



Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

Ziisbaakdoke Giizis
Sugar Making Moon

March 18, 2016 • Vol. 37, No. 3

Billy Mills returns to Sault for Fun Run/Walk May 14



From JKL Bahweting School/WAN Archives

During his 2010 visit, racers, from left, Mana, Annie and Merryn McLean were thrilled to have the chance to meet Olympic champion Billy Mills.

SAULT STE. MARIE — On May 14, Olympian Billy Mills returns to Sault Ste. Marie as a special guest speaker for the Billy Mills Fun Run/Walk Race featuring a 5K race, a 5K walk, youth one-mile run, and a "tot trot" for younger children. Everyone is welcome to participate and there are no registration fees.

The race was designed to promote healthy living, friendly competition, family fun, health education, help build healthier communities, build self-confidence and improve morale.

The youth one-mile run and tot trot begins at 8:30 a.m. on the east side of the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center on the reservation in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The 5K run and 5K walk begin at 9 a.m., also on the east side of Chi Mukwa.

The top male and female 5K runners in the regular (4-39), master (40-69) and grand-master (70 and over) divisions and the top overall male and female 5K walkers receive plaques.

All participants receive medals.

Shower facilities available. Race shirts are limited and will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-register and arrive early on race day to make sure you get a shirt in the size you want.

All participants are required to register. Early registration is preferred, but participants may register on race day. Late registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and will end promptly at 8:15 a.m.

To register or ask questions, contact Lori Jodoin at (906) 635-5055, or send email messages to ljodoin@jklschool.org.

Events and age divisions

Tot trot — 5 and under.

Youth on-mile mile — 12 and under.

Divisions for one-mile: 4 and under, 5 - 6, 7 - 8, 9 - 10 and 11 - 12.

5K run — all ages.

5K walk — all ages.

Divisions for the 5K run and 5K walk: 8 and under, 9-10, 11-12, 13-15, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+.



JKL STUDENTS RAISE \$8,000 IN JUMP ROPE FOR HEARTS — In February, JKL Bahweting School participated in Jump Rope for Hearts for the American Heart Association. Students learned how to stop heart disease in their own body through a healthy way of living. Students, parents and staff raised over \$8,000 to help stop heart disease and help individuals with heart complications. Pictured with JKL Physical Education Teacher Greg Chromy are the top fundraisers: Front row, from left, Savannah Wing, Kamryn Corbiere, Kaiden Menard, Oliver Nehmer, Ella Black, Macy Colliia, Ava Shreve, Clark Suggitt and Kiera Mettner. Back row, Liza Fazarri, Jaelyn Ridley, Kenedy Hagan and Abbie Church.

Medication drop box coming to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) will soon become part of a growing number of local agencies offering a safer alternative to tossing or flushing your unwanted or expired medications when they install their recently acquired medication drop box.

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) purchased the drop box from funds they raised over the past two years with a goal of investing that money back into the community to create awareness, and provide education and support for the issues of addiction.

FAN President Joe Claxton, said, "Addiction is a problem in every community right now. The drop box program is a program where FAN paid an agency out east to supply a drop box to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement. It will be bolted to the ground outside their judicial building, and anyone with medications or drugs they want to dispose of can drop them into the box - no questions asked. Tribal police will be working with the DEA to dispose of medications left in the box."

Claxton said FAN would supply any policing agency within Chippewa County with a free drop box upon request.

Because there is a regimented process for the handling of narcotics, Claxton said they have to work through a policing agency to supply the boxes. In addition to the one being installed at tribal law enforcement, there are also drop boxes located at the Chippewa County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police Post.

"Sault Tribe Law Enforcement were the only ones willing to accept a drop box and had a place to put it when we made our calls," Claxton said. "We talked to the Bay Mills Police Department and they weren't ready for one yet. It has to be cemented into the ground, and the law enforcement agencies requesting the boxes are responsible for that cost. We have reached out to some local agencies and they are working through their processes. Sault Tribe had discussed it prior to us contacting them and were ready to go when we made the call."

Sault Tribe Chief of Police Robert Marchand,



Photo by Brenda Austin

Sault Tribe Chief of Police Bob Marchand shows off the tribe's new medicine drop box where community members can safely dispose of their old prescriptions. This keeps them off the streets and out of the environment. The box, which will be up and running as soon as it is installed, was funded by Families Against Narcotics.

said, "The pharmaceutical disposal box will allow Sault Tribe residents a year-round place to discard unused or unwanted medications. This program provides numerous benefits to our tribal community, and will give STLE an opportunity to educate the community about the dangers these medications pose if left unwanted in homes or improperly discarded. The drop box will help reduce access to potentially addictive medications and decrease water contamination due to pharmaceuticals being flushed down the drains in our homes, or contained in our landfills."

Marchand said the drop box resembles a United States Postal Service mailbox, with a door to collect the medications, that once dropped cannot be retrieved.

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Gathering of Nations takes place April 28-30 in Albuquerque, N.M.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The world's largest gathering of American Indian and indigenous people takes place between Thursday, April 28 and Saturday, April 30, 2016 in Albuquerque, N.M. The 33rd annual Gathering of Nations, considered the most prominent American Indian powwow in the world, will host tens of thousands of people and more than 700 tribes from throughout the United States, Canada and around the world.

The three-day event includes more than 3,000 traditional American Indian dancers and 50 drum groups competing, and more than 800 American Indian artists, craftsmen and traders displaying and selling their works. In addition, more than 30 contemporary indigenous music groups perform a wide variety of musical genres. Vendors in the Native food court offer guests a large

selection of food choices ranging between southwestern-style cuisine and traditional American Indian fare.

As part of the Gathering of Nations, a young American Indian woman is crowned Miss Indian World 2016 on Saturday evening and will represent all Native and indigenous people as a cultural goodwill ambassador.

The contestants compete in the areas of tribal knowledge through interviews, essays, public speaking and traditional presentation, and dance. The Gathering of Nations opens with the Miss Indian World competition on Thursday, April 28 at 7 p.m. at the Albuquerque Convention Center, with a special musical performance by national singer/songwriter Samantha Crain.

The much anticipated grand entry begins at noon on Friday, April 29. The grand entry is

repeated Friday evening at 7 p.m. and on Saturday, at noon and 6 p.m., with special musical performances by national recording artist Judith Hill and DJ Logic at a glow party on Saturday evening.

The Gathering of Nations takes place at the WisePies Arena, also called the Pit in Albuquerque.

Fans of the Gathering of Nations can now listen to the event on iHeartRadio, the only 24-hour radio station in North America that offers American Indian music of all genres including powwow, rock 'n' roll and spoken word.

General admission tickets cost \$18 per day or \$36 for a two-day pass. VIP club tickets are available for \$65 (at the door price). For more information on the 2016 Gathering of Nations, visit www.gatheringofnations.com.

WIOA accepting applications for summer jobs for folks aged 14-24

The Sault Tribe Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Department is accepting applications for the 2016 Summer Youth Employment Program.

The program is based on income for American Indian youth aged 14 to 24 who reside in the tribe's Upper Peninsula of Michigan seven-county ser-

vice area of Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties.

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

All potential applicants should keep in mind a deadline is set for all applications. The deadline is April 22.



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JOE MEDICINE

ARENA DIRECTOR
GLEN BRESSETTE

HEAD VETERAN
SAM MORRIS

HEAD FEMALE DANCER
SHANYCE SHAWANO

HEAD MALE DANCER
P.J. FERMINO

HOST DRUM
STURGEON BAY

CO-HOST
WHITEFROST

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
12:00PM GRAND ENTRY
6:00PM POTLUCK FEAST

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 906-241-8783

ATTENTION Sault Tribe Members

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority's Annual Performance Report (APR) under NAHASDA Funding will be available for review at the Housing Office at 154 Parkside Drive, Kincheloe, Mich., beginning March 14, 2016. We ask that all Sault Tribe members assist us in the review by commenting on the outcome for each goal reported in this report.

You can comment by calling Joni Talentino, Housing Director, at Sault Tribe Housing Authority at (906) 495-5555 or by sending a fax to (906) 495-5891.

You may also send your comments in writing to:
Sault Tribe Housing Authority
Joni Talentino
APR/IHP FY 2015 Comments
154 Parkside Drive
Kincheloe, MI 49788

Comments must be submitted no later than March 28, 2016. All comments will be included in the APR under Section 13: Public Availability (4). The completed APR is forwarded to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Your participation is greatly appreciated.

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989-306-3656**

BID NOTICE TRIBAL COURT COUNSEL TABLES

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is requesting proposals from Tribal Woodworkers to design, construct and install two Tribal Court Counsel Tables. This project is funded through a grant from the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

The Tribal Court Counsel Tables Request for Proposal (RFP) package will be available from the Sault Tribe Purchasing Department starting **Monday, March 7, 2016** upon request by email to TRoche@saulttribe.net.

Public video recorded bid opening will be conducted by the Sault Tribe Purchasing Department at **2:15 p.m. EDT, Wednesday, May 11, 2016** at the Tribal Administration Building, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

For questions, contact Tamara Roche, Sault Tribe Purchasing Department at (906) 635-7035.

DOI names nominee to gaming commission

BY RICK SMITH

An attorney and member of the Taos Pueblo people of northern New Mexico was recently nominated by U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Sally Jewell to fill the vacancy in the National Indian Gaming Commission. According to a notice in the Federal Register, the nominee, Kathryn Isom-Clause, is currently senior counsel to the assistant secretary for Indian Affairs in the DOI.

The three-person commission, mandated by the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, consists of a chair appointed by the pres-

ident of the United States with consent of the Senate, and two associate members appointed by the DOI. Members serve three-year terms on the commission, tasked with supporting and promoting tribal economic development through gaming operations on Indian lands.

Specifically, the commission coordinates its regulatory responsibilities with tribal regulatory agencies, provides training and technical assistance to tribal regulatory agencies, reviews and approves gaming ordinances and management agreements, reviews backgrounds of managers

and investors in Indian gaming, enforces violations against the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act through referral to appropriate agencies.

Prior to accepting her present post in May of 2015, Isom-Clause was a counselor in the same department from June of 2013, a position taking her from her job as an attorney with Anderson Indian Law. She was an associate with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Holland and Knight for over one year, a position she took after a legal internship with another Washington firm, Legal Momentum. She was also a sum-

mer associate with Holland and Knight from May to August of 2008 and a law clerk with Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation in 2007.

Isom-Clause received a bachelor's in philosophy from Wellesley College in 2004 and a doctorate of law from Columbia Law School in 2009.

The third seat on the National Indian Gaming Commission has been vacant since January of 2013.

Right, nominee Kathryn Isom-Clause currently serves as senior counsel for the assistant secretary of Indian Affairs.



Resolutions passed at recent board meetings

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors convened a meeting on Jan. 27, 2016. All were present.

An amendment to the tribe's election code was approved to allow the Election Committee to run a special advisory election for the vacant board seat representing Unit V concurrent with the 2016 general election.

Another board meeting was convened on Feb. 2.

Board members and Sault Tribe Gaming Commissioner

Ken Ermatinger were appointed as delegates and alternates to the National Indian Gaming Association along with an authorization of expenditure of \$15,000 for membership dues.

A clarification on recipients of cost of living allowance distributions was approved to make clear all employees are qualified for distribution.

The board met again on Feb. 16, 2016. All unit representatives were present.

Six resolutions were presented, with four passing by unanimous vote.

Resolution 2016-47: Amending Tribal Code Chapter 70: Criminal Procedure (probation) – This code was modified by deleting Section 70.128, Probation, subsection (1) and replacing it with the following: "shall not exceed two years for all offenses." This allows defendants more time to successfully complete rehabilitative and treatment services as an alternative to incarceration in appropriate cases.

Resolution 2016-48: Appointing audit committee member – Unit I Representative Cathy Abramson was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the audit committee, until the end of her current term.

Resolution 2016-49: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Waiver of Tribal Court Jurisdiction, DLP Marquette General Hospital, dba UP Health System – The tribe has a contract with DLP Marquette General Hospital, doing business as the UP Health System (UPHS), for clinical laboratory services. The UPHS required waivers of sovereign immunity and tribal court jurisdiction in order to finalize the contractual agreement with the tribe for laboratory services.

Resolution 2016-50: FY 2015

Year End Reconciliation: The board approved the reallocation of tribal support of up to \$147,598.81, with an overall reduction in total tribal support of \$867,266.

Resolution 2016-51: ACFS – Child Care Fund (state) FY 2016 Budget Modification: This was approved for an increase in State monies of \$1,877, a decrease in Other monies of \$17,832, with a loss of \$29,275 coming from the

programs Fund Balance. There was no effect on tribal support.

Resolution 2016-52: Education – Head Start BIA FY 2016 Budget Modification: This was approved with an increase in Federal BIA monies of \$8,104.54, reflecting carry over and the actual award amount. There was no effect on tribal support.

Copies of resolutions passed and a matrix of the board voting records on those resolutions may

be viewed online at the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians website found at www.saulttribe.com.

Sault Tribe jobs

Positions open until filled. Call toll free (866) 635-7032 or email stemployment@saulttribe.net. To apply, check job openings and sign up for email notifications visit www.saulttribe.com

- GOVERNMENTAL Sault Ste. Marie and Kincheloc**
- Diabetes Program manager – full time / regular
- Project coordinator – full time/regular
- Economic development director – full time/regular
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- Child care instructor – full time/regular
- Tribal attorney-assistant prosecutor – full time/regular
- Licensed practical nurse – full time/regular
- Event worker – part time/regular
- Hessel, St. Ignace, Escanaba, Manistique, Marquette, Munising and Newberry**
- Chief solo dentist (Manistique) – full time/regular
- Dietician (St. Ignace) – full time/regular
- Staff dentist (St. Ignace) – part time/regular
- KEWADIN CASINO**
- Chief Executive Officer (Sault) – full time/regular
- Marketing Director (Sault) – full time/regular
- Bartender (Christmas) – part time/regular

SAULT TRIBE'S TOLL FREE NUMBERS

Sault Employment Office (906) 635-4937 (866) 635-7032	St. Ignace (906) 643-8689 (877) 256-0135
Sault Tribe Administration Building (906) 635-6050 (800) 793-0660	Munising (906) 387-4721 (866) 401-0043
Sault Tribe Health and Human Services Building (906) 632-5200 (877) 256-0009	ACFS (906) 632-5250 (800) 726-0093
Patient Referred Care Program (906) 632-5220 (800) 922-0582	Manistique ACFS (906) 341-6993 (800) 347-7137
St. Ignace Health Clinic (906) 643-8689 (877) 256-0135	Advocacy Resource Center (906) 632-1808 (877) 639-7820
Manistique Tribal Community Center (906) 341-8469 (866) 401-0043	Elder Services Division (906) 635-4971 (888) 711-7356
Munising Tribal Community Center (Health and Human Service Programs) (906) 387-4721 (800) 236-4705	Enrollment Department (906) 635-3396 (800) 251-6597
Traditional Medicine Clinic Sault Ste. Marie (906) 632-5210 (877) 256-0009	Sault Tribe Housing Authority (906) 495-1450 (800) 794-4072
	Housing Authority in Escanaba, Newberry, Manistique, Wetmore, Marquette (906) 341-5145 (888) 353-9502

Membership concerns

Three membership liaisons work with the chairperson's office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. This requires knowledge of the tribe and its practices, administrative experience and the ability to work with data, write reports and organize special projects and events.

The liaisons will also respond to and follow up on membership issues to ensure they are resolved.

Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or individually at:

Unit I – Sheila Berger, Office of the Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 635-6050, (800) 793-0660, sberger@saulttribe.net

Units II and III – Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, (906) 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net

Units IV and V – Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net

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

March 18, 2016
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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
Rick Smith.....Staff Writer
Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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NCAI urges president to nominate, Congress to consider Supreme Court justice appointee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The president and the United States Senate are facing important decisions in filling the Supreme Court vacancy following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. The National Congress of American Indians recently adopted a resolution urging both the president and the Senate to move forward to nominate and consider a replacement.

NCAI is the nation's oldest and largest organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, and the NCAI resolution ECWS-16-004 reflects the consensus position of NCAI's member tribes. NCAI President Brian Cladoosby urged action, "We see no reason to delay consideration and further politicize the Supreme Court. Instead, this opportunity should be seized to confirm a justice who is familiar with western issues and respects the role of tribal governments under the Constitution and treaties with the United States."

The current makeup of the Supreme Court has become somewhat homogenous. Every justice graduated from either Harvard or Yale and spent their careers in the elite legal institutions of the eastern corridor. But, the Supreme Court must interpret the law for the entire country, including the west and rural areas. American Indians are affected by the federal courts to a greater degree than almost any other group in the country. Many issues of daily life on Native reservations are matters of federal statutes and federal common law.

As an example, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was very important to tribes because she is a westerner and on the bench she

Support groups meet in Sault Ste. Marie

Support groups meet in Sault Ste. Marie — Families Against Narcotics (FAN) meets on the third Wednesdays of every month, 5:30 p.m., at the Huntington Bank meeting room in Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, email chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org or visit www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/chippewa-county or www.facebook.com/fanchipp.

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 addic-

tion 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.

Folks may also be interested in looking into the Substance Abuse Support Group for Family and Friends if you have experienced loss, heartbreak or diminished relationships due to someone else's substance abuse.

The group meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, 6 p.m., at the Huntington Bank on Ashmun Street in downtown Sault Ste. Marie.

Call Linda at (906) 440-7252 for more information.

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WALK-IN CLINIC

Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun, St. Sault Ste. Marie

Open Monday through Friday
from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Sault Tribe Health Center 2nd Floor
2864 Ashmun, Sault Ste. Marie

Rae Ann Brand FNP
Andrew Rife PA

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- Insect Bites
- Simple Rashes
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- Sprains and Strains



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ELIGIBILITY

All patients eligible to be seen at our medical clinic are eligible to come to our walk-in clinic.

WEEKEND CARE

Urgent care patients can still be seen at War Memorial Hospital's Community Care Clinic on weekends and holidays when the Tribal Walk-in clinic is closed.

AFTER HOURS CARE

After hours, call 906-632-5200 to speak to a nurse for guidance on your health issue.

Sault Tribe Health Services ... "Health for a Lifetime"

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VOTE ANITA L. NELSON FOR UNIT 5

I support the seven teachings of our ancestors — Love, Respect, Honesty, Humility, Truth, Wisdom & Bravery. Let's get back to the old ways where everyone was kind and helpful to each other.



Grand Island

Barrasso addresses NCAI at winter session

By RICK SMITH

U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-Wyo) delivered an address to Indian Country leaders at the 2016 winter session of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council. Barrasso is the chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and was invited to speak at the session by NCAI President Brian Cladoosby.

According to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Barrasso primarily gave updates of the committee's accomplishments from last year as well as pending legislative concerns going into this year. He noted the committee passed 31 bipartisan pieces of legislation since the beginning of 2015, 10 of which passed the full Senate and six signed into law. He also highlighted legislative breakthroughs in the passing of bills important to Indian Country that, previous-

ly, were never brought to a vote.

"These bills will help to cut Washington's red tape and help Indian communities to prosper through energy development and improved self-governance," said Barrasso. He expressed gratitude for NCAI support in moving the bills, but noted continued support is critical to get such bills through the U.S. House of Representatives and on to be signed into law.

Other measures passed by the committee resulted in increased funds for tribal road safety projects, lowered Bureau of Indian Affairs fees to oversee such projects and the inclusion of an education reform law amendment to empower tribes to apply for competitive education grants that had been available only to state education agencies.

"2015 was a busy year," Barrasso remarked, "and there is more to do in 2016."

Pending issues he cited include clarifying the land-in-

to-trust process by passing the Interior Improvement Act, which would restore the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for all tribes. He said the bill passed through the committee and Indian Country support is needed to get it passed through the Senate.

Barrasso noted he is introducing the Reforming American Indian Standards of Education Act (RAISE Act) to modernize the Bureau of Indian Education by creating an independent agency for Indian education in the Department of the Interior. "This revised structure will make Washington more accountable and more transparent," he said. "It will enable the bureaucracy to begin to address the needs of Indian students."

Another bill he noted that recently passed through the committee into the Senate is the Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment

Act (SURVIVE Act), which he said "will help empower tribes to deliver greatly needed, culturally appropriate victim services." He said the measure passed through the committee by unanimous consent. "It will make a big difference for victims of crimes in tribal communities," Barrasso added. He said the Senate Judiciary Committee wants to work on comprehensive reform of the Victims of Crime Act this year as well and, whether the bill stands as is or becomes a key piece of the reform, Indian country support is critical to passage.

Barrasso indicated the committee will continue to oversee Indian Country issues, citing a recent difficult oversight hearing and listening session on the quality of Indian Health Service care, especially on the Great Plains. He said the committee learned how negligence and poor management is costing lives and, as a doctor, he found the testimony deplor-

able. "Our committee will not stand idly by and let this continue," he said. "We will hold IHS accountable and we will work with tribes to make sure improvements are being made in their communities."

Barrasso expressed appreciation for NCAI President Cladoosby's anticipated testimony at an oversight hearing on the President Barack Obama's proposed budget for American Indian programs. "I am pleased that President Cladoosby will be testifying on behalf of NCAI. I invite all of you to join us for this important hearing," he said.

The winter session took place from Feb. 22 to Feb. 25 in Washington, D.C. According to the NCAI, the event featured experts in fields of tribal legislation, climate change, tax, health, education and other matters with over 20 speakers from the White House, federal agencies and the U.S. Congress.

"Redskins" contention goes international

By RICK SMITH

Say what you will about those imperialists of yore, the British, but as a general rule they do mind their manners. And, as the USA's National Football League (NFL) is learning, they'll mind your manners too if you want to bring any hooliganism to their beloved isles.

It seems the NFL scheduled the Washington Redskins to play the Cincinnati Bengals at Wembley Stadium in London, England, in October of this year as part of the nationwide organization's international series.

Some background before we continue: While the Washington, D.C., NFL franchise has long been busy deflecting stateside controversy and staunchly defending its unsavory throw-back name, it seems the United Kingdom had its own controversy involving sports team names deemed less than wholesome. However, satisfactory and civilized resolution quietly came to pass by 2013, and it seems every-

body is happy and proud of the results and wants to keep it that way.

Then comes the NFL with its team of the loathsome name, the Redskins. Many Brits saw the possibility of some American football players and fans prancing around in their beloved stadium demonstrating all manner of small-minded and ill-informed uncouthness as an insult not only to American Indians, but as a mockery to the hospitable British as well. Journalists of Britain launched a campaign against the team appearing in England, and barring them as long as the team keeps its current name.

Some members of the British Parliament fired off a nasty note to the NFL, essentially telling them to either change the name of the team or send another team in its place. They said the team appearing in Britain would be an act of the NFL exporting the racial slur to the United Kingdom against the values many in Britain have diligently and persistently

instilled, which includes zero-tolerance for racism.

The Hill, a blog on the activities of Congress, posted a joint open letter from Minnesota U.S. Representative Betty McCollum and U.K. House of Commons Minister Michael Dugher that eloquently explains the objections to the Washington, D.C., team setting foot in Britain. Among

other points made:

- The hard won standards in British sport would face a return of widely publicized derogatory and racist language if the team plays at Wembley.

- In spite of the NFL franchise's contention that the team name is an honorific, the team's name is, in fact, a disgusting term for parts "ripped from dead

Native Americans' bodies and exchanged for money as proof of kill, and it is a term that is still used to disparage Native Americans today."

The letter can be viewed in its entirety at thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/civil-rights/271161-we-must-stop-the-nfl-from-exporting-racism.

Stay tuned, sports fans.



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Feds announce revised BIA Indian juvenile code

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Furthering President Obama's efforts to support American Indian families and protect tribal communities, Acting Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Lawrence S. Roberts; U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Administrator Robert L. Listenbee; and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Acting Administrator Kana Enomoto recently announced a draft revised Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Model Indian Juvenile Code. The departments are seeking public comment on the draft, which will be the subject of listening and consultation sessions scheduled for March and April of 2016.

"The BIA's Model Indian Juvenile Code provides federal guidance for tribal governments to help protect the rights of Indian juveniles and their parents, guardians or custodians while also respecting tribal governments' need to modify juvenile codes to fit each unique tribal community," Roberts said.

"The 2016 Model Indian Juvenile Code improves decades-old guidance to aid tribes in developing their own codes that will serve and protect those who end up in the juvenile justice system. I want to thank our federal

partners, tribal leaders and the Indian child welfare community for working with us to produce this much-needed update." "OJJDP and the BIA share a commitment to work with tribal communities as they reform their juvenile justice systems," said Listenbee. "We support a developmental and trauma-informed approach to reform that better meets the needs of tribal youth at risk or involved in the juvenile justice system. The updated code reflects such an approach."

"The updated Model Indian Juvenile Code is an important step forward in the partnership among tribes, BIA, DOJ and HHS as we work to address the Indian alcohol and substance abuse provisions of the Tribal Law and Order Act," Enomoto said. "The updates recognize the need for trauma-informed practices in juvenile courts and diverting juveniles with behavioral health problems to treatment services."

The BIA, DOJ and HHS require updates to the BIA's 1988 Model Indian Juvenile Code, which was designed to assist federally recognized tribes in creating individual codes focused on juvenile justice, specifically addressing Indian youth arrested for alcohol and/or drug-related offenses in Indian Country.

The proposed 2016 Model Indian Juvenile Code is the result of an extensive information-gathering effort conducted by the Interior Department and the DOJ starting in December 2014 and

continued through 2015 — that included listening sessions, webinars and workshops.

The intent of the proposed code is to assist federally recognized tribal governments in creating or revising their juvenile codes. The code focuses on three areas: Juvenile delinquency, truancy and at-risk youth code, as well as several principles which include, but are not limited to:

- The ability to divert out of formal process at each decision point;
- Embedding the right to counsel for juveniles in delinquency/truancy;
- Restricting the use of detention;

Commentary on choices made in the code and discussion of options for implementation, including diversion examples;

- Distinguishing between delinquent acts and need for services (for delinquent acts, focus on supervision, treatment and rehabilitation);
- A process for ensuring the rights of parties; and
- The coordination of services.

The department will hold one listening session and four tribal consultation sessions to take comments on the draft code:

- Listening session: Monday, April 4, 3:30-5:30 p.m. CDT, at the National Indian Child Welfare Association 2016 annual Conference, St. Paul, Minn.
- Consultation sessions (by phone), call (800) 857-5008,

passcode 1291169: Wednesday, March 30, 3:30-5:30 p.m. EDT.

Thursday, March 31, 3:30-5:30 p.m. EDT.

Wednesday, April 13, 3:30-5:30 p.m. EDT.

Thursday, April 14, 2016, 3:30-5:30 p.m. EDT.

The proposed 2016 Model Indian Juvenile Code can be downloaded from the BIA website at www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xojs/documents/document/idc1-033097.pdf.

Written comments are due by May 27. Comments should be addressed to Natasha Anderson, deputy associate director, Tribal Justice Support Directorate, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C St., N.W., MS-2603-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Comments may also be submitted electronically to bia_tribal_courts@bia.gov.

Following the comment period, the BIA will publish a link to the final version of the 2016 Model Indian Juvenile Code in the Federal Register. Thereafter, the final version will be available in a Word document format that tribal governments can use and adapt to their needs.

The assistant secretary of Indian affairs oversees the BIA, which is headed by a director responsible for managing daily operations through four offices — Indian Services, Justice Services, Trust Services and Field Operations. These offices directly administer or fund tribally based

infrastructure, economic development, law enforcement and justice, social services (including child welfare), tribal governance, and trust land and natural and energy resources management programs for the nation's federally recognized American Indian tribes through 12 regional offices and 81 agencies.

The development, operation and enhancement of tribal justice systems are provided guidance, technical support and advisory services to tribal courts and Courts of Indian Offenses (also known as CFR courts). For more information, the OJJDP in the DOJ's Office of Justice Programs provides national leadership, coordination and resources to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization. OJJDP supports states and communities in efforts to develop and implement effective and coordinated prevention and intervention programs and to improve the juvenile justice system to protect public safety, hold justice involved youth accountable and provides treatment and rehabilitative services tailored to the needs of juveniles and their families. For more information, visit <http://www.ojjdp.gov>.

SAMHSA is the agency in the HHS that lead to advance the behavioral health. Its mission is to reduce impacts of substance abuse and mental illness. For more information on SAMHSA's tribal affairs efforts, visit <http://www.samhsa.gov/tribal-affairs>.



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Malorey, Charles Jr., Charles Sr., & Alexis



Young NERDS founder named to White House advisory post

By RICK SMITH

Watch out, kids, major peer pressure alert! Just try to keep up.

A 17-year-old Miwok received an appointment from the president of the United States, Barack Obama, as an advisor on Indian education for the president's administration.

Regular readers of this periodical may have seen an item published in these pages last July that introduced the Native Education Raising Dedicated Students (NERDS) organization and its young founder, Dahkota Kicking Bear Brown. Essentially, in 2012 Brown founded NERDS as a peer-to-peer mentoring club aiming to change the disheartening widespread education failure rate among young American Indians in Brown's community, the federally recognized Wilton Rancheria

Indian Tribe (Miwok) of northern California.

Brown took NERDS online last year and invited the formation of affiliated clubs throughout the rest of Indian Country. At the time our story went to print, over 300 NERDS affiliates were established or under development.

President Barack Obama named Brown as an appointee to his administration to serve on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. At an age when youngsters are likely to be constantly asked about their whereabouts, it appears 17-year-old Brown will be walking the halls of the federal government offering advice; he's likely the youngest to do so as well.

According to the White House, Brown not only formed the NERDS organization, at age

14 he was named by the Center for Native American Youth as a Champion of Change in 2013 and is a member of the White House Steering Committee for Generation Indigenous, the executive board of the Center for Native American Youth and the National Congress of American Indians National Native Youth Cabinet.

The president's intent to appoint Brown to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education was announced on Feb. 19 along with the appointments of Phyliss J. Anderson, Joely Proudfit and Mandy Broaddus to the council. Anderson, a wife, mother and grandmother, graduated from a community college and is the first female elected chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Proudfit holds a doctor-

ate and has a history of American Indian academic and cultural vocation and advocacy, she is a Luiseño of the Pechanga Band of Mission Indians of California. Broaddus recently received Educator of the Year honors by the National Indian Education Association. She serves as director of the Montana Office of Public Instruction and grew up on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana with Assiniboine and Sioux ancestry.

"I am honored that these talented individuals have decided to serve our country," Obama said in official release. "They bring their years of experience and expertise to this administration, and I look forward to working with them."

The appointments were the latest in the Obama administration's push to include voices of



Dahkota Brown

Indian Country in the mechanics of the federal government whenever Indian Country concerns are addressed by federal officials and those who have a hand in the laws of the land.

Free guide to appeal property tax assessments

LANSING, Mich. — State Senator Wayne Schmidt said 37th District residents can access a free guide on how to appeal property tax assessments on his website and at county clerks offices throughout the district.

"Occasionally property owners encounter errors with their tax assessments," said Schmidt. "If residents think there is an inaccuracy with theirs, this free guide will be a valuable resource when considering appealing an assessment."

Schmidt recommended checking for errors on property record cards and to look over homes for structural damage or problems not associated with general aging that could affect the value of the property. It is

also smart to research comparable properties in your area.

If property owners believe an assessment is wrong, an appeal can be made to the local board of review and, if necessary, the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

To access the free guide on how to effectively appeal your property tax assessment, as well as the *2016 Michigan Taxpayer's Guide*, on the web, visit SenatorWayneSchmidt.com/publications.

Printed copies of the guide have been delivered to the eight county clerks offices in the 37th District. Residents may stop in and pick up free copies in the counties of Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Luce and Mackinac.

U.S. House passes trust reform act

By RICK SMITH

The U.S. House of Representatives is the first congressional chamber to pass one of the twin bills in the House and Senate known as the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act. The House bill, H.R. 812, was passed unanimously on Feb. 24. The Senate's bill, S. 383, passed the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs last July but has yet to receive consideration on the floor. The Senate must pass the bill before it can go to the president to be signed into law.

Along with reaffirming the federal government's fiduciary responsibilities to Indian Country and other measures, the act directs

the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to establish a demonstration project at least 10 years in length that allows American Indian tribes opportunities to propose and negotiate their own management plans for assets held in trust by the federal government. Further, the act directs some DOI and BIA personnel shuffling and requires the DOI to prepare a transition plan and timetable for the closure of the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians.

It appears the intent of the act is to find alternative remedies to incidences of prolonged mismanagement of tribal assets by the DOI spanning generations,

which resulted in vast, unaccounted losses of revenue rightfully belonging to Indian Country entities and legal actions ending with astronomically expensive and embarrassing decisions against agencies of the federal government.

According to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office, the act would also increase the authority of tribes to make contracts for certain services and activities on tribal lands without DOI approval.

It is uncertain at this time how soon the Senate may act on its version of the bill, however, encouragement from constituents would likely help expedite action.

Join Arbor Day Foundation, get free trees

Arbor Day Foundation makes it easy for all to celebrate spring by planting trees. Join the foundation in March, receive 10 free white pine trees.

"White pines are versatile trees that will break heavy winds and add beauty to your home," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the foundation.

"These fast-growing landscape trees are known for their soft needles and graceful branching, making them an ideal addition to any yard," he added.

The trees are part of the foundation's Trees for America campaign.

With planting instructions included, the trees will be shipped

at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31. The six to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Foundation members also receive subscriptions to Arbor Day, the foundation's bimonthly publication, and *The Tree Book*, which contains information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free White Pine Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by March 31, 2016, or join online at <http://arborday.org/march>.

ELECT TYLER LAPLAUNT

Unit 5 Board Representative

Education

- B.S. & M.S. from Northern Michigan University (NMU)
- Currently enrolled in the EdS/EdD ladder program through NMU/Central Michigan University
- Graduate studies research was focused on pre-colonial vs. post-colonial health and lifestyle in Native American populations
- Doctoral research focuses on the lack of Native American students attending 4-year universities to completion

Work Experience

- Currently employed by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians as a Community Health Educator in the West End including Marquette, Alger, Delta, and Schoolcraft counties
- Lead author of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2015 Community Health Assessment
- Worked at NMU as an Adjunct Professor in Department of Health and Human Performance
- Worked 11 years in Casino gaming - brought in new games, trained staff on policies and procedures

Speaking Engagements

- August 2015 - National Indian Health Board (NIHB) and tribal leaders in conjunction with Cathy Abramson via webinar in our quest to receive PHAB accreditation for our Community Health Department at the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- September 2015 - Upper Peninsula Health Plan (UPHP) about American Indian Culture and Health Trends, both pre and post-colonial
- April 2016 - 2016 Building Michigan Communities conference in Lansing



"I believe in the betterment of our people through progressive policy that will enhance our Culture, Health, and Education. Through Culture, we will remain sovereign. Through Health, we will thrive. Through our Education, we will be prosperous. With this in mind, we need to work together to move our Tribal Community forward. The time for infighting is at an end. It is our time to unite in the common interest of our people, to care for our elders, and sustain our legacy for our children."

-Tyler A. LaPlaut
Migizii Migwan
(Eagle Feather)

-Contact Info-

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This ad is endorsed by Tyler LaPlaut.

Telling the story of gill net tug *Katherine V*.

FROM CHIPPEWA COUNTY MSU EXTENSION

A new Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Trail offers an opportunity to explore the past, present and future of the lakes through the lens of fish and fishing. Here, we visit Alpena, Mich., and the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan to explore the commercial fishing heritage of northern Lake Huron as told through the historic commercial fishing vessel, the *Katherine V*.

A Great Lakes gill net fish tug, the *Katherine V* was built in 1928 on the shores of northern Lake Huron in Rogers City by Native American builder Henry Vincent, and was fished by the Vogelheim family, who owned and operated the *Katherine V* from her launch until retirement in 1970. At 57 feet in length, entirely enclosed and powered by a Kahlenberg three-cylinder engine, the tug is an example of late 19th and early 20th century Great Lakes commercial fishing vessels. Constructed of white oak, northern white cedar and cypress, the boat was eventually sheathed in steel and aluminum early in its fishing career to aide in fishing through the winter.

A 1990 research report written by Frank and Nancy Prothero nicknames her the “lone survivor” calling attention to the vessel’s one-of-a-kind attributes: built locally and fished locally in Lake Huron her entire fishing career. This was unique given many other commercial boats were built



in shipyards and having one or more “sister ships” built from same design plans. It was also common that Great Lakes boats might change ownership or be repurposed for other industries, so it is equally rare she fished out of same Lake Huron port.

An emblem of Great Lakes fisheries heritage, the *Katherine V* reflects the social, ecological and technical changes that occurred in the fishery and across the Great Lakes region during the early part of the 20th century.

People

The history of the *Katherine V* contains aspects of historic Native American fisheries, early European commercial fisheries and contemporary recreational fisheries. It tells of changing attitudes towards Great Lakes resources, and reflects the diverse values found in our fishery today.

Fishery

In service from 1928 to 1970, the *Katherine V* fished the Great Lakes during an era of significant ecological change. Water quality

threats, habitat degradation and food web changes caused by the introduction of invasive species took place while the *Katherine V* navigated the northern Great Lakes. These ecological changes from her fishing past call attention to similar stewardship issues challenging the Great Lakes region still today.

Fishing technologies

The *Katherine V* exemplifies changes to fishing methods and gear over the decades. Service of the *Katherine V* from the 1920s through the 1960s tells of the years when gasoline and diesel propulsion replaced sail and steam, when ice and refrigeration replaced salt, and when fresh lake trout and whitefish were shipped from northeastern Michigan ports by the train-car load.

Representative of a Great Lakes maritime fleet that once consisted of over 900 vessels, this boat exhibits the gill net fishing methods and gear that dominated turn-of-the-century commercial fishing activities. The *Katherine*

V has a design — unique to the region — that allowed fishermen to fish in the coldest waters of the Great Lakes. Its functionality is reflected in the large number of such vessels fishing the Great Lakes in the early decades of the 20th century. Since the near cessation of gill netting in the 1960s, these iconic gill net boats have nearly disappeared. Wood or steel hulled, these enclosed gill net boats play a limited role in commercial fishing today.

Donated and brought to the Besser Museum in 2003, continuous efforts have gone into conserving the vessel and building an educational exhibit about north-

east Michigan’s fisheries heritage. Supported by Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State University Extension, great gains have been accomplished toward this goal over the past few years thanks to the help of some very dedicated volunteers — including local Alpena High School students — who share a similar heritage and passion for the Great Lakes fishery and the *Katherine V*. The Besser Museum also boasts a modern day recreational fisheries heritage exhibit, including vintage fishing gear and a wall of mounted fish designed to visitors in the ecological diversity of our Great Lakes fishery.

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Unit 5 members are in a very precarious situation. We are without representation. This problem will continue until the Special Election is done. I will create a new Facebook site to help Unit 5 members keep up with the Special election process. My report, “The Daley Report,” will also include updates on Tribal Business matters and Board meetings. I have been attending Board meetings for the past two years. In fact, I have built a rapport with most Board members by making presentations and asking questions about critical issues.

It is clear Unit 5 members need a board representative they can trust to be there for them, to report facts and fair representations from interactions with our elected Tribal Leaders and Executive staff. I am not waiting until after the election to do so. I will communicate in a timely manner (bi-weekly) facts and details about each issue with information on whom to call for Tribal members who need more information. Use me as your Representative now if you like. I will carry your requests and questions to them in order to ensure

Unit 5 members need to know I am listening and working for you.

— *Judi Daley, The Daley Report*

we are represented during the election cycle. I have been attending Board meetings and have presented some of the problems that we in Marquette and Munising are having because of winter and long distance transportation challenges all year round. The main problem is representation on all issues. We have been neglected historically because we are viewed as a small membership with only one vote and that vote is seen as directly aligned with Unit 4. This is all right to be aligned but not simply because we are in the western Upper Peninsula. Unmet Health and Human Service needs have become our primary issues. **When will our Health Center be put back into appropriate levels of service provision?** This challenge has been my career focus and I possess a high level of expertise in getting services for people in need.

What about our Constitution? In order to govern our Tribe appropriately we need to consider new constitutional codes, ethical policies for Board Representatives, and build in appropriate oversight mandates to strengthen and build trust with Tribal members who need to know that the elected leadership is working for them and representing all tribal family members.

Our youth need to have more than what we are currently giving them as they struggle with educational and emotional and future

planning needs. We want them to be proud of being Native American and know their heritage. Learning our precious Anishinaabemowin (language) is key to understanding our oral traditions and history (not just what is taught in public schools). Our tribe has so much to offer but we are receiving very little in the Unit 5 territories (within and beyond the limits of the seven county service area). We need more help and resources in order to give back and help this tribe get out of bankruptcy and rebuild our credibility.

Economic diversity: I helped develop a much-needed Standing committee to oversee development and implementation of the National Chair for the Multicultural Diversity Program. I worked in the Upper Peninsula for 27 years as an Executive Director for non-profit organization (St. Vincent DePaul Executive Director) in the Upper Peninsula, and as a volunteer for my adult life. I am competent in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating projects and programs. I am presently serving as the Unit 5 Elder Committee Secretary/Treasurer. I also pursue continuing education at Northern Michigan University Native American Studies. I have certification from DePaul University, Leadership Level 2 with Certification Level 1 in 2012. I am still serving as President of St Peter Conference (St. Vincent DePaul Ministry).

VOTE JUDI DALEY UNIT 5

Paid for by Judi Daley for Unit 5

Early childhood education staff certified in CPR

BY RICK SMITH

Staff of Sault Tribe Community Health recently aided staff of the tribe's early childhood education programs with licensing requirements.

Tom Sauro, a community health technician based at the tribe's clinic in Sault Ste. Marie, conducted a class in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid and using automated external defibrillators (AED) on March 4 at the clinic to certify staff members of the tribe's Early Head Start and Head Start programs. They took part in learning the life-saving skills and received certificates of completion valid for two years.

CPR is an emergency procedure employed primarily to keep oxygen flowing to the brain of a stricken individual who is not breathing and has no pulse until the person receives proper care in a medical facility. First aid is initial medical care given to prevent deterioration of injuries or illnesses and promote recovery in individuals. AEDs are electronic devices used to automatically diagnose and reinstate effective heart function.



Photo by Rick Smith

Tom Sauro, left, a community health technician with the tribe's clinic in Sault Ste. Marie, conducts a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) component of a class instruction on emergency life-saving skills with staff of the tribe's early childhood education programs. The class took place on March 4 at the clinic auditorium. Sauro conducts classes in basic and professional emergency life-saving procedures every month. Anyone interested may call Sauro at 632-5207 or extension 25207.

Sauro conducts classes for basic and professional certification each month. Basic classes are for anyone who wants to be prepared to respond to emergencies and people who need the training as part of employment requirements. Professional classes are provided for emergency medical services personnel, firefighters, law

enforcement officers, lifeguards, medical personnel and anyone in similar occupations who is required to have the training.

Anyone interested in attending one of the basic or professional classes should contact Sauro at 632-5207 or extension 25207, or send email to him at tsauro@saulttribe.net.

According to Tiffany Menard,

Child Care Center manager, professional planning and development is an essential component of the early childhood education programs and, in fact, is part of the licensing requirements, Head Start performance standards and helps to ensure the program meets high quality standards.

"Head Start and Early Head Start has always closed the first Friday of every month for professional development and a monthly staff meeting," Menard said. "The Child Care Center was approved to close 12 days annually so that all early childhood education program staff could attend the monthly meetings, not just those who could be scheduled out of the classroom."

Menard noted the scheduled closures help with operations and morale. For example, she pointed out, long-time employee, Wendy Nault, joined the Child Care Center in 1997 and said she really enjoys these days as it allows her to interact with her colleagues and to learn new things first hand.

Staff also have the opportunity to prepare their classrooms for the coming month, meet with classroom teams to dis-

cuss needs of the classroom and learn about new policies in the tribe, Head Start and the early childhood programs and ask questions to ensure everyone understands the changes.

Dawn Fegan, a child care coordinator since 1997, said training days have come a long way as the training pertains to everyone in the early childhood education programs, not just a certain few.

According to state licensing rules and regulations, Menard added, child care providers must have a minimum of 16 hours of professional development annually and a staff member on duty with knowledge of first aid and CPR must always be on duty.

"The early childhood education programs are lucky as, thanks to the assistance of the tribe's Community Health Department, they are able to exceed this requirement as all staff are certified in first aid and CPR," she said.

"The early childhood education programs not only ensure staff are trained in first aid and CPR, but also invite current parents to attend this training as well," she added.

Department of Education triples grant funding for Indian youth

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced it is more than tripling—from \$5.3 million to \$17.4 million—the availability of funding for grants to help American Indian youth become college and career-ready.

The extra support is being provided for Native Youth Community Projects (NYCP) as an ongoing step toward implementing President Obama's commitment to improving the lives of American Indian children. The grants will support the president's Generation Indigenous ("Gen I") Initiative to help American Indian youth.

In a Federal Register notice, the department said it expects to make approximately 19 demonstration awards ranging from \$500,000 to \$1 million to tribal communities before Sept. 30.

"In too many places across Indian Country, Indian youth do not receive adequate resources to help prepare them for success in school or after graduation," said Acting U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr.

"The Native Youth Community Projects are an investment in bringing tribal communities together to change that reality, and dramatically transform the opportunities for Native youth. When tribal communities join together around shared goals for Native youth, we will see locally driven solutions coming from leaders who work most closely with students and are best-positioned to lead change."

William Mendoza, executive director of the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, said, "These resources are desperately needed in tribal communities and are rooted in the

value of tribally driven partnerships and strategies as a foundation to addressing the challenges Native youth face."

The announcement builds on the NYCP grants awarded last year to a dozen recipients in nine states that impacted over 30 tribes and involved more than 48 schools. The NYCP program is based on significant consultation with tribal communities and recognizes that these communities can best:

Identify key barriers to and opportunities for improving educational and life outcomes for Native youth, and develop and implement locally produced strategies designed to address those barriers.

Each grant will support a coordinated, focused approach chosen by a community partnership that includes a tribe, local schools and other optional service providers or organizations.

For example, the program allows tribes to identify ways to achieve college and career readiness specific to their own populations—which could include any number of approaches, such as early learning, language immersion or mental health services.

Communities can tailor strategies to address barriers to success for students in college-and-career readiness. The success of these projects will guide the work of future practic-

es that improve the educational opportunities and achievement of preschool, elementary and secondary Indian students.

The President's recent fiscal year 2017 budget proposal calls for increased investments across Indian Country.

The plan would: Significantly expand the overall funding for NYCP to \$53 million.

Provide \$350 million for Preschool Development Grants—an increase of \$100 million over fiscal year 2016—to help develop and expand high-quality preschool programs in targeted communities, including planning grants to tribal governments.

Help nearly 470,000 Native

students with increased support for Title I programs serving low-income schools with funding necessary to provide high-need students access to an excellent education.

The proposal seeks \$15.4 billion—a \$450 million increase—for all Title I efforts.

In addition, Acting Secretary King will be visiting the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota in the coming months to listen to the needs of tribal officials and share information on the efforts by the Administration to help Native youth and adults.

For more on the administration's investment in American Indian issues, visit www.whitehouse.gov/nativeamericans.

ELECT

ILENE (LAVAKE) MOSES

FOR UNIT 3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I will work hard to serve the Tribal Members and Members of Unit 3 to the best of my abilities.

I will be committed to represent YOU by voicing YOUR issues and concerns.

ISSUES:

- Increase elderly services
- Increase elderly healthcare
- Develop educational programs
- Develop youth programs
- Increase employee benefits
- Jobs and job training for tribal members
- Expand cultural programs
- Protect treaty rights
- Secure funding for Unit 3

Please VOTE in the upcoming Unit 3 election.

This advertisement is endorsed by Ilene Moses. Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ilene (LavaKe) Moses

**RE-ELECT BRIDGETT SORENSON
UNIT 3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

SINCE BEING ELECTED:

- ✓ Held office hours by appointment since being elected
- ✓ Unit report in every newspaper
- ✓ As of 3/7/16 attended every board meeting
- ✓ Donated \$1000 scholarships annually
- ✓ Donated fish for Elders fish fry fundraiser
- ✓ Been honest • Have integrity
- ✓ Full-time Board Member
- ✓ Tesified twice for Sault Tribe Head Start
- ✓ Attended Self Governance Training
- ✓ Presented TAP at Dept. of Justice conference

EDUCATION/WORK EXPERIENCE:

- ✓ Bachelor's in Business Admin.
- ✓ Associates in Business Mgt.
- ✓ 10 yr Real estate sales license
- ✓ Worked for Sault Tribe HR & Casino for 10 yrs

ELECTION RALLY March 24 at the Little Bear East Arena Conference Center 6-8pm. Refreshments to be served and petitions available.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- ✓ St. Ignace Hockey Association President
- ✓ Mackinac County Relay for Life Team leader
- Member:**
- ✓ St. Ignace Events Committee
- ✓ Mackinac County Communities That Care Committee
- ✓ Mackinac Straits State Park Committee
- ✓ St. Ignace Recreation Board
- ✓ MAHA District 7 Board
- ✓ Sault Head Start Advisory Board
- ✓ Sault Tribe TAP Committee
- ✓ Planned the first annual Pink in the Rink 2016
- ✓ Past Red Cross Blood Drive coordinator

bridgett91@yahoo.com • (906) 984-2052

Paid for and endorsed by Bridgett Sorenson

LSSU offers prizes in high school short story competition

High schoolers! You could win \$500 cash or a \$1,000 scholarship by entering!

High school students interested in writing may win a \$500 cash prize or \$1,000 scholarship for their stories if they enter Lake Superior State University's second annual Short Story Prize competition.

The competition, sponsored by the LSSU Creative Writing Program, asks high school students to compose their best "alternate history" short stories between now and the April 30 deadline. Any high school student residing in the midwestern United States or Ontario, Canada, may enter.

"The alt-history theme was chosen by subscribers to our contest newsletter – students, teachers and parents who were involved in the contest last year. They voted on a number of possible themes, and alt-history was the most popular," said

LSSU English Professor Mary McMyne.

McMyne said for the purposes of this contest, alternate history short stories will be defined as stories that speculate how the world would be different if the historical timeline were altered. Students can enter stories that fall into the category of literary fiction, science fiction or historical fiction, as long as the stories explore some "what-if" scenario about the past.

"I couldn't be more excited about the theme," McMyne said. "I read some amazing alt-history short stories while I was putting together the contest lesson plan. There's a lot of cross-curricular potential for this theme, and I can't wait to see what the students write."

Entries will be accepted online through April 30, and finalists will be selected based on literary merit by May 15, with a winner announced on June 1. The winner of the contest will receive a \$500 cash prize, which may be doubled if the student

wishes to attend LSSU. The winning story will be published in volume 6 of *Border Crossing*, LSSU's international journal of literature and art, alongside fiction, poetry and nonfiction by professional writers, and book reviews by LSSU undergraduate interns.

All entries receiving semi-finalist status and higher will receive a free copy of *Snowdrifts*, LSSU's student-run undergraduate literary journal.

Contest rules, instructions for students to enter, a poster for teachers and librarians, and a Common Core-aligned lesson plan for teachers are available for download on the contest website <http://bcrossing.org/lssu-short-story-prize/>.

Also available on the website are recommendations for classic and award-winning alternate history short stories that students may use as models. Students, teachers, parents and librarians may also sign-up for the contest mailing list in order to receive updates.

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

To learn more about the LSSU creative writing program, visit lssu.edu/english/creative-writingatlssu.

The LSSU English Department also offers majors and minors in literature and English teaching (K-12).

The website for the LSSU journal *Border Crossing* is lssu.edu/bc.

Vote WILKINS Unit 1

I am announcing my candidacy to represent all Sault Tribe Members as a Unit 1 Tribal Board Representative. I will not make promises I cannot keep and I will always try to be a Leader among our people. We as a Tribe face many difficult issues and it is time for us to work together and make our Tribe whole again.



I was raised in Sault Ste. Marie, married my husband of 23 years and raised 3 wonderful children. I have owned multiple businesses in the community over the years and have worked for the Tribe on multiple occasions. My children are now grown and learning to live their own lives. I believe it is now my time to help in the best way I know as a Representative of our Tribe. Please let your voice be heard in the Tribal Elections, and feel free to contact me for more information.

Helen (LaLonde) Wilkins
Sault Tribe Unit 1 Candidate
906-440-6632 or VoteHelenWilkins@gmail.com
Facebook: [Vote Helen Wilkins Unit 1 Representative](#)

Helen Wilkins endorses this ad.

Batchewana First Nation Rankin Arena gets new programs

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONT. — Batchewana First Nation announces the new relationship between the Rankin Arena and the KBX Hockey Club. The club, owned by Ken Belanger, bought primary ice time at the arena to deliver a wide array of new and exciting programs.

"The Rankin Arena is known for its excellent ice conditions and location, we as a council are

excited to see more activities happening and can't wait to share our venue with new players and fans," said Batchewana First Nation Chief Dean Sayers.

The Rankin Arena is on the Batchewana First Nation and will continue to be managed by the First Nation. Community programs such as free community skate times and fundraising events remain top priority of the

facility.

"We at KBX Hockey Club know that hockey is fun to play and we encourage this same attitude of fun and fair play while learning this great game. We purchased ice time with the Rankin Arena and are extremely excited to offer new camps and clinics as well as our beloved hockey school at this venue," Belanger said.

Focusing on Our People...



I am honored to serve as your Unit 1 Director, and I thank you all for trust that you have placed in me. The past four years were spent working hard, helping to provide for our way of life and the welfare and prosperity of our people. As a Board, we faced many challenges against our right to self-government, and the protection of our property and resources. But among all the meetings, the voting, the politics and the fighting, I sadly realized that too much of our time is spent focused on dollars and political games... **not on our People**. I chose to do more.

I have found great joy in the direct help that I have been able to give to our People, no matter where they live! I have helped our members with food, housing, and medicine. I have helped parents with problems at schools, aided women and children who are victims of Domestic Violence, people suffering from Substance Abuse, and in many other ways as well. **Helping our People** is the reason I asked for your vote four years ago, and I hope it will be the reason you give me your support once again. Though much of my work is in political arenas, **I am not a politician. I am a Tribal Leader**. I do not tell our people what they want to hear, I tell them what they **MUST** know.

I am an Eagle Clan woman, firmly rooted in the culture and traditions of our Anishinaabe people and **I am Focused on Our People**.



Call: (906) 440-9151

jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com

For more information

<http://jmcleodsaulttribe.com>

Experienced – Dedicated - Trusted



Vote McLeod

Jennifer McLeod endorses this advertisement

Kidd's Kids sends local family to Disney World

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Kidd's Kids, an outreach of the Kidd Kraddick Morning Show, paid for 50 kids and their families to take a vacation at Walt Disney World, where they experienced five days of magic from November 19–23. One of those children was a local youth from Kincheloe, 12-year-old Riley Blackie.

His mother, Sault Tribe member Carrie Myotte, works for the tribe as a secretary for the Kincheloe office of Anishnaabek Community and Family Services.

With encouragement from her aunt, Myotte went onto the Kidd's Kids website and filled out an application, which included medical and income verifications, for the program in Riley's name and was thrilled to find out he had been chosen for the trip.

Riley was born early at 35 weeks and 6 days with spina bifida, hydrocephalus and scoliosis. Myotte said spina bifida is a neural tube defect where the vertebrae don't close all the way around the spinal chord, leaving a hole. He had a 2.5 cm hole from the outside of his body to his spine.

He was immediately flown to Grand Rapids by helicopter and stayed there for 34 days, undergoing four surgeries during that time. In the past 11 years he has undergone an additional eight surgeries. In 2014 he had two back surgeries. He had his spinal cord de-tethered and during his second surgery that year, had pins and

rods put into his spine to treat the scoliosis because his spinal curvature was severe at 80 degrees, and was beginning to crush his organs.

Today Riley can walk somewhat with the help of a walker, but is mainly wheelchair bound.

He is also cognitively and speech delayed, which his mother believes stems from the hydrocephalus. She said he has a shunt implanted under the skin of his head with a catheter that runs through the bone from a ventricle in his brain and drains the excess fluids out through a tube that runs down into his abdomen where his body reabsorbs it.

Riley will require specialized care for the rest of his life, and travels with his family to Grand Rapids multiple times a year for treatment. Riley has two younger brothers, Noah, 9, and Alex, 5.

The families adventure began when they flew out of Grand Rapids to Orlando on South West Airlines. Myotte's husband, Jim, and children had never flown before and were as excited about that as they were about Disney World. When they arrived at the airport in Grand Rapids, South West Airlines surprised all the kids with a Disney themed party, which included balloons, Disney cupcakes and Disney trivia for everyone on their flight. Carrie said they received VIP treatment and when they arrived at Disney World they were given fast passes to all the theme parks and a room in the Swan and Dolphin Inn,



Carrie and Jim Myotte with their boys, 12-year-old Riley (left), Alex, 5, and Noah, 9.

where they were provided with special t-shirts to wear each day they were there.

"Riley had never been on a roller coaster before," Myotte said. "So we got him to go on Space Mountain and Tower of Terror and all the other roller coaster rides, and he loved it! It helped me too. We put limits on him a lot and don't do a lot of things as a family because Riley can't do it – but that opened my eyes and made me realize that he can do it. It was awesome in that

sense too, and helped us all as a family."

In addition to rides and meeting Disney characters, they met and spent time with Kellie Raspberry, J-SI, Jenna and Big Al – the cast of the Kidd Kraddick Morning Show. Riley and his family spent time with J-SI at the Epcot Center and participated in an interactive show called Turtle Talk with Crush, one of the show's talking turtles.

"I think Riley's favorite ride was Space Mountain," Myotte

said. "He giggled and laughed through the whole thing. It was indoors and dark, it's like you are flying through space in a roller coaster."

According to information found on their website, "At Kidd's Kids, our primary goal is to provide children (ages 5 to 12), who have a chronic or terminal illness or are physically challenged, with an unforgettable adventure.

"Kidd's Kids covers all expenses including airfare to/from their local market to DFW, chartered jet to/from DFW to Orlando, hotel, park passes, all meals, transportation while in Florida, souvenirs, special private character visits and so much more! Children selected for the Kidd's Kids trip are between the ages of 5 and 12, suffer from a chronic or terminal illness, and/or are physically challenged or have a catastrophic impairment due to an accident/birth defect. The child must also reside in one of the Kidd Kraddick In The Morning radio show listening areas and demonstrate a financial need. Each child selected attends the trip along with their family members who reside in the same household (this includes parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and any siblings that are between 5 and 16 years of age)."

For more information about Kidd's Kids, or to fill out an application for your child, visit <http://www.kiddskids.com>.

Unit 1 Board Candidate

My name is Betty F. Freiheit. I'm a tribal Elder who is asking for your support in the 2016 tribal election. I have championed for tribal members rights for over 25 years! I don't come out of the woodwork just at election time. I'm not in this election for the money or for personal gain! I'm in this election to help secure the FUTURE of our tribe!



I'm from a long lineage of tribal families in the Sault. I helped raise four of my siblings; I have two children and six grandkids. My husband of 50 years and I built our home in the Sault. I retired from the State of Michigan as a correction officer.

I know how difficult it is to work for the tribe! It hurts my heart to see qualified tribal members who were interviewed by non-Natives then be rejected for a tribal job! But, tribal members, it's your elected officials who are putting the non-Natives in the positions of authority. I promise you, if I'm elected, Native Preference will always be the #1 Priority.

The tribe needs to diversify into areas where it's productive to bring skilled jobs to tribal members. I believe there is a need for term limits on elected officials. I promise you if I'm elected I will NOT become a lackadaisical director! I will protect the Tribal Constitution & Bylaws and continue to be a stalwart defender of your rights. I will work with the same ethical principles as I did with the state of Michigan!

Respectfully asking for your support.

Betty F. Freiheit
(906) 322-0976
Sootribe@lighthouse.net

This ad is endorsed by Betty Freiheit.

Moving Forward Together - Vote Michael McKerchie - Unit 1 Board of Directors

We need to work together and to start listening to each other again and then we need to act to get things accomplished for the betterment of our Tribe.

I promise to be respectful and help bring our tribe together. I will work with anyone who is trying to improve our tribe and our way of life. Through action-based solutions, increasing Board productivity, and listening to the membership we can be the responsible leaders that you deserve.

Economic Development

- Diversify the Tribe's resources.
- Create tribal businesses that can stand on their own.
- Expand tribal gaming operations.

Improve Current Operations

- Invest back into our properties & staff. Create a better work environment.
- Review the operational needs to improve business functions.
- Listen to employees and create workable solutions to increase morale.

Strengthen Sovereignty Rights

- Exercise our treaty rights; preserve hunting and fishing rights.
- Protect the environment; work with state and federal governments.
- Continue the fight for education and health programs.

Provide for the Seven Generations

- Earmark unused budget amount towards the Elder fund.
- Include our Elders in the decision making process.
- Continue working for the education of our youths to maintain our strong tribe.

I encourage members to contact me with questions or to talk more about my plan to move us forward: (906) 203-7828, email votemckerchie@gmail.com, or www.facebook.com/votemckerchie.



Tribal youth councils attend basswood cordage workshop

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe elder Tony Grondin invited the Hessel, Newberry and St. Ignace tribal youth councils to attend a basswood cordage (rope) workshop he held March 5 in his garage. Due to conflicting schedules, Newberry youth were unable to attend.

A group of youngsters and adults from Hessel, St. Ignace and Moran gathered to learn how to make rope from strips of basswood, which Grondin will use to tie the trusses on the new longhouse being built on the grounds of the Ojibwa Museum in St. Ignace.

The new 28x36-foot longhouse is being built adjacent to the old one that is no longer usable. Grondin has help building the longhouse from Terry Gouza of Rexton and Dick Sterk of Cedarville. "We call ourselves the Fuddy Duddies because I am 67, Terry is 66 and Dick is 78," Grondin said.

The trio and their helpers are hoping to have the longhouse completed by Memorial Day. "We would like to be able to have some ceremonies there," Grondin said. They are looking forward to holding a spring ceremony and

are planning to light a spirit fire in the old longhouse and bring some coals from there into the new longhouse for its first fire.

Making rope from basswood is a lengthy process. The basswood is harvested in the spring when the new leaves are just starting to sprout because that is when the bark can be taken off the trees fairly easily. Once the bark is peeled off the trees it is made into bundles that are then placed in Garnet Lake near Rexton to soak. Depending on the temperature of the water, soaking can last from three weeks to three months before the bark gets soft enough for the layers to be separated.

When the bundles of bark are pulled from the lake they are covered in green smelly slime. After a good rinsing, the bark is ready to be separated into the thickness needed to make the rope. As the layers are being stripped from the bark they are rolled up and placed into a kettle where they are boiled for about 15 minutes. This not only sanitizes them, but also makes the basswood twice as strong. After they are done boiling and have dripped most of the way dry, it is time to take the still damp strips and divide

them, twist them into "string" that is then braided with two other "strings" to form a thin rope. That rope is then braided with two other ropes to create the final rope that will be used to hold together the trusses.

Whatever wood is unused can be stored forever and used at a later time.

Grondin said it takes two tamarack trees to make one truss. Each tree is between 25-30 feet long.

The men donate their time to build the longhouse, but Grondin said that a grant the museum was awarded paid for most of their materials.

Val Jean LaTour, 16, from the Hessel Tribal Youth Council, said, "I came to the workshop because I thought it would be a useful thing to learn how to do. Braiding the rope was difficult at first, but so are many other things until you try them. Not a lot of people can do this stuff. Everyone wants to look at their phones or watch TV. When you are not doing that and want to go out and do something busy, it is something to do – something to learn."

Sue St. Onge is the YEA Coordinator for St. Ignace and Lisa Burnside is the coordinator for Newberry and Hessel. Burnside said, "Mr. Rickley said something that I really liked. 'The old way is now the new way.'"

See photos on page 15



Tony Grondin twisting a strip of basswood.



Workshop participants work to get the basswood strips ready to braid.



Russell Rickley holds up some of the stripped basswood.



Some of the twisted basswood "string" that has been set aside until it is needed during the braiding process.

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS 2016 ELECTION CYCLE

ELECT



NICHOLE CAUSLEY
Unit I Board Representative

"To provide for the perpetuation of our way of life and the welfare and prosperity of our people, to preserve our right



of self-government, and to protect our property and resources, do ordain and establish this constitution and bylaws."

Contact:
906.259.3792
nicholecausley@yahoo.com
Face Book: Causley Nichole

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education

- B.S. Public Administration- Lake Superior State University
- Sault Tribe Governmental Structure Knowledge-Thesis Statement: An Unfinished Quest: The Long Struggle To Restore Government For The Sault Tribe Of Chippewa Indians
- 98% completion of Master Degree Public Administration-Northern Michigan University
 - Intergovernmental relations, Public Policy Analysis, Education, Public finance

Experience

- 12+ years work experience with Sault Tribe (Casino and Governmental)
 - 5+ Casino: gaming, hotel
 - 6+ Governmental: Planning and Development / Inland Fish and Wildlife Division; Big Bear; Human Resources

Service

- 20+ years Community Engagement
- Housing Commissioner
- Head Start Policy Council Representative
- Native American Student Organization (LSSU) President, Secretary, and Pow Wow Coordinator

Paid for and endorsed by Nichole M. Causley, Unit 1 Candidate

Vote Keith Massaway for Chairman



“Having been on the Tribal Board for 10 years, I know I have the Knowledge and Experience to lead our Tribe.”

A community partner, I was born and raised in St. Ignace, Mich. I have been married for 34 years to my wife Jean who is also a tribal member. I have two sons, Andrew and Stephen.

My Values —

- The tribe comes first
- Integrity matters
- Accountability must be present
- Honesty is a given
- Humility is a gift
- Sustainability is a must

Experienced

- Own the Zodiac Party Store for 33 years
- Elected to Chamber of Commerce for 4-year term and then again as president for 4 more years.
- In 2006 I was elected to the tribal board of directors in Unit 3 and re-elected twice more
- I have participated in many places in our community
- Mackinac Straits Hospital Board member
- Michilimackinac Historical Society protecting and preserving our culture
- Head football coach for the middle school of St. Ignace for 13 years
- Sault tribe Alive (STAY) community suicide prevention group
- Recreation Board for Activities in Mackinac County

Accountability

The decisions we make today will have a lasting effect on our people. We have to weigh our responsibility to our current needs with the future. To not heed our seven generations teachings is to disregard those who need us the most.

Sustainability

We have to look at what we have and plan so we can maintain at least to stay at the same level of deliverables. This is a key to how I vote and how I will lead the tribe.

Rally!

Keith Massaway Rally at the Little Bear Arena on March 24, Thursday, from 6 to 8 p.m. COME AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT! Refreshments provided.

CONTACT ME ANY TIME

**kmassaway@yahoo.com
(906) 630-1693
keithmassaway.com
702 Hazelton St.
St. Ignace, MI 49781**



TTAC COMMITTEE (L-R) — Mirtha Beadle, OTAP Director; JB Kinlacheeny, Navajo Nation; Amber Crotty, Navajo Council; Chairman Vernon Miller, Omaha Tribe; Alberta Unok, Alaska; Chairman Timothy Ballew, Lummi Nation; Keith Massaway, Sault Tribe Board; Anthony Francisco, Tohono O’odham; Sheila Cooper, Senior Advisor. (Also see unit report for more information.)

Visit My Website!
keithmassaway.com

Facilities Management Department overview

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

If you have visited any Sault Tribe owned buildings within the seven county service area, you have probably seen at least one member of the Facilities Management team at work. They are the glue holding everything else together, important to the internal structure of tribal operations but they do their work silently and for the most part, behind the scenes.

Facilities Management oversees the upkeep of over 40 tribal owned buildings and properties, pays utilities, taxes, performs daily janitorial duties and also provides around the clock maintenance as needed.

Chip MacArthur is the housekeeping/maintenance supervisor on site manager and Tiffany Grove is the administrative assistant. Then there is Joe Pine in housekeeping/maintenance, Matt Roy the maintenance tech, Randy Monck of housekeeping/maintenance, Christopher Brock, janitor, and Jeff Lester, maintenance tech for St. Ignace, Lambert and McCann Centers.

MacArthur, a 25-year employee, is a great multitasker and Jack-of-all trades and fills in as acting supervisor for multiple departments when needed.

Some of the many things Facilities staff do includes seasonal lawn, sidewalk and driveway care, snow removal, salting, flower planting and monitoring of the HVAC systems from MacArthur's laptop computer. An example of that, he said, is, "Years ago in Manistique they had a pipe that broke on one of the heating units and I was able to shut that valve off from home and keep that building from flooding. I can adjust the heating and cooling as needed for the Big Bear, IHS, Manistique Health Center, Munising Health center and the Admin building."

A few of the department's

past accomplishments include repainting the inside of the administration building, cooling tower repairs and pipes replaced at the Sault Health Center, camera system replaced at the Munising Health Center and a fire alarm system upgrade, replaced the boiler at Northern Hospitality, renovations to the interior of the Mary Murray building and installed new doors in Newberry. The terms "replaced," "painting," "repair," "energy audits," and "energy efficiency," are very common to Facilities Management staff.

Facilities also provides internal services to tribal businesses, buildings and departments by offering floor stripping and waxing services, and carpet and furniture cleaning through the former Chippewa Service and Supply, which is now a part of their department.

Grove said, "We make sure all the tribal building and grounds are kept up and running safe and efficiently. Our guys fix electrical problems, plumbing, or anything else that requires skills. We are literally behind the scenes. When you come to work and don't slip and fall on the ice - that's us. When you walk into a warm building with electricity - that's us. We do the entire thing, and the greatest thing is that we do it all ourselves if we can without calling in outside vendors. We save a lot of money for the tribe by doing that instead of paying someone else to make the repairs."

Grove said that team members working for the tribe are provided with a safe, clean work environment so that departments such as Enrollment, Payroll and Education can spend their time providing the best possible services for tribal members.

In addition to their daily activities, Grove and MacArthur are always researching and writing for grant monies, and by doing

that save the tribe thousands of dollars in addition to making tribal buildings more energy efficient, which in turn reduces the amount

paid out in utility costs.

Grove and MacArthur both agree - they have a great team. "When they say teamwork, I think

we have the best teamwork there is within a tribal department. We count on each other and have each other's backs," MacArthur said.



Facilities Management staff: administrative assistant, Tiffany Grove; housekeeping/maintenance, Joe Pine; maintenance tech, Matt Roy; Housekeeping/Maintenance Supervisor: Chip MacArthur; janitor, Christopher Brock and housekeeping/maintenance, Randy Monck.

Sault Tribe Purchasing staff



From left: Sheri Mastaw, administrative assistant to purchasing director; Marissa MacDonald, agent; Katie Wallis, agent; Brad Pringle, purchasing director; Kara Rivera, agent; Tamara Roche, manager; Tammy Henning, agent; Mary Lehre, agent; Mike McKerchie, Northern Travel coordinator; and Rachel Odbert, data entry clerk. See page 14 in the February issue for an inside look at the Sault Tribe Purchasing Department.

2016 Sault Tribe Elk Application

The 2016 Elk application period will run from May 1, 2016 to May 31, 2016. All applications must be received by the Sault Tribe Inland Fish and Wildlife Department before **5:00pm on May 31, 2016**. Applications received after 5:00pm on May 31, 2016, will **NOT** be accepted. A lottery will be conducted at the June Conservation Committee Meeting.

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Address City State Zip code

File number (red #on Tribal ID) Phone number

STS number (red # on harvest card) Date of Birth Sex E-mail address

There is a \$4 application fee. Each elk application must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$4. Elders (60 and older) and youth (16 and under) are not required to pay application fees.

Please send all applications to:

**IFWD Elk Application
P.O. Box 925
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

For questions, please contact the Sault Tribe Inland Fish & Wildlife Department @ 906-632-6132

Youth groups gather to make rope for longhouse



A new longhouse (left) is being built on the grounds of the Museum of Ojibwa Culture in St. Ignace to replace the one that is falling apart.



Back from left, Russell Rickley, Tony Grondin, Joey Loonsfoot, Francie Wyers, Ojibwa Museum curator Shirley Sorrels, Robin Kissinger and Sally Paquin. Middle from left, Carson Yoder, Helena St. Onge-Kissinger and Joselyn Conbery. Front, Val Jean LaTour, Lisa Burnside, Sue St. Onge, Jaylynn McNeely and Ethan Sayles.



Left, Lisa Burnside, Val Jean LaTour, 16, Joselyn Conbery, 9, Tony Grondin and Carson Yoder, 9, working basswood strips in preparation for braiding it into rope.



Robin Kissinger twisting a damp piece of basswood into a tight "string" to be braided with two other "string" pieces to form a piece of the rope. Each completed rope has nine basswood "strings" braided into it.



Helena St. Onge-Kissinger, 11, of St. Ignace, Sue St. Onge and Shelly Paquin work together to tighten and braid basswood "strings."

Top left, after soaking the basswood bark in a small lake for three months, the layers of the bark are then ready to be peeled into whatever thickness is needed. Top right, peeled layers of basswood are boiled for about 10 minutes then drained prior to the twisting and braiding process. This makes the basswood twice as strong. Bottom left, twisted basswood "string." Above right, basswood "rope" that was made by braiding three "strings" together. It takes three of the smaller ropes, or nine "strings," braided together to make the final rope that will be used to hold together the tresses on the longhouse.

*Photos by Brenda Austin
See story on page 12*



Russell Rickley, Tony Grondin and Joselyn Conbery. Grondin was showing Conbery the proper way to twist the "string" before braiding it.



Joey Loonsfoot, 11, from St. Ignace and his friend Ethan Sayles, 13, of Moran.



Carson Yoder holding the small rope he and Grondin braided.

JKL Bahweting students enjoy storytelling and snow snake competition as winter fades in U.P.



JKL Middle School math teacher and proprietor of Moments In Focus, Christopher Paquin, observes as JKL special education teacher Amy Kico (pronounced Kelso) poses for photos with a couple of the many plush puppets on hand with which folks could pose in the photo booth built by Paquin. The booth functions somewhat like the old photo booths prevalent long ago in department stores and elsewhere, except with more sophistication owing to the employment of modern technology.



Before the storytelling started, everyone could enjoy a dinner of sandwiches and toppings, soup, chips and cookies.



Braelyn and Jenna Duhoski start off the evening of stories by telling a tale to listeners in the school library of how animals came by their colors.



Left, an overview of the 300-foot track. Above, a close up view from the starting line. Below, Chris Gordon clears the track of snow and ice debris after a snow snake gouged the side while students line the track.

By RICK SMITH

Students, parents and staff of JKL Bahweting Public School Academy in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., enjoyed the conclusion of the 2016 storytelling season on March 3. The event started with sandwiches, soup and cookies in the school's cafeteria. Just outside the cafeteria, a photo booth produced smiles and photographic souvenirs of the evening for everyone. Then everyone adjourned across the passageway to the library for the main event of the evening.

Reflecting Anishinaabe custom, storytelling season at the school comes around once a year beginning in January in the classrooms and ending in the first week of March with the invitational session. One of the school's teachers, Chris Gordon, Ph.D, is also the culture and language coordinator for the school. He started the session with a brief examination of the functions of stories in all cultures and particularly among the Anishinaabe folks.

Gordon conducted another modern day version of an Anishinaabe custom in the

bright sunshine of the following day with the 15th annual Bill Morrison Shoshiimaan Championship, a snow snake competition on a 300-foot long straightaway. Snow snakes are modified and decorated hand-held wooden rods designed for sliding on icy surfaces. Whether intentional or not, some slight bumps and bends in the track induced snow snakes to move a bit like real snakes as they slide along the track as fast and far as students can get them to go.

"Brianna Jones had the highest fifth grade throw, 125 feet in the preliminary round," said Gordon. "Middle school threw for fun and eighth grader Dylan Malmborg threw 135 feet. Some staff took part in some friendly competition and Mr. Litzner had a throw of 182 feet, just under 80 feet of a full track length throw."

Preliminary runoff were conducted the day before the championship, paring the field down to 10 youngsters in the fifth grade who made their own snow snakes. A large crowd of students gathered along the track to watch the excitement.



The championships finalists with snow snakes they made themselves. All finalists were from fifth grade.

Photos by Rick Smith



Right, the winners with teacher and event coordinator Chris Gordon. Left to right, champion Ethan Adair of Mrs. Soloman's class who reached 110 feet, second place winner Brianna Jones of Ms. Clerc's class had an original best distance of 75 feet and reached 74 feet in a tie breaker heat, Dominic Cremeans also of Mrs. Soloman's class took third place with an original best distance of 75 feet and a tie breaker distance of 66 feet.



Above left, Ethan Adair, eventual winner of the championship, eyes the track before sending off his snow snake. Above right, Brianna Jones, who ultimately captured second place, launches her snow snake down the track.



Line 5 under Straits of Mackinac a hot topic

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

A Town Hall meeting was held March 5 at the Little Bear Arena Community Center in St. Ignace to discuss Enbridge's Line 5.

It was a gathering of like-minded people from the local community who came together to listen to the five invited speakers, share their concerns and ask questions. Most of those in attendance were in favor of shutting down Line 5 until a determination can be made about its safety.

Enbridge Line 5 is a 62-year-old pipeline that delivers primarily Alberta oil to Sarnia, Ontario, crossing the Straits of Mackinac just west of the Mackinac Bridge. Line 5 transports 23 million gallons of oil along US 2 to St. Ignace every day.

Experts have predicted that an eruption of Line 5 along one of its many weld-points would at best create a 25-mile spill area that would affect several city and village water supplies.

Enbridge says the line is safe. Not willing to take their word for it, eight counties, five cities/villages and nine townships have passed resolutions asking the state to restrict Line 5 to trans-

porting non-oils pending an independent review by experts.

Three area tribes have also passed resolutions in favor of shutting down the pipeline: Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, along with the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA). The Les Cheneaux Watershed Council has also passed a resolution.

Guest speakers at the event were Chairperson Aaron Payment of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; Pat Egan, former owner/publisher of the Sault Evening News and Cheboygan Daily Tribune; Joanne Cromley, local grassroots activist; Ed Timm, Ph.D., retired engineer and Pipeline 5 lecturer, and Lon Johnson, candidate for Congress in Michigan's 1st District.

Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment, said, "There are only two outcomes for the future of Line 5, one of two things will happen: Either it is decommissioned before it ruptures, or it is decommissioned after it ruptures. Line 5 is already beyond its intended lifespan and it will fail.

A catastrophe is imminent. The big question is — will we take the responsible action to prevent it, or will we be forced to remediate a tragedy that could have been prevented?"

Lon Johnson's campaign manager, Brian Peters, said, "It's an important issue in the community and we are here to raise awareness."

Asked if Enbridge had been invited, Peters said, "If Enbridge wanted to come they were more than welcome. They were not formally invited, but there was nobody that wasn't invited to come. It was open to everyone. We didn't want this to be a political event. We wanted to get all these people who are passionate about this issue together in one room." Johnson's campaign was one of the organizers of the event.

Peters said, "Canada gets the oil, Enbridge gets the money, and Michigan gets all the risk — and that's not acceptable. It's not acceptable to Lon Johnson, and it's not acceptable to the people in this room. Lon feels that we need to shut down Line 5 and start an independent investigation on the line. The same people telling us that the water in Flint was

safe are now telling us that Line 5 is safe, and frankly we can't trust their word for that. We need to independently inspect it and shut it down right now, whether it is safe or unsafe, and make that determination."

In his speech to those gathered at the event, Chairperson Payment went on to say, "A decommission plan must be put in place immediately and a plan devised to take this line out of service before it destroys the fishery, tourism and the livelihoods of so many Michigan residents, including the Anishinabeg.

"Why would tourists want to come to see an oil slick or devastated wildlife? Pure Michigan can hardly be pure with the stench of oil. Millions of tourism funds will go to another state.

"Enbridge Line 5 is now nearly 13 years beyond its 50-year lifespan. Numerous small ruptures have already occurred on portions of this same line on land, including a spill just last December, on the bank of the Manistique River one mile from Lake Michigan.

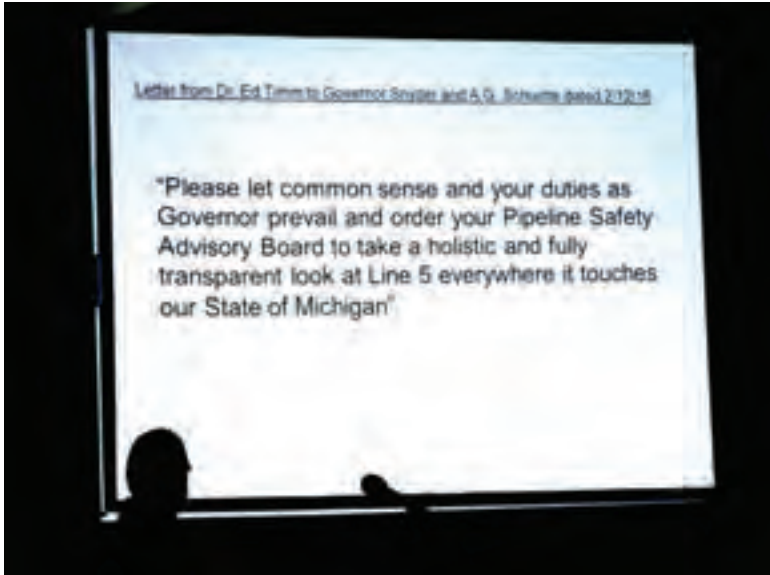
"The waters that would be impacted by any spill from Line 5 in the Straits area include

Northern Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, which encompasses our fish spawning, nursery and fishing areas within the 1836 Treaty territory. It is estimated that more than half of the tribal fishing harvest in these waters is likely to be destroyed.

"A million gallons of oil sits under the bridge. A catastrophic oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac would also have severe impacts on the sports fishery. Take note walleye fishers and sporties. It would result in a shutdown of municipal water intakes for numerous communities; devastate the shoreline and the Mackinac Island ecosystem and our surrounding tourism industry. Tens of millions of Michigan Tourism revenues are at stake.

"Our Anishinaabe teachings tell us that water is the life-blood of our Mother Earth. Damage to our waters would mean damage to our way of life. We will fight to protect our treaty waters. Shut Down Line 5!"

To view the signed resolutions and for updates, visit: www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/municipal_resolutions; or www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/tribal_supporters.



Dr. Ed Timm, retired engineer and Pipeline 5 lecturer



Speakers presented to a packed house.



Sault Tribe Board Chairperson Aaron Payment addresses the audience.



Lon Johnson, candidate for Congress in Michigan's 1st District



Pat Egan, former owner/publisher, Sault Evening News, Cheboygan Daily Tribune



Camera crew contracted to film the event.

Real Estate Office planning for future generations

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe Real Estate Office is located in Kincheloe, Michigan, a 20-minute drive south of Sault Ste. Marie. The real estate office is organized under the executive branch of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and falls directly under fiscal services.

Sault Tribe Real Estate Manager Brenda Jeffreys said departmental objectives include sound financial management of all properties and companies assigned to the real estate office. This includes commercial and residential land leasing; managing land related activities such as easements, right-of-ways and rights-of-entry, tenant management and retention; technical assistance to all governmental and economic sectors of the tribe and assisting the tribal membership with any land related needs, such as land leases and refinancing trust units. The real estate office is the official recorder of all tribal land holdings.

Jeffreys said that in addition to the above property related activities; she oversees the tribe's open market property management companies - DeMawating Development, Eagle Ridge and Sawyer Village. The property management companies promote community and economic development by offering afford-

“The most rewarding part of the day comes when your work results in providing people with a new home, whether that may be their first rented home or their first or final home purchase.”

— Brenda Jeffreys

able rental and homeownership opportunities to individuals and families of all income levels. Jeffreys said this is accomplished through sound property and asset management practices, offering employment and advancement opportunities, and providing excellence in customer service.

“It is a true privilege to work each day with the dedicated team members within the real estate/property management sector of the tribe; new experiences and challenges are presented every day,” Jeffreys said. “The most rewarding part of the day comes when your work results in providing people with a new home, whether that may be their first rented home or their first or final home purchase.”

DeMawating Development sits on about 130 acres of trust land in Kinross Township, and provides property management services for more than 290 properties. Offering rental properties to the open-market, DeMawating works with tribal

members and non-tribal members of all income levels.

Staff at DeMawating Development includes Rental Manager Theresa Germain, Administrative Assistant Monica Guilmette, Non Routine Maintenance Tech Rob Reed, and Maintenance Tech Mike McKerchie. “I like to see the happy faces of tenants when I hand over the keys to their new home,” Germain said.

Sawyer Village is located on about 110 acres in West Branch and Forsyth Township in Marquette County and consists of 275 housing units and five commercial buildings. Eagle Ridge is a 16-unit apartment building and is located on almost seven acres in Marquette Township. Sawyer Village is paid an administrative and maintenance fee for the management and maintenance of the Eagle Ridge Apartments.

Sawyer Village and Eagle Ridge staff includes: Property Manager Joy Page, Administrative Assistant Charles Howe, Maintenance Coordinator Cory LaPlaut, Maintenance Techs Al Houle, Josh Drury, and Maintenance Worker Robert Menser.

Page said, “Meeting new people and knowing I’ve assisted them in finding their new home makes me feel like I have accomplished something special.”



Manager, Brenda Jeffreys.



Administrative assistant, Monica Guilmette.



Sawyer Village's administrative assistant, Charles Howe.



Maintenance technician, Mike McKerchie.



Maintenance tech, Rob Reed.



Rental manager, Theresa Germain.

2016 Sault Tribe Bear Application

The 2016 bear application period will run from May 1, 2016 to May 31, 2016. All applications must be received by the Sault Tribe Inland Fish & Wildlife Department before **5:00pm on May 31, 2016**. Applications received after 5:00pm on May 31, 2016 will **NOT** be accepted. A lottery will be conducted at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Please be sure to indicate which Bear Management Unit you are applying for (see map below).

First name Middle name Last name

Address City State Zip code

File number (red# on Tribal card) STS number (red # on Harvest card) Phone number

Date of birth Sex E-mail address

Please select **one** of the following Bear Management Units. Please note that all Sault Tribe bear permits are only valid with in the 1836 Ceded Territory. See map for generalized boundaries of each Bear Management Unit

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Upper Peninsula | Lower Peninsula |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drummond | <input type="checkbox"/> Baldwin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baraga | <input type="checkbox"/> Gladwin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gwinn | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Oak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newberry | |

There is a \$4 application fee. Each bear application must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$4. Elders (60 and older) and youth (16 and under) are not required to pay application fees.

Please send all applications to:

**IFWD Bear Application
P.O. Box 925
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

For questions, please contact the Sault Tribe Inland Fish & Wildlife Department @ 906-632-6132



Scholarship for Indian youth interested in fashion design

By RICK SMITH

A respected Hollywood costume designer and the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising of Los Angeles, Calif., partnered to establish a scholarship worth \$35,000 for “an outstanding Native American interested in the study of fashion or costume design.” The scholarship includes an internship with the designer

co-sponsoring the scholarship, Jacqueline West, who has received multiple Oscar nominations for her work in movies such as *The Revenant* and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*.

The scholarship is the latest in numerous other scholarships available through the institute and is open to young folks of American Indian descent enter-

ing college in the fall of 2016. Applicants should send essays explaining why they would like to win the scholarship along with no more than five sketches of fashion or costume designs to Jacqueline West, C/O Shirley Wilson Public Relations, The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, 919 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90015. The deadline for appli-

cations is July 31.

According to the institute’s web site at www.fidm.edu, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising has four campuses in California, which are in Los Angeles, Irvine, San Francisco and San Diego. The institute is described as a specialized, private college dedicated to educating students for the fashion, graphics, interior

design and entertainment industries offering degrees in over 26 creative majors. The institute was founded in Los Angeles in 1969 and began expansion with the San Francisco campus in 1973.

Those interested in learning more about the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising may log onto visit.fidm.edu.

JKL January Students of the Month



SUBMITTED BY LORI JODOIN, JKL SCHOOL

Back row, from left, Callie Lahti, Ellie Fuge, Morgan Brow, Kelvin Kasten, Martha Krans, Jorgiamay Bergstrom and Nate Thompson. Second row, from left, Savannah Wing, Ian Traynor, Emma Kitzmiller, Laura Krans, Keenan Hoffman and Riley Beaudoin. Third row, from left, Aiden Rath, Lilly Russo, Andrew Kabelman, Iyla Beaulieu, Journey McKelvie, Axel Wilke and Gegek Webkamigad. Front, from left, Brainna LaPlante, Kaysen Lewan and Austin Laaksonen.

ACFS grateful for hats and scarves

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services would like to thank Gayle Gaynor for the countless hours she has spent knitting hats, scarves and blankets for children and families in need.

Her efforts are not only greatly appreciated by the ACFS staff but by the children and families her donations will help.

Gayle sent these items from Goose Creek, S.C., to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Upon receipt of the warm, homemade items, they are displayed in the office for those in need to take. Some of the items will be sent to our outlying offices for the families.

As we all know, winter in this part of the Upper Peninsula can get quite cold, so the hats and scarves will certainly help to keep the many children warm throughout our service area. Thanks again Gayle!



Free summer college prep program for Indians

EAST LANSING — The Michigan Indian Leadership Program (formerly the Pre-College Leadership Program) at Michigan State University is now taking applications for its 2016 free summer program to help students prepare for college.

During the July 10-15 program, students explore academic programs at Michigan State University, attend cultural workshops and social activities, network with Native staff and faculty, participate in extracurricular development and study for the SAT.

Deadline to apply is April 30.

For more information and applications, please visit www.canr.msu.edu/pre_college/pre_college_leadership_program.

Contact information: Stephanie



Michigan Indian Leadership Program 2015 participants making black ash baskets.

Chau, assistant director of undergraduate diversity, (517) 355-0177, (517) 355-0234, chaus@msu.edu.

Sponsored by the College

of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the associate provost for undergraduate education at MSU.

Williams earns degree in human services

Caitlin Williams earned a bachelor’s degree in human services from Baker College of Owosso, Mich., in December of 2015. A native of Chesaning, Mich., Williams is the daughter of Denise Sawyer and Shane Williams. Caitlin graduated cum laude with a cumulative grade point average of 3.50.

Williams earned dean’s list honors for the majority of her semesters and also received numerous scholarships from Baker College and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians along with receiving the Higher Education Incentive Award for the five years it took to earn her degree. Williams also volunteered for the Arc Shiawassee along with completing two internships at this agency where she received additional training in dignified lifestyles and independent facilitation.

Williams is now employed as a client and community advo-



cate against domestic violence in Clinton County through the SafeCenter where she completed her third internship. The SafeCenter is a non-profit agency that serves all victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Shiawassee and Clinton County.

2016 powwow schedule

2nd Annual Caring For Our Elders Powwow

March 26 — Escanaba High School gymnasium, 500 South Lincoln Road. Grand entry at noon. Public welcome. Free admission. For more information, call (906) 241-9733.

10th Annual Gathering of the Clans Powwow

June 11-12 — Manistique Tribal Community Center on US-2 next to the Kewadin Casino. Grand entries on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday at noon. Vendors, traders or the public can call Viola Neadow at (906) 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137

35th Annual Sault Tribe Traditional Powwow and Gathering

July 8-10 — Open drum on July 8 at 7 p.m., grand entry July 9, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., grand entry July 10, 1 p.m. For more information, call Jackie Minton at (906) 635-6050 or 203-4977.

20th Annual Sugar Island Traditional Powwow

July 15-17 — Spiritual gathering, Friday July 15, powwow July 16-17. Grand entries on Saturday, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday 12 p.m. Campers and vendors welcome. For more information contact Mick Frechette at (906) 440-8918 or Colleen Medicine at 635-6050

23rd Annual Gathering of the Eagles Hessel Powwow

Aug. 19-21 — Friday night spiritual gathering and open drum, grand entry Saturday at 1 and 7 p.m., Potluck feast at 5 p.m. Grand entry Sunday at 1 p.m. Contact Lisa Burnside at lburnside@saulttribe.net or Lana Causley at lcausley@saulttribe.net

Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow

Aug. 26-28 — New France Discovery Center, Father Marquette National Memorial, St. Ignace. Open to the public. Admission: \$3 for adults, \$2 for elders and students, children under 12 are free. For more information, call the St. Ignace Events Committee at (906) 643-8717 or Darryl Brown at 984-2083.

12th Annual Youth Empowerment Powwow

Aug. 6 — Newberry Tribal Center. Sponsored by the Youth Education and Activities Program. For more information, call Patty Teeple at (906) 341-3362, Dee Eggert at (906) 635-7010, or Lisa Burnside at (906) 484-2298.

Munising Powwow

Aug. 13 — For more information, call Kris LeVeque at (906) 387-2368.

Walking On...

JOHN L. DERUSHA

John L. "Jack" Derusha, 76, of Newberry, died on Feb. 29, 2016, at Helen Newberry Joy Hospital with his family at his side.

Jack was born June 25, 1939, on the family farm on Strouble Lake near

Rexton, Mich., to Leroy and Lotus (nee Cantrell) Derusha. He married the former Maxine Grames in 1956 and together they had seven children. In 1979, he married the former Sandy Winters from St. Ignace.

Jack owned and operated People's Market grocery store and butcher shop from 1967 to 1992. After the store closed, he worked as the director of the EDC for two years and then became the local representative for Cellular One until his retirement in 2004.

Jack was a devoted family man and an avid hunter and fisherman. He served many years on the parish council at St. Gregory's Church, member of Knights of Columbus and the Newberry Elks Lodge. He loved a good prank and played many over the years on his friends and family.

Jack was preceded in death his parents, Leroy and Lotus Derusha; infant son, Ricky John; brother, Ron; and brother-in-law, Sam Hicks.

Survivors include the love of his life of 37 years, Sandy, of Newberry; children, Jeri Sue (Tom) Rahilly of Newberry, Carol Derusha of Newberry, Terry (Kylie) Derusha of Howard City, Pierre (Kristin) Derusha of Newberry, Kris (Krissy) Derusha of Newberry, David (Michelle) Derusha of Odanah, Wis., and beloved spoiled dog, Buffy; grandchildren, Eric Rahilly, Adam (Charlee) Rahilly, Ben (Beth) Rahilly, Alex Herbst, Kelly Herbst, Sadie Derusha, Sophie Derusha, Johnny Derusha, Sam Derusha, Brook (Derek) Derusha, Lotie (Jeremy) Derusha, Ellie Derusha, AJ Derusha, Killian Derusha, Corina Corbin, Fisher Derusha and Tanner Derusha; great-grandchildren, Jeff, Katie Sue, Matthew, Becca, Daniel, Thomas and Luke Rahilly; siblings, Chuck (Bernadette) Derusha of Newberry, Les (Kitty) Derusha of Kentwood, Mike (Kathleen) Derusha of Lansing, Pete (Jenelle) Derusha of Lake Ann, Skip Derusha of Conklin, Bill (Patty) Derusha of Marne, Bob (Vicky) Derusha of Newberry, Gary (Laura) Derusha of Grand Blanc and Mary Lou Hicks of Newberry; sister-in-law, Bev Derusha of Winter Haven, Fla.; and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 4 at the St. Gregory's Catholic Church with Fr. Marty Flynn officiating. Rite of Committal will take place in the spring at Caffey Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to the Tahquamenon Outdoor Recreational Center or the Tahquamenon Area Youth



Hockey Association in his memory. Condolences may be expressed at www.beaulieufuneralhome.com. Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry assisted the family.

One of his favorite sayings was, "You have to be tough to be a Derusha." In recent years, he taught us just how tough you have to be.

RITA C. GRUVER

Rita "Charlene - Char" (nee Grathwohl) Gruver, 66, of Oakboro, N.C., passed away on Oct. 6, 2015, in Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. A celebration of her life took place on Oct. 10, 2015, at Albemarle First Assembly Church in Albemarle, N.C. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery in July of 2016.

Char was born Feb. 28, 1949, in San Francisco, Calif., to Miriam (nee Warner-Grathwohl) Westervelt, originally of Eckerman, Mich., and now of Mesa, Ariz., and Elton Randall Grathwohl, originally from Red Jacket, Mich. Char was the second oldest of six children in the family. Growing up, she lived coast to coast from Washington, Idaho, Kansas and Massachusetts. Charlene graduated as the valedictorian of a college preparatory program from Bellingham Memorial High School, Mass., in June 1967, an amazing feat considering she attended high school in three states. Her academic accomplishments were matched by her athleticism, serving as the captain of her basketball and softball teams.

In the fall of 1967, she attended the University of Iowa and became a member of the Delta Zeta sorority. Pursuing a degree in mathematics served her well becoming a paid math tutor to the football team, which included her future husband, Robert Gruver. She graduated from Liberty University and was the business administrator at First Assembly. She was dedicated to the Pregnancy Resource Center of Albemarle, where she served as the treasurer for over 15 years. Her grandbabies were one of the most important things in her life. She loved spending time with them and you would often find them in the kitchen baking cookies or playing board games and word puzzles.

Char is survived by the love of her life, her husband, Pastor Bob Gruver, married for 46 years; her children, Brodie Gruver, married to Heather, and their two children, Elaina and Ethan of Atlanta, Ga.; Chris DiBona, married to Christopher, and their three children, Jennifer, Lauren and Michelle of Chapel Hill, N.C.; her brother, Randall Grathwohl, and wife Beverly, of Fremont, Calif.; sisters, Denise Schmallen of Mesa, Ariz., Roberta Selleck and husband Peter of Peoria, Ariz., Valerie Knafelc and husband Jay of



Colorado Springs, Colo., and Rhonda Moore of Chandler, Ariz.; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Char was preceded in death by her father, Elton Randall Grathwohl; stepfather, Robert D. Westervelt; brother-in-law, Jerry Schmallen; grandmother, Elena (nee Coleman Warner) Saitz; and her Aunt Anna Blanche (nee Warner Planck) Mench.

Those wishing to make memorial donations may make them to Albemarle First Assembly, PO Box 516, Albemarle, NC 28002 for the benefit of the Pregnancy Resource Center.

LISA K. HERRO

Lisa K. Herro, 49, of Manistique, Mich., died on Feb. 12, 2016 at her home in Manistique Township. She was born on Oct. 5, 1966, in Lapeer, Mich., the daughter of Robert and Carol (nee Nesberg) Overland and attended schools in Manistique.

She was employed by the Laborer's Union in Minnesota and Michigan for 20 years and lastly as a laborer at Manistique Papers until becoming ill.

In 2007, she married Troy M. Herro in Manistique and they made their home here.

Lisa loved the outdoors, snowmobiling, four-wheeling, ranger riding and camping out at Merwin Creek. She and Troy also enjoyed cross-country skiing with the dogs. Lisa was a member of the Manistique Eagles Club.

She is survived by her husband, Troy M. Herro of Manistique; mother, Carol J. (the late Walter) Strauser of Manistique; father, Robert J. (Cheryl Goudreau) Overland of Manistique; sisters, Becky (Wayne) Knox of Melvin, Mich., Lynn Overland of Manistique and Bobbi Jo Minor (Scott) of Manistique; brother, Stephen Overland of Galveston, Texas; her in-laws, Sheila and Bob Parrish of Thompson; along with her extended family.

Visitation and services celebrating Lisa's life in conjunction with a Sault Tribe traditional service took place on Feb. 20 at the Messier-Broullire Funeral Home in Manistique followed by a luncheon at the Eagles Club.

Burial will be in the Fairview Cemetery at Manistique.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.mbfuneral.com.

GEORGE H. LEONARD

George Herman Leonard, 77, passed away on Feb. 16, 2016, after a three-year battle with cancer, in the home he built in DeTour Village, Mich. He was born on Jan. 7, 1939, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Herman and Beatrice



(nee King) Leonard. George's tribal name is Makadewaa Ma'ingan. He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a descendent of the Thessalon Band of Ottawa First Nation.

George grew up in DeTour and on Drummond Island, Mich. He graduated from DeTour High School in DeTour Village, Mich., in 1959. George joined the United States Navy in 1960 where he served for four years with Fleet Tactical Support Squadron 24 based in Morocco, as an Aviation Machinist's Mate, Third Class. Upon completion of his service, he returned to Michigan and shortly after began work for Fisher Body in Flint, Mich. In 1965, while George was living in Flint, he shoveled the driveway for his snowbound next-door neighbor, Angela Burnett. He did such a great job that three months later they were married on her parent's farm in Charlotte, Mich. They were happily married for 50 years. After leaving Flint, he worked for two years surveying for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, followed by employment at Drummond Dolomite for 19 years. George worked for NOAA as boat captain and surveyor of northern Lake Huron one year and shortly after, he opened two restaurants in DeTour Village, the Point DeTour Café for six years and the Fogcutter for one season. Finally, George and Angela managed Metivier Inn on Mackinac Island for nine years, retiring in 2005.

George was a renaissance man. He was a naturally gifted self-taught wildlife artist who enjoyed a lifelong passion, working in pen and ink and in pencil and pastels as well as producing woodcarvings and decorative gourds. He was also an accomplished carpenter who loved working with wood and over his lifetime built many pieces of furniture, including complete sets of kitchen cabinets for his home and for friends. A true "foodie," George received great pleasure in cooking for others and volunteered his cooking skills from time to time for fundraisers.

George is survived by his spouse, Angela of DeTour Village; his son, Kevin Philo (Shannon Mulally) Leonard of Holt, Mich.; and his grandson, Finn Philo Leonard. He is also survived by his brother, Philbert (Pangeta) Leonard of St. Ignace, Mich.; sisters, Geraldine (Jim) Huyck of St. Ignace, Leona (James) DeKeyser of St. Ignace, Hermina (Randy) Tatrow of St. Ignace, Diane (Mick) Adams of DeTour, and Sharon (Richard) Socia of Drummond Island; mother-in-law, Ola Burnett of Charlotte; sisters-in-law, Juanita (Kevin) Thorton of Olivet, Mich., and Carolyn (Edward) Moghtader of St. Joseph, Mich.; and brother-in-law, Dave (Marge) Burnett of Ottawa Township, Mich.; 28 nieces and nephews; nine great nieces and

nephews; and many first cousins in Ontario, New York state, and the Chicago area.

George was preceded in death by his father, Herman Benedict Leonard; mother, Beatrice Constance (King) Leonard; father-in-law, Joel Burnett; sister-in-law, Terri Burnett; and two nephews, Daryl DeKeyser and David Huyck.

A memorial service is set for June 18, 2016, in DeTour Village. Burial will be at Maple Grove Cemetery in DeTour Township in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to The George Leonard Memorial Fund at the DeTour Drummond Credit Union, P.O. Box 183, DeTour Village, MI 49725, to be used to build a protective roof for the Philo B. Leonard at the Botanical Gardens in DeTour.

R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford, Mich., is serving the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.

JACQUELINE M. WEMIGWANS

Jacqueline "Jackie" Marie Wemigwans 42, of Grand Rapids, Mich., went to be with her lord and savior on Jan. 19, 2016, in Grand Rapids, with her family by her side. She was born in Sault Ste Marie, Mich., on April 22, 1973.

Jackie is survived by her parents, Joanne (Nathan) Little of Grand Rapids; and father, Reino "Ray" Syrjala, Jr., of Sault, Mich.; son, Matthew Wemigwans-Monger, daughters, Arielle Rane Wemigwans, Mia Ayanna Wemigwans and granddaughter, Ayanna Lynn Cobert, all of the Grand Rapids area; brothers and sisters, Tammy (Mike) Selby of Minnesota, Elisa (John) Maldonado of Kent City, Mich., Jeremiah Little of Grand Rapids and Sean Hulack (Isabella) or Bay Mills, Mich.; grandmother, Rita (Fox) Wemigwans of Blind River, Ont.; and grandfather, Reino E. Syrjala, Sr. of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; many loving aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Jackie loved her family immensely and had a very, very good heart. If you were a person in need, she'd give you her last nickel, just like her grandmothers. She loved music, loved to sing and write poetry, she especially loved Janis Joplin and her music.

She will be missed by all; her smile, her voice, and her love.

She was pre-deceased by her grandmother, Doloris Syrjala in 1991; grandfather, Isadore Wemigwans; and uncle, Tom Wemigwans, of Blind River, Ont.

A memorial service took place on Jan. 22 followed by a luncheon.



Manistique explores healthful lunches at work

An “Employees 4 Healthy Lunch” gathering took place in Manistique on Feb. 2, 2016. It all started with a recipe search for new ways to serve fruits and vegetables. After all, the gardening and farmers’ market seasons are soon approaching.

Health messages in media and recommendations from health care providers include eating more fruits and vegetables.

Unfortunately, many are not familiar with the large variety of these foods that exist. In addition, when it comes to preparation, there is a significant knowledge deficit. It is not uncommon to hear from patients of the clinic that the fruits and vegetables they do buy go bad before they are eaten.

Studies show the average fruit intake in Sault Tribe households is 1.6 vegetable servings per day. This is half of the Native Plate recommendation. A special thanks to Candy Bosanic, elder worker for Manistique Community Health for taking the time to prepare the recipe and bringing it in for the Manistique clinic team to try. It was delicious!

In sharing the meal, much conversation about creative ideas to prepare vegetables occurred. One staff member never tried sweet potatoes before and now has a new food to integrate into their household meals.

Discussions are now taking place to plan for regular “Employees 4 Health Lunches.” All are encouraged to try the attached recipe. It even tastes great as a leftover. Keep in mind that you do not need a special tool to prepare the noodles. A knife works well.

Creamy spinach sweet potato noodles with cashew sauce

Ingredients:

1 cup cashews
¾ cup water (more for soaking)
½ teaspoon salt

1 clove garlic, cut into small pieces or minced
1 tablespoon olive oil
4 large sweet potatoes, spiraled (cut to look like fettuccine noodles)
2 cups baby spinach
Handful of fresh basil leaves, chives or other herbs (whatever preferred)
Salt and pepper to taste
Olive oil for drizzling

Instructions

1. Cover cashews with water in a bowl and soak for two hours or so.

2. Drain and rinse thoroughly. Place in a food processor or blender and add the three-quarters cup of water, salt and garlic. Puree in blender until very smooth.

3. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over high heat. Add sweet potatoes, toss in the pan for six or seven minutes with tongs until tender-crisp. Remove from heat and toss in the spinach, it should wilt pretty quickly.

4. Add half of the herbs and half of the sauce to the pan and toss to combine. Add water if mixture is too sticky. Season generously with salt and pepper, drizzle with olive oil and top with remaining fresh herbs.

Notes:

This recipe makes more than enough sauce, enough for at least six or eight servings, if not more. I left the amounts that way because it seemed silly to make the sauce with only about a half-cup of cashews, it wouldn’t even really be enough to get going around in the blender, and I promise you’ll be able to find ways to use the remaining sauce. It’s extremely versatile.

The biggest thing that affects how many servings you’ll get in this recipe is the size of the sweet potatoes. Keep in mind they will cook down a bit and one large sweet potato can sometimes be



Manistique Clinic team members gathered for a healthy lunch at work and to try a new recipe using sweet potatoes and spinach.

twice as big as a small sweet potato. Just use common sense in terms of serving size and sauce-to-noodles ratios!

Also, this recipe is sort of a comforting, neutral starting point for those of us who need tons of flavor in everything, so add whatever herbs or flavors you want to the sauce if you want to give it more of a punch. I love the idea of adding chipotles or sriracha, bacon, roasted garlic, caramelized onion, the list could go on.

Recipe by Pinch of Yum at <http://pinchofyum.com/creamy-spinach-sweet-potato-noodles-with-cashew-sauce>.

Nutrition information: 293 calories, 15.4 g fat (2.8 g saturated), 22 mg sodium, 36 g carbs, 5.1 g fiber, 1.7 g sugar, 5.5 g protein.



Low cost option for prescription meds available

By RICK SMITH

A two-year-old privately owned firm offering an alternative to high prescription drug expenses, including co-pays, recently unveiled its new web site and free mobile telephone application. Blink Health is based in New York and claims to be the first company to allow patients to buy medications online at greatly reduced costs and receive orders at local pharmacies nationwide. According to a company spokeswoman, while the services of Blink Health are essentially free to clients, the company generates its revenue through a small fee from each transaction.

“Blink Health is an online site and mobile app that is accepted at all major pharmacies and a

majority of independent pharmacies as well, totaling 60,000 locations,” said spokeswoman Jennifer Constatine. “Users place their order online or through the app, receive a voucher for their prescription and head to their most conveniently located pharmacy to pick it up. Once a Blink user arrives at the pharmacy, they present the pharmacist with the voucher, which is processed the same way an insurance card would be, and the user pays nothing at the counter.”

According to an announcement, the Blink Health web site and app “gives all Americans unprecedented access to the lowest available prices for generic prescription drugs regardless of their insurance status.” The company claims savings of up to 99

percent can be realized on about half of all prescriptions when ordered through Blink Health.

Co-founder and CEO Geoffrey Chaiken indicated many Americans must choose between medications and other basic needs. “Nobody should ever be forced to skip a dose of medicine or leave a prescription behind at the pharmacy counter because they can’t afford it,” he said. “Our goal with Blink Health is to provide all Americans with the best prices for generic prescriptions, regardless of their insurance status. These prices have always existed for people with the best insurance plans, but Blink Health is making them accessible to all Americans for the first time.”

Brothers Geoffrey and

Matthew Chaiken founded the company in 2014.

Those interested in the company’s services sign up with the online at www.blinkhealth.com or through the mobile app. Clients can search for prescription medications to confirm the Blink Health price is less expensive than what they would normally pay. Orders can then be purchased through Blink Health and picked up free of charge at their local pharmacy of choice.

The company uses proprietary technology to group patients into collectives with significantly more purchasing power to buy medications, which brings lower prices for individual buyers. Further, Blink Health assembles funds from employers, non-profit organizations and other entities

to further reduce out-of-pocket expenses for clients.

The company claims its services can help anyone regardless if one has good insurance, bad insurance or no insurance at all.

Constatine said the Chaiken brothers created Blink Health after reaching an understanding that the healthcare system is backwards and complicated, they wanted to find a way to make a difference for everyone. “We’ve been connecting with and sharing stories of users from all over America who are saving hundreds with Blink Health,” said Constatine, “we would love to be able to connect with members of your community who benefit from using Blink and would be interested in sharing their story with others.”

Funding for tobacco prevention must be a priority

Dear Editor:

State leaders should make funding for tobacco prevention and control a focus in Michigan. Studies show that states that make adequate, sustained investments in their tobacco control programs experience up to a 50 to one return on investment by reducing smoking rates resulting in reduced health care expenditures. This can be especially impactful

to Michigan’s racial, ethnic and LGBT residents who are the most impacted by high tobacco use rates.

Tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure kill over 16,200 Michigan residents each year, and cost the state over \$4.5 billion annually in smoking caused health costs. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends Michigan spend \$110

million on tobacco control programming annually, yet the state spends only \$1.6 million.

The Master Settlement Agreement (MSA), which settled the states’ lawsuits against the major cigarette companies, includes language that shows the MSA funds were intended to be used to prevent and reduce tobacco use, especially among youth. Michigan spends none of its

MSA revenue on tobacco control programming. In 2015, Michigan received \$261.3 million in MSA dollars. If just a fraction of this — \$3 million — was used to help provide culturally appropriate quit services, we could drive down smoking rates and keep our young people from becoming addicted.

The time has come for our elected leaders to take action and

ensure that a portion of the MSA funds are spent on tobacco control programming.

Sincerely,
Euphemia Franklin, Co-chair
The Michigan Multicultural Network

(Ed. Note: Euphemia Franklin is also a Sault Tribe member and the executive director of South Eastern Michigan Indians, Inc., in southeastern Michigan.)

New EPA policy enhances tribal treaty rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy took an important step recently in helping to protect the environment on tribal lands by issuing the EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes: Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights.

Under the Constitution, treaties are part of the supreme law of the land, with the same legal force as federal statutes. While treaties do not expand

EPA authority, the agency must ensure its actions do not conflict with treaty rights. In addition, the agency's programs should be implemented to enhance protection of tribal treaty rights and treaty-covered resources when the agency has discretion to do so. The new guidance directs EPA staff to engage Indian tribes in ways that help better ensure the agency's actions and initiatives on Indian lands are consistent with treaty rights. "This guidance will further strengthen EPA's close partnership with the tribal community by initiating meaningful discussions with tribes about their treaty rights during consultation," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "I look forward to this policy's immediate implementation as well as continued efforts to learn from and expand our collaborations with tribes as we work to achieve our shared mission."

EPA's first-ever tribal treaty rights guidance outlines a process to help navigate treaty rights discussions with tribes during tribal consultations. It is an ini-

tial step in the agency's efforts to improve the methods and process in place to meet the commitment to honor and respect tribal treaty rights and resources protected by treaties.

The subject of tribal treaty rights is an ever-growing field of study, with new policy, scientific and legal issues that must be addressed. This guidance will help provide a starting point for discussing treaties in a particular context.

The guidance complements the agency's successful tribal consultation efforts, building on the May 2011 EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes.

The EPA is at the forefront of this effort and plans to encourage colleagues throughout the federal family to use the guidance as a model to do the same.

More information is at www.epa.gov/tribal/epa-policy-consultation-and-coordination-indian-tribes-guidance-discussing-tribal-treaty and at www.epa.gov/tribal/forms/consultation-and-coordination-tribes.

Traditional Medicine Program healer clinic hours

Keith Smith

Sault — March 23, 24, 28, 31. Call Kim Vallier at 632-5268, Peggy Holappa at 632-0220, Peggy Holappa or Tony Abramson, Jr. at 632-0236.

Escanaba — March 30. Call 786-2636.

Munising — March 29. Call 387-4721.

St. Ignace — March 22. Call 643-8689 or (877) 256-0135.

Harlan Downwind Sault — March 21, 22, 23, 28, 30. Call Kim Vallier at 632-5268, Peggy Holappa at 632-0220 or Tony Abramson, Jr. at 632-0236.

St. Ignace — March 29. Call 643-8689 or (877) 256-0135.

Marquette job opening for elders

Sault Tribe's Elder Employment Program is accepting applications for a part-time Community Health Program clerk in Marquette, Mich.

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

undergo a criminal background investigation as well as complete and pass pre-employment drug testing. Computer knowledge preferred.

Please contact Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 for application and details. Closing date is April 8, 2016.

Johnstons celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary



Submitted by Lois Bryant

Sault Tribe member Stanley Johnston and his wife Patsy Johnston were at the Newberry Tribal Center for the monthly Wellness Support Group on Feb. 24, 2016, and we had the pleasure of helping them celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They reside in Hulbert, Mich. We were happy to be able to share this special day with them.



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TOURNAMENTS

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Earn entries for a chance to win a Mega Bingo Entry Package!

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Now through April 9
Win your share of \$90,000 in Free Play & Cash!
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ALL KEWADIN SITES
Tuesdays in April
Earn up to 5X the points!
The more you play the more you earn!
1-7pm
No registration required. Must have at least 25 points to start earning point multipliers.

Part two: *Guided by the Spirits: The Meanings of Life, Death and Youth Suicide in an Ojibwa Community*

(Editor's note: This is the second part in a two-part series where PhD candidate Seth Allard sets down his thesis concerning youth suicide. See the first part in the Feb. 19, 2016 issue on page 13.)

The office phone interrupts our meeting, and he cranes his head to his left to check the display.

"If you get any calls you have to answer you can forget me, okay?"

"No, that's ok."

"I'll wait," I say, reaching tentatively forward towards the recorder perched on the desk between us, with the conviction of a person reaching politely for their wallet at dinner.

"No, that's okay. They'll wait, that's part of being in charge."

"Perks of the job, eh?"

"Yeah," he says.

He looks tired. Too much sun this weekend? Telling by the neat contrast of red skin and the lightened shape of sunglasses around his eyes, this could be the case. With summer in the "U.P." only three months or less out of the year, though, who could blame him? People all around the Sault Sainte Marie area evidently have the same idea. They sit in their lawn chairs and cruise town with

the windows down, soaking in every ray of sun before being forced indoors and back to the vampiric lifestyle of the brutal winter months.

He continues to describe how the community responds to death. Over the years, he has had the unpleasant experience of losing students to car accidents, sickness, and on one occasion a young man who lost his life in the military overseas. He spoke with pride of not only this young man, but the response of the Sault High student body.

"When the funeral service took place, 800 kids got the day off school. But none of them left. They all stayed behind to attend the services. It really restores the feeling that as an administrator that kids know the right thing to do no matter what, and his dad was very, very grateful for the way this community pulled together to honor his son."

Some of the students that passed on during his time as a teacher and administrator he taught personally, though he remembered talking to all of the students who once walked the halls of the school. When the subject came to suicide, though, the rhythm of discussion changed.

"...You question the whole

lotta why... You work really, really hard to help students. Help families. That's someone's little boy, that's someone's little girl who's the same age as my kids. And the unknown just happens. No matter what you do the unknown is your biggest fear. And so you don't know what...there's no way to answer an unknown question. That is why I think we work so hard on prevention, because at the end of the day all those other things we talked about, the scientific community can't answer. Even a car accident, which is so tragic, there are some definite answers to. But suicide is that great unknown where you don't...you just can't explain... I work at [xxxx] in the summer time. One of the kids that committed suicide was very good friends with one of the kids that worked there too, with me, and this had been years ago. And they started Memorial funds and all of those things. To try and prevent this from ever happening again. And it's become their mission to help other people, which is a beautiful thing. But it doesn't answer the why."

After finishing the interview I walk out to my truck in the school parking lot. While the "unknown" weighs on me as

well, I realize at moments like this, after another person pours their experiences out on the topic of tragic death, that my weight must pale in comparison to that felt by those closest to the very children most at risk for suicide. With almost every interview, I feel less like an anthropologist and more like a grief counselor. The passion with which the educators, clinic workers, traditional healers, social welfare workers, and various administrators in the Eastern Upper Peninsula serve Tribal and non-Tribal youth is shown in their concern over the unknowns of youth suicide.

Part One: Brief History of Suicide in the Sault Tribe

It's always been [an issue]... We didn't talk about it much as a kid, but it was always there. There was always somebody taking themselves out. And it's not just our young people anymore...

— Prayer Person and long-time resident of Sault Area

That's kind of a tough one to think back on. Because it's always been there, it just wasn't...I hate to use the word popular...but it came into focus more. And I can think back to...even when I was in high school here or in college it wasn't a topic to talk about. You didn't talk about it; you kind

of brushed it under the carpet. In 2004 [that] was when it was really starting to be okay to talk about suicide. Because that's when the program started to identify these youth that needed the assistance, who needed the special care, who needed eyes on them all the time.

— Sault Area Schools Counselor and long-time resident of Sault Area

I've worked in education in this community for twenty years at Sault Schools... I guess I wasn't well aware or we didn't necessarily sort out which were our Native kids, which ones weren't. We were a public school. That wasn't really on my radar. I think even then, though, we were dealing with kids and again part of it is the economy, part of it is single family homes and a lot of risk factors. I can recall kids who were depressed and struggling or expressed some suicidal ideation... As far as when did this become, start to become an issue? I can't think of any particular start date or turning point. I think it's been present and I think it's been an issue over time and probably fluctuates or varies depending on a variety of circumstances.

— Sault Area Schools Administrator

See "Suicide," page 25



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MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Part two: *Guided by the Spirits: The Meanings of Life, Death and Youth Suicide in an Ojibwa Community*

From "Suicide," page 20

In 2011 the Michigan Department of Community Health reported that suicide was the leading cause of injury death in Michigan's Upper Peninsula between 2007 and 2009. The Sault Tribe Alive Youth program, which operated from 2008 – 2012, cited within its federal grant application a rate of 17.4 suicides per 100,000 in the seven county service area during 2006. National and state averages at the time were 10.8 and 11.2, respectively. The presence of grassroots organizations like the Upper Peninsula Suicide Prevention Coalition and the national Yellow Ribbon Campaign are also strong indicators that youth suicide is a real threat requiring immediate and aggressive attention.

Of the many educators, mental health professionals, traditional healers, social workers and other administrators that I have spoken with, nearly all believe that suicide has been a serious issue for years before public attention started to shed light on the topic. Muddying the question of how serious suicide is or when suicide became an issue, however, is the lack of clear information on death rates and other health related information for Native Americans, issues in the medical examination and reporting process itself, and the potential effects of social media on the public's historical awareness of suicide. It is clear that creating a timeline requires listening to the oral history of Sault Tribe, while expanding our search for understanding suicide to include the factors that contribute to suicide.

Native Americans have often been misrepresented in health and death records in the past due to poor reporting procedures that did not take Native identity into account. One Tribal Health Center administrator has been working "for years to try and get data on... birth rates, death rates" and other critical information, and pointed out that Tribal identity is often not included in death certificates. If a deceased person does not have a Tribal identification on their person or is not known in some other way to be a Tribal member, the race/ethnicity information can

be recorded incorrectly. While the Sault Tribe made progress updating death rates related to cancer, it is still uncertain what the actual rates are for other forms of morbidity.

Unless a person leaves a suicide note, passes away as an obvious result of self-inflicted death or leaves some other form of evidence, a medical examiner cannot record the death as suicide. "If somebody succumbs to death after a suicide attempt and it's not immediate," says Chippewa County Medical Examiner Dr. Garlinghouse, "it might not be called a suicide, whereas it really was. Were it not for the suicide attempt they never would have had [an injury] and died."

Finally, suicide may carry with it a stigma, or a sense that the person and even the family and friends of a person who completes suicide is looked at by the community differently, and perhaps negatively. On several occasions community members responded to the question "What is suicide?" with "a selfish act" or something to that effect. Knowing that a death by suicide may be seen as a "selfish" or wrong thing to do could cause the family to describe the death as accidental, not suicidal. Also, in order to save a family from the pain and confusion that a family inherits, medical doctors or county medical examiners responsible for filling out the official cause of death may lean away from suicide.

In the absence of clear data, suicide may be viewed as a more recent phenomenon beginning in the 1990s. However, this timeline may have been affected by the role of the internet and social media, which had an amplifying effect on public awareness for suicide. "I think that Facebook opened up the conversation," says a former Tribal juvenile probation officer, "because kids don't talk to people. We have the yellow ribbon [campaign] on Facebook, we have the coalition for suicide prevention on there. We get a lot of communication that way from kids. They'll find information and then they'll contact people."

A middle school student experiencing a stressful home life

"was able to identify that he was feeling depressed," says a Sault area schools administrator, and "was able to put it in words [and] have a conversation with staff members, so we were really able to intervene. It was cute – with the technology now, the kid was actually kind of googling some of the symptoms and emailed that information to a teacher he felt comfortable with." While in many cases the internet is described as a platform for bullying and hurtful statements (such as "just go kill yourself; get it over with") or as a place for teens to plaster personal messages in the hopes of gaining attention, the self-diagnosing child stories is a powerful example of youth taking active control of their own situations via the internet.

Local suicide prevention programs have also realized that, as stated by a prevention committee member, "dispelling the myths that surround" suicide is a major aspect of prevention. One myth in particular is that "you don't talk about suicide because you give kids the idea to complete suicide, which isn't true. Talking about suicide doesn't cause suicide." Recent efforts to open up the conversation on suicide, which is a large part of prevention efforts in the 2000s, may have also increased more public awareness.

The unreliability of statistical information on suicide makes it very difficult to draw a timeline of that would tell us when suicide rates rose above the state or national averages. As a result, we must rely on the oral history of the community. Oral histories are people's memories of the past as told from person to person, generation to generation. Oral histories are the memories and stories that represent the overall history of a people and instill a sense of common values and identity.

If you were to ask an elder about the most challenging aspects of their childhood they would first try to sell you on a tall tale, describing in stone cold seriousness having to wrestle bears on the way to school or riding across the river on the backs of sturgeon. If you were sincere and patient, however, they may talk about poverty, discrimination, fighting

to practice Ojibwa ceremonies and spirituality, alcoholism, or the destructive boarding school programs. State and Church run boarding schools were especially harmful to Ojibwa families, as they forced Indian children to replace traditional ways of life with American-western values and language – essentially ripping away one identity and replacing it with another.

Sitting with Brother John Hascall and a woman elder at the Sugar Island Powwow, I was told that in their childhood they never talked about those kinds of things, such as suicide in a "negative light." "We always talked about health and things like that in a positive way." Another elder, when asked about whether suicide was something that happened in his youth, replied with, "suicide didn't really happen. I can only remember one person [when I was young] who did it."

In the 1930s, a time when many Sault Tribe elders were children, anthropologist Mary Hilger reported in her study amongst nine Ojibwa communities in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan that "Suicide occurs today, but none of the [elders] recalled ever having heard of it in the early days." She goes on to quote another early student of Ojibwa culture who "wrote in 1901 that there had been only one case in 25 years" (101). In this study, the oldest Tribal members to recall suicide as an issue fall between 40 – 60 years old, placing the most probable date for the rise of suicide between the mid-1950s to the late 1960s.

Even with accurate information on suicide rates, it is not enough to simply ask how many suicide completions or attempts have taken place at such and such a date. After all, a numbers-based approach does not answer the "why" question. Self-inflicted death does not simply "happen." Before a person attempts suicide, they suffer from what is called suicide ideation. Generally speaking, suicide ideation is a term used to describe the thoughts or emotions that a person feels or expresses when considering suicide as an option. Yet, suicide ideation is

not a spontaneous event either. A person must endure conditions of suffering that they believe are hopeless to escape.

When an individual contemplates suicide, we must look to those harmful conditions he or she has been exposed to. When an ethnic group experiences a rise in suicide, however, we must delve into the conditions to which the entire group has been exposed.

By the time suicide rates amongst indigenous peoples in the United States came to national attention, indigenous families had been challenged to maintain a sense of ethnic identity for many generations. The general methods of erasing ethnic identities and pressuring families to Americanize have been well documented.

Descriptions of boarding schools, racial discrimination, unfulfilled treaty obligations and restrictions of contractual treaty rights abound. What is more often than not left out of the public conversation, however, is the incorporation of conflicting identities by indigenous communities – and how identity conflict can damage the physical, mental, spiritual and social health of individuals, families and communities.

From this short description of the history of youth suicide, as it can be best understood at the present, we turn to a history of conflicted identity. In order to fully appreciate the destructive power that identity conflict can have on all facets of Tribal society, we will also define and discuss the concepts of forced assimilation, structural violence.

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https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/suicide_fact_sheet_region_8_final_390537_7.pdf.



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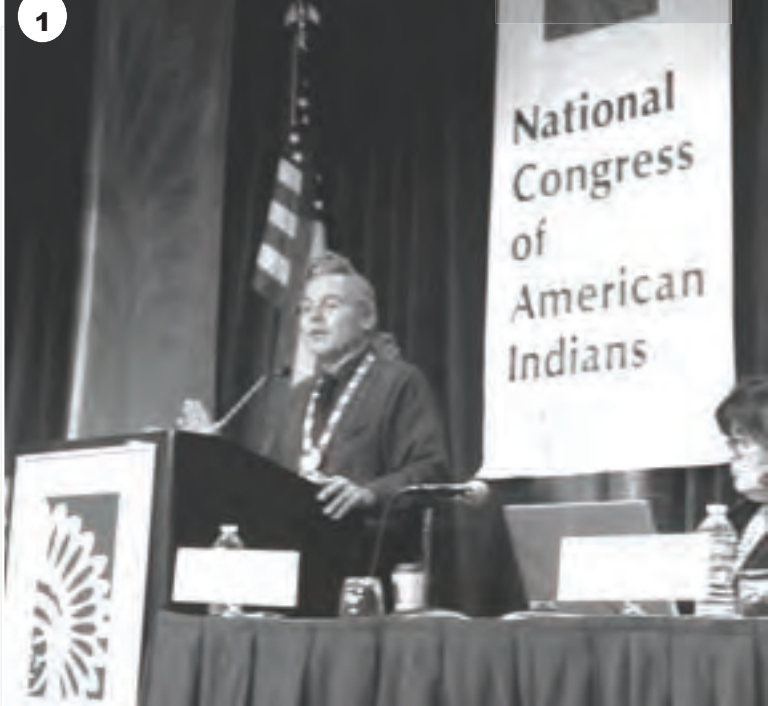
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LEADING OUR TRIBAL NATION

To National Prominence & Respect

1



Aaron A. Payment, MPA
Tribal Chairperson

Proudly Representing All Members Everywhere!

Ahneen, Boozho, Negee!

As you can see from my two weeks schedule to the right, I have been extremely busy. As I write this report, I am in between sessions in DC where I attended the National Congress of American Indians Winter Session and met with various Administration officials and shared our issues with U.S. Senators and Members of Congress. I am very proud to represent you as Chair at the highest levels and gain access to problem-solve issues facing our Tribe.

As an Officer of NCAI, we have gained an amazing amount of access to benefit our Tribe. Picture #1 is of me presiding at our second general assembly where I got to introduce key officials and legislators. NCAI is the premiere Native organization advocating for our people. Picture #2 is of NCAI founders in 1944. Picture #3 is of the current Executive Board, Staff, and Area Vice Presidents. Picture #4 is during the Leadership Banquet

where we recognized tribal leaders contributions. I am so proud to be a part of NCAI.

FLINT WATER CRISIS

I am grateful the Kewadin Gaming Authority approved my proposal to assist our Members in region. My Environmental Team has worked diligently through personal phone calls to our people who live in the Flint area to identify their needs as a result of the man made crisis. If you need assistance and have not received a call from my team, please call 800-793-0660 and ask to be transferred to our Environmental Department.

Part of my job is to establish the relationships which will benefit our Tribe when we need it. Picture 5 is of Congressman Dan Kildee from Flint who is the leading Congressman on this crisis. Also pictured is EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy (#6) and my long time friend Joann Chase (#7) who does outreach to tribes. In the coming

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>2/22</p> <p>9am Meeting with Loretta Lynch, US Attorney General</p> <p>10am Session with Director of the Bureau of Indian Education</p> <p>11am National Native Vote</p> <p>12pm Congressional Advocacy</p> <p>1:30pm General Session</p> <p>2:15pm White House Report by Karen Diver, Special Assistant to President Obama</p> <p>2:30pm Secretary John King, US Department of Education</p> <p>2:45pm EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy</p> <p>3:10pm US Senator Al Franken, Senate Indian Affairs Committee</p> <p>3:30pm Mary Wakefeild, Deputy Director of HHS</p> <p>4:00pm US Senator Steve Daines</p> <p>4:15pm Larry Roberts, Acting Assistant Secretary of Interior</p> <p>5:00pm Tribal Leader Discussion</p> <p>5:30pm Fundraiser for Denise Jeneau, Candidate for US Congress. Denise is an American Indian. There are currently just two American Indians in Congress.</p>	<p>2/23</p> <p>8:30am Call to Order ~ Mornings Session Chaired by Chairperson Aaron Payment. Issue Updates, Announcement, etc.</p> <p>9am Maria Contreras-Sweet, Administrator for US Small Business Administration.</p> <p>9:30am US Senator Jame Lankford</p> <p>9:45am US Congressman Dan Kildee</p> <p>11:15am US Senator Jon Tester, Vice Chair of Senate Indian Affairs Committee</p> <p>11:45pm Tribal Leaders</p> <p>1:40pm Supreme Court Project Update ~ John Eckohawk, NARF</p> <p>2:00pm US Congressman Don Young</p> <p>2:30pm US Congresswoman Norma Torres</p> <p>2:45pm Chris Deschene, Office of Indian Energy</p> <p>3:40pm US Congresswoman Betty McCollum</p> <p>4:00pm Champions of Change ~ Senator Byron Dorgan (Ret.)</p> <p>6pm Center for Native Youth Honoring Reception</p> <p>7-9pm NCAI 18th Annual Leadership Banquet</p>	<p>2/24</p> <p>830am Call or Order</p> <p>8:40am US Senator John Barasso, Chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee</p> <p>9:00am US Senator Lisa Murkowski, Member Senate Indian Affairs Committee</p> <p>9:15am Congressman Mike Honda</p> <p>9:40am Secretary of VA, Robert McDonald</p> <p>10:00am US Senator Michael Crapo</p> <p>11:00am Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi</p> <p>10:40am Congresswoman Gwen Moore</p> <p>11:00am US Congressman Mark Pocan</p> <p>11:15am US Congressman</p> <p>11:30am Tribal Leaders</p> <p>12:00pm Dental Hygiene Assistant Program Presentation</p> <p>1:00pm Fee to Trust Seminar with Larry Roberts</p> <p>2:00pm Seminar on Climate Change</p> <p>6:30pm Capitol Hill Tribal Leader Reception with Members of Congress</p> <p>8:00pm Travel to Bethesda, MD</p>	<p>2/25</p> <p>Day 1 ~ Chaired the Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee for the National Institutes of Health</p> <p>9:00am Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>9:50am Updates from Lawrence Tabak, Principal Deputy Director</p> <p>11:15am Office of Policy Updates and Understanding the NIH through review of Organizational Charts</p> <p>12:00 Lunch with NIH Native Scholars</p> <p>1:15pm Traditional Knowledge Seminar and Traditional Medicine Discussion</p> <p>2:15pm Scientific Review Session and Applying for Grants</p> <p>3:30pm IRB Training</p> <p>4:15pm Closing</p> <p>4:30pm Tribal Caucus and Priorities</p> <p>5:30pm Conclude for Day</p>	<p>2/26</p> <p>Day 2 ~ Chaired the Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee for the National Institutes of Health</p> <p>9:00am Opening. Review of Day 1 and Overview of Day 2</p> <p>9:15am Updates from NIH Director, Francis Collins.</p> <p>9:45am Building Capacity though HIH and Tribal Sharing</p> <p>10:45am ID Priorities</p> <p>11:45am Tribal Caucus</p> <p>12:15pm Presentation and Discussion with Federal Partners</p> <p>1:45pm Next Steps, Committee Planning, Subcommittees, Operating Procedures, March 8 Call and Agenda Topics</p> <p>2:45pm Wrap up</p> <p>3:30pm Adjourn</p>
<p>2/29</p> <p>9am-5pm Meeting & Training at the Community Finance Protection Bureaus: Your Money, Your Goals Financial Training</p>	<p>3/1</p> <p>8am-5pm HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Council Meeting</p> <p>5pm Prep Session for Meeting at the Secretary of Interior's Office</p>	<p>3/2</p> <p>8am-5pm HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Council Meeting</p> <p>10am Meeting at the Secretary of Interior Office</p>	<p>3/3</p> <p>9am - 4pm Testify for NIH & the Sault Tribe on President's Budget</p>	<p>3/4</p> <p>All Day ~ Travel Home</p>



months, I will be working with the EPA and Director Hollowell to maximize our use of the EPA to benefit our affected Members in Flint.

Our needs-assessment data came in handy when I testified at HHS Tribal Advisory meeting on March 3rd. At this meeting, Cathy Abramson addressed Special Diabetes funding while I addressed historical trauma, youth suicides and accidental overdoses, I also noted the Flint issue for which Secretary Burwell





9 With U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch. A small delegation of leaders from the National Congress of American Indians and I met with her regarding law and order issues in Indian Country.

HISTORICAL MEETING WITH U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

As an Executive Officer of NCAI, I was one of three Tribal Leaders in the Country to meeting with Attorney General Loretta Lynch (see



11



12



13



14



15



16

#9). We talked about the implementation of the federal Violence Against Woman Act, funding for victims of crime, Mutual Aide in Law Enforcement, and Law and Order in Indian Country, voting rights cases, juvenile justice and alternative sentencing, prisoner re-entry and two federal labor cases working their way up to the Supreme Court. I asked that the Attorney General to act as our Trustee when the Little River Band and Saginaw Chippewa Tribe NLRB cases reach the high court in the land.

These cases underscore the importance of the US Senate doing their job and acting on the President's nominee for US Supreme Court justice. In One case in particular ~ the Dollar General Case ~ will determine whether or not it is actionable to sue a non-Native who commits a crime against an Indian on Indian land. In this case, a Dollar General employee sexually assaulted a young Indian boy. This case is pending and deserves a hearing in the Supreme Court with a full Court. Justice dictates our US Senators stop playing politics with their duty to hold a hearing. For more information and how to positive impact the outcome, see picture #10.

WORKING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ISLE

My advocacy as Chairperson has to remain non-partisan. There are two American Indians in the US

Congress ~ Congressmen Tom Cole (Chickasaw) and Mark Wayne Mullins (Cherokee) both republicans. As you know, Congressional Members serve for two years. This election cycle, there are 17 American Indians running for seats in Congress on both sides of the isle. As Congressman Cole has demonstrated, he has been able to put partisanship aside and focus on the needs of American Indians as a top driver of his representation.

One of the Congressional candidates I have met who is American Indian and a Democrat is Denise Jeneau (#11). I attended a gathering to support her candidacy during the NCAI Executive Session in February. She currently serves as the Superintendent of Schools in Montana. Indian Education is a key issue for her. I wish her success!

The remaining pictures on this page show me "working it" with Members of Congress. This is a critically important aspect of my job to

protect our sovereignty and to bring resources back home to our people. Picture #12 shows me with Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) along with Rob Sanderson, an Alaskan Native friend; Picture #13 is with Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) who has long been a champion of Indian country. He serves in a key position as the Vice-Chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. Senator Murkowski serves as a Member of this committee. Picture #14 is with Senator Elizabeth Warren who was a champion in creating the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau: Your Money Your Goals (our Tribe was the first tribal partner) to protect the rights of consumers from predatory lenders. Picture #15 is of Congresswoman Norma Torres (D-CA) who is a friend of Indian Country. The final picture is with Larry Roberts, the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior and NCAI President Brian Cladoosby.

CSC PROPOSED

ALLOCATION PLAN

Great news! A federal judge ruled on the release of the Contract Support Costs settlement funds. Thus, the recovery of \$5.5 million is imminent. Below is the allocation plan I am proposing to the Tribal Board for approval.

- \$2,500,000 Elder Supplement
- \$1,000,000 Pay Compression
- \$400,000 Critical MIS Technology Upgrades
- \$200,000 Higher Ed./ Vocational Technical Scholarship & K-12 Student Incentive Principal Investment
- \$200,000 MERS Law Enforcement Retirement Vestment
- \$150,000 ADA Access Building Retrofits
- \$50,000 Elder Recreation
- \$1,000,000 Reserve

Each of these items have been discussed at length at various times and are NOT NEW. The supplement payment to the Elders has been in front of the Board for nearly two months now and has been



tabled into Board Purgatory. Support my proposal or not, but vote on it one way or another. You deserve your government to act. So again, I say the Board should ~

"Get to Work & Act"!

OIL SPILL THREAT!

This issue is a clear and present to our treaty waters. For over three years now, I have been part of a few coalitions to try to address this threat. I have spoken at a half dozen events to call for the decom-

Chi Megwitch,



Regardless of political ideology or party, Americans recognize the importance of following the basic rules of government laid out in the US Constitution. As President Ronald Reagan said in 1988 at the confirmation of Justice Kennedy, "The Federal judiciary is too important to be made a political football and the American people should expect ... for the Senate to get to work and act."

Today, some U.S. Senators are threatening to turn their backs on Constitutional requirements to hold hearings to consider the President's nominee for U.S. Supreme Court. There are several key Indian cases impacting sovereignty impending at the Supreme Court level. These cases hang in the balance. It is irresponsible for US Senators to thwart our democracy and balance of power through their dereliction of duty.

Tell your Senators that this is unacceptable. They don't need to support the President of the United States, but they do need to honor and follow the Constitution indiscriminately and "get to work and act" by scheduling confirmation hearings. US Senators are not above the law.

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

Tell your Senators to hold hearings on the President's nomination for U.S. Supreme Court!

You can find your Senators at:

<http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>

Monthly meetings scheduled with tribal fishermen



**LANA CAUSLEY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Being limited to 500 words is very challenging.

First are the meetings we have scheduled with all fishermen to discuss their needs, and the challenges we are facing with our

fisheries. Below are the dates and times that the board of directors will have monthly discussions on items that need attention and resolution. These meetings are structured with staff, legal and the fishermen so we can all be on the same page and push for items that will benefit and protect the fishery. We can be an incredible force for all the fishermen if we work together and keep solid with everyone being included and heard. It's been a great struggle to get to this point for our unit and all the fishermen. There is so much input and need to prioritize and move on, I sincerely hope it remains moving in a good direction. Legal reported an interest in experienced firms to assist us in the coming 2020 negotiations and I have heard many recom-

mendations to include to benefit our fish. I know many of you don't have a problem voicing what is needed and I appreciate that. Here is a list of the noticed meetings I received. I requested all fishermen get the same information mailed to them so you can attend.

Fisheries, law enforcement/conservation and legal will be meeting with the board at 4 p.m., prior to the meeting to discuss any issues they may have:

March 28 at 4 p.m.

April 26 at 4 p.m.

May 24 at 4 p.m.

June 21 at 4 p.m.

Last month, we were notified our Tribal Court participated in an extensive "Tribal Court Assessment" paid for by the BIA and completed by the Jacobson

Law Group (which were women from other tribes). The group spoke on findings and recommendations where tribal courts have problems and solutions to fix them. I was impressed to hear we have solid measures in place but we do have findings and recommendations to make our court system better (a separation from the board would be ideal) but as audited and assessed there was no finding of inclusion of the court processes. I truly believe in making the court separate and have always supported that, in the meantime I will push for the recommendation laid about from the assessment to make our courts more equitable, fair and credible for the members who go through the system.

I'm frustrated with our deliv-

ery of services and addressing those daily to assist members and also include during our board discussions and concerns. I will leave it at that and continue to look for ways to improve our direction.

The next few months will be filled with some hatefulness and lots of hurtful things. I will not participate, comment or go down that road in the elections. I will keep steady, strong and consistent for our people and our tribe. As always, contact me at lanacausley@saulttribe.net, (906) 322-3818, (906) 484-2954.

Lana Causley Smith
Sault Tribe
Unit II
Board Representative

We have many issues before us - productivity is key



**DJ HOFFMAN
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Judging from the actions recently taking place, I believe it is important to stress the following:

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, 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.

We have many issues before us, and should be focused on actually being productive for the benefit of the membership as a whole.

GRAYMONT

The following are excerpts from the tribal paper and resolutions regarding the issues of the Graymont mine and the Enbridge pipeline:

"The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is opposed to the Graymont limestone mine going in near Rexton, Mich., because giving up control of over 10,000 acres of state land interferes with the 1836 treaty tribes' right to hunt, fish and gather in its treaty ceded territory, negatively affecting its members' court-affirmed right to have unlimited access to this land for spiritual and cultural purposes.

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

"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.

"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 area.

"A catastrophic oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac would devastate the tribal fishing industry.

"The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians specifically requests the Michigan Petroleum Pipelines Task Force to include in its recommendations the decommissioning of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline at the Straits of Mackinac."

Recently, these two companies are commencing what is termed "community investment." They are providing grants for communities to smooth over the looming negative effects of their respective businesses.

A resolution has been introduced to ensure that entities that receive monies from these businesses do not receive funds from the tribe as well. Imagine a banner in a building thanking its sponsors: Sault Tribe, Enbridge, and Graymont.

While the board has taken action to adopt resolutions in opposition of both of these entities, there are no proverbial "teeth" to ensure that this opposition makes an impact. They are simply words on paper. Hopefully, the board will move forward with action that ensures accountability in some form.

IGS AUDIT

Several years ago (2011) the tribal board commissioned an audit of the casino by a firm called IGS. This audit ultimately cost the tribe (casino) in excess of \$200,000. It has since been sitting upon a shelf, and we have had no updates as to whether many of the identified

areas have been addressed or if the report is even still being used to improve our operations. This is one of the many areas that have been started merely to falter and sit idle on a shelf. I will be asking for an update on this in the coming month and will seek permission to detail the results.

CEO

The board of directors has commenced the interview process for the permanent CEO of our Kewadin properties. I am hopeful that we will find a qualified candidate to take the reins and lead us in a progressive manner. I am also hopeful that the board will adhere to its policies, procedures and preference in making this decision.

POLICY

I will continue to stress the importance of policy and adherence to our personnel policies and Tribal Code. As I have noted in the past, these policies are abused and policies are selectively ignored, positions are "hand picked" and, ultimately, the abuses many have championed against are still allowed to continue. I will be requesting an update from legal on the proposed tribal labor laws and policies to ensure everyone, including the board of directors, adheres to the policies and procedures of the tribe.

HR AUDIT

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors recently approved a resolution to audit the performance of the tribe's Human Resource Department. Human Resources is the central hub for all employment related actions: pre-employment, hiring, discipline, retention and termination. As a tribe, we need to ensure these areas are performing in an optimal manner and in accordance with adopted policy to ensure all employees are treated in an equitable manner. The audit will address the strengths and weaknesses in the department so that they may be assessed and addressed.

Recently, misinformation regarding the Human Resource audit was published. This information attributes the sole sponsorship of the HR audit resolution to myself, as well as implies the audit itself has prevented the board from acting upon the original HR investigation.

It is important to understand the facts that contradict these assertions:

— The HR audit resolution was sponsored by two members of the board of directors.

— The HR audit resolution was adopted by the entire board of directors, with two opposing votes.

— The HR audit was introduced on both the board workshop and meeting agendas on three different occasions (11/03/15, 10/27/15, 10/06/15)

— The original board-directed investigation was completed in early May 2012.

— There are historical issues in this area in dire need of independent attention.

In an effort to clearly understand these misconstrued statements, it is being asserted that the resolution adopted in November 2015 is preventing the board from acting on an investigation completed in 2012 (nearly 3.5 years earlier).

The real questions are:

Why wasn't anything done in those 3.5 years?

Why don't certain people want it done?

Encourage people to stop merely talking and start getting things done.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WE as a tribe need to diversify. I have and will continue to stress the need to diversify economically. In fact, I look forward to the day I am able to report we have made meaningful progress. Too often the excuses made for our lack of attentiveness to economic development and diversification has been "We can't afford to do that." The tribe cannot continue to depend upon the funding of its casinos as its main revenue generator. We need diverse income streams to ensure our tribe's future. The tribe has many talented members as well as the resources to ensure this diversification occurs. The governing body just needs to take the time to make this a priority.

The tribe interviewed for the economic development director position. I am hopeful the tribe will select a viable qualified candidate to facilitate this much needed role for our tribe.

Part of the position summary is: *"The Economic Development Director performs advanced promotional work leading and economic development interest for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. This will include super-*

vision of all enterprises with the exception of the casino operations. This position will be responsible to develop strategies to enhance, create and build the tribe's economic development and revenue diversification activities, including the complex analysis of data related to planning, financing, tax incentive packaging, marketing and business assistance programming. This position would be responsible to develop long and short term economic and community development goals."

It is my hope that the economic development director will be able to move our businesses in a more profitable manner, as well as lead the charge towards new business development and diversification. I am also hopeful our Corporate Charter, approved by the BIA, will one day be utilized. This would afford our tribe with the opportunity to develop and maintain businesses free from the meddling of politics. Thus ensuring they have a chance to be successful and provide revenues to tribal services.

JKL BAHWETING SCHOOL

The gymnasium building is complete. The final punch lists are being gone through and soon the gymnasium will be open for the benefit of the children. This project is an excellent example of positive and productive collaboration on the part of the tribe's board of directors for the benefit of our tribal and community children in the school. The entire board should be proud of their efforts in making this a reality.

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 we become innovative in our approach to economic diversification, membership services and stepping out of the non-progressive box in which we appear to be confined.

Sincerely,
DJ Hoffman
Home: (906) 635-6945
Cell: (906) 203-0510
Personal E-mail: djwhoffman@hotmail.com
Tribal E-mail: djhoffman@saulttribe.net

Looking for ways to strengthen tribe's potential



JENNIFER MCLEOD,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin Anishnaabek! In the discharge of my duties as a board member, I look for ways to strengthen our tribe. I believe that transparency and open tribal government is an area that needs improvement, and prevents us from growing to our full potential. In my research, I found

the following memoranda from President Obama (edited to fit this report).

TRANSPARENCY AND OPEN GOVERNMENT

Government should be transparent. Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their government is doing. My administration will take appropriate action, consistent with law and policy, to disclose information rapidly in forms that the public can readily find and use. Executive departments and agencies should harness new technologies to put information about their operations and decisions online and readily available to the public. Executive departments and agencies should also solicit public feedback to identify information of greatest use to the public.

Government should be participatory. Public engagement

enhances the government's effectiveness and improves the quality of its decisions. Knowledge is widely dispersed in society, and public officials benefit from having access to that dispersed knowledge. Executive departments and agencies should offer Americans increased opportunities to participate in policymaking and to provide their government with the benefits of their collective expertise and information. Executive departments and agencies should also solicit public input on how we can increase and improve opportunities for public participation in government.

Government should be collaborative. Collaboration actively engages Americans in the work of their government. Executive departments and agencies should use innovative tools, methods and systems to cooperate among themselves, across all levels of government, and with nonprofit

organizations, businesses and individuals in the private sector. Executive departments and agencies should solicit public feedback to assess and improve their level of collaboration and to identify new opportunities for cooperation.

Imagine if our government disclosed information rapidly and solicited public feedback! I realize that it has occurred occasionally, but it should be standard operating procedure. Please note that I am grateful to our current staff who do their best to provide information in a timely manner, but their workloads are huge! However, the board could prioritize and provide adequate staffing to accomplish this task.

How great would it be if our tribal government engaged with our members in meaningful ways? We have incredible, knowledgeable members who may participate in our govern-

ment, IF we had a way for them to do so that did not require travel to the seven-county service area to participate.

Increased staffing, plus innovative tools, methods and systems would help to create the transparency and openness of government crucial to the growth and future of our tribe

I believe our tribal government needs to commit to an "unprecedented level of openness." If you believe as I do, call me, or contact your unit representatives and urge them to commit to planning, supporting and funding a more transparent and open tribal government, it is good for us all!

Anishnaabe gagige (Anishnaabe for always),

Jen
(906) 440-9151
jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com
http://jmcleodsaulttribe.com.

Serving on federal committees important to tribe



KEITH MASSAWAY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Serving on committees in the federal government is very important. Openings are pub-

lished through notices sent to the tribal administration. Most of the openings require specific fields of study or must be filled by an elected official but both state and federal governments have some openings in general committees. We encourage tribal members to consider serving if they can.

I just returned from the Tribal Technical Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. We specifically addressed the work of substance abuse, mental health and suicide. This meeting focused on two areas: the epidemic of heroin overdoses in the United States and the tribal behavioral health agenda. With heroin being so widely available and cheap, many of our tribal sisters and brothers are overdosing on it. The first

responders to an overdose victim are using a drug called Naloxone. It can save their lives, but the policy and procedures have not been formally developed on what to do next.

Handing out brochures is not effective and incarceration is not an option. They are developing what is called a warm hand off. That is to say that a person works with the victim to find appropriate help with another person. To build an infrastructure so we have treatment buildings and professionals to help immediately find what the victim needs and real emotional support, that is crucial. I would love to say we have a plan to eradicate all illegal drugs from our society, but right now we don't. So, for now, we have to help those who make poor choic-

es and get them on the path to recovery.

The second item, the National Tribal Behavior Health Agenda (NTBHA), is a policy designed to better help and make the federal government aware of the substance and mental health issues so prevalent in Native society. Part of the policy aims at vastly improving the way the federal government puts grants into place for us. We have lobbied for a very long time to have the varied agencies work together to have their grants compliment each other to form a comprehensive plan for the tribal endeavor to succeed. An example would look like this. The BIA puts out a grant to build a treatment facility to detoxify drug abusers. That grant alone would be all that is offered.

The stand alone grant would not be advisable for the tribe to engage in because the infrastructure of equipment, doctors, support staff, heating, cooling and maintenance would have to come out of the limited budgets the tribe has for all its programs. What the NTBHA would do is go to the other agencies and ask them for support grants to make it a feasible endeavor for the tribe to do. Sounds like common sense but that process has never been attempted.

Thank you for all the calls and e-mails, I appreciate the support.

Keith Massaway,
702 Hazleton St.,
St. Ignace MI 49781,
kmassaway@msn.com,
(906) 322-3802

Protecting Great Lakes water for future generations



KIMBERLE GRAVELLE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello, in February I attended

the United Tribes of Michigan meeting and met state Senator Wayne A. Schmidt. He was discussing an internship program they have at the state level.

The Michigan Senate has internship positions they try to fill every academic year. Interns will have the opportunity to assist the senators and their staff in general office operations including constituent relations, communications and monitoring legislation. Selected candidates will gain valuable hands-on office and legislative experience in a fast-paced environment. Hours are negotiable. This is an unpaid position, but college credit is possible. See

your school's internship coordinator or academic advisor.

Applicants must be students, veterans or participants in job entry programs. Knowledge of the legislature is desired but not required. You can send your resume and cover letter to Michigan Senate, Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536 or via email to senwschmidt@senate.michigan.gov.

Later in February, I also attended a meeting in Waukesha, Wisc., in order to testify on behalf of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians against water diversion from the Great Lakes

basin. The Great Lakes Compact of 2008, signed by all eight states and two provinces included in the basin, prohibits diversions from the Great Lakes except under strictly limited circumstances. The city of Waukesha, Wisc., has requested to divert water from Lake Michigan. The request projects need for water now and in the future far beyond the City of Waukesha and into a water supply service area that has no current need for a diversion. It is our understanding that the City of Waukesha has alternatives to diverting Lake Michigan water including removal of radium from their deep groundwater wells with

treatment technology.

The danger in approving an application for a community that clearly has alternatives to diversion of Great Lakes water outside the basin boundaries is that it sets a low bar for future applications. There are many communities that straddle the Great Lakes basin boundary and, if approved for diversions, will seriously undermine the Compact. The concept of protecting the water for future generations is one that resonates especially with tribes and First Nations.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at (906) 203-6083 or at kkgavelle@saulttribe.net.

Traverse City hosts 2016 American Indian cancer summit

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2016 summit titled *Looking Back and Looking Ahead: The State of Cancer Control in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities* is set for current CDC grantees on April 26-28, 2016, at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, Mich.

The summit is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Department of Cancer Prevention and Control (DCPC) and is intended to bring current

grantees together to provide a forum to address topics of concern for all DCPC programs including commercial tobacco, cancer screening and patient navigation, HPV vaccination, obesity, physical activity and nutrition.

This grantee summit will involve reviewing and comparing data from 2005 and now in 2015-16, bring together experts in the field to provide a forum for open dialogue, review challenges and

barriers, learn about and share successes and opportunities, and develop a work plan for the next 10 years with goals for work in American Indian communities.

Invited guest speakers include Linda Richardson, MD, MPH (CDC); David Espey, MD (CDC and IHS); Melissa Jim, MPH (IHS); Linda Burhansstipanov, DrPH, MPH (Native American Cancer Research); and Durado Brooks, MD (American Cancer Society).

The National Native Network (NNN) is taking a lead role in coordinating the summit for CDC grantees in Traverse City. The NNN is administered by the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. (ITC); headquartered in Sault Ste. Marie.

"We are aiming to review how we have progressed and plan for our future. This summit will be the opportunity to convene CDC grantees and tribal cancer programs around what we have done and

what challenges we will address moving forward," said Noel Pingatore, NNN principal investigator and ITC Health Education and Chronic Disease Department director.

According to the National Cancer Institute, cancer rates from 2000 to 2009 decreased among men and women of every racial and ethnic group, except for American Indians.

More information is available at www.KeepItSacred.org.

Looking out for the best interest of the tribe



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

The direction of the casinos is moving on a positive path. We continue to increase our EBITA and have approved a capital

expenditure budget. There are software upgrades happening through Bally systems, some new slot machines at each location and areas being remodeled.

We have casino managers now that are being properly trained and educated than in years past. The managers have all been provided the tools to perform their job and will be accountable for their own site. Many of the general managers I have talked to support the direction and training they have received.

The marketing and executive teams have been working on a tiered Player's Card Club for some time now. This will allow players to be able to earn more incentives based on play.

We hired a temporary chief

executive officer because we wanted and needed to make change to essentially stay in business and stop the bleeding. Now we have people who flat out hate the guy. They do not have one good thing to say about him. This seems personal to me if you can't say one good thing about someone. Why would you invest one year of resources into a person and then say hit the road? We have a person who has worked in many Vegas-style casinos and some board members think they know more than this person.

If board members put their own agendas behind the best interest of the tribe they would allow this person to make the changes that have to be made and then see whether you think he

should stay or not. You don't kick someone to the curb in the middle of re-structuring, streamlining and training staff. Who in their right mind would work for a company that only talks about making a business better but cannot actually support the needed changes?

I absolutely love it when people threaten and bully you if you do not support their views or agenda. It is time to quit acting like the bully on the playground. It is not about you or your family; it is about the Sault Tribe. If you think you can do a better job, I suggest you submit an application.

As I stated previously, I do not agree with every decision being made but I DO NOT consider myself an expert. The proper way

to do this is to assign goals and stipulations in a contract and if they are not fulfilled then part ways.

Two of my biggest concerns right now are customer service and employee morale. Generally speaking, if you treat your employees good, they are happy, dedicated and treat their customer's right.

I have a hard time understanding why this is so difficult for some people. The easiest way is to treat others how you would like to be treated. Go be an example for your team of how to communicate, work and show some genuine interest and empathy.

Please contact me at Bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536

Happy Easter

Politics in the way of running tribal businesses



**DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I am disappointed to report that I continue to hear complaints from customers and team members about how unpleasant our casinos have gotten; from being

under staffed, no visible management on the gaming floor, food quality down, constant change of business hours at some of our food establishments, lack of management, uncleanly facilities and poor morale. Casino management has informed us that we are doing better at our five casinos; I see that they are cutting their bottom line but no new revenue! We have management saying the market is saturated but down the road we have the Island Resort and Casino and it is adding on and upgrading constantly. We don't need excuses anymore, we need action; but I am in the minority. Whoever is hired in the permanent casino CEO position should have no contact with board members outside of a workshop or meeting. We need an independent thinker

who isn't afraid to come in and make their plan, present it to the board and then follow through with their plan. What we currently have is not working when the CEO reports to and takes direction from the entire board. It just breeds bad business and the political arena is running our businesses.

Members need to start asking the hard questions and searching out the real answers. Too many times members have gone into a closed session with the hope of a positive outcome with the board. During my time on the board a majority of our members' pleas for help in closed session have gone unheard or responded to either verbally or in writing. It seems when the member has the right political ties they usually

get a positive response whereas a member without those ties may not. These are closed sessions, so we can't even speak out on the subjects and that disgusts me more than anything.

Since the Ad Hoc Health Committee resolution was passed three years ago we have seen successes from this committee. The Community Health centers closed down in 2008 were reopened in Escanaba and Marquette. After the first of the year, the Sault health center began holding evening hours. This happened with the committee's support and the hard work of the health staff. Next month, I hope to report on another success that has come from this committee, they have been successful and persistent in

continuing to increase health services to members.

Director Chase and I attended the Community Health Improvement Plan workshop held on Feb. 25 at the Manistique Tribal Center. It was a gathering session for community members and staff to give input on the needs and assets in each community and to help identify priorities for improving community health. It was a good input session and a great start to ensuring the plan utilizes community input and community ownership.

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

Abramson not seeking re-election to tribal board



**CATHY ABRAMSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Greetings everyone! As many of you know, I will not be seeking re-election to our tribal board. I wanted the rest of you to know.

I can't tell you what an honor it has been to serve you throughout the years while in this position. I know I am not perfect but I truly have tried hard to represent our people to the best of my ability. I am not going away. I have lived here all of my life and I will continue (while not in a role as a board member) to represent our people in whatever I do and wherever I go.

I have been very fortunate to have such great mentors throughout my life. My mom, Helen Gurnoe McCoy, was always

home when we came home from school. It gave us a great sense of security. She once gave me this advice when I came home crying because someone had been bullying me. She said this, "Remember what that feels like, and don't ever do it to anyone else." Her words stay with me today.

My dad, Ken McCoy, would always tell me, "You can be anything you choose to be." He was proud of me and he let me know it. I was always surrounded by my elders because they lived with us. My mom took care of Uncle Sam, Grandma Eva Gurnoe and Aunt Jennie Gurnoe Shannon. She cared for them when they couldn't take care of themselves.

I came from a family of nine brothers and sisters. As I got older, I was one of the middle ones who roamed pretty free. I actually didn't think anyone was paying attention to me. After a Christmas concert that our choir sang in, an elder approached me. Ms. Lucille Nertoli stopped me and told me that she was always watching me and that she was proud of me. Wow! Did I ever need to hear that! That was such a profound moment! It made me realize that what I did, how I acted and what I said was

important to our Anishinaabe people. When people watched me, they saw an Anishinaabe quae. I knew then that I had an important role to play for our people. I also knew that I had better straighten up my act!

The first job I ever had with our tribe was a summer job. I worked for Chairman Joe Lumsden. I was to redo his filing system (He only had one cabinet at the time!). Joe was a peoples chairman. He was always inviting members to his office to discuss various issues. I had great respect for Chairman Lumsden. I remember when I was a very impressionable young teenager. I had attended a summer activity at LSSU (Joe worked for Upward Bound). This was in the 70s and Floyd Westerman was there singing *Custer Died For Your Sins*. There were other speakers and activities but nothing beat the takeover of the Iroquois lighthouse! There was Joe Lumsden, amongst others, climbing up to the top! It was an awakening for me! I was fortunate our chairman used to coach me on speaking. He told me how he believed everyone should know the history of our tribe. I used to attend tribal board meetings and our chairman would let me speak from the audience. I

didn't know what the heck I was talking about but the tribal board was patient with me.

Another person who I learned a lot from was Bob VanAlstine. He taught me patience and perseverance. Not everything I wanted was going to happen when I wanted it. He told me, "Cathy, sometimes when you hit a brick wall with an idea or project you are working on, you just have to leave it there and go work on something else. You will find that wall will come down eventually and that's when you pick it up again and move it forward." That has made all the difference in the world. It really does work!

From my sister, Bonnie McKerchie, I learned of the sacrifices you must make for the good of all your people. She certainly gave it her all to our tribal board, to our health programs, our elders and casino staff. She cared about our people and never forgot who she worked for and who she was. I must give credit to brother, Mike McCoy, who has been my mentor, my advisor and has helped him me stay on the high road. He's more like my dad than he will ever realize.

I'd also like to thank my husband and my children for keeping me on the straight and

narrow. They would tell me, "No, mom, you can't write that." Tribal politics as you know can get pretty brutal and ugly. We are our own worst enemies. Tribes are made up of families. When you attack or purposely hurt individuals, you are hurting that whole family. I thank my family for keeping me from putting out my original unit reports and words that you will never see. (I must say, it did feel good to write out my feelings and toss it away though!) When you work for your people, your own family becomes a part of that. I thank my family for all the love, understanding and support you have given me throughout these years.

To my elders who have stood beside me and gave me so much encouragement and understanding when I needed it – thank you! I'll be sixty soon and we need to get ready for that disco dance!

We have a bright and beautiful future before us. There are many young promising individuals ready to take the lead. Let's nurture that and work beside them. I know they won't let us down.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at cabramson@saulttribe.net or call me (906) 322-3823.

Unit II director says “Less politics, more work”



**CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

I apologize for not submitting a unit report the last two months. There has been a lot of finger pointing, cheap shots and misinformation. Sometimes it's better to just “take it on the chin” and wait for the unproductive rhetoric to die down.

Unfortunately, quietness has not tamped down the rhetoric, so I'll do my best to address something head on:

I think it's awful to manipulate tribal members for the purpose of driving a wedge of discord among tribal communities. It's something the chairman provokes quite often. I wish he would leave that tactic back in the D.C. Beltway and quit sowing disharmony for no good reason, other than to create bad feelings and political gamesmanship. It's not the trait of a leader. It's not how you bring people together. For instance:

As we all know, the tribe is pursuing tribal gaming downstate. This is an initiative that was on the table when I took office in 2010. I have said many times in these unit reports that I support the concept: our right to establish tribal gaming; our need to do so; and the underlying legal argument that supports our right. My problem from the start has been with the developer. He does not have my vote of confidence. Therefore, I have consistently voted ‘no’ on all decisions pertaining to downstate casino development, as has Unit 2 Director Lana Causley.

Having said that, I recognize I'm in the minority in that opinion and I respect the majority will of the board. That's how democracy works.

Last December, the board took action to purchase property downstate using the interest accrued from the Michigan Indians Lands Claims Settlement (better known as the Elders Fund). It is a stipulation of our legal argument to game downstate that the funds come specifically from the accrued interest in the fund. As usual, I voted ‘no’ for the reasons stated above. The next week, the board voted to take monies out of the general fund to replace those they had used to purchase the property. That was so elder checks could be distributed at the whole value. As always, I voted ‘no’ and just like the week previous it passed easily on a 10-2 vote (with Director Causley and I the dissenting votes). Immediately after the vote, Director Hoffman asked a rhetorical question: “What would happen if this vote had not passed? The elders would get a reduced check.”

was all over Facebook claiming Director Hollowell does not care about the elders; “Her fate is sealed” and a whole lot of other disingenuous comments. He then implied the same thing in the letter that accompanied the elders' checks. As you can see in his January unit report for this paper, he put in a graphic, circled my dissenting vote, and placed my name inside the graphic.

The next board meeting was held in the unit I represent—Newberry. The atmosphere was hostile and I was called on the carpet by my members to explain why I would vote to reduce elder checks. Before I could respond, the chairman called the member's comments “out of order.” This only caused more bad feelings because the next day the individual resigned her position from the Elders' Committee.

So let me take this opportunity to respond: It took 10 votes to take that money out of the Elders Fund. They better have the same 10 votes to replace it! They didn't need my vote to take it out. And

they didn't need my vote to put it back (and on a procedural note—if for some unfathomable reason the vote to replace had failed, I would have made darn sure to bring it back to the table for a re-consideration vote. That you can be sure).

The developer for our downstate casino project is Jerry Campbell. I have never had confidence in him. Recently, you may have read in the *Detroit Free Press* or *Crain's Business News* that Jerry Campbell has filed for personal bankruptcy. Maybe now people can better understand why I have had reservations all along. I take my vote seriously. I won't be bullied into voting against my convictions. Trust me; you do not want a “rubber stamp” board. That got us into trouble in the past. I respect the will of the majority. I would only ask for the same respect for the minority voice in government.

I ask the chairman and others on the board to quit manufacturing controversy in order to drive wedges into our communities.

It's counterproductive to have to constantly be defending against trumped up situations. If you really cared about our communities in Unit II you would work instead to support meaningful actions to reduce the disparity in funding and services to the most underserved region within the tribe's jurisdiction. If you put half the effort used in sowing discontent, we might actually get somewhere by working collaboratively on a long-term strategic plan for our tribe: Where we are, where we want to go and how are we going to get there. For the tribe as a whole. That should be our number one focus.

I hope our elder who felt dismissed and misled at the Newberry meeting would reconsider her resignation and return to the Elder Committee. We need her dedication and support.

Next month, I will do my best to address Graymont; Enbridge and CORA—three extremely important situations with significant implications for Unit 2 communities.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Hollowell
Unit 2 Director
(906) 484-6821
chollowell@saulttribe.net

Moving?

Please remember your new address to send Win Awenen Nisitotung so your newspaper can move, too!

Send to Win Awenen Nisitotung, 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or email saulttribenews@saulttribe.net. Please include your full name and mailing address.

Miigwech!

Sault Tribe Housing Authority

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY



The Sault Tribe Housing Authority is seeking advice and input from our tribal membership. If you reside in the Tribes seven county service area you will be receiving a survey in the us mail at the beginning of April, 2016. This survey will help define the housing needs our membership and local tribal communities. Please take the time to review, complete and return this survey.

The survey results will also be utilized in helping develop the 2017 Indian Housing Plan. We are asking that the mailed survey be returned by April 30th, 2016 in the prepaid envelope.

The Housing Authority will be hosting a series of general membership and elder community meetings. Please plan to attend one of the below listed meetings in conjunction with returning the survey.

If you have any questions or require more information regarding this survey and its purpose, please do not hesitate to contact the Sault Tribe Housing Authority.

Thank you for your anticipated participation!

Joni Talentino
Housing Director

Annie Thibert
Project Specialist

~ Dates of General Meetings ~

Open to all Tribal Members
(Meetings are 6:00 - 8:00 PM)

- April 5th Kinross Recreation Center
- April 6th Wetmore Housing Site
- April 12th Escanaba Housing Site
- April 13th Manistique Tribal Health
- April 18th St Ignace/McCann Center
- April 20th Sault Big Bear Arena

~ Dates of Elder Meetings ~

Open to All Elder Members
(During Scheduled Elder Meetings)

- April 6th Sault Elder Building
- April 7th Munising Tribal Health
- April 7th Marquette Holiday Inn
- April 8th St Ignace McCann Center
- April 13th Manistique Tribal Health
- April 15th Newberry Community Center
- April 18th Hessel Community Center
- April 21st Escanaba Willow Creek
- April 25th Newberry Community Center
- April 27th Naubinway Pavilion

Mission Statement:

"Improve the quality of life for our tribal members through affordable and unique housing opportunities"

Vision Statement:

"To create and sustain Housing Programs that strengthens the quality of life, economic self-sufficiency, and the future growth for the members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians"



Sault Tribe Housing Authority
154 Parkside
Kincheloe, MI 49788
(906)495-5555

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