

# Win Awenen Nisitotung

"One Who Understands" • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Mukwa Giizis  
Bear Moon

February 20, 2015 • Vol. 36, No. 2

## DNR Graymont decision held off until March

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich.—The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians called on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reject Canadian mining company Graymont Inc.'s request to mine limestone on thousands of acres of

state-owned land near the Upper Peninsula community of Rexton.

DNR Director Keith Creagh will decide whether to allow Graymont to take control of the public land no later than March 19. On Feb. 12, Creagh approved a mineral exchange

with Graymont, Inc. The action exchanges 1,700 acres of mineral rights in Chippewa County that are owned by the state and are beneath land owned by the U.S. Forest Service for 1,700 acres in Mackinac County that are owned by Graymont and are beneath

state-owned land, according to a Feb. 12 announcement.

DNR officials held a public hearing Jan. 28 on the mine proposal that drew opponents and supporters from all over the state. Earlier in the day, state officials met with five Michigan tribes to discuss their position on the Graymont proposal. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, one the tribes present, has long opposed Graymont's efforts to buy up to 10,000 acres of public land from the state.

Creagh was to make a decision for the Feb. 12 Natural Resources Commission meeting in Lansing, but Graymont made another modification to its proposal, which Creagh will consider over the next month, according to reports. In part, Graymont's new proposal sweetens the pot by offering the state 30 cents per ton royalty of limestone removed, up from 18.5

cents, and offers to establish a regional economic development fund. Although Graymont has promised the new mine or quarry will bring jobs to the eastern Upper Peninsula, the Sault Tribe said the deal would be bad for the land and for everyone who enjoys the outdoors.

"Selling and giving up control of over 10,000 acres of state land is unprecedented and ill-conceived," said tribal Chairperson Aaron Payment. "It not only interferes with the 1836 treaty tribes' right to hunt, fish and gather in its treaty ceded territory, it takes away from generations of state citizens those same activities. The legislation that allows the land to be sold specifies the land must be surplus — and thousands of us are most certainly already using this land."

The tribe is concerned that the  
*See "Graymont," Page 17*

## Great Lakes wolf status in flux

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

Two bills have been introduced to Congress that would negate the Gray Wolf's endangered species status. A bill by Rep. John Kline bill is H.R. 843, to prohibit treatment of gray wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan as endangered species. The other is Rep. Reid Ribble's H.R. 884, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue final rules relating to listing of the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes and Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment wrote in a letter to Congressman Dan Benishek, "We have consistently objected to recreational hunting of wolves and have been highly critical of both the rationale and the implementation of the 2013 wolf hunting season by the state of Michigan."

Great Lakes wolves were put back on to the Endangered Species list in December 2014 by federal court order after hunting seasons in Minnesota, Wisconsin and then Michigan were held, resulting in the Humane Society filing a lawsuit.

Protected for decades under the Endangered Species Act, Grey Wolves in the Great Lakes area were delisted in 2012. But then Michigan's Natural Resource Commission changed the state's wolf management plan by classifying the wolf as a game species and declaring a hunting season in 2013. Hunters in the three states killed 1,500 wolves.

Groups passionate about protecting the wolf from hunting

and sportsman groups passionate about hunting wolves emerged and fought their battles, holding petition drives, supporting pro-hunting legislation, filing anti-hunting lawsuits, ultimately resulting in the court decision in December 2014.

Now the wolves are back on the Endangered Species list. This means problem wolves cannot be killed except if a person's life is in danger. Before instituting wolf hunting, Michigan's wolf plan allowed for killing of problem wolves who were attacking livestock and pets.

Sault Tribe opposes a wolf hunt. As a management tool, hunting is ineffectual and the wolf is a very important species to the Anishinaabeg. "We have witnessed the extermination of this important species from the 1836 Ceded Territory and, only recently, its slow recovery thanks to the protections of the Endangered Species Act," wrote Payment. "With this hard-earned recovery, wolves are able to again play their vital ecological role in the Great Lakes Region. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are managed in the most credible and sustainable manner."

Sault Tribe recommends Great Lakes Grey Wolves be moved from Endangered to Threatened. Under the lesser restricted Threatened status, officials would be able to kill problem wolves — wolves who kill livestock, hunting dogs and pets.

Tribal members who would like to express their opinions

to their Congressional representatives can get their names, addresses, phone numbers and emails by visiting [www.congressmerge.com/online/db/](http://www.congressmerge.com/online/db/) and entering their zip code.

Our Michigan Senators are Senator Gary Peters, 2 Russell Courtyard, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510-2202, (202) 224-6221; and Senator Debbie Stabenow 133 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-4822.



Photo courtesy Lori Jodoin/JKL School

**CONGRATULATIONS JKL SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH** — Back row, left to right, Triston Forgrave, Alex Hedges, Liza Fazzari, Cameron Hoornstra, Brianna Jones, Rachel Passage; middle, left to right, Danika Jo Labranche, Lyla Beaulieu, Adrianna Natzke, Lilly Russo, Addison Roy, Brooklyn Mills; front, left to right, Aiden Rath, Alena Alcorn and Larissa Horn. Missing from photo: Lucas Wolf, Dani Osborne and Kaziah Pierce.

## Financial literacy comes to community

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has joined a national initiative to empower community members with financial literacy.

Sault Tribe Board Chairperson Aaron Payment said, "We are excited to join this national initiative to help American Indians across the country realize their goals to become self-determined and self-sufficient."

The new initiative was made possible by the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. It created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), which has one goal: watching out for American consumers in the market for consumer financial products and services.

Six months ago, the bureau announced the release of *Your*

*Money, Your Goals: A Financial Empowerment Toolkit for Social Services Programs* to teach financial literacy. Since then, five organizations that joined the bureau in training social services staff trained over 1,000 social services staff to use the toolkit to help the people they serve take steps to reach their financial goals.

Now, five more national, federal, tribal, state and local organizations have joined in promoting *Your Money, Your Goals* — including Sault Tribe. The tribe will promote the toolkit by training tribal and local social services teams and by seeking opportunities to share their new knowledge with other state, regional and national tribal entities.

Sault Tribe Executive Director Christine McPherson said, "I am very happy to participate in

this national effort for our tribal members. It will involve many of our staff who have daily contact with the members. The endeavor will provide us the tools to assist the members in their journey to financial planning and awareness."

The 10 participating organizations set a collective goal of training 5,000 frontline staff. Through their work with clients and patients, they will share basic information and tools on setting financial goals, saving for emergencies, tracking and managing income and spending, budgeting, credit, debt, and using consumer financial products and services.

"Our front line team will be trained to arm our members with financial knowledge to make informed decisions about managing their resources," Payment added.

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# National Nutrition Month 2015

## Bite Into A Healthy Lifestyle



To make an appointment call your local Sault Tribe Community Health Center.

### SAULT STE. MARIE

632-5210

### ST. IGNACE

643-8689

### HESSEL

484-2727

### MUNISING

387-4614

### ESCANABA

786-2636

### MANISTIQUE

341-8469

### NEWBERRY

293-8181

### MARQUETTE

225-1615

**No referral is needed for an appointment!**

## Top 10 Reasons to Consult with a Registered Dietitian

**1. You have diabetes, cardiovascular problems or high blood pressure.**

An RD serves as an integral part of your health-care team by helping you safely change your eating plan without compromising taste or nutrition.

**2. You are thinking of having or have had gastric bypass surgery.**

Since your stomach can only manage small servings, it's a challenge to get the right amount of nutrients in your body. An RD will work with you and your physician to develop an eating plan for your new needs.

**3. You have digestive problems.**

A registered dietitian will work with your physician to help fine-tune your diet so you are not aggravating your condition with fried foods, too much caffeine or carbonation.

**4. You're pregnant or trying to get pregnant.**

A registered dietitian can help make sure you get nutrients like folate, especially during the first three months of pregnancy, lowering your newborn's risk for neural tube or spinal cord defects.

**5. You need guidance and confidence for breastfeeding your baby.**

A registered dietitian can help make sure you're getting enough iron, vitamin D, fluoride and B vitamins for you and your little one.

**6. Your teenager has issues with food and eating healthy.**

A registered dietitian can assist with eating disorders like anorexia, bulimia and overweight issues.

**7. You need to gain or lose weight.**

A registered dietitian can suggest additional calorie sources for healthy weight gain or a restricted-calorie eating plan plus regular physical activity for weight loss while still eating all your favorite foods.

**8. You're caring for an aging parent.**

A registered dietitian can help with food or drug interaction, proper hydration, special diets for hypertension and changing taste buds as you age.

**9. You want to eat smarter.**

A registered dietitian can help you sort through misinformation; learn how to read labels at the supermarket; discover that healthy cooking is inexpensive, learn how to eat out without ruining your eating plan and how to resist workplace temptations.

**10. You want to improve your performance in sports.**

A registered dietitian can help with hydration and protein needs.

### Quick Pick Snacks

- Blueberries
- Raspberries
- Strawberries
- Blackberries
- Grapes
- Apples
- Oranges
- Peaches
- Nectarines
- Plums
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Broccoli
- Cucumbers
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Snap Peas
- Edamame
- Fresh Peppers
- Hummus
- Peanut Butter
- Almond Butter
- Peanuts
- Walnuts
- Almonds
- Pistachios
- Cashews
- Trail Mix
- Granola
- Whole Grain Crackers
- Low Fat String Cheese
- Low Fat Yogurt

Ever run in the store for a quick snack but then don't know what to get? Keep this list in your wallet!

## Friends of Niigaanagiizhik meet Feb. 24; you're invited!

Friends of Niigaanagiizhik group meeting, Feb. 24, 5:30 p.m., at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building, 11 Ice Circle Drive, Sault Ste. Marie. The Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial building is such an important part of our tribal and non-tribal community. Looking for individuals who would like

to be part of this group and help address and guide the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial building in a positive direction. All you have to do is show up at the above date and time. For more information, please contact Colleen St.Onge at 635-6050, 259-3948 or Les Ailing at 203-5521.

## Sault Tribe powwow schedule for 2015

### Caring for Our Elders Powwow, Feb. 21

2401 12th Ave., Escanaba, Mich. Grand entry at noon, feast at 6 p.m.

### Gathering of the Clans Powwow, June 6-7

Manistique Tribal Community Center on US-2 next to Kewadin Casino. Grand entries on Saturday, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday at noon. Crazy auction Saturday after feast. Vendors, traders or the public, call Viola Neadow at (906) 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137

### Sault Tribe Traditional Powwow and Summer Gathering, July 7-12

For more information, call Jackie Minton at (906) 203-4977 or 635-6050. Grand entries on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday at 1 p.m. For trader information, call Linda Grossett at (906) 635-6050.

### Sugar Island Traditional Powwow, July 17-19

Spiritual gathering, July 17, powwow, July 18-19. Grand entries on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday at noon. Campers and vendors welcome. Save the date and reserve your space. For more information, contact Mick Frechette (906) 440-8918 or Colleen St. Onge, (906) 635-6050.

### Newberry Youth Empowerment Powwow, Aug. 1

Sponsored by the Youth

### Education and Activities Program

For more information, call Patty Teeples at (906) 341-3362, Dee Eggert at 635-7010, Lisa Burnside at 484-2298

### Gathering of the Eagles Hessel Powwow, Aug. 14-16

Friday night, spiritual gathering and open drum. Grand entries, Saturday at 1 and 7 p.m., Sunday at 1 p.m. Saturday, potluck feast at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Lisa Burnside at lburnside@saulttribe.net or Lana Causley at lcausley@saulttribe.net.

### Rendezvous at the Straits St. Ignace Powwow, Aug. 21-23

New France Discovery Center at the Father Marquette National Memorial Open to the public. Admission, \$3 for adults, \$2 for elders and students, children under 12 free. For more information, call the St. Ignace Events Committee at (906) 643-8717 or Darryl Brown at 984-2083.

### Honoring the Waters Newberry Powwow, Sept. 5

Newberry Tribal Center For more information, call Lois Bryant or Shirley Kowalke at (906) 293-8181

### Munising Powwow and Fall Gathering, Sept. 12

Call Angela Satterlee or Sue Galisik at (906) 387-5475

### Kinross Honoring our Anishinabe Veterans Powwow, Nov. 7

Kinross Recreation Center, for more information call Jackie Minton or Linda Grossett at (906) 635-6050

# Celebrate Parenting Awareness Month family celebration events

In Chippewa County, the 17th annual Family Celebration is coming on March 19, 5-7 p.m., at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center. The Mackinac County Family Fun Day comes to the Little Bear East Arena and Community Center on Saturday, March 21, noon to 3 p.m.

The Family Celebration created in 1998 for families to celebrate together and spend a fun, free night out to recognize Parenting Awareness Month. "There are many games to play, free food, free ice-skating, prizes to be won, and lots of great information to take home," said parent educator Jessica Gillotte. "The event has been successful for the last 17 years and continues to get bigger and better each year. We hope to see lots of families enjoying time together at the event this

**SAULT – Thursday, March 19, 5-7 p.m., at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center. Prizes throughout the night, free skating and rentals, pizza, and community agencies presenting.**

**ST. IGNACE – Saturday, March 21, noon-3 p.m., Little Bear East. Hot dogs and ice cream social, community agencies presenting and 3 p.m. drawing for kids' bikes.**

year!" The Sault has grown to become one of the biggest sought-after events in the community, according to Gillotte, who said it draws nearly 500 people each year. Fabulous prizes are up for grabs by simply attending, prizes such as bicycles, bedroom make overs,

car seats, pool parties, Soo Locks Boat Tours tickets and many other prizes.

The committee that puts this event together consists of hard working, dedicated individuals who enjoy putting on this event for families so they can spend time together having fun.

Manistique also hosts a family event, with the date and time as yet to be determined.

These events are free to the public, parental supervision is required. Event sponsors include the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Anishnaabek Community and Family Services, Sault Tribe Housing Authority, Chippewa County Council for Youth and Families, Children's Trust Fund and the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District.

## Sault Tribe committee openings

The following committees have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Tara McKelvie, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie. Email tmckelvie@saulttribe.net or call 635-6050 for any questions.

- **Health Board** - One vacancy (4-year term)

- **Great Lakes Conservation Committee** - Three large boat captain vacancies, one small boat captain vacancy (4-year terms)

- **Child Welfare Committee** - Two vacancies (four-year terms). Must pass background check.

- **Election Committee** - Nine vacancies (4-year terms)

- **Special Needs/Enrollment Committee** - Eight vacancies (2-year terms)

- **Housing Commission** - One Unit IV vacancy (4-year term)

- **Anishinaabe Cultural Committee** - Two vacancies (women, 4-year terms), two vacancies (men, 4-year terms)

- **Escanaba Elder Subcommittee** - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

- **Munising Elder Subcommittee** - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

## Michigan State Police promoting stalking awareness and education

The Michigan State Police seeks to educate citizens about identifying and reporting stalking.

According to the Bureau of Justice statistics, during a one-year period 6.6 million people age 18 or older in the United States were stalked and nearly three in four victims knew their offender.

In Michigan, stalking is a crime defined as a willful course of conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment of another individual that would

cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed or molested and that actually causes the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed or molested.

"Unfortunately, victims of stalking are often afraid to come forward," said Trooper Ailene Bitnar, community service trooper at the Sault Ste. Marie post. "It is important for victims of stalking to report this crime to law

enforcement so we have a better opportunity to protect victims and help prevent future stalking encounters."

Many resources are available to victims. The National Center for Victims of Crime provides a comprehensive list of resources on their website at [www.victimsofcrime.org](http://www.victimsofcrime.org).

If you feel you are being stalked, seek help as soon as possible by contacting law enforcement.

## Tips for recognizing teen dating violence

Here are some signs that may indicate you or someone you know are in an abusive relationship:

- Your partner has trouble dealing with his or her anger.
- Your partner acts out in a physical way by throwing objects and hitting things.
- Your partner exhibits extreme jealousy, controlling behavior, quick involvement, unpredictable mood swings, alcohol or drug

use, hypersensitivity or is verbally abusive.

- Your partner isolates you from your family or friends.
- Your partner uses force during an argument.
- Your partner threatens violence.
- Your partner is cruel to animals or children.
- Your partner is always blaming others for their problems

and feelings.

If you are in a relationship where you are being abused or if you know someone who is being abused, seek help as soon as possible. Confide in a parent, teacher, counselor, police officer or contact the National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline at (866) 331-9474.

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

February 20, 2015  
Mko Giizis  
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Vol. 36, No. 2

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Rick Smith.....Staff Writer  
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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 funded by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of

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

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

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

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

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

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# Tribal freedom of information ordinance adopted

BY RICK SMITH

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors recently passed Resolution 2015-12 adding a new chapter to the Tribal Code, Chapter 15: Tribal Freedom of Information Ordinance. It became effective on Feb. 6.

“Tribal members have always had a right of access to most tribal records under Article III of the tribe’s Bylaws,” said Sault Tribe General Counsel John Wernet. Article III of the Tribal Code states that all books, records and financial accounts of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, including the tribal roll, shall be open to inspection by tribal members upon reasonable request to the board of directors.

“But,” Wernet notes, “in

practice, this has meant that requests for tribal records had to be submitted directly to the board of directors. The board would have to discuss the request in an open meeting and determine whether the request was ‘reasonable’ under the Bylaws. It would then have to formally vote to grant or deny the request. The new law is intended to simplify this cumbersome process. Under the new law, the board has designated a public records officer and has delegated to that officer the authority to grant or deny most requests for tribal records.” For now, at least, the executive assistant to the board is the designated public records officer.

Wernet further indicated that, like the federal and state

freedom of information laws, the new tribal ordinance includes exemptions intended to protect certain records where public disclosure would be harmful to the tribe or its members. These exemptions, for example, allow the tribe to protect personal information that may constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy, information about active law enforcement investigations, records subject to attorney-client or physician-patient privilege, bids or appraisals until specified time frames have elapsed, testing information, medical or psychological facts or evaluations, inter-office communications and so on.

When a request is received, the public records officer will acquire the requested information

from appropriate tribal sources and review it. The tribe’s legal counsel may help the public records officer to determine if any material is exempt from disclosure in whole or part.

A fee may be charged for providing records, but the fee cannot be more than the tribe’s actual costs of reproduction of materials. A record search may be conducted or copies may be furnished without a fee or at a reduced fee if a waiver or reduction of the fee is determined to be in the public interest because it primarily benefits the general public or because of the indigence of the member making the request.

“If a request is denied, in whole or in part, the tribal member can appeal that decision

to the Tribal Court and ask the court to require the records to be disclosed,” Wernet noted. “Such appeals must be filed within 30 days after the denial. If the court agrees with the tribal member and orders disclosure of the tribal record, it can also require the tribe to pay the tribal member’s attorney fees.”

Wernet added, “Tribal court records are not covered by the new law. Instead, requests for court records will continue to be handled by the court as they have in the past.”

Those interested in viewing the new ordinance in its entirety can find it on the tribe’s web page at: [www.saulttribe.com/images/stories/government/tribalcode/CHAPTR15.pdf](http://www.saulttribe.com/images/stories/government/tribalcode/CHAPTR15.pdf).

## Board meeting resolutions passed on Jan. 20, Feb. 3

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors met for a regularly scheduled meeting Jan. 20 in Sault Ste. Marie, all board members were present with the exception of Rita Glyptis.

Resolution 2015-17: Modular bid authorization – The tribe’s chief financial officer was authorized to bid up to \$15,000 from the Building Fund to purchase modular buildings from the GSA Auction website.

2015-18: NCAI, Using Science to Build Tribal Capacity for Data Intensive Research – The submission of a subcontract application for funding to the National Congress of American Indians was approved for the project, “Using Science to Build Tribal Capacity for Data Intensive Research.”

2015-19: Request reservation status 2000 trust parcel, St. Ignace, Mackinac County, Michigan –

The board requested, (according to section seven of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 authorizing the Secretary to add such lands to the tribe’s reservation), that a parcel of land containing 77.73 acres be added to the Sault Tribe’s existing reservation in St. Ignace.

2015-20: Trust land status, Kewadin Campground, Hessel, Mackinac County, Michigan – The tribe is requesting the Secretary of the Interior accept title to a parcel of land in trust for the benefit and on behalf of the tribe. The land is located in Clark Township in Mackinac County and is to be used for camping and recreational activities and not intended for gaming purposes.

2015-21: Trust land status, Tribal Administration Annex Building, 531 Ashmun St. Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan – The tribe is asking the Secretary of the Interior to accept title to a parcel of land in trust and

is requested to declare the parcel a part of the tribe’s reservation in Sault Ste. Marie. The parcel is to be used to accommodate Tribal Governmental departments and is not intended for gaming purposes.

2015-22: Trust land status, Eagle Ridge, Marquette, Marquette County, Michigan – Another parcel (to be used for housing) the tribe is requesting be taken into trust on behalf of the tribe and made a part of the Sault Tribe reservation.

2015-23: Law Enforcement – 2014 COPS TRGP establishment of FY 2015 budget – A FY 2015 budget was established for the 2014 COPS TRGP with Federal Department of Justice monies of \$114,070.

2015-24: Sugar Island ERFO, request to establish FY 2015 budget – The board approved the establishment of a FY 2015 budget for the Sugar Island ERFO with Federal monies of \$811,607.

2015-25: Tribal Transportation Safety Plan request to establish FY 2015 budget – An FY 2015 budget was established for the Tribal Transportation Safety Plan with Federal BIA monies of \$11,000.

2015-26: Tribal Court – Judicial Services and Juvenile Detention FY 2015 budget modifications – The FY 2015 budget modifications to Judicial Services and Juvenile Detention to reallocate funds between two cost centers was approved.

2015-27: FY 2015 Enterprises Capital Purchases budget (Excluding Midjim St. Ignace) – A total of \$701,800 was approved for Enterprises Fiscal Year 2015 Capital Purchases Budget.

2015-28: 2015 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (Waabizheshi) – The Inland Fish and Wildlife Department has developed a collaborative project with Michigan State University and the U.S. Forest Service to assess and develop conservation measures for the American marten populations and habitat. Tribal members harvest proportionally more American marten than any other species allocated under the 2007 Inland Consent Decree. The board authorized the chairperson or an authorized representative to sign, negotiate, amend and execute any agreements for the BIA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funding Program that provides funding for habitat assessment and restoration.

2015-29: Temporary portable wheelchair ramps and bedrails – The board approved up to \$15,000 in tribal support be added to the Elder Health Care Program for the purpose of acquiring no less than three temporary portable wheelchair ramps which the program will loan on a temporary, short-term basis to qualifying low income elders residing within the tribe’s service area in cases deemed medically necessary. An additional \$5,000 in tribal support was added to the Elder Health Care Program to add bedrails to the Durable Medical List.

The board convened another meeting on Feb. 3. All board members were present except for Unit I Representative Cathy Abramson.

An application to the U.S. Department of Justice was approved in response to a solicitation for fiscal year 2015 coordinated tribal assistance.

The chairman of the board was named as a delegate, board representatives and Gaming Commission Director Ken Ermatinger were designated as alternates to the National Congress of American Indians (NCA) 2015 annual convention and to the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA). An expenditure of \$550 was approved for annual dues of the NCAI as was an expenditure of \$15,000 for NIGA membership dues.

Gary “Tom” Derwin was appointed as a delegate to the Michigan Indian Elders Association for a term of two years or until his appointment as a Unit V representative expires, which ever is earliest.

A fiscal year 2015 budget modification was approved for the St. Ignace clinic for an increase in Indian Health Service funds of \$88,865 with no effect on tribal support.

An appropriation of \$245,950 was approved for the fiscal year 2015 Governmental Buildings Capital Purchases budget, which will come from Other Revenue/Fund Balance.

Fiscal year 2015 budgets were approved for the installation of a well for the Wequayoc Cemetery project and a bathroom at the Hessel powwow grounds. The Wequayoc budget was set with \$10,000 in Indian Health Service (IHS) funds and up to \$2,000 from the Building Fund while the Hessel bathroom budget was set with \$10,000 in IHS funding and up to \$5,000 in tribal support.

A fee-based consultation policy as suggested by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was approved for the tribe’s cultural repatriation specialist for work conducted on behalf of agencies or applicants in identifying historic properties that may be significant to American Indian tribes.

A grant application was approved for submission to the U.S. Department of Transportation to aid tribal transit programs for fiscal years 2015-17.

The membership/internal services executive director was directed to develop a job description for an economic director, identify internal and external funding sources and report the findings to the board in 30 days.



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# NCAI president delivers State of Indian Nations address

BY RICK SMITH

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Brian Cladoosby delivered the wide-ranging 2015 State of Indian Nations address to members of Congress, senior government officials and leaders of tribal nations on Jan. 22 in Washington, D.C. The annual State of Indian Nations address is usually delivered within days after the president of the United States delivers the State of the Union address.

Cladoosby said Indian Country “grows stronger by the day” and called on the federal government to update trust relationships to better reflect modern times and remove cumbersome government red tape blocking tribal economic growth. “We must tear down barriers to growth, simplify regulations that are limiting opportunities and acknowledge that tribes have the capability as governments to oversee our own affairs,” he said.

Major points covered by the NCAI president included review of progress, budget priorities as noted in the recent 130-page fiscal year 2016 Indian Country budget request, *Promoting Self-Determination, Modernizing the Trust Relationship*, tribal tax reform to allow tribes to raise funds from taxes without duplicating state taxes, technology, education and economic growth and work that remains to be done.

The president cited Indian Country advancements on Capitol Hill such as the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, Tribal General Welfare

Exclusion Act, continuation of the annual White House Tribal Nations Conferences and a presidential visit to the Sioux Standing Rock Reservation in the Dakotas.

He also said Indian Country must be vigilant in protecting the trust relationship with the United States. “There are too many people who believe that when Europeans got to this land and moved west, they simply claimed empty land for themselves, but that is not true. In fact, the U.S. government signed more than 400 treaties,” he went on to say that the treaties are older than many state constitutions, and all of the treaties continue to stand as the supreme law of the land. Cladoosby added, “Every member of Congress and federal official is responsible for carrying out that trust. Part of their job description is to make sure that the United States of America honors its commitment and lives up to its word. After all, this trust is not a handout. It is a contract. It is a commitment. It is their duty to honor it.”

While many tribes are living success stories, Cladoosby noted, “too many of Indian Country’s nations and communities are a long way from prosperity.” He mentioned the high rates of unemployment, student dropouts, drug and alcohol abusers and suicide. He indicated trust is based on respect and a good place to begin developing respect is by eliminating the use of American Indians as mascots. He pointed to the controversial Washington Redskins name and mascot as an example, “There is no honor in the name of the team,” he said, “it’s long past that Wahingtonians

see their fellow persons with the eyes of respect and not as mascots for a football business that doesn’t even have a fraction of the resilience, pride or strength of character of any tribal nation in the United States.”

Further, Cladoosby indicated, the trust relationship between the United States and Indian Country must be modernized. While the paternalistic approach by the U.S. government in the past is fading a little, Indian Country must become a governing partner in Indian matters. “We need a relationship that is based on support, not paternalism and control. Whether policy related to the Keystone pipeline or renewable energy, health care or education,” he said. Moreover,

he noted, the federal government needs to “update its laws and regulations to reflect the 21<sup>st</sup> Century partnership. In fact, I got a call last week from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries saying they wanted their rules and regulations back.”

Along with modernizing the federal trust relationship, Cladoosby said Indian Country needs an update in technology. “I urge Congress and the administration to accelerate works that are underway to partners in the private sector to expand broadband connectivity in Indian Country,” he said, “we also need a comprehensive and updated study of our technology needs” to aid in education, business, health care and other concerns.

Cladoosby called for the

encouragement of tribal-state partnerships and congressional legislation to support language programs so children may learn about their ancestral history and culture and to bolster general education. Further, he noted, schools operated by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education should come under scrutiny.

Tribes need the authority to raise tax revenue without overlapping state taxation already in place, Cladoosby said. “I urge Congress to take up significant tax reform this year, tax reform that includes tribes and recognizes tribal sovereignty so we can better provide essential government services and later groundwork for growth.”

## Sault High junior in *Sports Illustrated*

BY RICK SMITH

She is a junior in high school, but as young as she is, Abby Roque of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., is a world-class role model for youngsters everywhere. She excels in academics and sports, plus in her spare time she cares for cats and dogs at a local animal shelter. She seems to possess a sharp mind, warm heart and a daring spirit.

Ms. Roque, an ice hockey player, is highlighted in the *Faces in the Crowd* feature of the Jan. 19 issue of the popular magazine, *Sport Illustrated*.

The feature notes Ms. Roque is a junior forward for the Sault Area High School boys hockey team. Furthermore, she scored a backhanded game-winning goal to help the U.S. beat Canada 2-1 “in the opening round of the 18-and-under worlds in Buffalo.

She was a member of the team that earned silver in the 2014 junior worlds, falling to Canada 5-1 in the final.”

According to her bio, Ms. Roque is frequently listed on the Sault High honor roll with a grade point average of 4.0 and was awarded English/Language Arts Student of the Year. She participated in two International Ice Hockey Federation Under-18 Women’s World Championships garnering silver in 2014 and gold in 2015. Further, she took second place in the 2014 Under-18 Series vs. Canada. She attended the 2014 Women’s National Festival and attended the Player Development Camp four times.

There’s no telling what further adventures this young lady might embark on prior to her high school graduation. After she graduates, though, she has a



2016 hockey scholarship waiting for her from the University of Wisconsin.

Ms. Roque is the daughter of Jim and Julia Roque of Sault Ste. Marie.

## NCAI analysis of President Obama’s 2016 budget request

WASHINGTON, D.C.— On Wednesday, Feb. 4, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) released an analysis of the president’s fiscal year 2016 budget, which highlighted the impact on funding for Indian programs. The budget proposes an overall an increase of 12 percent for the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs over the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, the largest increase in more than a decade (excluding Recovery Act funding) and a nine percent increase for the Indian Health Service.

Overall, several proposals in the fiscal year 2016 budget request would improve the federal government’s fulfillment of treaty and trust responsibilities in the federal budget, proposals which should benefit from bipartisan support. NCAI and tribal leaders will continue to work with appropriators and members in both the House and Senate to underscore the importance of strengthened investments in direct services to tribes and funding for programs administered by tribes.

President Brian Cladoosby responded to the fiscal year 2016 budget release with, “Indian Country strongly supports the several increases that recognize the treaty and trust responsibilities, with the goal of parity in governmental resources for tribes. Tribes also strongly

support the proposal to make BIA and IHS contract support costs mandatory, which tribes have called for in tribal consultation over many years.”

Highlights of 2016 president’s proposed budget include:

- Mandatory contract support costs: The requested 2016 budget includes a legislative proposal to reclassify contract support costs as permanent funding beginning in fiscal year 2017.

- Native youth: The creation of Generation Indigenous, which is a comprehensive multi-agency initiative to help improve the lives of and opportunities for Native youth in multiple areas such as broadband access and college and career-readiness.

- Tiwahe (Family) Initiative, a comprehensive and integrated approach to address the inter-related problems of poverty, violence and substance abuse faced by Indian communities. The proposed fiscal year 2016 budget would provide \$15 million to expand the Tiwahe Initiative, \$6 million more for social services, \$4 million more for law enforcement for alternatives to incarceration and \$5 million more for aid to tribal family courts.

- Public safety: The budget includes \$417.4 million for the Department of Justice public safety initiatives in Indian Country, which is a \$102 million

increase.

- Tribal Behavioral Health Grant (TBHG) increases. The TBHG would receive an additional \$25 million as part of Generation Indigenous. With the expansion of the TBHG program, SAMHSA aims to reduce substance use and suicide among Native youth and address conditions, which impact learning in Bureau of Indian Education schools.

- Indian education funding would increase for Bureau

of Indian Education (BIE), expanding broadband for BIE schools, scholarships and higher education.

As Congress makes decisions as a part of the appropriations process in the coming weeks and months, NCAI urges law makers to support parity in governmental and program funding as well as promote Indian self-determination to achieve the vision of broader progress in Indian Country. Read the full budget analysis at [www.ncai.org/resources/ncai\\_](http://www.ncai.org/resources/ncai_)

publications/analysis-of-presidents-fy-2016-budget-request.

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# VA homeless veterans help comes to tribes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced on Jan. 30 that the HUD and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program that helps homeless veterans find permanent supportive housing will, for the first time, expand directly into American Indian communities.

This support for veterans is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA.

The HUD-VASH program will now be opened to tribes so they may directly serve American Indian veterans living on or near tribal lands.

To expand the HUD-VASH program, \$4 million will be invested specifically to support American Indian veterans experiencing homelessness by providing them with secure housing and connecting them with clinical services and case management. This groundbreaking new effort will expand opportunity for approximately 650 veterans who are

currently homeless or at risk of homelessness.

“Ensuring that our men and women who served in uniform receive the care and support they’ve earned is a national responsibility,” said HUD Secretary Julián Castro.

“But for too long, fulfilling that responsibility to many American Indian veterans has been borne by Indian Country alone. We’re changing that this year.”

Expanding the HUD-VASH program will inform and improve how HUD serves American Indian veterans, as well as further the goals of ending homelessness in tribal communities more broadly. While there is a need for the program in Indian Country, HUD is calling on both national and regional American Indian leaders, associations and communities to offer insight into the design of the expansion, including ways that tribes estimate homelessness, what criteria HUD should establish in allocating



funding, what medical providers are offering care to veterans, and how HUD can target program assistance in ways that encourage the creation of new housing.

To expedite the program expansion, HUD has requested tribal responses through its Office of Native American Programs within 30 days rather than the traditional 60-day comment period. Comments can be submitted by Feb. 25 to [tribalhudvashcomments@hud.gov](mailto:tribalhudvashcomments@hud.gov).

In addition, six of HUD’s regional field offices will host public listening sessions with American Indian communities in their areas. Those who can attend sessions are encouraged to do so.

As HUD celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, Secretary

Castro is focused on advancing policies that create opportunities for all Americans, including the broader administration goal of ending homelessness among veterans. HUD-VASH is an important part of that effort to provide critical housing and services to veterans experiencing homelessness that also includes HUD’s Continuum of Care program, VA’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families and the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.

Since the release of Opening Doors, the nation’s first federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, all forms of homelessness have declined significantly, particularly among veterans. In November of 2014, HUD, VA and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness released a national estimate of veteran homelessness in the United States, which showed a decline of 33 percent (or 24,837 people) since 2010. This includes a nearly 40 percent drop in the number of unsheltered veterans sleeping on the street.

Since 2008, HUD and VA have awarded more than 59,000 HUD-VASH vouchers and served more

than 74,000 veterans experiencing homelessness. Rental assistance and support services provided through HUD-VASH are a critical resource for local communities in ending homelessness among veterans.

In the traditional HUD-VASH program, VA medical centers assess veterans experiencing homelessness before referring them to local housing agencies for these vouchers. Decisions are traditionally based on a variety of factors, most importantly the duration of homelessness and the need for longer term, more intensive support in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing.

The HUD-VASH program includes both the rental assistance the voucher provides and the comprehensive case management that VAMC staff offers.

Veterans participating in the traditional HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent.

VA offers eligible veterans experiencing homelessness with clinical and supportive services through its medical centers across the U.S., Guam and Puerto Rico.

# Obama proposes 2016 budget for Indian Country

## FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

While the president’s proposed 2016 budget is designed to bring mainstream middle class economics into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it appears to start bringing the nation’s government-to-government relationship with Indian Country into the modern era as well. As he said at the 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference, “The United States shares a sacred bond with our Native nations. We have a sacred responsibility to all our young people, including Native youth. Every day that I have the honor to serve as your President, I will do everything I can to meet that responsibility, and honor that trust, and to do right by your nations, and your children and future generations.”

## Supporting tribal sovereignty and nation building

More than 20 federal departments and agencies and all 566 Federally recognized tribes collectively provide services to more than two million American Indians. The budget proposes \$20.9 billion, a \$1.5 billion (8 percent) increase over the 2015 enacted level, across a wide range of federal programs serving tribes including education, social services, justice, health, infrastructure, and stewardship of land, water, and other natural resources. These increases support improved access to federal programs and resources, particularly focused on youth through the administration’s newly established Generation Indigenous initiative.

## A one-stop approach to federal programs and services

The budget for the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) overall provides \$2.9 billion, a \$323 million (12 percent) increase over the 2015 enacted level and capitalizes on the role of BIA as a broad ranging provider of

federal services by proposing to create a one-stop shop approach for facilitating tribal access to federal funds and programs across the U.S. government.

## Addressing Indian Country technological concerns

The budget includes an increase of \$12 million for the BIA to work with tribes and other federal agencies to help address long-standing concerns tribes have expressed with the quality of data in Indian Country.

## Promoting tribal self-determination through federal contracting

The budget fully funds estimated Contract Support Costs (CSCs) for tribes that administer programs funded through the BIA and Indian Health Service (IHS). This includes \$277 million for the BIA (a \$26 million increase over the 2015 enacted level) and \$718 million for IHS (a \$55 million increase over the 2015 enacted level). The budget also includes a new long-term proposal to fully fund CSC by reclassifying both BIA and IHS CSCs to mandatory funding beginning in fiscal year 2017.

## Supporting Native youth through Generation Indigenous

The budget enhances Generation Indigenous work through new and increased investments, including \$34.2 million to the Department of the Interior (DOI) to extend broadband internet and computer access to all Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools and dormitories, \$10 million to Housing and Urban Development



Sault Tribe Board Chairperson Aaron Payment with President Obama in Washington, D.C., last month.

and \$8 million to DOI to address teacher housing needs, \$50 million to Health and Human Services to provide youth-focused behavioral, mental health and substance abuse services and \$53 million for Native Youth Community Projects at the U.S. Education Department to support community-driven, comprehensive strategies to improve college and career-readiness of American Indian youth.

## Transforming the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)

Total funding for BIE elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools is \$904 million, an increase of \$94 million (12 percent) over the 2015 enacted level. The budget supports transformation with investments to increase opportunities and improve outcomes in the classroom, provide excellent instructional services and teacher quality, promote enhanced Native language and cultural curricula and programming, enhance broadband and digital access, and provide grants to incentivize creative solutions to school transformations. The budget also includes a \$59 million increase over the 2015 enacted level for education construction to

improve school infrastructure and facilities.

## Investing in tribally driven education

The budget provides \$15.4 billion, a \$1 billion increase, for the U.S. Department of Education’s Title I program and \$750 million for preschool development grants, a substantial increase of \$500 million over 2015 to help states, BIE, and tribal educational agencies to develop and expand high-quality preschool programs in targeted communities. The budget also significantly expands the Department of Education’s new Native Youth Community Projects initiative from \$3 million to \$53 million, to better support comprehensive, community-driven strategies to improve college and career-readiness of American Indian youth.

## Supporting strong communities and families

The Budget proposes \$122 million for the Tiwaha Initiative, a \$15 million increase over the 2015 enacted level, to address the interrelated problems of poverty, violence and substance abuse in tribal communities.

## Social services for Indian Country

A total of \$903 million is proposed for U.S. Health and Human Services, a \$191 million increase over 2015. This includes \$830 million for programs serving tribes in HHS’s Administration for Children and Families, a \$132 million (19 percent) increase over the 2015 enacted level, with \$231 million for Head Start, \$183 million for Tribal TANF, \$43 million for Tribal Child Support, \$202 million for Child Care programs, \$54 million for child welfare programs, \$50 million for the Administration of Native Americans and \$130 million for other programs serving tribes. This also includes \$39 million for

SAMHSA (a \$25 million increase over the 2015 enacted level) and a new \$25 million program in IHS for youth behavioral health.

At the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the budget includes up to \$15 million to implement a demonstration of the Jobs-Plus model in Indian Country. Jobs-Plus, which combines job training with financial incentives to encourage work, has been shown to boost the annual incomes of public housing residents by \$1,300 on average.

## Improving access to health care

The budget proposes \$5.1 billion for the IHS, \$461 million above the 2015 enacted level, to strengthen federal, tribal and urban programs. In the 2016 budget, Contract Support Costs are funded in the IHS budget at the estimated full cost of \$718 million and includes a proposal to reclassify Contract Support Costs as a mandatory appropriation beginning in fiscal year 2017. It also provides increased resources to purchase health care services outside of the Indian health system when services are not available at IHS-funded facilities. To increase access to health care services and improve the Indian health system, the budget also provides increased funding for construction and staffing of new and replacement health clinics.

## Public safety alternatives to incarceration

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is proposed to receive \$419 million (a \$102 million increase over the 2015 enacted level) for public safety initiatives in Indian Country and \$364 million for public safety and justice programs funded by the BIA (a \$12 million increase over the 2015 enacted level). DOJ funding is provided for additional

— See “Budget,” page 7



# Tribal elder opens counseling practice in Marquette

MARQUETTE — Sault Tribe member and Marquette resident, Mary McCarthy LLMSW, provides professional holistic counseling services for adults and children, treating depression, anxiety, substance abuse, school and job stress and relationship issues.

She began her practice last fall, seeing mostly children, couples and women.

McCarthy grew up in Sault Ste. Marie. As a teen, she taught catechism for Father Prud'homme at St. Isaac Jogues. Her grandmother, Mary Payment Trempe,

was a member of St. Mary's parish. As a young adult, she worked as a counselor for Upward Bound.

McCarthy is a licensed social worker. "LLMSW" refers to a "limited license master social worker." She also has an MA in education/counseling and over 20 years experience as a teacher and counselor for children from preschool to high school. She practiced massage therapy and Structural Integration for 10 years and served as counselor/therapist for three years in a rehabilitation

residential center.

"My path meandered. I did lots of different things as I felt drawn to them," McCarthy said. "At this stage of my life, I am integrating it all and sharing it with others, with an added spiritual dimension."

McCarthy has studied with a Naturopathic physician, is doing coursework in the Science of Natural Healing, and received professional training in various energy methods and "Mindsight" training.

Her specialty is short-term

psychotherapy using various approaches — cognitive behavioral therapy, mindfulness practices, energy techniques, and nutritional coaching.

"Because I have a varied and diverse background, I feel I can offer a more holistic approach to treatment than standard therapy," she said.

McCarthy can be reached by calling (906) 273-0121 or sending her a message through her website, [www.marymccarthyllmsw.com](http://www.marymccarthyllmsw.com).



## Ribbons hung in observance of national White Out campaign

Michigan State Police Trooper Ailene Bitnar's LSSU criminal justice class hung white ribbons on light posts around downtown Sault Ste. Marie in support of the Diane Peppler Resource Center for the White Out Campaign. The national campaign aims to "white out" violence against women.

The students were raising public awareness about ending violence against women by the hanging of these white ribbons.

Trooper Bitnar intends to help educate the public on teen violence and how to recognize the warning signs of a potentially

abusive relationship.

"It is important for both male and female teens to understand the importance of having a

respectful relationship that does not include violence or other forms of abuse," Bitnar said. "No relationship is worth putting your life in danger."

Seek help as soon as possible if you are in a relationship where you are being abused or if you know someone who is in such a relationship. "Everyone in any relationship

has rights and responsibilities," Bitnar said. "The right to be treated with respect and the responsibility to respect others."

*"Everyone in any relationship has rights and responsibilities. The right to be treated with respect and the responsibility to respect others."*

—Ailene Bitnar



Above, the criminal justice 206 class at LSSU and its instructor, Trooper Ailene Bitnar, hang white ribbons on lightposts in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., as part of a campaign to "white out" violence against women. Trooper Bitnar intends to help educate the public on teen violence and how to recognize the warning signs of a potentially abusive relationship. "Everyone in any relationship has rights and responsibilities," Bitnar said. "The right to be treated with respect and the responsibility to respect others."

## Facts on President Obama's 2016 proposed budget for Indian Country

**From "Budget," page 6**  
grants to address criminal justice issues, including tribal victims of violence, and for supporting the Office of Tribal Justice. BIA Justice funding continues investments in reducing violent crime in Indian Country and supports continued implementation of a strategic goal to reduce repeat incarceration in targeted communities through a comprehensive "alternatives to incarceration" strategy, which seeks to address underlying causes of repeat offenses, including substance abuse and social service needs through tribal and federal partnerships.

### Infrastructure and housing

HUD's Native American Housing Block Grant program would be provided \$660 million in the proposed budget. The program provides tribes with funding for vital housing activities, such as construction, rehabilitation and operations, to help address housing needs in American Indian communities.

In addition, \$80 million is proposed for HUD's Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program and \$10 million in ICDBG funds to be used to help tribes attract and retain high-quality teachers by improving the availability and physical condition of teacher housing. The proposal also includes \$50 million (a \$37 million increase over the 2015 enacted level) to expand USDA's rural community facilities

grant program, which can be used to support initiatives such as Generation Indigenous. It also includes \$2.2 billion in community facilities direct loans, which allow American Indian communities to apply for funds for a variety of purposes such as community centers, job training centers or firehouses. In addition, community facilities tribal college grant funding is doubled from \$4 million to \$8 million in 2016.

### Supporting sustainable stewardship of trust resources

The budget provides \$376 million for the BIA to support tribes in managing resources and for trust real estate services, representing a \$65 million increase over the 2015 enacted level for stewardship of fisheries, wildlife, forests, water and tribal lands.

### Community resilience in the face of a changing climate

The budget provides \$50 million for BIA to support tribal communities in preparing and responding to the impacts of climate change, a \$40 million increase over the 2015 enacted level. Tribes throughout the U.S. are already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate, including drought, intensifying wildfires, changes in plants and animals important to subsistence and culture, and coastal erosion and sea level rise. This funding will support tribes in developing science, tools, training, planning and implementation of actions to build resilience into infrastructure, resource management, and community development activities. Funding will also support Alaska Native villages in the Arctic

in evaluating options for the long-term resilience of their communities.

### Protecting and sustaining rights and access to water

The DOI budget provides a total of \$244 million for work supporting American Indian water rights settlements and management, an increase of \$73 million over the 2015 enacted level.

### Building tribal capacity to protect environment and health

In 2016, EPA is proposed to provide \$96 million for the Tribal General Assistance Program, a \$31 million increase over the 2015 enacted level, to build and

enhance the capacity of tribes to implement environmental regulatory programs and address environmental and public health needs in Indian Country, including safe drinking water, sanitation, adequate waste facilities and other environmental safeguards.

### Supporting clean and sustainable energy development and efficiency

The budget would fund a new DOI Indian Energy Service Center at \$5 million. The Department of Energy's Office of Indian Energy also includes \$16 million for its Tribal Energy Program.

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# Membership action urged now to help Native education

BY RICK SMITH

While the National Indian Education Association is calling on the U.S. Senate to reauthorize and improve the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the organization needs as much help as can be mustered. Following recent Senate committee hearings, the association's president, Melvin Monette, issued a statement that indicated reauthorization of the

ESEA "is a key opportunity for the federal government to uphold its' trust responsibility and fairly provide Native students education services based on principles of accountability, equity and excellence." He further added the ESEA is in dire need of improvement.

Observers also noted that improving the ESEA as suggested by the association would strengthen Indian Country

sovereignty and benefit future generations.

Among the priorities the NIEA is putting forth to the Senate, the association seeks to 1) strengthen Native participation in education through tribes having the authority and ability to administer title programs, 2) encouraging tribal/state partnerships to work closely together when developing applications and plans for ESEA title programs, 3) preserving and

revitalizing Native languages by providing resources for eligible schools to develop and maintain language immersion education and 4) increase state and local educational institutions' access to share student data with tribes.

Members of federally recognized tribes are urged to contact their U.S. Senators to encourage them to push the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

to support improvements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as outlined by the NIEA as well as its reauthorization. Further, note that the measures put forth by the association are supported by American Indian tribes and communities across the country, the National Congress of American Indians and numerous national and local American Indian affiliates.

# Leaders across Michigan convene to improve Indian health

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — On Jan. 6 and 7, 2015, the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCM) held a meeting with leaders from six federally-recognized tribes and the American Indian Health and Family Services Agency in Detroit to discuss their plans to improve the health of American Indians across Michigan. The meeting served as an initial kick-off for Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)-Journey to Wellness, an initiative to prevent long-term diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease by encouraging exercise and healthy eating, as well as lowering commercial tobacco use, among American Indians in Michigan.

In October of 2014, ITCM was awarded three years of funding for REACH- Journey to Wellness by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of their REACH initiative.

"Native Americans in Michigan suffer from some of the highest rates of obesity and

chronic illnesses — like heart disease and diabetes — and also have disproportionately high rates of commercial tobacco use. By focusing on chronic disease prevention, REACH-Journey to Wellness has the power to positively change the health and quality of life of American Indians in Michigan," said Noel Pingatore, ITCM principal investigator.

The following tribes and one agency will be leading local REACH-Journey to Wellness initiatives: The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Nottawaseppi Band of Huron Potawatomi, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa and Chippewa Indians, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Hannahville Indian Community, Bay Mills Indian Community and American Indian Health and Family Services Agency in Detroit. Over the next three years, they will work together with their local communities to affect change — from passing commercial tobacco-free policies to enhancing worksite wellness programs and establishing local farmer's markets — that will have a long-



On Jan. 6 and 7, the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan had a meeting with leaders from six federally-recognized tribes and the American Indian Health and Family Services Agency in Detroit to discuss their plans to improve the health of Americans Indians across Michigan.

lasting positive impact and drive down the chronic disease rates among American Indians.

"With leaders and key tribal health staff from tribal communities traveling from all

around the state in the middle of winter to attend, this meeting was a truly special occasion. We were thrilled to see so many valued tribal health staff come to the table to address the health needs

of American Indians in Michigan through their participation in REACH-Journey to Wellness," said Cathy Edgerly, ITCM project manager.

# Island roads get help from tribe



Photo by Rick Smith

Sault Tribe officials met with two representatives of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners on Feb. 2 to present the first installment from Bureau of Indian Affairs Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads funding to cover costs associated with heavy road damages caused by flooding on Sugar Island last September. The tribe's Transportation Program was successful in receiving \$820,000 in grant funding through the federal program to help the Chippewa County Road Commission with the road repair costs. The first installment is for \$674,456.39. Pictured, left to right, Chippewa County Commissioner Don McLean, Sault Tribe transportation planner Wendy Hoffman, Chippewa County Commissioner Raymond "Rudy" Johnson, Sault Tribe Board of Directors Chairman Aaron Payment, Sault Tribe Board of Directors Unit I representatives Jennifer McLeod, DJ Hoffman and Kim Gravelle.

Announcing Traditional practitioner Harlan Downwind speaking engagement, Thursday, Feb. 26, from 3-5 p.m., at the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Center auditorium. Everyone is welcome.

# Acting IHS director Roubideaux named senior HHS advisor to HHS Secretary Burwell

U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell and former Acting Indian Health Service (IHS) Director Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., recently announced that Roubideaux began serving as senior advisor to Burwell on American Indians effective at the time of the announcement on Feb. 10.

"Dr. Roubideaux has ably led the IHS since 2009 and been an important member of the HHS leadership team," said Burwell in a prepared statement. "In 2013, the president nominated her for a second four-year term as director of IHS. Since then she has also been serving as the acting director of IHS. Last week, it was determined that a provision in a 2009 appropriations act is permanent law that limits the amount of time that a nominee can serve in an acting position for which they have been nominated." Burwell further explained that as HHS works with the White House and Senate to resubmit and process her nomination, she asked Roubideaux to serve as a senior advisor to the Secretary

for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Burwell noted Roubideaux would bring her experience, commitment and expertise to a number of important projects, initiatives and policies such as the president's Generation Indigenous initiative, examining how the Affordable Care Act and delivery system reform concerns American Indians, understanding Indian Country behavioral health matters and improving technology for Indian Country health programs. "I look forward to continuing to work with Yvette and the rest of the department on these critical initiatives and will rely on her expertise to drive our efforts in these areas," said Burwell.

In the meantime, Burwell said the current IHS deputy director, Robert McSwain, will serve as the interim acting director of IHS. Burwell described McSwain as a long-time civil servant with years of experience at IHS. "I appreciate Bob's willingness to serve in this capacity and lead IHS during this period of time," Burwell noted.



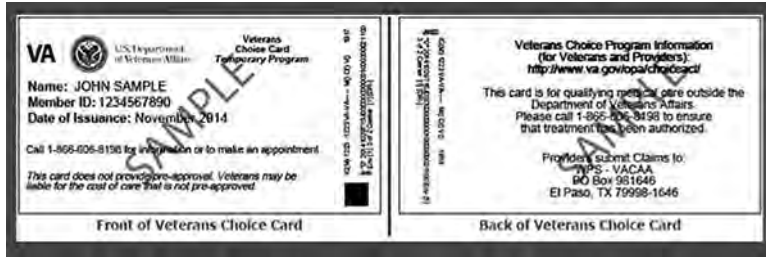
# VA announces new Veterans Choice Card Program

By RICK SMITH

U.S. military veterans enrolled in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care services may qualify for the new Veterans Choice Card Program if they live more than 40 miles from any VA medical facility or outpatient clinic, or if they have appointments more than 30 days from preferred appointment dates at VA facilities. Under the program, many veterans will have the option of receiving health care at regular medical facilities in or near the communities in which they live.

The program went into effect on Nov. 5, 2014 and the VA announced on Jan. 15, 2015, that veterans across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin who are enrolled in the VA health care system should be receiving Veterans Choice Cards in the mail.

“While veterans may not be eligible for using the Veterans Choice Card right now, they could be eligible if in the future they have to wait more than 30 days from the preferred date for a VA appointment,” said Brad



Nelson, public affairs officer at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain, Mich.

According to VA website, every veteran will receive a letter and a Choice Card in the mail with details about the program. Veterans will be eligible for the program and

receive cards in three phases: First, veterans who may live more than 40 miles from a VA facility. Second, veterans who are currently waiting for an appointment longer than 30 days from their preferred date or the date determined to be medically necessary by their physician.

Third and finally, all remaining veterans enrolled for VA healthcare who may be eligible for the Choice Card Program in the future.

To set up appointments with a non-VA providers, call the VA at (866) 606-8198 and staff will work with veterans to ensure they are approved for care in their communities.

The Choice Card Program is part of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (the Choice Act) signed into law by President Barack Obama last Aug. 7.

# LSSU announces high school Short Story Prize competition

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — High school students interested in writing may win a \$500 cash prize or \$1,000 scholarship for their stories if they enter Lake Superior State University’s new Short Story Prize competition.

The competition, created by the LSSU Creative Writing Program and now accepting entries, asks high school students to compose their best post-apocalyptic short stories between now and the March 30 deadline. Any high school student residing in the Midwest may enter.

“The idea for the contest came about after a group of creative writing faculty, school volunteers and high school English teachers met on campus in December

to discuss current high school students’ reading and writing interests,” said LSSU English Professor Mary McMyne. “Based on this discussion, post-apocalyptic fiction was selected as the theme for this year’s contest due to high student interest.”

Entries will be accepted online through March 30, and finalists will be selected based on literary merit by May 15, with a winner announced on June 1. The winner of the contest will receive publication and a \$500 cash prize, which may be doubled — if the student wishes to attend LSSU — to a \$1000 cash scholarship. The winning story will be published in volume five of Border Crossing, LSSU’s international journal

of literature and art, alongside fiction, poetry and nonfiction by professional writers, and book reviews by LSSU undergraduate interns.

Contest rules, instructions for entering and contest parameters are available on the contest website at [lssubordercrossing.wordpress.com/lssu-short-story-prize/](http://lssubordercrossing.wordpress.com/lssu-short-story-prize/).

Teachers, parents and students interested in contest updates are encouraged to visit the contest website to read recommendations for classic and award-winning post-apocalyptic short stories that students may use as models. They

may also sign-up for the contest mailing list in order to receive updates and a common-core aligned lesson plan for reading and writing post-apocalyptic short stories.

For more information, contact McMyne at (906) 635-2327 or [mmcmyne@lssu.edu](mailto:mmcmyne@lssu.edu).

# Nominations sought for outstanding LSSU Native student

The LSSU Native American Student Organization (NASO) is accepting nominations for the Outstanding Native American Student Award given to a graduating senior who has shown remarkable character while at LSSU. The deadline is March 6.

Candidates may nominate themselves or be nominated by

peers. The nomination packets must include grade point average, at least one letter of recommendation explaining why the candidate is an outstanding student, any activities in which the nominated student participates on or off campus, tribal affiliation (Canadian students may apply) and a brief letter stating goals

after graduation.

Nominations may be hand delivered, emailed, mailed or faxed to [ssabatine@lssu.edu](mailto:ssabatine@lssu.edu); LSSU, Attn: Stephanie Sabatine, Native American Center and Campus Diversity, 650 West Easterday Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, fax (906) 635-2848.

## UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

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March 6-8

**\$15,000 Keno**  
KEWADIN SAULT STE. MARIE  
March 13-15

**\$30,000 Blackjack**  
KEWADIN ST. IGNACE  
March 13-15

**\$15,000 Video Poker**  
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March 27-29

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**Thursday is Senior Day**  
ALL KEWADIN SITES

**Make It Happen Fridays**  
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**Sizzling Saturdays**  
KEWADIN MANISTIQUE  
Saturdays at 3 p.m.  
\$10 registration fee, registrations begin at 9 a.m. at the Cage the day of the tournament.  
**100% of fees goes to the prize pool!**

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# Former NCAI interns for the Sault Tribe land amazing jobs

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Cassie Holt and Michelle Castagne, both Sault Tribe members, were National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) project interns for the Sault Tribe last summer and fall working in the Communications Department. Holt and Castagne have since applied for and been chosen for outstanding job opportunities.

Holt has been hired as the referral manager at Tendercare Sault Ste. Marie and Castagne is the public health project coordinator for the National Indian Health Board in Washington, D.C.

Holt said last summer's internship was one of the most rewarding things she has ever been involved with. "It changed my life," she said. "It set me on the path of what I want to do for a career. It got me more interested in advocacy as well as research, brand development, and social movement."

During their internship, both Holt and Castagne worked on developing a Tribal Governance Database. The project stemmed from a team at the tribe seeing the need for a database that could house contacts — legislative, other tribes, and any entity having to do with policy and governance.

Holt graduated from Lake Superior State University (LSSU) December 2014 with a business administration and marketing degree. "With graduation comes the intimidating factor of trying to find a job. I had stumbled across my current position at Tendercare, which was posted on the Michigan Talent website, and immediately thought I wasn't qualified for it," she said. "I sent out my resume and application in hopes that maybe they would give me a chance and I was very lucky to land an interview. That began the hiring process and I feel very blessed and thankful they chose me to represent their company. Applying for and accepting this position is one of the best decisions I have ever made."

Tendercare Sault Ste. Marie offers their patients both short-term rehabilitation services and long-term care. Holt is

## Gregg in honors program

Heather Marie Gregg, 19, Sault Tribe member from Sault Ste. Marie, is a freshman at Lake Superior State University. Her pre-med double major is biology and chemistry, with a math minor. Her goal is to attend Michigan State or University of Michigan medical school and specialize as a diagnostician.

She has been accepted into the honors program, joining the Honors Student Organization. She has also joined the Pre Professional society as its public relations officer, the Activities Board and Alpha Phi Omega, a national co-ed service fraternity organized to provide community service, leadership development and social opportunities for college students.

Gregg sings in the choir,



**Cassie Holt**

responsible for marketing the health center and does that by conducting physician and hospital visits, bedside visits with potential patients, and marketing to surrounding areas and clinics. Patients generally range in age from their 40s into their 90s. "Anyone above the age of 18, granted we are able to medically meet their needs, is able to utilize our services," Holt said.

During her internship, Holt said she was lucky to have worked with a great team of people. "Jennifer Dale-Burton and Mike McCoy were very good influences and teachers as well as managers for the position. I was also exposed to a side of my own culture and history that I had never seen before," she said. "It was almost, for me, an untapped part of my identity that I had not yet explored, and it opened my eyes to a broader picture of our culture. This internship encompassed everything I was looking for in a company as well as in an internship experience."

As for her new job — "It's a great organization. Over the last few years they have transitioned their core competencies and there are new team members and upper management. Tendercare is very much a progressive company and I am thankful to call myself a team member. I am looking forward to what we can accomplish in 2015 and going forward," she said.

Holt said she is going to start working on a Master's degree in marketing soon and graduate school is part of her 10-year plan.



sings opera, and takes piano lessons, and while on break, sings in nursing homes around the community.

She is involved in Community Baptist church where she is teaches Sunday School and a Wednesday night class for children.



**Michelle Castagne**

Michelle Castagne is the public health project coordinator for the National Indian Health Board. She began her college career at LSSU where for two years she studied nursing and general education before transferring to Grand Valley State University in her junior year and completing a Bachelor of Science degree in non-profit and public administration with an emphasis in community health.

"I completed a couple of internships in Grand Rapids while I was there and between the summer of my junior and senior year I interned for Sault Tribe Community Health. That is where my interest started in working with our tribe and Alaskan Natives and American Indians in general," she said.

She graduated from college May 2014.

Castagne completed four internships while attending college, the most recent being her work with the tribe through the NCAI internship. "I really didn't know what I wanted to do and I saw the internships as a way to get experience and learn. I interned with the Grand Rapids

Chamber of Commerce as a public policy assistant. Policy was an area that I wasn't getting any exposure to in school, so it was really great to intern there because I found out that I really enjoy public health policy and that's the area I want to work in," she said.

Castagne said she found out about her current position during her internship with the tribe while doing research and pulling policies from organizations like the NIHB. "When I opened up their homepage one day they had a fellowship posted. It was listed as a public health policy fellowship and it became clear that should be my next step, so I applied for it. Through the course of a couple different interviews and correspondence with NIHB, it came about that they weren't going to be hiring for the fellowship, but that they wanted to hire me for this position instead," she said.

Castagne said she provides technical assistance and policy support for the National Indian Health Board and Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC), on which Sault Tribe Unit I director Cathy Abramson sits, in whatever capacity they need. "My main project is coordinating the efforts

of the TLDC on their work with the Special Diabetes Program for Indians — which is legislation that gives tribes funding for diabetes prevention and treatment programs."

"I feel so honored to be working in this role and have this opportunity, especially so early on in my working life," she said. "It has been a great learning opportunity and I just feel so lucky to be doing this for Indian Country. Diabetes is a big issue and there is such a glaring disparity between the rate that we experience it at compared to other racial groups."

She said the move to D.C. has been very interesting. "I grew up between Cheboygan and the Sault and consider the Sault my home," she said. "I wouldn't consider the transition to be a huge culture shock but there are definitely things that are different. For example, the transportation is very different here. I am used to jumping on a two-lane highway and going wherever I want. I now take the Metro to work every day and it takes me about 90 minutes to go 10 miles. I used to drive 80 miles to work one way during the internship last summer and it only took me an hour."

## MIEA Incentive Program

The Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) Student Incentive Program awards students in grades K-12 for all A grades as well as perfect attendance during the first and second marking periods of the school year.

The program is open to ALL tribal students, regardless of location.

Applications are available on the MIEA website around February or March and can be downloaded from [michiganindianelders.org](http://michiganindianelders.org) under the "Student" section of the website.

Please note this is not a Sault Tribe program. All applications must be sent to the address indicated by MIEA.

## Officers visit kids in Head Start class



Sault Tribe public safety officers Rye and TenEyck visited Miss Amie's Head Start classroom to visit with the children and read the book *Ten Little Fish*. Student intern Harrison Thorne assisted the officers. The children were able to ask the officers questions and interact with them. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience.





# Custom Cedar Creations make coffins and urns

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Former repatriation specialist Cecil Pavlat retired from the Sault Tribe in December and since then has become more involved in his casket making business that he does with his brother in law, Fred Carr and friend Don Lawrence.

Pavlat said the thought came to him about 10 years ago that he might want to try his hand at traditional casket making. "The idea came about from being involved in traditional practices and helping with funerals," he said. So about five years ago the three men made their first northern white cedar casket with wood from a sawmill in Raber and named their small business Custom Cedar Creations.

Since then they have sold about 12 caskets, along with a few wood urns.

The trio makes the caskets out of Lawrence's garage. "It has been a learning process," Pavlat said. "We started out with a much more basic design and have improved on it in terms of beauty and the ease of making them."

Pavlat said the interiors of the caskets are left unfinished so they can be customized to make it more personal for the family. A nice touch for finishing the interior is to use a blanket, maybe one the deceased liked or one the family chooses. The caskets are made in two different sizes but can be custom made to order with prices generally ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,500. Pavlat said the options are endless, they can use whatever materials the family chooses. "It's more a labor of love than an opportunity to make money," he said. "We are doing it so that people have options and because the natural beauty of the wood can't be surpassed. Since they are hand made they are more personal." Each casket takes about a week to complete and can be delivered within the tribe's seven county service area for the cost of fuel.



Cecil Pavlat with a few urns still under construction.

They are also busy making urns from walnut, cedar and maple but can use any kind of wood the family wishes. The urns are rectangular and measure about 12 inches in length, by six high and five inches wide. They are trimmed out and have some ornate finishing touches and once the ashes are placed into them, the bottom is then sealed shut.

Since caskets generally are not talked about much, Pavlat said there are a few practices regarding burials that many people may not know. One is that if a person chooses to they can make a casket and the laws dictate that funeral homes have to use it if requested. The other is a cement vault into which the casket is lowered. "People believe that a cement vault is required by the state. A cement vault is a cement box that caskets are placed in. They have a lid a few inches thick, the vault gets placed in the earth first and the casket is placed inside the vault and the cement lid is placed on top," Pavlat said. "I think it's about money and something the cemeteries can sell to families and mark up. It's a business for them. For myself

and others I know that would like to return to the soil, you would be buried in a wooden coffin and be placed directly into the earth without a vault."

He said there are a few cemeteries that don't require vaults, such as Wilwalk and Maple Ridge Cemeteries on Sugar Island. "It is church property, but the church allows us to do what we want," he said. "At those two places if people want a vault they can have one, but it's not required. For traditional thinking, we believe that life is a cycle - we come from the earth and should return to the earth. How do you do that in a steel casket and a cement vault?"

Pavlat said he enjoys working with wood and being able to offer families more options. For those wondering about life after retirement, he said, "It was a little strange walking through the hallway where my office was recently but it's been a good change - I feel relaxed and am enjoying life."

To inquire about a casket, Cecil Pavlat can be contacted by calling his cell phone at (906) 440-7849 or emailing: cpavlat@hotmail.com.



Pavlat uses a planer on a cedar board.



A cedar coffin made by Pavlat, Carr and Lawrence.

## Leftovers soup from Flowers' kitchen

FROM THE KITCHEN OF BOB FLOWERS

Soup is a combination of a flavorful broth or sauce, with an assortment of ingredients that can include vegetables, meat, pasta and grains with appropriate seasonings.

Creamy soups are thickened with starches while brothy soups are fortified with collagen, also known as gelatin. Seasonings can be as simple as a bit of salt or can use any number of herbs, spices and aromatic vegetables such as onion, garlic, celery, fennel, sage, thyme, etc.

Soups can be some of the most enjoyable foods you can eat.

### Leftovers Soup

Here is a recipe for a soup made from recent leftovers at our house.

Ingredients:

1 Cooked pork chop with the

bone  
 ¼ Cup cooked cauliflower  
 1 Trimmings from chuck steak, about ½ cup  
 2 Carrots peeled and sliced into thin rounds  
 ½ Cup cooked green beans  
 ¼ Cup sautéed mushrooms  
 1 Tsp. granulated onion powder  
 ¼ Tsp. granulated garlic powder  
 ½ Tsp. salt  
 ¼ Tsp. coarse ground black pepper  
 ½ Tsp. dried oregano

½ Tsp. dried basil  
 1 Tsp. bacon fat  
 3 Cups water

Cut the pork from the chop and cut into half-inch cubes. Cut the beef into small pieces. Peel and slice the fresh carrot. Melt the bacon fat in a three-quart saucepan. Add the beef and fry over medium heat until lightly browned. Add the remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Serve hot with buttered bread.

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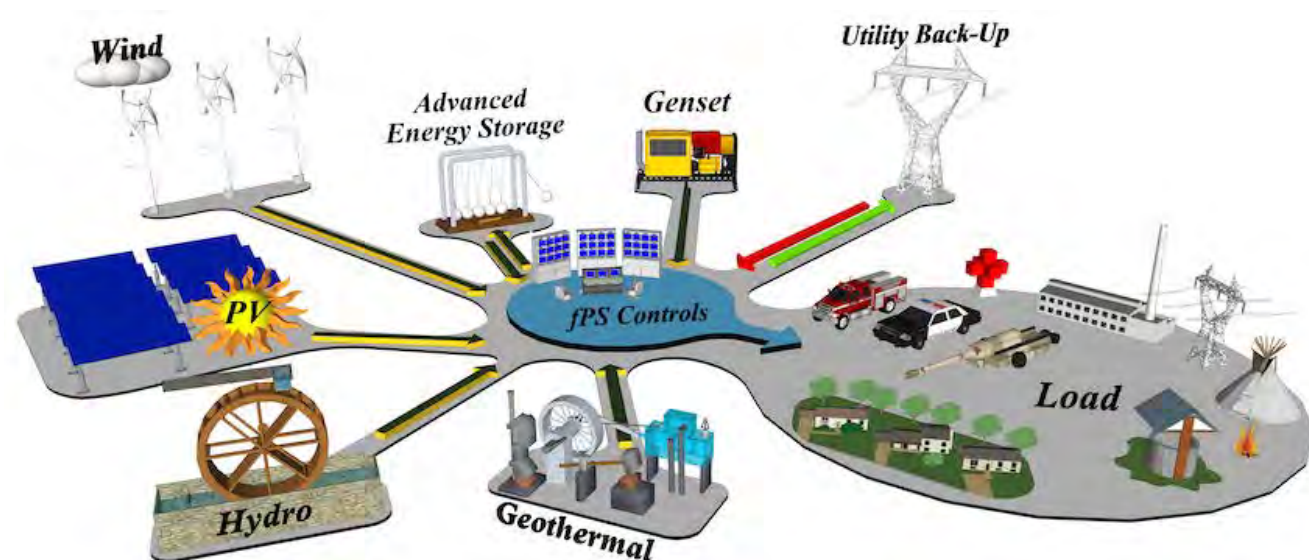
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### Strategic Partnerships



### Contracts/Awards

- CEC-PIR-12-033**  
Indian Energy is a tier-1 subcontractor to HCC/SES & CleanSpark on their Camp Pendleton FractalGrid Demonstration Project.
- DY912-13-D-0041**  
Indian Energy is a tier-1 subcontractor to NRG Solar on their “Unrestricted Large” US Army solar MATOC award.
- DY912-14-D-0068**  
Indian Energy is a “Small Restricted” awardee for the US Army solar MATOC. Siemens Government Technologies is our tier-1 subcontractor.
- SBA 8(a) Certification - Chippewa Sustainable Solutions**  
The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians recently submitted a new 8(a) application to the SBA on a newly formed tribal owned energy company. Indian Energy will own 45% of the new 8(a) energy company, The previously approved CTI & IE 8(a) joint venture will be rolled into the new company.

### Indian Energy Is Looking For Qualified Tribal Members With The Following Skill Set:

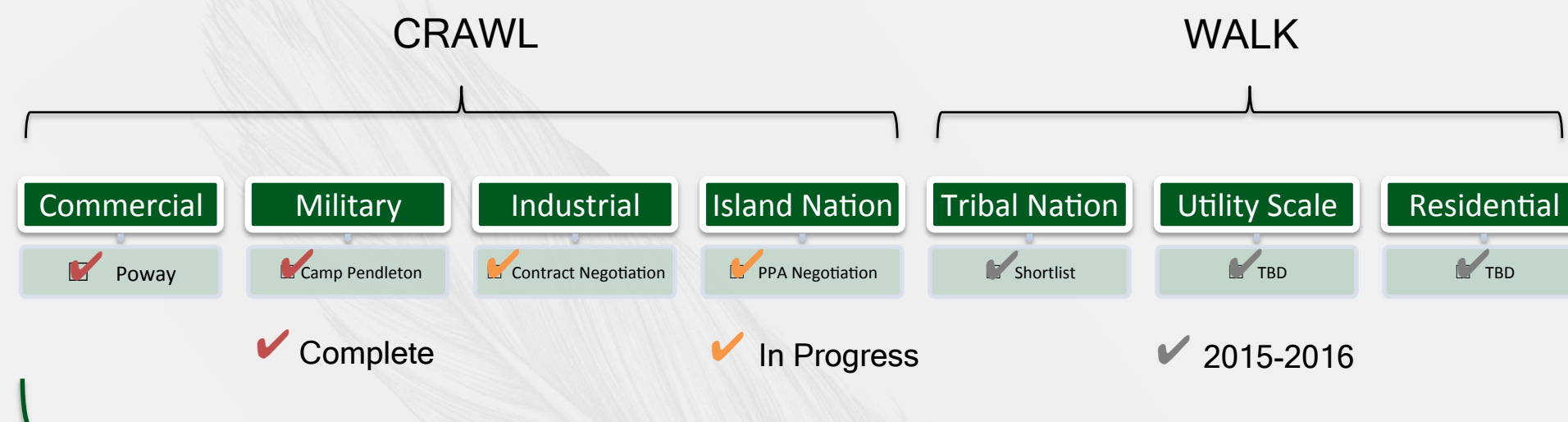
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#### Kosrae Utility Authority Sustainability Project

- Location: Tofol, Kosrae, FM
- Size: 2MW Solar PV + Storage
- Project Overview: Kosrae Utility Authority has provided Indian Energy with a “Letter of Intent” to purchase solar generated electricity augmented with patented advanced energy storage. This is Phase I of the Island’s energy vision to move towards 100% sustainable energy generation.



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# Chippewa County children write four-way test essays

The Four-Way Test essay contest is conducted each year in Sault area schools, sponsored by the Sault Ste. Marie Rotary Club. The Four-Way Test is an ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings. Herbert Taylor, from Pickford, Mich., originated the test in 1932.

Junior Rotarians, a program of senior Sault Area High School students, present information on

Rotary and the Four-Way Test to sixth grade students at Sault Area Middle School. Students are asked to write an essay about the Four-way Test and how it can be applied to their life. The junior Rotarians then select winners of the contest. This year, the winner announced at the Sault Ste. Marie Rotary lunch meeting on Jan. 19 is Bonnie Li, with Paige Marchand taking second place and Kaylin Burton in third.

For more information about Rotary or Junior Rotarians, please contact our club secretary at [rotaryclub.ssm@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclub.ssm@gmail.com).



**ESSAY WINNERS** — Left to right, Mandy Marchand, Paige Marchand (our second place winner), Bonnie Li (our first place winner) with her mother and Kaylin Burton (our third place winner) with her mother.



**JUNIOR ROTARIANS GROUP** — Back row, left to right, Chelsea Zenker, Emily Pattison, Jeanette Kymes, Nicole Wymore, Jill McElhinny. Front row, left to right, Reinholdt Olson II and Brandon Line. Missing from photo: Ryan LaPrade, Ruby Lucas and Kyra Hubbard.

# Famous artists recorded songs titled, *Sault Ste. Marie*

BY RICK SMITH

What do you suppose Three Dog Night, Dean Martin and Madonna's brother-in-law might have in common? Well, it's not likely you'll ever guess, so I'll just tell you: They all recorded songs titled *Sault Ste. Marie*. Which song one might favor is likely to hinge on one's taste or age.

Geezer rock fans will no doubt gravitate to the splendid bluesy Three Dog Night opus recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra in 2002. It has a tasty blues harp and acoustic guitar intro followed by a hearty electric guitar riff just as the rest of the band kicks in and a raspy vocal sings, "From Sault Ste. Marie all the

way to Kootenay/Angels on the freeway speak to me." Later on in the song, Yoopers might be inclined to think their favorite region gets another plug in the line, "From Galveston Bay, all the way to Grand Vela," because somehow "Grand Vela" sounds like "Grand Marais." Somewhere in the course of the song, the London Symphony Orchestra comes up in a kind of stealthy way, listeners may find themselves enjoying their contribution before they are even aware a whole orchestra has joined the band.

Like many works of many poets or lyricists, while the verses are pretty much straight forward, the chorus to this song appears to be open to

interpretation: *And I still believe / In the glory of Ste. Marie / Comin' down the shadow breaks for me.*

The song is absolutely a road song, highway song, traveling song, (take your pick) sure to get toes tapping and hearts longing to be in the wind on an open road. Check it out on YouTube by searching for "Sault Ste. Marie – Three Dog Night."

Listening to Dean Martin crooning his song of *Sault Ste. Marie*, will either take one back in time, provided one is old enough, or show younger folks that pop music wasn't always like what they've experienced. Martin's song is kind of like a U.P. version of Tony Bennett's *I*

*Left My Heart In San Francisco*. Loaded with a sort of sad longing, but happily anticipating a future reunion with a local love interest. The instrumental accompaniment is orchestral all the way.

Dino's song, too, is on YouTube and can be found easily enough as well by searching for "Dean Martin – Sault Ste. Marie."

This brings us to Madonna's brother-in-law — singer-songwriter and guitarist Joe Henry. Although relatively obscure, he won Grammy awards for producing records and has 13 studio albums of his own to his credit. While he was born in North Carolina, he grew up in Detroit and is a graduate

of the University of Michigan.

The style of Henry's *Sault Ste. Marie* is a mix of country and folk. Anyone familiar with the Canadian country-rock group Blue Rodeo will note a similarity in the sound of the vocals and general style.

Where the songs by Three Dog Night and Dean Martin merely mention Sault Ste. Marie, Henry's work seems settled in at the scene with lyrics such as *In Sault Ste. Marie / The hills glow without the help of God / You can almost see / The river in November turn to steel*.

Like other songs mentioned here, it's easy enough to hear on YouTube, search for "Joe Henry – Sault Ste. Marie."

## Joann Smith donates hat and glove sets, crocheted lap blankets to ARC



The Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Joann Smith for her generous donation of 30 knitted winter hat and glove sets and crocheted lap blankets which were shared with the residents of the Aakdehewin Gaamig - Lodge of Bravery emergency shelter. Joann has been gifting her beautiful hand crafted items to various community programs for the last 22 years and in return for Joann's thoughtfulness, the ARC is willing to accept any unwanted skeins of allergenic yarn to assist Joann with future donations. If you are interested in donating any skeins of non-allergenic yarn, please contact the ARC at (906) 632-1808.

## JKL-LSSU Health Day 2015 events

Photos Courtesy John Shibley, Lake Superior State University



**DRESSED FOR HEALTH** – First-graders Sally Kasten (L), Christopher LaLonde, and Gabe Litzner try on the tools of a health professional's trade during a health fair hosted by Lake Superior State University. LSSU nursing baccalaureate (BSN) student Morgan Zeeryp, left, makes adjustments. More than three dozen kids from JKL School were guests of LSSU nursing students and faculty on Feb. 4 for activities that ranged from a teddy bear health clinic to listening for heart and lung sounds in a pediatric mannequin.



**TIPPING THEIR SCALES** – First-graders Charlie Williams (L) and Urijah Pliis enjoy twice the fun from a scale that registers twice the weight as both stand on its platform. Looking on are Valerie Hirsch (L) and Omega Hang, both junior nursing baccalaureate students in professor Patricia Kellan's pediatrics course.



**ONE FOR THE BEARS** – LSSU licensed practical nursing students Samara Porcaro (L) and Keena Swanson teach first-graders from JKL School how to stop the spread of germs to teddy bears during the health fair. Front to back are Addison Roy, Tanner Carey, Jillian McBride, Riley Robinson and Sierra Snider. More than three dozen kids from the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians school were guests of LSSU nursing students and faculty on Feb. 4.



# Anishinaabe Otters swim team having a good season

Dyke Justin, head coach of the Anishinaabe Otters, announced several of the performances of his swimmers competing in the USA Swimming as Northern Michigan Narwhals, which is a team based out of East Jordan.

Andrew Innerebner and his sister, Julie, swam in the Club Wolverine meet, which is generally recognized as the most prestigious club meet of the year. Michael Phelps trained with Club Wolverine for two of his Olympic performances, according to Justin.

Julie Innerebner, in her initial be-on-your-guard freestyle, swam a 1:20 which is good enough to place third in the statewide meet.

Andrew Innerebner continued his dominance in the backstroke and posted a 105.3 for the 100-yard back stroke. That placed him in third as a class B swimmer and placed him third in the state overall. He also swam a benchmark 100-yard freestyle in 57.5 seconds, which was a substantial drop from his previous time, also placing him very high amongst similarly aged competitors at the meet.

The next meet will be the state short course meet sometime in March. In addition to his usual strokes, Andrew will be participating statewide in the 200 yard freestyle, which his best time to date is 2:08. Innerebner expects to be in condition for a sub two-minute swim for the 200.

Julie continues to dominate in the 100 yard IM, which is based primarily upon her strength in the butterfly and freestyle. It is expected that Innerebner will be a state ranked swimmer after she competes in the State course in



**Andrew Innerebner**

March.

Justin also announced that over Jan. 3-4, the Otters had their first swim camp, which was an intensive two day experience for competitive swimmers. Participants attended from Alpena, Gaylord, East Jordan and Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

In all, 17 swimmers participated in a program that evaluated all four swimming strokes along with starts and turns. Interval training was emphasized so the swimmers could measure their endurance and overall condition.

Evaluative coaches included Dyke Justin, Nick Donaldson, Jory Jonas of the Northern Michigan Narwhals and Kelsey Justin.

Each of the swimmers was provided a journal in which the strength and weaknesses of each of the swimmers was noted and a sample interval workout, which provided the swimmers with their default speed.

In addition to swimming, the camp participants were intro-

duced to the sport of underwater hockey, which was extremely popular with the swimmers.

Saturday night was spent on the tubing hill, which is a short distance from the high school pool used as the venue for the camp. Coach Justin thanks Sault area schools for making the pool available.



Over Jan. 3-4, the Otters had their first swim camp, an intensive two day experience for competitive swimmers. Participants attended from Alpena, Gaylord, East Jordan and Sault Ste. Marie Mich. In all, 17 swimmers participated in a program that evaluated all four swimming strokes, along with starts and turns. Interval training was emphasized so that the swimmers could measure their endurance and overall condition.



Swim camp participants spent a fun evening at the local tubing hill.

## Pay on time winners



Pay on Time incentive winners — Congratulations to James and Savannah Causley for winning the fourth quarter Pay on Time incentive. They received a \$150 credit toward their energy bill.

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# Torque Boxing offers something for everyone

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Torque Boxing Club began in 2001 when two friends, Sean Menard and Randy McRorie, decided to join forces and begin coaching young fighters who wanted to box.

“At that time the younger kids couldn’t do the mixed martial arts and we had a lot of young kids who wanted to box,” Head Coach Randy McRorie said. The boxing club is housed at the Malcolm High School gym where they have been for the past five years.

A non-profit, the club charges \$10 a month for membership, which goes to pay their yearly USA Amateur Boxing fees.

Kids have to be 8 or older to compete in the ring, but the club is family oriented and McRorie said anyone is welcome to come for a good workout without feeling like they have to spar. “We have had parents come to watch their kids box and they end up working out with them,” he said.

The club is open Monday and Wednesday nights from 7 to 9 p.m., and averages between 15 to 20 people a night. “The gym is open to anyone, as long as you present yourself in a respectful manner you are welcome to be here,” McRorie said. “You start working out at your own pace and you never have to fight unless you



Left, Joshua James was the 2013 Golden Gloves Western Michigan champion in the novice division and state runner up. Above, Head Coach Randy McRorie times and supervises the fighters and those there for a good workout.

choose to.”

McRorie said he started the club with Menard because his own son wanted to box and he enjoys being active with his children. “I watched boxing when I was young and love the sport and love working with the kids. If I make a difference with the kids, then it’s worth my time,” he said.

McRorie is no stranger to the fight game, having competed in amateur and pro boxing and pro mixed martial arts. He started fighting with the old Sault Amateur Club and put another

five years in with the Houston Boxing Club while living in Texas. He was also on the undercard in fights on Showbox, ESPN and The Contender.

His son, Robert McRorie, is now a grown man and the Native American advisor for Malcolm High School. “I started boxing when I was 9,” he said. “Then I got into the mixed martial arts and my dad decided if I was going to do it he wanted me to do it right. So he got his friend Sean Menard to help train us because he is

trained in hand to hand combat.”

Although he hasn’t competed in about five years, young McRorie said he still enjoys working out with the group.

Over the years they have had some champions come through their club, McRorie said. This year a few of his boxers will be competing in the Michigan State Golden Gloves, where in 2013 he had two boxers place — Josh James was the Western Michigan champion in the novice division and state runner up and Samantha Smith won the girls junior title.

McRorie’s oldest son, Robert was the Golden Gloves Champion in 2006; his daughter Kayla is a two-time winner on the Junior Olympics and the 2008 Michigan State Silver Gloves Champion; and Brendan, who began fighting at the age of eight, was a Junior Olympian Champion at the age of 10. Another fighter, Garrett Mayer, was the 2009 Junior Olympic Champion.

Joshua James said he has been boxing since 2012. “I never thought boxing was something that I would be doing,” he said. “It’s pretty hard; I try to get to the gym almost every day. Boxing is more intimidating than what you see on TV — when you get close to the ring your heart starts pumping and you feel the adrenaline rushing — kind of like a big roller coaster ride. Then when the bell rings you just snap right into it. Don’t be afraid to give it a shot,” he said. “It’s a good way to build character.”

If you would like to work out twice a week with the boxing club, or get involved with competing, drop in Monday or Wednesday night from 7-9 p.m. at Malcolm High School in the Sault. Park in the back parking lot and enter on the east side of the building. Or call Coach Randy McRorie at (906) 322-3578.



Photo by Brenda Austin

Kewadin Casinos donated \$15,000 to the I-500 Snowmobile Race this year. Above, a happy I-500 Chairman Ric Federeau stops to hold up his donation check, posing with Kewadin Casino staffers. Known as the granddaddy of snowmobile endurance racing, the I-500 is the world’s longest, fastest oval race event. It has been held in Sault Ste. Marie since 1969.

## Big John’s fight show coming to Sault Kewadin Casino on Feb. 21

John Yeubanks and Robin Cook bring the latest installment of Big John’s MMA to the Dream Makers Theater at Sault Kewadin Casino on Saturday, Feb. 21.

The fight card features some of Michigan’s best cage fighters and rising talent from all over the U.S. and Canada. Facing off in the main event will be Mitch Fryia from Ontario against Cody Camp from Owosso, Mich. The card will also feature Big John’s first ever professional women’s MMA contest matching up 2012’s Knockout of the Year Winner Kaline Medeiros out of Fall River, Mass.,

against Xtreme Coutures Chelsea Bailey of Las Vegas, who will be accompanied to the ring and cornered by UFC star’s Miesha Tate and Bryan Caraway.

These fights and many more will happen in what Yeubanks promises to be “the biggest mixed martial arts event to ever hit northern Michigan.”

Tickets can be purchased at [tickets.kewadin.com](http://tickets.kewadin.com) or by calling 1-800 KEWADIN. For more information, visit Big John’s MMA Fan Page on Facebook or visit Kewadin Casinos website at [www.kewadin.com](http://www.kewadin.com).



Photo courtesy of Tammy Graham

**PEEWEE DIVISION CHAMPIONS** — The Soo Lakers Peewee AA team became champs of the Nickel City Rocks tournament in Sudbury, Ont., Jan. 23-25, defeating the Nickel City Miners, Sudbury Redmen and the Nickel City North Stars en route to the title. The Lakers defeated the North Stars 6-3 in the championship game. Pictured, back row, left to right, assistant coach Gordie Corbiere (Sault Tribe member), Kristofer Kritselis, Michael Nevaue (Batchewana First Nation), Bazzil Moran (Sault Tribe), Austin Pifer (Sault Tribe), Dalton Graham (Sault Tribe) and head coach Adam Raffaele. Middle row, left to right, Lauryn Wood, Keldon Casey, kasen Reffruschinni (Sault Tribe) and Alec Armstrong. Kneeling, left to right, Kensey Micolo, Jack Swan (Sault Tribe), Beau Neveau (Batchewana), Kallen Micolo, Noah McKechnie (Sault Tribe), Logan Raffaele, Jason McCormick (Batchewana) and Trevor Renard.

JERAH FRESQUE - PAT KELLY - ZACK BISAILLON  
 KAYLA MCRORIE - KENNY DALE - BRANDON NELSON  
 DANIEL BOUCHARD - DAVID FIRLOTTE

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# Walking On . . .

LEE H. KERRIDGE

Lee H. Kerridge, 80, a longtime Garnet area resident, died on Jan. 17, 2015, at Helen Newberry Joy Hospital with his family by his side.

Born in Levering on Nov. 12, 1934, Lee was a son of the late Alfred and Frances M. (nee Hatfield) Kerridge.

He was employed and retired from the Mackinac County Road Commission and then became a logger in 1957. Lee was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Newberry Masonic Lodge, and his passion was moose hunting in Canada. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping and being outdoors and telling moose hunting stories.

He was first married to the former Shirley Peters in 1952 and she preceded him in death in 1998. Also preceding Lee in death, besides his parents, are a son, Karl; two infant brothers; and his daughter, Debbie Carlson.

Surviving are his wife, Lenora (Cates; Vowell) of Garnet; three sons and daughters-in-law, Donald, Larry (Barbara) and Steve (Deborah) all of Garnet; three daughters and sons-in-law, Sue (Mike) Crittenden of Alpena, Jo Ann Kerridge and Cindy (Larry) Niskala of Garnet; sisters, Lillian Hoerz of Manistique and Gay Mattson of Germfask; step-daughters Denise Vowell of Alexandria, Va., Dari Lynn Vowell of Phoenix, Ariz.; step-sons, Dennis (Joanne) Vowell of Rexton, Darrell Vowell of Garnet and Dane (Lisa) Vowell of Flint; niece, Mickie Darnell, and nephew, Harvey Peters who were raised by Lee and Shirley; son-in-law, Bill Carlson of Manistique; 30 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; many nieces, nephews and friends.

According to his wishes, cremation services took place. The family gathered at the Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry on Jan. 23, where a Masonic service was observed, and also gathered at St. Stephens Catholic Church in Naubinway, where a memorial service took place on Jan. 24 with Fr. Frank Ricca officiating. Interment will take place at Maplewood Cemetery in Rexton at a later date.

Condolence may be left at

## Tribe thanked for help with family elder

To the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians: My husband, Raymond, was a member of this Sault Tribe.

You have blessed and helped us so much with the many doctors, appointments and medications through the years and we want you to know how very much we appreciate all the tribe has done for him.

Thank you for the times you were able to send him to other hospitals including Mayo. And for all the medications you were able to provide him in his health

www.beaulieufuneralhome.com.  
BERNICE RULEAU

Bernice (nee Wabontatoque) Michaels Ruleau, 84, of Tucson, Ariz., passed away peacefully on Dec. 30, 2014.

She was born Jan. 16, 1930, in Nahma, Mich., to Augustave and Rose (nee Moses) Michaels. Bernice was united in marriage to George Ruleau of Manistique, Mich., in 1958. Their union lasted more than 56 years together.

When Bernice was a young girl, her family moved to Manistique, Mich., where she resided until her marriage to George and they made their home in Manitowoc, Wisc.

Bernice was a Sault Tribe elder. She had many stories that her mother and aunts shared with her.

Bernice and George traveled to Tucson, Ariz., in the winters where they eventually made their home upon retirement. They would travel back to Michigan several times in the summer to visit family and friends.

Bernice worked on her rock garden outside their residence. She loved traveling, rock hunting in the mountains of Arizona, beading, crocheting, walking, bike riding, chatting with friends, having rummage sales, keeping her house in order and polka dancing with her husband.

Bernice is survived by her husband George, Tucson, Ariz.; a daughter, Geri Claremore of Oklahoma; a sister, Ruth (James deceased) Ward of Two Rivers, Wis.; nephews, Albert Hamiel and Merence (Michelle) Michaels, of Manistique, Mich., and Robert (Tonya) Munroe of Rock, Mich.; nieces Charlene Hamiel DeRousha of Green Bay, Wis., Kristine Hamiel of Manistique, Rose Michaels of Port Murray, N.J., and Ruth (John) Arndt of Rock, Mich. Her parents, brother Merence Michaels, sister Diane Hamiel, and numerous aunts and uncles preceded her in death.

Angel Valley Funeral Home and Old Pueblo Crematory, Tucson, Ariz., helped the family. Bernice's remains were cremated and a small intimate service will follow in Michigan for the family.

**Obituaries of Sault Tribe members and their families are published free of charge. Photos are welcome. Email to jdburton@saulttribe.net or mail to Win Awenen Nisitotung, 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.**

care through the years. For the Christmas card gifts that used to be sent and the elders' checks that have helped so much. You provide so much to help your elders and I want you to know we are thankful.

Though my husband, Raymond J. Derusha, passed away on Dec. 28, 2014, his family wants to extend our gracious thank you from the bottom of our hearts to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

— **Family of Raymond Derusha**



# Couple celebrates 65 years

Who would have thought that a tire change could last so long?

A little more than 65 years ago, Martha (nee Maxa) Maddix was visiting relatives in St. Ignace. When the car she was driving experienced a flat tire, Jim Maddix (a Sault Tribe member) was there to do the repair. Well, Martha must have enjoyed Jim's technique, because on Dec. 3, they will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary.

The couple has shared many varied experiences.

Jim enlisted in the Navy and served on several ships in Annapolis, Md., and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Upon his discharge from the Navy, Jim and Martha settled in Mason, Mich. He worked many jobs, including as an Ingham County deputy sheriff. He was a Boy Scout leader, spearheading two trips to Philmont Scout Camp in New Mexico and watching a dozen of his scouts reach the rank of eagle, including his three sons. Jim also taught at Lansing Community College for many years.

Eventually he got a job at the Michigan State Department of Licensing and Regulation and Bureau of the Lottery, from which he retired. Jim has been active in retirement, working at the Gaylord Planning Commission. He has also been an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

Martha became a licensed practical nurse, retiring after 25 years from Sparrow Hospital in Lansing.

## Announcing Beard-Jacob engagement

Mr. Daniel Beard of Cheboygan, Mich. and Mrs. Corrina Huffman (Edgar Huffman) of South Boston, Va., Sault Tribe member, announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Marie Beard, to Jason Michael Jacob, son of Robert and Mary Jacob of Southgate, Mich.

Melissa, a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from Wayne State University, with an Master of Arts in film and studies, is finishing a doctorate in cultural studies at George Mason University while working as an intercultural specialist for Native American and indigenous students at Ohio State University.

Jason is a graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in management from the Eli Broad College of Business and works as an accountant at Edwards Companies.

The couple currently resides in Columbus, Ohio, and has a July 18, 2015, wedding planned at the Little Stone Church on Mackinac Island, Mich.

The bride is the granddaughter of the late Phyllis (nee Cassibo) Schmidt, a past elder with the Sault Tribe.

**From "Graymont," Page 1** loss of the land will negatively impact their members' court-affirmed right to enjoy the land. It's equally concerned that a precedent would be set where those who have enough money and can influence elected officials to go along can purchase vast tracts of state land to further their personal interests.

Graymont, headquartered in British Columbia, Canada, is



Jim and Martha Maddix

Jim and Martha moved to Gaylord in 1986 and have lived there since.

Martha is a member of the Daughters of Isabella, and Jim and Martha attend St. Mary Cathedral regularly. Jim is proud of his American Indian heritage; you can hear him reciting the

Indian prayer on Saturday mornings on the radio.

Jim and Martha have four children, Jim, Chris, Dave and Becky; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

All this came from a simple tire change, imagine if Jim had fixed the brakes as well.



Melissa Beard and Jason Jacob

North America's second-largest supplier of lime and lime-based products. The Sault tribe said it remains unclear how many jobs the mining company will generate if its plans are approved, and that Graymont doesn't have any concrete plans for either the underground mine or the open quarry.

"It is hard to imagine how Director Creagh can be convinced to give away so much public land when so much remains unknown,"

Payment said. "The rights of Michigan citizens who use and enjoy this large area shouldn't be traded for vague promises of economic prosperity."

He urged those against the mine proposal to send statements of opposition to email DNR-GraymontProposalComments@michigan.gov, or mail them to Kerry Wieber, 8717 N. Roscommon Road, Roscommon, MI 48653.



# PROUDLY REPRESENTING YOU AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS



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

**Ahneen, Boozo, Negee:**

I am pleased to report that I was once again asked to testify in the U.S. Senate on Indian Country priorities. My testimony appears to the right.

Below are two **Call to Action** items I am asking you to please assist us in advocating for our Tribe. One issue deals with draft federal legislation to circumvent the right of Michigan citizens who spoke loudly last fall via referendum to halt the wanton and unjustified killing of Gray Wolves in Michigan. The other deals with a huge opportunity with full and mandatory funding for IHS Contract Support Costs.

**SUPPORT MANDATORY IHS CSC FUNDING**

Recently, President Obama took a historic leap in recognizing and honoring the trust responsibility to American Indian tribes pursuant to treaties and the U.S. Constitution. The President took action no previous President has by proposing to move a portion of federal funding for tribes from “discretionary” to “mandatory/ non-discretionary”. If passed, this would mean that the devastating impacts of sequestration in recent years would no longer affect Contract Support Cost (CSC) which is a fee on top of federal funds for the administration of Indian IHS and BIA funding.

A year ago, I was appointed by the National IHS Director to serve on the IHS-CSC Work-group just over a year ago to identify solutions to the back log of IHS Claims and to make the payment of CSC amounts routine and predictable. In 2014, my ad-

ministration successfully negotiated a settlement of past CSC claims and recovered \$1.3 million! This helped balance our 2014 budget. Stabilizing CSC funds will ensure continuity of essential programs and services.

The President’s recommendation comes as the IHS-CSC Workgroup wraps up our yearlong charge - serving in an advisory capacity to the Interim IHS Director. We worked through all of the technical aspects of this complex issue and to develop a spreadsheet CSC calculator to demonstrate the predictability of the model, show accountability, and build confidence in the use of federal funds. I am humbled to have played a role in facilitating effective communications between tribal representatives and our federal partners. It was an historical feat for which our ancestors would be proud.

On the national scale, the President’s proposal for IHS alone would make CSC funding reoccurring and mandatory at \$800 million in the first year, \$900 million in year two and \$1 billion annually in year three! Our portion of this is over \$600,000. This move would also make CSC “X-Year” or “Zero Year” funded meaning it is not subject to recessionary efforts if the amount is not used in a single fiscal cycle.

The work left to do is to urge Congress to uphold their Constitutional and trust responsibility in honoring the treaties by permanently enacting this legislation to make CSC funds mandatory. I have pledged to use my role as a CSC Workgroup Member, VP the Mid West Alliance of Sovereign Tribes and the National Congress of American Indians (Midwest Region) to complete this final task. We need your help, to ensure Congress supports the President's proposal. We recently did a statewide mailing. If you have not yet done so, or did not receive a letter, we need you to send a letter to your Member of Congress. Contact information follows.

**IHS-CSC Workgroup: Far Left, Cathy Abramson ~ then NIHB Chair,; Front Row Center ~ IHS Interim Director Dr. Yvette Robideaux; Back Row to the Right of center, Chairperson Aaron Payment, IHS-CSC Workgroup Member.**



**SENATE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF NCAI**  
By Aaron A. Payment, MPA

Good Afternoon Chairman Barrasso, Vice-Chair Tester and Members of the Committee. My name is Aaron Payment, Chair of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa. Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of NCAI on tribal priorities for this Congress. I am pleased to be here for your first hearing as Chairman, Senator Barrasso and I thank the new and returning Committee members for your service. NCAI is committed to continuing its strong relationship with this Committee so that we can partner to improve the lives of Native people throughout Indian Country.

This partnership was evident last week when Chairman Barrasso delivered the Congressional response to NCAI’s State of Indian Nation’s address. This is a relationship that is built on trust. The trust responsibility has developed over hundreds of years through the Constitution, numerous treaties, and federal laws. President Cladoosby reminds us that the trust relationship is one that we have inherited. Tribal leaders are elected to uphold this trust relationship, and as Senators, it is one that you agree to uphold when you take the oath of office. Thank you for your partnership and commitment here.

**Tribal Homelands**

In exchange for ceding millions of acres of our homelands, tribes reserved the right to continued self-government, and to exist as distinct people on our own lands. That is why the first priority we must request today is legislation to protect our homelands ~ lands that are necessary for economic development, cultural protection, natural resource management, housing, education, and tribal infrastructure. Since 2009, this Committee has held numerous hearings and favorably passed legislation in each of the past three Congresses which affirms the original intent of the Indian Reorganization Act and would allow the Secretary of the Interior to take lands into trust for all tribes. We ask this Committee to take swift action to introduce and PASS *Carciere* fix legislation. In modernizing the trust relationship, we must first have certainty over our lands.

**Trust Modernization**

Indian land and natural resources are a primary source of economic activity for tribal communities, but the federal trust resource management system is antiquated, inefficient, and contributes to a lack of investment in many reservation economies. NCAI points to two pieces of legislation that would immediately spur economic development and trust reform.

The first is Senate bill 209, a bill to amend the **Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005**, introduced by the Bi-Partisan team of Senators Barrasso and Tester. This bill will streamline Secretarial approval of energy development transactions on Indian lands and give tribes more autonomy over developing our own energy resources. NCAI looks forward to working with the Committee to pass this legislation.

Another trust effort that NCAI supports is legislation that Senator Crapo introduced last session to establish a demonstration project allowing comprehensive land use planning and allocation of trust funding in accordance with tribal priorities. NCAI supports introduction of this legislation in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress and recommends removing barriers in the appraisal, probate, land consolidation, and leasing processes.

It is imperative that Congress work with NCAI, tribal organizations, and tribal leaders to modernize the trust system into a process that recognizes that we are in the best position to make innovative and long lasting decisions for our communities.

**Tribal Infrastructure**

Thank you Chairman Barrasso for making infrastructure issues a priority. In order to attract economic development, teachers, law enforcement personnel, and capital investments to our tribal lands, we must meet our basic infrastructure needs. The current transportation authorization, MAP-21 (which contains tribal programs for construction and maintenance of highways, roads, bridges, and transit) is set to expire in May. With an annual budget of \$450 million, the construction and maintenance needs of tribes continue to fall behind and create unsafe conditions for all citizens who use our roads.

In addition the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act expired in September of 2013. This bill is an excellent example of how tribes are exercising our right of self-determination to design and implement our own housing programs. Our housing needs of Indian Country are great. Reauthorization of NA-HSDA is critical to continue to meet the housing needs of our members. We also ask that this Committee hold hearings and introduce legislation to address the infrastructure needs of tribes in the areas of irrigation, housing, transportation, and broadband.

**Conclusion:**

My friends here will speak to issues of healthcare and education. I call your attention to additional areas in our written testimony, including: juvenile justice, tribal taxation, public safety, veterans’ issues and more. I ask that our written testimony entitled: **“Promoting Self-Determination: Modernizing the Trust Relationship”** be entered into the record for today’s hearing.

Funding decisions made by Congress are an explicit expression of the trust relationship between our governments. I respectfully request that the members of this Committee, 8 of whom are also on the appropriations committee... please use your voices to uphold this trust relationship. Your leadership will make a difference for our future generations.

*Chi McGwitch, Negee, on Behalf of NCAI, my Tribe and American Indians Across this Great Land!*

**OPPOSE GRAY WOLF LEGISLATION**

The Gray Wolf was recently put back on the endangered species list by court order. As a Tribe, we have consistently objected to recreational hunting of wolves and have been highly critical of both the rationale and the implementation of the 2013 Michigan wolf hunting season. Congressman Dan Benishek supports a bill that would lift existing federal protections for the Gray Wolf under the Endangered Species Act, effectively permitting Michigan and other nearby states to again allow wolf hunting. Recreational hunting as a means to reduce wolf abundance is both ineffective and unnecessary, based on the most recent and credible scientific information. The Gray

**“In my estimation, this new wolf hunt legislation is an entirely political issue and not one of citizen safety or even based on any acceptable science!”**

*~ Chairperson Aaron A. Payment*

Wolf is an extremely important cultural species to our Anishinaabeg people.

We have witnessed the near extinction of wolves from the 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory and only recently, its slow recovery thanks to the protections of the Endangered Species Act. The most effective course of action is to down-list wolves to “threatened” status in Michigan with rules so the US Fish and Wildlife Service may use lethal control in certain situations. This can be done in the manner provided by the Endangered Species Act.

Please contact your Congressional Representa-

tives and tell them to reject this bill. To down load a sample letter for these issues, or find how to contact your Member of Congress, please go to: our web page at:

**www.saulttribe.com**

Or, if you would like assistance, call our toll free number at:

**1 (800) 793-0660**

...and ask for Mike McCoy or Jennifer Dale-Burton.

Please help us help our Tribe by writing to your representatives on these important matters. Our future generations depend on our actions today!

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

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

*Chi-McGwitch, Negee!*



# Action urged against Graymont land proposal



**RITA GLYPTIS**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Congratulations to two of our Unit V Elders Sub-Committee members. Tom Derwin of Munising has been re-appointed to the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) for a two-year period as a delegate representing the elders of the Sault Tribe. The MIEA was established

to aid and assist in the improvement of the economic, social, healthful and spiritual well-being of tribal elders. They provide a forum in which elders may speak, learn, grow and exercise control over their environment. Tom was appointed in 2012 and has done a great job. Joe Gray of Marquette has been appointed to the Elder Advisory Committee for a four-year term. He is also the chairman of the Marquette Elders Sub-Committee.

We need your prayers, help and support. Tribal member Gabby Ziems, aged 13, an eighth grade honor roll student at Superior Central School in Eben, Mich., needs our help. Recently she was flown to Mott's Children's Hospital in An Arbor and diagnosed with Leukemia. She has been given a positive prognosis and an aggressive treatment plan has begun. Gabby and mother, Merry Gibbons, will be remaining in Ann Arbor for her treatment. There will be travel

expenses as treatment continues, non-covered medical expenses and the loss of Merry's family income. Fundraisers planned locally include selling Team Gabby T-shirts. Please consider donating anything you can to help and include her in your prayers. Contact Sandra Gibbons at (906) 202-1339, 607 Stueben St. Manistique, MI 49854.

The Tribal Transportation Program has been approved by the board of directors to apply for Tribal Transit Program Funds. This grant will provide funding to administer the Tribal Transit Project. This funding can provide the opportunity to implement mobility/transportation coordination and/or implementation of tribal transit throughout our seven-county service area. Thanks to Wendy Hoffman and staff for making this service a possibility.

Many of you have been hearing about the Graymont mining proposal that asked the DNR to transfer ownership and control

of nearly 10,400 acres of state owned public land near Rexton, Mich., to Graymont, a Canadian limestone mining company. In December of 2013, the Sault Tribe passed a resolution opposing the proposal and expressed this at a meeting with the state in February of 2014. The Sault Tribe opposes any proposal that would sell or surrender control of large tracts of public land. The lost use and enjoyment of the land for cultural activities and for the exercise of their federally protected treaty rights including hunting, fishing and gathering has a severe effect on our tribal members. Please make your voices heard! Letters to be sent to the DNR at DNR-GraymontProposalComments@michigan.gov or at Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Executive Division P.O. Box 30028 Lansing, MI 48909.

The Ad Hoc Health Advisory Group continues to meet month-

ly to find ways and means to improve health care services to our members. Some of the current issues being discussed include provider recruitment and retention, after hours clinic services, prescription services, VA representation and transportation.

At a special meeting on Jan. 13, the proposed fishing access site at Grand Marais was approved by the board. After a power point presentation and additional information given by the Conservation Committee the board of directors authorized the expenditure from the Fisherman's Fund for the final design and construction of a fishing harbor at the tribe's Grand Marais property.

I was elected by the members in Unit V to do a job. That job is to represent all tribal members equally, fairly and respectfully. I will continue to do that every day.

Rita Glyptis  
Unit V Director  
(906) 202-3224  
rglyptis@saulttribe.net

# DNR urged to get facts on Graymont proposal



**CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Since first learning in 2011 that Graymont Corporation was interested in a large land acquisition in the eastern Upper Peninsula, the tribe was keenly interested in this land proposal between the State of Michigan and the Graymont Company. My last report that addressed Graymont was this time last year. I will do my best to update again.

I am aware that many folks are supportive of the Graymont sale, particularly in the immediate Rexton area, because it will enhance tax revenue for local government, promises jobs and the mining operation will not hurt

our water sheds or air quality (according to Graymont). I certainly understand that. Probably more than anyone, Lana and I see up close and personal just how depressed the economy is in our region. We see the poverty, the lack of good jobs and the lack of opportunity. We see the lack of access to skilled industrial training for students and young adults and it breaks everyone's heart to see the migration of our young folks to more economically prosperous areas.

Setting aside the science, economic and regulatory arguments for a moment, I humbly and respectfully ask you to look at this issue as a citizen of our tribal nation. The precedent-setting size of this land deal and what that means for federal treaty protected rights in the ceded territory does not bode well for future treaty protections and cannot be ignored. We have a coming Great Lakes Consent Decree negotiation in 2020. I would hope those who rely on treaty-protected rights for their livelihood would be the first to understand and support the position of the tribe.

This time last year, Graymont made its first presentation to Sault Tribe. Their stated plan at that

time was to commence the open pit mining right away. The underground mine would be many years — possibly decades to 75 years — into the future. And they specifically said they had no immediate plans for any sort of processing plant — though they did say a processing plant was possible someday down the road after the strip mine was exhausted and if the business grew to the point where a local plant was necessary and viable.

At this meeting they downplayed the number of jobs the project would create. That seemed very unusual to us because, typically, almost every business that wants to expand will talk constantly about the enormous number of jobs they will bring to an area and we were surprised they weren't playing that card.

Since this presentation to the tribe by Graymont and subsequent 'government-to-government' consultation with the state of Michigan over this proposal, it has been amended at least four times with the most recent amendment change submitted AFTER the recent DNR Commission hearing in Newberry. It certainly makes it difficult to stay abreast and

evaluate the terms. And it feels a little like that game of "Wack-A-Mole."

I was recently in the Rexton area and was surprised when residents showed me flyers and handouts featuring plans and drawings for a multi-million dollar kiln to be constructed and operated in the Rexton area. That certainly is a game changer. Mining and transporting limestone is one thing when you are talking about job creation. Constructing and operating a processing plant is quite another. Why were these plans not addressed by the DNR or Graymont in the most recent government-to-government consultations? Last we heard it was "decades to 75 years." The folks we talked to seemed to feel shovels would be in the ground quite soon.

A limekiln burns coal to drive off the carbonate molecule from limestone to make "lime," which is calcium oxide. Calcium oxide is more useful industrially than calcium carbonate, which is limestone. It is similar to coke ovens where they heat up crushed coal to drive off all sorts of stuff and end up with "coke," which is just about pure carbon and much more useful in steel making. It's

about as polluting as a coal fired power plant — nasty air, acid rain, asthma, mercury in fish and meat animals.

I want to conclude by stressing that I understand how important jobs are to the area. It's easy to be anti-Graymont when you live elsewhere and where employment opportunities are more plentiful. And, I will be the first to say that the tribe needs to do more in the way of economic development. We are the largest employer in the Upper Peninsula and have a payroll of almost \$53 million annually. We, too, care about jobs and job creation in the Upper Peninsula.

The tribal recommendation to DNR Director Creagh at last week's consultation was to NOT make a decision at next week's DNR meeting in Lansing. Hopefully, this will give some time to get this straightened out, whether a processing plant is decades away — as explained to the tribe, or just around the corner — as explained to locals of the community.

Miigwech for listening.  
Catherine Hollowell, Unit II  
chollowell@saulttribe.net  
(906) 484-6821

# It's time to change some of how we do things



**JENNIFER MCLEOD,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, Anishnaabek, I came across a fascinating quote recently, and it caused me to stop, think and wonder if within it lies the solution to many of the problems

I hear about on a daily basis: "Where there is no vision, the people perish," Proverbs 29:18. A simple eight words.

As Anishnaabe people, we are taught that each of us comes into this world with a purpose and the essence of our existence lies in the fulfillment of that purpose. And, the key to fulfillment rests in the vision we have for our life. As children, our visioning may start with, "when I grow up, I want to be . . ." Then, through life's experiences and focused reflection, we can find that vision, learn our purpose and live a fulfilled life. I believe the lack or loss of vision, is the source of many problems we face, not just as individuals but as a people, as a tribe.

These past few months have

seen much trouble in our communities. Life changing experiences, such as losses of homes, jobs and loved ones have some of our people crying out in anger and pain for change! As a tribal government, we have programs in place and hard-working people doing their best to help, but still the battles rage on.

Outside of our communities, some of our people suffer the same life changing experiences (losses of homes, jobs, loved ones), but because of funding limitations, they cannot receive the same help. Some have expressed the additional challenges of feeling separated from the tribe and wanting so much to feel a "belonging."

And then, there are the "politics." I refuse to point fingers

at individuals, but the political arena (which consists of politicians AND tribal citizens) can be such a generator of negativity, mistruths and drama, that it creates a whirlwind of activity that only serves itself and prevents people from doing the things that really matter, like serving our people (note: I am NOT accusing ANYONE of not serving the people! I am just making a point that there would be more TIME to do so without the politics!)

American Indian Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills said, "You have to look deeper, way below the anger, the hurt, the hate, the jealousy, the self-pity, way down deeper where the dreams lie, son. Find your dream. It's the pursuit of the dream that heals you." I believe that Billy is right. I

believe our tribe, our people, need to look deep, below the anger, hurt and jealousy, and find that dream again. OUR dream.

Perhaps it is the teacher in me that causes me to make time for reflection and introspection in order to find a better solution for growth. Perhaps it is because I am eagle clan that I want to look ahead and find a better way. Then again, it could just be that I am an Anishnaabe woman and have the strong belief that the Creator of us all has a better way — if we would just open our eyes, ears and hearts to the shared vision given to us all.

I spend many hours in meetings, doing what many boards before me have done. I think it's time to change some of that. It is

See "McLeod," page 23



# Tribe's most compelling question: When is enough — enough?



**LANA CAUSLEY,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

I'm writing this unit report in the last week of January. Many reports have been framed to protect and insulate the membership from nonsense and daily politics we are imbedded in at the board level. This report will not be the same. As I write today, I am compelled to ask members when enough is enough. After reading many threatening emails from leadership, I have to express my frustration as an official about the road we once again are on. It's like turning the clock back.

As I have stated many times, leadership is going to lead in a way that they see fit. It's up to each individual to make that choice. My choice has been to live and let live, fight my chosen battles and attempt to keep the membership clear of this part of my job. I hear from so many members about the constant negative words that are stated about our tribe and the constant conspiracy theories, innuendos and flat out lies. While we are slowly turning the clocks back in this leadership — bullying, personal hatefulness and plain out threatening is becoming the norm again. All the while we have so many real true priorities and problems that we must face. We watch our people lose homes, our people battle drugs and alcohol, our people frustrated over getting jobs and keeping them, our people's health care needs not being met and our casinos infrastructure crumbling around us all due to inability to lead and have any vision for the future. I see it as a weakness that says, "If you cannot lead some, choose to constantly cause distrust and conflict."

I've been part of this for many years. I have worked side by side with many people I worked with whom I have debated and from whom I've learned. It's been a constant struggle to balance what to battle and let go of and what will not matter tomorrow. I've advised, spoken out and begged for the past to be laid to rest, for the attacks to stop and the political games to end. I've spoken and heard from many members of our tribe who want to see TRUE changes with leadership and a tribe that they can be proud of. That's why I'm framing this report in this way; I want you to know I identify with all about this. I'm not saying I'm not at fault with decisions I've made because I have made bad choices, my path has been misguided at times and assure you it didn't pass without hard lessons. In the last two weeks I've spent at our headquarters in the Sault, the many issues and examples of

"what is going on" is staggering. We are failing to prioritize our members' needs and failing to set a direction for the tribe. This is not staffs' problem — they do what they are told and it's usually reactive with no real plan by administration. In this report, I will be giving examples because I have no other alternative at this point. I do have vision about our future, sometimes the inability from some on the board who lack the mere thought of discussing a concern, idea or issue just because someone else "brought it up" its really quite sickening. All you have to do is simply watch the board meetings or read words that leadership post on social media to get a picture of who wants to move forward and who can't or won't. I've had enough of this mentality and enough is enough.

In attempting to move forward in a new direction we hired an executive casino director. I've supported a new direction for our casino operation, this alone came with sleepless nights and hesitation and questioning on the changes that are coming and all the remodeling that needs to be completed. We have been told that our casinos CANNOT and WILL not sustain without upgrade to infrastructure, management training, policy rewrites, identified costs savings and our employees being recognized and rewarded for their front line work and dedication. I've known all this (see my past reports) because I have a connection with many casino employees, customers and managers who are a part of this business. It's not hard to identify the areas we lack and the morale that has been struggling.

At the end of the day, our board had to make a decision for our casinos, leave things just as they are or identify and make a plan to move forward. This will come with changes and true separation of those who want to stay stagnant and those who want things better for our business. I'm not saying we won't have hiccups, but in the end, professional advice is simply what is needed. I spoke directly to every manager on this subject and all agree they are up for the challenge and want better than we have now. I also want to state that I do not hold 100 percent trust to anyone who advises us but experience and expertise is the key component to running a successful business and the board simply does not have the role to manage day to day and that would be a catastrophe, anyway.

Make no mistake, though, I question, discuss and educate myself on what is needed to protect us. I've been through the "saving graces" for our tribe and really have learned a thing or two. At this point, I have full confidence in the abilities demonstrated through presentations and managers' input. We have all asked for this. Keep in mind that this will be a long road and changes and decisions will be ongoing and I support movement. We, as the board, have scheduled weekly meetings with the casino executive to monitor benchmarks and outcomes per his recommendations. This is the separation from the old way into a new way. I will make monthly reports on

our status for better businesses standards and operations.

Among my most important priorities are the problems we have with access to resources for our members in the outlying areas as well as headquarter areas. The greatest concern (demonstrated through many conversations with members) is the problem of drug abuse and suicide in our communities. I had requested, more than once, initiated and then insisted on holding a full department meeting with the board and department heads to discuss and educate ourselves on the services we have to offer for the immense problem and gaps in services for our members to get the resources needed in a crisis situation and ongoing assistance through the process. We met and were presented the services we have. Many times the word "lacking" was brought up. That frustrated me, and I spoke about it. I offered input and asked that we take a look at those areas to improve and prioritize those lacking areas for needed results (I will request a follow-up meeting again in the coming months to see where we are at). Also, recently, by my request as well as other board members, we held a much needed Tribal Action Plan (TAP) meeting to get the status and update on our progress with this much needed plan. We have been working on this for over two years with very little movement that the members can benefit from. The truth is, we went from about 30 identified individuals in the tribe's leadership and staff participating to around eight to 10. Again, I requested the meeting and had many questions to ask for this report. One of the main questions was, "where are all the surveys and hard data from membership on the census survey, community forums, elders' input and video/audio interviews that we collected to create a plan with members input?" This was a concern as where is our chain of custody of data? The answer was, most material and data was given to an outside contracted individual to process and analyze. The project coordinator did not know when it was expected back, didn't know exactly what was given and was not really given direction on what to expect (Not his fault, he is attempting to get direction and I recognize the problems he is having). In the meantime, we made magnets with MOST telephone numbers listed of our tribal centers. We are way beyond magnets at this point.

Yep, I'm frustrated. As I talk with families and literally have sat at kitchen tables watching loved ones cry about their own and their community with the problems we are facing with drug abuse, we await information collected with no real plan, at least no real plan identified to me! I'm sure I will get something after this report, though. It's going to take this kind of calling out to get any results; it will also come with attacks and bullying as well. So, please bear with me and please don't believe everything you read on social media (humor intended). That's the problem I spoke about in the beginning of this report. I'm not a successful leader if vision is not agreed to and worked toward with help.

I've given my full support to the chairperson of our tribe to have all authority he needs to direct day-to-day governmental programs, but attention needs to be priority to our needs here at home. I'm supportive of all the Washington trips to testify on behalf of all tribes in the nation but make some serious attempts to assist us here where we are failing our members. We have some serious issues that need attention, direction and vision. Please don't get me wrong, before anyone states I want to strip the chair of authority. I absolutely will not do that. The chair asked for the authority and I will not take that away, he wants it, he's got it, he has a responsibility in the highest seat in our tribe. I'm expecting results there. This is all stated to solidify my attempt to lead, help me out, work with me. Set some direction and vision for us to follow!

This report is pretty critical and I want to assure all that we have dedicated, smart, hard-working staff but they NEED direction, too, and it's not forthcoming here at home. We are in a reaction mode and off the cuff kind of legislation. The staff do what they are told and make no mistake, the board does not direct the day-to-day activity or direction; we have granted that to the chair of this tribe. Again, the Washington trips are very important and I will state I appreciate all the testimony and activity at the federal level. I've demonstrated that by my support of travel funds and words of kudos in his efforts and support his endeavors. Every single board member has recognized his leadership at the federal level in his speaking abilities, we are grateful for that but, again, we need some real direction set here at home.

Here is another example of some serious issues we have with communication: I need to remind members about the recommended plan and reduction presented to the board from our Communications Department. We were presented a plan to reduce costs by asking members to complete a sign up-sheet to receive hard copies of the paper as we had hundreds of bad addresses (We have had this problem for a very long time). I am starting to get many calls that people are NOT receiving the paper; we didn't communicate this sufficiently enough and I have reported this to administration through an email as to the concern by members. It was reported we only have 500 or so members who have signed up for the tribal paper (elders will automatically receive the paper), it seems it was not communicated for a significant amount of time and we are at about a 75 percent reduction on papers getting into tribal homes (that's a 75 percent reduction in cost, I would like to see that used to have a solution for bad addresses but not just settle for members not having a paper mailed). This is truly the only avenue some have for communication from your reps and our tribe. I've requested that we send out a pre-paid post card to remind people to sign up. We have a true savings with mailings with the reduction in mailed papers so there is money

available for this. Elders and members, please remind your family members that they have to call and sign up with a correct address to send a paper out again. If you would like to get a hard copy of the paper, please call (906) 635-6050 and ask for the Communications Department. A step backwards in communication to our people is not the outcome I expected and we have to fix that, I'm confident that if our Communication staff has direction to fix it, they will.

One last issue that is very concerning to me is our Lansing Project Committee (I was not selected to be part of that committee). Recently, we had an update with very little change on our status but many questions about the commitment from our investors by board members. I'm not sure what should be said on this, but I will say that our chair resigned from the Lansing Project Committee. I'm not sure what this means or who will head this, but the discussion is on my board concerns for the very next meeting. I am concerned either way as who has authority to take lead for our project. This is a real concern no matter what position you hold with the project. In a means to identify and come up with a solution on huge concerns such as this, I have an item on the agenda for our next meeting.

In "board concerns" in the past, we have always had a section of meeting where we could bring those forward in a public session. Recently, it has changed to a discussion for the next morning. I have a real problem with this as there is no record or process for follow up to even be done. I was even demanded an answer as to "what I was up to" when I requested the item be added, even though I followed all rules. With the five-day notification to have an item added that is a concern in itself, but I won't go there in this report. This paralyzes me as a leader as I can request or ask with no real documentation of concerns. So, in the attempt to document and track priority issues or requests, I will ask the board to make this a permanent part of the business agenda so we can assure follow up and have transparency. I will say staff attempts to follow up, but if it's not a direction of some sort, their hands are simply tied. I don't have the luxury of calling administration and getting what I want, I have to request and await the response therefore I want all these ideas, issues, concerns documented in our minutes (the board concerns and membership concerns had been part of the official record in the past and I'm not sure why that changed). Again, to be effective, I have to have process and assistance in my role through the administration. The Lansing project is a prime example of lack of priority — I simply cannot answer who is leading the project. As you can see, I've hit a roadblock, picking and choosing what unit reps to help and which to ignore just does not work for me or the people I represent. Many members will know exactly what I'm speaking of as these are your issues, we have to have an avenue to address and this is my solution.

*See "Causley," page 21*



# Board approved temporary wheelchair ramps



**DENISE CHASE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Director Morrow and I sponsored the following 2015-29 resolution that was added to the last board meeting to purchase \$15,000 worth of temporary portable ramps to assist the elders and handicapped by making it easier to get in and out of their homes until they are able to get a permanent ramp put in. These will be on loan under the elders program's durable medical equipment, so please make contact with the elders program for more information at (888) 711-7356 or 635-4971.

*RESOLUTION NO: 2015-29  
TEMPORARY PORTABLE  
WHEELCHAIR RAMPS AND  
BEDRAILS*

*WHEREAS, the board of directors recognizes a pressing need for temporary portable wheelchair ramps to be available for short-term occasional use by low-income tribal elders; and*

*WHEREAS, the Elder Health Program (cost center #9090), manages funds that can be used for the purpose of providing durable medical equipment; and*

*WHEREAS, the board has determined that it is appropriate to use this budget to acquire temporary portable wheelchair ramps that can be loaned to qualified low income tribal elders on a short-term basis.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste.*

*Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby appropriates up to \$15,000 in tribal support to be added to the Elder Health Care Program for the purpose of acquiring no less than three temporary portable wheelchair ramps which the program shall loan on a temporary, short-term basis to qualifying low income*

*elders in cases residing within the tribe's service area in cases deemed medically necessary.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to add an additional \$5,000 in tribal support to the Elder Health Care Program and add bedrails to the durable medical list, totaling \$20,000 to the Elder Health Care Program from tribal support.*

The board appropriated a total of \$243,950 for the fiscal year 2015 governmental buildings capital purchases budget, which will come from other revenues/fund balance. The approved amount covers about 17 buildings and various priority projects that the tribe owns. The Manistique community building is one of the buildings identified for some needed repairs to the roof, exterior lights and an upgrade to the heating/cooling in the pharmacy area.

On March 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Manistique community center a Parenting Awareness Month activity will be held to promote awareness, education and provide resources. This activity will also emphasize the importance of effective parenting in nurturing your children, a table of

parenting materials and education pamphlets will be provided for parents and caregivers.

Activities planned for children and parents will be a cakewalk, craft table, face painting, coloring contest, door prizes and snacks.

They are looking for donations of cakes for the cakewalk. If you would like to donate one, please call 341-6993 or drop off the day of the event. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

There will be a Escanaba area "Caring For Our Elders" winter powwow on Feb. 21 at the Ruth Butler Building on the U.P. State Fair Grounds in Escanaba, Mich. For more information, call (906) 241-8264.

Heat assistance:

The LIHEAP Crisis Energy Assistance is still available through Sept. 30 or as long as funding is available. Funding is on a first come, first served basis.

Crisis Energy offers financial assistance to tribal members who fall in one or more categories of these groups: elders age 60+, disabled or household with a child aged 5 or below. Income eligibility guidelines apply for the crisis

program.

The Elders' Heating Assistance Program was designed to assist the elderly population age 60+ who are ineligible for LIHEAP energy assistance. Elders' heating is available Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, as long as funding is available. Applicants are required to meet the program eligibility criteria guidelines.

For more information or to apply, call Viola Neadow at 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137.

The board authorized the tribal transportation program to apply for a tribal transit program funding grant. If approved, the funding would be used to implement transportation coordination with local transit agencies or to implement tribal transit throughout our seven-county service area. If approved the grant would allow for start up, replacement or expansion of transportation. If approved the grant would be for \$350,000 a year for two years.

If you need to reach me, call me at my new phone number: (906) 203-2471.

Thank you,  
Denise Chase, vice-chair

## Due diligence takes time



**KEITH MASSAWAY,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

The board has been very busy over the last few months on budgets and capital expenditure approvals. We have passed most, if not all, as I write this. We have worked hard and long but not as hard as all the employees that have to coordinate and compile agendas, procedures and spending plans. It is a very long and exhaustive task but once again we have to thank everyone for all of their hard work.

Now it starts all over again. Our first 2016 budget, budget A, has to be completed by July 2015. The cost centers mainly have to do with our education and childcare centers.

We have finalized the budgets for the year for our casinos.

We have an interim CEO of casinos, Fred Buro, whom has developed a basic plan to move forward. He has created a positive atmosphere to work in and the changes to come will be a great leap forward in how we understand and do business.

I support Mr. Buro and even though change is sometimes scary, we look at these changes as a chance to once again move the casinos on and into the twenty-first century.

As a member of the Cultural Committee, we are glad to report that our revised by-laws are now ready to go to the board of directors for consideration and approval. We worked diligently to redefine this committee and hope to roll out teachings and cultural activities so everyone can come together and learn and enjoy our heritage and our culture. We are not the culture police or out to tell anyone how, what, where or when. We are here to express and participate with anyone, our culture. Please be on the watch for events and gatherings that will be posted soon.

Even though members are upset and dismayed at the speed of our progress in obtaining gaming downstate, we are not. The Gaming Expansion Committee, which I am on, has been working diligently to move this process forward. The steps are small

and precise but they are always progressing to a final positive outcome.

The State of Michigan once again put another appeal in the courts to stop the Secretary of the Interior from putting the land into trust. We believe this will also fail because it is even a weaker argument than the previous two. They have individually named the board of directors in this complaint but it carries little or no merit on stopping the acquisition of trust land.

What it does do is delay the inevitable once again. The courts must investigate, review and rule, and that takes months. Then the state will either appeal or we will. Then months of time will pass before a final ruling. Then it might get pushed to higher court and the process starts all over again.

The committee and the board understand the process and the time it takes to move forward, even though it sometimes is painfully slow. Just remember that every step gets us closer to the outcome we desire.

Thank you for your patience and thank you for all the calls and emails.

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



**DARCY MORROW,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

As I continue to write my unit reports, I feel like I can never say what needs to be said for fear of retribution to Unit IV and the tribal members who live there. The proof is in 2008 when they shut down Marquette and Escanaba's health centers, but kept open the Sault's Big Bear hockey rinks at an est. of \$800,000. That, in itself, says enough!

Anytime a grant with funding for new jobs, new programs or services, etc., comes up and the western end: Units IV and V ask what and if we are going to be part of this grant, etc. I have had Denny McKelvie tell me we are just greedy on more than one occasion. Greedy, look at what we have in the western units, it's a pittance of what units I and III have. Unit IV is actually the second largest unit, so how does that equation work out that we are so greedy on the western end. If I were the members of Unit IV, I would start carpooling to the meetings and voicing their opinions on how greedy we are on the western end.

For the members who don't feel we speak up at the board table for our members and communities, we speak up constantly, but the western end is still out-numbered. We have discussed a

midjim (tribal gas station) being built in Manistique, Escanaba, Munising, Marquette, Hessel, but never a new one in St Ignace. I would hope we would not build in any of those areas until due diligence was done and to start with a feasibility and traffic study. This needs to be done on all areas, not just the one unit that needs an election promise.

We were blindsided and out-numbered when they decided they were building a new midjim in St. Ignace, because people couldn't find it. Very simple and cheap fix, put directional signs at each exit pointing towards the Midjim. Mystery solved! This would be an example of you know it's a bad idea going in ex. building a new midjim in St. Ignace vs fixing the old one. Without any feasibility or traffic study the board was ready to vote on it the very first time it came to the table! They actually had the seven votes they needed that night to build this new midjim without any studies. But once Director Hoffman did his own homework, the item was tabled for that night. That is just one example, I could write so many you would think I was writing a fiction novel. More to come next month.

We lost a great elder from our community in Escanaba this last month. Jerry Miller, was a great man and will be missed by many. Jerry was one of the original members on the Escanaba elders board and committee.

Feb. 21, 2015, in Escanaba the Caring for Our Elders Winter Powwow will take place on the Escanaba fairgrounds at the Ruth Butler building. Schedule of events: Grand entry at noon and potluck at 6 p.m. Hope to see many dancers and spectators there!

Thank you,  
Darcy Morrow  
Dmorrow@saulttribe.net  
(906) 298-1888

## From "Causley," continued from page 21 —

In conclusion, as you can see, I have real concerns on some very serious paths that we need to have a plan for, communication to our membership from us as a tribe, the economical development project in Lansing, the Tribal Action Plan project, casino infrastructure and management plan and an unbiased, fair avenue to have issues spoken about and addressed (board concerns) are just a few of the things I high-

lighted this time. I have no other option at this point other than to write about them.

Other areas of concern are the request for a disabilities workgroup, veterans advocate, policy changes, scheduling priority workshop items, economical development (other than casinos) and grant writing.

I am going to end this report on a positive note; I do like writing the following much better. I

witnessed our staff this past week come together with presentation and input that made me so grateful for them.

We have had great concern from the onset about the Graymont land mining proposal. After discussion and conversation with members, I requested at the board level to secure travel for any interested members to have transportation to a public meet

See "Causley," page 22



# Some positive changes in spite of frustrations



**DJ HOFFMAN**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

The past month has been a time of frustration. However, while there are many items I disagree with, some positive changes have still occurred.

## Casinos

The casino budgets have been approved and it is my understanding that many changes will be taking place soon. I did not vote for this budget (SEE POLICIES).

## Policies

The board adopted policies, rules and regulations for the tribe. As I have stated in the past, these are not optional guidelines for individuals to follow at their respective whims. Currently, these policies are being violated on a continual basis. The historical complaints of jobs being filled without posting and policies being ignored have been muted while history repeats itself. We, as a tribe, are on a very slippery slope that needs immediate corrective action. Positions are being shuffled under the terms "interim," "acting" and "temporary." Those who politically championed against such activities are currently their primary enablers. I ask that any, all interested tribal members to please feel free to contact your representatives and let them know that adopted policies apply to everyone not just a select few. ALL Jobs must be posted and filled in the appropriate manner. ALL policies must be adhered to by employees and the board.

The entire board can be contacted by emailing [SaultTribeBOD@saulttribe.net](mailto:SaultTribeBOD@saulttribe.net).

## Attendance

The board has added Wednesday workshops. While the intent behind these workshops is based upon moving forward on issues and actually getting things done for the tribe,



the attendance by individual board members has been, unfortunately, unsatisfactory. I will be proposing to establish an attendance log for board activities to ensure accountability and productivity in the coming months.

## Taxation

For many years the tribe has added a tax to its hotel rooms of seven percent for the local chambers of commerce and convention and visitors bureaus (CVBs). This occurs at both our St. Ignace property and our Sault property. The collective annual amounts derived from this TAX are in excess of \$500,000 annually. While I have asked for copies of all agreements to establish this tax, none can be found. While I am supportive of our local chambers and CVBs, I cannot understand how the tribe can pass this tax on to its patrons without any written agreement allowing it to do as such.

The tribe, as a government, has the ability to tax and does on its enterprises as well as hotels. Ironically, our tax is a lower percentage than that assessed for the chambers and CVBs. While I had hoped that there would be an agreement or satisfactory answer to this question, none has been provided therefore I am hopeful that it will be addressed now that the public is aware of it.

## JKL Bahweting School

The JKL Bahweting School is an excellent school that is in need of expansion. Currently, the school has over 490 students K-8. With this many students, it is shocking to find that the current capacity of the school's sole gymnasium is 51. This disparity is startling. Imagine the

Sault community and its frigid temperatures in the winter or rainy days in the spring. Now imagine how 490+ students spend recess, athletic practices, Christmas concerts, awards ceremonies, etc. (See photo at right). Currently, the children are bussed back and forth to Big Bear for gym class and athletics. The school rents space at outside venues for its concerts and events. In this case, the demand for space for these children is high and the supply is inadequate. The school needs a new, larger gymnasium to accommodate the children. This is not merely the opinion of elected officials; it has been discussed and debated continually with members of the tribal board and school board as well as direct input from parents and staff.

In the next few months, I will be working with fellow board members, as well as anyone who strives to make this necessity a reality. It can be done with existing funding and needs to be done for the current and future children of JKL Bahweting School. While the tribe and school may not see eye to eye on every issue, it is time that we do something positive and move forward.

## FOIA

I am pleased to announce that Chapter 15, Tribal Freedom of Information Ordinance, is in effect (Feb. 6, 2015). To view the code online please visit <http://www.saulttribe.com/images/stories/government/tribalcode/CHAPTR15.pdf>.



## Economic development

At the last board meeting, the board approved the following Resolution 2015-43, Developing an Economic Director Position (See resolution in upper right hand corner of this page). The purpose of this resolution is to develop a job description and cost associated with the adoption of this position. This step is a positive move towards our tribe actually diversifying and enhancing our current and future business enterprises. While it is a small step, it is progress. I am hopeful that the tribe will move forward in funding and posting this position so that a qualified economic (development)

director can move us forward. Our existing businesses could also use a central focal point to ensure their sustainability and future success. Currently, we do not have this type of structure. The tribe's existing businesses fall under the chief financial officer.

The tribe has many opportunities for diversification. There are existing businesses with positive cash flow that the tribe should consider targeting. The combination of the tribe's tax-exempt status and the businesses existing cash flows would enable the tribe to diversify exponentially. We do not need to recreate the wheel, nor do we have to swing for the fence on every type of business venture that we partake in (casinos). Small steps can lead to long-term sustainable returns. An economic (development) director can help make these options a reality.

## Housing

Recently the tribal board spent two days meeting with the tribe's Housing Authority and members of the Housing Board of Commissioners. While there are several contentious issues that need to be worked on, it was a first step towards hopefully rectifying many of these issues for the tribal membership and residents of housing.

One area that needs to be looked into is the development of housing opportunities for our single and single parent members. While it has been proposed in the past, mainly during elections, we truly need to look into affordable housing complexes such as apartments in the near future.

## Communications

As I previously reported, I

have been working on the development of a weekly newsletter, website, and blog to place all of the information (excluding confidential materials such as employment and proprietary materials) that I receive online so that you may have access to it. The website will be ready Feb. 28, 2015. If you would like to subscribe to this, please e-mail me at [djwhoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:djwhoffman@hotmail.com).

## Draft resolutions

The following issues have draft resolutions that will be submitted to the board of directors for review this month:

- Commence working on the provisions for a "right of recall."
- Pushing for legislation to ensure equality in the treatment of our respective membership in rights under tribal law.
- Amending the removal code to reflect the membership's constitutional rights, which are hindered by the current version.

• Work on legislation to allow the tribal membership to challenge the constitutionality of actions taken by the tribal board.

I will continue to push forward with members of the board who wish to be progressive. I will also continue to work with members of the board to ensure that we become innovative in our approach to economic diversification, membership services and stepping out of the non-progressive box that we appear to be confined to.

Sincerely,

DJ Hoffman

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Cell: (906) 203-0510

Personal e-mail: [djwhoffman@saulttribe.net](mailto:djwhoffman@saulttribe.net)

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## From "Causley," page 21 —

ing in Newberry so they would have opportunity to attend and I appreciate all who did (this was an item I insisted be a "board concern" last month).

On the same day and in conjunction with that meeting on Jan. 28, board members and staff met directly with officials from the Department of Natural Resources on the Graymont Inc. request to acquire state-owned land for the mining operation. We had a lengthy discussion face to face about our position and the commitment the DNR should have to our rights as Indian people and the blatant interference of our rights in the 1836 Treaty to hunt, fish and gather in our treaty ceded territory. This meeting was a benchmark of how effective we can be as a team here at home. The staff and board members present respectfully demanded a rejection when the decision is made next month by the director of the DNR. Many members contacted me on this concern and some spoke about the economic value of this proposal. We asked that question to officials many times with vague answers and certain unknowns how it would directly benefit our people but, in the end, the protection to our ceded land and the disregard of our rights to our people truly outweigh the revenue or

changes we would see from the Graymont project. Miigwech to our staff, it was not unrecognized your commitment to hold our position on this.

In closing, I've been advised both ways on the communication I put out in my reports, some want me to come out swinging (been there) and some want me to keep it positive. I've tried to balance this, but in the end, frustra

See Causley, Page tion at some of the current actions and inactions have forced me to bring you all up to date on just a few of the items. In our unit, and within our whole tribe, we have serious priorities to address. I'm tired of playing the games or hearing the same ol' whining I've heard for the last 20 years. Make a plan, hold a vision for our people here in our communities and cut the politics. I'm willing and able to commit to moving forward and always have been. I simply cannot state that enough. So when is enough, enough?

As always, please contact me to meet or talk about any ideas, issues and concerns you have.

Baamaapii.

Lana Causley, Unit II Board Representative/Director  
[lcausley@saulttribe.net](mailto:lcausley@saulttribe.net)  
Home: (906) 484-2954  
Cell: (906) 322-3818.

RESOLUTION NO: 2015-43

## DEVELOPING AN ECONOMIC DIRECTOR POSITION

NOW, THEREFORFE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Membership/Internal Services Executive Director is hereby directed to: (a) develop a job description for an Economic Director position; (b) identify internal and external funding sources; and (c) report the findings back to the Board of Directors in thirty days.

## CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, as Chairperson and Secretary of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, hereby certify that the Board of Directors is composed of 13 members, of whom 12 members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 3 day of February, 2015; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 10 members for, 1 members against, 0 members abstaining, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Aaron A. Payment, Chairperson  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
Chippewa Indians

Bridgett Sorenson, Secretary  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
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Membership  
Services  
Economic  
Development  
Commission



# And so it goes as we work on moving forward



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

The Gaming Authority passed the 2015 casino budgets at the Feb. 3 meeting. I believe this was a step in the right direction.

I think that the majority of the board can agree that what we have been doing in the past is not working and change is needed. We hired a temporary casino executive because we knew we needed to bring in someone with experience to help turn our operations around. Fred Buro, the temporary CEO brought his TEAM (casino management) to the board to present the budgets and the managers for each casino is being held accountable for their own budget.

I was very impressed by the excitement, appearance and professionalism of all the casino staff that came to present to the board that day. Everyone looked to me like they felt a part of that team and that they had a voice that mattered.

Not every decision will be welcomed but at the rate we were headed for the past several years was down a very scary road.

Our properties need some serious capital improvements for us to remain competitive and our front line workers need raises. This will cost us money.

## Crandell speaks at LSSU March 4

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) of Chippewa County hosts Todd Crandell in a free evening event on March 4 at 6 p.m. at the LSSU Cislser Center Anchor Room. Refreshments served and door prizes.

Crandell's 13-year struggle with drugs and alcohol nearly destroyed his life, relationships with family and friends, and the promise of a professional hockey

## From "McLeod," page 19 —

my observation and opinion that we should spend less time on the minute portions of the numerous tribal budgets, LESS time micro-managing the day-to-day operations of the tribe, and devote at least SOME time to sharing our thoughts on our collective visions for our people. I work with some very talented people — people who were elected to represent their respective communities. Working together, I KNOW we could develop a shared vision. Our tribal Constitution already tells us what our goals must be: the perpetuation of our way of life and the welfare and prosperity of our people.

What would that look like? Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed." Our tribe needs OUR dream. Maybe it is already known

We will need to change the way we do business to offset some of the costs. Some things may seem painful in the beginning but will hopefully keep us as a viable business in the future. We do not want to survive another year or another 5 or 10 but for many generations to come. We may also need to refinance our debt or extend it in order to make these needed changes. Nobody wants to do this but I think we all want to make our businesses better and generate more revenue. We can't do this with old slot machines and run down facilities. It would be a shame if we hired Fred and did not give him the proper tools to do what we hired him to do.

The board seems to continue to lose their voice. Board concerns were always addressed at a board meeting and are now being put off until the next day's workshop. This leads me to believe the chairman does not want the membership to know the concerns the board members have. The members fill out a form to address the board and many times the concern is not addressed then and there. I understand for sake of time that 13 people do not need to respond to the member but if one or more would like to address the member and we know the answer than by all means, let's answer the question. The tribal newspaper sign-up requirement was only advertised for one month prior to it being eliminated. Letters are being sent out that do not include the board of directors. We seem to have no control over the schedule such as when the prior board budget schedules were set and then canceled. A resolution was brought forward about limiting board member's unit reports.

Twice now the chairman has thrown tantrums and resigned as the chair of the Gaming Expansion

career. He quit using drugs and alcohol on April 15, 1993, and has been sober ever since. He has completed 26 full-length Ironman Triathlons across the world and is one of 25 individuals in the world to have completed both Ultraman Triathlons.

Donations to FAN of Chippewa County accepted. Visit us at [www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/chippewa-county](http://www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/chippewa-county).

and needs to be spoken, shared and learned by all of our people. "We have a dream that one day, our tribe will rise up and live out the TRUE meaning of..."

What would it look like if our tribe were living out its vision? There was a time when we did, and life was good. Even in these modern times, we can live out our truth. What would it look like?

Please contact me to share your thoughts and comments, regarding a vision for our tribe. For information regarding board of directors meetings, please visit the tribal website at <http://www.saulttribe.com> and, as always, if I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Anishnaabe gagige (Anishnaabe for always)  
Jen  
(906) 440-9151, [JmcLeod1@saulttribe.net](mailto:JmcLeod1@saulttribe.net), or [jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com).

Committee. (Committee that discusses Lansing and New Boston projects.) How do you resign from that role and get back on and resign again? Are you trying to sabotage the project or does it interfere with the monthly visits to Capitol Hill?

I am all for our tribe fighting for our rights at the federal level and working with other tribes to get our messages heard but at what point do you decide that the work at home is just as important. That may be able to work if we could have business meetings while he was in Washington then we would all be working for the tribe at the same time. Instead we can only deal with non-essential issues during those times. Another reason we are not moving forward.

The most frustrating thing lately is the constant allegations. "A handful of board members," "some of the haters," "certain board members." If you have something to say, say it. Name the board members. Names make these allegations more credible. I sure don't want to hear this. If you cannot state a name behind the allegation than it must not be credible.

Now that we have a CEO on the casino side we should consider hiring a CEO on the government side as well. I am tired of hearing "we" like you are a staff member. I was a staff member and had to resign my job to take my oath of office. You are an elected official and the membership voted for the separation. I believe the board

when passing the delegation of authority in 2012 was hoping that a leader would emerge and do the right thing. It has been two-and-one-half years later and every time the issue is discussed the victim mentality returns. If you want to be a leader by all means step up and lead!

Shortly after being elected, we formed the TAP committee and have been almost stagnant for a year while deaths continue to devastate our communities. We compiled a list of survey questions six months or more ago and have all this data and we just recently found out that a person was granted a contract that we knew nothing about and she has all this sensitive data and just happens to be a relative of the chairman's. And then you hear about nepotism and cronyism.

I will never understand how you can go to D.C. and "save the world" but at home you "destroy your community."

After the January Newberry meeting when I introduced an elimination of position policy and mentioned that I was a part of this workgroup, the direction has now changed. Human Resources has now been placed on the agenda twice a month and the board is deciding what policies are need to be changed and in what quarter they get reviewed. So much for the all governmental departments, casino, human resources and executive staff making those decision on a first hand basis. No wonder staff gets frustrated and so much

time is wasted.

The campaigning has begun. We will be holding two down-state membership meetings. The dates chosen by the chair and he has enrollment doing mailing labels for different mile radius to send to the members about the meetings. Email blasts from the tribe's official list sent out on a Sunday night. I don't remember ever seeing mailings to members in the service area or email blasts for membership meetings. Service area members have to sign forms to speak not sure how these meetings will be structured. I want all members to know that I am not against meeting with people, but I do not like the way things are handled. Last time we went to one of these, there was a removal petition for a board member who did not even have the opportunity of due process.

I was contacted a few weeks ago from a very nice couple from Gaylord who asked that I put their 65th wedding anniversary in this issue of the newspaper. Congratulations Martha and Jim, that is a milestone many of our people will never reach!

St. Ignace will be having its annual Family Fun Day at Little Bear East on Saturday, March 21, from noon-3 p.m. Anyone willing to donate or volunteer, please contact Shirley Goudreau.

As always, thank you for your phone calls, emails and messages. Feel free to contact me at (906) 430-0536, [bridgett91@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgett91@yahoo.com) or [bsorenson@saulttribe.net](mailto:bsorenson@saulttribe.net).

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