility scooters

Health Watch - home medical alert system, activity monitoring, medication adherence

LifeScan - OneTouch Ultra glucometers, diabetic supplies, education

Newberry Assisted Living - assisted living program in Newberry

Northern Michigan Hospital - heart and vascular, oncology, sleep diagnostics and neurosciences services; stroke and peripheral artery disease screening questionnaires, body composition, and colorectal cancer screening

ResMed - sleep apnea therapeutic equipment

Sault Tribe Community Health - diabetic foot exams, commercial tobacco abuse education, nicotine dependence and cessation

Sault Tribe Elder Division - info on all Elder programs: meals, Health Fund, transportation, home health and medical equipment

Sault Tribe Nutrition Services - education on diabetes, heart disease and healthful eating

Takeda Pharmaceuticals - Type 2 diabetes diet/management; oral meds

Tendercare - rehabilitation services with focus on nutrition, physical and occupational therapy - Smoothie samples!

UPCAP - longterm care resources and options; 2-1-1 Resource Line

VitalCare - visiting nurses, hospice, caregiver support, oxygen, home medical equipment supplies, post-mastectomy, diabetic shoes

War Memorial Hospital - advanced directives; clinical and occupational therapy services; lymphedema (chronic swelling) therapy

FREE CPAP Clinic at this Expo! Shawn Webster, Polysomnographer, will be available to provide education, support and equipment adjustments for sleep apnea therapy patients.

Questions? More info? Call **VitalCare @ 1-800-342-7711**

Mackinac County Animal Shelter

980 Chessemann Road, St. Ignace (906)643-7646
Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sun 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
or call for appointment

www.petfinder.com



Tux



Martha



Zoey



Bobby



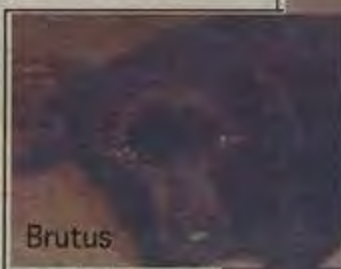
Carrie

Look how fluffy I am!

You can have fluff but I have the right stuff!



Monica



Brutus



Found

I just want a nice home where I can take my naps!



Red



Piper

Anyone Interested In Supporting An Adoption Of A Homeless Pet At The Mackinac County Animal Shelter, Please Call MAAA

Community Donations Welcome

Mackinac Animal Aid Association is a 501C3 non-profit - all donations are tax deductible
All donations are greatly appreciated. Send to Mackinac Animal Aid, P.O. Box 92, Moran, MI 49760

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EVERCLEAR
SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN



BOBBY VINTON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4TH
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN



WAYNE NEWTON
SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

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Promotions cannot be changed without prior approval by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Gaming Commission. Promotions can be cancelled at Management's discretion.

Minors Welcome

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