

Win Awenen Nisitotung

"One Who Understands"

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

Ziibaakdoke Giizis
Sugar Making Moon

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Tribe blazes trail for public health accreditation

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe Community Health was chosen recently by the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) for an award of \$10,500 to work on projects leading to public health accreditation. Five tribes were picked for this award.

This is the first year for the Tribal Accreditation Support Initiative (ASI), a pilot project to support tribes in their efforts to achieve public health accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board, the only voluntary national accreditation program for public health departments.

This funding will allow Community Health the opportunity to critically assess their department's effectiveness, improve processes and identify and prioritize community needs. Their goal, according to Health Division Director Bonnie Culfa, is to develop a strategic plan that will act as guide to better promote and deliver public health services in the communities the tribe serves.

Culfa said, "NIHB Acting Director of Public Health Programs and Policy Robert Foley visited with administration and staff at the health center to talk about the grant we were awarded by NIHB allowing us



Above (L-R) are Shannon Lang of the Michigan Public Health Institute, Health Services Director Bonnie Culfa, NIHB Acting Director of Public Health Programs and Policy Robert Foley, Sault Tribe Health and Wellness Manager Lisa Myers, Health Education Supervisor Colleen Commons and Unit I Rep. Cathy Abramson.

to move forward with our public health accreditation. We are already accredited in Behavioral Health and all of our medical services, so this would be our third accreditation," she said. "In addition to community health services, the accreditation will also include most of our health prevention and promotion initiatives – including projects that we work with other agencies on such as the Public Health Department and our outreach efforts."

Health Education Supervisor

Colleen Commons said, "Our work plan is to pull our data together into one report which we can use to develop a strategic plan. We do not know what the identified need is going to be until we go through this process. Accreditation provides a consistent set of standards and framework, which will help us identify strengths and areas for improvement in our program and the services we provide."

Foley said he was there to talk with Community Health

about their plans for the next six months, how the funding will be administered and what kind of assistance they might need, how the NIHB can help connect them to the resources that exist in the field to advance their own efforts, and upcoming meetings.

He said he was looking forward to a presentation Community Health had prepared on the specific details of their work plan.

"Public Health accreditation is a new movement about six years

old, but it is just now gaining ground in Indian Country and this is the first such effort specific to Indian Country, so the Sault Tribe is really kind of blazing the way," Foley said.

"Accreditation in general is about aligning programs and service delivery in the public health sector with a set of national standards and measures," he said. "If you can meet the standards, that is saying you are doing a good job in your public health service delivery. The tribe will now be examining some of their practices, systems, processes, and procedures and try to align them with national standards of measures. The end result will be not just a stamp of accreditation, but it will be the ability for the tribe to step forward and say that we are operating at the same level and providing the same level of quality and efficient services as any of the state and local health departments as well as some of the territorial health departments like Samoa or Guam."

Funding for the Tribal ASI was provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support and is administered by the National Indian Health Board.

Tribe calls for decommissioning of Enbridge Line 5 Oil Pipeline at Mackinac Straits

BY KATHLEEN BROSEMER

Enbridge Pipelines, Inc. operates Line 5, a 645-mile, 30-inch diameter pipeline built in 1953, that extends a distance of 4.6 miles beneath the Straits of Mackinac and transports a variety of petroleum products. Line 5 runs across the northern portions of Wisconsin and Michigan, and as it reaches the Straits of Mackinac, the line splits into two, 20-inch diameter, parallel pipe-

lines buried onshore and traveling deep underwater, crossing the Straits of Mackinac west of the Mackinac Bridge for a distance of 4.6 miles.

Enbridge Line 5 was designed for a 50 year life, and is now 12 years beyond its design life. Numerous small ruptures have already occurred on land portions of this line, including a spill in early December of 2014, on the bank of the Manistique River just

one mile from Lake Michigan.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians passed a resolution in February entreating any regulatory authority, be it federal, state or other, to take all action toward requiring decommissioning of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline at the Straits of Mackinac, and specifically requesting the Michigan Petroleum Pipelines Task Force to include in its recommendations the decommissioning of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline at the Straits of Mackinac.

This pipeline at any given

time contains nearly one million gallons of crude oil beneath the waters of the Straits of Mackinac. For four to six months of the year, the straits are ice-covered, making spill response nearly impossible.

The waters that would be impacted by any spilled petroleum from Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac would include the shoaling, spawning and nursery areas of northern Lake Michigan and northern Lake Huron that encompass the most productive fishing areas of the 1836 Treaty.

It is estimated that more than half of the tribal fishing efforts and harvest occur in the waters likely to be impacted.

A catastrophic oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac would devastate the tribal fishing industry, as well as shut down water intakes for numerous communities and devastate the shoreline and island ecosystems and tourist industry.

Sault Tribe is investing staff time and financial resources as well as a \$610,000 grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust

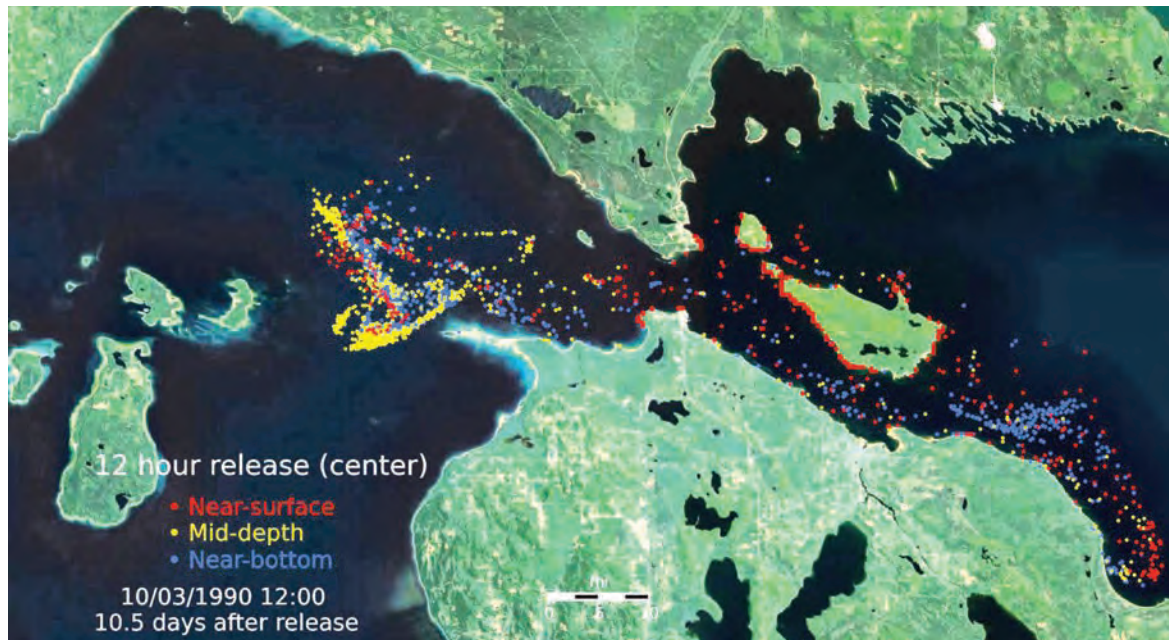
See "Enbridge Pipeline," Pg. 16

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The above is a still shot from a video simulating an oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac. Developed by David Schwab of the U-M Water Center, the video can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2Znjla8X-M>

Updated 2015 Sault Tribe powwow schedule

Please follow this updated Sault Tribe powwow listing in place of any earlier 2015 schedules. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Gathering of the Clans Powwow — Saturday and Sunday, June 13-14, Manistique Tribal Community Center on US-2 next to the Kewadin Casino.

Grand entry Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday at noon.

Crazy auction Saturday after the feast.

Vendors, traders or the public

can call Viola Neadow at 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137

Sault Tribe Traditional Powwow and Summer Gathering — Tuesday-Sunday, July 7-12, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

For more information call Jackie Minton at (906) 203-4977.

Grand entry 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 — Friday-Sunday, July 17-19, spiritual gathering Friday

July 17, powwow July 18-19, grand entry Saturday 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday at noon.

Campers and vendors welcome. Reserve your space.

For more information, call Mick Frechette (906) 440-8918 or Colleen St. Onge, 635-6050.

Youth Empowerment Powwow — Saturday, Aug. 1, Newberry Tribal Center.

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

Gathering of the Eagles

Hessel Powwow — Friday-Sunday, Aug. 14-16, Friday night, spiritual gathering, open drum.

Grand entry Saturday 1 and 7 p.m., Sunday at 1 p.m. Saturday, potluck feast 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Lisa Burnside at lburnside@saulttribe.net or Lana Causley at leausley@saulttribe.net.

Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow — Friday-Sunday, Aug. 21-23, New France Discovery Center at Father Marquette National Memorial, St. Ignace.

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 Powwow — Saturday, Sept. 12, Newberry Tribal Center.

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

Munising Powwow — Date and location TBD.

Call Katy Matson at (906) 202-0026.

Conservation committees 2015 meeting schedules

Inland Conservation Committee

All meetings are at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on the first Monday of each month (see below), beginning at 4 p.m. Contact Tara McKelvie at (906) 635-6050 or tmckelvie@saulttribe.net with any questions.

April 6 / May 4 / June 1 / July 6 / Aug. 3 / Sept. 14* / Oct. 5 / Nov. 2 / Dec. 7.

*This meeting date is pushed back one week due to a holiday.

Great Lakes Conservation Committee

All meetings are at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on the third Monday of each month (see below) beginning at 6 p.m.

Contact Tara McKelvie at 635-6050 or tmckelvie@saulttribe.net with any questions.

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

Chi Mukwa Pro Shop end of season sale in progress

Announcing the end of season Pro Shop sale at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center. Sale ends on April 17.

Bargain hunters will find 25 percent off clothing, equipment,

accessories and souvenirs, 20 percent off skates and sticks. Some exclusions apply, see associate for details.

For More Information, call 635-4906.

Sault Tribe committee vacancies

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 Street, Sault Ste. Marie. Email tmckelvie@saulttribe.net or call (906) 635-6050 for any questions.

Vacancies:

- Health Board, one vacancy (four-year term)
- Great Lakes Conservation Committee, three large boat captain vacancies, one small boat captain vacancy (four-year terms)
- Inland Conservation Committee, four vacancies (four-year terms)
- Child Welfare Committee, two vacancies (four-year terms). Applicants must pass a background check.
- Election Committee, seven

vacancies (four-year terms)

- Special Needs/Enrollment Committee, six vacancies (two-year terms)

- Housing Commission, one Unit IV vacancy (four-year term)

- Anishinaabe Cultural Committee, two vacancies (women, four-year terms), two vacancies (men, four-year terms)

- Sault Ste. Marie Elders Subcommittee, two regular vacancies (four-year terms)

- Newberry Elders Subcommittee, two regular vacancies (four-year terms)

- Hessel Elders Subcommittee, one regular vacancy, one alternate (four-year terms)

- Naubinway Elders Subcommittee, four regular vacancies (four-year terms)

- Escanaba Elders Subcommittee, two regular vacancies, one alternate (four-year term)

- Munising Elders Subcommittee,

tee, one regular vacancy (four-year term)

- St. Ignace Elders Subcommittee, one regular vacancy (four-year term)

- Marquette Elders Subcommittee, two regular vacancies, one alternate (four-year term)

- Manistique Elders Subcommittee, one regular vacancy, one alternate (four-year terms)

YOUR SUGARBUSH PHOTOS WANTED

Running your own sugarbush this year? Share some photos with the tribal newspaper! More and more tribal members are running maple syrup camps for their own personal use. Email your photos to jdburton@saulttribe.net or mail to 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783. (If you have a digital camera please use the "fine" setting.)

Parenting awareness month celebrations

Sault – Thursday, March 19, 5-7 p.m., at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center.

Prizes throughout the night, free skating and skate rental, 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 information and promotional giveaway items plus a 3 p.m.

drawing for kids' bikes.

Free to the public, parental supervision is required.

Sponsored by 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.

Be a good neighbor, lend a hand with an act of kindness

A single act of kindness can go a long way, and with nearly 30 percent of the elderly living at home alone, the Michigan State Police is encouraging Michiganders to be a friendly neighbor and assist an older person who is in need.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, almost half of older women, 75 or older, live alone. The proportion of living alone increases with advanced age and can often lead to the elderly not being able to do the simple tasks they once could do before.

"If you're an able-bodied person, there is likely a task you can do to help out," said Community Service Trooper Ailene Bitnar of the Michigan State Police Sault Ste. Marie. "Even if you're not physically able to assist, listening and providing companionship can help, too. Often times there

are simple things one can do, like helping with yard clean up, being a good listener or offering to pick up something at the store that can make a real difference in the life of a senior."

Here are some tips to help engage with the elderly and to make their lives a little easier:

- Be friendly; introduce yourself.
- Provide company; offer to cook a meal.
- Offer to help around the house/yard or with other tasks they are no longer able to do.
- Offer to run errands if you're going shopping or in to town.
- Help a senior to create an emergency contact list that includes your contact information and place it in an easy to access location in the home.
- Be aware and read the signs of distress. Follow up if you have any concerns about their well-being or suspect suspicious activity.

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Call Rich Foley, 989-306-3656

Become a MSUE master gardener this spring

A master gardener course is scheduled in Sault Ste. Marie from March 27 to June 26. After successfully passing the course and volunteering 40 hours, you can become a master gardener. The cost is \$300 and includes a 1,000-page training manual.

The classes take place on Fridays from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at LSSU's Center for Applied Science Engineering and Technology. The 13-session

curriculum provides horticulture training based on university research.

The training consists of approximately 45 hours with classes on plant science, soil science, integrated pest management, diagnostics, annuals and perennials, woody ornamentals, lawns, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits, household and nuisance pests and gardening practices to protect water quality. After

completing the training, master gardener certification is achieved with completion of 40 hours of horticulture-related volunteer service.

To enroll in the training, please complete the registration and agreement forms online at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/master_gardener_program_sault_ste_marie. The last day to register online is March 18. For information, contact Rebecca Krans

at kransr@anr.msu.edu or (906) 875-0606.

A limited amount of scholarship money is available to those in need of financial assistance. Please contact Rebecca Krans for scholarship application information.

tion.

Accommodations for people with disabilities may be requested two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Learn about saving seeds from expert

BAY MILLS — A seed keeping workshop is being sponsored by Bay Mills Community College on April 20-23 led by renowned indigenous seed keeper Clayton Brascoupe.

Learn the spiritual, traditional and modern agricultural aspects of seed saving.

Participants will also learn how to grow for seed, participate in hands-on learning to clean and save seed and discuss seed storage and seed library systems.

The workshop is April 20-23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., each day at Migizi Hall on BMCC's West Campus. Lunch will be provided. Limited space is available.

To register or for more information, please contact Monica Young at (906)248-1097 or myoung@bmcc.edu.



Tribal judiciary adopts court rules

On Feb. 25, 2015, the judiciary of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Tribal Court and Appellate Court adopted the Tribal Court Rules. These rules will govern practice and procedure in all tribal courts established by the tribal Constitution and the tribal Code.

The rules, the first set of court rules adopted by the court, were drafted by the judiciary and posted for public comment in the fall of 2014. The rules adopted thus far can be found on the court's website at www.saulttribe.com/government/tribal-court, with hard copies available at Tribal Court for a standard fee.

Wequayoc Cemetery project update

BY ALAN BARR

We have been moving forward on the Wequayoc Cemetery Project. We have met with the Sault Tribe Board of Directors, tribal youth council and Culture Committee to get their approvals for creating formal recommendations on cemetery ordinances and policies.

As part of our conversations with over 320 tribal members during the summer and fall of last year, we identified people who wanted to participate in helping to create formal recommendations for the board for how to operate

Wequayoc. We began meeting with this group in early January and have been meeting weekly since then. This working group has begun to create a series of recommendations for cemetery ordinances and policies to present to the board.

We have also begun to create recommendations for how we, as a tribe, could use the house that sits on the Wequayoc property using input many tribal members provided during the community sessions.

All of these recommendations will be compiled into a formal

report and presented to the board in March.

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

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

Support groups meet in Sault Ste. Marie

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) meets on the third Wednesdays of each month, 5:30 p.m., at the Presbyterian Church, 555 Bingham Ave. in Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, call (906) 203-8959, email Chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org or visit www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org.

Coming meetings take place on April 15 and May 20.

FAN — your connection for information, resources, and support. FAN's mission is saving lives by empowering individuals and communities to prevent and eradicate addiction. We envision a nation free of narcotic addiction and our purpose is to raise awareness of the dangers of prescription narcotics, support those affected by narcotic addiction and erase the stigma of addiction.

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

April clinic hours for traditional healers

- Keith Smith: 786-2636
- April 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 22, 27, 28, Sault Ste. Marie, 632-5210 or (877) 256-0009
- April 8, Hessel, 484-2727
- April 14, Munising, 387-4721 or (866) 401-0043
- April 20, Manistique, 341-8469 or (866) 401-0043
- April 21, Escanaba,

- Harlan Downwind: 786-2636
 - April 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 23, Sault Ste. Marie, 632-5210 or (877) 256-0009
 - April 21, 22, St. Ignace, 643-8689 or (877) 256-0135
- For more information, call Peggy Holappa, Anthony Abramson Jr. or Kim Vallier at 906-632-5268.

Free GED classes in the EUP

Consolidated Community School Services and Sault Tribe offer free GED classes in Sault Ste. Marie at the JKL Bahweting Public School Academy and the Michigan Works! Agency. The classes at Bahweting School take place Mondays-Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. and the classes at the Michigan Works! Agency take place on Mondays-Wednesdays, 12:30-4 p.m.

For information on other EUP program locations, please call Tanya Pages at 632-6098 or the Consolidated Community School Services main office at (906) 495-7305.

Registration is open to tribal and other community members from September through May. Get started today!

WIA accepting applications

The Sault Tribe Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Department is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program. This is an income-based program for American Indian youth aged 14 to 21 who reside in the Sault Tribe service area composed of Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties.

Applications can be picked up at the WIA office at 523 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.,

Elder sought to fill position at Chi Mukwa

The Sault Tribe Senior Employment Program is now accepting applications for a part-time custodian at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center.

Applicants must be Sault Tribe members aged 60 or over and reside in the seven-county service area.

Please call Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or visit at 523 Ashmun Street for applications and complete details.

Deadline to apply is April 3, 2015.

Members who wish to submit items for publication, the next deadline is April 10.

or by calling Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767.

Applicants will be required to complete and pass pre-employment drug testing. Some positions also require applicants to undergo and successfully pass a criminal background investigation.

The deadline to apply is April 17, 2015.

Vehicle for Sale

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Purchasing Department is currently accepting bids for the purchase of the following vehicle:

- 2000 GMC Handicap Van Unknown Miles
- Located at 2186 Shunk Road, Valet Parking Lot
- Vehicle is in non-working condition. Vehicle is sold "As Is."

Bids due by April 3 at 3 p.m.

Bids must be submitted to:
Sault Tribe Purchasing
Brad Pringle/Vehicle
2186 Shunk Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783

For more information please contact Adam Rutledge, (906) 635-7035

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising: \$8.50/column inch. Submission and Subscriptions: Win Awenen Nisitotung Attn: Communications Dept. 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 Telephone: (906) 632-6398 Fax: (906) 632-6556 E-mail: saulttribenews@sault-tribe.net

Board resolutions passed Feb. 17 and March 3

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors met for a regularly scheduled meeting Feb. 17 in St. Ignace, all board members were present with the exception of Cathy Abramson.

Nine resolutions were passed during the meeting, with eight passing by a unanimous vote.

Resolution 2015-44, Elder Ramp Program policy: a program policy was approved for the Elder Ramp Program.

Res. 2015-45, Resolution in support of decommissioning of the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline at the Straits of Mackinac: The tribe is requesting "...any regulatory authority be it Federal, State, or other, to take all action toward requiring decommissioning of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline at the Straits of Mackinac." Enbridge Line 5 is 12 years past its 50-year life span, with numerous ruptures

already having occurred on land portions of this line.

Res. 2015-46, OVW fiscal year 2015 Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Program: The board approved an application to the Office on Violence Against Women for funding of a Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Program.

Res. 2015-47, Family Violence Prevention and Services Program: The board authorized an application to the Family and Youth Services Bureau under the Department of Health and Human Services for funding of a Family Violence Prevention and Services Program for FY 2015.

Res. 2015-48, Reaffirm and reapprove loan from Self Sufficiency Fund to tribe: The board re-affirmed and re-ap-

proved a \$10 million loan from the Fund to the Tribe with 12 percent annualized rate of interest payable to the Fund, until the loan is paid. Final balloon payment of all accrued interest and principle is due March 15, 2020.

Res. 2015-49, GLRI Forest Services establishment of FY 2016 budget: The FY 2016 budget for GLRI Forest Services was approved with Federal USDA Forest Service monies of \$45,576.

Res. 2015-50, Health Center FY 2015 budget modifications Health Education, IHS Special Diabetes, Diabetes Cardio-IHS Healthy Heart, and Community Transformation Grant: The budget modifications for these programs was approved for an increase in Federal IHS monies of \$256,595 and Federal CDC monies of \$3,072 and changes to personnel sheets.

Res. 2015-51, WIA – Work Experience FY 2015 budget modification: A budget modification was approved to change the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses.

Res. 2015-52, Authorization to purchase real estate parcels adjacent to JKL School: The board approved the purchase of four parcels of land adjacent to JKL Bahweting School from the school at the cost paid by the school, plus any closing costs and fees but to not exceed a combined total of \$80,000 to come from the Building Fund.

The board convened another meeting on March 3. All board members were present except Cathy Abramson.

An Indian Health Service request was approved for tribal assistance in facilitating an inventory of Indian homes in

the tribe's service area. The tribe's Enrollment Department was directed to prepare a list of the tribe's members who live in the service area, which would exclude names, ages, birthdates or blood quantum, and provide a copy of the list to Bemidji Area Indian Health Service Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction.

An application was approved for a 2015 U.S. Department of Justice two-year grant of up to \$400,000 for purposes of public safety and protection.

A grant application was approved in support of the Ojibwe Learning Center and Library.

A grant application was approved for an unspecified amount in support of youth cultural affairs and arts.

The view the resolutions in their entirety, visit saulttribe.com.

Cloverland says: "Thanks for the committment"

To the Editor:

Since July 2014, the economic stability and future of the Eastern Upper Peninsula has been threatened with a potentially devastating cost increase of over \$22 million, forcing the membership to pay the operating and retrofitting costs (SSR) for the Presque Isle Power Plant (PIPP) in Marquette without receiving any direct benefit.

Cloverland members took action, sending thousands of letters, emails, petitions, making phone calls and social media

posts to organizations and federal agencies responsible for this decision to let them know where the eastern Upper Peninsula is and that we were not to be ignored.

Senator Stabenow and Congressman Benishek worked together to develop legislation supporting our case. State senators Wayne Schmidt, Tom Casperson and State Representative Chatfield took our message to Lansing.

Thanks to Linda Hoath, who led a petition campaign linking her website to Cloverland's, mak-

ing our members' voices even louder.

Thanks to Cloverland Board Directors members Schallip, Carlson, Newland, Legault, Nettleton, Monroe, Litzner and Provo for their unwavering support of this effort

The effort resulted in a victory for Cloverland Electric and all of the eastern Upper Peninsula. The plea to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has been heard. FERC agreed with Cloverland. FERC issued an order to the Midcontinent

Independent System Operator (MISO), requiring a more equitable formula that allocates dollars to those that benefit from the plant. MISO has 60 days from Feb. 19 to respond. This is not over since any FERC decision can be challenged but we have achieved the result we were striving for.

Cloverland's directors and staff are working diligently exploring every available option to secure a long-term, cost-stable source of power to compliment what we generate through the hydro

plant. It is time to take control of our energy future and not be held hostage to out-of-state power companies. In the coming weeks, we will keep you informed of our progress and call on all of you again until this battle is won.

Cloverland is committed to our members, and I say thank you for being committed to Cloverland Electric Cooperative and the future of the EUP.

Sincerely,
Dan Dasho
President and chief executive officer

2015 Sault Tribe Inland Application

Please fill out the following application indicating all harvest tags that you would like in addition to your 2015 Harvest card. The Harvest card authorizes you to participate in activities pursuant to Chapters 21 and 23 of the Tribal Code only. Great Lakes activities require separate permits pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Tribal Code.

In 2015, the cost for each member will be \$5. You must pay with a check or a money order payable to Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. A \$36 NSF charge will be applied to all checks returned by a financial institution. If you have questions, please contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (906.635.6065). Youth (16 and under) and Elders (60 and over) are not required to pay fees. New applicants must provide a copy of their Tribal card and if born after 1960, proof of hunter safety. **All members who held a 2014 harvest license must complete a harvest report .**

First name Middle Last

Address City State Zip

File Number(red# on Tribal ID) STS # (Red #on harvest card) Date of birth Sex

Phone number Email address

Hunting harvest card
Includes Inland fishing,general gathering,small game, waterfowl, migratory birds, and general furbearer.

Application Harvest Tags

Deer

Spring Turkey

Fall Turkey

pine marten, bobcat, river otter, and fisher harvest tags

Non-hunting harvest card
Includes Inland fishing and general gathering.

Bear and Elk Applications will be available on the Sault Tribe website and the newspaper in April 2015
Walleye and steelhead permits for the specially regulated seasons will be available by contacting the Inland Fish and Wildlife Department,906-632-6132 or see website for details (www.saulttribe.com).
For all other permits pursuant to chapter 21 and 23 of the Tribal Code, you must contact the Inland Fish and Wildlife Department (i.e. State Firewood and State Maple Sap).

Please mail completed applications to:
**PO Box 925
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

Hockey fans shower disrespect on 57 Indian children

School staff, students capitalize on situation to support their school on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota

BY RICK SMITH

Factual details of what is described as a traumatic incident at a minor league hockey game in Rapid City, S.D., on Jan. 24 remain hazy due to conflicting reports, but what appears certain is one or more fully grown men in a corporate box at the game without provocation heaped jeers, racial slurs and beer on 57 Lakota Sioux school children sitting below them. The children were attending the game as a special reward for doing well in school. The youngsters were eventually safely escorted away from the situation by their chaperones as tension among adults at the scene escalated nearly to the point of brawling.

The children subjected to the ugly confrontation are aged 9 to 13 in grades four through eight at American Horse School in Allen, S.D., on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, a little over 100 miles southeast of Rapid City.

Following the incident, talk circulated of filing federal charges for a hate crime as well as 57 counts of child abuse and assault against a group of perpetrators. After an investigation, the local court brought misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct against one man, 41-year-old Trace O'Connell, on Feb. 18.

If convicted, O'Connell would



Photo courtesy of American Horse School

Above, a photo of one of the T-shirts bearing the logo of the American Horse School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Staff and students are selling the shirts in support of their school activities.

face a maximum of 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

As could be expected and was reported by regional media, the response to the charges among American Indians "ranged from disappointment to outrage." Reports indicate a meeting took place at the American Horse School gymnasium between area officials and school staff and families so the charges could be explained. But, according to KELO-TV, the meeting did not end well as officials left early after emotions began to run high.

One American Indian journalist speculated emotions might have been more subdued if the Indian community had been better informed of circumstances leading up to the charge.

In any case, American Horse School Superintendent Gloria J. Coats-Kitsopoulos noted on the school's website, americanhorseschool.com, that the school board "will continue to seek justice for our students in the federal justice system."

Contacted by phone, Coats-

Kitsopolous described the incident as traumatic and the children as resilient in the aftermath. But still, she said she sometimes fields questions and sees behavior from the youngsters indicating some remain troubled over their disturbing experience. "We've had them see counselors, spiritual leaders and we have had ceremonies," she said. But it's still "a big emotional thing right now."

She indicated it is a good time to reinforce some of the things taught to the children, things like having pride and confidence in themselves and what they can do. Still, the Desert Storm veteran is concerned about how the incident might come back to them in coming years. "But, for now," she said, "I told them 'I'm so proud of you because you handled yourself with so much credibility and respect.'" She added, "And we've always been a dignified people, but there's a lot of frustration with the system."

At least one other tribe, the Yankton Sioux of Wagner, S.D., officially expressed its "extreme disdain" over the racially charged incident in a communiqué on Feb. 3 describing their understanding of the incident and their views on children in general. Further, they declared their solidarity with the American Horse School and

called upon federal authorities and U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson to pursue federal hate crimes against the assailants. In addition, support comes from three Native student groups at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., staging "Sending Love to American Horse" events designed to convey messages of support.

In the meantime, the school's students and staff developed a T-shirt design to sell to the public in support of school activities. The T-shirt design bears the wording, "I support American Horse Students and Staff" over a likeness of the school's galloping horse logo with the words "Together we stand against RACISM" placed below the logo. The shirts are available in sizes ranging from youth small to adult 2X large for \$10 to \$12 depending on the size. A \$5 shipping and handling fee applies. Orders can be placed by sending cashier's checks or money orders to American Horse School (T-shirt order), PO Box 660, Allen, S.D. 57714-0660.

The image in the photograph accompanying this story is also on the school's website at www.americanhorseschool.com. In addition, those who visit might want to browse the pages of the school's own apparel store.

NCAI to tribes: Violence Against Women Act in effect

BY RICK SMITH

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) issued an announcement reminding Indian tribes and others that the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2013 is in effect as of March 7. "Tribal governments may elect to begin exercising jurisdiction over non-Indians who commit crimes of domestic violence, dating violence or violate a protection order against a Native victim on tribal lands," reads the first paragraph of the release.

President Barack Obama signed the act into law on March 7, 2014, but the law did not go into effect until March 7, 2015. The law allowed for a pilot program undertaken by three tribes in Washington, Oregon and Arizona, which started on Feb. 6, 2014.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, tribes may exercise their sovereign authority under VAWA to investigate, prosecute, convict and sentence Indians and non-Indians who assault Indian spouses or dating partners, the same applies to those who violate protection orders.

The VAWA is an option for American Indian tribes, they have the authority to choose to decline jurisdiction and leave matters in the hands of those having jurisdiction before the VAWA went into effect. Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court Chief Judge Jocelyn Fabry said work is in progress to engage VAWA jurisdiction. "A working group here at the tribe has drafted new Tribal Code which would enhance the court's jurisdiction pursuant to VAWA,"

she said. "But as of now, it has not been adopted by the board."

The law does not cover crimes committed outside of Indian Country, between two non-Indians, between two strangers, by a person who does not live or work on a tribe's reservation and child or elder abuse not involving protection order violations.

Tribes must protect the rights of defendants under the U.S. Constitution and, under the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, provide effective counsel, licensed attorneys for those who cannot afford one, trained and licensed tribal judges and access to tribal criminal laws and rules. Further, jury pools must not systematically exclude people who are not Indian and detained defendants must be informed of their right to file federal habeas corpus petitions.

"This is a major step forward to protect the safety of Native people," NCAI President Brian Cladoosby was quoted in the release, "and we thank all members of Congress for passing the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 and recognizing tribal authority."

Juana Majel, chair of the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women was also quoted, "I want to encourage all tribal governments to get this law on their books. The main goal is deterrence of domestic violence. On most reservations there are a handful of bad actors who have figured out how to slip between jurisdictional boundaries. They need to get the message. If they continue to assault our women we will prosecute and put them in jail."

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Massey accepts justice planning specialist post

BY BRENDA AUSTIN
Tribal justice planning specialist David Massey is working with team members to develop the Tribal Action Plan (TAP) to combat substance abuse in the tribe's seven county service area and is also facilitating the development of a strategic plan for the tribal justice system.

Massey began working for the Michigan Department of Corrections in Kinross in 2001 as a corrections officer, and in 2004 started taking classes from Lake Superior State University towards his associate's degree in criminal justice, graduating in 2008.

A year later he received a promotion from the Department of Corrections to sergeant and along with it a move to Wyoming. Six

months later he received another promotion, this time to lieutenant and took on more of an administrative role doing scheduling and also became a training coordinator, emergency preparedness coordinator and performed investigations.

When his wife, Jasmina, became pregnant with their second child in 2014, they realized they wanted to move back home to Michigan to be closer to family. Not sure at the time if he wanted to get back into corrections, he decided to try something different and applied for his current position.

Massey said the Tribal Action Plan is gaining momentum, with the results of the data gathered from the community regarding

substance abuse in the tribe's service area being presented to the TAP advisory board later this month.

The advisory board gathered data from the tribal community through surveys, community forums, focus groups, and interviews. A contractor was hired to compile that data and will be presenting the results soon to the advisory board. Once the information is presented, the advisory board will be able to identify gaps in services and plan for ways to address those gaps, and goals and objectives can be developed to help move the plan forward. Massey said, "To my knowledge, there isn't another tribe out there that has completed a tribal action plan. We would be the first, so we

are breaking ground a little bit as we move forward."

One of Massey's goals is to share with members the names and contact information of programs and resources the tribe currently has available. "We developed some magnets that we will be passing out at events with a list of numbers for help centers and contact points for behavioral health and veterans crisis lines," he said. "I want people to know that we are working on addressing the issue of substance abuse in tribal communities. It takes time and we want to get it right so that we have a meaningful plan that we are able to implement."

Massey is an Army veteran and met his wife while deployed



David Massey

to Bosnia, where she served as an interpreter for his unit. Together they have two boys, ages 4 months and 2 years.

Painting raffles support language conferences

BY THERESA LEWIS

The Baawting Anishinaabemowin Conference Committee is planning this year's fifth annual conference on June 12 and 13. One of our presenters from last year's event, James Mishibinijima, donated two original paintings to raise funds for this year's conference. The Language Committee is very thankful for Mishibinijima's generous contribution. Gchi-miigwech!

The paintings are on display in the Ojibwe Learning Center and Library. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and available through Sault Tribe's Language

Department.

All proceeds go toward the fifth annual Baawting Language Conference. Drawings will be on June 13 at the conference closing ceremony at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie. Participants need not be present to win. (License STR-028-14.)

The artist, James Mishibinijima, is an Ojibwe from the Wikwemikong Reserve on Manitoulin Island, Ont. He has artwork on display worldwide that depict legends passed on by elders over generations. He also continues to collaborate with First Nation education programs

to develop curriculum resources as Anishinaabemowin is his mother's tongue and he's a fluent speaker. More information on the artist can be found online at mishmountains.blogspot.com.

Also, check for updates on the language conference on the Sault Tribe website by visiting www.saulttribe.com

Learn Anishinaabemowin at your own pace through LiveStream by visiting the previous website mentioned or by visiting new.livestream.com/saulttribelanguage.

For more information, call Theresa Lewis or Colleen St.Onge at (906) 635-6050.



Above, image of one of the paintings to be raffled in support of the annual language conference.

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Inaugural MOVE! Program started at Chi Mukwa

BY RICK SMITH

No empty seats were left in Sault Ste. Marie after the first participants of the MOVE! Weight Management Program arrived at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center to take advantage of the inaugural free 16 weekly group sessions designed by the Veterans Administration (VA) National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. The program began on March 3 and is scheduled to end on June 16.

The MOVE! Program features 60-minute classroom sessions one-day each week followed by optional self-paced fitness workout sessions. For participants who are not Sault Tribe members, a nominal fee applies for those who opt to participate in the workout sessions at the Chi Mukwa Fitness Center.

The program is open to any adults interested in participating.

Leaving personal weight loss goals up to participants, the program encourages a drop of 5 to 10 percent of body weight over the 16-week period, losing weight from a half-pound to two pounds per week as a safe standard.

Registered dietitians and a health educator from Sault Tribe Community Health are facilitating the program at Chi Mukwa, they provide weight loss, diet and workout expertise and coaching as well as encouragement. But it's up to

the participants to take action to achieve their personal goals.

Just to be clear, this is not a program styled after military boot camp training. No demands will be placed on participants. The motivation to achieve individual goals must come from the individuals. Registered Dietitian Mary Bunker described the program, "it is a mostly participant led class and relies quite a bit on group support. The success of the participants will depend on how much they put into it and how much personal responsibility they take."

After the initial session, one Sault Tribe member participating in the program who preferred to remain anonymous said, "Seems like a mighty fine deal, especially for older folks like myself who want to lose some weight or get in better shape. It's not like those classes where you have to do certain things and keep up with somebody else, you go with what's comfortable for you. This program is safe and supportive, it gives you everything you need including high-tech exercise equipment, and it's all free."

The Community Health staff will conduct another series of MOVE! Weight Management Program sessions if enough interest is shown. Those interested in having their names put on a waiting list for an opportunity to join the program should call Sault Tribe Community Health in Sault Ste. Marie at 632-5210.



Photos by Rick Smith

FIRST, SOME CLASSROOM EXCHANGES — Health educator Heather Hemming of Sault Tribe Community Health explains physical fitness aspects of the MOVE! Weight Management Program to the inaugural class on March 3 at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center as other Community Health staff associated with the program look on. Seated from left, registered dietitians Julie Trestrail, Stacy Storey, Mary Bunker (mostly obscured from view) and Kristy Hill. While the first class filled quickly, more MOVE! sessions may be arranged to accommodate a waiting list if there is enough demand to take advantage of the free, four-month program.

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AND THEN, IF YOU LIKE, TAKE ACTION IN THE NEARBY FITNESS CENTER — Along with classroom guidance, the MOVE! Program involves optional, self-paced, supervised fitness workouts at the Chi Mukwa Fitness Center. Above, standing in front of the fitness center, from left, registered dietitians Kristy Hill, Julie Trestrail, Mary Bunker and health educator Heather Hemming. Missing from photo, registered dietitian Stacy Storey.

High school artists invited to enter new LSSU competition

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Lake Superior State University seeks to showcase the work of talented student artists in March as it invites area students to enter its first Eastern Upper Peninsula High School Art Competition.

Made possible through a recent LSSU enrollment mini-grant, the competition will culminate in an art show March 19-29 in the LSSU Arts Center's Noyes Gallery.

"Each area high school is welcome to submit up to 10 pieces of two-dimensional artwork," said LSSU Arts and Humanities Prof. Lloyd Eddy, who is the juror for the competition. "We'll also accept individual entries from students between the ages of 14-18, who may submit two

entries each."

Eddy said the top three will be presented with awards of \$300, \$100 and \$50 at an opening and awards ceremony from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, in the gallery. There will be two pieces selected for honorable mention, and the first-place winner's piece will be framed and put on permanent display in the LSSU Arts Center.

Artwork, matted and ready for display and labeled on the back, must be delivered to the LSSU Arts Center, room 103, between 4-7 p.m. on Friday, March 13 or noon-4 p.m. on Saturday, March 14.

Get more information from Prof. Eddy by calling 635-2593 or writing ledly1@lssu.edu.

Police Department gains two police officers

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe Police Department hired two new officers this past fall. Officer Matt Hunkele works out of the Manistique office and Officer Travis MacArthur is located in Sault Ste. Marie.

Hunkele grew up in Gaylord and most recently resided in Adrian, Mich., with his two children, Mattisyn, 8, Masyn, 4, and his wife, Heidi. Deciding they wanted to move to the U.P., Hunkele applied for his current position after finding it posted online, and was hired in September.

Before moving his family to Manistique, Hunkele worked as a deputy in Lenawee County for 15 years. He said his family loves being in the U. P. and having Lake Michigan nearby.

Hunkele graduated from Alpena Community College with an associate's degree and completed his officer training at Kirkland Regional Police Academy in Roscommon. "I originally started out in business," he said, "but I like working with people and wanted to do something that allowed me the opportunity to make a difference for the better."

Officers in the Manistique office cover Manistique and Wetmore housing, the Christmas Casino, Marquette and Escanaba housing and have conservation duties in Alger, Delta, Schoolcraft and Marquette counties.

MacArthur graduated from Lake Superior State University (LSSU) last June with a four-year degree in criminal justice and completed officer training at

LSSU's Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) Academy.

After graduating from LSSU, he accepted a job with Chippewa County as a deputy transporting inmates. A short time later, he learned about the tribal opening from friends and family who encouraged him to apply, and in November began his job as an officer with the Sault Tribe Police Department.

MacArthur is completing his field training with a few of the more experienced officers before going out solo. His parents are Dale and Lynn MacArthur and his sister, Kariann.

Seeing first hand how substance abuse affects families, he said he is motivated to help people and do what he can to get drugs off the streets.



New officers, left, Matt Hunkele based in Manistique and, right, Travis MacArthur based in Sault Ste. Marie.

Treasury unveils retirement starter program

BY RICK SMITH

The United States Department of the Treasury recently unveiled its new myRA (my Retirement Account, pronounced MY-AR-AY) program. The program is designed as a simple, safe and affordable option to start retirement savings accounts, especially for folks who make less than \$129,000 a year and unable to participate in retirement accounts through their employers.

According to the Treasury, millions of workers in the country don't have access to retirement plans through their employers or

don't have enough money saved to meet minimum requirements for opening investment accounts. The myRA program was conceived as an excellent option to address some of these barriers. To be sure, though, myRA is not a replacement for 401(k) accounts or other types retirement savings accounts.

In a nutshell, myRA account holders can make monthly contributions to their accounts in amounts of their choosing with a maximum total of \$5,500 annually. The Treasury Department requires no minimum

contribution amounts for myRA accounts. For those aged 50 or older by the end of the year, the annual maximum is \$6,500.

Once a myRA account reaches \$15,000 or ages 30 years, the account is transferred into a private Roth IRA account, allowing for continued growth on the accumulated savings after the myRA starter savings account has reached maturity.

Program participants can withdraw money from their myRA accounts at any time without any penalties or taxes. Five years after making their

first contributions, if participants are aged 59 years or older and meet certain conditions, such as using the money to buy their first home, they also may withdraw interest earned on their accounts without tax or penalty. In other cases, participants may withdraw interest earnings but withdrawals would be taxable and may also be subject to a 10 percent additional tax unless certain conditions are met.

The myRA accounts must be facilitated by employers through payroll deductions from participating employees'

paychecks. Once deductions are established, employers need not be concerned with any further matters regarding employee myRA accounts.

According to the Department of the Treasury, an individual can open a myRA account at no cost and in a matter of minutes simply by going to the website www.myra.treasury.gov to open and set up online management of the account, then submit a direct deposit authorization to the employer to start funding the account.

Native youth sought for ideas on federal help

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The White House launched the Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) Native Youth Challenge this winter, an initiative focused on building a brighter future for Native youth by helping to remove barriers that stand between them and opportunities for success.

The initiative includes the recently launched Cabinet officials' Native Youth Listening Tour and a steering committee

of Native youth to plan the first ever White House Tribal Youth Gathering this summer.

A National Tribal Youth Network is also being organized to help connect youth leaders across the country.

As part of the Native Youth Listening Tour, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is scheduling visits with Native youth to get their thoughts on how federal policy can help improve their lives.

The White House has asked tribal leaders to take steps to engage with Native youth within their communities, some suggestions include working with or creating a youth council, hosting a joint meeting between youth and tribal leaders or partnering with youth to plan a program to support positive change within their communities.

The Sault Tribe is one of many tribes that have accepted

the Gen-I challenge along with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians.

Secretary Jewell began her visits in February with youth on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Gila River Reservation. During the stops, she was scheduled to visit a family advocacy center that houses counseling, law enforcement

and social services in addition to meeting with a tribal youth council.

The listening tour will provide Obama's Cabinet members a look at challenges that youth in Indian Country have identified, including drugs, violence and poverty.

U.S. Department of the Interior Press Secretary Jessica Kershaw, said Jewell's schedule of stops for the Native Youth Listening Tour is still being worked out.

EPA approves climate-friendly refrigerants

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) increased options for refrigerants used in various kinds of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment in the U.S. that offer better climate protection without harming the ozone layer.

This final action addresses refrigerants under the EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program to identify and approve additional climate-friendly chemicals.

"Today's rule is an example of how we can turn the challenge of climate change into an opportunity to innovate our way to a better future," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "By working together, businesses and EPA are bringing new, climate-friendly refrigerants to market that better protect our health and the environment."

Under the authority of the

Clean Air Act, EPA's SNAP Program evaluates substitute chemicals and technologies that are safe for the ozone layer.

This final rule expands the list of substitutes to include more low-global warming potential alternatives that can replace both the ozone-depleting substances and high hydrofluorocarbons.

After receiving input from industry, environmental groups, and others, EPA is approving additional low hydrocarbon refrigerants, subject to use conditions, in the following refrigeration and air conditioning applications:

- Ethane in very low temperature refrigeration and in non-mechanical heat transfer;

- Isobutane in retail food refrigeration (stand-alone commercial refrigerators and freezers) and in vending machines;

- Propane in household refrigerators, freezers, or combination refrigerators and

freezers, in vending machines, and in room air conditioning units;

- The hydrocarbon blend R-441A in retail food refrigeration (stand-alone commercial refrigerators and freezers), in vending machines and in room air conditioning units; and

- HFC-32 (difluoromethane) in room air conditioning units. HFC-32 has one-third the GWP of the conventional refrigerants currently being used in room air conditioning units.

These refrigerants are already in use in many of these applications in Europe and Asia.

EPA is exempting all of these substances, except HFC-32, from the Clean Air Act venting prohibition, as current evidence suggests that their venting, release, or disposal does not pose a threat to the environment.

Learn more at www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/index.html.



Sault Tribe member Nate LaCost and his friend managed to get this javelina harvested at 92 yards — clean pass through.

Some VA benefits unknown to many veterans

BY RICK SMITH

Most U.S. military veterans are at least acquainted with some of the veterans benefits derived from having honorably served in one of the armed forces, benefits such as help with education, housing and medical care. But many veterans often remain unaware of some less publicized or even unpublicized benefits the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers. And don't count on everyone associated with the VA to be familiar with all the benefits.

One such obscure benefit is the supplemental income program, a tax-free monetary benefit payable to low-income wartime veterans who have at least 90 days of active duty with at least one day served during wartime to qualify. Veterans who began active duty after Sept. 7, 1980, are usually required to have served at least 24 months or the full period of call to active duty with at least one day served during a period of war, but some exceptions do exist.

In addition to meeting the maximum income and minimum service requirements for the supplemental income benefit, veterans must meet at least one of the following conditions: 1) Aged 65 or older, 2) totally or permanently disabled, 3) receiving skilled nursing care as a patient in a nursing home, 4) receiving Social Security Disability Insurance or 5) receiving Supplemental Security Income.

Veterans can learn more through the Veterans Benefits Administration at www.vba.va.gov.

Other benefits of interest to aging or disabled veterans include increased monetary allowances for personal care attendants for the housebound, called the veterans' aid and attendance benefit. Learn more about aid and attendance benefits at the Veteran Aid website at www.veteranaid.org.

The VA also offers benefits to spouses, dependents and survivors to qualifying veterans'

"Explore these and other benefits by browsing online at www.vba.va.gov, explore.va.gov and veteranaid.org."

family members. A good website for veterans, their spouses, dependents and survivors to learn about benefits for which they may be qualified is www.explore.va.gov.

American Indian veterans may be interested in looking into information on VA housing benefits just for them at www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-tribal.asp. In essence, the VA Native American Direct Loan (NADL) Program offers financing for veterans to buy, build or improve their homes on tribal trust lands. However, the program can only benefit veterans if their respective tribes have established memoranda of understanding (MOU) with the VA to accommodate the program. Sault Tribe does not have such a MOU in place at this time, but Housing Director Joni Talentino

noted, "I have it on my list of projects to do."

Asked how long the process might take for a tribe to establish a MOU, VA NADL specialist Ivonne Perez in Washington, D.C., said the process would begin with negotiations, mainly to reach agreements on what happens in cases of default. "We're pretty easy," she said, "mostly it depends on the wishes of the tribe." Further, she indicated final approvals would be required from appropriate tribal and VA authorities and the VA would require a copy of the tribe's standard lease agreement. She said a MOU could probably be established in about 60 days.

Perez also pointed out direct loans from the VA eliminate much of the expense incurred with traditional loans.

Governments of federally

recognized American Indian tribes might find advantages by visiting www.va.gov/tribalgovernment to learn about the VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations. The office and its team "work to strengthen and build closer relations between the VA, tribal governments and other key federal, state, private and non-profit partners in an effort to effectively and respectfully serve veterans across Indian Country," according to the website.

Explore these and other benefits by browsing online at vba.va.gov, explore.va.gov and veteranaid.org. Peruse the subjects listed on the dark gray menu on the left side of the VBA home page to learn more about benefits and other information. The site also offers much more information useful to veterans. The Veteran's Aid site has free introductory information and downloadable forms specifically for Aid and Attendance benefits for homebound veterans.

Young Indian writers sought for essay contest

BY RICK SMITH

American Indian high school students are sought to compete in the 2015 Young Native Writers Essay Contest. Deadline is April 15.

Interested high school students should write an essay no longer than 1,200 words about one or more cultural images, symbols or art forms historically used by their tribes that serve a particular purpose or convey a specific message. Writers are asked to describe the subject, explain its history with strengthening testimony from an elder or other knowledgeable person, tell of your own experiences with the item and show how the item is still relevant today.

The contest ends with five first-place winners who receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., from July 20 to July 24 as part of Scholar Week. The winners will visit the National Museum of the American Indian and other sites. Winners also receive special display awards and scholarships of \$2,500 paid to the college or university of his or her choice.

All participants who submit essays will receive certificates of honor sent to them via email. Winners will be notified of the contest results by May 15.

YOUNG NATIVE WRITERS



ESSAY CONTEST

Holland & Knight
Charitable Foundation, Inc.

For complete rules and requirements, visit nativewriters.hklaw.com. The website also has photos of past winners and post-contest ceremonial events, transcripts of past winning essays and a special resource section for interested teachers.

According to the website, the competition is sponsored by the Holland and Knight Charitable Foundation in partnership with the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Indian Education Association.

"The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the

American Indian is proud to be involved in a program that inspired high school students to think innovatively about their Native communities," said Kevin Gover, director of the NMAI was quoted in a release from Holland and Knight. "Each year we look forward to honoring the winners at our building on the National Mall as well as offering them special tours and programs."

According to the release, the contest began in 2006 in Red Lake, Minn., in response to the March 2005 shooting

incident ending in the deaths of the assailant, a Red Lake High School student, and five of his fellow students, a teacher, a security guard and members of his family. The foundation developed the contest to help the Red Lake community find healing through its culture and traditions. In succeeding years, the program opened to all American Indian communities.

"The National Indian Education Association is honored to once again work with Holland and Knight and the National Museum of the American Indian on this exceptional program," said Anhiwake Rose, NIEA executive director. "NIEA is dedicated to ensuring that every Native student has the opportunity to succeed and through this scholarship program, we will be assisting one young leader on their journey."

Students interested in the essay contest may also be interested in acquiring a School for Advanced Research Indigenous Writer-in-Residence Fellowship some time ahead of them. The school was established in 1907 in Santa Fe, N.M. The fellowship program is supported by the Lannan Foundation and annually offers one seven-week residential fellowship to help advance creative works by indigenous writers. Those who accept fellowships receive a \$6,000 stipend, on-campus housing, studio space, supplies allowance, library support and travel reimbursements to and from the school.

The program is open to indigenous writers who are at least 18 years of age.

For more, visit sarweb.org and view the programs selection on the home page menu.

Kewadin Casinos to recognize local community member with award March 22

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Join Kewadin Sault Casino on Sunday, March 22 at 6 p.m. in Woodlands for a "meet and greet" with Bill Thorne, a living legend in the radio industry and outstanding Native American community member. Thorne's career, major accomplishments and community service have made him a historical icon of his community. Thorne is known for his heart and spirit, his positive demeanor and the relationships he has built in his career interview-

ing over 26,000 people. Thorne hosted local radio shows Morning Hymn Time and The Four Horseman for decades. During the span of his career Thorne met and interviewed many influential people, such as Elvis Presley, President Nixon, Johnny Cash and Patsy Cline. Kewadin Casino will be recognizing Bill Thorne after the meet and greet during the Fresh Horses a Garth Brooks Tribute Show at 7 p.m. in the DreamMakers Theater. Tickets are on sale now at the Box office.



Bill Thorne

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Alexander makes Notre Dame dean's list



Brittany Alexander of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., was named to the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business dean's list for outstanding scholarship during the 2014 fall semester. Students who achieve dean's honors at Notre Dame represent the top 30 percent of students in their college.

Alexander was also selected for participation to study abroad in Fremantle, Australia, at the University of Notre Dame Australia for the 2015 fall semester term.

She is the daughter of Fritz and Traci Alexander and granddaughter of Les and Jo Hill, Kathryn Alexander and Gary and Noel Alexander.

Louise LaJoice Benson celebrates 100 years

SUBMITTED BY JOE GRAY

Louise LaJoice Benson celebrated her 100th birthday on March 7, 2015. Louise is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She recently moved from Sault Ste. Marie to Cedar Springs, Mich., to be closer to her children.



Massaway twins welcomed home by family

Andrew and Miki (nee Besteman) Massaway welcomed their twins, Kaiya Lee Massaway and Kayson Andrew Massaway on Jan. 6, 2015.

Kaiya weighed 4 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 16.875 inches in length. Kayson weighed 4 pounds 12 ounces and measured 17.5 inches in length.

They were born at Spectrum Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich., where they both spent some time in the natal intensive care unit.

Andrew and Miki reside in Jenison, Mich. They also have a 2-year-old daughter named Kira.

Grandparents are Keith and Jean Massaway of St. Ignace,

Mich., and Mike and Dee Besteman of Rudyard, Mich. Great-grandparents are Howard

and Charlotte Everson of St. Ignace and Evelyn Massaway of St. Ignace.



Kayson Massaway



Kaiya Massaway

Community members walking on ...

HELEN G. DENKINS

Helen Gene (nee Fluette) Denkins, 84, of Cooks, Mich., passed away peacefully on Feb. 28, 2015, surrounded by her loving family at



St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay, Wisc. She was born on June 20, 1930, in Inwood Township, Mich., the daughter of the late Alexander and Edith (nee Johnston) Fluette.

She attended Nahma Township School in Nahma, Mich. During her teens, she and her family moved to Muskegon Heights, Mich., for work.

She was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

On Oct. 3, 1952, the former Helen G. Fluette married John Denkins of Virginia in Muskegon, Mich.

Helen was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. She remained active throughout her life, walking, gardening and attending concerts. She had a wonderful, loving spirit and always sang her way through her day and welcomed everyone with open arms.

Helen is survived by her six loving children, Steven John (Sandy Babington) Denkins, Jeffrey (Gail) Denkins, James (Grace) Denkins, Joseph (Tammey) Denkins, David (Kim Buskirk) Denkins and Gina (Warren) Feichtenbinder; 14 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; brothers, Gerald (Pat) Fluette, Alexander (Ginny) Fluette, and Paul (Judy) Fluette; and her sister, JoAnn (Tony)

Brennan.

In addition to her parents, Helen was preceded in death by her husband, John; her brother, William Fluette; and her sister, Peggy Douma.

Visitation, memorial services and spiritual drumming took place on March 7 at the Messier-Broullire Funeral Home in Manistique followed with a luncheon at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The family thanks the staff at the Manistique Tribal Community/Health Center and St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay for their loving care.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Manistique Tribal Elders Fund or to the charity of your choice.

Condolences may be expressed at www.mbfuneral.com.

RITA MAITLAND

Rita Maitland went to be with her Lord on June 19, 2014. She was born on Nov. 26, 1921, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to parents Elmer and Agnes Cairns.



On June 30, 1939, she married George A. Maitland, and they raised a family together in Michigan until 1960, when they moved to Sandy, Ore.

In Detroit, Mich., Rita, worked on 55mm recoiling rifle shells for the Kaiser Military Division, she also worked packing parachutes for the Kaiser Military Division. Her husband, George, fulfilled his military duties by going to war in the European Theater and spent time in Germany on the Siegfried

Line. At this time they were the parents of four children. In Rita's younger years she continued working in the manufacturing field, working at Kent Products in Grand Rapids, Mich.

After Rita moved to Oregon, she worked in the shipyards in Portland. She had various jobs there and she also did fire watch for the welders on the shops. She packed a 60-pound fire extinguisher up and down the ladder to the bilge of the ships. She was well respected for the strong work ethics, often doing challenging work that her younger peers could not keep up with. The company did a TV show that heralded the tenacity for someone of her age. She was in her sixties.

Rita was a strong and adventurous woman who loved to hunt and fish, catching fish on the Kenai Peninsula that were almost as tall as she was. Rita loved to travel and for a few years lived near her daughter, Pauline Kutsch, in Koloa, Hawaii. She was fond of the ocean and beautiful scenery.

Rita spent her last years in the Hope and Care Home, after a serious vehicle accident that left her unable to live on her own.

More than anything, Rita loved to spend time with her grandchildren and family. Rita was preceded in death by her parents, Elmer and Agnes Cairns; all her siblings, George Cairns, June Geiger, Eleanor Zagaiki, Bernice Shell, Donald Cairns, Elmer Cairns, and Deanna Bailey; husband, George A. Maitland; and son, George E. Maitland.

She is survived by her children, Ronald D. Maitland, (Madras, Ore.), Margaret A. McClara (Portland, Ore.), Pauline Kutsch, (Lihue, Hawaii), and Jo

Ann Scarborough, (Nicholasville, Ky.); many grandchildren and many, many, great-grandchildren.

Rita was laid to rest near her husband and son at the Willamette National Cemetery.

FAITH MCGRUTHER

Faith Anne (nee Turner)

McGruther passed away on Feb. 23, 2015. She was 77. She was born June 17, 1937, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.



She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and began working for the tribe in the late 1970s as a secretary. In the early '80s, she began working for the Chippewa Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority as secretary and eventually worked up to executive director in 1998 until her retirement in 2002. Through her work with COTFMA, which was later changed to Chippewa Ottawa Regulatory Authority (CORA), she was involved with many other organizations: ex-officio member of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Taskforce of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, regional director of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Great Lakes Region and ex-officio member on the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. She was very active in working alongside the tribes to negotiate the historic 1985 Consent Order and the 2000 Consent Decree.

She worked alongside the CORA tribes to negotiate with the US Coast Guard for the CORA-USCG Memorandum of

Understanding.

Faith was very proud of her involvement with the Great Lakes Region of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. She really enjoyed working alongside various conservation officers within the region and the shoot out competition, even participating one year.

She was also proud to have gone to Washington, D.C., to testify before Congress to fight for funding for the CORA tribes. She made many friends in D.C. in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Faith also was one of the original members of the Sault Tribe Child Welfare Committee, serving from the early 1980s until several years after her retirement. She also served on the powwow committee for many years, ensuring that the many dancers and drummers were fed each year.

She is survived by her daughter, Cindy Deuman; sons, Joseph Locke and Ken (Susan) McGruther; 20 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. She loved her grandchildren with all her heart and spent every free moment with them. She is also survived by many beloved nieces and nephews.

Faith was predeceased by her parents, Bernard Turner and Alice Turner-Guy; brother, Joseph Turner; sister, Marion Smart; son-in-law, Steve Deuman; and granddaughter, Evelyne Deuman.

Traditional services took place on Feb. 26 at the Niigaanaagizhik Ceremonial Building. Interment will be in Riverside Cemetery later this spring. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

Elders beat winter blues with dancing, singing and prizes!

Diane Compeau from the Unit I Elders Subcommittee organized a fun afternoon for Unit I elders March 9 after their lunch with dancing, karaoke, sing-alongs and prize drawings. They also hired All Good Soundz Entertainment to provide the music for their festivities.

Photos by Brenda Austin



Above are (L-R) Mary Boissoneau, Joyce McCoy, M. Sue Pavlat and Bill Sams Sr. resting their dancing shoes.



Unit I Elders at Nokomis-Mishomis in the Sault got their groove on at an afternoon dance party March 9.



Lynnette and Bill Marsh



Terry and Michele Schram



Above, seniors dance to the beat of All Good Soundz Entertainment.



Donna and Darryl Dalimonte



Jennifer Compo from All Good Soundz Entertainment sings with Mike The Hat.

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Elizabeth Young (left) had a winning ticket and picked from one of the many prizes available.

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URBAN TRIBUTARIES: That creek the kids play in is filthy!

BY MIKE RIPLEY,
INTER-TRIBAL FISHERIES ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Hey, Sault, Canada, your urban tributaries are filthy! But don't feel too bad because the creeks that flow through Sault, Mich., are just as dirty. Don't get me wrong, I'm not pointing fingers at anyone in particular and, to be honest, it's taken a long time to get water quality this dismal. But it is the year 2015 and maybe it's time for both sides of the river to buck up and start doing something to clean the water?

For many years, the governments on both sides of the border have been working to clean up the St. Marys River that was labeled a "toxic hot spot" in the 1980s due to things like industrial pollution, raw sewage overflows and destruction of the great St. Mary's rapids. A large, international study in the '80s revealed that as much as 10,000 kilograms (22,046 pounds) of oil and grease were being dumped into the river from Algoma Steel each day! And that was just one pollutant, there were also thousands of kilograms of cyanide, phenols from the paper plant, heavy metals and wood fiber being discharged directly into the river. Since that time, millions of dollars of corporate and taxpayers money has been spent to clean things up and today water quality in the St. Marys River has greatly improved (except for the huge amounts of toxic sediments that still remain on the bottom of the Canadian side of the river).

Fort Creek (see photo, upper left) flows through downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Canada, collecting pollutants from industrial and urban runoff before flowing into the St. Marys River.

So if things are getting better in the big river, why are the creeks that flow into it in such bad shape? With the exception of Fort Creek, the headwaters of the other creeks in Sault, Canada, are in great condition. There are at least seven beautiful waterfalls flowing over the Canadian shield above the city and water quality is, for the most part, very good up there. The problem is that most of Sault Ste. Marie is built on what used to be wetlands that have been paved over and filled in so by the time the water from those creeks flows through the city, all of the pollutants in parking lots, salt from the roads, petroleum from leaking underground storage tanks and fertilizer, pet waste and "unknown sources of fecal material" have sullied those pure waters. Oh, and there's the fact that those unruly creeks tend to overflow their banks and flood large sections of the city.

The water is clean at West Davignon Creek Falls accessible from the Voyageur hiking trail (see photo second from top, left.)

The same waters flow through concrete before being discharged into Leighs Bay (see photo at left).

CONCRETE NOT THE ANSWER

Flooding is where the Sault Area Conservation Authority comes in and they've taken a very hard stance on this issue, indeed. Through the years, they have "tamed" the creeks by channeling them through pipes, straight ditches and concrete channels called flood control structures. Basically, by the time the creeks see the daylight at the shore of the St. Marys River, they do not resemble their former sparkling selves one bit. I don't mean to downplay the seriousness of flooding in the city. Anyone who has had water flowing into their basements or has seen the Wellington Street underpass beneath 10 feet of water knows the seriousness of flooding. But other cities all around North America, Europe and even in Asia are finding ways to naturalize their urban tributaries, getting rid of concrete channels and turning them into community assets with parks, trails and the return of fish and wildlife in the cities themselves while still controlling flood waters.

East Davignon Creek at Crimson Ridge Golf Course in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. (See photo, bottom left)

The same waters after they are channeled through concrete ditches and storm sewers disappear into the Essar Steel plant (See photo, top right).

It's not like there haven't been plans and suggestions to restore the creeks here before. In the 1990s, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans developed a watershed plan for Bennett and Davignon Creeks, which currently flow through concrete diversion channels partly into Leighs Bay and partly into the Essar Steel plant. The plan that DFO put together recognized that several areas of the diversion were becoming "naturalized" with sediments allowing wetland vegetation to grow in the concrete channels and especially in the area of Leighs Bay popular with local fishers. The

thought was that if the streams could be restored and vegetation encouraged, flooding could still be controlled but water quality would be improved and fish could actually survive in these waters. The Conservation Authority and city however, rejected the plans saying that any vegetation in the concrete channels needs to be diligently removed. So every year the bulldozers come out and the vegetation is removed, trees cut and wetland vegetation is mowed down, which does nothing to improve water quality or allow a fish the fighting chance to live.

The headwaters of Ashmun Creek during construction of the Super Walmart in Sault, Mich. (See photo, second from top, at right.)

CREEKS OR STORM SEWERS?

Meanwhile, the tributaries across the border have different problems but the same dirty outcomes. The creeks in Sault, Mich., originate in what used to be wetlands located on the clay plains that now make up the I-75 business district popular with cross-border shoppers looking for cheap gas and groceries. Every year, more of the former wetlands are paved over for big box stores, car dealerships and residential developments, but all that water has to go somewhere and Ashmun Creek and Mission Creek receive it all, often all at once, leading to erosion and muddy water. The Ashmun Creek watershed alone, which encompasses about half of the drainage in Sault, Mich., has eight current or former leaking underground storage tank sites (having the decidedly un-sexy acronym LUST sites) that contribute cancer-causing pollutants like benzene to the creek. Add to that all of the salt used on parking lots and roads and studies have shown that some areas of Ashmun Creek are actually saltier than ocean water!

Ashmun Creek is a biohazard before it flows through perched culverts into Ashmun Bay and the St. Mary's River. (See photo, third from top, at right.)

Another mystery of these creeks is the anomalously high levels of bacterial pathogens. Water at the mouth of Ashmun Creek, where it flows into Ashmun Bay and the St. Marys River, not only contains all of the pollutants mentioned above, but it is also considered a bio-hazard due to insanely high levels of E. coli bacteria and fecal coliform. People in our area, especially those on Sugar Island, remember that it was E. coli bacteria that shut down beaches and lowered home values before the East End Sewage Treatment Plant in Sault, Canada, was upgraded. The origin of the poop water in Ashmun Creek however, remains a mystery.

A CHANCE TO CHANGE THINGS

It is possible to fix even these problems. In 2006, the Conservation District, with help from local volunteers, developed the Sault Area Watershed Plan that has been approved by the State of Michigan. The local volunteers have continued to meet and have formed the Sault Area Watershed Association. One of the visions of this group and Lake Superior State University is to protect a large area of wilderness between I-75 and the city airport that has survived development. LSSU professor Greg Zimmerman was successful at getting permission from the city and a small grant from the Michigan DNR to put some hiking trails in this area. Rampant ATV use in this area is compromising these trails, however, by creating more erosion and muddy ruts that fill with water, making some of the area almost inaccessible. ATVs and hiking trails are mutually exclusive for obvious safety and logistical problems. Another challenge is to identify how surface and groundwater are causing massive erosion problems in this area and the north side of the airport leading to washouts in the I-500 race track. The watershed association is applying for various grants to look into these and other problems.

Damage by ATVs make access to Ashmun Creek hiking trails very difficult (see photo, bottom right.)

Another vision tentatively embraced by both Sault Ste. Marie city governments is to get citizens off of their couches and get non-motorized exercise by hiking, biking or otherwise enjoying the outdoors. These activities would mesh so nicely with restoration of our urban tributaries if we could just hold to that thought of non-motorized recreation? The former city manager in Sault, Mich., once promised a non-motorized biking trail along Ashmun Bay, but, apparently, the city has other plans now — for an ATV trail instead.

This article with photos first appeared on Northern Hoot (http://northernhoot.com) on Feb. 27, 2015. Reprinted with permission.



Escanaba hosts inaugural Caring For Our Elders Powwow

The first of what is intended to be an annual powwow, the Caring For Our Elders Powwow, took place on Feb. 21 in Escanaba. The Escanaba Powwow Committee has long wanted to bring back the mid-winter powwows once held in Escanaba. Seeking to infuse a new spirit into the gathering, over 200 people attended the powwow dancing to the beats of six drums.



Submitted by Darcy Morrow
Men's fancy and grass dancers and a jingle dress dancer at left.



Submitted by Darcy Morrow
Dancers at the Escanaba powwow



Submitted by Colleen St. Onge
Master of ceremonies Joe Medicine with Colleen St. Onge (L-R)



Submitted by Colleen St. Onge
Dancers in resplendent regalia and plain clothes.



Submitted by Colleen St. Onge
Hand drummers Dion and Logan Syrette-Ottereyes



Submitted by Colleen St. Onge
Powwow Co-Chairs Jennifer and Chuck Raspor



Submitted by Colleen St. Onge
Co-host Drum Sturgeon Bay Singers



Photo by Darcy Morrow
Men's fancy dancer



Photo by Darcy Morrow
Dancers enjoying one of the many songs provided by the host drum Mukwa Giizhik.

ACFS Direct Services helps tribal families

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services is the social services branch of the Sault Tribe and has three components: Direct Services, Child Placement and the Advocacy Resource Center.

The Direct Services component provides assistance directly to tribal members experiencing financial or other difficulties.

ACFS Division Director Juanita Bye said the Direct Service program from five or more tribal member households a day in the seven county service area on a walk in basis.

“We are here to help the membership,” Bye said. “We have a lot to offer.”

Bye said that poverty is a huge issue in our community and that many people may not be aware of that fact. “We have very indigent families living in our seven county service areas.”

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Bye said that through the Emergency Assistance program, ACFS helps members on a daily basis who are faced with crisis situations. “Recently we were able to help an elder when their furnace broke during one of the coldest weeks of the winter with temperatures a negative 20 and below,” she said.

“We were also able to assist elders whose pipes froze and provide them with the financial assistance they needed to get them taken care of. We might not be the person setting up the service, unless the elder needs us to do that, but in a lot of cases we can assist with the financial resources to have it done,” she added.

The Emergency Assistance program provides financial resources for tribal members faced with unexpected crisis due to no fault of their own. Types of assistance available may include medical travel, loss due to fire, a natural disaster, and homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless.

“A big service that I feel we provide is to assist members in

subsidized housing so they don’t lose their housing if they are at risk of homelessness,” Bye said.

HEATING ASSISTANCE

During the winter months, ACFS provides a critical service to the community with heating assistance programs. “We serve between 700 and 800 members with heating assistance through the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),” she said. The LIHEAP program lowers the burden of high-energy bills and increases the energy efficiency (through the Weatherization Program) of eligible tribal households.

The Heating Program (now closed) is open from Nov. 1 until funds are exhausted. Through this program, eligible households receive a heating credit towards their heat bill. The crisis-heating program opens Jan. 1 for target households at risk of shut off. To qualify for this program target households must have a documented disability, be an elder over the age of 60 or have a child under the age of 6 in the home and meet the income guidelines.

USDA FOOD DISTRIBUTION

One of the better-known programs under the ACFS Direct Services umbrella is the USDA Food and Distribution program. Bye said the number of households receiving food assistance has increased substantially over the last few months. This program provides fresh, nutritious foods to income eligible tribal households in the following counties: Alger, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Delta, Emmet, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Schoolcraft, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse, Leelenau and Manistee. The program’s big food truck visits the following sites once a month: Manistique, Marquette, Newberry, Hessel, DeTour, Kinross, Rapid River, Munising, Cheboygan and St. Ignace.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

The General Assistance (GA) Program provides temporary



ACFS Director Juanita Bye and staffer Sheila Kibble man the Anishnaabek Community and Family Services booth at last August's sidewalk sales. WAN File Photos



The USDA commodity kitchen was remodeled for educational activities like home canning and kids classes.

financial relief for members 18 years of age and up with limited to no income and without dependent children. Bye said there are two categories of members eligible for this service: medically exempt, such as an adult who breaks their leg and is not able to work for a period of time and has no other resources available. To be medically exempt, tribal members must have documentation from a medical provider stating they are not able to work.

“We have members who are in the process of applying for Social Security benefits and that is a lengthy process, if we have documentation from a medical provider saying they are not able to work those members would be eligible to apply,” Bye said.

The second category under the GA Program is employable tribal members who can’t find a job and have no other resources available. Recipients work with a Direct Service worker doing job search-

es, filling out job applications and performing volunteer hours to get their monthly stipend.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Other programs offered through ACFS Direct Services are the Native Employment Works program, the Child Care and Development Fund, Employee Assistance, Funeral Assistance, Cooling and Weatherization.

Call ACFS at 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093, or visit them at www.saulttribe.com.

Some members experience delays on Michigan tax returns

FROM SAULT TRIBE LEGAL STAFF

A number of Sault Tribe members have complained they are seeing unexpected delays in the processing of their State of Michigan tax returns. The tribal Legal Department has contacted the state Department of Treasury to investigate these concerns.

According to Treasury officials, most taxpayers who file their Michigan income taxes electronically (“e-file”) can expect

that it will take at least two to four weeks for their income tax returns to be processed and for any refund to be issued. The process will take a few weeks longer for those who file a traditional paper return.

During the processing of income tax returns, a certain number of returns are selected or “excepted out” for manual review. Treasury says this is a

normal part of the review process for all returns and it not necessarily mean there is a problem with the return. Treasury also insists while many different factors can trigger this review process, their system does not in any way target returns of tribal members.

Some members have had their returns selected or “excepted out” for manual review and then received a standardized message

stating that the additional review can take as much as six to eight weeks. That kind of lengthy delay has understandably caused concern. But in most cases, according to Treasury, members will find the delay is much less than this. In fact, most members are finding the manual review is completed much more quickly – often in as little as two weeks.

Taxpayers can check on

the status of their income tax returns by going to the Treasury Department’s tax web page at www.michigan.gov/taxes. Once on that page, click on the button that says “Where’s My Refund?” You will be asked to provide a number of specific details from your actual tax return so you will want to have a copy of your return handy when you visit this website.

Sixth annual competition for artists with disabilities announced

Adult artists with disabilities have a chance to win \$500 and have their artwork displayed in the Grand Rapids Art Museum and entered in ArtPrize 2015, thanks to the Legacy Trust Award Collection (LTAC).

Back for its sixth year, the LTAC is soliciting artwork from Michigan artists with disabilities for its popular mini-competition in advance of ArtPrize. Four winning artists will each receive \$500 and sponsorship in ArtPrize,

the radically open art competition scheduled this year Sept. 23 through Oct. 11 in downtown Grand Rapids.

The statewide competition is open to all Michigan artists with disabilities and seeks paintings, sculptures, photographs, drawings, collages, mixed media and other works for art. Four winners will be chosen by popular vote, a panel of celebrity judges and the LTAC Advisory Committee.

Artists must register with LTAC

by Friday, April 3 to be considered for the 2015 competition.

Sponsored by Grand Rapids-based investment advisory and wealth management firm Legacy Trust, LTAC will be held this year in the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) May 5-6.

The public will have a chance to view and vote on the art on Tuesday, May 5, and Wednesday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the GRAM in downtown Grand Rapids. On Tuesday, May

5, Meijer sponsors free general admission to the GRAM.

Winning artists will have their work displayed during ArtPrize at DeVos Place in downtown Grand Rapids.

Winners of LTAC 2015 will be announced on Monday, May 11.

All entry fees and promotion expenses for ArtPrize will be paid by Legacy Trust, which — for the third year — has secured the high-profile DeVos Place venue

for the winning artists during ArtPrize.

Artists from all genres are invited to participate in the competition. Artists must submit an artist registration to Legacy Trust by April 3. Artwork must be completed and available for showing in Grand Rapids by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 10.

More information on LTAC is available at <http://legacygr.com/Blog/February-2015/2015-LTAC-Registration-Form.aspx>.

ARC working to end violence against women

A group of about 30 men, women and children danced at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., last Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, as part of a global campaign to end violence against women. A display table featured related information and promotional material.

The action, coordinated by the folks of the Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) affiliated with Sault Tribe, took place as part of the One Billion Rising Revolution, an escalation of the first two stages of the campaign — One Billion Rising and One Billion Rising for Justice, according to the campaign website.

One Billion Rising is described as the "biggest mass action to end violence against women in human history." It was launched on Valentine's Day of 2012.



Valentine's Day - Dancing to end violence against women and children.



Amy McCoy led the dancers



Advocacy Resource Center booth and information.



Dancers with a message

U.P. focused partnership boosts business startups

FROM CREATIVE CHANGE ASSOCIATES

Alan Barr, Manistique native and owner of Creative Change Associates, has been known to say, "If you always do what you have always done, you'll always get what you always got." Barr uses the title, "chief catalyst," to create a picture of what he does best — motivating and equipping leaders to embrace change. He has consulted internationally with organizations, communities and governments for over 25 years, providing them with a holistic process for change. Barr's focus has been on creating collaborative, high performance infrastructures, with an impressive list of partnered companies like Ford, Inland Steel, Bosch, Johnson Controls, Department Of Defense, City of Ann Arbor and the American Red Cross, to name a few.

Barr and his wife, Julie, who also grew up in Manistique, made a decision two years ago, when the high school sweethearts married that it was time to go home. Julie, a retired insurance industry professional with a passion for marketing and excellent customer service, pitched the concept of "it's time to give back to the area that raised us" to Alan, and the availability of Alan's childhood home sealed the deal.



Alan Barr

"We want to help the people and businesses in the U.P. to not just survive, but thrive," said Barr.

In the past year, the couple has done just that. Alan has worked on projects with the Sault Tribe, Schoolcraft County Economic Development Corporation, MiWorks and Boy Scout Troop 400 — joining his father and brother in the tradition of mentoring young men into leaders.

Julie has been volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul, and many folks have found themselves on the receiving end of a plate of cookies or a pot of soup on a rough day. "Kindness is the surest way to not only lift others up, but to create joy for yourself, and we can all use a bit more joy,

can't we?" she said.

A joint project the couple is taking on that fits their purpose and passions, along with Grand Valley State University, is introducing SproutLab, and the Co.Starters program to our area. Having recently completed facilitator training, they are excited about coming alongside other prospective business owners and sharing ideas and support.

Sprout Lab is a public-private partnership, which includes the MI-SBDC, Michigan Technological University, Michigan State University, Bay College, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Northern Initiatives, along with support, encouragement and mentoring from established and experienced local entrepreneurs.

An informative social hour will take place in Delta County, sponsored by GVSU and Creative Change Associates, and will be announced shortly. Here, you will have an opportunity to learn more about the Ideation Boot Camp coming up in Escanaba March 26 and 27, as well as the Co.Starters workshops, also in Escanaba, beginning in April.

The boot camps are designed to help innovators, inventors and entrepreneurs move their ideas forward. It's for people in the exploratory stages of how to get

their ideas to come to life, whether it's filling a gap in the local business scene, creating a new tool or technology or solving an energy or natural resources problem with an innovative solution.

SproutLab is launching a nine-week rural entrepreneurship series called Co.Starters. The cost is \$149. Participants will meet weekly for three hours and

will benefit from the experience of a variety of guest speakers/entrepreneurs. The workshops are designed around creating a real world Business Canvas Model that the participant can implement into their startup plans.

For more information and to register, go to the SproutLab website at www.sproutlab.org, or call Julie Barr at (906) 286-9366.

Tribe wants Line 5 decommissioned

From "Enbridge Pipeline," Page 1

to redevelop a commercial and subsistence fishing access point at Epoufette Bay, Mich., which is immediately west of the Straits of Mackinac. The harbor will serve fishers relying on the excellent fishing grounds in Lake Michigan which would be destroyed by an oil spill at the straits.

The State of Michigan, owing to public concerns arising from this pipeline and the Enbridge pipeline disaster at Talmadge Creek, Mich., in 2010 leading to the contamination of 40 miles of the Kalamazoo river, has established the Michigan Petroleum Pipelines Task Force. The task force is charged with examining issues and making recommendations to the government of the state of Michigan regarding petroleum pipelines in Michigan, with particular emphasis on

Enbridge Line 5 at the straits.

Under the 2015 regulatory regime, it is doubtful that any corporation would be successful in any proposal to site and construct a new pipeline at this location, due to the catastrophic impacts of a failure. Under this circumstance, it would be more likely that Enbridge would attempt to keep Line 5 operating rather than take it out of service.

There are only two possible outcomes for the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline at the Straits of Mackinac, and one of these two things will eventually occur, and these are 1) the pipeline will rupture and cause catastrophic damage to the Great Lakes system, or 2) a regulatory agency will succeed in requiring decommissioning of the Straits segment before a catastrophe occurs.

(Kathleen Brosemer is the manager of the tribe's Environmental Department.)

Native Americans more at risk for kidney disease

Native Americans are more at risk for kidney failure than some other races, twice as likely to get kidney failure as Euro-Americans.

Although we are not exactly sure why Native Americans are more at risk, diabetes, high blood pressure and access to health care play a big part.

Diabetes is the number one cause of kidney failure. It causes nearly 40 percent all cases in the United States and it is a serious

problem for Native Americans who get it more often and are twice as likely as Euro-Americans to have diabetes. About one in eight or 13.2 percent of Natives aged 18 or older has diabetes.

Diabetes affects Native Americans differently, Natives are twice as likely to die from their diabetes as Euro-Americans and high blood pressure is the second highest cause of kidney failure causing about one out of four cases or 25 percent in the

United States.

Native Americans get high blood pressure more often, almost one in three or almost 30 percent of adults have high blood pressure.

If you are at risk for kidney disease, ask your doctor how often you should be tested. If you catch and treat kidney disease early, you may be able to slow it down.

If you are in a group at higher risk for kidney disease, there are

some things you can do to help protect yourself:

1. Get tested. Talk to your doctor about being tested for diabetes, high blood pressure and kidney disease. Many patients with kidney disease never have any symptoms until it is too late. Ask your doctor to perform a blood and urine test to test for kidney disease.

2. Eat right. Eat foods low in fat and cholesterol. Eat foods that are high in fiber. Limit how much

alcohol you drink.

3. Live healthfully. Exercise, keep a healthful weight, don't smoke or use tobacco and treat bladder and kidney infections fast.

4. Manage diabetes and high blood pressure. Diabetes and high blood pressure cause about two out of three cases of kidney failure. If you have either or both conditions, talk to your doctor about how to keep them in control.

Sexual assault: What everyone needs to be aware of

By LARA COOK-PAQUIN

Sexual assault is a topic of which everyone needs to become aware and educated. It is defined as any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient.

Falling under the definition of sexual assault are sexual activities including forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling and attempted rape. Surprisingly, sexual assault is a topic that has become highlighted in the media in only the last five to 10 years. The more sexual assault is discussed, the more awareness people can develop and teach others about safety and prevention.

Sexual assault statistics are very alarming:

- 44 percent of victims are under the age of 18;
- 80 percent of victims are under the age of 30;

“The Sault Tribe’s Advocacy Resource Center provides free advocacy, therapy and shelter for survivors. If you are interested in these services please call 632-1808.”

- 60 percent of sexual assaults are not reported to police;
- 38 percent of rapists are friends or acquaintances;
- 28 percent of rapes are committed by an intimate partner; and
- Seven percent of rapes are committed by a relative.

Sexual assault is a serious epidemic occurring across the United States at a staggering rate of one every 1.3 minutes. It is also happening rampantly around the globe and is a crime that affects all ages, sexual orientations, religions, genders, socioeconomic statuses and education levels. Native Americans exceed other ethnicities in numbers

of sexual assault by 34.1 percent, they have the highest lifetime rate of attempted and completed rape.

Why do Native Americans have such a high rate of sexual assault? Risk factors are known to be higher in Native American populations. These risk factors include, but are not limited to, higher rates of substance abuse and dependence, suicides, poverty and elevated mental health disorders when compared to the general population.

This is due to cultural, historical and intergenerational trauma as Native Americans suffer from internalized oppression and the normalization of violence. Given the amount of abuse historically inflicted on Native Americans, it is true there has been an immense amount of trauma in the population. Multiple traumatic experiences are challenging to treat as they often lead to major mental health disorders and an array of

substance abuse and dependency issues.

One of the main mental health disorders that can arise from sexual assault is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. This mental health disorder includes symptoms such as nightmares, flashbacks, anxiety, avoidance of thoughts and feelings related to the assault, a sense of detachment, hyper vigilance, depression, suicidal thoughts and many other symptoms. This disorder can become intrusive and overbearing for an individual, sometimes preventing them from participating in normal daily activities.

Given that the statistics are so high for Native Americans, it is important to take action through education and prevention. There are a number of local and national resources that can be helpful.

The Sault Tribe’s Advocacy Resource Center provides free

advocacy, therapy and shelter for survivors. If you are interested in these services please call (906) 632-1808.

Also, visit a Facebook page under “Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians – Advocacy Resource Center” that provides articles, information and local events. Another is a Facebook page named ‘Project “S.”’ providing education and information about a group that will be meeting in the future to bring awareness to the community.

You can go to www.rainn.com for more information and a national hotline to call if you need help after hours. Remember the importance of addressing this issue and you may be able to help yourself or someone you know with healing from sexual assault.

(Lara Cook-Paquin LLMSW is a clinical social worker with the Advocacy Resource Center.)

Annual snowsnake championships held at JKL School

The annual Bill Morrison Shoshiimaan Championships at JKL Bahweting School for fifth grade students in Sault Ste. Marie took place on March 6.

The championship is the school’s snow snake competition and is named after its former art teacher who brought the game to the school.

“Shoshiimaan” is the Anishinaabe word used for “snowsnake” as it describes the action used for the event. The game is ancient and still played in

some regions and communities. In 1955, it got the attention of *Sports Illustrated*, which did a feature article about the game and how it is played by the Iroquois people.

JKL fifth grade students are given precut wood sticks. They work on sanding their sticks and then burning Anishinaabe designs into the them for the competition.

Dr. Gordon’s middle school ezhichigeying class builds the track, which takes a couple weeks

to get ready if the weather is good.

The JKL School’s 2015 championship results are as follows:

- Champion: Curtis Hubbard, 100 feet (won on his last throw).
- Second: C.J. McKechnie, 99.5 feet (placed on his final throw).
- Third: Reilly Cox, 96 feet.
- Unsung hero, Akeera Johnson, 92 feet.

The students of JKL Bahweting await the championship coming next year.



Winners of the snowsnake competition were (L-R) Curtis Hubbard, C.J. McKechnie, Reilly Cox and Akeera Johnson.

JKL PSA students of the month



JKL BAWHETING PSA FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH — Back row, left to right, Shaelyn Reno, Addison Rowland, Sadie Smart, Pyper Nolan, Kylie Goodman, Felicity Madigan. Third row, left to right, Cody Batho, Ian Traynor, R.J. Mettner, Taylor Pratt. Second row, left to right, Oliver Nehmer, Rhett Rizzo, Jasmine Nickaboine, Addison Gerrie. Front row, left to right, Payton Roy and Ava Eidenier. Missing from photo, Katie LaPlante, Vera Heinrich, Ethan Black and Makenna McMillan.

JKL PSA School named Academic State Champ

JKL Bahweting Anish-nabe Public School Academy in Sault Ste. Marie was named as an Academic State Champion by Bridge Magazine.

Only 30 schools in the state received this recognition. JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Middle School was ranked as the ninth best middle school in the state.

To determine the winners, Bridge partnered with the public policy research firm Public Sector Consultants Inc. to develop a value-added ranking system that measures a school’s test scores adjusted for student family income, which is often a predictor of academic achieve-

ment. Bridge’s Academic State Champions are recognized for over-achievement, rather than achievement.

“Due to the extraordinary work by our students and staff, we are pleased to report that our middle school students have exceeded academic expectations when compared to other middle schools in the state of Michigan with similar demographics,” said school Superintendent Theresa Kallstrom.

Read more about the Bridge Magazine Academic State Champions at www.bridgemi.com.

MIEA Student Incentive Program for 2014-15

The Student Incentive Program offered by the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) recognizes students who achieve all "A" or numerical equivalent grades for marking periods as well as students who achieve perfect attendance during marking periods.

A minimum of \$3,000 is available to fund this program this year. An award of \$25 will be made for each qualified entry up to the minimum available funds in the program. In the event that the number of qualified entries exceeds the funds available, the winners will be determined by lottery.

To qualify, students must be enrolled members or direct descendants of enrolled members of one of the MIEA constituent bands. Applicants must be in grades one through 12 at a public or private school.

Students applying for the straight "A" or numerical equivalent grades awards must be in grade four through grade 12. Applications for perfect attendance awards will be accepted from students in grades one through 12, excused absences for anything other than school sponsored or approved functions do not constitute perfect attendance.

The first two marking periods

School hosts family reading night at LSSU March 24

Educators and family agencies from Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding communities have come together to host a family reading night on Tuesday, March 24, 6-8 p.m., at the LSSU Cislser Center.

All K-12 students, college students, preschool children, infants, toddlers and their families are invited and encouraged to attend. Come discover what the wonder of reading can do for OUR

MIEA announces 2015 scholarships

The Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) is pleased to announce it will make available three \$1,000 scholarships and one \$500 scholarship. The scholarships will be awarded to at least nine qualified students with the \$1,000 scholarships being awarded to top three qualified students as determined by committee review and lottery, if necessary. Each student must be currently enrolled in a course of study at, or have a letter of acceptance from, a public college or university or technical school and must meet the following qualifications.

Students must be an enrolled member (copy of tribal card) or be direct descendants of enrolled members of one of the MIEA constituent tribes or bands (must be verified in writing by your tribal enrollment department); successfully completed and passed all five General Education Development (GED) equivalency tests with a minimum score of 40 and an average score of 45 and

of the 2014-15 school year will be used to determine the winners for this lottery.

Students may qualify for both attendance and grade awards for both marking periods; for example, qualifying grades and attendance for both marking periods would mean four chances to win.

Parents of applying students must submit completed and signed Student Incentive Program application forms to qualify for an award. Other items that must be submitted are a copy of the child's report card signed by the parent or a letter from an administrator of the student's school to verify the achievement of qualifying grades or attendance and a copy of the student's or parent's tribal identification card.

The drawing to determine the winners takes place at the April 2015 Michigan Indian Elders Association conference.

It is very important to follow these directions to be considered for awards. Completed application forms, signed report cards or verification letters of achievement and copies of tribal identification cards must be received by LeAnn Stindt, 103M Big Bear Road, Iron River, MI 49935 no later than 5 p.m. on April 1, 2015.

children, OUR students, OUR schools, OUR families and OUR community.

Great opportunities! Prizes! Free Resources! Hands on Activities! Refreshments! Story Time!

For more information, contact Theresa Kallstrom at 635-5055, extension 105, or tkallstrom@jklschool.org or Lori Jodoin at 635-5055, extension 121, or ljodoin@jklschool.org.

must possess a GED certificate or must have graduated from an accredited high school with a 3.0 grade point average or, if currently enrolled at a college, university or trade school, must have an accumulated grade point average of 3.0; except for special and extenuating circumstances, must attend college, university or trade school on a full-time basis; and complete the provided application form and submit it with required supporting documentation, which must be received by the coordinator no later than June 20, 2015 (Please note, incomplete or late applications will not be considered). Sorry, no email or faxes.

Download the application on the tribes's website www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/education.

Gary (Tom) Derwin, coordinator
301 Chestnut St.
Munising, MI 49862
(906) 387-3498

Michigan Indian Elders Association
2014-15 Student Incentive Program application form

Student's name, age and grade:

Address, city, state and zip code:

Phone number and email address:

School name and address:

School phone number, fax number and principal's name:

Student's Social Security number (voluntary) and indicate type of award and associated number of marking periods:

Attach copies of signed student report cards or administrative affidavits for the specified marking periods and student or parent tribal identification card. Photographs of applying students are not required, but MIEA does accept photos for program promotions. Please note the student's name on the back of any submitted photos.

I certify that all the information given is true and correct. I understand that this information is being given for the receipt of funds, and the Michigan Indian Elders Association program coordinator may verify the information on the application with my child's school. I further give consent for the use of my child's name and/or likeness for the promotion of this program.

Parent's signature and date:

All information must be received by April 1, 2015, at 5 p.m. by LeAnn Stindt, 103M Big Bear Road, Iron River, MI 49935

YEA Beautiful U event held



Young ladies enjoyed a Beautiful U event courtesy of the tribe's Youth Education and Activities Program in Escanaba on Jan. 23-24. Coordinator Kelly Constantino said the purpose of the event is to help girls understand their own inner beauty, learn about self-respect and that looks don't show the content of a person. The girls also learned lessons on the harmfulness of bullying and studied the tenants of the Seven Grandfathers.

Moving?

Call the Sault Tribe Enrollment Department to update your new address to continue to receive mail sent to you by your tribe: (800) 251-6597 or 635-3396, or enrollment@saulttribe.net.



REPRESENT YOU, NOT THE FEW HATERS ON OUR BOARD



Dialoging with US Secretary Burwell in my role on the HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Council regarding historical trauma and suicides.

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

Ahneen, BooZo, Negee:

In my report to you last month, I highlighted several items I have been working on at the national level to represent our tribe. Like most of our Members, I usually ignore the hate spread in some Board unit reports, but Members have urged me to make a clarification then move on. I know some Board Members take exception to the work I do representing you at the State, Regional and National levels. Just read some Board reports and you can see I can do nothing right in their eyes. I chose not to dignify their individual and petty expression of jealousy with specific responses other than to say that I work very hard to serve as your Chairperson.

It has been three years, isn't it time to get over it?

Tribal Board Member haters' negative attitudes are inconsequential to me, but when their petty jealousies continue to surface their ugly head, our Tribe suffers. When I was recently elected unanimously to serve as the Chairperson of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority Board which is the five Chairpersons and our Conservation or National Resource/ Con-

not needed here". I promised Members not to miss our meetings. The haters don't have to like it, but they should respect my commitment to our people. It was just to change it by one day. After testify in the U.S. Congress regarding our enduring treaty rights is an honor. Those who consistently vote no are Bridgett Sorenson, Lana Causley, Catherine Hollowell, and Jennifer McLeod so I failed to get a positive majority vote.



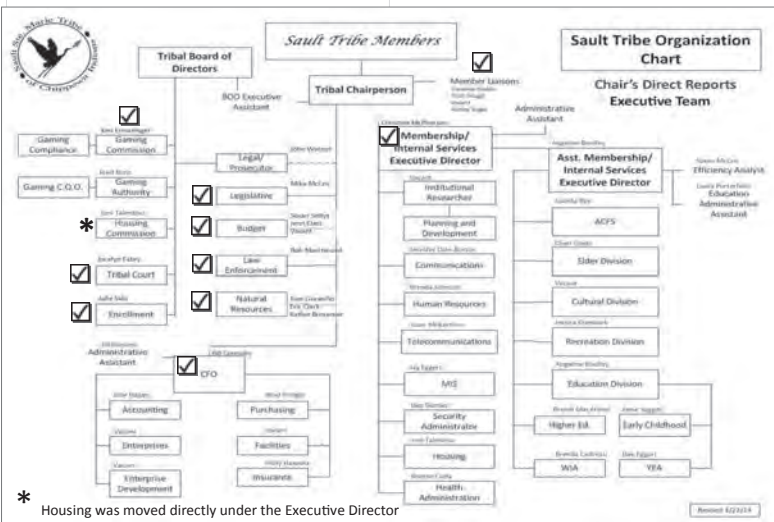
National Congress of American Indians Board of Directors right after I was unanimously elected as an Executive Officer Member as Recording Secretary

servation Chairs from our respective tribes. Together, we work collaboratively to pro-

Notwithstanding this immature Board opposition defiance, I will continue to work hard at all levels to represent you and to work to gain even higher levels of access to push our Sault Tribe agenda at the highest level. What good it does it do our Tribe to continue to undermine the office of the Chairperson?



Assistant Secretary of Interior Kevin Washburn addressing NCAI General Assembly.



Those detractors on our Board are not really my concern. Because you see, you put me here, not them. There exists a faction on our Board who have repeatedly opposed my requests related to change meeting times to accommodate my national level work.



Tribal Women leaders on implementation of the Violence of Against Women Act with NCAI President Bryan Claadoosby.

Our 1836 treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather. As the Chair of CORA, I was invited by the US House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee to testify later this month in Congress but the date conflicted with the Manistique Board meeting. The Western-end Board Members ~ Directors Chase, Morrow, and Glyptis all voted to support changing the date but several Board Members voted to not change the date so it failed. Their argument, "skip the Board Meeting ~ you are

As Chairperson with the delegated administrative authority, I oversee the top governmental administrators of the Tribe including our Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer. I provide ministerial oversight over our Chief of Police, Judge, Gaming Commission Executive Director, and the Tribal Registrar. I proudly lead our Natural Resources team including our Environmental, Fisheries and Inland Directors. I work



With a great group of very smart American Indians and smart Federal Partners on the IHS Contract Support Costs Workgroup



American Indian Youth from across the county selected for recognition by the Aspen Institute, a program established by former Senator Byron Dorgan (D-North Dakota).

hard to provide leadership in these areas. Several have received national honors, leadership roles in national, regional and State level committees and great success in securing federal funding so that none of these three receive funding from our Tribe unless there is a mandatory and marginal match.

I am paid about 42% of what one of my predecessors received which was an obscene \$240,000 with retirements benefits, sick and vaca-

member who rolls up his sleeves and a leader at the national level. I know I have the support of my fellow



U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi addressing the NCAI General Assembly.

Chairpersons as evidenced in their votes to appoint me several State, regional, and National posts. I also know I have the strong and steadfast respect of those I oversee and supervise, and provide ministerial oversight. Recall that not that long ago, nearly a landslide of support from you ~ the people ~ was demonstrated in the last election. So what is the problem with the



Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell talking about the importance of providing our Native youth opportunities.

tion time, and a clothing allowance! I am glad to serve you on the home-front and believe I do an excellent job at both levels. I work hard each day to try to continue to earn your respect and support.

The test of someone's



Wendy Hoffman, Sault Tribe Transportation planner & Senator Elizabeth Warren.

few on our Board who cannot see what you see and put their



Delegation of Sault Tribe Members in the Longworth House Agricultural Committee Meeting room with financial supporters of M.A.S.T. Picture front row: Director Cathy Abramson, Michelle Castagne, Meghan (Kelly) Starling, Carrie (Biron) Wichtman.

leadership is what others think of them in the long run. I am recognized as a team

own petty politics over the benefit of our entire nation? Ask yourself this question and decide whether or not their habitual hate is sufficient to earn their pay and your continued support. What are they doing other than complaining? What are they accomplishing to earn their weekly \$1,288 gross pay?

Unit V commodity distribution location changed



RITA GLYPTIS
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

The Sault Tribe food commodity program moved the distribution location from the Wetmore housing site to the Munising Tribal Center beginning on March 13. The location of the truck and the entrance for members to use will be on the M-28 side of the building. The truck and crew will arrive approximately at 10:30 a.m.

Due to a major fire that destroyed the ALTRAN transit

system building in Munising last week, the ALTRAN bus service is temporarily operating out of the LMAS Health Department building in Wetmore. Although certainly not back to normal, ALTRAN is operating once again and the phone number to reach them remains the same, (906) 387-4845. Due to the resignation of our Sault Tribe eldercare driver for our area last week, this situation is even more difficult for our western end elders. Sault Tribe elders in need of transportation services for medical appointments, please call Karla McLeod, transportation coordinator for the Elder Division, at (906) 635-4971. They are doing everything they can to accommodate transportation requests. Anyone interested in applying for the eldercare driver position can find the job posting and application at www.saulttribe.com under the heading Newsroom – Employment.

The Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) is offering its annual Student Incentive Program for tribal youth with either all A grades, perfect atten-

dance or both, for the first two marking periods of the current 2014-2015 school year. An award of \$25 will be made for each qualified entry. In the event that the number of qualified entries exceeds the funds available, the winners will be determined by lottery. The drawing to determine the winners will be held in April at the MIEA conference. Due to the MIEA website being down, please contact Sault Tribe admin for more information, (906) 635-6050. Applications are also available at the Munising Tribal Health Center. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2015.

The board of directors approved a grant application initiated by Angeline Bouley for the purpose of purchasing supplies and materials for tribal youth to make regalia (shawls or ribbon vests) in an effort to engage more youth to dance at their local powwows this summer. There are eight community powwows that take place in our communities, including Munising, Manistique, Newberry, Sault, Sugar Island and Hessel.

Due to inclement weather in February, a volleyball tournament fundraiser for 13-year-old tribal member Gabby Ziemis, recently diagnosed with leukemia, was rescheduled for March 14 at Superior Central Middle School in Eben, Mich. All proceeds from concessions were donated to Gabby and her family. For further information, please contact Superior Central, Marcey Carlson, at (906) 439-5531.

I am a member of the local collaborative group that is seeking additional members. The AC3 Communities That Care organization promotes a safe, healthy and prosperous environment for all youth and adults. The Communities That Care prevention model is built on a social development strategy where youth are given opportunities, skills and recognition for their accomplishments while bonding them to healthy beliefs and behaviors. Who should join? Any and everyone who has a vested interest in our youth and community. For more information or to be part of this great group

of people, contact Mary Joan O'Halloran-Torongo at (906) 202-2244.

Being part of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors is a very challenging endeavor. Although we are a 12-member board plus the chairman, we do not all think or act alike. Some of the actions made and taken by the board do not represent what I believe in or agree with. The point I would like to make is that although we pass certain things as a whole board, majority vote rules, in effect not representative of what we all agree with. Again majority rules with 12 of us, and the chairman breaks the tie if there is one.

We need to make our voices heard in the western end units. Coming board of directors meetings in our areas are in Manistique on March 24 and Munising on April 21. I encourage our members to attend and speak up for our people.

Sincerely,
Rita Glyptis
(906) 202-3224
rglyptis@saulttribe.net

Hoffman sponsors resolution to post CEO position



D.J. Hoffman
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

I am an elected representative of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. As such, it is my responsibility to report to the membership (pursuant to Constitution) on a monthly basis. Since election nearly eight months ago, it has been my intent to provide as much information as possible within the confines of time and space restrictions. Maligning or attacking other board members or the chairperson individually in these reports serves no productive purpose.

I am a member of the board, and as such I am also responsible for the actions taken by the board of directors whether I am in favor of such actions or not. If one is fortunate enough to serve as a member of the board of directors, they cannot take credit when times are good and cast blame when they are bad.

I will continue to report on the issues occurring in the tribe, as well as possible options or solutions to move us forward, refraining from the tabloid journalism model of reporting.

CEO

At the Feb. 24 meeting of the board of directors, I sponsored a resolution to post the position of chief executive officer of Kewadin Casinos. The position is a key employment position, approved in the 2015 casino budgets. Hiring of this "key employee" requires seven votes of the

board of directors. Under the tribe's adopted personnel policies, all positions must be posted.

Some members of the board have argued the resolution would send the wrong message to the temporary casino executive officer. My concern is the message that not following policy, adopted by tribal resolution, conveys to the membership and our employees as a whole.

In August 2014, an RFP (request for proposals) was distributed externally with the following as its premise: Temporary overall management of gaming/hospitality operations with the ultimate goal of assisting with selection of a permanent chief executive officer of Kewadin Casinos.

The resolution to post the position not only complied with the policies and procedures of the tribe, it adheres to the intent of the RFP. In addition, the language in the resolution was derived from these policies.

Here is the resolution:

POSTING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION

WHEREAS, the Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority included the position of Chief Executive Officer within its approved 2015 annual budget; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Tribal Code(s) 94.105, and 14.105(10) (e) the Kewadin Gaming Authority is subordinate to the Tribal Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Tribe established the Chief Executive Officer as a "Key Team Member" for the Kewadin Casinos under Tribal Resolution 2014-142; and

WHEREAS, for Key Team Members and their selection or termination: (a) it shall take an affirmative vote of seven (7) Tribal Board of Directors members to select a Key Team Member, and (b) it shall take an affirmative vote of seven (7) Tribal Board of Directors members to terminate a Key Team Member; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Job Posting Policy is followed by the Tribes Human Resource department for all positions; and

WHEREAS, the Procedure under the Tribal Job Posting Policy reads as such: "Positions will be posted for a minimum of three days or open until filled;" and

WHEREAS, it has been the practice of the Tribe to post management positions for 30 days.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians directs the Human Resource Department to post the Chief Executive Officer Position, Kewadin Casinos.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Executive Officer Position shall be posted open until filled for no less than 30 business days.

Unfortunately the board of directors voted against posting the position during the meeting. The vote count is as follows: five "yes" votes, five "no" votes, one abstention. A tie breaking vote was cast to deny posting the position, making it 6-5-1.

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for not being able to convince enough of the board to adhere to the policies and procedures that have been adopted. Competition breeds competence and productivity, openness breeds trust. Unfortunately, neither occurred on this day.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION

The tribe has developed a draft economic development director job description. This position could be funded from the non-gaming enterprises themselves, as it has the potential to make our existing businesses more profitable and accountable as well as provides a qualified professional to actually commence the process of diversifying and expanding our non-gaming business model.

I am hopeful that the board will move forward in this area so that we, as a tribe, can actually get something done.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The threat of substance abuse has been historically prevalent in Indian Country. As a tribe, we need to do more and focus more upon prevention and treatment of this affliction. Often times, substance abuse issues result in criminal prosecution and incarceration. While this is one option, it does not provide treatment or prevention from this affliction.

When the tribe sends an individual to jail, there are court costs as well as the tribal financial obligation to hold these individuals in local jails (we do not have our own). We should be looking at developing our own in-patient treatment center to tackle this issue head on. The funds earmarked for incarceration could just as easily be utilized for treatment. Our former medical center in Wetmore sits vacant and unused and would provide an excellent possibility in the development of such facility.

In addition to treatment, we need to do more to prevent this threat to our communities. We need to provide more opportunities for our children, more focused learning, cultural programming, fitness and more.

These things can be accomplished with our current funding by collaboration and proper planning. We have the tools to make a difference; it is time that we started using them.

TWO PERCENT

The tribes operating under the 1993 Federal Court Consent judgment between the state and the tribes are required to make semi-annual 2 percent payments directly to local units of government. "Net win" is the total amount wagered on each electronic game of chance, minus the total amount paid to players for winning wagers at said machine.

The Sault Tribe distributes the 2 percent payments in accor-

dance with both long term and short term agreements with local units of government. Examples of long term agreements include agreements with the City of Sault Ste. Marie, as well as agreements that have aided in the development of Taffy Abel Arena at Lake Superior State University and the reconstruction of Shunk Road. Short term agreements include funding items such as the Kinross Rec Center, projects and playgrounds in communities, local school districts as well as local law enforcement.

While the tribe has certain long term commitments that do not change, occasionally there are a few that expire, leaving new opportunities for local units of governments such as cities and schools. In addition, the competition for the remaining short term funding has increased considerably over the years with no true structure for approval, other than the preferences of the unit directors. This is an area in need of attention to establish proper protocols for the benefit of all of our communities, both tribal and local.

One area that may provide the largest return for all communities may lay within their respective local schools, and there is a unique avenue that the tribe should explore in the future.

One potential concept that should be explored is based upon Michigan Act No. 164 Public Acts of 2010 approved by the governor Sept. 23, 2010. This law allows school districts to establish college scholarships for students and graduates from money the districts receive under gaming compacts between the state and Indian tribes. The language of the law reads as follows: *Sec. 11a (13) A school district may establish and administer scholarships for its students or graduates to support their attendance at a postsecondary educational institution from funds the school district receives as a result of a*

See "Hoffman," page 21

Abramson visits with members of Congress



**CATHY ABRAMSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

On Feb. 3, I along with other Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee members visited members of Congress or their staff to support the SDPI. We met with Congressman Pearce, Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler, and Congressman Lejan. We also met with staff of Congressman Tom Cole, Doug LaMalfa, Andrew Nyhus, and Congresswoman Kristi Noem. Earlier in the day I met with Senator Deb Stabenow who has been a champion for the SDPI. We continue to ask for multiyear funding. The diabetes program works and lives are being saved. I would like to thank Jenni O'Dell of the tribe's diabetes program for gathering the individual member's stories we were able to add to the congressional packet. Also, I'd like to congratulate Ms. Michelle Castagne, a tribal intern who was hired at the National Indian Health Board. Michelle is actively involved with scheduling, contacting and educating Congress in regards to SPDI. I am already hearing rave reviews about her



**U.S. Senator Deb Stabenow and
Unit I Rep. Cathy Abramson**

and I'm so proud she is working there for all of Indian Country.

Please contact your congressman to show support for this very important program.

On Feb. 4-5, I attended the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee meeting in Rockville, Md. I am the Bemidji area representative on the committee. In reviewing the 2015 national tribal consultation, I quickly learned that not one tribe from the Bemidji area answered the tribal leader letter Dr. Roubideaux sent several months ago regarding the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. I was deeply disappointed that our own tribe did not answer this letter. This was the opportunity for us to give input on diabetes funding that we receive! Dr. Roubideaux did give us an extended time to answer. I have presented this information to the tribal leaders at the HHS regional consultation and the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST). I hope we can answer those questions. Changes are being made with this program. The Bemidji area stands to lose at least 16 percent of funding! That would do some serious harm to the diabetes services to our people.

On Feb. 18 and 19, I represented our tribe at the Health and Human Services (HHS)/MAST Region V (Bemidji area) tribal consultation. At that time, I met with HHS officials to discuss tribes' specific concerns. Those in attendance represented the Office of the Secretary's Regional Director, Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Community Living, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services administrator. Also in attendance was Lorna Elliott-Egan, Michigan Department of Community Health's tribal liaison.

One of the big issues that greatly affects our tribe is the delay of NOA for continuation funding for grants that are beyond one year in length. This has been problematic for our tribe. For example, if the multi-year grant ends for year one on Aug. 30, the new notice of award is not received for months. Because of the lack of trust our

tribe has with the federal government, the services are closed down and staff members are laid off until the official award letter is received. This has happened in our tribe. It happened with our Traditional Foods Program. This hurts the delivery of services to our people and we have lost great staff who provide health care services to our people. While I believe our tribe could be more supportive in continuing these services, at the federal level the recommendation I brought was that prior to the last days of the previous award, notification of awards should be sent out.

Another issue our tribe faces is provider recruitment and retention. Pharmacists, medical providers and dentists are the key positions that need easier access to loan repayment funding and recruitment funding on a national level to assist in market-based studies to compete with the local health care organizations for retention and recruitment effort.

Another issue is that tribes need to be funded directly from the federal agencies for emergency preparedness and Homeland Security. Right now, we have to rely on getting that funding through the state. States are notorious for giving tribes very little funding to work with.

Other issues brought forward were our lack of funding for our Child Care Development Fund, Family Violence Prevention and Services and LIHEAP.

I met with Lorna Elliott-Egan, Michigan Department of Community Health tribal Liaison and we will be setting up some meetings in regards to our state funding issues. It is my hope that other tribal board members will join me.

It is very exciting to be working with the Office of HIRSA. They have agreed to a grant-writing training for the Bemidji area. Sault Tribe will be hosting this very needed and worthwhile training at the end of May. More information will be sent out as planning is completed.

On Feb. 9 in Atlanta, Ga., I attended the Tribal Public Health Workgroup. At this time we got a CDC budget update from top-level staff for state, tribal, local and territorial support: CDC chief financial officer and director of



Tribal public health workgroup Feb. 9 in Atlanta, Ga.

CDC's appropriations, Legislation and Formulation Office and the director and budget officer of CDC's Office of Budget. We also had a presentation from the associate director of science from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. This is where we have a caucus with our technical advisors to meet and bring up issues we may bring forward to the CDC-TAC meeting and tribal consultation. CSC funded the National Indian Health Board so they could hire technical advisors to work with the committee. This has made our meetings more positive, encouraging, informative and meaningful. I have worked on this committee for a number of years and I can honestly say the CDC was the toughest nut to crack. Because CDC mostly employees scientists that really had no knowledge (or for some, no concern) for their trust responsibilities to our tribes. We were having a hard time communicating and working together. I'm happy to say, with that hard work and the breaking down of barriers, we have developed an excellent working relationship.

On Feb. 10, 11 and 12, I attended the CDC ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee meeting at the CDC headquarters. At this time, we were able to hear presentations regarding chronic disease prevention and health promotion in Indian Country in regards to current initiatives and future directions. Also discussed were CDC efforts in suicide prevention. Hepatitis C is also a growing concern in Indian Country. We have a very supportive top-level staff beginning with Dr. Ileana Aris, principal deputy director, CDC/ATSDR. She is second-in-com-

mand with Dr. Tom Freden who is overall in charge of the CDC. Dr. Judith Monroe, deputy director, CDC/OSLTS and Dr. Ursula Bauer, director of National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion of CDC complete that strong support for Indian Country. This is where our tribe received two major funding awards that will help our people improve their lives. It is imperative that our tribal leaders get involved on these advisory committees so we are well informed of what initiatives are coming up. To hear from other tribes from other regions what is happening in their regions and to build those relationships with tribe and the federal agencies that fund us.

A big issue for all tribes is that funding goes to the state and in turn our tribes receive little or nothing. Makes no mistake, these federal agencies are hearing this loud and clear and are working with us so that we either get direct funding or encourage the state to work with us.

Top environmental administrative staff have agreed to a teleconference with our tribal leaders regarding environmental issues our tribe faces. They will also visit. The Mackinac pipeline should be a priority discussion.

I have been busy working for you and for ways to get our tribe more funding. I believe the relationship building has been very successful. I look forward to more improved services and funding sources.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at (906) 322-5823 or cabramson@saulttribe.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Hoffman sponsors resolution to post CEO position

From "Hoffman," page 20 compact entered into between this state and a federally recognized Indian tribe pursuant to the Indian gaming regulatory act, Public Law 100-497.

By working in collaboration with the local school districts and universities the tribe has the ability to develop a scholarship program beneficial to all of our community's children. While we have made a "promise" in the city of Lansing for our proposed project, there is no reason that we cannot make a "reality" in our local communities right now by allocating 2 percent revenues in a more impactful manner.

INFORMATION

Long ago a tribal member asked if there was a possibility of developing a secure server to allow members the FACTS on budgetary issues, tribal planning, legislation pending, board actions,

etc. This, complemented by a more user friendly website, can become a very valuable resource tool for the membership. The opportunity for the membership to be exposed to the facts on a consistent basis would be a refreshing and welcome change. I will be asking about the feasibility of this matter.

MEMBERSHIP

The tribal board is the elected body tasked with the purpose of serving the membership, and moving our tribe forward. However, 13 people do not have all of the answers, nor do they know everything. As a member of the board of directors and as an individual, I am aware of many things, two of which are that I do not know everything and I am not always right.

You, the membership, are an extremely valuable resource that the tribe rarely taps into as a source for innovative concepts and ideas.

Membership consist of 40,000+ members, of which we have dealers, scientists, police officers, doctors, teachers, lawyers, dentists, big 10 coaches, small business owners, professors and even rocket scientists. We, as a tribe, need to tap into these ideas by soliciting input and creating positive avenues to move our tribe forward.

STABILITY

Initially, it was my intent to title this article "MAYGO," which stands for "make it up as you go" in reference to how the board, as a whole, operates. In this paper, as well as historical issues of the paper, readers will consistently find correspondence on the financial status of the tribe. It is amazing to find that in some months the tribe is balancing budgets and has reserves, while merely months later it is facing looming budgetary issues. This type of correspondence

is repetitive over the years and it needs to be corrected. We need to stop focusing merely upon today with the tribe and its resources and concentrate upon the future.

In the coming month, I will be proposing adopting legislation that will require that no budget may be approved without a detailed plan in place. Stability for our tribe can be found in long term planning, economic diversification, open communication with our membership and right-sizing the tribe so that we operate efficiently in the present and future.

To do this, your help is needed. Encourage your representatives to adopt both short term and long term plans for the tribe. Encourage your representatives to budget for more than one fiscal year at a time to ensure financial stability. Encourage your representatives to engage in economic development

activities instead of merely talking about them. Hold representatives accountable for following adopted tribal policies, rules and regulations.

Encourage people to stop talking and start getting things done.

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
Home: (906) 635-6945
Cell: (906) 203-0510
Tribal e-mail: djhoffman@saulttribe.net
Personal e-mail: djwhoffman@hotmail.com

Morrow updates Unit IV on budget, powwow



DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Resolution No. 2014-236
FY 2015 budget document 003
Including Internal Services
Be it resolved, that the board of directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2015 Budget Document 003, including internal services, totaling \$58,219,961, of which \$16,246,349 comes from tribal support.

January to December fiscal programs
ACFS
2050 Indian Child Welfare
2340 Social work
2400 Binogii Placement Agency
2500 Staffing operations
3100 ACFS Department fundraising
3740 General Assistance
3860 Victim Services vehicle
3861 Victim Services fundraising
3920 Foster Care
4060 ACFS government vehicle
4540 Employee Assistance
4541 Emergency Assistance
4542 Elders heating assistance
9070 Funeral Assistance-Self-sufficiency
Big Bear
1211 CRC admin
121S CRC youth programs
1216 CRC events management
1217 CRC building operations
6813 CRC Pro Shop
6814 CRC Concessions
Cultural
1069 New Year's powwow
1070 Powwows
1073 Powwow general
1080 Cultural camp
1182 Cultural Ojibway language
1190 Cultural training
1191 Cultural repatriation
Education
2060 Higher Education
2080 Youth Education and Activities
2083 Sponsorships

3960 Child Care Center
4052 Education administration
9050 Self-sufficiency Higher Education
Elderly
1168 Elders Services fund
3830 Eldercare Services
3831 Eldercare transportation
9090 Elder health care
Employment
3950 Tribal employment
3951 Elders employment
3952 JTPA youth/senior employment
Fisheries
2460 Inter-Tribal fisheries
2870 Nunns Creek fisheries
Fisheries
2871 Nunns Creek rehab hatchery
4101 Trap Net Consent Decree
General fund
1022 Youth Development Fund
1160 Tribal operations
1164 Property management
1173 Debt
1180 Tribal Gaming Commission
Governmental
1015 Sault Tribe Enrollment
1025 Chairperson travel
1161 Special events
1163 Elections
1165 Board of directors
1201 Executive director
1202 Institutional researcher
1203 Admin staff
2930 Transportation grant
2931 IRR road maintenance
2932 IRR roads
2933 IRR roads planning
2934 Road maintenance
2936 Bridge maintenance
4041 Environmental Health - housing contracts
4042 Light bulb disposal
4490 Inland Fish and Wildlife
4721 Energy efficiency 16 building
11371 EPA pesticide grant
Health
2040 Detention Center
4640 Community Care Clinic
Home improvements
2020 Home improvements
Internal Services
8250 Northern Travel
8500 Purchasing
8506 Shipping and Receiving
8510 Accounting
8S11 Accounting fixed asset manager
8512 Accounting payroll
8S20 Management Information Systems
8531 Communications Sault Tribe News
8540 Indirect cost
8541 Planning and Development
8543 Membership Services
854S Office management

8546 Executive director
Internal Services
8551 HR Administration
8552 HR Governmental
8556 HR Casino
8557 HR Ancillary
8560 OMB
8570 Telecommunications
8S71 Telecommunications sales
860 Tribal Center bldg and equipment (42 cc's)
865 Sault Tribe Construction (3 cc's)
8750 Self Insurance admin
8751 Self Insurance Workman's Comp
8753 Self Insurance liability
8755 Self Insurance safety
8756 Self Insurance NGS
Law Enforcement
2480 Conservation management
2481 Permits
2S80 Public safety
2940 Juvenile detention admin
3180 Juvenile dentention repairs and maint.
Legal
1019 Special projects
1020 Tribal attorney
1050 Tax agreement admin
1169 Government relations
Self-sufficiency
9080 Land claims
9091 Elderly Employment Program
Tribal Court
2780 Judicial services
2781 Judcal services - Appellate Court
2782 Juvenile dententlon
2783 Appellate defense
3850 Tribal Court
3851 Tribal Court -Victim's Assistance
3853 Tribal Court - Drug Court
3854 Tribal Court - Juvenile fund
3855 Tribal Court - Domestic Violence Court
Utility Authority
6010 Utility Authority - admin
6012 Utility Authority - Hessel
6014 Utility Authority - Manistique
6015 Utility Authority - Wetmore
6016 Utility Authority - Odenaang
Funds
4000 BIA
4510 Federal sub-recipient
9100 Sault Tribe Golf Scholar.

On Dec. 9, 2014, the above resolution was voted on. I made a motion to vote on each 2015 Division budget separately. Unfortunately, it failed with "YES" votes coming from Denise Chase, Rita Glyptis, DJ Hoffman, Kim Gravelle, Bridgett Sorenson and myself,

and with "NO" votes coming from Dennis McKelvie, Keith Masseway, Lana Causley, Cathy Abramson, Jennifer McLeod and Catherine Hollowell, which put this board at a tie, our chairman voted "NO." The reason they like to vote on a package deal is, then, when tribal members come up and complain, "why do you support funding going here or there," they say, well, it's a package deal and they can continue to misrepresent the truth to voters to keep your support. And our chairman actually allowed it to happen — I never thought he wouldn't support voting by divisions, instead he agrees with the package deal, too. The members put me in here to let them know the truth, I tried so you could see, but our "yes" votes got outnumbered. But this doesn't stop me, I will continue to fight for what the members' needs and wants are! Like I stated last month, more to come.

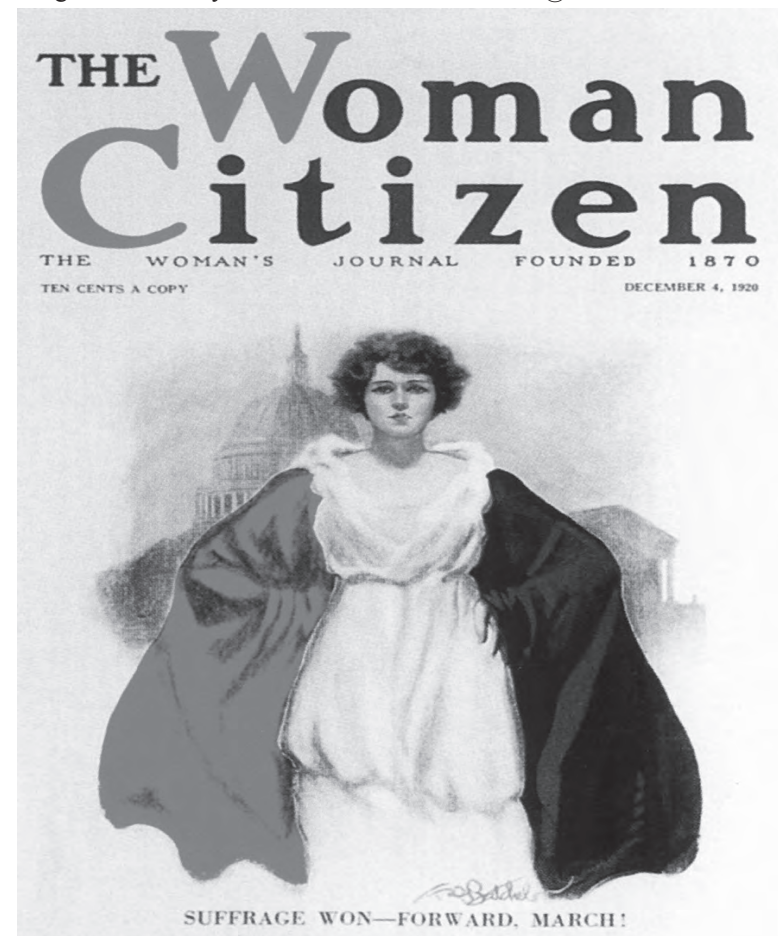
On Feb. 21, Director Chase and I attended the Honoring our Elders Powwow in Escanaba. Great turnout for the first one being held over there in quite a while sponsored by the Sault Tribe. We were able to add the Escanaba powwow to this year's powwow budget and we are grateful so they can have an

event there, also.

A big "thank you" to Jen Ross, Chuck Raspor, Colleen St. Onge and their powwow crew. I would also like to thank the Woman Citizens of the Sault Ste. Marie Chapter for the encouraging card they sent me this week that said, "Dear Darcy, 'She believed she could, so she did.' Today, you are strengthening the future for all those who will follow your path. It's your journey that will strive for those around you to follow and be the change we need in the world. — League of Women Voters."

The national organization League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 following just before the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. The organization has been active locally for decades and now includes men. The league is nonpartisan and presents information on elections, the voting process and issues. The League of Women Voters of the EUP celebrated the national organization's 95th birthday last month by recognizing local women who have run for office.

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



Gravelle updates Unit I membership on CEO position



KIMBERLE GRAVELLE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

In November, we hired a temporary casino executive officer. The reason behind this move was for the temporary casino executive officer to assist us

with hiring a permanent chief executive officer (CEO), which is a key position. The hiring policy, approved by resolution, requires all jobs be posted. The key employee resolution, which includes the CEO, requires seven votes to hire a person in this position. At our last board of directors' meeting, we voted on whether to post the CEO position. I voted to post it because there is a resolution in place that states all key positions will be posted. The resolution failed and this key position will not be currently posted.

I've had calls from members thinking I voted not to keep the temporary casino executive officer. I told them my vote was to follow policy set forth by the board of directors and post the

key position of CEO. If this position was posted, the temporary casino executive officer could apply if he feels that strongly about staying with our tribe. The board of directors had concerns with this because they said he wouldn't meet the first round of the interview process, which goes to qualified tribal members.

I also received calls regarding my 'no' vote on the resolution for hiring a Behavioral Health counselor in Manistique. There were two qualified tribal members in round one and a qualified non-Indian in round two. I felt we should have chosen one of the applicants from round one. The resolution that was brought forward was for a budget modification to hire the non-Indian who qualified in round two.

Further, we were asked at the membership meeting in Lansing about opening enrollment again. One of the board members asked the elders at the elder meeting this week and it was a resounding 'no' from them.

I hope everyone is aware that March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month! This cancer affects both men and women and is the second leading cause of death from cancer in the United States. Although this cancer has a high death rate it is one of the most preventable diseases. Some of the things you can do to prevent this is get screened starting at age 50, be physically active, maintain a healthy weight, don't drink too much alcohol and don't smoke. Ninety percent of colorectal cancers happen to people

over 50. Some people are at a higher risk than others, especially if you have a family history of colon cancer.

I was diagnosed with colon cancer five years ago and had to undergo surgery to remove a tumor and 12 rounds of chemo. After I found out I had colon cancer, I also found out we have a family history of this kind of cancer. No one ever really spoke about this, so you may want to start asking your parents and grandparents questions about your family's health background.

Thank you to everyone who called me with their concerns. I can be reached at (906) 203-6083 or kkgavelle@saulttribe.net.

— Kim Gravelle

Casinos focusing resources on facility upgrades



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

In 2011, the five casinos had gross revenue of over \$116 million; in 2014, it was \$96.2 million. The slot revenue in 2011 was \$88.7 million and in 2014 it was \$70.6 million. In 2011, our direct expenses were \$55.4 million and were \$42.2 million in 2014. In 2011, our EBITA was \$30.2 million and in 2014 it was \$25.2 million. The projected gross revenue for 2015 is \$91.5 million with slot revenue of \$65.2 million. Projected expenses for 2015 are \$35.6 million with projected EBITA of \$28 million.

As stated in a recent memo

to casino employees, "Kewadin Casinos is focusing its resources on facility upgrades and gaming floor enhancements. We are also pressing ahead with a new player re-investment strategy. As a result, most of the current mass marketing programs will be eliminated and the funds will be redirected to more structured programs that target our loyal customer base. These changes will enrich our players' overall gaming experience and strengthen our competitive standing by rewarding our loyal customers."

Many promotional changes became effective on March 1. Credits will be given instead of cash and comps will no longer be available for use at the Midjim. Eight of the promotions were eliminated and seven promotions were altered. We were giving people cash to walk out the door, losing money on bus groups and many events. With these changes will be unhappy customers but we cannot afford to cater to these kind of customers. We have been giving away too much for too long.

For many years, the mentality was that if we pack the house we are making money. We have filled up the hotel but many times the

customers are not gamblers and we do not have rooms for our VIPs.

Fred Buro, temporary CEO, has been traveling around to all five casinos presenting the changes to our team members. Prior to these presentations, team members were not accepting the changes, worrying that if we cut busses or promotions we will be losing money. I attended both of the presentations at the Shores Casino on March 5. The team members seemed to be onboard with these changes after seeing specific numbers. Fred asked them to join him in being part of the change and was very open to questions and ideas from the team members. The key to success is communication. When team members do not know how, what, why and when changes are made, they are on the defensive. Once communication is carried down to the front line, team members feel empowered.

There is a push to post for the CEO position. It came for a vote on March 3. I did not support it. It came down to a tie vote with the chairman breaking that tie not to post. My reasons for voting 'no' are 1) we need to give Fred a chance to do the job we hired him

to do. 2) He has only been here three months. 3) This is uncharted territory where the casinos are in a state of emergency and we needed a turn-around plan.

I did say if we decided to hire a permanent CEO, I would agree to post the position. We do not know if we will hire a CEO, COO or what we want to do at this time. I like the fact that Fred has no relatives working for the tribe and comes here with clean eyes. We all know what has happened over the past 20 years with nepotism and cronyism.

If we do want to run our businesses like a true business in the real world, we need to hire the best-qualified people. We have a tribal member preference, not a mandate. I fully support tribal members having a preference in our workforce, but if you hire people just because they are tribal, it is not going to make us successful. One of these days maybe we will figure out why we opened businesses in the first place. Was it to provide jobs? Money for services? Not as many people work for the tribe as use our services.

For instance, if you were a customer and came into one of our businesses and experienced bad customer service, would it

make you feel better if the person was a tribal member? This could happen, because right now if you meet the minimal job requirements you are granted an interview. A manager may interview a group and not want to make a selection but need to jump through hoops to hire the best candidate, not just a candidate. I know that people, when and if they operated their own business, would hire the best candidate. To be the best, you need to hire the best. We cannot continue to do business the way we always have.

We need to somehow bridge the gap in our communities with addictions and services. We have members crying out for help but cannot get the help when they want or need it. This becomes frustrating for the addicts and their families. The last thing a family wants to see is their loved one struggling. We all know that an addict will not succeed if they do not want it for themselves. When they make the decision to seek help we need to end the roadblocks.

Thank you to all the members who have contacted me. Please call (906) 430-0536 or email me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net or bridgett91@yahoo.com.

McLeod attends NCAI events in Washington, D.C.



**JENNIFER MCLEOD,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aaniin, Anishnaabeg, last month, I attended the National Congress of the American Indian (NCAI) Executive Council winter session in Washington, D.C. It was one of the best NCAI events I have ever attended. The speakers consisted of elected federal officials, representatives from various federal departments and tribal leaders from across the nation. Our tribal board chairman, Aaron Payment, was elected as the NCAI board secretary, and it was a proud day for me to see a member of our tribe sitting at that big table with so many nationally known tribal leaders.

I participated in breakout sessions regarding Indian education and learned more about how the Bureau of Indian Education interacts with tribal schools (dependent upon how the funding is allocated). I was also involved in discussions regarding standardized testing of tribal students and the efforts of tribes to self-determine the curriculum of their schools. I am pleased to report that our school is so blessed in terms of resources, staff and students. The struggles of other tribal schools clearly showed that our issues back home are small,

comparatively. I was so happy to be able to share our school's successes, knowing that we are helping other schools as they seek to educate their children, in oftentimes very challenging circumstances.

I also attended a session on Homeland Security. Border tribes face unique challenges, and it was eye opening to learn the stresses faced by our brothers along the southern border of the United States. Immigration issues, drug and human trafficking and increases in other types of crime, create hardships for many tribes, the likes of which we (thankfully) have never seen. It is one thing to hear about these issues on the television, it is quite another to be in the same room with people who live with such dangerous threats. Although thousands of miles from our tribal territory, what happens in the south is a concern for the north. As a border tribe, it is especially important for us to be aware and to be involved. Border issues are not restricted to the south.

A segment of the Homeland Security breakout session was Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This was of particular interest to me as many of our members living on Sugar Island and along the St. Mary's River have recently been impacted by changes in the FEMA flood plain maps. No one was prepared for the sudden requirement for flood insurance! One woman reported an insurance quote of \$20,000 for just ONE YEAR! As a result, her home is now up for sale. The cost for flood insurance varies widely, but the cost of insurance is not the only problem. This has been a nightmare for many of our people and there is the potential that some may lose their homes as a result. This is UNACCEPTABLE! It is

a complex problem and I am not certain that we will be able to make much of a difference, but I am trying. While I was in this session, I made it very clear to FEMA that the manner in which this happened, the impact to ALL people in the "new flood zones," and the lack of consultation with our tribe needed to be addressed. I am happy to report that we have their attention and we will see what, if anything, can be done about it.

While in D.C., I had the unexpected privilege to speak on behalf of our tribe in the 17th annual Tribal Budget Consultation, one-on-one sessions with the Department of Health and Human Services. As the newly elected secretary of NCAI, our chairman needed to be in attendance at the NCAI conference, and so he asked me to speak in his place. It was the first time I was ever at a tribal consultation.

Our federal liaison, Meghan Starling, and I met with the Centers for Disease Control, Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Administration for Children and Families. I am grateful for Meghan's hard work, and the hard work of our staff back home. Together, they created talking point papers to guide me through the sessions. I addressed:

- Monitoring local fish and educating tribal members about fish consumption;
- Emergency preparedness;
- IHS appropriations;
- Funding formulas;
- Contract support costs;
- Special Diabetes Program for Indians;
- Climate change impact;
- Purchased and Referred Care;
- Issues with IHS grants;
- Behavioral Health;
- Dental services;
- Increasing tribal set-aside:

• Family Violence Prevention and Services Act funding formula;

• LIHEAP awards.

Our tribe was given 30 minutes with each agency in Health and Human Services. They listened intently, and I brought back their responses to our issues. Again, many thanks to Meghan and our tribal staff who work hard to prepare the "white papers" that make it possible for tribal leaders to present accurate, meaningful and relevant information. Working together, we successfully advocate for our people at the highest levels of federal government and agencies.

On the home front, we have many challenges in our own government, departments and enterprises, and I will not be traveling for the foreseeable future unless absolutely necessary. If matters can be handled by phone calls or letters, that is what I plan to do. Relationships developed over the past couple of years are such that I should be able to spend much more time at home. I believe that our work at the federal level is important, however, and I am not suggesting that other members of the board of directors should not travel.

It is no secret that tribal revenues have been on a decline, especially in the gaming sector. The board of directors have taken steps to improve profitability; however, there are no "quick fixes" and many things (like the national economy and federal grant amounts) are out of our control. I continue to push for our elected leaders to establish our priorities, to be prepared for the possibility that we will not be able to continue operating at current levels. I believe that it is in our best interest to be prepared with a well-thought out plan, rather than having to

make last minute decisions. I have addressed this in previous unit reports and still feel that it is imperative that the board of directors do this.

Also on the home front, I have been working diligently with our tribal school and am currently mentoring a middle school student. I am awaiting word on a high-school student who had expressed an interest in having a mentor, so I may have two! Plans are underway way for me to share culture, beading and other craft sessions with local kids. After a bumpy start (connectivity issues), my online self-guided language "class" is open, and available to interested tribal members. If you want to join this class or want information on other good language sources, just send me an email!

Currently, I am researching and developing legislation or procedure changes that will address domestic violence (VAWA), juvenile code, our tribal school and housing matters. Also, I have decided to complete my master's degree in school leadership. I have just two classes left and a thesis. Graduation is slated for May 2016.

Please feel free to contact me via phone, email, "snail-mail," texts or come visit me at my office (I rent an office in the Big Bear arena). For information regarding board of directors' meetings, please visit the tribal website at www.saulttribe.com and, as always, if I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to contact me!

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