



"One Who Understands"

Namobin Gilzis: "Sucker Moon"

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

April 6, 2007 • Vol. 28 No. 4

Briefs

Midjim store hours change

Starting April 16, both locations in St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie will change to summer hours of 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

New director of MGCB announced

On March 29, 2007, Gov. Granholm announced the appointment of Richard Kaim as executive director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board. Kaim will replace Daniel Gustafson, who resigned in September 2006.

Kaim will be responsible for directing the regulation of Detroit's three casinos, including Greektown Casino. Kaim is also charged with monitoring the State's gaming compacts as it pertains to Michigan's American Indian casinos.

Treaty rights update

The state of Michigan, along with the Sault Tribe and four other Michigan tribes are actively engaged in re-forming the Agreement in Principle (AIP) into an "Inland Compact Decree." This will spell out how the tribes will continue to exercise their hunting and fishing rights as outlined in the 1836 treaty.

The AIP is a document that the parties signed August of 2006 indicating their willingness to forgo trial and pursue settlement. However, the final terms and conditions of the settlement terms will be laid out in the decree. Once the decree is completed to the parties' satisfaction, the parties will execute a stipulation on Entry of Consent Decree, which will formally settle the case.

A status conference has been scheduled for late June. At that time, the parties anticipate having a final draft of the decree.

Once a final draft is completed it will be brought before the Sault Tribe Board of Directors for final review. Details of the settlement remain confidential via a confidentiality agreement.

American Indian senior recognition ceremony

Tuesday, May 8, at 6 p.m. Niigaungizhik Building 11 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie. Potluck, please bring a dish to pass. Community members welcome. R.S.V.P. Patti Oshelski (906) 635-3839.

Sault Tribe board members voice concerns on Capitol Hill

By MEGHAN KELLY POWELL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Sault Tribe's Board of Directors along with other tribal leaders met with a number of Congressional leaders and key Congressional staff members during the week of March 12, 2007.

While in Washington, D.C. to attend the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors made time to meet with members of various education, appropriation and budget committees on Capitol Hill. During these meetings, they focused on five educational issues, crucial to the tribe.

Tribal leaders worked to restore the Johnson O'Malley Act. This Act is essential to the Sault Tribe because it provides supplemental education program support for our children. The tribe relies heavily upon its funding, as it is designed to fund tribal educational needs and activities not authorized by other federal education programs. The President recently zeroed out the funding for this program in his fiscal year 2008 budget proposal. Another, more immediate threat addressed by the tribal board is the risk that current Johnson O'Malley funding will be diverted to other programs within the Department of Interior, under



Members of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors visited Washington, D.C., in March to attend the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes conference. Your elected officials also met with policy makers to discuss a variety of issues that are of significant importance to American Indian communities. Major topics of concern included the future funding for health and education services.

the continuing resolution for fiscal year 2007.

The board also supported the fight for additional funding for Title VII services under the No Child Left Behind Act. Title VII service funding is used primarily by our tribe as a means to address

student retention. Tribal leaders pushed Congressional leadership for a five percent increase over the fiscal year 2007 continuing resolution funding level. Title VII supports unique education and cultural needs of tribal students.

Without the increase in funding, our school districts will continue to operate with inadequate funds directed towards programs designed to keep tribal students from dropping out of school.

Issues relating to "impact aid" — Continued on page 3.

Bouschor's appeal delays trial

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Despite Judge Johnson's previously released statements which seem to favor the Sault Tribe's chances of winning the civil suit 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 was forced to order a "stay" on the trial due Bouschor's file for an appeal.

The tribe's claims of breach of fiduciary duty, constructive fraud and legal malpractice, which were to be deliberated at a jury trial this April, now could be delayed six to nine months due to an appeal hearing which was granted to Bouschor by the Michigan Court of Appeals. Court proceedings require that the jury trial be postponed until the outcome of the appeal hearing.

In reaction to the appeal, the Sault Tribe filed a cross-appeal and will ask the Court to rule in their favor instead. Bouschor, who is claiming that "executive

immunity" should have exempted him from any wrongdoing, will once again use that argument as the basis for his defense, despite having this issue thrown out in circuit court.

Judge Johnson previously ruled on this issue in circuit court by stating, "The nature of the specific acts alleged here involve Bouschor secretly negotiating severance agreements, after his authority... was expressly revoked." The judge, in turn, explicitly denied Bouschor's claim for "absolute executive immunity."

The results stemming from the appeal may or may not exclude Bouschor from jury trial, and/or could result in an immediate ruling in the favor of the Sault Tribe pending the outcome of the cross appeal filed by the tribe.

The possible impact of a favorable or unfavorable appeal ruling for Bouschor or the Sault Tribe as it pertains to the pending jury trial cannot be determined until the appeal process is fully completed.

Hunting and fishing permits

Beginning immediately, tribe members can obtain 2007 tribal hunting and/or inland fishing permits. Members will no longer be required to re-submit an application each year to obtain a permit. However, those applying for the first time must still submit an initial application for record keeping purposes. Applications will now be accepted year-round. There is no longer a time frame or deadline for accepting applications. If you currently have a permit and want to renew it annually, you are still required to notify Law Enforcement each year. Monthly catch/hunt reports are still required. As of March 27, a hunting code specifying the age requirement for juveniles has not been finalized, therefore, the Sault Tribe cannot issue permits to minors at this time. The board of directors has instructed the Conservation Committee and Legal Department to develop a mechanism to address this issue by the end of April. If you would like to receive a hunting and/or inland fishing permit, call Sault Tribe Law Enforcement/Conservation Department at (906) 635-6065 or complete and return the form on page 13.

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSE REQUIRED TO VALIDATE NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION AND IMPROVE DELIVERY

If you would like to continue to receive a subscription to the Sault Tribe's official newspaper, Win Awenen Nisitotung, at no cost to you please fill out the form on page 8 and return it to us by mail. In order to improve delivery time of the newspaper, tribe members must fill out the form and return it to us. If you do not return the form you might not receive the newspaper in the future.

SEE FORM ON PAGE 8.

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SEQUOIA RESEARCH CENTER
2601 S UNIVERSITY AVE
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72204-1000

Membership Q & A

Q: I've heard of an agreement that was recently signed between the tribe and the U.S. government that allows our members to exercise treaty rights on federal forest lands inside the ceded area. Could you please give me some information and a contact person relating to this?

A: The agreement that you are referring to is a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding tribal-USDA Forest Service relations on national forest lands within the ceded territory of the 1836 Treaty of Washington. This MOU was signed between four of the five federally recognized tribes that fall within the ceded territory and the USDA Forest Service. The Sault Tribe is one of those four and Chairman Aaron Payment officially signed the agreement on Aug. 10, 2006.

The MOU outlines how the tribe's members will gather and harvest plants and materials such as firewood from the federal forest lands, along with agreements relating to the waiving of camping fees when engaged in these activities. Within the treaty ceded territory, there are large portions of three federal forest systems where the MOU is in effect, the Hiawatha National Forest in the Upper Peninsula and the Huron and Manistee National Forests in the Lower Peninsula.

While there are provisions in the MOU that allow for various gathering activities, the members must understand that if the gathering is not done correctly, there could be great harm done. Just as one example, birch bark should only be harvested at certain times of the year and by someone who has the knowledge of the proper way to do it. Therefore, if you are interested in any kind of gathering you should seek out someone who



has experience in these activities and humbly ask them if they could share some of their precious knowledge and provide you with some teachings in the proper way.

Also, in order for our members to practice gathering and camping activities in accordance with the MOU, the Sault Tribe was required to write a new chapter to the Tribal Code which is titled Chapter 23 National Forest Gathering Code. This chapter was subsequently passed by the Conservation Committee and then agreed to by the tribe's board of directors.

Finally, as required by the MOU, there are permits that must be held by tribe members who wish to gather and camp in the allowable areas and these permits, along with maps of the forest, can be acquired by contacting Dan Tadgerson in the tribe's administration building at (888) 942-2766. Mr. Tadgerson assisted with developing Tribal Code Chapter 23 and he has a detailed knowledge of the inner workings of the memorandum of understanding.

Respectfully, Clarence Hudak

If you have questions or concerns and would like to contact a Membership Liaison, you may do so by calling (906) 632-6578 or toll free: (888) 942-2766. Or contact Clarence Hudak at (906) 440-6855 or email: chudak@saulttribe.net or DJ Malloy at (906) 440-6861 or email: dmalloy@saulttribe.net.

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

Win Awenen Nisitotung THE SAULT TRIBE NEWS

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

April 6, 2007

Vol. 28, No. 4

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.

Employment Opportunities!

For More Information Contact:
Employment Office, 2186 Shunk Rd.
(906) 635-7032 or toll free (866) 635-7032
APPLY on-line at www.saulttribe.com

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Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

GOVERNMENTAL OPENINGS

Youth Program Group Assistant

Until Filled

Physician Assistant Until Filled

Caseworker Until Filled

Pharmacist Supervisor -

St Ignace Until Filled

Behavioral Health Counselor-

St. Ignace Until Filled

Court Administrator/Magistrate

04/27/07

Court Clerk - Civil Until Filled

Early Childhood Programs Mgr.

04/13/07

SAULT KEWADIN CASINO

No Openings

MANISTIQUE

No Openings

HESSEL

No Openings

CHRISTMAS

Gaming Shift Manager III Until Filled

Bartender (1) Until Filled

Cashier (Restaurant) Until Filled

Restaurant Manager III Until Filled

ST. IGNACE KEWADIN CASINO

No Openings

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No Openings

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Important updates on issues that affect you, including the upcoming Secretarial Election.

Membership Services

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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/or one, who well or fully understands." The complete Ojibwe spelling is Win Wewen Nisitotung. The name is pronounced, Ween Wewe-at 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.

Contact Information:

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531 Ashmun St.,
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
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saulttribenews@saulttribe.net
Web site: www.saulttribe.com

Joint St. Ignace medical center update

By RICK SMITH

While the hunt continues for funding of the construction of a proposed 76,000 square-foot facility designed to provide expanded and improved medical care for communities of the Mackinac Straits area, crews are readying the 16.5-acre future building site in St. Ignace. The planned hospital and clinics are a joint venture between Sault Tribe, Mackinac Straits Hospital and the University of Michigan.

According to a hospital spokesman, the facility is designed to meet present and future medical needs in the area and bring services to the area that patients must presently receive by traveling long distances. Along with adding new services, the project

will upgrade existing services, maintain preferred quality of care and meet current and foreseeable health care licensing and regulation standards in an efficient and cost-effective building.

Improvements and components featured in the new facility are a 31,000 square-foot, 15-bed critical access hospital; a 65,000 square-foot, 75-bed skilled nursing facility; a 15,000 square-foot tribal health clinic and a 30,000 square-foot physician office and Rural Health Clinic.

Upgraded hospital components will include an emergency department with a decontamination room, a surgery suite, in-patient pharmacy, speech and aqua therapy services, a radiology department, a full service laboratory, 15-

acute care beds in seven semi-private rooms and one private room, medical records and billing, full physical therapy and occupational therapy, expanded chemotherapy and infusion services, expanded renal dialysis and administrative offices.

The spokesman said the 75-bed skilled nursing facility might continue at its present site, depending on the success in raising funds. The skilled nursing component will be incorporated into the new construction plan if the amount needed is raised immediately, otherwise, it will be phased in later. The component will have 36 semi-private rooms and 10 private rooms. Rooms will have three-foot by five-foot showers in the bathrooms with an overhead

patient lift system. Patients' rooms will also feature secure medication lock boxes.

The tribal clinic will cover 15,000 square feet and feature physician offices, social services, a pharmacy, dental services, traditional health services, optometry and other services Sault Tribe Health and Human Services may find required.

The 9,000 square feet reserved for physician offices and Rural Health Care will have space for pediatric and family practice doctors as well as designated space for visiting specialists. This area will offer services in cardiology, dermatology, neurosurgery, rheumatology, allergies, urology, orthopedics, general surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, ear,

nose and throat services and other capabilities that may be included later.

The building will be raised on 16.5 acres of land donated by Sault Tribe for the project valued at \$1.2 million. The site is about three miles north of the Mackinac Straits Hospital's current location.

"We put property up and the value of the property will be taken off of our lease for space in the new facility," said Unit III Representative Fred Paquin. "The hospital is still working on securing funding for construction and we're hoping for good news in 2007 for grant sources. The property in question is somewhat cleared. This spring, stumps will be removed and the site will be readied for construction."

Local sonography school relocates to Kirtland Community College M-Tech campus



MSOCS new location on the campus of Gaylord's Kirtland Community College M-Tech campus.

Photo by Gail Westmoreland

By BRENDA AUSTIN

The Upper Peninsula School of Cardiac Sonography (UPSOCs) located in downtown Sault Ste. Marie has undergone a name change associated with its pending relocation to Gaylord's Kirtland Community College M-Tech campus.

Now called the Michigan School of Cardiac Sonography (MSOCS), the school will remain privately owned while residing on the campus of M-Tech. "We wanted to give the school a good home and we found that at M-Tech," said school manager and instructor Chris Martin. Although MSOCS remains privately owned, it is now officially affiliated with Kirtland Community College M-Tech Campus.

Husband and wife team Chris and Evalene Martin began their school in a little 10 by 12-foot room at the local hospital. Since leaving the hospital, the school went through two expansions to accommodate its students and to provide additional room for more sonography machines. Martin said, "For the past year, we have been in serious negotiations with Kirtland Community College in Roscommon. They have an excellent nursing program and a wonderful facility in Gaylord, which is a growing community. There is going to be a new extended care facility built soon in Gaylord that will benefit our school and we are in the center there with Munson Medical Center, Northern Michigan Hospital, Otsego Memorial Hospital and Mercy

Hospital in Grayling. All those medical professionals offered to be on my advisory board if I moved to Gaylord. I wanted that diversity on my board."

In addition to cardiac sonography, MSOCS will, in the future, be offering programs in diagnostic and vascular sonography. Martin said the paperwork has been filed with the state making the switch from a proprietary school to that of a college program. Because of MSOCS affiliation with Kirtland, students are now working towards associate degrees instead of certificates. "Kirtland was kind enough to allow 40 students who began classes in June 2006 to also earn their associates from Kirtland, although when those students entered our program we were not yet affiliated. We think that is awesome," Martin said. Students earn their associate degrees in 17 months from the time they begin classes at MSOCS. The program demands a lot of time and energy from students and also boasts an almost 100 percent placement rate upon graduation.

With their new affiliation, the school expects to graduate about 100 students per year when all the sonography programs are in place. "We started out with two ultrasound machines and, within two years, have grown to nine. Our first class in Kirtland will begin this May with 20 students. Kirtland now offers prerequisite courses for sonography and it has become so popular that we plan to begin another class this

August," Martin said. "Students earn 36 credit hours in sonography from MSOCS and gain their liberal arts education from Kirtland." MSOCS has arrangements with hospitals, clinics and doctors offices across the country, offering students a place to do their externships once their course work is complete. Students can choose from sites in Michigan, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Wisconsin and North Carolina.

The final class in cardiovascular sonography in the Sault began January of 2007 with 20 students. These students will be graduating in December of 2007 and may finish their training at the Gaylord campus. There are no further classes in Sault Ste. Marie. All admissions to the program are now through Kirtland Community College. For information regarding sonography programs and enrollment requirements contact Bobbie Otwell at (989) 705-3600. For information regarding MSOCS financial services, contact James Stanbrough, (989) 705-3600.

Future plans include offering online courses for all unregistered sonographers to help them prepare for state board exams. According to Martin, the online program should be up and running within a year. "MSOCS is utilizing the Kirtland Community College satellite system to provide their students classroom in-services and educational opportunities at schools and hospitals across the United States."

Sault Tribe board members voice concerns on Capitol Hill

— Continued from page 1.

for our schools, addressed by Title VIII of the No Child Left Behind Act, is also a major concern.

The president's fiscal year 2008 budget proposes that impact aid be significantly reduced from the fiscal year 2007 continuing resolution level. The current level is already inadequate and does not meet the needs of our schools, or schools in Indian Country throughout the nation. Additional cuts, as proposed by President Bush, would be potentially devastating.

The issue of Native language preservation programs was also a topic of concern. Several years ago, our tribe nearly lost its language. Thanks to tribal elders, tribal leadership and tribal teachers, we have kept it and are teaching it to our young people. Additional funding is necessary, however, to continue teaching our children and families the language. Our language is a part of the tribe itself. It connects us to each other and connects our past, present and future as tribal people. If our language is ever lost, there will never be an opportunity to reclaim it.

Tribal leaders of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians were crucial in gaining the passage of this Act during the 109th Congress. The Act was designed to provide three major grant opportunities, for which our tribe would qualify, for the operation of Native language programs.

Unfortunately, no funding was set aside for the implementation of the Act. During the week of March 12, tribal leaders sought a \$10 million increase for Native Language Immersion Programs through the Administration of Native Americans over the fiscal year 2007 continuing resolution level of \$44 million, to be allocated towards programs authorized by the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act.

Tribal leaders also addressed the issue of the Head Start reauthorization. Specifically, they fought for necessary funding for Indian Head Start set asides.

In addition to the meetings associated with the MAST confer-

ence, tribal leaders attended over 14 separate meetings on Capitol Hill, pushing Congressional leaders to provide adequate funding for the previously mentioned Indian education programs. Tribal leaders met and worked with Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-R.I.), Representative Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), Representative Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.) and with crucial Congressional staff members from the offices of Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.), Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Senator John Tester (D-Mont.), Representatives Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-Ill.), David Wu (D-Ore.), Ric Kelley (R-Fla.), Mike Honda (D-Calif.), and Rush Holt (D-N.J.).

Tribal leaders gained promises of support for the issues they addressed. Furthermore, members of Senator Ted Kennedy's Education Policy Team requested specific legislative input by the tribe on issues pertaining to the No Child Left Behind Act.

Additionally, the tribe was invited to assist the office of Senator Tester on all tribal legislative issues, by providing specific legislative language and support information. New partnerships were forged within the offices of Senators Brown, Whitehouse, and Lautenberg, as well as within the offices of Representatives Jackson, McCollum, and Woolsey.

In addition to their work on education issues, tribal leaders Chairman Aaron Payment, Directors Cathy Abramson, Fred Paquin, Tom Miller, DJ Hoffman, Todd Gravelle, Lana Causley, Joe Eitrem and Keith Massaway provided position papers (tribal information resources and specific requests) regarding the need for passage of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, issues to be addressed within the Farm Bill, the need for direct tribal funding of Homeland Security Grant Funding, tribal pension and tribal tax exempt bond issues and requests to support the creation of a tribal advisory council within the Veterans Administration.

State budget solution: Reductions, reforms and revenues

BY BRIAN BROWN

State Rep. Gary McDowell (D-Rudyard) is a life-long resident of the eastern Upper Peninsula. He has a deep understanding of and respect for Indian tribes and recognizes and appreciates the many economic and cultural benefits tribes bring to Michigan. McDowell recently sat down with Win Awenen Nisitotung to discuss the state budget crisis, gaming and other important issues.

Q: The state budget is facing its worst crisis since World War II. This year's budget, which expires on Sept. 30, is about \$800 million in the red. With the Single Business Tax (SBT) expiring at the end of this year, the fiscal year 2008 budget will be as much as \$3 billion short (or \$1 billion short if all SBT revenues are replaced). At the end of the day, what actions do you believe the Legislature and governor must take to solve the problem?

Rep. McDowell: Cuts alone will not be enough. We need to take actions on the three Rs — reductions, reforms and revenues. We need to consolidate government services at the state and local levels whenever and wherever possible to reduce government spending. We need to reform the way we deliver certain services, such as government pensions and other types of benefits. And we need revenues. The entire state general fund budget is about \$8.3 billion. To think that we can balance the budget with cuts only would require cutting \$3 billion or more in education, health care and public safety. Cuts of this magnitude would be simply devastating to the entire state, and to the eastern U.P. That's not the Michigan I want. That's not the Michigan I believe in, and I don't believe it's the Michigan that the vast majority of our citizens want either. We're truly at a crossroads. We need to determine what direction we want to take this state. Are we going to go in the direction of investing in our people and our most important and essential services, like education, health care and public safety? Or do we want to continue to spiral down by cutting and gutting the very things we need to be a strong and prosperous state?

Q: You chair the very important Community Health Appropriations Subcommittee that sets the state's health care budget. Obviously the Medicaid budget

funds many health care services that are critical to the eastern Upper Peninsula and the tribe's seven-county service area. What types of cuts to the Medicaid budget are being considered, small or large, to help fix the budget problem this year and next year?

McDowell: My number one priority is to increase the Medicaid budget. We're talking increases of 2.5 percent to 3 percent just to cover the growth in the caseload, just to keep us afloat. I believe Medicaid is severely under-funded. We need to bring those funds up to acceptable levels. Many of the prevention and wellness programs in the budget, like the Healthy Michigan funds, all need to be restored. All of the programs in the Medicaid budget are found in every community in this state. They keep our people healthy and make them well when they are ill. We need to increase the number of people in Michigan who are covered by health care insurance. The governor's Michigan First program is a program that needs to be fully funded. That would probably be the greatest thing to help our economic climate. That would reduce total health care costs to everyone by making sure everyone has some type of insurance.

Q: Michigan's Medicaid caseload is now at record high levels. Something like 1.5 million people, one of every seven Michigan residents, now relies on Medicaid for their health care. Some have suggested cutting prescription drugs and mental health care to Medicaid beneficiaries, which would save more than \$2 billion in state funding. What is your reaction to those types of proposed cuts?

McDowell: I can't even fathom all of the negative consequences that would result if we denied prescription drugs and mental health care to the Michigan citizens who need them. That is morally wrong. Health care is something everyone should be entitled to. And economically, it would destabilize Michigan's entire medical system. I say it all the time when we talk about universal health care. Right now, we have the most inefficient and costly method possible of universal health care. We wait until people are very ill, very sick, we present them at the emergency rooms and then cost is not a factor. At that point, it's all about the

highest costs possible. Trying to find cures for people when they are very sick and in the emergency room... those costs are put on all of us in the form of higher insurance premiums and taxes.

Q: Casino gaming has been critically important and beneficial to the economy of the eastern U.P., the tribe and to the entire state. It has created thousands of jobs. It generates hundreds of millions of dollars a year for important government services, like education, economic development and public safety. Talk about how you have seen gaming affect Michigan's economy?

McDowell: I remember going to the Sault Tribe reservation when I was a young man. I am the oldest of 10 kids and my dad took us to the reservation. There was a sand dirt trail, substandard housing and one community well. The tribal members were taking turns hauling water from the well. My father said, "Kids, this is wrong." I'm so proud that the Sault Tribe people have taken so many steps to improve. I believe the improvements have come from very good legal representation and from knowing their rights. Gaming has been an important part of that, of improving the quality of life for the people of the Sault Tribe and the entire eastern Upper Peninsula. Gaming has generated a lot of opportunities for people in the community. Gaming revenues have also benefited so many people and communities through health care, education, recreation and more. Gaming revenues have funded our dialysis unit and helped to bring physicians to our community. But there are still great needs on the reservation and in our region that gaming revenues alone will not meet. Other types of support continue to be essential.

Q: What are some of the common misperceptions that state lawmakers have about Michigan's Native tribes?

McDowell: First, one misperception is that they don't pay taxes. That's just not true. If you look at Greentown Casino, the Sault Tribe pays literally tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes. They also generate thousands of jobs for people who pay income taxes, sales taxes, property taxes and more. There is also a misperception that gaming revenues have made the tribes entirely self-sufficient. We all

wish that were true, perhaps. But gaming has not made any tribe or government or state entirely self-sufficient.

Q: Once again, some politicians and horse racetrack owners want to legalize "racinos" — racetracks with slot machines — in communities across Michigan. Obviously, under our state Constitution, they first need to get approval by voters statewide and by voters in each community where a racino would operate. The Sault Tribe and other Michigan tribes are deeply concerned about racinos damaging the economies of communities that already rely on gaming. What is your view of racinos?

McDowell: Racinos are wrongly viewed as a quick fix to the state budget crisis. They simply are not. At best, racinos would not even open for two, three, four or more years down the road. We need to stop looking to gaming as the solution to our budget crisis. We need to focus on stable, long-term revenue sources that can help now. Our budget crisis needs to be dealt with immediately, not years down the road.

Q: What are your top three legislative goals for this year? What are the top issues facing your district and the eastern U.P.?

McDowell: Three would be affordable and accessible health care for all, protecting education funding and creating economic opportunities and jobs. I'll add a fourth; protecting our Great Lakes and cleaning up the St. Mary's River.

Q: Do you support the Indian Tuition Waiver?

McDowell: I strongly support full funding of the Indian Tuition Waiver for all state universities. I would oppose any effort to end the tuition waiver. I would like to see it expanded to all Indian children and not just to those with one-quarter blood quantum.

Q: If a Sault Tribe member would want to speak with you about an issue, what is the best way to contact you?

McDowell: My door is always open. Tribal members can contact me toll-free by phone at (888) 737-4279 or online by e-mail at garymcdowell@house.mi.gov. I also have open office hours from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. every second Monday of the month at the Chippewa County Court House Annex, third floor.

Community Spirit Awards call for nominations

First Peoples Fund, a national nonprofit organization invites you to nominate an artist from your American Indian community for their ninth annual Community Spirit Award, recognizing individuals who have made substantial contributions to their communities. Following a rigorous selection process, four individuals will be honored with a \$5,000 fellowship and will be recognized in December 2007.

The deadline for nominations is April 16, 2007.

Community spirit is an expression that speaks of the unselfish generosity and reciprocated love these artists have for their Indian community. The same spirit that guides artists' work also drives them to do service in their communities. This process of bringing spirit back to the community is part of a sacred honor system that First Peoples Fund works to strengthen through recognition of these artists.

Community spirit also describes the teaching of gifts that promote and sustain indigenous cultures. Recipients of this award must demonstrate these acts of community spirit through their art form. First Peoples Fund seeks artist who demonstrate these values we hold strongly:

- Deeply rooted and maintain direct ties to their tribal community.

- A commitment to building the strength of Native communities by sharing their skills and talents with others in their respective communities.

- An artistic practice that passes on the traditions and the life ways of the people.

Nominated artists must be practicing artists of demonstrated maturity in their field, continually practicing artists for a minimum of 10 years and be a documented affiliate of a United States tribe.

In addition to visual arts, First Peoples Fund has expanded its recognition of practicing artists to include contemporary and traditional forms of performing arts and literary arts.

Nominate your candidate at www.firstpeoplesfund.org.

For more information contact Miranne Walker, online at miranne@firstpeoplesfund.org, or call (605) 348-0324.

Civil Rights Commission releases report on Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver

BY CORY WILSON

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission released a report to the governor on March 7 regarding Proposal 2 which included the commission's opinion on whether or not the proposal would adversely affect the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver. The State of Michigan provides a tuition waiver for North American Indians residing in Michigan, who attend a community college or state university in Michigan.

The commission was instructed to develop an in-depth assessment report on Proposal 2 per direction from Governor Granholm to help determine who would be affected by the new civil

rights initiative. The initiative which was voted into effect by Michigan voters last November, bans affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based upon race, gender, ethnicity, or national origin for the purpose of employment or education. The commission investigated how the implementation of the new initiative would impact state laws and regulations, educational institutions and programs, and economic development efforts.

Conflicting interpretations of the new initiative, suggest that the waiver could be construed as a race-based program and therefore should be eliminated due to non-

compliance with the civil rights initiative.

According to the assessment, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission outlined, "The U.S. Supreme Court has uniformly held that statutes dealing with members of recognized tribes are not based on impermissible classifications such as race. Instead, such statutes are based on the unique legal and political status of indigenous Indian tribes that are recognized by and enjoy a trust relationship with the United States."

Based upon this statement and several citations of court cases further supporting the U.S. Supreme Court decision, the

commission recommends the waiver should be exempt from the Proposal 2 Civil Rights Initiative.

The commission further stated, "This tuition waiver remains valid under Proposal 2 because it does not grant preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin. We conclude that because the United States Supreme Court has specifically held that tribal status is a political category based on the relationship between the federal government and the tribes as sovereign entities, it is a political classification, not a racial classification, and therefore does not violate Proposal 2."

For tribe members all across

Michigan, the Civil Rights Commission recommendation is a monumental step forward in the effort to preserve the waiver, however, the final decision continues to weigh on the shoulders of the governor who has yet to announce her agreement with the commission's recommendations. Whether the commission's recommendations are going to be accepted in part or in its entirety is still yet to be determined.

For more information or to view the Michigan Civil Rights Commission report, please visit www.michigan.gov/ndcr.

BIA AFFIRMS - ALL MEMBERS CAN VOTE!

YOUR INPUT SOUGHT IN REVISING OUR TRIBAL CONSTITUTION



Aaron A. Payment, MPA
Tribal Chairperson
**ALL MEMBERS HAVE A
RIGHT TO VOTE**

Recall that in the last several issues of this paper, I reported on a Board Member's expressed opposition to about 1/2 of our duly enrolled members' right to vote in the current secretarial election - a Constitutional Amendment to disallow those in employment positions to serve on the Tribal Board at the same time. Voting to 'Approve' means you agree that individuals cannot do both at the same time.

I have already reported that all Members have an equal right to vote in amending our Constitution. Whether this opposition was a mistake or some sort of scheme to prevent certain Members (who mostly live in Unit 3 - St. Ignace, Mackinac Island, Northern Lower Peninsula and throughout Michigan) from exercising their right to vote, we now have confirmation from the Bureau of Indian Affairs dated 3-26-07 that affirms all members have the right to vote in these elections. The specific language in a letter from the BIA reads,

The current version of Section 16 of the IRA, 25 U.S.C. subsection 476, does not require the same class of voters vote in a Secretarial election to amend a tribal Constitution as voted in the original election to adopt the Constitution. Instead, the statute now provides that any amendments must be 'ratified by a majority of the adult members of the tribe...at a special election authorized and called for by the Secretary under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe.' Thus, we conclude that the Secretarial Election is open to all members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe (who registered to vote in the current Secretarial election by the deadline of 3-30-2007).

We shouldn't have had to expend such a great deal of time, effort and Tribal dollars to ascertain this when it was clear and unambiguous on its face. Nonetheless, there was a specific objection by a member of the Tribal Board of Directors to the descendants of the Mackinac Band from being able to vote at all. This has been debated and

now even denied. This issue is significant in that at the protest of Director McKelvie and other Members of the Tribal Board there were several obstacles that had to be overcome in order to move forward on this election. The proofs that were supplied to demonstrate that all members are entitled to vote include:

- A unanimous Tribal Legal Department opinion;
- An outside legal opinion;
- An opinion requested by Director McKelvie and not reported to the Board by Director McKelvie from one of our Appellate Court judges that clarifies that all Members who register to vote in this election, have the right to vote.
- And now, the BIA opinion quoted above;

Why is this such a critical issue? Besides the right to vote for nearly half of you being threatened, the Board authorized Director Dennis McKelvie to act on our behalf without having to come back for approval by the Board of Directors. In his statement, he made clear that, **'IF ITS GONNA BE ON MY BACK - OKAY - I DON'T THINK SO.'** The issue now appears resolved.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT INPUT SOUGHT

When the Tribal Board decided to revise the current Constitution following years of suggestions from the Membership to do so, we set in place a process that provided for 'NOTICE AND COMMENT' from the Members both through 'in person' meetings, and through soliciting input through our Tribal paper. The process solicited Tribal Member volunteers to serve on the committee, to meet with Tribal Members and ask for their input, to synthesize this input into a draft document, to meet again with Members and then to report this draft to the Tribal Board for enactment to send to the BIA to hold a secretarial election.

Recently, however, there was some discussion at the Board level about reporting the draft first to the Board, then reporting it to the Members for comment presumably after certain objectionable sections were taken out. Some members of the Board seemed to agree with this. However, a few of us spoke firmly that we should not contaminate the process by short circuiting the Members' participation. For now, the process will continue as drafted and you'll have a chance to express your opinions on all aspects of the new draft Tribal Constitution. Let the members decide!

What appears to be at issue are a number of needed changes to move us from a corporate 'Board of Directors and Chairman' form of government forced upon through the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 to a true representative democracy like the United States government. Granted, there are aspects of our federal government that go awry from time to time, but truthfully, we have the best form of government that affords true democracy, free speech, real due process and right to redress and grievances through the courts, and inalienable rights as citizens. The draft revision to our Constitution has some areas I don't like myself, but it is light years ahead of where we are now.

After over one and half years of debate and a very public process that involves you the Member, I just cannot see any legitimate reason to short circuit the process merely because there are aspects some individuals do not like. A few sections that some appear to find objectionable but which the Membership has demanded we address include:

REAL REPRESENTATION

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 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).

SEPERATON OF POWERS DOCTRINE

When I first ran for office in 1996, I was teaching as professor in political science and Native studies, had earned my Masters in Public Administration and was working on my doctorate degree in political science. In my doctoral studies, I studied forms of government, developing democracies, and emerging empowerment of citizens. Prior to that, in my Native studies career, I found ample evidence that shows that the current United States - form of democracy and separation of powers, originated with the Iroquois confederacy. That we operate under a corporate constitution designed to expropriate our land and resources forced upon us through the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, amazed me. I ran for the Board then to lend my skills from my education and experiences and to play a role, during my lifetime to help us to evolve as a government and a true sovereign.

I am pleased to report that the draft supplied by the Constitutional Convention Committee, includes a section that would create a true 'separation of powers.' Currently, we have no Constitutionally established court system, which means it can be eliminated by a simple majority vote of the Board.

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.

MACKINAC BAND

A long standing issue for a segment of the descendants of the Mackinac Band, has been that the name of the Mackinac Band is not listed in our Constitution. However, we have never treated enrolled members of the Tribe who descend from the Mackinac Band in any separate or unequal way from those who descend from the currently defined, 'six historical' bands.

In the fall of 2004, when a Board resolution was put in front of the Board to support the separation of the Mackinac Band from the Sault Tribe, I offered an alternative as I believe we should unify not succumb to divide and conquer. How? By including the name of the Mackinac Band in our Constitution when we vote to amend it. I am confident that the vast majority of our members will reaffirm this. The draft revision of our Constitution places the name of the Mackinac Band in our Constitution - where it rightfully belongs.

Again, there is one section I do not agree with, but to try to contaminate the entire process by wanting to exclude sections because you do not agree is akin to digressing back to the autocratic, dictatorial government we were liberated from in 2004. We cannot and will not go backward.

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.

MEMBER MEETINGS

Unit	1	Time	Location
Apr	16	6pm	Kinross Rec Cntr
			Sugar Island Culture
May	21	8pm	Camp

Unit	2	Time	Location
May	16	5pm	Newberry Tribal Cntr
Jun	20	5pm	Heasel Tribal Cntr

Unit	3	Time	Location
May	23	8pm	Mackinac Island: Location TBA
Jul	25	6pm	McCann School

Unit	4	Time	Location
Apr	4	5pm	Escanaba: Herman Center, Rm 961
May	2	5pm	Marquette Tribal Cntr

Unit	5	Time	Location
Apr	14	11am	University Cntr - Dining Rm A, NMU

Detroit	Time	Location
May	19	12pm Greentown Casino

Mid/ West Michigan	Time	Location
Apr	22	12pm Mt. Nokomis Cntr, Okemos
May	20	12pm Grand Rapids: Location TBA

N. Michigan	Time	Location
Apr	22	8pm Mackinac City Highschool
May	20	8pm Gaylord: Location TBA

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



Board meeting briefs

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors met for a general meeting at Kewadin Casino and Convention Center on March 6. All board members were present.

Approved resolutions: Voting on unanimous decisions is not noted.

An application was approved to continue funding from the State of Michigan in fiscal year 2008 for the Victim Assistance Program.

A funding application was approved for a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Native Americans grant to provide marriage enrichment programs throughout the service area. Board member Todd Gravelle abstained from voting on the measure.

The board rendered official support to complete construction of the permanent Greentown Casino. Gravelle abstained.

An official request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was approved to expand the tribal Indian reservation roads inventory to make approximately 174 miles of roads in the Sault Tribe service area eligible for federal construction or repair funding through the federal Indian Reservation Roads Program (See related story on page 3).

The board approved a request to the BIA to transfer all JKL School buildings from the BIA fixed asset rolls to direct ownership by Sault Tribe.

The meeting was adjourned. Another general meeting took place in Hessel on March 20. All board members were present. Minutes were approved from board meetings on Feb. 20 and March 6.

Approved resolutions: Chapter 70 of the Tribal Code regarding criminal procedure was amended,

in the interest of judicial expediency, to allow attorneys to issue subpoenas in tribal court cases.

Chapter 71 of the Tribal Code, which pertains to criminal offenses, was amended to include disobedience of subpoenas issued by attorneys as a criminal offense with penalties of up to three months confinement, fines up to \$1,000 or both. Board member Robert LaPoint abstained from voting on this measure.

The board approved amending Chapter 76 of the Tribal Code for clarity and to replace the former "forgiveness code." The code is now titled Partial Waiver of Conviction for Gaming License Purposes. Board member Todd Gravelle abstained.

The board meets for scheduled on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Tribe members are invited to attend.

Good things are happening



Cathy Abramson
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Cedarville Boys Basketball Class D Champions

Congratulations to Cedarville for winning the Class D Championship title! Many of us watched you on TV. I don't know if I have ever watched a more exciting game. Way to go!

Inter-Tribal Council Food Bank

If you or someone you know may need some assistance, the Inter-Tribal Council does have a well stocked food bank. Our tribe has helped fund this very much needed program. Not only is there food available, but personal hygiene and cleaning supplies are also offered. For more information, please contact Cindy Payment at (906) 632-6896.

CARF accreditation

I attended the opening and closing session of our tribe's Behavioral Health CARF accreditation. CARF is a national certifying body assuring that our behavioral health services meet national standards of care and that we are a quality driven organization. The survey results will be known in six to eight weeks; however, we received a lot of positive feedback from the surveyors. Thank you to all the managers and behavioral health staff who worked very hard to prepare for this. Great job!

St. Mary's River update

Since the signing of our Tribe/First Nation Treaty in regards to the St. Mary's River, our Anishinaabek Joint Commission has been meeting. Our mission is to work as allies to protect and influence via various means; the restoration of the St. Mary's River watershed.

Our objectives are to ensure that the waters are cleaned, restored and maintained for future generations. We will take affirmative action to stop invasive species from entering our watershed. We will honor those individuals, organizations, agencies, corporations, governments for supporting similar actions and we will be critical of anybody who takes steps to erode St. Mary's watershed. We will promote, support and endorse corporations, organizations, agencies and governments who collect data which helps us understand the status of the watershed. We will issue regular report cards via press releases on the status of the river based on qualitative data. We will promote ancestral knowledge as the key to understanding and working with Mother Earth and her veins.

There is a lot of energy in these meetings and many people

are joining us with their support. Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan has just recently offered to write a grant for us to help us educate people about our issues. The environmental staff of the National Congress of American Indians has offered to assist us. Phil Belfy of the MSU American Indian Studies Program has invited us to present at their Earth Day Conference in East Lansing in April.

Washington, D.C.

Our board trip to Washington, D.C., was eventful. We met with legislators who were on labor, health, education, environment and pension committees. We do have strong support from many Congressmen and Senators, but there remain legislators who do not understand our sovereignty and their trust responsibility to our people. It is clear that some legislators don't care while some new legislators simply do not know. We will continue to remind them, educate them and offer them any assistance and information that we may need to better represent us.

Some of the major outcomes were as follows: Senator Ted Kennedy's Education Policy Team invited us to actively participate on issues pertaining to the No Child Left Behind Act. House of Representatives passed an amendment that was authored by Congressman Bart Stupak to improve U.S. Canadian cooperation and monitoring of wastewater discharges into the Great Lakes. While there to discuss other issues, we got to personally thank him for all his efforts on this issue. We attended hearings on the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendment of 2007. In April, we will be sending a board member to testify before the Appropriations Committee in regards to our health care budgets. The Indian Health Services-Bernidji area (which includes our tribe) continues to be the lowest funded region in Indian Country. We need more of our tribal leaders speaking up on our behalf. This is why it is so important to get involved.

Our final meeting was with Sequoia Simermyer and Daniel Cordalis who represent the National Congress of American Indians. Simermyer's specialty area is international environmental concerns. Cordalis's specialty is environmental science. We explained our concerns regarding pollution issues in the St. Mary's River by the human waste that is being dumped into the river by the Canadian sewage treatment plant. They agreed to assist us in achieving a halt to the continued pollution and assistance in starting clean up efforts.

I thank Lona Stewart, Meghan Kelly Powell, Mike McCoy and Mary Pavel for their assistance.

If you have questions or concerns, please call my cell phone (906) 322-3823, or my home phone (906) 635-3054. My address is 410 Dawson, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or e-mail cabramson@saulttribe.net. I look forward to hearing from you!

Munising elders to hold monthly meetings in new health center



Shirley Petosky
Unit V Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Hello my friends, it's sap season and my brother Joe, my son, Greg, and my nephew, Todd, have been getting a work out at the Sugar Shack. Maple Syrup — yummy!

Spring is coming fast. Makes the roads nicer for traveling.

The past weeks have been busy for the Constitutional Convention Committee. They have been having community meetings to inform members what and why they have put the wording in the document. Also to ask what mem-

bers would like to see changed at this point. Lots of good ideas have been exchanged. Many praises and thanks belong to this committee. Please consider the whole of the document and ponder it over in your mind. Balance everything out so when it comes time to vote you can make a good decision.

Another group that has been working hard for all of us is the Human Resources Department. They also have been having meetings, not just one meeting to a unit, but three or four so that all of the employees have a chance to attend. I sat in on the one for the clinic staff. Really good — the questions that were asked and suggestions that were given sure let me know everyone was on the same track. I wasn't on the track, more sitting in the depot but I could see the track was headed in the right direction.

Aaron was here for the meetings in Munising along with the Human Resource ladies. Had a great visit with them Tuesday evening.

I have had a chance to have a few meetings at Lincoln School and on April 2 the elders will

have their first meal there.

At this time, the Munising area elders are going to stick with just two meals a month. They will be catered and we will be able to have meetings and meals all in one place. Wow!

Just like any new home, the building looks big but it is filling up fast. The only thing left to fill are all those beautiful cupboards.

We will be holding a pantry shower at a later time for dishes, silverware, dish clothes, pots, pans and bowls.

Pam in Minnesota, thanks for the e-mails. Christine and Vince, always good to talk to you. Karen, hope summer finds you back up this way.

For days I think I'll write this or that in my article and then I sit down with pen in hand and all I can think of is, "How are you? I'm fine, the weather is..."

I almost forgot — watch for your Secretarial Election ballot and return it by the deadline.

Happy spring! Fight nice and share your Easter eggs.

Call me anytime at (906) 387-2101 or you can send e-mail to shirleypetosky@yahoo.com.

Soo Locks expansion will boost economy, create jobs

LANSING — State Representative Gary McDowell (D-Rudyard) applauded the House of Representatives for passing his resolution calling for funding for an additional lock at Sault Ste. Marie, which would be able to accommodate the large ships that carry 80 million tons of cargo every year and play a vital role in the economies of the Upper Peninsula and Michigan.

"This project has been lingering for over 20 years, and it's time we get it done," McDowell said. "The Soo Locks see thousands of ships that carry iron ore, coal, wheat and other cargo every year. If the Poe Lock were to become unusable for any reason, two-thirds of that cargo would not be able to pass through the locks. It would be a disaster for the state and the coun-

try, and effectively halt shipping on the Great Lakes."

Currently, only the Poe Lock can handle the largest lake freighters, which account for about 70 percent of the cargo on the Great Lakes. McDowell's resolution calls on President Bush, Congress and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fund construction of a second Poe-sized lock in Sault Ste. Marie. The 10-year project would create hundreds of construction jobs in the Upper Peninsula.

Congress authorized expansion of the Soo Locks in 1986. However, it has not provided funding for the project, despite spending \$13 million on planning and design. James Weakley, president of the Lake Carriers Association, gave testimony recently in favor

of a new lock before the New Economy and Quality of Life Committee.

"In short, hundreds of thousands of family-sustaining jobs depend on the Soo Locks," Weakley said. Weakley added that lake vessels are among the greenest forms of transportation, and burn less fuel and produce fewer emissions than trucks and trains.

"This project will protect our land, water and air and create new jobs," McDowell said. "It will ensure that Michigan remains a leader in the 21st-century global economy. This is the most important infrastructure improvement that can be made on the Great Lakes. We can't ignore it any longer."

Please attend constitution review meetings



Keith Massaway
Unit III Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Welcome to spring. It is so nice to have the gloomy days of winter behind us. I know you will read a lot of articles of our trip to Washington, D.C., in this paper so I will be brief. The members of the board who went to DC accomplished many of the goals we set. Each worked in cooperation with our legislative contacts to tackle problems and concerns of our tribe. These efforts are very important and working with the federal and state governments

are a necessity, so we must build good working relationships with both. In the communications meeting this month we discussed many items. The newspaper sign-up card to improve mail delivery to the recipients was at the top of the agenda. We need half of our adult membership to sign up so we can raise our third class postage on our paper to second class. We need 3,000 more signed cards to reach our goal. Every tribe member over 18 should send in the card to accomplish that goal. You will find a form in the paper this week. Just cut it out, copy it, sign it and send it back to the address on the card. We need you to make this work. We have also been working on bad addresses and have fixed approximately 655 of them. These are addresses of people who have moved and did not inform the Enrollment Department. If you do move, the paper will not be forwarded to you because it is currently going third class. It will still go to your old address and will unnecessarily waste our papers. The Greentown project is on schedule. The parking garage has 400 precast concrete sections in place. This is the first phase and is going well. The lower section of the hotel is beginning and this section should go up quickly but will take many months to complete. The draft of the new Constitution of our tribe was in the last paper. I plead with everyone to read it and comment on it. I went to the public hearing in St. Ignace on the draft and was surprised to be the only person to show up besides the Constitutional Convention Committee. I had many concerns and observations and I conveyed these to them. I asked the committee to return to St. Ignace again so more people in our unit may attend. Members should receive a notification soon on when and where the next open meeting will be. I implore everyone to read the draft and bring any questions and comments to this meeting. This is the most important document of our tribe and it has to be scrutinized and discussed to make sure it works for the best interest of our tribal community. I thank you for your time and commitment and please feel free to contact me. Phone (906) 643-6981.

are a necessity, so we must build good working relationships with both. In the communications meeting this month we discussed many items. The newspaper sign-up card to improve mail delivery to the recipients was at the top of the agenda. We need half of our adult membership to sign up so we can raise our third class postage on our paper to second class. We need 3,000 more signed cards to reach our goal. Every tribe member over 18 should send in the card to accomplish that goal. You will find a form in the paper this week. Just cut it out, copy it, sign it and send it back to the address on the card. We need you to make this work. We have also been working on bad addresses and have fixed approximately 655 of them. These are addresses of people who have moved and did not inform the Enrollment Department. If you do move, the paper will not be forwarded to you because it is currently going third class. It will still go to your old address and will unnecessarily waste our papers. The Greentown project is on schedule. The parking garage has 400 precast concrete sections in place. This is the first phase and is going well. The lower section of the hotel is beginning and this section should go up quickly but will take many months to complete. The draft of the new Constitution of our tribe was in the last paper. I plead with everyone to read it and comment on it. I went to the public hearing in St. Ignace on the draft and was surprised to be the only person to show up besides the Constitutional Convention Committee. I had many concerns and observations and I conveyed these to them. I asked the committee to return to St. Ignace again so more people in our unit may attend. Members should receive a notification soon on when and where the next open meeting will be. I implore everyone to read the draft and bring any questions and comments to this meeting. This is the most important document of our tribe and it has to be scrutinized and discussed to make sure it works for the best interest of our tribal community. I thank you for your time and commitment and please feel free to contact me. Phone (906) 643-6981.

Board doing best to stay on top of projects



Tom Miller
Unit IV Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Spring has sprung and I am ready for the weather change, as I am sure everyone is.

The board of directors has been doing some necessary traveling lately, with the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes meeting in Washington, D.C., being the most important. The meeting in DC was extremely well organized with many important legislative meetings. I attended meetings mainly concerning education and health: Johnson O'Malley (JOM), No Child Left Behind reauthorization (NCLB), Title VII, etc. I also spent a portion of the first two

days working on reauthorization language for NCLB with a group of National Education Association people. Our tribal meetings on the hill were geared toward continuation of funding for those programs that specifically affect our tribe and Native Americans in general.

Insuring that education and health funding continues is a process that must take place each and every year. This means that the elected officials for the tribe must be visible and vocal to the legislature in Washington, D.C., and also the State of Michigan on a regular basis. It is this process that will keep the U.S. Congress and the state Legislature appropriating the monies necessary to keep programs going in Indian Country. The board is becoming a proactive board by affecting change, not a reactive board that only reacts to change. This trip was very busy, but very productive.

Additional information is that the spring two percent application process is underway, with a due date of March 31 for submittals.

Negotiations are continuing with the whole inland hunting and fishing process, with still a bit to go before it is finalized. The process to correct the St.

Ignace casino land issue is being pursued and I am confident that the problem will be rectified. The Greentown Casino expansion is well underway and the management board is very involved in overseeing how the project is proceeding. We are beginning to turn our sights toward next year's (08) tribal budget process as this year's budget enters its second half.

The Constitutional Convention process is proceeding nicely with a product slowly emerging due to the hard work of the committee members and the input from the community.

As you can see, there are many major projects that are underway for the tribe and the board does its best to stay on top of each one to insure that what is happening is in the best interest of the tribe.

We are continuing to refine our board meetings process, you will see a more professional approach as business is conducted. That is not to say that everything will always go smoothly and efficiently according to plan, but we are working at it and getting better at it.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (906) 644-3334 or on my cell at (906) 322-3827.

Responsible representation asks questions



DJ Hoffman
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

If you think you are beaten, you are. If you think that you dare not, you don't. If you'd like to win, but you think you can't, it's almost certain you won't. If you think you'll lose, you've lost. For out in the world you'll find, Success begins with a fellow's will, it's all in the state of mind. If you think you are outclassed, you are, you've got to think high to rise, you've got to be sure of yourself before you can ever win a prize. Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man, but soon or late the man who wins is the man who thinks he can. — Walter D. Wintle

A few days ago I sat in my living room watching the Michigan Boys Class D state championship basketball game. Cedarville, the announcer described as underdog, was shooting the lights out. I watched the entire game and marveled at the team that would become state champions. The little school from the Upper Peninsula had beaten the odds and critics and brought their home town a championship that will be forever remembered. I want to congratulate them on their achievement and thank them for being truly inspirational.

Inspiration is something that we lack at the governing level of the tribe. Too often personal politics are engaged which inhibits progressive leadership. We need to look for ways to inspire each other as well as our membership. We need to work towards being successful in our governing and economic endeavors to move our tribe forward.

In the past few issues I have given updates on several issues. I would like to take this time to continue with their recent progress.

Kinross gas station

The gas tax discount is coming. I realize there are many who are awaiting this benefit in the area, however, due to unforeseen occurrences within the business providing the discount, we are, unfortunately, seeing a delay. It should be available within this month.

Economic Development Commission

The first meeting to establish the newly formed Economic Development Commission will take place between 3-5 p.m. at the April 10, 2007, meeting in Sault Ste. Marie. I encourage everyone who is interested in this process to attend and contribute to its formation. We must learn from past

mistakes, plan appropriately, and incorporate the expertise of our membership to ensure success. Diversification is the key to our tribe's long term success. Our tribe's existing business can, and will remain successful if we properly promote and develop their strengths while diminishing their respective weaknesses.

Constitutional amendment vote

Once and for all, the debate over whether a board member can serve simultaneously as an employee will be addressed by you, the membership.

My vote on this issue was to send it to the membership for a majority vote of the people. While some may disagree with the vote that I cast, it will ultimately be the will of the membership that decides on this issue by their respective votes. I have stayed consistent in my vote, and believe that the membership has the right to decide the criteria for their elected officials.

School

The tribe is currently in the process of negotiating a new "long term" lease with the JKL PSA. We are also soliciting proposals from A&E firms to design a major addition to the project so that literally "no child is left behind" when it comes to the admission process at the school. I am excited about this project and its potential benefit for all of our community's children.

Gossip

Many times articles in this paper reflect a negative connotation. Board member's behavior is questioned without an equal opportunity to defend themselves. For example, it is easy to say something derogatory about another for political gain or to diminish another's position on a topic. It's even easier to make that allegation in a paper that comes out monthly. By the time an individual has a chance to respond, some have already formed an opinion. Please read the articles and ask why "leaders" conduct themselves in certain ways. Why bash someone in the paper, when you can be an adult and confront them in person. You don't have to always agree on items; however it is when some make it personal that attacks start.

With the right political spin allegations can be very convincing. However, responsible representation asks questions. I will continue to seek the answers to the questions that constituents pose.

I will continue to push forward with members of the board who 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!

Home (906) 635-6945

Cell (906) 322-3801

Toll free (866) 598-5804

E-mail: djwhoffman@hotmail.com

Web site:

www.membership-first.com

Migizi doodem mookodaasowinini - Eagle clan carver workshops

Porcupine quill box — Mondays, July 16, 23, 30 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.); all materials provided; bring your own lunch, \$100.

Necklace and earrings — Monday, July 9, 9 a.m. to noon; fish vertebrae, porcupine quills and beads; all materials provided, \$35.

Mat — Monday, July 9, 1 to 4 p.m.; small birch bark mat with

porcupine quill décor; sweet grass sewn around the edge; all materials provided, \$55.

Birch bark tray — Tuesday, July 10, 9 a.m. to noon; medium birch bark tray with braided basswood handles; all materials provided, \$35.

Turtle rattle — Tuesday, July 10, 1 to 4 p.m.; turtle shell rattle with deer dew claws and wooden

handle; all materials provided, \$40.

Take \$5 off your total if you sign up for two or more classes. Send your check or money order to Ron Paquin, 1200 E. 11th Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. All classes at my home, eight students per class.

A case study in corruption



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

When you look at the corruption that occurs when board members are allowed to be employees of the tribe, one sordid story comes to mind. On Jan. 10, 2001, in a closed session of the board of directors, the board passed resolution number 2001-07. This resolution gave the former chairperson near unfettered authority to enter into what he considered "key employee" contracts. The tribe is still feeling the effects of that decision today.

We were told that the contracts were given to these employees to "ensure structural stability irrespective of the political process." A closer look, however, reveals possibly more sinister motivation for the passage of this resolution. It was also done to benefit certain

board member/employees. These board members/employees knew that they were slated to receive one of these lavish contracts.

Then board member Paul Shagen voted to grant this discretionary authority to Bouschor and ended up with a contract value of two times his annual salary of which he was paid over \$200,000 on election night of 2004 when Bouschor lost re-election. Fred Paquin, Unit III tribal board member and chief of police also voted to grant this authority to Bouschor and ended-up with one of these lucrative contracts. The value of the contract liability for Fred Paquin is four times his annual salary or well over \$400,000! These contracts, for most recipients, provide up to four years of pay in the event of termination for almost any reason, what are commonly known as "golden parachutes." Having done their duty for the membership behind closed doors and while putting themselves on the back on their way out the door they all left the meeting satisfied they had done a great job.

Clearly, as you look back at this case study in corruption and the dangers of passing binding resolutions behind closed doors, it is undisputable that these board member/employees had a "conflict of interest" in voting for this resolution. This is the textbook definition of a conflict of interest

since they were going to benefit personally and monetarily from their secret vote to give themselves an employment contract to the exclusion of all other employees.

Did these board members blindly abdicate their responsibility to the tribe by giving the former chairman this authority without considering the long-term detrimental impact of their decision on the tribe? The sad truth is that these contracts were given-out by the former chairperson to buy loyalty from these board members. Perhaps clearer examples will illustrate my point.

During the last election cycle for chairperson, we notice that a board member/contract employee, Chief of Police Fred Paquin, a close ally of then Chairperson Bernard Bouschor, sent-out an endorsement letter advocating for then Chairman Bouschor's re-election. We can all agree that it was certainly his right to endorse any candidate he chose. However, when you look closer and review Paquin's pay history, it clearly shows nearly a 27 percent pay increase (the maximum allowable amount was five percent) given to Paquin by the former chairman just prior to the election which begs the question. Was the endorsement letter signed by Chief Paquin bought and paid for due to this pay raise?

Yet another example comes to

mind with Paquin. Shortly after the election when we saw millions of dollars leave the tribe due to these orchestrated payouts, according to sworn testimony from Paquin, he indicated that he was asked by the former chairperson if he too wanted to be paid-out. Paquin's testimony states that he refused the chairman's offer. However, the question that I have is what did he do to prevent any further illegitimate payouts? After all, he knew that the former chairperson was actively seeking employees with whom to pay-out.

Did Paquin immediately launch an investigation? No.

Did he determine whether any criminal laws were broken? No.

Did Paquin vote to file a lawsuit to recover the money? No.

Were his actions consistent with an independent Chief of Police? No.

Why didn't he investigate his supervisor and political ally? Apparently, Paquin saw nothing wrong with the payouts since he did nothing to prevent any further illegitimate payouts.

These examples and many others clearly show how terrible conflicts of interest and personal interests cloud the judgment of many board member/contract employees when they stand to personally benefit from their decisions. It also provides a clear example of the immense harm and abuses of power that come when

actions like these are allowed to occur behind closed doors without membership knowledge or approval.

Several very real consequences have resulted in the action taken by the board of directors in this closed session in 2001. We now have over \$7 million in contract liability, thousands of dollars in legal bills to recover nearly \$3 million from the former contract employees and a two-tiered system with certain key contract employees treated differently (in a privileged way) from the rest of our employees.

Please vote to amend our Constitution to prevent actions like these from ever happening again. By checking the **Vote Yes, I vote to amend article IV, Section 3 of the tribal Constitution**, you ban the practice of allowing board members to be employees of the tribe, a practice that is already illegal in most jurisdictions of this country. Please read the directions carefully and use a #2 pencil in recording your vote to insure your vote is properly recorded.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting me at: Todd K. Gravelle, 713 Maple, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

My phone number is: (906) 322-3822.

Board asserting control over meetings



Dennis McKelvie
Unit I Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

The majority of our membership gets their information from this paper. I have, and will continue to provide you with the most updated and accurate information as possible. It is important that you hear the facts and not allegations or assumptions.

During the last few meetings things have been very calm. The reason for this is that the board is asserting control. There is still fighting and feuding, but things have been progressing.

The board stuck together on the school issue and it came to a good resolve for the tribe and the children. That is what happens when we work together, we have other issues to work towards such as getting Greentown on solid footing, and the north casinos in a better position.

Last month I talked about how much we put into Greentown and

our current payouts. This time I would like to talk about construction. A few months back the front page of this paper reported that we had save 23 million from the construction budget of the Greentown permanent casino. It was reported that we were under budget and ahead of schedule. It has now come to our attention that 23 million was taken out of the budget, not saved. It is still necessary for the completion of the project. Just because you remove an amount from the budget doesn't make it a savings if it is required for project completion. You will notice that this information did not make the front page of the paper. Is this only a good news paper? I do not believe in hiding things. As we get more accurate information, I will continue to inform the membership.

The St. Ignace investigation is nearing an end and I look forward to making the results of the entire document public so that the membership can see from an independent standpoint what actually occurred during the construction of the St. Ignace project.

Recently, in St. Ignace, we passed a resolution to investigate the salacious and hateful anonymous e-mails that have been circulating on the internet. In my opinion these individuals are low lifes putting out lies against others and do not have the guts to put their name on it. During this meeting a member of the board did everything they could to

stop this investigation, but it still passed. I have no problem with the truth, however these lies must stop.

During the vote on the e-mail investigations a board member made the remark "next thing you know this will be a removable offense." This leads me to believe that someone knows just who these anonymous people are. I hope none of our leaders would stoop this low. Aren't we supposed to be following the seven grandfather teachings? I hope no one tries to interfere with this investigation.

Our businesses up north have been taking a dip. We are currently looking at a four-to-seven percent drop. This could lead to a major hit if we do not take steps to correct it. Greentown is performing well, however, we are only able to bring five million dollars north annually.

We have other problems, passports in the Canadian border. St. Ignace has new casino competition looming in Petoskey, these will be challenges that our casinos face. We need to be proactive and have a plan to face these challenges.

Membership is our first priority, not ourselves in getting re-elected. When we put ourselves above the membership - everyone suffers.

Next report - casinos performance this year vs last.

Dennis McKelvie, (906) 632-7267.

Membership has spoken



Fred Paquin
Unit III Representative
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

I have been elected the Unit III board representative three terms. I have served the community and its members to the best of my ability. I have been involved in numerous projects that have increased services and jobs to this area. It is the membership's right to elect who they want to serve them, no matter what position that person is employed. It's not like I am not qualified to run for the board because of a criminal conviction or criminal activity. We had a person facing felony drug charges sitting on our board and the board does nothing.

I know that the Secretarial Election is directed at me, but what I don't think is understood is the impact this will have on the tribe and the effect it will have on future candidates.

Board members say let the

membership decide on issues with the tribe, yet they attempt to dictate who they feel should be able to run for the board. If you are disqualified because of your employment, is that not a violation of a person's rights? This will only serve to eliminate the competition and take away the membership's voice.

If we are going to go to this extreme, then let's make serving on the board with no other income, no other work and no immediate family employed with the tribe. Would this not be the same conflict of interest? Would this be considered double dipping?

I find it very funny when a board member slammed me for working and being a board member. This same board member was sitting in jail, drawing his stipend while I was doing my job. If this is a money issue, then maybe the membership should vote on the board's salary.

The Secretarial Election I feel is targeted at a couple of individuals; all this is going to do is take the right away from the membership. We do not need a Secretarial Election for the membership to voice their concerns. Members should be able to vote for who they want and not be limited by a few board members making a decision.

I can be contacted at (906) 643-8878.

Did you return your post card yet?

To help improve newspaper delivery and to clean up our mailing list, a post card was sent to every Sault Tribe household to ensure that each tribal home is receiving a subscription to *Win Awenen Nisitotung* "The Sault Tribe News." Each tribal home

is entitled to receive one free newspaper subscription, one per household.

If you are an enrolled Sault Tribe member and would like to receive, or continue to receive, a subscription to the *Win Awenen Nisitotung* the tribe's official

newspaper at no cost, you must fill out the post card completely and return it to us by mail.

Please fill the form below and mail to Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Attn: Communications Department, 531 Ashmun St., Ste. Marie, MI 49783.



SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

This postcard is being sent to every Sault Tribe household in order to ensure that every tribal home is receiving a subscription to the Sault Tribe News.

If you are an enrolled Sault Tribe member and would like to receive, or continue to receive, a subscription to the Sault Tribe News at NO COST to you, please print your name and address below, sign the bottom of the form, and return it to us by mail.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Signature: _____

Check your preference: ☐ Mail my paper ☐ E-mail my paper

Tribe seeks road roster revision

By Rick Smith

The Sault Tribe is asking the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to revise a federal funding eligibility roster to include about 174 miles of roads in the tribe's service area. The additions would benefit all seven counties in the service area to some degree.

According to Dave O'Donahue, BIA transportation agency engineer in Ashland, Wis., recent changes in the federal Indian Reservation Road Program broadened the funding eligibility of roads that benefit Indian Country. He explained that while the current roster of eligible roads in the Sault Tribe inventory totals 153 miles, only 13 miles could generate funds. The adopted changes make it possible that significant increases in road funding for all 174 miles of roads in the revised inventory may be coming.

Under the Indian Reservation Road Program, roads can be built or improved with federal funds from the BIA and Federal Lands Highway Division of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Renee Robinson, director of planning and development for Sault Tribe, told the tribal board of directors at a meeting on March 6 that the road funding goal for 2008 is \$1.5 million with, possibly, \$1 million for at least two subsequent years.

Included on the new roster are 167 projects covering over 90

miles in Chippewa County, 48 miles in Mackinac County, 6.6 miles in Schoolcraft County, 4.1 miles in Alger County, 17.4 miles in Marquette County, four-tenths of a mile in Luce County and 5.9 miles in Delta County.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs defines an Indian reservation road as a public road within, or giving access to, an Indian reservation or Indian trust land. The definition also applies to restricted Indian land that is not subject to fee title alienation without the approval of the federal government, this includes Indian villages, groups or communities determined eligible for services available to American Indians under federal laws.

Changes in the system make allowances to enhance tribal revenue generation and improve the quality of life for Indian communities.

According to the Federal Lands Highway Division, about 25,000 miles of roads are under BIA jurisdiction and another 24,000 miles are under state, county or local ownership. Indian Reservation Roads Program funding can be used to aid in state or local matching share for federal funding.

Specific roads and lengths can be seen at www.saulttribe.com under downloads, go to certified resolutions for the March 6 board meeting and view the attachments to Resolution 2007-47.

Anishinaabemowin Teg conference returns



Sault Tribe member Tessa Reed returned with the conference to conduct workshops on Anishinaabemowin writing and literacy.



One of many Anishinaabe crafts instructors at the conference, Irene Makadebin (second from right) of the Sagomok Reserve in Ontario gives basketry tips to these ladies from the U.P. and Canada, (from left) Louella Wood, Mary Beaver, Lucy Feathers Diane Charon.

Photos by Rick Smith

By Rick Smith

An estimated 2,400 people from the U.S. and Canada gathered in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., for the 13th annual language conference hosted by Anishinaabemowin Teg Inc. of Ontario.

The conference features speakers, workshops, vendors, instruction and celebration of all things to do with Anishinaabemowin, the language of the Anishinaabe.

The conference continues to grow steadily from its offerings to

200 attendees in 1994. Last year, Anishinaabemowin Teg President Isadore Toulouse noted that the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center offers the best location and facilities for this annual event.

One will see people of all ages from newborns to elders at these conferences as they take part in promoting and strengthening the use of our mother tongue.

One Sault Tribe member, Tessa Reed, facilitated workshops on Anishinaabemowin writing and literacy in recent years and returned with the conference to conduct more workshops.

Reed was raised in Manistique and is now studying at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., for a doctorate degree in indigenous studies. The dissertation is on understanding the Anishinaabek process of finding a common writing system and is due about this time next year.



Anishinaabemowin Teg President Isadore Toulouse (standing at right) confers with some of the many vendors at the conference.

Request for bids

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Purchasing Department will be accepting bids for the purchase of a sprung instant structure (aka dome tent) and a small home structure, which served as an original addition to the former St. Ignace casino.

The sprung instant structure and small home structure will be sold "as is" and both are currently located at the former St. Ignace casino, 3039 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781. The sprung structure measures 58x77 from the exterior and the small house structure measures approximately 60x30.

Sprung structure and home structure will be bid separately. Structures will not be removed from premises until a removal date and purchase price are finalized. Purchaser will then have 30 days to remove the structure from said location, once the frost laws are lifted.

Prior to disassembling, the purchaser must provide a certificate of liability insurance showing an adequate amount of coverage.

All interested parties may contact Tamara Leask @ (906)635-7035 ext 53505 to obtain more information.

Sealed Bids are due by April 27, 2007 at 1 p.m. EST

Sealed Bids must be submitted to: Sault Tribe Purchasing Attn: Tamara Leask/Sprung structure or home structure, 2186 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783

Sault Tribe reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.



The Easter Bunny put in an appearance and skated with the young folks at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center on March 31. The lucky youngsters could also enter drawings for a family dinner basket or an Easter basket as well as a chance at winning a prize guessing the amount of jelly beans in a jar.

Photo by Rick Smith

A Tribal Constitutional Amendment ballot is headed to your home.

On April 6th, a ballot will be sent to you, please read it and Vote YES to Approve the Amendment. By Checking the YES box, 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.

Vote YES

Approving The Amendment Will End The Following:

- **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 leading 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 over \$150,000 per year.



Make Sure Your Vote Counts

#2 PENCIL ONLY

(No Ink)

VOTE YES to enact 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."



PAID FOR BY THE GOVERNMENTAL REFORM MOVEMENT

Legendary rockers KISS coming to Kewadin Casinos in July



Two and a half tons of grease-paint, 4,362 gallons of stage blood, 3,400 smashed guitars, tons of explosives and lights and enough platform boots stacked end to end to circle the globe. For more than thirty years, "the greatest rock 'n' roll show on earth" has played more than 3,500 concerts in front of millions of people around the world and it's not over yet. The legendary rockers KISS will perform at Kewadin Casinos in Sault Ste. Marie on July 20, 2007, in a one time outdoor concert event.

You wanted the best, you got the best! Purveyors of decadence and excess since the 70s, KISS invented stadium rock with their

sci-fi kabuki costumes, explosive theatrics and, of course, their garish make-up. In their extensive world tours, they've attracted the most rabid fans, the KISS Army.

None of the pyrotechnics and make-up would matter without the music — *Destroyer, Rock and Roll All Over, Love Gun* and *Alive* became the soundtracks for teenage rebellion. KISS has sold over 80 million records throughout their career. The group has earned more than 55 gold, platinum and multi-platinum awards since receiving their first gold record for *KISS Alive!* in 1975.

Now in their third decade of musical mayhem, KISS is as vital as ever. In 2006, KISS topped the

charts once again with the *KISS SOLOGY: Volume One 1974-1977* DVD box set which entered the music DVD chart at number one and went on to sell five times platinum.

KISS rocked 800 million viewers at Super Bowl XXXIII, breathed fire into the closing ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics and welcomed the New Year with a bang at Times Square for four consecutive years. In 2006, VH1 chose KISS to be among the first groups celebrated on their highly rated VH1 Rock Honors telecast where KISS closed the show in their usual show-stealing fashion.

Tickets for KISS will go on sale on Saturday, April 7, at Kewadin Casinos Box Office only in Sault Ste. Marie and are \$100 reserved and \$75 general admission. Purchases may be made via the Internet at www.kewadin.com and phone at 1-800-KEWADIN (539-2346) starting Monday, April 9. A total of only 10,000 tickets will be sold — 1,875 reserved and 8,125 general admission.

Kewadin Casinos, with five locations in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Hessel, Manistique and Christmas, offers top notch entertainment along with outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In addition to award winning dining and entertainment, Las Vegas style gaming with 2,000 slots, keno, craps, blackjack, roulette, let it ride and poker is available. (Not all games available at all locations). Call 1-800-KEWADIN or visit KISSonline.com

Tribal court seeks peacemakers

Peacemaking is a traditional practice of resolving disputes. The idea of bringing peacemaking to the community was initiated by George Nolan, one of the court's most prominent past chief judges.

The court received a grant to implement the peacemaking initiative and is seeking interested tribe members to fulfill the dream of providing peacemaking as an alternative resolution of disputes between members. Although not all disputes can be solved through the process, many of our juvenile and family issues can be resolved through peacemaking.

Peacemaking is much different from state court proceedings. Unlike the state court system which involves a judge making the decisions for others, peacemaking encourages people to solve their own problems. Peacemaking sessions are conducted with two peacemakers: one male and one female to create balance. Peacemaking involves discussing the issues in a respectful manner, assisting individuals with understanding and accepting responsibility for his or her wrongdoing, promoting healthy relationships and working with

the participants to plan and make group decisions about future actions. Planning, respect and consensus in peacemaking sessions replace imposed decisions which use punishment to correct behavior. Rather than judge people, peacemaking addresses bad decisions and their consequences and substitutes healing in place of force.

The court will provide qualified interested members with mediation training through the EUP Dispute Resolution Center. Upon completion, cultural teachings will be provided through the tribe's Cultural Department to familiarize peacekeepers with traditional methods of resolving disputes.

The Dispute Resolution Center is providing peacemaking mediation training April 19-21 and April 26-28, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Participants must attend both sessions to become peacekeepers.

If you are interested in becoming a peacemaker, but unable to attend the April training, please call the court as future training is available.

Call (906) 635-4963 for more information.

Important steps to take when you move

If a Sault Tribe member moves to another residence, no matter what age, be sure to call the Sault Tribe Enrollment Department and the tribal tax office to notify them of your new address. This will ensure you continue to receive all material Sault Tribe mails to you as a tribe member and avoid missing out on valuable tax benefits.

The Sault Tribe relies on

the rosters maintained by the Enrollment Department to mail important notices, voting ballots, newspapers, tax information and records, et cetera, to members.

Members in the Sault can call the Enrollment Department at 635-3396, long distance callers use (800) 251-6597.

Tribal tax office (906) 632-6281, or (866) 632-6281.

When and how does a person become Anishinaabe?

BY ELAINE YOUNG-WRIGHT

Many of us are often puzzled as where to begin to be "Indian." Members have called and said "I have a tribal card but I know nothing about my culture. I don't even look like an Indian so how can I be one? Where do I begin?"

There are so many aspects of our culture to learn about that we sometimes get overwhelmed. We may look to the physical parts to begin with and go no further; however our culture is so much more than that. It is a way of life and is alive today in every one of us. For me, the journey began with my family; who were my ancestors and where did they come from? How did they live and what traditions did they pass on to future generations? I looked at what was lost and what I can revitalize to pass down to my own children.

I felt shame being Native while I was growing up. I looked at my family and it seemed they loved to drink a lot and live in poverty. They were hard workers but never seemed to get really good paying jobs or, if they did,

blew the money. I used to think I'm not going to be like one of those Indians. I gave into temptation and unfortunately I fell into the same rut. I stayed in the rut for awhile during my twenties and started getting out of it by my thirties. It took a lot of hard work and motivation on my part to take that first step on the red road. I had to accept who I was as an Anishinaabe-kwe.

After my second child, I found myself asking the same questions. How can I be more Indian and pass this way of life on? I continued my journey with what I knew and that was the powwow. I went to my first powwow down at the National Guard Armory, when I was three. Then I remember going to them down on Shunk road. I always loved to go down there and hear the drums and see the dancers. When I got older I never seemed to have the courage or resources to participate in dancing. Just recently, I decided that I needed to seek out those teachings and find a teacher to help me. I just have to say there is something about the drum that gets you feel-

ing really good and sometimes sad. An explanation given to me was *Mindjimendamowin* (blood memory). Blood memory can be described as the emotions we feel when we hear the drum or our language for the first time. The Creator gives these emotions to us at birth. We use these emotions or blood memories to understand our heritage and our connection to our ancestors.

So where to begin? Only you will know. I can share with you this small teaching about *semaa* (tobacco). It can help guide you on your journey. Take a pinch in your hand and put a prayer into it. Pray for what you are grateful for and guidance. Make your offering onto the earth, near a tree, in the lake, into the wind or in a fire. Or better yet take it to one of your elders. You will then be on your way to becoming Anishinaabe.



How to gather medicines in a traditional way

SUBMITTED BY ELAINE YOUNG-WRIGHT

Semaa (tobacco) is said to be the main activator of all the plant spirits.

Each time you take something from the earth it is best to give an offering of *semaa* to the spirit of that plant.

When you offer *semaa* to a plant explain why you are there and that plant will let all the other plants know why you are there to pick them.

Making an offering can be done on a daily basis as each new day is greeted with prayers of thankfulness. The elders say to hold it in your left hand as this is closer to your heart.

Jingtamok - Michigan powwow trail 2007

May 26-27: 17th annual Gisiwas Creek Veterans Memorial Powwow at a new location, the Muskegon County Fairgrounds, 6621 Hts Ravenna Rd., Fruitport, Mich. Saturday grand entry, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday grand entry 12 p.m. For more information, call Rick at (231) 788-5408 e-mail at rflyfeathers@triton.net or call Sharon at (616) 868-6919.

When asking for guidance or teachings offer *semaa* when you are seeking advice of an elder, healer or medicine person.

Nookwezigan (smudging) is done to cleanse a person, place or thing. For a person, you embrace the smudge as if you are washing your face or body. You may smudge everyday; except for women (do not smudge during your moon time).

Take care of these sacred medicines by keeping them in a dry place. Store them in paper bags or wooden boxes. If you have been using alcohol or drugs, wait at least four to seven days before touching the medicines.

June 16-17: Sault Tribe Manistique Area Powwow, Manistique Tribal Center, highway US2, Manistique, Mich. For more information, call (800) 347-7137 or email mbderwin@chartermi.net.

June 16-17: 8th annual Riverbank Traditional Powwow, Louis Adado Riverfront Park, Lansing, Mich. For information, email www.riverbankpowwow.org.

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

HUNTING & INLAND FISHING PERMIT APPLICATION

To apply for a Hunting/ Inland Fishing permit, you must have a current enrollment card and be 18 years of age.

Because the Inland Consent Decree is not completed at this time, the following application is a continuation of last year's rules and regulations. Once the Inland Consent Decree is finalized, there will be an official notice posted and new rules and regulations will apply.

RENEWAL OF EXISTING PERMITS: Those who were issued a Hunting/ Inland Fishing permit in 2006, may renew their permit in person, by fax, via email (hcollia@saulttribe.net) or by calling toll free (888) 942-2766 and ask to be transferred to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement.

NEW PERMITS: Those who apply for the first time may complete the application below and return it to the address listed on the application. For your convenience, you may also fax or email the attached completed application. Your signature must appear on the application.

At the request of the Conservation Committee, the Tribe's Board of Directors has dropped the deadline date for application to receive a permit.

If you have any questions regarding the Hunting/ Inland Fishing permit process, please call toll free: (888) 942-2766.

NEW PERMIT APPLICATION ONLY

LICENSE APPLICANT	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	D.O.B.
STREET ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP
DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER		X SIGNATURE (REQUIRED)		

Type of permit you are requesting by checking one of the following: ☐ Hunting only ☐ Inland fishing only ☐ Both hunting and inland fishing

This application must be returned to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians at:
2175 Shunk Road, Post Office Box 925, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or by fax (906) 632-0691.

At this time, as a permit holder you MUST submit a monthly catch report. Tribal Code Chapter 21 requires all permit holders to file a monthly report, even when there is no activity. Failure to submit a Hunting/ Inland Fishing report will result in a citation from Sault Tribe Law Enforcement.

If you are issued a permit, you may be subjected to prosecution by the State courts. The Tribe will not provide defense counsel. The Tribe will not be responsible for any fines and costs incurred. Game is only to be used to feed your family and may not be sold or traded. Anyone caught selling subsistence game may be issued a fine and may not be eligible to receive a Hunting/ Inland Fishing permit in the future.

Permits must be picked up at the Sault Ste. Marie office or at one of the designated Tribal locations. You must contact the Sault Tribe's Law Enforcement at (906) 635-8065 (or toll free at (888) 942-2766) for the dates, times and the designated locations where the licenses can be picked up. You are required to pick up your own permit or contact the Permit Issuing Department for mailing. There is a \$4 shipping and handling fee.

Anti-bullying poster contest winners Diane Maleport honored



Left: The St. Ignace tribal youth council, with the assistance of a Youth Outreach for Victim Assistance Grant, sponsored a poster contest as part of their outreach campaign. Middle school first place winner was Gavin St. Onge, right. First place winner on the elementary side was Micaela O'Rourke.

The St. Ignace tribal youth council, with the assistance of

a Youth Outreach for Victim Assistance Grant, just ended their Anti-Bullying campaign in the St. Ignace Area Schools. The tribal youth council teamed up with the EUP Dispute Resolution Center to get their message out. They brought in a prominent guest presenter in Skip Jones to present to kindergarten through seventh grades. They also helped put together a two day workshop aimed at administrators, teachers, parents and resource people to help develop a systematic approach to end bullying in our schools. They wrapped up their campaign with a kindergarten to seventh grade poster contest. The response was tremendous. Posters are on display in hallways of the St. Ignace Middle and Elementary schools. The first place winner on

the elementary side was Micaela O'Rourke, second place Alysse Bentley and third place winner Brandon Oja. Some of the grade winners included first grade prize winner Caitlyn Dean, second grade winner Hannah Eby, third grade prize winner Leuna St. Andrew, fourth grade prize winner Caroline Johnston, and Honorable mention Quin Doud.

The middle school winners were first place winner Gavin St. Onge, second place winner Tessa Pavia, third place winner Kristi Gustafson. The grade winners were fifth grade Maddie Smith, sixth grade Zach Majors, and seventh grade Dakota McKerchie. Honorable mention went to Preston Kammers.

Diane Maleport honored as "hockey mom"

Diane McLeod-Maleport was recently honored at the Mite Major Hockey banquet with the Margaret (Peggy) Kaunisto Memorial Award presented in appreciation to the Sault Michigan Hockey Association hockey mom who has demonstrated outstanding support and assistance for the betterment of hockey in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.



Toddlers get workout with parachute



SUBMITTED BY KRYSTAL TALENTINO
DATA ENTRY CLERK
CHILD CARE CENTER
Toddlers in the infant room at the tribe's Child Care Center are shown here playing with a parachute and patiently waiting for spring to go outside and play numerous other activities. There are currently 11 toddlers in the infant room from ages newborn to 18 months.



At a ceremony in the Upper Deck Cafeteria on Monday, March 19, Vicki Quinn was named Sault Kewadin Casino Team Member of the Year. Quinn, who has been working in the cafeteria for the last three years, is considered one of the best customer service givers by management and staff alike. She is shown here with her mother, Ruth McCoy, and son, Ken Quinn.

Don Martin retires from tribal health board



Don Martin, shown above with his wife of 61 years, Audrey, has retired from the tribe's Smoking Task Force and the health center's health board; both of which he has been a member of for the past nine years. Don is a member of the Munising and Manistique Elders Committee and he and his wife entertain for elders in the medical center in Manistique. Don on his guitar and Audrey on the piano. The couple met 60 plus years ago in a restaurant in Manistique. "Three gals came out with roller skates over their shoulders, my friend and I saw those girls coming and I got around him quick and I don't think we spent more than 15 minutes together, but I got her name, Audrey Patrick," Martin said. After joining the service and spending four years corresponding by letter, six months after his return they were married.

Photo by Brenda Austin

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Burdett makes stage directorial debut



BY RICK SMITH

After a 12-year involvement with the Sault Community Theater, Sault Tribe member Peggy Burdett made her stage directorial debut with the Neil Simon comedy, *Rumors*, last March 1-4. Burdett directed a cast of five actors and five actresses in the two-hour show. Rehearsals began at the beginning of last January and ran three days a week until the day before the show opened. She also oversaw the progress of a large stage crew responsible for building and setting the stage, lighting, sound effects, costumes, make-up and many other details of a theatrical production.

"I've been directed by so many others with their own styles, I wondered what it would be like to try it on my own using what I've learned over the years," said Burdett. I found out that I enjoyed creating the show, making it seem real, but I was new at it and I didn't understand all the inner workings of what a director does,

now that I've been through that, I'll be better prepared for the second time around."

Burdett first stepped onto the stage for the Sault Community Theater in 1994, she was cast as Ouiser (pronounced whee-zer) in the comedy-drama *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling. Since then, Burdett played 12 other roles in plays as varied as *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Little Women*, *The Unexpected Guest*, *Come Back to the Five and Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean: Last Night at Ballyhoo*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *I'll Leave it to You*, *Ravenscroft* and *War of the Worlds*.

Rumors is set in the living room of a large, renovated Victorian home in the affluent enclave of present day Sneden's Landing, N.Y. The play opens as a wedding anniversary party for New York City Deputy Mayor Charles Brock and his wife, Myra, is scheduled to begin. Alas, the party doesn't start out well and, as guests arrive, things get exponentially worse. Lawyers, an accountant, a candidate for the state senate, a psychoanalyst and a celebrity chef attending the party aren't enough to keep things straight as order goes awry, even as the police arrive to investigate.

The play rehearsals, production and performances were conducted at the Quality Inn Suites and Conference Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

Sault Tribe member Todd Olmstead, convention sales manager for the Kewadin Casino

and Convention Center, played a major role in *Rumors* as Lenny Ganz, a wealthy and cynical certified public accountant. He expressed delight with Burdett for taking on a directorial role to broaden her own stage experience and adding to the assets of the local theater scene. "I've known Peggy since October of 2005 when I played Professor Pierson and she played a nurse in *War of the Worlds*," he said. "It was good working for her as a director, she was pretty easy. I'm glad that she did step up and direct. It's good that she got her feet wet doing this."

Towards the end of the second act in *Rumors*, Olmstead carried the play with a prolonged and creative solo explanation to the police about the stranger developments of the party.

Olmstead encourages others to get involved with local theater. "I think the biggest thing is to not let it be intimidating, anybody can do it. It'll bring things out of you that you didn't know you had," he observed.

Another Sault Tribe member, Larry McCoy, assisted with the special effects and enhanced the realism of the play.

A fourth tribe member made his stage debut as Dr. Ernie Cusak, a psychoanalyst who comes close to losing his sanity in the course of the comedy. "It was a great experience," he said. "This is where you can learn about the magic of the stage and what it means to be part of a team."

Isaac Peaine proud of grandchildren



Elizabeth Peaine holds her daughter Keshl Annabelle Sonnemon, who was born May 17, 2006. Another granddaughter of Isaac Peaine, Alexis Peaine of Sheboygan, Wisc., is a poster child for United Way Big Brothers and Big Sisters.



Veronica DeBlieck, Sno Flower, shown in her ROTC uniform in 1996, is a member of the National Guard and is stationed in Anchorage, Alaska.

Bellants' celebrated golden anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bellant of Boyne Falls celebrated their golden anniversary at a private surprise party hosted by their children Feb. 17 at the Victoryes Hotel in Petoskey. Jim Bellant and Helen Mirehaut were married Feb. 16, 1957 in Mackinaw City. They have seven children, 23 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Those attending the surprise party were their children Bonnie Fockler of Florida, Tina Gleava and family of Buchanan, Mich., John Bellant of Eugene, Ore., Jeff Bellant and family of East Jordan, Mich., Kelly Bellant and family of Boyne City, Mich., Melissa Doebrny and family of Midland, Mich., as well as brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



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Nichols and McKerchie exchange wedding vows



Amber Nicole Nichols and Todd Brandon McKerchie were married on April 6, 2007. Complementing the exchange of vows, Katelyn Nicole McKerchie, daughter of the bride and groom, honored her parents with hand created flowers and served as flower girl. A luncheon with immediate family members followed the ceremony. A wedding reception was held in the evening of April 7 at the Spot of Tea Victorian Restaurant in Mobile for family, friends and out of town guests. The bride is the daughter of the late Lisa Marie Nichols of Mobile, Ala. The groom is the son of Bud and Linda McKerchie of Mobile, Ala. Grandparents are Harold and Mary McKerchie of Sugar Island, Mich., and Dorothy Watt of West Bloomfield, Mich. After a family vacation at Disney World, Orlando, Fla., the family resides in Mobile.

Hall and Sherlund announce engagement



Jason Sherlund and Cory Hall would like to announce their engagement. They have set the date for July 7th, 2007. Jason asked Cory to marry him on Thanksgiving in the third story tower at her parents house in DeTour Village. The wedding will be in Cedarville in the Lutheran church with the reception to follow at the Cedarville Hall.

Sinclair and Alstergren unite



Rebecca Sinclair and Melvin Alstergren were married March 10 in a late afternoon ceremony with Judge Michelle Hank officiating at the tribe's ceremonial building.

Cox and Gil unite



Mr. and Mrs. Rafael Gil announce their marriage on Feb. 17, 2007. Amanda Rose Cox is the daughter of Sault Tribe members Thomas and Debra Cox, granddaughter of the late George and Katherine Snider and Thomas and Carol Cox of Sugar Island. Rafael Enrique Gil was born and raised in Venezuela before moving to Miami Fla. The bride wore a white muslin silk dress with rhinestone trim and rhinestone sandals. She carried a bouquet of red roses, white carnation, baby's breath and tear drop pearls. The groom wore white linen and a red rose and white carnation corsage. No bridesmaid or groomsman were in attendance. The bride and groom requested family and friends be their witnesses. In place of a unity candle, the bride and groom poured colored sand into a heart shaped glass vase. Family and friends gathered after the ceremony for cocktails and barbeque. A visit to Venezuela is being planned in the future where the two will have their marriage blessed in a Catholic church before God and family members. The couple will reside in Bonita Springs, Fla. Amanda graduated from Sault High and moved to Grand Rapids, Mich., while attending Grand Valley State University. There, she graduated with a degree in criminal justice after which she moved to Bonita Springs where she works in a law firm.

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Robert McKechnie receives award from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Helped save life of Hurricane Katrina clean-up worker



Robert "Bob" McKechnie at work at the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Photo by Brenda Austin

By BRENDA AUSTIN

Robert "Bob" McKechnie has been an Army Corps of Engineers lock and dam equipment mechanic at the Soo Locks for the past 30 years. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina last year, McKechnie volunteered to lend a hand where it was needed most.

McKechnie spent his first month just outside of New Orleans inspecting homeowners' roofs estimating how much tarp would be needed for a quick fix. "The people were so thankful we were there to help that I volunteered to go back in May and stayed another 90 days," McKechnie said.

His second trip landed him in Lake Charles, about 70 miles from the Texas border in southwest Louisiana. "The damage in Lake Charles was from the storm surge. The community was working picking up debris from demolished homes," he said. "When I first got there my job was working at a tower where truck loads of debris was brought for sorting and I would calculate how much they had in their loads and make sure they followed safety regulations. There were a lot of people



On behalf of Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, chief of engineers at the Corps, Michael Park, director of the Louisiana Field Recovery Office presents Robert McKechnie the Department of Army Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service used to recognize civilian members for life and property saving actions.

U.S. Army photo by Dick Devlin



Taken prior to the Poe Lock opening for the season on March 25, four ice clearing culverts pour tons of Lake Superior water over the debris pit from the newly repaired lock gates.

Photo by Brenda Austin

who were renting trailers and pick-ups with really no experience in trucking so there were a lot of rules and safety procedures they weren't aware of."

May in Louisiana is not like May in the Upper Peninsula. By 2 p.m. the heat was up to 90 plus degrees with the humidity hovering around 93 percent. Most recovery workers, including McKechnie, were required to

wear hard hats, safety shoes, jeans or khaki's, and corps workers were required to wear issued t-shirts and a vest. "I was fortunate because the shirts I was issued in the Sault before I left were a lighter material than some of the other corps workers were issued," he said.

Into the heat and humidity drove a man with a load of white goods, appliances picked

up at homes and brought to the dumpsite to be segregated until the freon could be removed from them. "He had a flat tire and had to change it before he could get another load. One of my co-workers was talking to him and noticed that he was slurring his words and brought it to our attention. We watched him and could see that his coordination wasn't quite right. We asked him if he had been drinking water all day. They really pound it in your head the amount of water you should be drinking. They had a formula, for every pound of body weight you should be drinking two ounces of water each day. It usually amounted to more than the normal two quarts of water recommended a day. We found out that he had been drinking from a large cup filled with soda. In that kind of heat, soda is one of the worst things you can drink, especially the ones with caffeine. Soda is a diuretic and causes the body to dehydrate even more," McKechnie said.

McKechnie and his co-worker sat the man down while the co-worker soaked some paper towels in a nearby ice chest and placed them on his joints and McKechnie took a chemical ice-pack from his first aid kit and placed it on the back of the man's neck. They took his hard hat and vest off and made him as comfortable as they could with no shade close at hand. They decided to call for emergency support and about three minutes after helping the man into the ambulance one of the EMTs told McKechnie and his co-workers they were calling for advanced life support. "We realized at that time it was more serious than we had thought," McKechnie said.

After being transferred to a new ambulance with advanced life support it took about 45 minutes to stabilize the man enough

to get him to the local hospital. "A sheriff's deputy told us later that if we had waited another 15 minutes, he would not have survived. The fact that we started giving him water and cooling him down made a big difference. It was a good thing we didn't let him leave the dump site," McKechnie said. "He was in the hospital overnight and was back to work two days later."

McKechnie was flown back to Louisiana on Feb. 23 to accept the Department of Army Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service award given to him by the Army Corps of Engineers Recovery Field Office for his life-saving efforts. His wife, Shauna, and son, Thomas Agawa, and daughter-in-law, Lacey, drove together to be with him at the award ceremony. "We worked as a team and did what we could to help. I don't think any of us felt we did anything out of the ordinary," he said.

McKechnie and three of his co-workers received a bronze medal which the corps is having framed for them, a certificate and lapel pin.

McKechnie and his wife also have another son, Todd Agawa, who was unable to attend the award ceremony.

According to Sault Area Engineer Al Klein, the Sault Ste. Marie branch of the Army Corps of Engineers had between 30 and 40 people who rotated out and took turns with hurricane recovery help. "The Corps of Engineers responds through FEMA for efforts such as this. We are also supporting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we have two people in Iraq right now and one leaving for Afghanistan," Klein said.

"We had some very good people working in Louisiana on hurricane recovery. They were great to work with and I would do it again anytime," McKechnie said.

Stork Report...

Brad and Jennifer (nee Hill) Blair are the parents of a son born Oct. 25, 2006, at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie. He weighed eight pounds, .02 ounces and was 20 inches in length.



Grandparents are Gary and Joan Hill of Sault Ste. Marie, Richard and Beverly Blair of Sault Ste. Marie. Great-grandparents are Dorothy Hill of Sault Ste. Marie, Harold "Cub" and Mary McKernie of Sault Ste. Marie and Leland and Virginia Blair of Sault Ste. Marie.

Congratulations to Travis Jackman and Kelly Stachowicz of Sault Ste. Marie on the birth of their daughter, **Molly Rae Jackman**. Molly was born on Feb. 2, 2007, at War Memorial Hospital. She weighed six pounds,

13.9 ounces and measured 19.5 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Beverly and Michael Stachowicz of Caspian, Mich. Paternal grandparents are Mary Jackman of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Maternal great-grandparents are Ben and Vi Stachowicz of Gastra, Mich., and Nathan and Marie Fifield of Iron River, Mich. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Phil and Helen LaLonde of Sault Ste. Marie.

Ella Rose Esson was born on Feb. 9, 2007 to Joe Esson and Samantha Stiver of Sault, Mich. She weighed 9 pounds, 3.5 ounces and was 20.75 inches long. Ella's grandparents are Sue Stiver-Paulsen (Brad) of the Sault, Valery Esson of the Sault. Great-grandparents are Sharon Rose Downs of the Sault, Phyllis Kendrick of the



Sault, Wes and Susan Esson of Barbeau, Mich., and Joseph LaLonde and the late Margaret LaLonde also of the Sault, also great-grandfather Delare Kendrick of the Sault.

Proud mother Katherine Towle (tribe member) would like to announce the birth of her daughter **Ravyn Margaret Towle** on Feb. 9, 2007. Ravyn's grandmother is Tessie Brazeau (tribe member), great grandmother Betty Majestic (tribe member) and great great-grandmother Vivian Williams.



Brett Carr performs role of King Cole in Cinderella



SUBMITTED BY GRANDMOTHER PEARL CARR
Brett Carr was in the production of the Green Acres Drama Club play Cinderella on Feb. 15, 2007, at the Warren Consolidated Performing Arts Center in Sterling Heights, Mich. He played the role of King Cole. Brett is a fifth grader at Green Acres School in Warren, Mich., and loves the theater and is very active in all kinds of sports, especially track and basketball.

LSSU powwow held at Norris Center



Les Ailing, front, carrying an eagle staff during the 7 p.m. grand entry at the LSSU powwow.



Left, Cousins Jada Marie Pine-Hall, eight-months, with Rita DeVoy. Jada was giving cousin Rita baby kisses and then playing shy and hiding in her shoulder.

A spring powwow was held at the Norris Center on the LSSU campus March 23 and 24. The powwow was organized by the LSSU Native American Center and the Native American Student Organization. The tribe donated \$5,000 to this event. Host drum was Waabishka Bijiikii Onakwad, White Buffalo Cloud, from Bay Mills, Mich. Vendors were on hand offering cultural crafts.



Center, Brittany Teeple, 12, from Bay Mills. Brittany had a brain aneurism on Sept. 11, 2006, and brain surgery on Nov. 6, 2006. She is now fully recovered.

*Photos
by
Brenda
Austin*



Quinton Schwander, 12, from Peshawbestown, Mich., getting ready to dance in the grand entry.



Waabzii Bigjohn, 3, from Petoskey.



Lindsey Walker, from Petoskey, with her three-month old son, Hiram Mzhko. Left, Morgan McQuiston, 7, from Hessel.



Colorful shall dancers.

Slow year for sugar bush at Mary Murray Culture Camp on Sugar Island



Left: Jenna, Shondra and Jory Homminga, Mike Pilcher, Alaysia Brewer and Bud Biron.



Melissa Causley operating the log splitter.



Bud Biron drilling a small hole for the maple sap tap.



Ed Cook hauling collection pails to place under the taps on the trees.



The sap slowly drips into the collection pail.



Left: Owen Nasser and Ashley Gervais emptying sap into buckets for boiling.



Josh Homminga tapping trees and placing pails to collect the sap.



Bud Biron checking the color of the boiling sap.

Photos by Brenda Austin

This year's harvest of sap, and all the hard work that went into it, only yielded a gallon and a half of maple syrup.

It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup once it is all boiled down.

Rain hindered the collection process and the sap this year was running slower than average.



Jenna Homminga, 6.

Maple syrup making is a long process. To prepare to collect the sap, tree taps and collection pails are brought out and cleaned. Buckets and barrels used to empty the pails into are cleaned and put into place.

Firewood must be split and stacked and the boiling kettles cleaned and prepared for the sap.

A full bucket of sap, as seen in these photos, is heavy and hard to carry through knee deep snow.

Once enough sap has been collected to fill a kettle a fire is started and the sap boiled, sometimes all day, until it thickens into syrup.



Alaysia Brewer emptying sap into a bucket.



Marcus Biron helping out.

Holes are drilled, pails hung under taps. Sap is collected and boiled and the cards are brought out as the fire is tended.

Once the sap turns into syrup the kettles are lowered to the ground away from the fire and the syrup is strained and put into a storage container.

From there it is taken indoors where freshly cleaned bottles are waiting to be filled and sealed.

Youth attending the Mary Murray Culture Camp learn these skills and some day will pass them on to their children. One generation teaching the next, passing on culture and traditions so they won't be forgotten.



Mike Nolan in knee deep snow checking sap levels.

Tribe's health services move into former Lincoln School building



Dr. Michelle Kroupa-Kulik



Nancy Beauchaine, Community Health technician.



Becky Sadler, RN, diabetes nurse coordinator.

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The new Munising community center has been formally named the Victor Matson Senior Community Center, also to be known as the Grand Island Chippewa Center, or Gchi-Minis Ednakiyaany Gamig. Formerly known as the Lincoln School building, the new center opened on March 19 with health care and ACFS staff back to business as usual after their move into the new facility.

The \$3 million renovation of the old school building took a year to complete and boasts 21,000 square feet. A community center with meeting rooms, a public announcement system and a kitchen complete with microwave, oven/range and refrigerator occupy the first level. A board of directors and elder services office is also located on the first level.

The second level houses the health clinic and ACFS, along with traditional medicine.

The third floor walking track and wellness center is scheduled to open at a later date.

Rural Health Director Marlene Glaesmann said she has received a lot of positive feedback from local communities about the renovated building. "We had a 94-year old man visit us who remembered when this facility was built in 1915. He went to school here in kindergarten and first grade. He was very happy to see it renovated. I have gotten so much feedback from the community and the perception is that this is a gift the tribe has given back to them,"

Glaesmann said.

Becky Sadler, RN, diabetes nurse coordinator, said, "This move is wonderful not only because of the additional space but also because the services we provide are now more central. You can come here and get the care you need under one roof. We had a little office downtown prior to this move with only two exam rooms. Physicians and providers were limited on how many patients they could see in a day due to the lack of space. We now have five exam rooms. There were a lot of limitations in the old building that we just won't experience in the new one."

Sadler added, "Support groups and diabetes education meetings used to have to find space to meet outside of tribal health in Wetmore. Now we can meet right here in the building, the elders have a meeting place and it will be nice to direct our clients within the building rather than within the county."

According to Glaesmann, six events were already booked for the first floor meeting area prior to its official opening. "We have the regular elder meetings booked, a women's spiritual gathering and Bud Biron is doing some powwow etiquette with the elders in April," she said.

Dr. Michelle Kroupa-Kulik, said, "We will definitely be able to increase our patient load now that we have more room. Also, the addition of another nurse who was recently hired will make a big

difference. It has been a long wait but well worth it. It is beautiful, everything is fresh and clean. The patients will like it."

Glaesmann said, "We recently brought a group of emergency personnel into the building for a tour. Most of them had gone to school here when they were little. You could see the light in their eyes as they walked into the kitchen and realized it was the former gym where they used to play with their friends."

"Eventually we hope to have two providers here; Dr. Kulik and full time physician assistant Amy Westcomb. We are also interviewing for an alcohol substance abuse counselor for this area. It is exciting to know there are other staff coming to make this a full-service facility," Glaesmann said.

Almost \$100,000 worth of new medical equipment was moved into the new health center. "I had a lot of support, it has been a team effort to get the center open and running. By the end of this summer there should be a physician and physicians assistant combination at each clinic, both Manistique and Munising," Glaesmann said.

There were a total of 19 contractors used on the renovation project, 13 of them from the Upper Peninsula.

The Munising community center is located at 615 W. Munising Ave. The main entrance is from Superior Street.

For health center appointments call (906) 387-4614.



David Calder, from the tribe's telecommunications department setting up new equipment.



Lynn Heyrman, clinic nurse.



Amy Westcomb, PAC, and Becky Sadler, RN, diabetes nurse coordinator.



Located in the former gym of the old school building, is a modern kitchen and meeting area where tribal elders will hold their monthly meetings. The meeting space was already reserved for six gatherings prior to opening on March 19.



The former Munising Health Center.

Behavioral Health Program received exemplary score on accreditation process

By BRANDI MACARTHUR AND JENNIFER HENTKOWSKI

From March 7-9, the Sault Tribe Behavioral Health program was surveyed by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

The CARF program is an independent program that started in 1966. CARF sends surveyors to the location that is being evaluated to measure the organization's processes against nationally recognized standards. The survey team conducted three days of extensive evaluations of the Behavioral Health programs and facilities, which included staff and client interviews at each location that services are provided.

There are three possible accreditation outcomes which an organization can be awarded: a full three-year accreditation, a

one-year accreditation or a determination of non-accreditation (which means there is a need to make improvement before getting accredited). It will take up to eight weeks before the organization receives the official results from CARF.

Behavioral Health offers their services to a seven-county service area in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with access points at Sault Tribe Health Center and American Indian Substance Abuse prevention in Sault Ste Marie, Lambert Health Center, Hessel Community Center, Manistique Health Center, Munising Health Center and Escanaba Health Clinic.

The Behavioral Health Program is broken down into two main programs, Mental Health and American Indian Substance

Abuse Program (AISA). The two programs provide a variety of outpatient mental health and substance abuse services to tribal communities.

Jennifer Hentkowski, LMSW, who recently took over the supervision of the Mental Health Program in November of 2006, has been working extremely hard with her mental health team to ensure that the program was meeting the clinical standards of CARF. During the survey exit meeting, two of the mental health team members and one substance abuse team member received "exemplary status" from the survey team. Mallinda Lumsden, BS, BSW, and Candace Worthington, LMSW, received "exemplary" comments on their paperwork for the mental health program while Selina McLean received the honor

for the substance abuse program for the paper work process. The exemplary status is rarely given out and is extremely hard to achieve through the CARF program due to their high standards.

S. "Cindy" Thomas, BS, CAC II, supervises the AISA. AISA offers outpatient services with a referral to residential treatment as needed. The CARF survey team was highly impressed by the auricular acupuncture therapy offered by the AISA program. The AISA program created a *CARF in a Nutshell* booklet to help staff remember some policies they were required to know. Selina McLean also received an exemplary status for her paperwork!

The CARF surveyors were tremendously pleased with the progress the Behavioral Health Program had achieved in a short

period of time. The surveyors commented that this program looks like it has been surveyed two or three times already with this amount of preparation. The surveyors also noted the strong commitment by the tribal chairperson, board of directors and administration for supporting the program. The survey team gave many accolades to the behavioral health team for their hard work and commitment to providing quality services to the clients of the program. The survey team was pleased with the facilities and review mechanisms for all policies and their willingness to go out of the way to meet the preferences and requirements of the clients. They also were pleased with the facilities security to ensure confidentiality of patient information and records.

Cobell, Native leaders reject Bush proposal; seek congressional support for resolving trust cases

Elouise Cobell and two other Native American leaders today urged the Senate Indian Affairs Committee to reject a Bush administration proposal to resolve a number of Indian disputes, some of which have little to do with the long-running lawsuit over the government's admitted mismanagement of the Individual Indian Trust.

Calling the administration's proposal "a slap in the face of every Indian Trust beneficiary," Ms. Cobell outlined an alternative course that she said could lead to settlement of the class-action lawsuit she and other Native Americans filed 11 years ago.

And she produced a real-life example of the harm the trust problems continue to create for Native Americans.

A member of the Blackfeet Nation in Montana, Ms. Cobell brought to the hearing room James Kennerly Jr., another member of the tribe who she said should be a millionaire.

But because the government lost records of the oil leases that were on his father's lands, she said Kennerly has been forced into a life of poverty.

Kennerly told the committee he gets only \$70 a month from lands that continue to pump oil. Those same lands once paid more than \$1,000 a month to his father, according to an Interior report.

What happened? Interior officials cannot say. Lease records for the lands have disappeared, Ms. Cobell told the committee.

That's typical of what has happened to many Indian lands in the West, she said. Records have disappeared and with that have gone the payments for leases on the family lands, the only source of income for many families, she said.

For Kennerly and others it is a matter of time and death, Ms. Cobell said.

"It robbed him of his health, an

education and opportunity and the abuse continues today," she said. "He should be a millionaire, but, like his father, he lives in great poverty."

Ms. Cobell was joined in her testimony by John Echobawk, executive director of the Native American Rights Fund of Boulder, Colo., and William Martin, vice chairman of the InterTribal Monitoring Association of Albuquerque, N.M. Both denounced the government's efforts to lump settlement of the Cobell case with the settlement of more than 100 separate lawsuits that tribes have filed over the government's mismanagement of their tribal trust accounts.

Committee Chairman Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) agreed that the government was reaching too far with that proposal. But he promised to continue to press efforts for a resolution to the Cobell lawsuit, which affects about 500,000 Indian Trust beneficiaries.

That was the course that Ms. Cobell recommended. She called the \$7 billion the administration proposed to settle her lawsuit along with those of the tribes and other issues "an insult, plain and simple."

Just last year, the Indian Affairs Committee released a proposal that would have called for an \$8 billion settlement of the Cobell case alone, she noted.

Although government witnesses continued to claim that their studies show very few losses to trust beneficiaries, Sen. Dorgan said those estimates are misleading. That's because most of the records that the government has examined are from 1985 forward and do not include most of the land-based accounts where many of the errors were made, the lawmaker said.

Ms. Cobell's complete statement is available online at www.indiantrust.com.

Annual child care conference held

By RICK SMITH

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians fourth annual Child Care Provider Conference took place

March 27 at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Speakers at the conference represented Anishnabek Community and Family Services, tribal health services, the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Department of Education.

Special guest speaker Gena Miller of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Child Care Bureau presented background on a federal early child-



Gena Miller

hood education initiative called Good Start, Grow Smart. Miller explained the intent of the program is to help states, tribes and local communities to strengthen conditions of early learning for young children to ensure they enter kindergarten with needed skills to succeed. "You're the people who really need to know about this initiative," Miller told about 86 attendees from all parts of our tribe's service area. "You're the ones who will be implementing this."

Miller said priorities of the program are to strengthen Head Start, improve early learning conditions through partnering and providing information to teachers, caregivers and parents. She also explained the different roles federal, state, tribal and local agencies would play as part of the program to accomplish the stated priorities.

The federal government would expect tribes to work in concert

with state agencies to develop state standards for early learning guidelines. Miller noted while most states don't have such guidelines yet, Michigan does and is, in fact, getting ready to revise them. She said tribes would also be encouraged to participate in state implementation of the guidelines and tribes could lead the states in developing culturally relevant strategies and tools for tribal child care programs.

Good Start, Grow Smart would also encourage tribes to work with states in ensuring proper professional development for child care providers and to coordinate services with other tribal, federal, state and local programs.

Miller noted that tribes have taught the federal government about the challenges and needs that face Indian Country when working with outside agencies. Chief among those are taking cultural and linguistic differences into account.

Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Housing Authority down payment assistance available

Application period extended until April 13, 2007.

Eligible applicants receive up to \$5,000 to be applied towards down payment and closing costs. Borrowers are required to participate in our Homebuyer Education sessions.

- Must be a Sault Tribe member
- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must live in the seven-county service area
- Must be a first time homebuyer
- Must be within income guidelines
- Must qualify for a mortgage at a lender of your choice

Income limits:

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

Contact Angie Spencer to receive an application.
2218 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-7702 or (800) 794-4072
aspencer@saulttribe.net



YEA program update



Rachel Mandelstamm, Youth Education and Activities coordinator, awards Missy Buhro, 10, with a \$50 gift certificate for winning the anti-bullying and harassment essay contest. Missy's parents are Dan and Annie Buhro.



Kids having some fun participating in the Dance Dance Revolution tournament after a hard week of school and homework.

in grades five to eight and agreed that bullying and harassment needs to stop. There was a great turn out for the dance and all the kids had a great time. There was also an essay contest for all the schools in which the winner got a \$50 WalMart gift certificate. The essays were judged by the tribal youth council and the winner was picked recently. The lucky winner is Missy Buhro! Congratulations, Missy. All the students who submitted an essay did a great job and will receive a certificate of appreciation. Thanks to everyone

who helped chaperone the dance and to all the participants of the essay contest.

Our Dance Dance Revolution is the hottest thing to hit the Youth Education and Activities program. This tournament goes on every Friday, after the kids have had a long week of homework and school, they get the option of entering this tournament. This is our fifth week having this tournament. The winner each week receives a gift certificate to concessions and is put in a drawing at the end of the school year for an MP3 player. This makes sure that students who come here Monday through Friday and complete all their homework are rewarded at the end of the week. The winner of the first week was Brani Lee, second week was Savanna Pinkoski, third week was Samantha Bosley, fourth and fifth weeks was Emily Clow. If there are any questions on the hours homework/computer lab is open, please feel free to call Rachel Mandelstamm at (906) 635-7010.

Escanaba

Hello again to all, we have been so busy and our youth are getting ready for school to get out and summer to be here. We have been working hard on



Left, Yvonne McCarth, Jackie Formolo and Krista Medwaysoh had fun making and eating some Valentine's Day cookies.

our homework and tutoring. The Circle of Life Program is just about in place and we are so excited to know that it won't be long and we will be gone camping and learning of our Native culture, meeting others from all over the Upper Peninsula, swimming and eating. We had a day to make Valentine cookies at the YEA building. Yvonne McCarth, our elder worker, with Jackie Formolo and Krista Medwaysoh made

cookies and then decorated them we had so much fun and they were not too bad to eat either. If anyone would like to know more about the YEA program here in Escanaba you can call me, Kelly Constantino, youth education coordinator, and I will be glad to talk with you. Office number is (906) 789-0976, cell is (906) 322-0832 or you can e-mail me at kconstantino@saulttribe.net.

Sault Ste. Marie

In February, the tribal youth council went to various schools in the Sault area and performed skits for kids in grades five through eight. The skits were about anti-bullying and harassment and how to prevent these particular types of situations in schools, home or on the streets. Following the skits, there was a dance from 7-9 p.m. at the Big Bear for all students who wanted to attend that were

Education Department holds annual college fair



Left, Katie Spence, 18, a Pickford High School senior with her brother, Robert. Center, Brittney Gervais, 17, a Sault High School student. Right, Deryk Reque, 18, Manistique High School senior.



Off they go, off to college that is. The Sault Tribe Education Department held their annual College Fair in several locations throughout the Upper Peninsula during February. Eighteen years ago, this program started out as a small College Night in Sault Ste. Marie but has since blossomed into a fun-filled College Fair also held in St. Ignace and Manistique. Over a 150 high school seniors, juniors and their parents attended the many workshops offered, including how to fill out federal financial aid forms, what scholarships and programs are offered through the tribe and an explanation as to the differences in colleges, universities, private and public schools and where they are located.

On hand were several colleges, universities and programs to offer insight into admissions, applications and general questions about life after high school. Representatives were present from Alpena Community College, Bay Mills Community College, Baker College, Central Michigan University, Lake Superior State

University, Michigan Tech University, Northern Michigan University, Sault College, Alpena Community College and Sault Tribe Human Resources.

In addition to all of the valuable information provided, there were prize drawings including a lap top computer that was given away at the end of each night to one lucky 16-19 year old tribe member. The lucky winners this year were Brittney Gervais, age 17, a Sault High School student (daughter of Pam and Jerome Gervais); Deryk Reque, age 18, Manistique High School senior, (son of Kim and Kyle Reque); and Katie Spence, age 18, a Pickford High School senior (daughter of Marcia and Gale Spence).

This event would not have been as successful without the generous contributions from local merchants. Special thanks go out to All Star Graphics, Applebee's, Big Bear Pro Shop, Caffeine Express, Cup of the Day, Daymakers Dream Spa, Don Dee Lanes, Frank's Place Restaurant, G.L.S.H.S., Grooves

Music, Kewadin Casino, Little Caesar's Pizza, NAPA, Northern Hospitality, Palace Saloon, Pennzoil, Sault Printing Company, Upper Crust Pizza, Zorbas, Ace Hardware, Bob's Big Boy, Burger King, Cinema 1, Clydes Drive-in, Hair Connection, Main Street Pizza, Mariner's Cove, Mustard Seed, NAPA Auto Parts, Pamida, Pizza Hut, BC Pizza, Bentley's B-n-L Café, Book World, Family Fashions Hair Salon, Horseshoe Bay (Kewadin Casino), Mackinac Grille Restaurant, Rosemary's Hair Salon, Silver Mountain Downhill Skiing, St. Ignace True Value Hardware and The Locker Room.

Chi Megwetch to all the schools, programs, parents and youth who helped make these evenings so fun and informative. This is such an important event for our students ready to start the next stage of their life. We hope that next year we can once again make the process a little less confusing for all of the new up and coming graduates.

YEA essay contest winner Missy Buhro's essay about bullying

Editors note: It was requested Win Awenen Nisitotung make no corrections to spelling in the following article.

Hello my name is Missy Buhro and I'm here to talk about bullying and harassment. Also, I would like to tell you about a story that happened to me.

Well, what I think bullying means to me is when someone pushes or bosses people around. Bullying can get worse then words; it can be physical like, for example, hitting, kicking and stuff like that.

The word harassment means to me to call people names. There are different likes of harassment. Some kids or harassment are physical and variable.

Here is a short story that happened to me before. I was waiting in my bus line. I was also doing safety patrol with a girl names Julie. Well, she said to me, "I'm the leader of safety patrol." But she really wasn't. So, I said "No, you are not the leader of safety patrol." But I said it in a nice way. The next day she said "I told my mom." And my mom said I'm the leader of safety patrol. So I just agreed with her. Then later, Julie came up to me and smacked me a crossed the face. But I just got on the bus and went home and told my mom.

My parents and her parents had a talk. Julie's parents agreed with my parents, that the first day was just harassment but the second day was bullying. And neither of them is right to do.

When we went back to school

she would not talk to me and I would not talk to her. We are short of friends now but sometimes we get made at each other.

I think you can solve a problem by apologizing. You can also tell a trusted adult or try to solve it yourself. When you have to solve problems by yourself, you can use the A.C.T. method, W.I.S.E. method or the uncle Al's formula.

If you're not sure what uncle Al's secret formula is: A=agree, L=listen and S=solve. And the act steps are: A=acknowledge, C=care, T-talk. One other step is the wise step it is: W=what is wrong, I=ideas, S=solve and E=evaluate. Those are the steps you can use.

When it is harassment you can most likely work it out yourself. But when it is bullying, you can try to work it out yourself. But most likely you will need to tell a trusted adult. When a trusted adult is busy, try to find another one.

You can be three different in a bullying or harassment situation. Number one is a bystander. Number two is a target and, finally, you can be the bully. A bystander is a person who watches the bullying or harassment situation. The target is the person who is getting bullied or harassed. Finally the bully is the person who is bullying or harassing someone.

I hope you enjoyed reading my writing because I enjoyed writing it.

The Youth Education and Activities Program mission is to build strong, confident Anishinaabe youth with a solid educational foundation and values grounded in tradition by providing a balance of academic and cultural teachings. To help achieve this goal, we have an active Parent Advisory Committee made up of volunteer members from throughout the seven-county service area. They help create policy and represent their communities to determine where spending will be most beneficial in providing services to the greatest number of students. There are several seats open and we need parents, grandparents or guardians to serve on the committee. The committee meets once a month in various locations. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Dee at the Youth Education main office at (906) 635-7010.

Higher Education Programs

BY JANICE M. LEWTON, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR Higher Education Self- Sufficiency Fund (incentive awards program)

When submitting your winter or spring session 2007 grades, please note if your mailing address has changed, send them to Sault Tribe Higher Education, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Please make sure that you have a 2006-07 Higher Education assistance application on file before turning in your grades or you will not be eligible for the incentive award. If you do not, you can file one online at www.saulttribe.com.

This is on a first-come, first-served basis, which means as grades come in, we award students until our funds run out.

We realize that a lot of schools are no longer sending grades to the students' mailing addresses and students have to retrieve them from the Internet. Before sending these in, please make sure the identifying information includes your name, school and the session. If anything is handwritten on it, we cannot accept it.

2007-08 School year applications

It is only necessary to complete one application per school year and it's good for both the Higher Education Self-Sufficiency and grant programs. Students are now required to have a W-9 form on file with us.

Important notice: If you are planning to attend a Michigan state-supported school full-time during the 2007-08 school year and want to also be considered for the Higher Education Grant Program, please make sure that we have an application with your signature and not an e-mail application.

Also, if you did not complete a Free Application for Federal Financial Aid form, you will not be considered for the Higher Education Grant Program.

2007-08 Scholarships Pamela Cable Gershon Memorial Scholarship (\$150)

Deadline: June 1, 2007

Qualifications: Must be a 2006 graduating high school senior with less than one-quarter Indian blood quantum and have verification of tribal membership. Applicants must reside within the tribe's seven-county service area (Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette or Schoolcraft) and accepted for full-time enrollment in a Michigan state-supported school. Applicants must have submitted a Higher Education assistance application for the 2006-07 school year. This award will be for the freshman year only. A letter of application must be submitted and include the following: the high school you graduated from, the college or university you've been accepted to, your planned academic major you would like to pursue, your career objective and a brief statement of what this scholarship would mean to you.

Joseph K. Lumsden Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Deadline: June 1, 2007

Qualifications: Must be at least one-quarter Indian blood quantum. Must be at least a college junior enrolled full-time in a Michigan four-year public college or university. Applicants

must have submitted a Higher Education assistance application for the 2006-07 school year and have an accumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (include transcript showing grades from the last term or semester attended). A letter of application must be submitted and include the name and location of the college or university you will be attending, the academic major you are pursuing, what your career objective is and a brief statement (one full typewritten page) on what the scholarship would mean to you.

George K. Nolan Tribal Judicial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Deadline: June 1, 2007

Qualifications: Must be enrolled in a college or university studying tribal law, law enforcement, legal studies, political science or public administration. Must be at least a college sophomore. Must be full-time status. Must have submitted a Higher Education assistance application for the 2006-07 school year. Must have an accumulative grade point average maintaining satisfactory progress (include transcript showing grades from the last term or semester attended). Must submit a letter of application to include the name and location of the college or university you will be attending, the academic major you are pursuing, what your career objective is and must submit a 300-500 word essay describing how the scholarship will help you realize your goal.

Bernard Bouschor Honorary Scholarship (\$1,000)

Deadline: June 1, 2007

Qualifications: Must be working toward an undergraduate degree. Must be enrolled or accepted into a two or four-year college or university. Must be enrolled full time. Must submit a letter of application to include the name and location of the college or university you will be attending, academic major you are pursuing, including class level and number of credits completed and your career objective. Must have submitted a Higher Education assistance application for the 2006-07 school year. Must submit a 300-500 word essay describing how you feel your education will benefit you and why you should receive a scholarship.

Fred L. Hatch Memorial Teacher Education Scholarship (\$1,000)

Deadline: June 1, 2007

Qualifications: Must be at least one-quarter Indian blood quantum. Must be enrolled in a teacher education program attending full time. Must be at least a college junior. Must have an accumulated GPA of at least a 3.0. Must submit a cover letter to include the name and location of the college or university you will be attending, the academic major you are pursuing and your career objective. Must have submitted a Higher Education assistance application for the 2006-07 school year. Must submit a brief statement on what the scholarship would mean to you.

Victor Matson Sr. Tributary Scholarship (\$1,000)

Deadline: June 1, 2007

Qualifications: Must be pursuing a fisheries-related degree. Must be enrolled or accepted into a two or four-year college or university working toward a undergraduate degree. Must be enrolled

full time. Must submit a letter of application to include the name and location of college or university you will be attending and the academic major you are pursuing (including class level and number of credits completed) and your career objective. Must submit a 300-500 word essay describing how you feel your education will benefit you and why you should receive a scholarship.

Martha Miller

Tributary Scholarship (\$1,000)

Deadline: June 1, 2007

Qualifications: Must be pursuing a human service-social work related degree. Must be enrolled or accepted into a two or four year college or university working toward an undergraduate degree. Must be enrolled full time. Must submit a letter of application to include the name and location of college or university you will be attending, academic major you are pursuing (including class level and number of credits completed) and your career objective. Must submit a 300-500 word essay describing how you feel your education will benefit you and why you should receive a scholarship.

Submit scholarship info to: Sault Tribe Education Department Attn: (name the scholarship), 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call us at any time at (906) 635-7784 or (800) 793-0660 (ask for Higher Education) or send e-mail to us at jl Lewton@saulttribe.net.

Top 10 scholarship tips

Ever wonder what the folks who award the scholarships want to see? FinAid and FastWeb have polled scholarship providers across the country, asking for their tips on applying for scholarships.

Tip 1: Give concrete examples. If your answer to an essay question is abstract, support it with a concrete example that illustrates your point. The scholarship sponsor wants to see evidence that you satisfy their criteria, not just unsupported statements.

Tip 2: Apply only if you are eligible. Read all the scholarship requirements and directions carefully, and make sure that you are eligible before you send in your application. Your application will not be considered if you aren't qualified to apply.

Tip 3: Identify the sponsor's goals. Try to understand the sponsor's motivation in offering the award. Do they want to promote interest in their field? Do they want to identify promising future researchers and business leaders? If you can identify their goals, you can direct your application toward satisfying those goals, increasing your chances of winning the award.

Tip 4: Complete the application in full and follow directions. Many students fail to follow directions. You can give yourself a competitive advantage by reading the directions carefully.

Provide everything that is required. But don't supply things that aren't requested. You won't impress and you might be disqualified.

Be sure to complete the entire application. If a question doesn't apply, note that on the application. Don't just leave it blank.

Tip 5: Neatness counts. Make

several photocopies of all the forms you receive. Use the copies as working drafts as you develop your application packet.

It's always best to type the application. If you must print, do so neatly and legibly.

Proofread the entire application carefully. Nothing is less impressive than an application with misspelled words or grammar errors. Ask a friend, teacher or parent to proofread it as well.

Tip 6: Write an accomplishments resume. Compile a list of all your best to type the accomplishments. This will help you identify your strengths and prepare a better application.

Give a copy of the resume to the people who are writing letters of recommendation for you. They will be able to work some of the tidbits into their letters, making it seem like they know you better.

Tip 7: Watch all deadlines. Impose a deadline for yourself that is at least two weeks before the stated deadline. Use this 'buffer time' to proofread your application before you send it off.

You are responsible for making sure all parts of the application arrive on time. This includes supporting materials, such as letters of recommendation and transcripts. So make sure everyone who is contributing to your application has ample lead-time.

If worse comes to worst, call the scholarship provider in advance and ask if it's possible to receive an extension. Don't just send the materials in late; many committees will refuse late applications. But don't rely on extensions — very few scholarship providers allow them at all.

Tip 8: Take steps to make sure your application gets where it needs to go. Before sending the application, make a copy of the entire packet and keep it on file. If your application goes astray, you can always produce it quickly.

Make sure your name (and social security number, if applicable) appears on all pages of the application. Pieces of your application may get lost unless they are clearly identified.

Tip 9: Ask for help if you need it. If you have problems with the application, do not hesitate to call the sponsor. They will usually be glad to give you help. But don't

expect them to do the work for you. Completing the application is your job.

Tip 10: Remember — your scholarship application represents you! Your ability to submit a neat, timely, complete application reflects on you. It's the face you present to the sponsoring organization. Take pride in yourself by submitting the best application you can.

Before you start applying, here are some suggestions that may help you when writing the scholarship essay. This information came from the FastWeb.com Web site in July 2001. I would recommend checking out this site, it's very informational.

Writing a scholarship essay

Think before you write. Brainstorm to generate some good ideas and then create an outline to help you get going.

Be original. The judges may be asked to review hundreds of essays. It's your job to make your essay stand out from the rest.

Show, don't tell. Use stories, examples and anecdotes to individualize your essay and demonstrate the point you want to make. By using specifics, you'll avoid vagueness and generalities.

Develop a theme. Don't simply list all your achievements. Decide on a theme you want to convey that sums up the impression you want to make. Write about experiences that develop them.

Know your audience. Personal essays are not 'one size fits all.' Write a new essay for each application — one that fits the interests and requirements of that scholarship organization. You're asking to be selected as the representative for that group. The essay is your chance to show how you are the ideal representative.

Submit an essay that is neat and readable. Make sure your essay is neatly typed and that there is a lot of 'white space' on the page. Double-space the essay, and provide adequate margins (one inch to 1.5 inches) on all sides.

Make sure your essay is well written. Proofread carefully, check spelling and grammar and share your essay with friends or teachers. Another pair of eyes can catch errors you might miss.

Public comments requested by federal education agencies

SUBMITTED BY ANGELINE
MATSON

Parents of children who attend Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-funded schools are invited to comment on proposed legislation to clarify the goals and oversight of the Education and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the McKinney-Vento Act as it currently may conflict with the Tribally Controlled Schools Act and the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

An information packet is available from the Sault Tribe Education Division. Please call (800)

793-0660 or (906) 635-6538 to request one sent to you.

Deadline for written comments is May 21, 2007. It is recommended that written comments be emailed to TCAPR2007@bia.edu or faxed to (202) 273-0030. If you would like assistance in sending your letter, we can fax it for you.

Written comments should follow this format:

1. Name and organizational affiliation.
2. Address of your organization (or school).
3. Comments.

Imagination Library Project

SUBMITTED BY BECKY DAVIS

Free books to be provided to all children newborn to age five in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Enrollment in the Imagination Library Project is now open to all residents of Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce counties.

Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District and the Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services will offer children living in Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce counties an opportunity to enroll in the Imagination Library Project. Parents may enroll their children, from newborn to age five, to receive a high quality, age appropriate book once a month mailed to their home. All children in the specified age group living in Chippewa, Mackinac or Luce counties are eligible to enroll free of charge to the family. This is not a charity or social service program, but a gift to all children in the eastern Upper Peninsula. When you immerse a child in a literacy rich environment, you increase their chances of later academic success. The key is to get children interested in reading as early as possible. Proficient readers have large vocabularies, children who are read to early and often hear more words and have significantly larger vocabularies than children who don't hear readings.

Educators have long emphasized that reading is the single most important activity parents can do with their children to prepare for school success. Dolly Parton created the Imagination Library to increase access to high quality, age appropriate

books in every child's home. The Imagination Library is all about inspiration and imagination. Participation in this project will provide each child with a new hard-backed book delivered to their mail box once a month. Children become inspired and excited about reading when they receive a new book every month in the mail. Parents and other family members will also look forward to having a new selection of books to read to their children. Books are carefully selected to be age appropriate for each child, are hard backed to last longer and are provided to each child in the family. Book ownership is an important step in creating an avid reader. Avid readers become successful students and successful students become successful members of our communities.

Books are free of charge to families, but are paid for by local sponsors. Each child enrolled will have a local champion who will agree to pay \$27 annually for the child's participation in this program, which covers the cost of 12 books and mailing. Inspiring a young reader is the perfect way to give a gift that will last a life time. If you are a parent, grandparent or just want to give a child a special gift, you can become a local sponsor. All contributions are tax deductible. Corporate, civic and service groups are also encouraged to sponsor children.

If you would like to enroll your child, or to sponsor a child's participation, please visit our Web site at www.eupkids.com or call (906) 632-3373 ext. 117 and ask for the Imagination Library Project, or Becky Davis.

Sault Tribe career showcase

SUBMITTED BY BARB GRAVELLE, HUMAN RESOURCE RECRUITER

Students in grades eight through 12 have a very exciting opportunity coming up.

Career showcase with Michigan Works, Sault Tribe Night on Wednesday, April 18 from 6:30-8 p.m.

There will be six different careers and locations to choose from including arts and communication, DreamMakers Theatre; business, management and marketing, Kewadin Casino Hotel and Convention Center; engineering, manufacturing and industrial technology, Sault Tribe Housing Department; health sciences, Sault Tribe Health Center; human services, Dream Catchers Restaurant; natural resources, Sault Tribe Fisheries and Environment Services.

The career showcase is an opportunity for area students to learn more about different career pathways they may want to explore. The Sault Tribe is very happy to work on this event with Michigan Works and have an entire evening "showcasing"

exciting Sault Tribe career opportunities.

It is important for students to get an idea of what career opportunities may interest them while they are still in school so that they can think about what academic courses would best suit their career aspirations and help prepare them for college.

The Sault Tribe is offering six different presentations which range from culinary arts to the medical field. Sign up today to reserve a spot. Whether learning the lights and sounds of the DreamMakers Theatre or taking an extensive tour of our health care facilities, it all offers a wonderful opportunity to speak with professionals in the field, hear a presentation about Sault Tribe career opportunities and have some fun, hands-on learning.

You must register to participate. You can register online at www.careershowcase.org.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (906) 635-4937 or (866) 635-7032 or by e-mail at bgravelle@saulttribe.net.

The Society of American Indian Dentists is holding a conference June 7-10, featuring new trends in dentistry. If you are a college student interested in dentistry, there is no charge for registration and you earn six CEUs sponsored by the University of Minnesota, School of Dentistry. The conference will be held at the Mystic Lake Hotel near Minneapolis. For more conference information, e-mail jarickert@charter.net or phone (231) 276-9633. There is a charge for lodging and meals, call Mystic Lake Resort at (800) 262-7799.

Sault Tribe Head Start and Early Head Start NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS For 2007-2008 School Year

Application deadline: April 30, 2007

Important:

Application must be complete.

All information and supporting paperwork must be provided. Incomplete applications cannot be considered.

Head Start

3-5 years old

Must be three by Dec. 1, 2007

Part-day, part-year program

Sept.-May

Located in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace

Full day, year-round program

in Sault Ste. Marie only.

Early Head Start

0-3 years old

Also offer services for pregnant women.

Full day, year-round program

in Sault Ste. Marie only.

Home-based, year-round services

in Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties.

Eligibility:

Children must be members of federally-recognized Indian tribes.

Families must meet income guidelines.

Mission:

Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing social and cognitive development through educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

Applications may be picked up at 2076 Shunk Road or call (906) 635-7722.

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Part 1 - MAST Impact Week trip report

BY LONA B. STEWART

Editor's note: This is part one of a two part series. Look for part two in the next edition of Win Awenen Nisitotung.

I had the honor of recently traveling to Washington, D.C., as a staff person with the majority of our board of directors and our tribal chairperson to attend MAST Impact Week, March 11-15, 2007.

MAST stands for Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes and our tribe is a member. Every year, they hold a week long session in D.C. to allow the member tribes of MAST to be involved and have a voice on legislation that directly impacts tribes across the country, and specifically in our region.

I have been a member of our tribe all my life and an employee for almost 15 years. From the beginning of my employment, I have worked with our tribal board of directors and chairman in many different capacities. I am currently a part of our Tribal Legislative Committee which consists of all the board of directors, the chairperson, as well as applicable division directors and program managers.

I guess I am like a coordinator for this board committee, as I assist our legislative director, Michael McCoy, in developing the agenda and putting the meeting materials together. I also record the meetings so we can ensure follow up is done on issues that are of great importance to our tribe. Many of these issues were addressed at some point or another, and in one form or another, during the MAST Impact Week meetings and the meetings set up by our federal liaison, Meghan Kelly Powell. Meghan is a member of our tribe as well as our eyes and ears in Washington,

D.C. Meghan keeps up on tribal issues that may have an effect on our tribe specifically, but she also watches out for attacks on any tribe's sovereign rights.

An attack on one tribe's ability to govern themselves, and to deal effectively with the federal and state governments in a government-to-government relationship, is an attack on all tribes' abilities to do so.

Directors Cathy Abramson, Lana Causley, Joseph Eltrom and Todd Gravelle dedicated their time and leadership to either attending the MAST meetings or the meetings Meghan set up for us. Directors Fred Paquin, Keith Massaway and DJ Hoffman along with Chairperson Aaron Payment, dedicated their time to attending the meetings with a variety of senators and congressmen set up by Mary Pavel and Michael McCoy to specifically address our issue related to the new St. Ignace Casino.

The purpose of these meetings was to obtain congressional support and assistance in resolving our issue through a legislative process. Mary is an attorney with the firm of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse & Endreson, and our tribe's contact. As has been reported previously by others, our tribe is working through a number of avenues to get the St. Ignace Casino "line" issue resolved.

During the first day of MAST meetings, we had a number of unscheduled guests come in and address the tribes on a variety of topics. The first one was former Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services and former governor of Wisconsin, Tommy Thompson. Some of you may recall that in 2001, the Sault Tribe hosted a visit from Secretary

Thompson as he was making his tour of a number of Indian reservations in his role as Secretary of DHHS to address the health and education issues our tribe was facing at the time.

Mr. Thompson announced to the MAST attendees that he is running for president of the United States. He pledged that, if elected as President, he will work to get potable water and sewer in all of Indian Country. He also indicated a commitment to transforming health care to make it affordable and accessible for all Americans. He is asking the tribes to support him in this endeavor, and he will put us and our issues front and center on his presidential agenda.

Another special guest was the newly confirmed Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Carl Artman. Assistant Secretary Artman is a member of the Oneida Tribal Nation and the tenth assistant secretary sworn in. He indicated he is looking forward to working with us, and reiterated Secretary Kempthorne's commitment to working with tribes to address and promote our issues. Assistant Secretary Artman outlined a few of the initiatives he plans to work towards during his tenure, including reforms in Indian education programs and increased funding to implement his four-part initiative related to this, diversifying tribal economic development beyond casinos, Safe Indian Communities Initiative which would provide more tribal police officers, drug enforcement training and public service announcements to address the growing meth abuse and pharmaceutical problems on reservations across the country to name a few.

Assistant Secretary Artman

also indicated his desire to move past a consultation process with tribes to a process that details more cooperation between the tribes and the federal government. A number of tribal representatives voiced concerns with the way the Indian Reservation Roads Program has been handled by the BIA in the past. One tribal representative mentioned the 12-panel working group on IRR that was supposed to give consultation on these issues to the BIA did so, and the BIA ignored them. He wanted to know if the BIA was going to listen to us at all. The assistant secretary indicated he would follow up on this issue, and any others brought to his attention as he believes, no matter what, we deserve a response. That will be part of his goal; to improve response time to tribes on the different issues they bring to the BIA.

Assistant Surgeon General and Director of Indian Health Services Charles W. Grim, DDS, MHSA, provided MAST attendees with an IHS update. Dr. Grim outlined nine different priorities in place for IHS; these included personalized health care, health transparency, health information technology, Medicare RX, pandemic preparedness, prevention, Medicaid modernization, and Emergency Response and Commission Corps renewal.

Under the prevention priority, because tribes have lobbied the issue of the growing problem of meth in Indian Country, there are now three bills before congress related to this to make tribes eligible for Department of Justice grants directly, that would require Congress to submit a report on meth in Indian Country and a report on the use of meth by preg-

nant women.

Within the pandemic preparedness priority, IHS has asked the tribes to develop a preparedness plan and offered a planning workbook that will assist tribes in developing their own plan. Dr. Grim noted in the fiscal year 2008 budget update that there were no increases for statutory caps on costs for contract support. Some attorneys consulted believe that the contract health dollars allocated to tribes includes the dollars for the contract support costs. He also noted that the president is proposing to zero out urban health care programs, but they are funded for 2007.

For contract health services (CHS), Dr. Grim acknowledged this service is under-funded and it may be time to look at the priority system for CHS. Right now, the system is on a hierarchy - life or limb. He noted that IHS needs to engage tribal leaders in this decision and do it region by region. The real issue is that more money is needed in this account. Director Gravelle urged Dr. Grim to use his influence to put more dollars in the diagnostic testing line item. He explained that currently, the way our tribe handles these types of tests per the regulations is if you are sent for a diagnostic test because your doctor believes you are at risk of a serious illness or disease, unless the diagnostic testing confirms that you do have whatever ailment your doctor sent you to be tested for, you are stuck as an individual tribal member paying the bill for that diagnostic test. More simply put, if you are healthy after all, you will be paying the bill.

Cedarville High does it big



Back row, left: Assistant Coaches Scott Barr and Kurt Duncan; team members, Keith Foster, Jason Duncan, Justin Baker, Jimmy Eberts, Jordan Duncan, Kevin Thompson, Jordan Sweeney, Matt Hansen, Sheldon Tassler, Cody Thompson; Manager Adam Dingman; Coach Dave Duncan; and Manager Joey Duncan. Front row, left: Manager Mackenzie Barr; team members, Scott McGreevey, C.J. Paquin, Taylor Smith, Luke Murray and James Mitchell.

Photo courtesy of Janet Haske, Cedarville High

BY RICK SMITH

The boy's varsity basketball team from Cedarville High School concluded a most stellar 2006-07 season of Michigan Class D action on March 24 in East Lansing. The record setting Trojans completed the season without a single loss in 26 games when they defeated the Wyoming Tri-unity Christian Defenders 77 to 74 at the Breslin Center to earn the state championship. Sault

Tribe members were among the victors.

Trojans coach David Duncan said the team has wanted a rematch with the Defenders since losing to them in the 2005-06 basketball season; a rematch in the championship game apparently just fueled the resolve of the Cedarville team to top their rival.

In addition, Duncan said the team adopted a motto this season that came from a piece of advice

from Tom Izzo, head coach for the Michigan State University Spartans men's basketball team, "Dream big, dreams do come true."

Duncan has been coaching in Cedarville for 17 years and has two sons playing guards on the basketball team, Jason and Jordan, who are Sault Tribe members. Another guard, C.J. Paquin, and a forward, Keith Foster, are also tribe members as is Joey Duncan, one of the team's managers.

In the course of the regular season, the Trojans overcame competition from Posen, Mackinaw City, Big Bay de Noc, Engadine, Harbor Springs, Pickford, St. Ignace, DeTour, Brimley and Rudyard. District playoffs for Cedarville began on March 7 when the Trojans played against Brimley (final score 98-27) in DeTour and faced the DeTour team (83-39) on their home court on March 10. The regional playoffs took place in St. Ignace where the Trojans took on Engadine (85-50) on March 14 and, two days later, Posen (106-66). In the quarter-final competition, the gents from Cedarville went to Marquette to play against Crystal Falls (60-47) on March 20. The semi-finals were also staged at the Breslin Center where the Trojans wrangled with Bellaire (58-55).

Great eagle, spread your wings for me

BY ANGELA HENDRICKSON

Great eagle that walks with me at my right, protecting me from that which we call ego.

I ask that you hear my prayer to the Great Creator and spread your wings wide to carry my message.

I ask that you fly with it into the clouds, high above this place, to where Father Sky is no more and there is only darkness.

To the place where the Great Creator sits and waits, inside the dark, where the light is born.

"Hear me, oh, great being of light and peace, that has given me spirit and great strength."

"I ask for you to heal our people's souls, for we have forgotten our place in this time."

"Remind us that we are your children, that we should protect the mother you've provided."

"We have let greed come between us and the place of light. And we know only hatred and death because of it."

"Show us again how to be thankful and kind, and how to walk again our grandfathers' path."

"This is what I pray for all my people, this is what I pray for all human kind."

"Thank you, Great Creator, for all that you've given, and thank you for all that you will provide."

Great eagle that walks with me upon my right, I give thanks for the long journey you shall make.

And for the great patience you have with this being, I honor you in all ways and in all forms.

Take flight now, great eagle, upon this long journey, I wait for your return and pray for your safe keeping.

Correction

Editor's note: In the March 9, 2007 edition of Win Awenen Nisitotung on page 2, next to last paragraph, should read: If you are interested in learning traditional basket making, Marge Bekins will teach you for free of charge. However, there is a fee charged for workshops. Bekins can be contacted at (906) 430-7115.

The next deadline for submissions to Win Awenen Nisitotung is April 24 at 9 a.m.

Healthy heart project How Sault Tribe Health Division protects your information

SUBMITTED BY CHARLA GORDON, RD, HEALTHY HEART PROJECT

We get lots of information about foods we are not supposed to eat for some reason or another. Today let's turn that around and learn about foods that we can eat that are good for our hearts. My goal is that by the end of this article you will have found one food that you can eat that will improve or maintain the health of your heart.

Fish is an excellent source of something called an omega-3 fatty acid. The important piece of information here is to remember to eat fish two times per week. Salmon, chubs, tuna, sardines, herring, lake trout and whitefish are all good sources of this special type of fat. If you do not like fish you can get the same types of fat from walnuts, pecans, ground flaxseeds, canola oil or pistachios.

Dried peas, beans and lentils are low in fat and high in fiber. They are especially rich in soluble fiber which is excellent at lowering the LDL-(lousy)-cholesterol in our bodies. If you do not have time to cook up your own dried beans you can use the canned kidney, navy, black turtle, pinto or other varieties of beans to add to soup, salsa, casseroles, or other favorite dishes. Open the can, drain off the liquid and rinse the beans to reduce extra salt added during canning.

Other great sources of soluble fiber are oatmeal, barley, ground flaxseed and psyllium. You can find psyllium in Kellogg's®

Bran Buds cereal or products like Metamucil®. Any time you start adding more fiber to your diet you will want to go slow and drink lots of water so that your body can adjust to the new change.

Other types of fat are good for our hearts, too. This group of fats – the monounsaturated fats – do not raise total blood cholesterol levels and do not lower the HDL-(healthy)-cholesterol levels. You will find these fats in nuts, olive oil, canola oil, avocados and some margarine. Be careful with nuts, they carry a lot of calories and go down easy. A serving size is a handful (one quarter-cup) not a can full.

For heart protection, we want phytonutrients (plant nutrients) that slow or prevent damage to cells in our body. Hard to believe, but one of the best things for our hearts is to eat more fruits and vegetables, and think colors. The rainbow is a good example – everyday try to eat at least one serving from each of these color groups: Red, yellow/orange, white/tan/brown, green, blue/purple. The goal is no longer five servings a day, it has increased to eight to 10 servings per day.

So, did you find at least one thing you can change in your eating pattern? Your nutritionists are always just a phone call away to help you and if you want to try a group class on keeping a healthy heart call (906) 632-5210 and ask about the Honoring the Gift of Heart Health Program. We look forward to hearing from you.

SUBMITTED BY TOYO EGGERT

As patients of the Sault Tribe health facilities, you may wonder what happens with your medical record. Who will see this record? How is my medical record kept confidential? If you have feelings that your information is not protected, it could affect your health care by how much information you are sharing with your health care provider. If your health care provider doesn't have all the information, that could be hurting you.

So how safe are your medical records?

We have many policies and procedures put into place to protect the safety and privacy of your protected health information. What is your protected health information? It is information about your past, present and future medical or mental health conditions; created or received by a provider in the course of

treatments and evaluations in any form – written, oral or electronic; examples are visits, x-rays, labs, counseling sessions etc. These policies were created to meet the state and federal requirements, such as the Privacy Act and HIPAA. Some of the policies are that every employee of the Sault Tribe Health Division signs a confidentiality agreement that is binding even if they no longer work for the Sault Tribe Health Division. Your record cannot be removed from the clinic. The access to the Medical Record Department is restricted. Each employee is trained on an annual basis in confidentiality requirements. Access to your medical information is strictly on a "need to know" basis.

What is "need to know"? It means that if you do not have business reasons for needing to know health information you are looking at, then you are subject to

disciplinary actions for breaching confidentiality. So your cousin, aunt, close friend, etc. who may work with the Sault Tribe Health Division doesn't necessarily have access to it. They cannot look in your record just out of concern. Should your protected health information be breached, we would make every effort to correct the situation and inform the patient of the breach.

There are many more policies that we have in place to protect the security and privacy of your health information, these are only a few. I hope this helps to reassure you of the safety and confidentiality of your protected health information. Should you have any questions about your medical record rights, please feel free to contact me.

Toyo Eggert, medical record administrator, Sault Tribe Health Division, (906) 632-5234 or at teggert@saulttribe.net.

Simple radon test can help prevent lung cancer

Each year, nearly 20,000 people die from lung cancer caused by exposure to radon. A common source of exposure to radon that can be avoided is exposure in the home, yet only one in five homeowners have actually tested for radon.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is urging people to test their homes. "Healthy homes

make for healthy families," said Bill Wehrum, EPA's acting assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation. "EPA is encouraging people to test for radon – a simple step to providing peace of mind."

Radon is an invisible radioactive gas that seeps into your home from underground and can reach harmful levels if trapped indoors.

The only way to know if your home contains high radon levels is to test for it. Nearly 80 percent of American homes have not been tested for radon, even though a simple test costing as little as \$25 can help detect a possible radon problem.

Get your home tested, visit www.epa.gov/radon/radontest.

Cross the M.O.T.E. to Kewadin's Cash

At All Five Sites!

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

M = Mondays
O = Odds
T = Tuesdays
E = Events

Draw times on Monday on the Odd hours from 1pm – 9pm
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Player's Day

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!

All Five Kewadin Casinos



Upcoming Events

MAY MULTIPLIER

At All Five Sites!
The More you Play, the
More you can WIN!

Mother's Day Spa Essential Basket Giveaway

AT ALL FIVE SITES

May 13, 2007

Tournaments

St. Ignace

\$17,000 Keno
April 20 – 22, 2007
\$30,000 Blackjack
April 27 – 29, 2007

Hessel

\$8,000 Spin to Win
May 4 – 6, 2007

Sault Ste. Marie

\$35,000 Craps
May 4 – 6, 2007

Entertainment

Northern Pines Entertainment Schedule

Wednesday Comedy Shows
start at 9pm

April 4th - Bert Challis & Joe Tyler
April 11th - Reggie McFadden &
John Garrett

April 18th - Tracy Smith & Lee Lyan

Live Music starts at 9pm
April 6 & 7 - CP2

April 13 & 14 - Touch of Class
April 20 & 21 - Wyzbang

Manistique Comedy Night
Every Friday Night

April 6th - Bert Challis & Joe Tyler
April 13th - Reggie McFadden &
John Garrett

April 20th - Tracy Smith & Lee Lyan

Karaoke the first 3 Saturdays
of the Month as well.

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



WAYNE NEWTON
SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

Tickets on Sale Now



GEORGE JONES
FRIDAY, APRIL 20TH
ST. IGNACE, MICHIGAN

Upcoming Events

Sault Ste. Marie

KISS

OUTDOOR CONCERT

July 20, 2007

Tickets on sale April 7, 2007
at 9 a.m. at Kewadin Casino
Sault Ste. Marie
Box Office ONLY!

Tickets on sale online April 9, 2007

Reserved - \$100

General Admission - \$75

EASTER BUFFET

April 8, 2007

Dream Catcher's Restaurant
Sault Ste. Marie

Horseshoe Bay
Restaurant
St. Ignace



Manistique Kewadin Casino

Live Entertainment

Mama's Boys - April 27 & 28, 2007

Community Health promotes healthy eating and physical activity

The Get Moving U.P. Program is officially over, participants at JKL Bahweting School logged 8,451 minutes of activity while Kewadin Casino team members logged 10,849 minutes and participants from the Sault Tribe Health Center logged 24,219 minutes, a total of 43,519 minutes of activity which averages out to 777 minutes per day for the length of the program. Way to go!

The lucky winners of the \$20 Wal-Mart gift cards were Mary Ann Stott at the Sault Tribe Health Center, Greg Chromy at JKL Bahweting School, Linda Marshall at the Kewadin Shores Casino in St. Ignace, Tel Fox at the Hessel Casino, Leonard Hepfer at the Manistique Casino, and Sandra Holt and Christina Rolph at the Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie. Congratulations to all of our winners! And congratulations to everyone who participated and gained better health through more physical activity!

For those who would like to

continue logging activity or for those who want to start, visit www.michigan.gov/surgeon general for the Michigan Steps Up Program.

Community Health staff set up displays at each of the Kewadin Casinos to promote the three-a-day dairy challenge, a week long program which began March 18. Participants logged their servings of dairy products for the week in a quest to win free milk for a year from Jilbert's Dairy. The Steps to a Healthier Anishinaabe Program also provided gift baskets filled with dairy products and ingredients for making healthy snacks with dairy. These baskets will be awarded through drawings at each casino to team members who turn in their logs of dairy servings. Be sure to read next month's *Win Awenen Nisitotung* for the list of winners.

Research shows that Americans are getting only half of the recommended three servings they need each day. Low fat

or fat free dairy products are the best way to get your calcium and other nutrients for strong bones and healthy bodies. A six to eight ounce container of fat free light yogurt has 100 calories and 0 grams of fat and costs about 50 cents. But it supplies us with 20 percent of our recommended allowance of calcium. While a six ounce bag of potato chips costs a couple of dollars and has 912 calories! For adults needing to lose weight, a number of studies show enjoying three servings of low fat dairy a day as part of a weight loss plan may help them achieve better results than simply cutting calories. Because dairy foods are great sources of calcium, protein, potassium and other essential nutrients, getting three servings a day of low fat dairy improves the overall nutritional quality of your diet.

For more information on the benefits of low fat dairy visit www.3aday.org.

Give us your input and you may be a lucky winner

Have you tried to quit or have you quit smoking cigarettes or chewing tobacco through the tribal Tobacco Cessation Program in 2005 or 2006? If you have, you will soon be receiving a short questionnaire in the U.S. mail. The information you provide on this questionnaire is very important to help us evaluate the success of the Tobacco Cessation Program.

To show our appreciation

for your input, we will draw 15 names from those questionnaires returned by the stated deadline of April 20. These 15 lucky winners will receive one of five Wal-Mart gift cards valued at \$50 each, or one of ten Wal-Mart gift cards valued at \$25 each to spend as you please. That's 15 chances to win!

Whether you were successful with quitting (smoking or chewing) or not, please know that your time answering and returning

this short questionnaire is greatly appreciated. It should only take a few minutes and a return envelope will be provided. Evaluation results will be announced in the near future. You must return the questionnaire by Friday, April 20 to be eligible for the drawing. If you have questions, please contact Community Health Services, at (906) 632-5210.

St. Ignace and Cedarville are on the road to better health

Students at St. Ignace schools, Cedarville schools enjoyed a visit from Robert Sweetgall, president of Creative Walking, Inc. Robert has been nicknamed "the real Forrest Gump" and has walked across the country seven times in order to bring his message of health and wellness through physical activity and healthy eating. The Mackinac County Wellness Coalition sponsored this two-day event through a grant from the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension.

Sweetgall spoke at a series of school assemblies to encourage students to be more active and eat healthy. He also provided a workshop for fourth and fifth grade students and teachers to encourage a pedometer walking program to continue throughout the school year. The students will be participating in the "One Million Footstep Challenge" to see if they can log one million footsteps in a school year. Pedometers were provided through the MSU Extension grant and Smart Stepping Student Guide booklets were provided by the Sault Tribe Community Health Education Department.

Sweetgall also spoke to teachers and administrators at the schools to educate them about how to incorporate physical activity

and healthy eating into every school day in order to improve learning, focus, behavior and most importantly — fitness levels in all students and staff. Students need more than the physical education and organized sports programs in order to maintain adequate fitness levels.

In the evening, Sweetgall provided a walking workshop for residents in St. Ignace and Cedarville. As part of the Mackinac County Wellness Coalition, Sault Tribe Community Health and rural health staff provided interactive educational displays for community members prior to his workshop. Sault Tribe dietitian, Stacy Storey, provided samples and taste tests of healthy snacks for students and families. Rural health nurses and technicians from Hessel and the Lambert Center provided information on tobacco cessation and secondhand smoke and tested people for exposure through a carbon monoxide monitor.

Donna Norkoli, Coordinator of the Sault Tribe Steps to a Healthier Anishinaabe Program, set up the Dance Dance Revolution system so that parents and students could try out the system which was donated to St. Ignace schools by the Sault Tribe Steps program. This system provides a

unique opportunity for students to increase their physical activity and have fun through an interactive video game that incorporates music and dance steps. "The students are very excited about this," said Donna Norkoli, program coordinator. "The Dance Dance Revolution makes physical activity fun. We are trying to get kids away from the TV and computers and get moving." The Steps program was given this system from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan through the Inter-tribal Council of Michigan to donate to a school in their service area. Sault Tribe Community Health had recently purchased several of these systems for use by schools in Sault Ste. Marie, Munising and Manistique.

For more information about the Steps to a Healthier Anishinaabe Program, call Donna Norkoli at (906) 635-8844.



Committed to Giving You Our Very Best

Bee keeper visits Newberry diabetes support group



Newberry diabetes support group samples maple syrup and honey from sugar bush and bee keeper Jim Marville.



Bee keeper Jim Marville holding up a honeycomb.

In honor of the Snow Crust Moon (March), the Newberry diabetes support group was honored with a presentation by a local sugar bush and honey bee keeper, Jim Marville, was asked to return as a presenter after his informational and entertaining presentation last year. Marville's hobby is maple sugar and honey harvesting. He shared history and present day techniques on each of the two practices and brought in freshly made maple and honey products for the support group participants to sample and take home. He didn't have to ask twice for volunteers to try honey from the honeycomb. Fifteen participants attended the group meeting which also included discussions on Five a Day and diabetes. Newberry's group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. If you live in the area, feel free to join us. For more information, call (906) 293-8181.

Semaa: Our first medicine

On Saturday, March 17, nearly 60 people gathered to learn more about Anishinaabe teachings on tobacco. Tribe members from all over the state listened as traditional healer, Harlan Downwind, told many stories of tobacco's origin and its proper uses. Tobacco, or semaa as it is known in Anishinaabemowin, is a special gift given to the Anishinaabe people by the Great Spirit, Gzhemnidoo. Semaa is a leader. It is a good medicine with the capacity to heal. It is one medicine that the spirits cannot get on their own, and so it is a valuable gift to offer when we use it in a spiritual way. Praying with tobacco is a practice that has been with our ancestors for many generations. For some elders, it is part of their first act of the day and can help lead us to a good life when it is used properly and with sincerity.

Michelle Willis, Community Health educator, acknowledged that, historically, when Europeans were first introduced to tobacco by American Indian people, they

often misunderstood the "prescription" and protocols regarded by the Natives. There are many species of tobacco and each tribe has their own blend of plants. *Nicotiana rustica* is the most common species of plant used in the cigarettes and chewing tobacco that is bought in stores. It was the plant commonly used by tribes living in the southern states and even as far as South America. It is a member of the nightshade family and quite poisonous. American Indians who used the plant were very careful about how and when they would use it.

It is important for all of us today to also understand that there are more than 4,000 chemicals added to tobacco when it is grown and processed by companies who then sell this product to our families. Tobacco kills more than 400,000 people a day and the highest rates of abuse are by American Indians.

For information on traditional uses of tobacco or quitting tobacco abuse, contact Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

After school programs: beneficial for everyone involved

Quality after-school programs in a school or recreational setting can be very beneficial to not only children and families but to the community. Increased learning, healthier students, increased social and psychological development and reduction in crime are just a few examples of this.

• Increased learning — School-based after-school programs allow children the opportunity to continue their exploration of learning beyond the standard school day. Because children are only given an allotted amount of time in each subject, some may fall behind. With a school-based after-school program, children are given the opportunity to increase

achievement in math, reading, and other academic subjects and complete more and better-quality homework.

• Healthier students — When children get done with school, they may not want to do more school work. Sometimes taking a break from school-related materials can be better than continuously learning information. Being overwhelmed with school can cause a student to become unmotivated. Recreational programs may provide children with a break that allows the child to take their mind away from school work. It is also known that children involved in extracurricular activities have better grades than

children who are not involved in anything. Recreational after-school programs can foster healthier habits for students who would otherwise go home alone. Student health benefits can include decreased likelihood of substance abuse, enhanced nutrition and wellness, and reduction in the possibility of childhood obesity. These programs allow children to use their energy and relieve stress while promoting healthy lifestyles and participate in fun, recreational activities.

• Increased social and psychological development — After-school programs have a wide variety of social and psychological benefits for children.

Children who are involved in an after-school program watch less television, have fewer behavioral problems in school, have enhanced ability to resolve conflicts, have increased social skills and improved self-esteem. Children who are involved in an after-school program can learn new skills, discover new talents and just have fun.

• Reduction in crime in the community — Because youth crime rates peak during after-school hours and quality after-school programs provide structured, supervised activities, it is safe to say that after-school programs can be credited for the reduction in youth crime in the

community. Also, children who are in this type of structured program are less likely to be involved in gangs or gang-related activities.

Information taken from *After-School Programs: Good for Kids, Good for Communities* (2001). www.nwrel.org/request/jan99/article8.html

Moore, Ladonna. *After-School Programs*. University of Michigan. www.sitemaker.umich.edu/356.moore/home

For more information on after-school programs, or to enroll your child in "A Bear Necessity" after-school program, contact Christina Wilkins at (906) 635-4777.

Sports pals totzone a huge success

The last totzone of the winter was a huge success. There were 21 tots and 19 parents and grandparents.

The tots really enjoyed interacting with the local athletes. The LSSU hockey team had three players and the women's basketball team sent two players to spend time with the kids. The Sault Area High School was involved as well with two female soccer players. The athletes did an excellent job playing with the children.

The tots played mini hockey, kicked the soccer ball, played catch with the football and shot some hoops at the mini basketball hoop.

The support from the local athletes was a large part of this event's success and we are grateful for their participation.

Now that spring is here, the facility will take a break from the indoor activities with the tots. More totzones may be scheduled in the fall as the weather gets colder and indoor activities are desired.



Ava Blain hangs out with her daddy, Jason at the Sports Pals Totzone. Jason Blain is a member of the LSSU hockey team.



Zoe and Mia Voss with mom, Gina, as Michigan State cheerleaders at the Sports Pals Totzone.



Learn to skate at Chi Mukwa

The facility held a Learn To Skate class during March, which included 24 children and adults. The participants received a fifty minute lesson once a week.

The program teaches participants the basics of skating. The facility's minimum requirement is that participants can stand alone or with the assistance of a skate aid. The participants must be willing to go on the ice without their parent or guardian, unless, of course, they are registered as a participant.

The instructors teach a group lesson for the first 25 minutes of the class and the participants practice for the second half of the class. During practice time, parents and guardians are welcome to go on the ice.

The facility will be having another Learn To Skate class this summer starting in July. For more information, please call (906) 635-RINK (7465).

Right: Learn To Skate participants getting their last minute instructions prior to going on the ice.



Teen lock-in scheduled for April 21



The Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center will host its ninth annual teen lock-in on April 21. This event is for area youth in grades 6-9 and includes sporting tournaments, skating, movies, food, a dance and much more. The lock-in is from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m.

All participants must register prior to the event. The staff will register participants on Wednesday, April 11, from 5:30-7 p.m. in the facility's upstairs hospitality room. The maximum number of students that will be accepted is 250.

In order to register, participants must meet the following conditions on registration night:

- Participants must be accompanied by an adult and pay a \$5 cash deposit; no checks accepted.
- Present valid student ID or letter from the school on school letterhead stating the student's name and grade. In addition, students without IDs will have to pay \$1 to have an ID made the night of registration. Anyone not meeting all three conditions will be put on a waiting list. Registration is processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Youth Education and Activities Department is working with Chi Mukwa staff to register teens from the outlying areas. These individuals will not have to register at the facility on registra-

tion night as long as they meet the pre-established deadline set with the YEA department. Anyone outside the Sault area who is interested should contact their YEA unit coordinator for registration information.

Each year, the facility develops one new activity for the lock-in. This year's activity is going to mimic the reality show "So you think you can dance." The facility will have judges and establish criteria for the various rounds of the competition. It should be a lot of fun watching the teens come up with dance routines.

Other popular activities include the broomball and dodge ball tournaments. The teens also get to enjoy free pizza and an ice cream social during the night. The concessions stand is also busy throughout the night as most of the teens use their \$5 deposit there or at the arcade. The evening concludes with a balloon drop filled with prizes.

To make this event possible, the facility relies on many volunteers. A total of 75 staff and volunteers are scheduled during this event. There are three shifts throughout the night to watch exits, run the activities and act as chaperones. Anyone who has questions or is interested in volunteering for this event should contact Christina Wilkins at (906) 635-4777.

Five things you can do to help prevent child abuse

Reach out: Anything you do to support kids and parents can help reduce the stress that often leads to abuse and neglect.

Be a friend to parents and children. Ask questions. Provide reassurance and support. Lend assistance. Show you care by getting involved. Donate your used clothing, furniture and toys for use by another family. Volunteer your time and/or money for programs that support kids and families.

Raise the issue: By educating yourself — and others — you can help your community prevent child abuse and neglect from happening in the first place.

Wear a blue ribbon and tell people that it stands for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Remember risk factors: Child abuse and neglect occur in all segments of our society, but the risk factors are greater in families where parents:

Seem to be struggling; are

isolated from their family or community; have difficulty controlling anger or stress; are dealing with physical or mental health issues; abuse alcohol or drugs; appear uninterested in the care, nourishment or safety of their children.

By helping parents who might be struggling with any of these challenges, you reduce the likelihood that their children will be abused or neglected. Reach out to the children, too, and show them that you care.

Recognize warning signs: The behavior of children may signal abuse or neglect long before any change in physical appearance.

Some of the signs may include:

Nervousness around adults; aggression toward adults or other children; inability to stay awake or to concentrate for extended periods; sudden, dramatic changes in personality or activities; unnatural interest in sex; frequent or unexplained bruises or injuries; low self-esteem; poor hygiene.

Report suspected abuse and neglect:

If you suspect abuse or neglect may be occurring, report it to Anishnabek Community and Family Services at the number nearest you:

Sault Ste. Marie office (906) 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093, Kinohleoe office (906) 495-1232.

St. Ignace office (906) 643-8103 or (877) 444-5608.

Manistique office (906) 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137.

Munising (906) 387-4721.

If you think a child is in immediate danger, call 911.



St. Ignace Family Fun Day



The St. Ignace Fire Department brought fire trucks to the Family Fun Day.



A craft table was one of the many fun things happening at the St. Ignace Family Fun Day on Saturday March 17.



Sam Gardner of the Sault Tribe Police Department finger prints a youngster. Sault Tribe police donated a girl's and boy's bike for the St. Ignace Family Fun Day on March 17. Bryce Frazier won the boy's bike and Madison Olsen won the girl's bike.

News from Child Care Development Program services

May 12, 2007 is Michigan Child Care Provider Appreciation Day.

Watch for information for providers and parents alike to show appreciation. Jennifer M. Granholm, governor of the State of Michigan, proclaimed May 12, 2007, as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day in Michigan and encourages all citizens to recognize child care providers for their important work.

May 15, 2007 — Child Care Development Fund public hearing 2008-2009.

This is a new planning year

for child care assistance, quality activities for providers and licensing services.

This is a golden opportunity for parents and providers to review the current program plan and make recommendations for improvement.

The public hearing will be held at the Tribal Health and Human Services Center auditorium in Sault Ste. Marie at 10 a.m.

If you are not able to attend the public hearing but are interested in receiving more information regarding the Child Care Development Fund, you may call

(906) 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093 to request a copy of the proposed program plan.

If you are in need of child care you may visit their Web site at www.4c-up.com or contact (866) 424-4532.

Records of parental complaints are open to the public. Did you know that it is public record if a state or tribally licensed provider has been investigated for any areas of non-compliance? If you are wondering if your state licensed provider has been investigated, log on to the Web at www.cis.state.mi.us/brs_cdc.

Wild poker run planned

SUBMITTED BY ANNA ROGERS-STOTT, VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATOR

A wild poker run is being held in Sault Ste. Marie at Kewadin Casino, in the Whitefish Point Room. Join the fun April 13 from 6-8 p.m. Rules and instructions at 5:45.

The Advocacy Resource Center, which is a direct service program that provides assistance to victims of crime and their children, is sponsoring this fund raising event.

Participants will be given a list of clues for the locations of where they can pick-up their cards. After the participants have located all cards at the pick-up sites, they will return to the Kewadin Casino to find out who has the best hands and who wins the big money. The entry fee is \$10 and includes \$10 Kewadin tokens at the Casino. First best hand: \$75, second best hand: \$50 and third best hand is \$25. Tickets on sale now at Sault Tribe Health Center, Lori Jump (906)

632-5250; Community Action, Ken Stott (906) 632-3363; and Advocacy Resource Center, any staff member (906) 632-1808.

All funds raised will support the efforts of the Advocacy Resource Center and to support the Lodge of Bravery which is a residential shelter for battered women and children.

For more information, contact the Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808.

Sault Ste. Marie Family Celebration

Left: The Gardner family has donated a bike for the past three years in memory of Fredrick Gardner. Mrs. Gardner and Sam Gardner are pictured here with the winner, Emily. **Center:** Rick and Suzette Plummer from Soo Boat Works (new business) donated the boys bike.

The bike was won by Daniel Bradley. Daniel has amazing good luck — he won the boy's bike in 2006 also. **Right:** Kristi Little, Sault Tribe associate executive director, volunteered at the Maagweijg booth, which is a new volunteer program through Sault tribe. Maagweijg was one of 26 businesses or programs with activities at the Sault Ste. Marie Family Celebration on Friday March 16.



MAA
"GIF"

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS TRIBAL COURT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - Tribal Court Guardian Ad Litem

The Sault Tribe, invites all qualified licensed attorneys to submit proposals to perform the duties of Guardian Ad Litem in all matters before the Tribal Court, involving minor children involved in abuse and neglect proceedings.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

All responding attorneys are asked to respond completely to the attached requirements for Guardian Ad Litem.

All interested attorneys may obtain a copy of Chapter 30 of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Code at the George K. Nolan Judicial Building in Sault Ste. Marie during regular working hours. Additionally, further questions regarding case statistics or court procedures, may be answered by appointment by contacting the Court Administrator at (906) 635-4963.

It is further required that all responses to this Request for Proposal be submitted to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Administration Building, Attention: Kristi Little, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783 no later than April 15, 2007, 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Guardian Ad Litem."

The contract will be awarded no later than May 15, 2007. The contract period will initially begin on June 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2008. The contract will automatically renew unless one of the parties provide a Notice to Terminate 30 days prior to the expiration of the contract.

The Tribal Court hears approximately 50 abuse and neglect matters per year. It is estimated that 30 hours per month will be spent for representing abuse and neglect matters per month. The Tribal Court holds proceedings in all seven counties of the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Representation will be reviewed every six months to determine adjustment to reimbursement in excess of contract amount in the event of extraordinary expenses for travel and extensive caseloads.



The Tribe reserves the right to reject all bids submitted under the request for proposals.

**FOR DETAILED REQUIREMENTS PLEASE
CONTACT THE TRIBAL COURT AT THE
FOLLOWING ADDRESS.**

All questions regarding this Request for Proposal should be directed to:

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
2175 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-4963

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS TRIBAL COURT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency Counsel

The Sault Tribe, invites all qualified licensed attorneys to submit proposals to perform the following: 1. Provide indigent defense to all Criminal and Juvenile delinquency matters before the court.
2. As a representative of the defense bar to the Gladak Mijon Team for all drug court cases.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

All responding attorneys are asked to respond completely to the attached requirements for Criminal and Juvenile delinquency counsel.

All interested attorneys may obtain a copy of Chapters 36 and 71 of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Code at the George K. Nolan Judicial Building in Sault Ste. Marie during regular working hours. Additionally, further questions regarding case statistics or court procedures, may be answered by appointment by contacting the Court Administrator at (906) 635-4963.

It is further required that all responses to this Request for Proposal be submitted to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Administration Building, Attention: Kristi Little, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783 no later than April 15, 2007, 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Indigent Defense."

The contract will be awarded no later than May 15, 2007. The contract period will initially begin June 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2008. The contract will automatically renew unless one of the parties provide a Notice to Terminate 30 days prior to the expiration of the contract.

The Tribal Court hears approximately 100 Criminal Cases and 50 Juvenile Delinquency matters per year. It is estimated that 50 hours per month will be spent representing Criminal cases and 30 hours per month spent representing Juvenile Delinquency matters. Representation will be reviewed every six months to determine adjustment to reimbursement in excess of contract amount in the event of extraordinary expenses for travel and extensive caseloads.

The Tribal Court holds proceedings in all seven counties of the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Travel to the seven county service area collectively occurs approximately once per month. The Tribe reserves the right to reject all bids submitted under the request for proposals.

**FOR DETAILED REQUIREMENTS PLEASE CONTACT THE
TRIBAL COURT AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS.**

All questions regarding this Request for Proposal should be directed to:
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
2175 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-4963

STARS offers visual arts workshops for children and parents

Soo Theatre Arts Resource Studios is offering two visual arts workshops for children and parents in the month of April. "Let's Draw" for children in grades 3-5 with parents will be offered Saturday, April 14, 10:30 a.m. to noon. In this workshop, participants will share in the discovery of how drawing is a tool for expressing thoughts and telling stories. The tuition for this workshop is \$12 plus a \$3 materials fee.

"Monet and Me" for children in grades 1-5 with parents will be offered Saturday, April 28, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Using reproductions of great masters to stir imagination, parents and children will share beliefs about art. The tuition for this workshop is \$12. The instructor for both of these workshops is Linda Whitetree Warrington.

Registrations are accepted now for these workshops at the STARS office, 534 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie. Advanced registration is required. For more information, call STARS at (906) 632-1930.

Household hazardous waste collection dates

Chippewa County Recycling household hazardous waste collection dates for 2007 are May 18, July 14 and Sept. 22.

Reminder - Household hazardous waste will only be collected on-site on the above dates. Please call (906) 632-0525 to schedule your required appointment.

The next deadline for
submissions to
Win Awenen Nisitotung
is April 24 at 9 a.m.

Questions?
Call (906) 632-6398

**You could help save the life of another American Indian.
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Nishnaabemwin Language Institute

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A six week - fifty percent immersion Anishinabe language and cultural program. Learn about the Anishinabe language and cultural in a relaxed setting that is educational and entertaining.

Anishinaabeek Cultural Experience: Clan System, Tradition, and Spiritual Words. Experience total language immersion with games, immersion meals, crafts, & field trips. Story telling in Nishnaabemwin. Fluent speakers present weekly.

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Apply Now!

Call BMCC for information about enrollment, housing, & financial aid.

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(906) 248-3354 * 1-800-844-BMCC (844-2622) * www.bmcc.edu

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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

Community Donations Welcome

Mackinac Animal Aid Association is a 501C3 non-profit -
all donations are tax deductible

All donations are greatly appreciated.

www.petfinder.com

Send to Mackinac Animal Aid, P.O. Box 92, Moran, MI 49760

sniff sniff sniff
Spring is in the air,
adopt me and name me
show me that you care



Red



Zoey



Trixie



Editor's note: The following letter is a copy of what was sent to Indian Health in Detroit by tribal elder Suzanne Strom.
March 6, 2007
American Indian Health and Family Services
Attn: Marianna Vassallo

Enclosed is a form I have filled out. The doctor has to fill out her part and a prescription attached to the form and sent to Pfizer.

You told me this was done Jan. 5, 2007 and Pfizer has never received it. Did you not make copies. I was told you had, if so what is the hold up? I need my medications that is why I come to you for help.

I have left you many, many phone messages. But, you say you never received them. What kind of business are you working for if they can't get phone messages?

I should have all my medications by now. I signed all forms when I saw the doctor on Jan. 2, 2007. Dora, the nurse, gave me forms to fill out and sign. Which I did.

I am a heart patient and I need by medications. If you could not help me without the games your office is playing I would never have went to you in the first place.

I am sending a copy of this letter to *The Sault Tribe News*, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to find out if they will publish this letter to inquire if any other members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians are having as difficult time getting help from the American Indian Health and Family Services on Lawndale in Detroit.

I am sending this letter and the form certified so I know someone in your office has signed for it. It takes me an hour to drive to your office. Otherwise, I would have delivered it. I am on Social Security disability.

Sincerely,

—Suzanne Strom

Concerned about impact of proposed reduction in state aid to public libraries

I am deeply concerned about the impact that a proposed reduction in state aid to public libraries in the 2007-08 state budget will have on Upper Peninsula residents. The 34 public libraries in the U.P. are members of two library cooperatives, one headquartered in Marquette and one in Sault Ste. Marie. A proposed 50 percent reduction in state aid to libraries for fiscal year 2007-08 will translate into a direct loss of library services to U.P. residents by curtailing the services of library cooperatives.

People depend on library Internet networks, computers, wireless Internet access and filters for child safety on the Internet — all resources that are supported by library cooperatives. Cooperative staff provides technical assistance, training and consultation to U.P. public libraries that individual libraries can not afford alone. In short, U.P. library cooperatives work to make broadband affordable for libraries.

People in even the smallest communities have expanded access to 1.6 million books and other holdings available on the Upper Peninsula Automated Library System, a shared automated system managed by the Superiorland Library Cooperative. By the end of 2007, 42 percent of U.P. residents will have borrowers' cards to use this system.

People have discovered a wealth of information for their

historical and genealogical research at the Web site shared by U.P. cooperatives and maintained with state funds. The Web site www.uphistory.org hosts digital collections from 14 U.P. libraries, historical societies, museums and the Mackinac Bridge Authority.

Library cooperatives use group purchasing, group licensing and new materials grants to improve library collections and expand access to online databases. People will find fewer new books and no new audio books or DVDs, when funding cuts force cooperative grants to end. In some libraries, grants from the U.P. cooperatives provide the majority of new materials for readers. Group licensing makes it possible for 14 libraries to show in-house films.

Public libraries will actually lose more in economy-of-scale cooperative services than the State of Michigan will save with these drastic cuts in state aid.

I know it is popular to call for cutting out the fat in state government, but when cuts are so drastic that they reduce essential library services to Michigan residents, right in our home communities, we have gone way past the fat and are cutting right through the bone.

Sincerely,

— Ken Miller

Kenneth B. Miller, Jr.
Director
Bayliss Public Library
and Hiawathaland Library
Cooperative
541 Library Drive
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-9331

Thoughts on Hospice

I recently went to a Hospice training and I was amazed at what this organization provides for their clients. I must say I stereotyped them, "they don't do anything but just sit there and talk to you, not so."

Hospice encourages people to live their lives to the fullest with dignity and peace and they will do their absolute best to make this happen. I believe this because I heard this first hand.

My sister died of ovarian cancer, she could of had a more comfortable, peaceful death at home, instead of dying in the hospital, were she didn't want to be. Hospice would have provided her with a hospital bed, comfort measures (pain medications), dietary supplements to keep her strength up, provided movies for her to watch, (she loved westerns and science fiction, books, she loved reading) running errands, light housekeeping, they could have provided plane fare for her son who was in the Army. Just countless things that she could of had for comfort. She had a colostomy, she was so weak it was hard for her to walk, they could have helped with a commode, plus getting her supplies. What her insurance didn't pay for Hospice would have covered it. My sister tried to get assistance but was over the income guidelines so she wasn't eligible for any extra monetary help.

If a person was not as sick, there are endless things they can do also. You and the volunteer could go to the movies, shopping, playing cards, watching movies at home. Things that you, the client, would want to do. Hospice has been known to fly a family home when needed. There is a story to this, which was told by Tracy Holt from Hospice. This man's last wish was to have all his family home and, since he used to work on the ships, he wanted his family to go on one, no ships here but Hospice set up a long ride

through the locks for his family with the Sault Locks Boat Tours, who donated this trip to this family.

Hospice has even purchased TVs and VCRs. They have helped with sitting with a three-year old child in the client's home when the parent needed to spend time with the relative. The volunteer brought Disney movies in for the child and volunteer to watch. Hospice is not a rich organization. They are often covered by insurance and what ever the insurance doesn't cover they must rely on grants and the community for donations.

I cannot express how much Hospice helps.

They don't just leave you, either, after a relative passes on, they are willing to help you up to 13 months, whether it is sending a card or help with dealing with grief.

Anyone can refer someone to Hospice, not just a physician.

If you have any questions at all concerning Hospice, please call them at (906) 253-3151.

I went through a training, you can too. Caring volunteers are needed. If you have some time to spare, whether it be one hour a month, anytime is appreciated and you can choose what you want to do. Or if you just want to give a donation to cover costs of equipment, medications, personal items, there is a long list of items Hospice provides.

Consider Hospice, you won't be disappointed.

Sincerely,

— Ann Pollman

Member expresses gratitude to Education Department

I would like to take this time to say thank you to the Sault Tribe Education Department. If not for their help, my daughters, Jessica Browning Gorenz and Angela Browning Hendrickson, may not have been able to complete their schooling. Both girls were enrolled at the Upper Peninsula School Of Cardiovascular Sonography. And if not for the help of the Education Department, neither girl would have been able to complete their externship out of state.

Jessica went to Milwaukee, Wis., where she is employed at Milwaukee's Children's Hospital and Research Center, where she is not only doing cardiovascular sonography with infants, she is also doing heart research with doctors who are top in their field in genetic heart defects.

Angela finished her externship at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau, Wis., where she is now employed doing cardiovascular sonography with adults and hopes to head her own department within two years.

Helping our young realize their dreams is a wonderful thing and my thanks go out to all who work in this department. May you continue to help our children and, again, thank you.

Sincerely,

— Betty Browning

Sister reminisces about life on Sugar Island

Several years ago, the Sault Tribe senior advocate contacted my brother, Leo Payment, to interview him on growing up on Sugar Island. Once Leo spotted the video camera he froze and all his memory was wiped away for a short time. He could not even think of his childhood. He was "camera shy." If his daughter Carole Starnes had her way, she

would have suggested that they take Leo over to Sugar Island and let him tell his story while driving around the island.

We mentioned to Leo about the explosion on Sugar Island, why didn't you tell them about that day. Leo and his brother Glen Oliver Payment went fishing down on St. Mary's River, right close to their home. Leo had asked his sister Doreen to go fishing with them, but she said, "No, I am going to stay home and help Mom with supper." Leo then said she preceded to put on her little apron. So away the boys went. While Mom and Doreen started supper, what no one had any idea of, the oil stove exploded and Doreen lost her life. Mom was injured real bad, but no one knew the hurt in Leo's heart. For years he felt he should have persuaded Doreen into going fishing. Leo lived with this guilt for years. Before this accident, our sister Patsy was born with a hole in her heart and she lived just one year. Leo was the one in our family who witnessed it all.

I never had the opportunity of knowing Doreen, as she was eight years old when she was killed in the fire explosion. After being away from home, my family and I made a trip back to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and when we walked into Leo's house, Leo froze for a short time, he then told me, "When I saw your daughter Debbie walking through my door, I saw Doreen, with her big blue eyes." This was the first time I heard Doreen had blue eyes. There was a picture put into the Indian paper on "Class of 1933 of Bay De Wase" I asked Leo, "Isn't Doreen in this picture?" He said, you know what. Yes! She should be, I am going blind and can't see what I used to see and Thelma, his wife, had read the article to him. He recognized the names as she read on, but never thought about Doreen. So when I got back to Muskegon, I once checked the article over and the guy that put the article in the paper was from Muskegon, Mich., so I contacted him and he said, "You are right, Doreen is the girl in the front with her sweater kind of pushed up some in the front. Then he told me, you know, your Mom made these home made pork rinds, and when your brother and sister got to school we were waiting for them to eat the pork rinds. We never once thought about them eating lunch. We had eaten their lunch, so at lunch time they just sat there and watched us eat our lunch. Never once did the children ever complain. They were proud to share."

Leo told us that he had to walk to school, but never once did we complain. We often met our neighbors and they joined us in our walk to school.

We could not drive around Sugar Island today and tell you any stories like Leo could have told. He told us about their treat come the new, fresh snow fall the night before. You would take a bowl, go outside and fill up the bowl with fresh snow, and back inside to add maple syrup that was made right there on the island, I still can see the look in Leo's eyes when he told us about this treat, he said, "No greater treat than this."

Moved to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. We thought we had a brighter life there but tragedy hit us again. Don, our brother, who was four years of age went to visit his neighbor who had been sick for some time. There was supposed to be a quarantine sign in their window but there wasn't

and our mother allowed Don to go over and play with their son. It wasn't long after when Don came down sick from the disease the neighbor had, scarlet fever. Don died from the disease.

Leo had to go identify his brother Glen after a drowning and his body missing for three days. In Glen's pocket was a wallet and in the wallet was a picture, nothing else, the picture was that of Leo's son, Leo, Jr. Leo walked side by side with his parents as they buried, Doreen, Patsy, Donald and Glen. Leo knew the tragedies in life before he even became an adult.

He joined the Army and just before discharge, he was contacted by the American Red Cross that his mother was critical, she had a heart attack. While traveling home from the Army, after his life in World War II, he had no idea what to expect when he got home. It was a blessing for us all mom lived, and actually lived another 30 years. Our parents bought a small fish market which later was turned into a grocery store. Leo helped dad prime fresh chubs to get ready for smoking. Dad had a large smoker in the basement of the store. I had no idea as to the preparation but Leo could tell you the whole story.

While in the Army, Leo was a cook, and believe me he could make one mean pan of chili. He did much volunteer work for the Elks Lodge, Moose Lodge and the American Legion. I know many of our readers recall the steak dinners Leo would put out at the Lodge down by Riverside Drive.

Leo cooked us smelt one night while visiting the Sault. We had lived most of our life in Muskegon, Mich., but now we are in Huntington County, Ind. The smelt he cooked with beer batter, taking pancake mix and, instead of adding milk, you add beer. This was taught to him by mother, Pearl Agnes Leask Payment. I really believe Leo got his talents from mom, as he loved to cook.

Leo then got married and raised a large family and worked his way up to lock master at the Soo Locks.

He also worked part time for the United States Post Office delivering mail over to Canada. Leo had a sense of humor. I also worked in the Immigration Building and one day I was home sick. When Leo got home, he had to call me to tell me he was asked today where was his twin, as she is not working. His "twin," I must say I am 19 years younger than Leo, but believe me, this made his day.

There are a lot more stories to tell, but I don't have them written down, only in our hearts and the hearts of his family. Leo will never be forgotten, not by his wife, nor his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren or his sisters and brothers that he leaves behind. Whenever we drive to Sugar Island we only remember the large apple tree on grampa Joe's farm. That was our annual trip to drive over and pick, plus the raspberries growing along side the road. Mom lost three young children, so when we came along she was very protective and would not allow us to stray too far because of the bears. But to us, even though we never lived on the island, it was our parents home and we loved it there.

Leo Joseph Payment
Born August 25, 1923
Sugar Island, Mich.
Died October 5, 2006

Sincerely,

— Delores Payment Hall
Banquo, Huntington County, Ind.

Heaven

**Dedicated to Richard W. Price
Oct. 12, 1932-March 17, 2002**

**BY JENNY ROSE PRICE
FLINT, MICH.**

It's hard to believe it's been five years since the Lord called you home.

To that warm float, like a cloud they call heaven.

So much has happened here, you would not believe; but I don't need to tell you, because you already know. I can remember when you were here.

You always were stubborn, mama can say.

The good and the bad, but, hey, they're memories and forever they stay.

I don't need to know if you made it through heaven, because I know for a fact the Lord let you through. Smile down on our family, dad, and we'll pray for you.

Donald Kevin McCoy was a member of the tribe and he passed away on March 23, 2007, in Sarasota, Fla. He was born in Sacramento, Calif. on Dec. 29, 1965 and was the son of Donald James and Mary Lou McCoy and the grandson of Robert and Mamie McCoy of Sugar Island.

Donald was 41 years old and has one daughter, Melanie A. McCoy; a brother, Thomas R. McCoy; and sisters, Melanie Nielsen and Mary Orzkowski.

Gilbert L. "Gib" McNeely Jr., 51 of St. Ignace Township died in the early morning of March 15 at his home following an eight-month illness with cancer. He was born in St. Ignace on Jan. 23, 1956 to Gilbert and Pauline (nee Powers) McNeely Sr. Gib graduated from LaSalle High School and completed two years in special schooling for his job. He worked for the state parks many years, both in St. Ignace and earlier on Mackinac Island.

He was a longtime member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a powwow committee member for over 20 years. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, and loved outdoor activities and gun collecting. He also did re-loading. He was a member of Moose Lodge 999 and the Episcopal Church. He loved his family and cherished his friends to the end.

He is survived by his wife, Jody, formerly Jody West; his daughter, Holly (Jamie) Orr of Menominee; step son, David Rope, St. Ignace; brothers, Patrick (Tina) of Gladstone; Steve of Louisiana; Davis (Betty) also of Louisiana; Michael (Rene), St. Ignace; sisters, Kathleen McNeely of Menominee, Susan (Marty) O'Gara of Morgan City, La.; Sharon (Kirk) Gransden-Drake of Grand Rapids, and Carolee (David Hahaj) McNeely of St. Ignace; his grandmother, Eva Powers, Marshall and St. Ignace; grandsons, Jacob, Devin and Dylan, many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on March 19 at Dodson Funeral Home in St. Ignace with Pastor Arthur Kievit officiating. An American Indian pipe ceremony

followed the services. Burial will be in May at Wequayoc Cemetery, St. Ignace Township. Memorials may be made to the St. Ignace food pantry of the St. Ignace Project Hope. Envelopes are available from Dodson Funeral Home who assisted the family with arrangements.

In loving memory of our son and brother, **Kenneth R. Green**, who was born into this world on February 28, 1954, in Toronto, Ont., and born into eternity on March 18, 2007, at the age of 53, in the presence of his family, at War Memorial Hospital.



He attended and graduated from Loretto High School. Kenny loved sports including; hockey and downhill skiing, spending time with family and friends and playing cards. He was a loyal employee of Graham Trucking for 31 years. He was the son of Myra (nee Green) and Bernard Manitowabi. He was predeceased by his mother, Myra.

He was second oldest of 12 children, Mary Lenore Green (Rick Steinhaus) of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Raymond Manitowabi of Sault Ste. Marie, Bernard P. Manitowabi of Sault Ste. Marie, Joseph Manitowabi of Kinross, Mich., Lorraine Bouley of Rapid River, Mich., Luanne Manitowabi of Escanaba, Mich., Roberta Manitowabi (Paul Figuli) of Sault Ste. Marie, Roger Manitowabi (Jessica McCullough) of Wilson, Mich., Louis Manitowabi of Duluth, Minn., Virginia Manitowabi of Sault Ste. Marie, and Lisa Manitowabi of Kinross.

Nephews and nieces: Carla (David) Feinauer of Bay City, Mich., Weston Cooper of Sault Ste. Marie, Teresa Maviglia of Lansing, Mich., Jennifer Bouley of Mt. Pleasant, Mich., Sarah Bouley of Rapid River, Joseph Manitowabi, John Manitowabi and Martin Manitowabi of Kinross, Anthony Manitowabi, Vincent Manitowabi, Eric Rodgers, Stevie Rodgers of Escanaba, Ryan Manitowabi of Sault Ste. Marie, Nick Pavlat, Rachel Pavlat, Autumn Pavlat of Sault Ste. Marie, Christie Blue, Amy Blue, Heidi Blue, Travis Blue of Oshkosh, Wisc., Olivia Manitowabi, Sophie Manitowabi, Natalie Manitowabi of Wilson.

Great-nephews and great-nieces, Weston LaCross and Mariah LaCross of Bay City, Haley Cooper and Kylie Cooper of Sault Ste. Marie.

Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Funeral service was on March 22. Father John Hascall officiated. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery.

Lorraine Emma (nee McCoy) Menard of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. went to be with her Lord on March 14, 2007, after many years of suffering. She was a living miracle who amazed even her care givers. She was born March

28, 1925, on Sugar Island, Mich. to the late Fred and Emma B. McCoy. She married the love of her life, Philip Menard, on Jan. 24, 1948. They shared 50 years of marriage. During that time, Lorraine cared for him at home for 11 years during his time of illness. Philip passed away on Feb. 4, 1998.

In her younger years, Lorraine worked many different jobs, but her main love was taking care of her family. Lorraine was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She gave so much to her family, she was always thinking of them first. She enjoyed a special bond with her grandchildren, they gave her the title "Ol' Grandma." She played in the women's cribbage league for many years and also really enjoyed playing bingo. Lorraine was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Parish and the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She will be missed very much by all who knew her.

Lorraine is survived by five sons, Philip "Joe" (Sharon) Menard, Alfred (Joan) Menard, Donald (Joyce) Menard of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., William (Deb) Menard of Kincheloe, Mich., and Dennis Menard of Macomb, Mich.; two daughters, Patricia (the late Dennis) Rudis and Marie (Dan) Sauro of Sault Ste. Marie. Lorraine's grandchildren are Kimberly, Donald, Chris, Paul, and Joni Menard, Dennis Menard, Melissa Creech, Mary Barnes, Nicole Backus, Theresa Sicotte, Dennis Rudis Jr., Justin and Jennifer Menard, Joseph, Jason, Jocelyn "Emma" and Julianna Menard-Sauro. Her great grandchildren are Daniel Menard, Hailey, Danielle and Nicholas Jackson, Emma Menard, and Cecilia Sicotte. Lorraine is also survived by four sisters, Pearl (Alvin) Menard, Melvia (Glenn) Menard, Elizabeth (Cora) Smith from Sault Ste. Marie and Nellie McCoy of Wetmore, Mich.

Preceding Lorraine in death are her loving husband Philip; her infant son Eugene Menard; her parents Fred and Emma McCoy; two brothers, Philip and David McCoy; and four sisters Catherine, Frieda, and Isabel McCoy, and Lillian Perrault.

Visitation was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Parish on March 19, 2007, with Mass of Christian Burial following at noon with Father Pawel Mecwel officiating. Burial will be at Riverside Cemetery at a later date. Memorials may be left to St. Joseph's Catholic Parish. Arrangements were by Hovie Funeral Home.

Joseph Ivan O'Jibway of Barbeau, Mich., died Sunday March 11, 2007, at War Memorial Hospital. He was born Jan. 19, 1922 in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Joe served in Company B, 82nd Airborne Division and was in numerous campaigns in the European theater. He was part of the D-Day invasion at Normandy Beach and was captured by the Germans on June 7, 1944, in Sainte-Mere-Eglise, France. He was marched into Germany for the next four months and was

liberated by Russian forces in March 1945. He was involved in the Sicilian, Naples-Foggia, Normandy and Rhineland campaigns, received the following medals: Purple heart, good conduct, presidential unit citation, American campaign, European-African-Middle Eastern campaign with silver star, WWII victory, honorable service lapel button and marksman badge with rifle bar.

Joe Moved back to the Upper Peninsula in 1960 and along with his wife LaVerne, they bought the Cozy Corner Restaurant and Tavern in Barbeau and ran it for 14 years. He served on the Chippewa County Road Commission for 12 years. He also served in Lansing on the Commission. Joe has been a very active member of the community and a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, the former LaVerne Saneske; a sister, Jeannine Gauthier Eggert; a brother, John Gauthier; nephew, Michael P. Sauro; and sister-in-law Rita (Tom) Potvin.

He was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Nellie O'Jibway; three sisters, Ruth O'Jibway Muir, Rita O'Jibway Zaro and Mary Gauthier Rayl; four brothers, Leo O'Jibway, Austin O'Jibway, Philip O'Jibway and Edward O'Jibway.

Visitation was held March 14, 2007, at Holy Family Catholic Church, Barbeau, Mich.

Funeral Mass was March 14 at Holy Family Catholic Church with Brother John Hascall as celebrant.

Final resting place is Oaklawn Chapel Gardens. Arrangements were handled by Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home.

Very loving daughter, sister, wife and mother **Cheri (nee Eckart) Kalnback** died suddenly March 3, 2007, at the age of 32.

She was a graduate from Bridgeport High, class of 1993, and a graduate from Delta College, class of 2003, with an associate degree in business studies. Cheri was very proud of her Native American heritage and showed it in many ways. She was the first born daughter of



Cheryl and Dwyne Eckart, Jr., and was born on Dec. 9, 1974.

She married Kenneth Kalnback II on June 1, 1996. He survives her.

She leaves to cherish her memory her twin children Kenneth III and Cherylyn born March 7, 1997. She also leaves two brothers, Michael and Dwyne III; two sisters Charlene and Chabon Eckart; her grandmother Rachel McCartney; grandfather Dwyne Eckart Sr.; nephew Brian; nieces, Savannah, Shaina and Shyla.

Cheri was predeceased by her grandmother, Nina Eckart (Andrews); her grandfather, William Leidich; and her grandmother-in-law, Phyllis Kalnback.

She had many more aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services took place at W.L. Case in Bridgeport on March 8 and 9, 2007. Cremation took place on March 12, 2007.

Gregory Allen "Greg"

Feathers, 39, of Wilson, died unexpectedly on the evening of March 11, 2007, at home of an apparent heart attack. Greg was born April 25, 1967, in Escanaba, the son of Richard and Joyce (Corwin) Feathers. He was raised in Gladstone where he graduated from Gladstone High School. Following graduation,



Greg served his country in the Army where he was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Upon his honorable discharge from the Army, Greg returned to Gladstone where he worked for the Moon-dance Asphalt Company and later for the Sabreline Trucking Company.

Greg was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and his hobbies included playing his guitar, snow-plowing, hunting and ice fishing. He treasured spending time with his family, especially his children.

He will be sadly missed by family, friends and co-workers who nicknamed him "Chief," "Big Guy" and "Houllo."

Survivors include his wife, Mary (Cronce), whom he married on April 23, 2004, at the Harbor Lights Church of God in Gladstone; four sons, Kyle, Alex and Garrett Feathers of Gladstone, and Micah Schulz of Wilson; two daughters, Mackenzie and Maddy Lund of Wilson; parents, Richard and Joyce Feathers of Gladstone; mother and father-in-law, Dan and Sally Cronce of Wilson; two sisters, Kim (Troy) LaCrosse of Gladstone and Amy (Pat) Gigot of Marquette; special friend and cousin, Aaron Popour of Gladstone; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Greg's family received friends on March 14 at the Skradski Funeral Home in Gladstone.

Funeral services celebrating the life of Gregory Allen Feathers followed with Pastor Art Kievit officiating.

A luncheon followed the services at the Gladstone Senior Citizens Center in Gladstone.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Feathers family for an education fund to be established for the children. Envelopes will be available at the Skradski Funeral Home.

Please visit Greg's memory page online at the Web address skradski-boycefuneralhomes.com where you can express your sympathy to the Feathers family or post a memory about Greg.

Mukkwa Giizhik spring feast and talking circle at the Hessel Tribal Center Saturday, April 28, at noon. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a dish to pass. For more information, contact, Lana Causley at (906) 484-2954 or Lisa Burnside at (906) 484-2298.

Feb. 1-April 13: 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 10 families in the seven-county service area pay a portion of their monthly rent amount. For more information or to request an application contact Heather Alstrom at (906) 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072.

March 1-April 13: Down Payment Assistance Program application period extended. Applications accepted until April 13. To be eligible you must: Be a Sault Tribe member, be at least 18 years old, be a first-time homebuyer, be within the income guidelines and qualify for a mortgage from a lender of your choice. You could receive up to \$5,000 for a down payment and/or closing costs. If interested, please call Angie Spencer at (906) 635-7702 or (800) 794-4072.

March 10-April 30: Sault Tribe Head Start and Early Head Start are now accepting applications for the 2007-2008 school year. The application deadline is April 30. The application must be complete. All information and supporting paperwork must be provided. Incomplete applications cannot be considered. Head Start is for children three to five years old (must be three by Dec. 1, 2007). Part-day, part-year program from Sept.-May held in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace. In Sault Ste. Marie only there is a full day, year-round program. Early Head Start is for newborn to age three years old (also have services for pregnant women), full day, year-round program in Sault Ste. Marie only. Home-based program is year-round, services in Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac counties. Eligibility: Children must be member of federally-recognized Indian tribe. Families must meet income guidelines. Mission: Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing social and cognitive development through educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. Applications may be picked up at 2076 Shunk Road or call (906) 635-7722.

March 26-May 25: Body Recall, a safe, tested program of gentle exercises possible for all people. Classes are held Mon., Wed. and Fri., 10-10:50 a.m., at Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie. Suggested contribution is \$2. For more information, call (906) 635-4935.

April 2-24: Cross the M.O.T.E. to Kewadin's Cash! Join us at any Kewadin location for your chance to win cash! For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

April 10 & 12: Act in time to heart attack signs - know your risk. Honoring the Gift of Heart Health, April 10, 1-3 p.m. and April 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Sault Tribe Health Center auditorium, 2864 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie. Join us for this session where we will discuss the following questions: What are the signs that someone is having a heart attack? What would you do if you thought someone was having a heart attack? What things affect your heart health? How can you be prepared for emergency trips to the hospital?

Open to the public. For questions call, Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

April 10: Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting, Sagar Island at 6 p.m. Open community hour is from 5-6 p.m. For further information, please call Joanne or Tara at the administration office, (906) 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660.

April 10: Anishinaabemowin language classes start at the Kinross Recreation Center from 5-7 p.m. Class is for elders, adults and families. Bring a dish to pass. (All drop-ins are welcome). For more information, contact Nancy Debassige at (906) 635-6050.

April 10: JKL Bahweting Public School Academy Board of Education meeting, 1301 Marquette Avenue, at 5:30 p.m. Upon request, the school shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to participate in these meetings. If there are any questions, call JKL Bahweting at (906) 635-5055.

April 10-June 29: The spring 2007 fitness classes at the All-In-One Fitness Club at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie. Classes include: Early birds, kickboxing, chi circuit, step-it-up, beginner Pilates, J. Lynn-step, bandtastic, midday muscle, Pi/Yo mix, and Kristi's kickbox blast. For more information, call (906) 635-4935.

April 11: Whole grains goodness, group education class, 10 a.m.-11 p.m., breakfast ideas and 2:30-3:30 p.m., snack ideas, Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. What is so good about whole grains? Great taste, chewy texture, and excellent nutrition! You are invited to enjoy sampling different whole grain foods, listen to a short talk by the nutritionists and take home some new recipes. For questions, call Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

April 11-May 2: Anishinaabemowin language classes Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m. at the former American Café, 531 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. No sign up necessary. Please bring your brown bag lunch. For information call, Nancy Debassige at (906) 632-6050.

April 11: Unit IV Manistique Elderly Committee will be holding monthly meeting on the second Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. after the noon meal at the Manistique Tribal Center. For questions, please call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

April 12: Great Lakes Tribal History Series-Seasonal Life Ways. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us for a pictorial program presented by Art Leighton, tribal historian, 12-1 p.m. at the former American Café, 531 Ashmun Street. Learn how the traditional way of life centered around the seasons. Understand how our grandparents maintained cultural knowledge. Gain understanding of the historical impact on the seasonal way of life. Seating is limited please R.S.V.P. by contacting Art Leighton or Kim Green at (906) 635-6050.

April 12: The Unit IV Escanaba Elderly Committee will hold the monthly meeting at the Terrace Motor Inn the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. For questions, please call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

April 13: The Unit III St. Ignace Elderly Committee will hold their monthly meeting the second Friday of every month after the noon meal at the McCann

School. For questions, please call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

April 13: Advocacy Resource Center's First Annual Wild Poker Run at Kewadin Casinos Sault Ste. Marie, White Fish Point room from 6-8 p.m. Rules and instructions at 5:45. Participants will be given a list of clues for the locations of where they can pick up their cards. After the participant has located all five card pick-up sites they will return to the Kewadin Casino to find out who has the best hands and who wins the big money! First best hand will win \$75, second best hand - \$50 and the third best hand - \$25. \$10 entry fee (\$15 door) will include: \$10 Kewadin tokens. Tickets now on sale! Purchase your tickets at the Sault Tribe Health Center: Lori Jump (906) 632-5250, Community Action: Ken Stolt (906) 632-6636, Advocacy Resource Center: (906) 632-1808. For more details contact: Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 635-7705 or 632-1808.

April 13-15: Spin to win tournament at Kewadin Casinos Sault Ste. Marie. The Sault Marketing Department will be hosting a \$15,000 spin to win tournament. For more information, call Ina at 1-800-KEWADIN ext. 53612 or visit www.kewadin.com.

April 14: Unit V monthly chair meeting held at the NMU University Center, Nicolet Room, Marquette, Mich., 11 a.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.

April 14: Public hearing of the Constitution Committee project, Grand Rapids, Mich., 12-4 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.

April 14-15: Central Michigan University and the Saginaw Chippewa tribal nation's "Celebrating Life" Contest Powwow, Rose Arena, MI. Pleasant, Mich. Grand entries: Saturday, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, 12 p.m. Powwow and trader information contact Mickey Magnuson at (989) 774-2508. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodation are asked to call at least two days in advance.

April 15: Wayne Newton performing, 7 p.m. in the DreamMakers Theater, Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN.

April 16: 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.

April 16: 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.

April 16: Tribal chairperson open office hours are held one Monday a month. The tribal membership can meet with the chairperson during open membership

hours. Meetings are by appointment only. To make an appointment, contact Sue Stiver-Paulsen at (906) 635-6050 ext. 26640.

April 16: Unit I monthly chair meeting, Kinross Recreation Center, Kincheloe, 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.

April 17: Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting, Sault Ste. Marie, 6 p.m. at the Kewadin Casino Convention Center. Open community hour is from 5-6 p.m. For further information, please call Joanne or Tara at (906) 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660.

April 17-19: Michigan Indian Elders Association April conference agenda, Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Highway, Manistee, Mich. To make reservations, call The Little River Casino at (888) 568-2244. Request the block of rooms reserved for the MIEA Conference. Visit www.michiganindianelders.org for more information.

April 18: The Basics of Diabetes and Living a Full Life, group education class, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI. For questions or to register, call (906) 632-5210.

April 18: Sault Tribe Career Showcase with Michigan Works! for students in grades eight to twelve from 6:30-8 p.m. Register at www.careershowcase.org. Questions, call Barb Gravelle at (906) 635-4937.

April 20: George Jones will be performing at the St. Ignace Kewadin Casino. For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

April 20-22: Keno tournament at Kewadin Casinos St. Ignace. The Kewadin Shores Casino Keno Department will be hosting a \$17,000 keno tournament. Player registration packets will be available on the Friday between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. For more information, please contact DeAnn at 1-800-KEWADIN ext. 34027 or visit www.kewadin.com.

April 21: Annual Teen Lock-In at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, call (906) 635-RINK.

April 21: Public hearing of the Constitution Committee project, Detroit, Mich., 12-4 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.

April 22: Mid-Michigan monthly chair meeting at the Nokomis Native American Cultural Learning Center, Okemos, 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.

April 23: The Elderly Advisory Board will meet the fourth Monday of every month at 12:30 p.m. at the Newberry Tribal Center. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

April 24: High Blood Pressure - Food Choices and Medications, Honoring the Gift of Heart Health, April 24, 1-3 p.m. and April 26, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Sault Tribe Health Center audi-

torium, 2864 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie. By managing your blood pressure. Open to the public. For questions or to register, call (906) 632-5210.

April 25: The Unit II Naubinway Elderly Committee meeting at the Horse Shoe Bay Restaurant, St. Ignace, Mich. Meeting are the last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

April 25: Unit III board representatives Fred Paquin and Keith Massaway are pleased to invite you to attend a Unit III meeting at 6 p.m. at the McCann Center, 399 McCann Street, St. Ignace, MI. Please come share your ideas, questions and concerns with your tribal board representatives. For questions, please call Lona Stewart at (906) 635-6050.

April 27: 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. Questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

April 27-29: Blackjack blow-out tournament at Kewadin Casinos St. Ignace. The Kewadin Shores Casino Gaming Department will be hosting a \$30,000 blackjack blowout tournament. On Friday registration packets will be available from 5-8 p.m. For more information, contact DeAnn at 1-800-KEWADIN ext. 34027 or visit www.kewadin.com.

April 28: Escanaba Area Diabetic Support Group-Escanaba Health Center conference room from 10-11 a.m. For questions, call the Escanaba Tribal Center at (906) 786-9211.

April 28: Mukwa Gifzhik spring feast and talking circle at the Hessel Tribal Center at noon. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a dish to pass. For more information contact, Lana Causley at (906) 484-2954 or Lisa Burnside at (906) 484-2298.

May 1: Chronic kidney disease, group education class, 3-5 p.m., Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI. If you have diabetes, high blood pressure. For questions or to register, call Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

May 1: Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting, Sault Ste. Marie at 6 p.m. Open community hour is from 5-6 p.m. For further information, call Joanne or Tara at the administration office; (906) 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660.

May 2: The Unit I Sault Ste. Marie Elderly Committee will hold their monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of every month after the noon meal at the Nokomis/Mishomis Center 2076 Shunk Road. For questions, please call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

May 2: Unit IV monthly chair-meeting held at the Manistique Tribal Center, Manistique, 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.

May 3: The Unit V Marquette Elderly Committee will hold their monthly meetings at 6 p.m. at Walstrom's Restaurant the first Thursday of every month. For questions, please call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Northstar Habitat for Humanity ReStore helps tribal members

Since our inception in 1993, Northstar Habitat for Humanity has helped 15 low income families in our community become proud homeowners. Our mission and goal is to eliminate poverty housing and break the cycle of poverty in families living in our community.

Northstar Habitat for Humanity is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, yet we seek our own support, volunteers, and donors. Partner families are required to invest 300 hours labor (per adult) "sweat equity" - into building their homes and the homes of other Habitat families. Houses are sold with no profit and with long-term interest free mortgages. The monthly mortgage payments are used to help finance additional Habitat Homes.

Northstar Habitat for Humanity provides families in our community a hand up, not a hand out. By helping families build decent, safe, and affordable homes, in which they have pride in, these families are more apt to break the cycle of poverty so often seen in low income families. The children of these families are more likely to go onto higher education and become successful, participating members of society. Habitat for Humanity is not a revolving door agency, but rather helps families who are willing to help themselves out of poverty for good. With every family that breaks the generational cycle of poverty, our entire community, indeed our entire society, benefits for generations to come! If you would like to volunteer time, materials or money to help us achieve our goal, please call or write. Northstar Habitat for Humanity (906)632-6616 nshabitat@lighthouse.net

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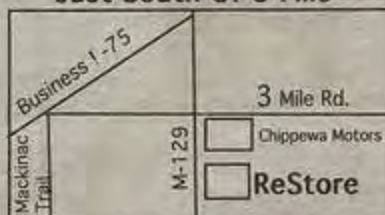
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nshabitat@lighthouse.net

Hours: Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri, 9:30 am- 5:30 pm Sat. 9:30 am -1:30 pm

Summer Youth Employment

The Sault Tribe WIA Department will be accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program beginning April 16th. Applicants must be Native American between the ages of 14 to 21 and reside within the seven county service area. (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties) Applications can be picked up at the Workforce Investment Act Office located at 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906)635-4767.

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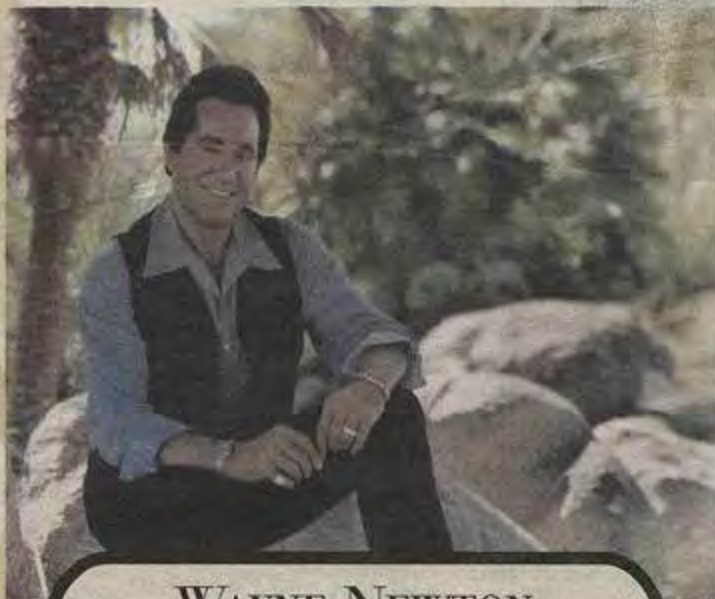
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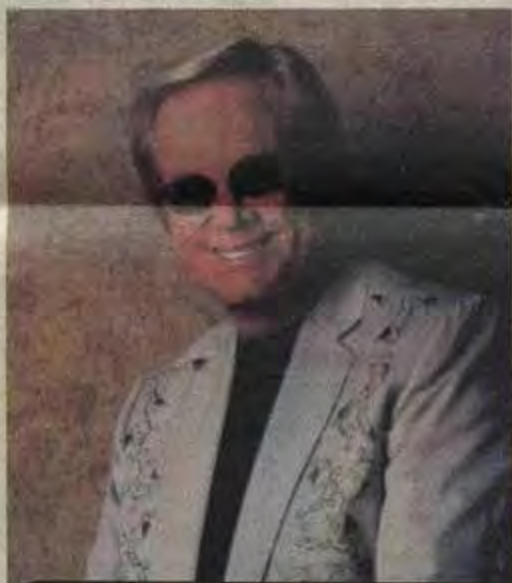
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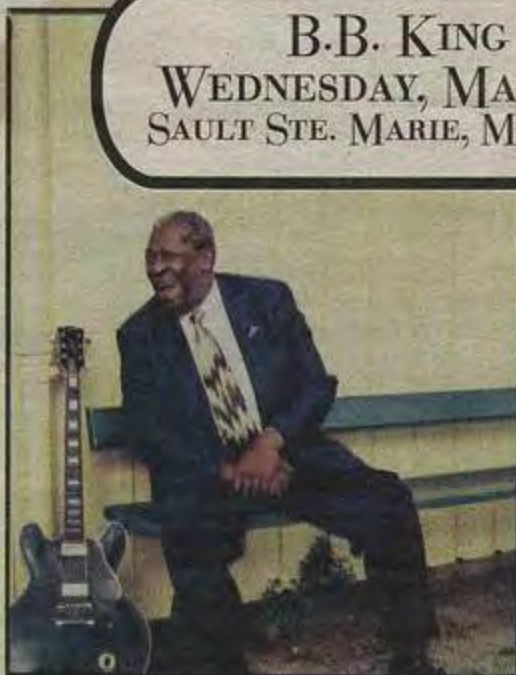


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