



Win Awenen Nisitotung

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Sugar-Making Moon
Ziisbaakdoke Giizis



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

Boys & Girls Club opens site at Malcolm High

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills has opened a new site at Malcolm High School in the Sault – the Boys & Girls Club Chippewa County Allied Mentoring Program, or C.A.M.P.

The idea behind the club was to provide mentoring to local youth. Chippewa County Attorney Magistrate Eric Blubaugh made the initial call that brought together a group of interested parties to explore the idea, which eventually evolved into Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills Director Sandra Walden filing paperwork for a grant to form the new site.

Partners who participated in the club's formation are: Bay Mills Indian Community, Malcolm High School, Sault Area School District, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Chippewa County.

Malcolm High School Native American Advisor Robert McRorie volunteered to be the site's director, with the first official meeting held Jan. 10. Surveys were sent to students within the Sault Area School District asking them what kind of activities they would be interested in and if they would be interested in joining the program. McRorie said 180 students showed initial interest in the program, and 77 have signed up for the club.

During February's club meetings he said average attendance is about 15 students. The club meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week from 3 to 6 p.m., and any student in grades 6 to 12 is welcome to attend. McRorie said he has students attending from JKL, Sault Area Middle School, Sault Area High School and Malcolm.



Photos by Brenda Austin

Students from Malcolm and Sault Area Schools attended a Boys & Girls Club Chippewa County Allied Mentoring Program (C.A.M.P.) meeting in February. Back left is Chippewa County Attorney Magistrate Eric Blubaugh, standing next to him is Chippewa County Juvenile Probation Officer Steve Ewing, and kneeling (front left) is Malcolm Native American Advisor and C.A.M.P. director Robert McRorie.

McRorie said many of the kids signed up for the club are Native American, and because of that he tries to incorporate Native culture into the programs and activities. Also, because there is such a large Native American participation in the club, the grant the program received from the Boys & Girls Club is for minority sites, with funding for additional staff members, allowing the club to increase the number of students served.

Club activities include a mentoring program, after school tutoring, arts and crafts, music and songwriting, basketball, wrestling, martial arts, dodge ball, cooking and baking, video and PC game tournaments, open gym time, board games and activities, computer lab and a book club.

The club's goal for next year

is to expand and open to all age groups, from kindergarten to grade 12. Transportation is also being built into next year's budget, with a bus going from Sault Area Middle School to Malcolm and also possibly from JKL to Malcolm.

Sandy Sawyer, Malcolm High School principal, said, "A lot of times transportation is an issue for middle school kids because parents work until 4:30 or 5 p.m., so our goal is to bring a bus over from the bus loop for students to be dropped off here and possibly bussing home from here also."

McRorie said that research shows if you give kids something productive to do that is healthy and beneficial to them for three hours or more after school, they are more likely to go home afterward and not get in trouble with drugs or alcohol. Kids that participate in after school programs also have a higher graduation rate, which is linked to lower crime and incarceration rates.

Sawyer said, "I love the club being here. It gives the opportunity for our kids to have a positive place to be after school along with middle school kids, who will benefit from a productive environment and positive mentorship program. I would like to see students give the club a try and come and check it out. Anytime they want to come by the building and see what programs the club has to offer we would love to have them."

Blubaugh said he would like to see community members mentor youth in activities they wouldn't otherwise be likely to participate in, such as someone who can give guitar and ukulele lessons and performing arts, among others.



Malcolm Boys & Girls Club participants (left, front to back) Alexis Kelly, Carson Mackety, Sara Weber, (right, front to back) Aurora Kelly, Blake Hill, Mariah Yates, Ardeth Nunnery and Noah McDonald making "slime."

Although the Malcolm site will not have a summer program this year, McRorie said once students sign up with the Boys & Girls Club they can participate in activities at other sites as well.

"This summer our club members can go out to Bay Mills and enjoy all the summer activities

offered there," he said. McRorie anticipates receiving enough grant funding to be able to maintain the program at the Malcolm site the summer of 2018.

For more information, contact Sandy Walden at (906) 248-8575, or Robert McRorie at 635-6638 ext. 5224.

Stop by IFWD April 7!

The Inland Fish and Wildlife Department (IFWD) invites the Sault Tribe community to join us for coffee hour on Friday, April 7, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Stop in to have a cup of coffee and chat about natural resources and IFWD's current work. The Inland Fish and Wildlife Department is located at 2428 Shunk Rd. (Sault Ste. Marie) and shares a parking lot with the Enrollment Department. We look forward to seeing you there!



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You Move, You Lose... If you don't keep your official tribal connections

Doesn't matter if you move next door or across the country, if you move from your residence to a new address without notifying the Tribal Tax Office and the tribe's Enrollment Department, you lose important benefits, such as possible tax benefits, tribal election ballots, elders' dividends, important notices sent by mail and newspaper delivery.

State Tribal Tax Agreement Resident Tribal Member (RTM) Status

A resident tribal member (RTM) is the term used for a tribal member whose principal place of residence is in an tax agreement area. The term RTM is not based upon members being enrolled members of the tribe, it is merely to designate between members living in the agreement areas and members who do not live in agreement areas.

The procedure for tribal members to receive their RTM status is only through the submission (to the Tribal Tax Office) of an address verification card along with the required supporting documentation verifying their address is within the boundaries of the agreement areas. It is the responsibility of the members

to submit this information to the Tribal Tax Office.

A member living in an agreement area is **not automatically registered**. Though a member may have lived in the agreement area prior to registering with the Tribal Tax Office, their RTM status will not begin until the Michigan Department of Treasury has been notified that the member has proven through documentation their principal place of residence is within the boundaries of the tax agreement areas. The Michigan Department of Treasury will then recognize their RTM status (exempt from state income and sales tax) on the first of the following month.

Once a member is registered and given RTM status, it is imperative that any changes to the member's address is reported to the Tribal Tax Office. Per Tribal Code 43: Tribal Tax Code Section 43.1103,

Resident tribal members shall notify the Tribal Tax Office in writing prior to moving their principal place of residence.

— Tribal members must fill out an "Address Verification Card," and provide two proofs of the address stated on the

card. A valid Michigan driver's license or Michigan state identification card must be one of the proofs of address. The address on the identification card must have member's current address. The Tribal Tax Office will not process/register members without an identification card.

— Tribal members who are minors. If the minor has a Michigan driver's license or Michigan state identification card, a copy must accompany the "Address Verification Card." If they do not have state

identification cards, then two utility bills with their parent's name and address (matching the minors stated address) are required. The Tribal Tax Office will not process/register without this information.

— Tribal member parents are responsible to request their minor children (under 14 years of age) be registered for sales tax exemptions on motor fuel purchases. This does not require proof of address if only for motor fuel purchases.

For all Tribal Tax Office

business, call Candace Blocher at 635-6050 or toll free at (800) 793-0660 and ask for ext. 26310. Members may also send email to her via cblocher@saulttribe.net.

Also be sure to call the tribe's Enrollment Department to ensure your address is current in order to continue receiving important official tribal notices, election ballots, elders' dividends, newspapers sent via the U.S. mail.

Call the Enrollment Department at 632-8552 or toll free at (800) 251-6597.

Current Sault Tribe job openings

The following positions are open until filled. Call (866) 635-7032 or email stemployment@saulttribe.net for more information.

Apply online or sign up for notifications at saulttribe.com.

GOVERNMENTAL OPENINGS SAULT STE. MARIE, KINCHELOE

Accountant – STHC – FT/regular

Health education supervisor – FT/regular

Project coordinator – community health – FT /regular – open until filled

Employee specialists (2) – FT/regular

Physician – FT/regular

Health Division director – FT/regular

Diabetes program manager –

FT/regular

Tribal attorney/assistant prosecutor – FT/regular

Child care aide – part time/regular

Legal Aide attorney – FT/regular

HESSEL, ST. IGNACE, ESCANABA, MANISTIQUE, MARQUETTE, MUNISING, NEWBERRY

Chief solo dentist

(Manistique) – FT/regular

Staff dentist (St. Ignace) – part time/regular

Community Health program manager – rural (Munising) – FT/regular

Diabetes case coordinator (St. Ignace) – FT/regular

Registered dental hygienist (St. Ignace) – FT/regular

CASINO OPENINGS

SAULT STE. MARIE

Guest room attendant – part time/regular

Chief executive officer – FT/regular

Casino general manager – FT/regular

VP of marketing and sales – FT/regular

Beverage manager-FT/regular-open until filled

Catering manager-FT/regular-open until filled

Vault cashier-FT/regular-open until filled

CHRISTMAS

Bartenders – (2) FT/regular

Players club clerks – (2) part time/regular

Bar server – part time/regular

Restaurant server – FT/regular

ENTERPRISE OPENINGS

Project specialist (Economic Development) – FT/regular

Funds for private Michigan forest habitat improvements

EAST LANSING — A partnership including the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the American Bird Conservancy is offering financial assistance to forest owners in designated Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan counties to improve habitat for at-risk bird species and other wildlife.

Applications for funding are accepted on a continuous basis at USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices from private forest owners.

The Improving Forest Health for At-Risk Wildlife Resources Partnership was created through the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The funding is intended to create young forest habitat for the benefit of the golden-winged warbler and other at-risk species.

Applications must be submitted by April 21, to be considered for the next selection cycle.

The project area includes designated counties in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Private forest owners in the Upper Peninsula counties of Baraga, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton,

Iron, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon and Schoolcraft counties and the northern counties of Alcona, Antrim, Cheboygan, Emmet, Iosco, Kalkaska, Manistee, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego and Wexford counties are eligible.

Financial assistance is available for selected core conservation practices, including forest stand improvement and early successional habitat development and management.

Additional supporting practices include; brush management, tree, shrub and grass planting, and site preparation.

In addition to improving habitat for at-risk species, many of these practices also improve habitat for other wildlife such as ruffed grouse and white-tailed deer.

Landowners should make an appointment with their local NRCS office as soon as possible to begin the conservation planning process.

More information about the Improving Forest Health for At-Risk Wildlife Resources Partnership, contact Chad Carlin at (906) 226-2461.

Opens April 3rd

Weatherization Program

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority will be accepting applications for the Weatherization Program beginning April 3rd, 2017

The purpose of the Weatherization Program is to provide energy conservation improvements for homeowners in need of repair/replacement to improve the energy efficiency of their home.

Description of services to include:

- Repair/Replacement of Roofs, windows, and exterior doors
- Air-sealing measures such as weather stripping and caulking
- Insulation of pipes, skirting, roof area/attic

- Must be a Sault Tribe Household
- Must Own Home and Land
- Trust Land Leases Accepted
- Must reside in the seven county service area
- Must meet income guidelines

Please contact the Homeownership Program
 Jamie Harvey @ (906)495-1450
 or (800)794-4072

Traditional Garden Workshops

Presented By:

Join us for FREE Traditional Garden Workshops led by Elise Bunche. The workshops will demonstrate how easy it is to start and maintain a garden, gardening skills, and discuss traditional foods.

Date	Location	County
March 14 @ 5-6:30 pm	Newberry MSU-E Office	Luce
March 21 @ 5-6:30 pm	Manistique High School	Schoolcraft
March 28 @ 5-6:30 pm	St. Ignace Library	Mackinac
April 4 @ 5-6:30 pm	Alger Parks & Rec Office (Munising)	Alger

To register or for more information, please contact Josh Mickelson at (906) 293-5107 ext. 344 or at jmickelson@masdhd.org

All participants will be entered for a giveaway!

OPEN to the Community!

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED!

Supported by the Sault Tribe Good Health and Wellness In Indian Country Project
 Made Possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

EUPISD seeks support for career education programs

By Rick Smith

College is not the only way to pursue the American dream, and an election is coming on May 2 for precincts in Chippewa, Luce and Schoolcraft counties along with Seney Township on whether to support career and technical education in the eastern Upper Peninsula.

At issue, whether to authorize a 10-year, 1 mil (1/1,000 of \$1) tax to generate \$2,300,000 to establish and operate career and technical education (CTE) for all EUP high school juniors and seniors.

The funds generated could only be spent to establish and operate classes and functions designed to prepare students for

gainful employment in recognized occupations so they may live and work here in the EUP.

According to the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, CTE provides job skills allowing qualified students to either join the work force after graduation or pursue additional training or coursework in trade schools, apprenticeships, colleges or universities.

A wide array of possible occupations which students could prepare themselves can be seen at www.eupschools.org/cte, scroll down to bottom of page and click on link named CTE-Brief.

CTE programs are required to have a local advisory board of employers to guide them, provide

free credits transferable to community colleges and universities and many programs offer industrial, state or national certifications.

“A little over 45 years ago, the EUP looked at regionally bringing in CTE programs through a regional millage,” notes a communiqué from the school district, “this did not happen and in the late 1960s when the Sault schools passed a bond to build the current high school, it included CTE classrooms. That is how we came to have CTE programs in Sault Ste. Marie with no regional support.”

The district currently has three options for regional millage to support education in the EUP:

A .2 millage helps to run the school district, 1 mill for special education programs, but 0 mills for CTE. So, currently, the school district receives only 1.2 mills for regional efforts.

Other school districts in the U.P. receive two to more than three times the millage support for regional education.

According to figures from the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, the EUP district ranks 53rd statewide out of 56 intermediate school districts in regional support for programs.

All regional taxes supporting the school district produce \$404 per student while the statewide average is \$886 per student and

CTE millage ranges from 0 to 4.2 mills. Passage of the CTE millage in the EUP would provide \$336 per student for CTE programs for a total of \$740 per student, but the EUP would still be \$146 below the state average. The EUP region is the lowest of all seven U.P. school districts in mills and dollars available for each student.

Passage of the proposed millage would raise the EUP school district up to sixth out of seven in the U.P. in terms of millage levied for regional education.

Those interested in giving youngsters in the EUP opportunities to pursue the American dream should be sure to vote on the issue on May 2.

Tribal veterans service officers open to VA recognition

By Rick Smith

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently amended regulations so the agency is allowed to recognize tribal organizations to serve military veterans as their representatives in pursuing VA claims. The new rule went into effect on Feb. 21, 2017.

The new regulation places certain tribal organizations on equal terms with county veterans services offices. “The final rule allows a tribal organization that is established and funded by one or more tribal governments to be recognized for the purpose of providing assistance on VA benefit claims,” reads a section of a federal code entered into the Federal Register on Jan. 19. In addition, the rule calls for an

employee of a tribal government to become accredited through recognized state organizations like county veterans service officers are accredited.

The main objective of the new rule is to address the needs of American Indian populations geographically isolated from existing qualified veterans services organizations. It also serves to help those who may not use other recognized veterans services because of cultural barriers or unfamiliarity with such organizations.

The move could be opportunity knocking for Sault Tribe, according to Ron Munro, the tribe’s sole volunteer tribal veterans representative. Currently, he alone covers all seven counties of the tribe’s service area without any compensation for time, travel

Sault Tribe’s sole volunteer tribal veterans representative Ron Munro said he has a proposal prepared on the issue to bring before the tribe’s board of directors . . . all veterans service organizations go through the VA when qualifying people to serve the veterans in such a capacity.

or other expenses. The new rule could mean getting more veterans trained, established and equipped throughout the area, serving the tribe’s veterans as employees of the tribe. “We could have our own people talking with our own people,” said Munro. He explained members of the tribe could probably relate much better with other members when dealing with the baffling bureaucracy that is the VA.

Further, Munro said he has a proposal prepared on the issue

to bring before the tribe’s board of directors. He added, all veterans’ service organizations go through the VA when qualifying people to serve veterans in such a capacity. Munro, for example, said he received his accreditation from the VA through the Disabled American Veterans organization.

A service officer acts as a veteran’s agent when applying for benefits entitled to them through the convoluted channels of the VA. Such benefits might include education, health care,

home loans, survivors’ options and many other possibilities to enhance the lives of veterans or their families.

According to the July 2013 edition of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, Munro has served as a tribal veterans representative throughout the service area since 2013. The VA Tribal Veterans Representative Program began operating in 2001, but training wasn’t available until 2013. Munro completed training through the program early in 2013 at a facility in downstate Michigan.

According to the VA, while the agency provides the training, tribal veterans representatives are not VA employees, they are recognized representatives of tribal organizations.

Great line up planned for Sober Indianz Indigenous Sobriety Con

The first Sober Indianz Indigenous Sobriety Conference and All Nations International Vendors, “Walking the Red Road,” June 16-18 at Kewadin Casinos, will feature nationally acclaimed speakers and artists.

The conference is sponsored by the Sober Indianz Facebook Group, which has 47,000 members. Sober Indianz founder Pat McCoy said the page connects all indigenous people who really want to stay sober and promotes recovery in their communities. Now they are organizing a conference and have drawn together a dynamic group of artists and speakers who all advocate sobriety.

Performing Saturday night of the conference is Cal “Silverfox” Lopez and Star Nayeia.

Native Flutist Cal “Silverfox” Lopez lives in St. Ignace. 14th annual Native American Music Award (NAMA) “Best Instrumental Recording” nom-

inee for his CD titled, “Tribal Fusion.”

Female vocalist and performer Star Nayeia is a Native American Grammy Recording Artist and three time NAMA Winner — including Songwriter of the Year, Best Independent Recording and Best Compilation CD. Nayeia is also a national motivational and inspirational speaker and a prevention and wellness advocate. As a music mentor for native youth and teens she is inspiring today’s Native youth and teens. She is the founder of Ravens Last Laugh Productions, which serves as an effective resource for productive outreach healing through the Arts. This production company was put into place primarily to reach our Native youth, teens and young adults nationwide and Canada.

Three dynamic speakers have been confirmed for the conference, Don Coyhis, Dennis Banks, and Isaac Murdoch.

Don Coyhis, Mohican Nation, is the president and founder of White Bison Inc., an American Indian non-profit organization, located in Colorado Springs, CO. He developed “wellbriety,” a substance abuse recovery program that taps the power of Native American culture, tradition, and community to help heal his people. Over the past 26 years, Coyhis has developed a series of culturally based programs to address recovery and treatment, youth prevention and treatment, programs for healthy families and healing from unresolved grief and traumatic loss due to inter-generational trauma. These programs are designed help with all facets of family healing and have been implemented throughout the United States and Canada.

Anishinaabe activist Dennis Banks was born in Leech Lake, Minn. He was removed from his home and sent to boarding schools, run by the Bureau of

Indian Affairs, in which Native languages were forbidden. He was a founder of AIM, which spearheaded the 1969 Alcatraz occupation, the 1972 Trail of Broken Treaties caravan to Washington, D.C., and the 71-day siege of Wounded Knee, S.D., in 1973. After a long trial, Wounded Knee felony charges against Banks and AIM co-founder Russell Means were dropped. In 1975, Banks was convicted for riot charges concerning the Custer courthouse incident that led to Wounded Knee. He went underground, returning in 1984 to serve more than a year in prison. Banks founded Sacred Run to promote the sacredness of all living things and has led runs across the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Isaac Murdoch, whose Anishinaabe name is Sacred Rawhide, grew up in the traditional setting of hunting, fishing and trapping. He has learned

many of the stories and legends that accompany many of the Sacred Sites and Values placed on Mother Earth and has become a wonderful narrator and advocate for these precious treasures. His many years of experience of conducting ceremonies have helped him maintain a special balance between man and nature and he is known for his advocacy for getting the younger generation in-touch with the land and these Sacred Sites. Through his company Ojibway Connections, Murdoch spends most of his time teaching young people the traditional skills of living off the land and has facilitated dozens of cultural camps over the years.

For more information about the conference, see www.soberindianz.org.

— *The above information was drawn from promotional Internet sites.*

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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.

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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.

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Garlinghouse is new Sault Tribe medical director

Dr. Joseph M. Garlinghouse has joined the medical staff of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Health Center. Dr. Garlinghouse will be seeing patients in Sault Ste. Marie and will be assuming the responsibilities of Medical Director for all of Sault Tribe.

Dr. Garlinghouse is a board certified family medicine doctor with a master's of public health and a certificate in added qualifications in hospice and palliative medicine. He graduated from



Dr. Joseph M. Garlinghouse

the University of Michigan Medical School and completed his internship and residency in family medicine at Flower Hospital in Sylvania, Ohio. He has worked nearly 13 years in private practice at Bridgeview Family Medicine in Sault Ste. Marie. Since 2008, he has served as the Chippewa County medical examiner and as the medical director for Chippewa County Health Department.

Dr. Garlinghouse is originally from Chippewa County. Born at War Memorial Hospital, he attended Bruce Township

Elementary School and graduated from Sault Area High School. Upon graduation, he pursued a Bachelor of Science with major in biology and minor in chemistry. He began at Lake Superior State University, and then transferred to Evangel College in Springfield, Mo., where he completed his degree. Between undergraduate studies and acceptance to U-M Medical School, he married his high school sweetheart.

Following completion of medical school, internship and residency, Dr. Garlinghouse worked in a family practice office affiliated with the hospital of his residency. After two years of traveling home to the Sault to see family with his wife and two children, they

decided to move home.

"Finding a position with Bridgeview Family Medicine has been a blessing for 13 years," Dr. Garlinghouse said. He expressed his appreciation for being able to work with staff he has come to love as family and with Drs. O'Connor and Peterman, describing them as two of the most "level-headed" and "regular" doctors he has ever met.

Dr. Garlinghouse enjoys time with his wife and four children and "could not be prouder of their homeschooling success." He is actively involved in Calvary Baptist Church where he and his wife work as youth sponsors, assisting the church's youth pastor in weekly youth group and

activities. He is a self-described computer "geek" who enjoys building and tinkering with computer systems as well as the integration of computers in health care.

He has managed an electronic health record in private practice for the past five years.

He is very excited to pursue a new avenue in his career as the medical director for the Sault Tribe. He expressed his excitement in working in the tribal system and the advantages provided with direct access to onsite services.

He starts his new position on Feb. 27 and, following requisite orientation, will be able to start seeing patients.

DEQ extends public comment period over Nestlé Waters request

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Nestlé Waters North America Inc.'s request to boost the amount of water it takes from an underground aquifer in Osceola County is receiving thousands of negative comments from Michigan residents and environmental groups.

To address this, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is extending, for a third time, a public comment period over the bottled water company's request to withdraw more water.

The MDEQ will take public comments until April 21 at 5 p.m. Written comments must be emailed to deq-eh@michigan.gov

or mailed to MDEQ, Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division, Environmental Health Section, P.O. Box 30421, Lansing MI 48909-7741.

A third tribal-state consultation regarding the Nestlé water withdrawal application will also be held mid-April. A letter requesting the consultation said, "Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority is especially concerned that such massive groundwater withdrawal may impact the treaty fisheries in this watershed and requests that MDEQ schedule a consultation specifically with the 1836 Treaty (CORA) tribes after Nestlé provides the additional information."

Nestlé Waters is requesting boosting the amount of water they take from a well in Ewart, Mich., from 250 gallons per minute to 400 gallons for their Ice Mountain brand of bottled water.

According to MDEQ spokeswoman Melody Kindraka, an environmental group opposed to Nestlé's application recently delivered a document with 340,000 signatures from Michigan residents, in addition to the more than 15,000 negative comments that were received by the MDEQ prior to this extension.

A public presentation on the plan will be hosted by the MDEQ from 4 to 6 p.m. on April 12 and

a public hearing will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at Ferris State University at The University Center, 805 Campus Drive in Big Rapids, Mich.

Nestlé Waters announced in October 2016 a planned expansion of its Ice Mountain bottling operation near Stanwood in Mecosta County to the tune of \$36 million. Their proposed expansion calls for boosting withdrawals from the well in Ewart by 167 percent.

In February, the MDEQ requested additional information from Nestlé Waters about the proposed increase and are expecting the company's response by March 16.

According to the MDEQ, the public comment period extension will give their staff time to prepare a draft permit as well as offer public participation.

Nestlé Waters released a statement regarding the MDEQ public hearing plans: "We are pleased that the MDEQ has set the dates for the public hearing and extended comment period. We respect and support the MDEQ's commitment to a careful and thorough review of the pending application and to allowing ample time for the public to review the science that supports our pending application."

See www.michigan.gov/deq for more information.



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- AND -

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Club hours vary by site.

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4 p.m.-10 p.m.
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See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more information

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Every Monday

After earning 50 base points

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- Silver Card \$10 in Kewadin Credits

Zinke confirmed as new Secretary of the Interior

FROM NCAI

Ryan Zinke was confirmed on March 1 to serve as the 52nd Secretary of the Interior with a Senate vote of 68-31. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) congratulates and welcomes Secretary Zinke to his new role as trustee to 567 Tribal Nations.

As a key partner in advancing the trust relationship between the United States and tribal nations, the Secretary of the Interior is a critical component in carrying forward this trust and fulfilling the promise of a new era in U.S. tribal relations. NCAI sent letters of support for Zinke's nomination both to President Trump and the Senate Energy and Natural

Resources Committee last month.

"I am encouraged by the appointment of the new Interior Secretary Zinke," Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment said. "As Congressman for Montana, he established a record of support for tribal sovereignty. As an officer of the National Congress of American Indians, I can attest that we carefully vetted Secretary Zinke and officially supported his nomination."

In his Senate Confirmation Hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Secretary Zinke outlined a three pronged approach to administering tribal priorities at the Department of the Interior: promoting tribal sovereignty,

respecting tribal nations and empowering self-determination. NCAI is encouraged by Secretary Zinke's approach to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as well as his commitment to giving tribal nations a seat at the table across the federal government.

Payment said Secretary Zinke has a huge task ahead of him to help Congress find a Carceri Fix, maintain the authority to take land into trust, and hold tribal funding harmless from President's announced 10 percent non-defense discretionary cuts.

"Treaty and trust funding are pre-paid with the blood, sweat, tears and millions of acres of land exchanged for the federal obligation (not entitlement) for 'health, education, and social welfare' into perpetuity," Payment said.

Secretary Zinke's experience as the at-large representative for the state of Montana, representing seven federally recognized tribes, gives him a great deal of understanding of the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes. As congressman, Zinke fought for tribal water settlements



Ryan Zinke was confirmed on March 1 to serve as the 52nd Secretary of the Interior.

and for federal recognition of one of Montana's state recognized tribes.

"Ryan Zinke has a long history of fighting for our country. During his career as a Navy SEAL, he fought for American freedoms abroad. Throughout his service as a Congressman for Montana, he fought for Montanans and

Montana's Tribes in the halls of Congress," said NCAI President Brian Cladoosby. "We have no doubt that Secretary Zinke will continue fighting for all tribes as Secretary of Interior. As the trustee to all 567 Federally Recognized tribes, we wish Secretary Zinke every success in advancing the Federal Government's treaty and trust obligations."

NCAI looks forward to working with Interior Secretary Zinke in addressing the broad range of issues affecting Native communities today, advancing jobs and economic development while conserving and managing the natural resources, lands and communities of North America.

Payment has already met with the new Trump Administration White House Native American Adviser and two Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Interior. "I was among a handful of tribal leaders who provided an orientation to Secretary Jewell in 2012 and hope to serve in an advisory capacity for Secretary Zinke if requested," he said.

Introduced bills would terminate EPA and eliminate programs

BY RICK SMITH

Folks who like clean air, water and land might want to keep a close watch on a couple of pieces of legislation now under consideration by committees in the U.S. House of Representatives.

House Republicans Matt Gaetz of Florida and Sam Johnson of Texas recently sponsored bills aimed at terminating the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and eliminating EPA responsibilities to safeguard against environmental pollution.

Gaetz introduced *H.R. 861, To Terminate the Environmental Protection Agency*, on Feb. 3, 2017. The bill simply reads, "The Environmental Protection Agency shall terminate on Dec. 31, 2018."

While the bill makes no mention of where EPA responsibilities of environmental protection would be assumed, Gaetz claimed in a press release the measure would leave environmental protection in the hands of state and local communities. "This legislation is necessary because it is the states and local communities that are best positioned to responsibly regulate the environmental assets within their jurisdictions," he said. "The American people are drowning in rules and regulations promulgated by unelected bureaucrats; and the Environmental Protection Agency has become an extraordinary offender. Our small businesses cannot afford to cover the costs associated with compliance, too often leading to closed doors and unemployed Americans."

The bill was referred to House committees on Energy and Commerce; Agriculture; Transportation and Infrastructure; Science, Space and Technology.

Pundits say Gaetz's bill is merely a stunt proposed by a novice. And, since it appears no companion legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate, it doesn't appear anything could happen soon.

First sworn into the U.S. House last January, Gaetz is a

34-year-old lawyer and politician elected to the U.S. House fresh from serving six years in the Florida House of Representatives. His father, Don Gaetz, is the current president of the Florida Senate.

Johnson introduced *H.R. 958, the Wasteful EPA Programs Elimination Act of 2017* on Feb. 7. This bill would essentially gut EPA responsibilities and programs. It would terminate all existing EPA grant programs and prohibit the creation of any other grants through the agency.

The bill would prohibit the EPA to use any funding for ozone protections and eliminate funding to regulate greenhouse gases, which are defined as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons.

Certain programs, such as the National Clean Diesel Campaign and the environmental justice programs, would be terminated along with the elimination of state, regional, district and local field offices.

Another section of the bill mandates the disposal or leasing of equipment and facilities deemed as underused.

"This bill would terminate or eliminate federal funding for 13 wasteful EPA programs, would close all EPA field offices and require the EPA to lease or sell all underutilized properties," said Johnson in a prepared statement. "American taxpayers certainly don't need to be paying for the EPA's empty and unused buildings and its wasteful programs. This bill would save taxpayers more than \$7.5 billion and is supported by the conservative Heritage Foundation."

Johnson, age 86, has served in the House since 1991 and announced last January he will not seek reelection in 2018.

It appears no companion legislation has been introduced into the U.S. Senate.

Both bills can be seen in their entirety on official government congressional tracking web sites.

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Anishinaabemowin 2017

Wishing without working is like fishing without bait.

Like making maple syrup all good things take some effort.

Ziisbaakdoke Giizis Sugar-Making Moon

By Susan Askwith

Pronunciation guide

Let's just stick with these basics: Letters sound like they do in reading English, except for these ones.

a	sounds like U in cup	i	sounds like I in fit
aa	sounds like A in fall	ii	sounds like EE in feed
o	sounds like OO in book	e	sounds like E in fed
oo	sounds like O in grow	g	sounds only like g in go
nh	has no sound at all; it is only a SIGN that the vowel in front of it is said in a nasal way.		

English has a lot of strange spellings. Our system of writing is easier. We pronounce all the letters shown, even if we say some of them pretty fast and some are pretty quiet.

THE TWO BIGGEST COMPLAINTS we get are that people don't see how to pronounce the words, and that the words are too long.

1. **PLEASE** go slow at sounding out the words. Follow the pronunciation guide **like a map to a pot of gold**. It works!! You don't have to talk fast.

2. Our words are long because they often mean a whole sentence. Sometimes the word has little parts that have meanings, and the pieces add together. It varies. Also our words have different shades of meaning. Look at this month's health comment "Naagidowendizan". It really means tend to yourself as you would tend your garden. We have a different word which would still say "take care of yourself" but it would mean "go easy on yourself". Very cool.

Miinan Ninaatik Ziiwaagmide Wiiskobizi Bkwezhigan ezhi-dgongeng Blueberry Maple Syrup Sweet Bread Recipe

1/3 mnikwaajigaanhs zaawmide miinwaa
aapta mnikwaajigaanhs zaawa ziisbaakwat
wewiip ndaajjiaan. 3 waawaanooon ka toon
bibezhik, ndaajjiaan, miidash aapta
mnikwaajigaanhs ninaatik ziiwaagmide miinwaa
aapta mnikwaajigaanhs doodooshaaboo.

2 1/4 mnikwaajigaanhs bashdaawngak-bkwejigan
miinwaa 3 emkwaan bisigijgan ka toon.
Ndaajjiaan pane! Nengaa ka toon bezhik
shi aapta mnikwaajigaanhs miinan.

Biinji nswe bkwezhigan dnizigaanhsan
zaawmide miinwaa baashdaawngaak-
bkwezhigan ka toon, miidash naknigan.

Swaak shi naanmidna ka pidooon gzhaabkizigan.
Ngodbagiiswaan biindaapkewebinan sa.

1/3 cup butter and
half cup brown sugar
stir fast. Three eggs you will put in
one at a time, stir, then half
cup maple syrup and
half cup milk.

2 1/4 cups flour
and 3 tsp baking power you put
Stir all the time. Carefully add 1-
and-a-half cups blueberries.

In three small bread pans
butter and flour-
you will put, then the batter.

350°F you will set the oven.
One hour you will bake it.

*For practice, circle the words for: maple syrup, one, and bread.
You can probably identify the words for: cup, half, eggs, milk!*

A NUMBER of things!!

Can you count to 10 yet?! Let's go! Bezhik, niizh, nswe, niiwin, naanan, ngodwaaswi, niizhwaaswi, nshwaaswi, zhaangswi, mdaaswi! Great! We've worked on these the last two months. Now for an *EASY* time from 10-20! These numbers say "10 and ___". In counting we say "shi" for "and".

Eleven is 10 and one midaaswi shi bezhik

Twelve is 10 and two midaaswi shi niizh

Thirteen is 10 and three midaaswi shi nswe

Take these next ones yourself!

Fourteen is 10 and four _____

Fifteen is 10 and five _____

Sixteen is 10 and six _____

Seventeen is 10 and seven _____

Eighteen is 10 and eight _____

Nineteen is 10 and nine _____

Twenty has a new name: niizhtana

notice the 2 (niizh) in this word, plus the ending "tana".

We'll use that ending a number of times in future counting.

Health Comments of the Month

Naagidowendizan Take care of yourself.

Naagidowenim jichaak, ge'ii. Take care of your spirit, too.

Weather Comments of the Month

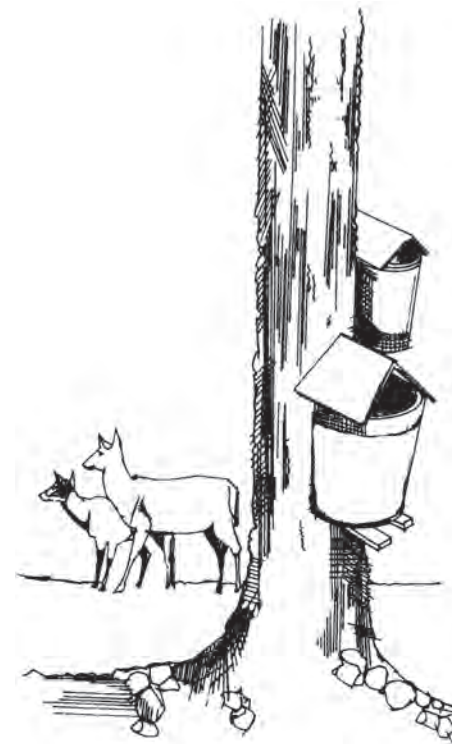
Geyaabi mikoomiikaa It is still icy.

Aabwaa It is mild.

(only said about a winter day)

Going further

There is a YouTube channel called "Nishin" that has some videos that are fun for everyone, and a great way to learn. We suggest you go to YouTube, and type this in: Namkawaawaan megwa bbaamsed. The video lasts 1:45 minutes, and helps you ask and answer the question, "How are you?" What a super way to stick the words and pronunciations in your mind!



Ziisbaakdakaaning baa zhaadaa!

Let's go around to the sugar camp!

Mnookmi zhaazhi!

It is spring already!

Mino-giizhigat miinwaa gsinaa naagshig.

It is warm in the day and cold in the night.

Wii ziisbaadakewok Ziisbaakwat Minising.

They are going to make syrup on Sugar Island.

Ngo-kosgigan masan aabdik kwii yaa naanin.

A pile of firewood we will have to get.

Ninaatik maaba.

This is a maple tree.

Kikoonhsak goojinook ninaatigong.

Pails are hanging on the maple trees.

G'chi njigaa ziisbakdaaboo.

The sap is running good.

Nde ziibakdaaboo.

The sap is boiling.

Aabidek wii kawaamjigaadek ziisbaakdaaboo.

The sap has to be watched carefully.

Ninaatig ziiwaagmide kwii mijinaa waabang.

We will be eating maple syrup tomorrow.

Gjibadan! Wii minapagwat.

Taste it! It will taste good.

Ezaasgakwaadek bkwezhigan ka digwa mijinaa.

We'll have fried bread with it.

Miigwech kina waya!

Thank you, everyone!

Please save this page! Each month this year we will have another. Bit by bit we will learn together.

State of Indian Nations delivered, Congress responds

By RICK SMITH

National Congress of American Indians President Brian Cladoosby delivered the annual State of Indian Nations address to Indian Country representatives and congressional leaders on Feb. 13 in Washington, D.C. Afterwards, Jon Hoeven, the Republican chairman, and Tom Udall, the Democratic vice chairman, of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs delivered their responses.

“The federal election in November marked the end of the Obama presidency and the most successful government-to-government relationship Indian people have enjoyed since the formation of the United States,” Cladoosby said after introductory remarks. “We welcome President Trump and look forward to working with the Trump administration to build on the tremendous success of the last eight years.”

Cladoosby reflected on the peculiar relationships the United States has with the indigenous nations of Indian Country within its borders. Relationships created by treaties, laws and trust. He described trust as a “sacred

obligation accepted by the federal government in exchange for the millions of acres of land we ceded that created the greatest nation in the world.” Cladoosby also delved into some of the history between the U.S. and Indian Country and how that history is not truly taught in schools.

Changes and improvements in Indian Country during the Obama administration came because the federal government adopted policies that encouraged tribal self-sufficiency and autonomy in meeting challenges. In essence, the federal role evolved, becoming less paternalistic, into more of a partnership. “Tribes are stepping up,” Cladoosby pointed out, “not only to take care of their own people, but to take care of their entire region.” He cited several examples of specific tribes improving the lives of their citizenry and neighbors. Citing some numbers he said, “Nearly 72,000 tribal farm operators run more than 56,000 farms with a market value of products that exceed \$3 billion.”

He added Indian Country is ready to work with “anyone and everyone” willing to help strengthen the U.S. “So

this is what we ask of the new Congress and the new administration,” he advised. “Make good on the promise of our trust relationship. Abide by the treaties. Affirm the wisdom of local decision making — by Indian Country, for Indian Country.”

Cladoosby spelled out some equality challenges still needing to be address, such as the ability to issue tax-exempt bonds, economic development, infrastructure improvements, tax equalization issues, education and other matters. He also challenged Congress to back up their investment ideas and fund authorized programs. Further, he said tribes should be involved in local decisions starting at the earliest stages. He cited the Dakota Access Pipeline dispute as one of several examples of what happens when tribes are not involved. He also gave several positive examples of what happens when tribes are involved in projects from start to finish.

Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Senator Jon Hoeven (R-N.D.) in delivering his reply to the address said, “I agree with President Cladoosby that together we can build a stronger

America. I am committed to working with you, Mr. President, to do just that. I believe that if we work in a bi-partisan way, we can create jobs and raise the standard of living and quality of life in Indian communities across this great land. This has been the long-standing position and priority of the committee as well.”

Hoeven went into more detail about his understanding of Indian Country challenges and successes as well as congressional actions concerning tribes.

While Hoeven favors continued construction on the Dakota Access Pipeline, he made no mention of that particular issue specifically, but did mention addressing issues of inequality when it came to energy development on Indian lands.

Hoeven went on to cite some examples of congressional measures in which he was involved that benefitted Indian Country.

Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.), vice chairman of the committee, denounced President Trump’s measure to advance the Dakota Access Pipeline without consulting the tribes at the heart of the issue. “Let me be clear,” he said, “I stand with Standing Rock.”

Udall said he intends to help Indian Country to be heard, “Tribal consultation must be substantive and meaningful,” he said. “It is not just a check box of the process. This is a fundamental principle of government-to-government relationships.”

In addition, Udall expressed hope in keeping the tradition of bipartisanship to the greatest extent possible on Indian Country issues in Congress.

The Senator spoke at length on some of the issues facing Indian Country before coming to the question of whether the annual White House Tribal Nations Conference started in the early days of the Obama administration would continue under the new administration. “I hope the new president continues to hold and attend the annual Tribal Nations Conference,” said Udall, “and that he maintains the White House Native American Council — so that Native issues are systematically given cabinet-level attention and consideration.”

Udall said it is important all should continue working together to help Indian Country at all levels, be they tribal, local, state and national.

SCIA passes nine bills on to the Senate floor for voting

By RICK SMITH

The U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs recently passed nine bills regarding Indian Country. Five of the bills address specified issues for certain tribes, but four apply to all tribes across the country.

The four general bills propose clarifications on the rights of Indian tribes on Indian lands under the *National Labor Relations Act*; amending a 1992 act to help tribes integrate an array of federal sources for employment, training and related services; providing reauthorizing and adding more flexibility for American Indian language programs; and enhancement of safety on tribal roads.

Up first, the *Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2017*, defines American Indian tribes or associated enterprises and institutions on tribal lands as employers exempt from the National Labor Relations Act, just as is the case with the United States,

the Federal Reserve Bank and state governments. According to the National Labor Relations Board, “Congress enacted the National Labor Relations Act in 1935 to protect the rights of employees and employers, to encourage collective bargaining and to curtail certain private sector labor and management practices, which can harm the general welfare of workers, businesses and the U.S. economy.”

The bill also provides definitions for Indian tribes as any federally recognized American Indian tribe, band, nation, pueblo or other organization; Indian individuals as members of an Indian tribe and Indian lands as “all lands within the limits of any Indian reservation.” The bill further includes tribal lands held in trust by the United States for the benefit of tribes.

“This bill is intended to provide clarity and parity to tribes by treating them as governments, on par with state

and federal governments, by the National Labor Relations Board,” remarked the committee chairman, Senator John Hoeven (R-N.D.).

Second, the *Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017*, amends a 1992 act of the same name “to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training and related services from diverse federal sources and for other purposes.”

The amendment outlines steps to be taken by tribes and the Secretary of the Interior and other federal officials to plan and develop collaborations and funding for a variety of programs in support of employment, training and associated services.

Third is the *Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act* would be reauthorized through 2022 by a bill that would also allow for

greater flexibility in class size requirements and funding for instruction on American Indian languages. Funding through the Health and Human Services Administration for Native Americans would increase the maximum duration of grants and set the minimum number of enrollees in language education

programs at five students of “language nests” and 10 students in American Indian language survival schools.

And the *Tribal Infrastructure and Roads Enhancement and Safety (TIRES) Act*, also called the *John P. Smith Act*, would mainly fund projects to help improve safety on tribal roads.

Bills would add flexibility in Native language funding

FUNDING FOR SMALLER GROUPS, YOUNGER KIDS, LONGER GRANTS

By RICK SMITH

A pair of bills recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate reauthorizes the *Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act*. In addition, the legislation reauthorizes and amends the *Native American Programs Act of 1974* to allow for more flexibility to help American Indian languages “to endure with vitality.”

The bill in the House, H.R.

1169, and its Senate companion bill, S. 254, would allow grant funding for groups as small as five children under the age of 7 involved in language preservation activities. Students would have to average 500 hours of instruction per year. Further, the bills would authorize grant funding for 500 hours of American Indian language instruction for groups of at least 10 students receiving language instruction as part of courses in Native survival schools.

Duration of these language grants, if the bills become enacted, would be lengthened from three-years to a maximum

of five years and the *Native American Programs Act* would be reauthorized through the year 2022.

The *Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act* was enacted in 2006 and funds programs supporting American Indian language instruction and preservation.

The Native American Programs Act of 1974 promotes the economic and social self-sufficiency for American Indians and supports the Administration for American Indians under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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New maternity store opens in Sault Ste. Marie

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Realizing there is a need in Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding areas for a one-stop shop for maternity and baby items, local midwife and Sault Tribe member Andrea (nee Jacques) Donmyer recently hosted a grand opening for her store – bUmP & Tot.

Donmyer said she realized 14 years ago when she was pregnant with her oldest child that there was a lack of options in the Sault for maternity and baby items. “Every time I had a baby I thought a store would be a good idea. I was pregnant last year when I started looking into it, and once I had the baby we started making it a reality,” she said.

bUmP & tot opened in late December and is located on the corner of Ashmun Street, occupying about 500 square feet in the same building as Island Books. The area of the building they are using as store space had been boarded up since the 1960s. The buildings owner recently received a grant to do some work to it, including installing new windows – allowing him to open up more retail space. Donmyer said her husband, Ron Donmyer, did most of the remodeling work inside the store.

Creating a baby friendly

environment was important to Donmyer, whose two employees both have babies that often accompany them to work.

Donmyer said many of their clients are aunts, grandmothers, sisters and friends buying gifts for other people. And of course pregnant moms shopping for maternity clothing, nursing supplies and nursing friendly clothing are finding bUmP & Tot a big help. Donmyer said they are hoping to establish clients in outlying areas, including St. Ignace, Cedarville, Newberry and Hessel as well as Canada.

Most items the store carries are made in the USA, but Donmyer said it takes a lot of research to make that happen. “Not everything is made in the USA, but that is our goal,” she said. “We also buy Michigan products if and when we can. We have a line of baby and toddler shirts made by a lady in Boyne City, and also carry hats and other items from Stormy Kromer located in the U.P., and Michigan teethers from downstate. We also have some hats that are made by a lady in the Sault.”

Donmyer said they received support and encouragement from Sault’s Small Business Development Center Consultant

Josh Billington, who told her, “You can make this happen.”

While husband Ron manages the daily operation of the store, Donmyer, RN, CNM, continues to work full time as a midwife providing holistic healthcare from before conception to after the birth, offering midwife and other OB/GYN services through Sault Women’s Healthcare. With a Post-Master’s Certificate in women’s health and a Master’s in Nurse Midwifery from the University of Cincinnati, she can provide OB/GYN care to meet the needs of all her patients and is board certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board.

The Donmyer’s are parents to Emma, 14, Ava, 11, Lola, 4 and Gunnar, 7 months. Their oldest daughter, Emma, helped deliver baby brother Gunnar and is showing an interest in midwifery and in working at bUmP & Tot during the summer months. Donmyer said, “If you come in and don’t see what you are looking for let us know - we are always adding products.”

bUmP & Tot is located at 119 Ashmun Street in downtown Sault Ste. Marie. You can also find them on Facebook by doing a search for bUmP & Tot.



Above, bUmP & tot sign in front of the store. Below, store interior.



STLE helps in solving Ohio missing person case

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

A man searching for his missing brother’s face in a crowd, drugs, alcohol and a nomadic lifestyle all sound like something from a who-done-it novel. Then there is the fact that the missing man, James “Jim” Francis Williams, was a Native American from Michigan whose family had been looking for him for 37 years, and you had a

Escanaba Traditional Powwow March 25



Escanaba’s “Caring for Our Elders” Traditional Powwow will be held Saturday, March 25, at the Escanaba High School Gymnasium, 500 S Lincoln Rd. in Escanaba.

Host drum is Medicine Bear; co-host drum, Niiwin Nimkii; invited drum, Munising Bay Singers; Emcee, Joe Medicine; Head Veteran, Glen Bressette Sr.; Arena Director, Glen Bressette Jr.; Head Male Dancer, Shawn Paul; Head Female Dancer, Shaynee Showano.

Grand entry is at 12 p.m., the potluck feast, 5 p.m., and retiring of the flags, 7 p.m.

Free admission, all drums welcome, limited vendor space.

For more information, call Jennifer at (906) 241-9733.

real life mystery. This four-decade missing person case was solved recently with help from Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Detective Sgt. Mike Pins.

The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office (CCMEO) in Cleveland, Ohio, in collaboration with the Berea Police Department, Grand Haven Department of Public Safety (MI) and Sault Tribe Law Enforcement, were able to identify Williams as a man killed by a train on Nov. 14, 1980, in Berea, Ohio.

During that time period they used all means available to identify the victim, believed to be of Asian or American Indian descent, and in his late 20s, through the local media and fingerprints.

The unidentified man was eventually buried in Memorial Park (Potter’s Field) in Cleveland, Ohio.

The man searching crowds for his brother’s face for almost four decades was Louie Williams, now 68, who had lost touch with his brother – an alcoholic and drifter who was part Odawa and Chippewa – in 1974. Jim Williams would have been 35 years old on that fateful day in 1980, and his brother believes could have been drinking and in a blackout when the train accident happened.

When Jim Williams was 17, the brothers stole a car and drove across state lines, landing Jim in prison, but younger brother Louie, who was 13 at the time, didn’t face lasting consequences. That arrest later proved critical to identifying Jim Williams’ body.

The fingerprints taken in 1980 from the deceased vic-

tim of the train accident were linked to Williams this year through the use of new technology and the hard work of the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiners DNA Parentage and Identification Department, which investigates cold cases.

The fingerprints from the train wreck victim led investigators to an old Grand Haven, Mich., arrest report that named the Williams brothers as suspects, and were a positive match for Jim Williams.

Grand Haven detectives then contacted Detective Sgt. Pins, who searched tribal rolls and used traditional law enforcement databases to track down his brother Louie Williams in January, and make next of kin notification of Jim Williams’ death.

Pins said he gathered information on Jim Williams through phone calls with his brother, who he now calls and chats with about once a week.

Dr. Harmeet Kaur, CCMEO Parentage and Identification director and quality manager, said this case highlighted the importance of collaboration and communication between different units of the laboratory, and local, state and federal agencies.

Kaur said, “This identification would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of the Parentage and Identification, Fingerprints and Investigation units of the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office, and the help and information provided by Berea Police Department, Grand Haven Department of Public Safety, Sault Tribe Police Department, Luce County Clerk, and NamUs.”



A four-decade missing person case was solved recently with help from Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Detective Sgt. Mike Pins.

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Congressional resolution aims light on missing, murdered indigenous women

FROM THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER WASHINGTON, D.C. —

The reported rates of abduction and murder of American Indian women and girls are alarming. However, Native women advocates say, too often these terrible crimes go ignored by law enforcement and media.

"Indigenous women go missing twice — once in real life and a second time in the news" said Amanda Takes War Bonnet, public education specialist of the Native Women's Society of the Great Plains. War Bonnet was part of a panel during the *Moving Ahead In Addressing Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Efforts to Address Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls congressional briefing on Feb. 15*, to provided legislators and the public with an overview of this urgent issue.

"These are not new crimes, but a pattern of crimes that has existed for decades upon decades," said Terri Henry, secretary of state, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, co-chair, NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women, and board chair, Indian Law Resource Center. Henry says colonization and the policies that followed have created circumstances of vulnerability for Native women and children. "As governments, we are here today to begin



THE CANADIAN PRESS/Fred Chartrand

Carol-Ann Moses takes part in a rally on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Oct. 4, 2013, by the Native Women's Association of Canada honouring the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

the process of acknowledging missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women so that as governments we can act to stop these horrific crimes."

To help bring attention to these tragic, often undocumented crimes, Montana senators Steve Daines and Jon Tester introduced Senate Resolution 60 on Feb. 13 — a resolution calling for the designation of May 5, 2017, as a "National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls." Senators James Lankford (Okla.), Cory Gardner (Colo.), Al Franken (Minn.), John Hoeven (N.D.), and

Tom Udall (N.M.) co-sponsored the resolution. Speaking at the briefing, Sen. Daines noted that May 5 was chosen because it is the birthday of Hanna Harris, a Northern Cheyenne woman who went missing in July of 2013 and was found murdered several days later.

"We all know someone," said Tami Truett Jerue, executive director, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center. "I remember as a child hearing my mother, my aunts and their friends at the kitchen table lowering their voices and whispering about those women in our families who

went missing or were murdered." Alaska Natives are 16 percent of the population in Alaska, but 28 percent of the murder victims according to statistics. "I hope this resolution will increase awareness and alert villages and programs to develop protocols for an immediate response. I hope it will inform the criminal justice system's response to view a disappearance for what it is — extremely dangerous."

"Before we can address and end any injustice, we must first acknowledge the injustices," said Cherrah Giles, chairwoman, board of directors, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. "This Senate resolution is the beginning of that acknowledgment. Stand with us on May 5 to acknowledge and honor Indian women who are missing or murdered. As we come to understand the roots of violence against Indian women, we can continue to remove the barriers to their safety."

Nearly 200 tribal, national and state organizations have supported the resolution, which calls for designating May 5, 2017, as a day to honor the lives of those missing and murdered and demonstrate solidarity with families that have lost a loved one through violence. Speakers urged participants to contact their senators and ask them to co-sponsor the resolution.

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, the

Indian Law Resource Center, and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center co-sponsored the briefing in cooperation with Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. Senator Lisa Murkowski, along with senators Daines and Tester spoke at the briefing. Juana Majel Dixon, co-chair, NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women, and member of the Traditional Legislative Counsel, Pauma Band of Luiseno Mission Indians gave the traditional welcome and opening prayer.

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides technical assistance and training, policy development and system management, materials, and resource information on violence against Native women and the development of tribal strategies and responses to end the violence. Learn more about the organization at www.niwrcc.org.

Founded in 1978, the Indian Law Resource Center is a non-profit organization established and directed by American Indians and dedicated to protecting the rights of Indian and Alaska Native nations and other indigenous peoples throughout the Americas. The Center's Safe Women, Strong Nations project works to end the epidemic levels of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women and children.

Walking on...

RUSSELL HUDAK

Russell Gordon Hudak, 76, of Cheboygan, passed away on Feb. 22, 2017, at his home. Russell was born on Oct. 17, 1940, in Cheboygan to Clarence and Margaret (nee Morrow) Hudak.



Russ worked several jobs before going to work for the State of Michigan. He worked in the Forestry Department for 10 years, then transferred to MDOT where he was a bridge operator on the Cheboygan's State Street draw bridge for 10 years, then was promoted to chief bridge operator for 10 years before his retirement in 1997.

Russ loved spending time in the woods, hunting and especially snowshoe rabbits. When he wasn't hunting you could find him out trout fishing. He was an excellent cook and will be remembered for his smoked delicacies. Russ had a great love for his dogs, which he walked faithfully every day.

Russ was extremely proud to be Native American and an elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Russell is survived by his wife of 54 years, Dorothy; three children, Kim (Burt) Cameron of Levering, Russell (Kathy) Hudak of Cheboygan, Richard (Jeanette) Hudak of Cheboygan, and son-in-law Mark Striebich of Cheboygan; nine grandchildren, Trish (Arron) Sheridan, Kendra

(Brian fiancé) Blaskowski, Samantha (Dustin fiancé) Hudak, Sierra Hudak, Austin Striebich, Chase Striebich, Daniel Hudak and Andrew Hudak; four great children, Acea, Ashland, Roman and Leland; brother, Ronald (Ruth) Hudak of DeTour; sister, Anne (Dave) McCormick of Cheboygan, and his beloved furry friends, Shadow, Doc, Taz, and Monkey Butt.

Russell was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Margaret Hudak; daughter, Julie Striebich; granddaughter, Chelsea Hayes; sisters Theresa Brasseur and Pat St. Amour; and a brother, Clarence Hudak.

Private services will take place at a later date.

Arrangements are in care of the Beck Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be addressed through www.beckfuneralhome.org.

PATRICIA NIGRO

Patricia (nee Fox) Nigro of Central Nyack, N.Y., passed away on Jan. 23, 2017. She was born on Dec. 7, 1937, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Reginald and Agnes Fox.

Pat is survived by her loving husband of 58 years, Ray; son, Darren; brothers, Leonard (Helen), Lyle (Tina), Lowell (Joanne) and Ted (Marijo); and many in-laws, nieces and nephews.

Pat was preceded in death by her son, Ray; brother, Gerald; and nephew, Mike.

A memorial service took place on Jan. 28, 2017, at the Sorce Funeral Home in West Nyack, N.Y.

EDWARD J. LYNCH

Edward J. Lynch, 77, of Whitehall, Mich., died peacefully at home on March 1, 2017, after a long battle with emphysema. He was born Sept. 2, 1939, in South Portland, Maine, to John and Monica (nee Tardiff) Lynch. He married Irmgard Winkler on March 22, 1974, in Annweiler, Germany.



After his father's death in 1946, Edward moved to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., with his mother and brother, Phil. A move to Muskegon was made in 1956 where he graduated from Muskegon Catholic Central in 1957. In his heart, he graduated from Loretto and is happy to be carried on their rolls as a member of the class of '57. After attending Western Michigan University for a year and a half, he joined the United States Army in 1959 and made a 20-year career of it, spending 12 years in Germany and two in Vietnam. His military decorations included three Bronze Stars and the Meritorious Service Medal. He returned to Muskegon in 1979. He began a second career in 1980 with Cannon-Muskegon Corporation, which lasted 23 years and included positions as lab technician, lab assistant and a brief stint as laboratory supervisor. He retired from Cannon-Muskegon in 2004. Throughout his second career he and his family spent many summer vacations in Barbeau, renting a cottage along the St.

Mary's River just down the road past Rock Cut. He had moved to Whitehall in 1997 and enjoyed the remainder of his life there as he considered it the nicest community he had ever lived in.

Edward is survived by his beloved wife, Irmgard; his sons, Kim of Muskegon and Kai of Whitehall; grandchildren, Drew and Sage of Whitehall; brother, Philip (Arlene) of Rapid City, S.D.; brother-in-law, Dieter (Susanne) Winkler of Germany; nephews, Edward (Patti) of S.D., Dennis (Marilyn) and Kyle (Brenda) of Colorado, Christian

and Patrick of Germany, and niece, Kathrin of Germany. Relatives from Germany have all visited in Sault Ste. Marie, Whitehall and/or Muskegon at one time or another.

Edward was preceded in death by his parents; his wife's parents, Karl and Hilde Winkler; and a son, Philip.

Funeral services took place March 4 at Beacon Cremation & Funeral Service, White Lake Chapel, in Whitehall.

Memorial contributions may be made to Harbor Hospice.

See "Walking on," pg. 16

19th Annual Family Celebration

EVENT INFORMATION:
Monday, March 27, 2017
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Chi-Mukwa Recreation Center
 (Big Bear) 2 Ice Circle
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI

SPECIAL FEATURES:
FREE Pizza and Snacks
FREE Ice Skating/Skate Rental
Bounce House/Games
Prizes Awarded Throughout the Night!

Celebrate Parenting Awareness Month
Local organizations and businesses will have tables with program information for parents and interactive activities for children. Join us in celebrating YOUR family and attend this
TOTALLY FREE EVENT!

****Parental Supervision is REQUIRED!**

Board resolutions through February 21, 2017

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors convened on Dec. 13, 2016, passing nine resolutions and met again January 3, passing nine resolutions and also on January 17, passing four resolutions. All three meetings were held in Sault Ste. Marie.

DEC. 13, 2016 MEETING

Resolution No. 2016-283: Amending Tribal Code Chapter 70 Criminal Procedure to Expand Protection of Tribal Women – Tribal Code Chapter 70 was amended in order to adopt provisions consistent with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

Res. No. 2016-284: Amending Tribal Code Chapter 42: Gaming Ordinance Subject to NIGC Review and Approval – The NIGC had recommended one minor amendment to a previous resolution (2016-247), to clarify the right of licensees to a hearing in cases involving potential revocation of gaming licenses under that Code.

Res. No. 2016-285: Authorization to Purchase a Real Estate Vacant Lot Parcel Across From the JKL School – The purchase of a vacant lot across from JKL Bahweting Anishnabe PSA in Sault Ste. Marie was approved, with funds coming from the Building Fund.

Res. No. 2016-286: COPS TRGP 2014 fiscal year (FY) 2017 Budget Modification – The board approved a budget modification to COPS TRGP 2014, for an increase in Federal DOJ monies of \$26,071.

Res. No. 2016-287: Sugar Island Roads Establishment of FY 2016 Budget – The board approved a FY 2016 budget for Sugar Island roads with Federal monies of \$27,801.

Res. No. 2016-288: Cultural – Ojibwe Language FY 2016 Budget Modification – A budget modification to reallocate expenses was approved.

Res. No. 2016-289: Selection of Outside Counsel for 2020 Great Lakes Treaty Rights Negotiations – The law firm of Morisset, Schlosser, Jozwiak & Somerville of Seattle, Washington was selected to serve as outside legal counsel to the tribe for purposes of negotiation a successor compact to the 2000 Consent Decree.

Res. No. 2016-290: Executive Director – The duties of the tribe's executive director were outlined and approved.

Res. No. 2016-291: To Develop and Implement a Tribal Action Plan for a Comprehensive Prevention and Treatment Program for Alcoholism and Other Substance Abuse – The board adopted the Tribal Action Plan as submitted.

JAN. 3, 2017 MEETING

Res. No. 2017-01: 2017 BIA Tribal Youth Initiative Program Natural Resources Outreach – Signature authority was granted for the 2017 Tribal Youth Initiative Program Grant administered by the BIA.

Res. No. 2017-02: 2017 BIA Endangered Species – Wolf Management – Signature authority was granted for the 2017 Endangered Species Grant administered by the BIA.

Res. No. 2017-03: 2017 BIA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Ruffed Grouse and Adaptive Management – Signature authority was granted for the 2017 Great Lake Restoration Initiative Grant administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Res. No. 2017-04: Environmental – GLRI Tribal Initiative FY 2017 Budget Modification – A budget modification to GLRI tribal initiative for a decrease in Federal EPA monies of \$8,747.55 was approved.

Res. No. 2017-05: Amending Tribal Code Chapter 34: Personal Protection Orders and Injunctions – Tribal Code Chapter 34 was amended by deleting current language at Sections 34.113 and 34.118 and replacing both sections with new language.

Res. No. 2017-06: Review of Tribal Code: Chapter 40: Tribal Assistance Programs – Administration was directed to review proposed legislation and report back to the board for implementing Chapter 40: Tribal Assistance Programs.

Res. No. 2017-07: Authorization to Purchase Real Estate Parcels Adjacent to JKL School – The board approved the purchase of eight real estate parcels adjacent to the school with funds from the Building Fund.

Res. No. 2017-08: Amending Resolution 2016-265, Reinstating 401(k) Matching Contribution – The board approved the reinstatement of a 1% match to the Tribe's 401(k) plan effective January 1, 2017.

Res. No. 2017-09: Economic Development Establishment of FY 2017 Budget – The establishment of an FY 2017 budget for Economic Development was approved with tribal support monies of \$215,171.

JAN. 17, 2017 MEETING

Res. No. 2017-10: Application for State of Michigan – Department of Health and Human Services – Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board – Culturally Specific Underserved (CSU) Grant – The board authorized the application to the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and granted Chairperson Payment authorization to submit the proposal and negotiate, execute and amend any documents resulting from it on the tribe's behalf.

Res. No. 2017-11: Application for the OVW Fiscal Year 2017 Legal Assistance For Victims (LAV) Grant Program – The board approved the application for the grant program and authorized Chairperson Payment to submit the proposal on the tribe's behalf.

Res. No. 2017-12: Feasibility Study – The Economic Development Director was authorized to "...let a request for proposals to secure a feasibility study for energy development outside the existing purchasing policies and authorizes the Purchasing Department to assist the Economic Development Director as he may request."

Res. No. 2017-13: Authorizing the Sale of Property, Eagle Ridge Apartments, Marquette,

Michigan, Real Property – The board authorized the sale of Eagle Ridge Apartments located in Marquette, Michigan, with proceeds from the transaction earmarked for economic development.

The board also met on Feb. 7 and Feb. 21, 2017

FEB. 7 MEETING

Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation funding application approved for FY 2017.

Adopted COLA rules for when wage a grid adjustment is required due to cost of living allowance (COLA), each different/separate grid is to be adjusted in accordance with the specific criteria for that respective grid in the following manner:

- Any COLA adjustment to the wage grid for the tribe's health program compensation plane (HORNE) shall be in accordance with Resolution 2016-280.

- Any COLA adjustment to the wage grid for positions under the Prevailing Wage Ordinance shall be in accordance with Resolution 2002-130.

- Any Cola adjustment to all wage grids other than those listed above, shall be in accordance with applicable law, resolution or grant.

Schedule of prevailing wages approved pursuant to Chapter 97, Section 97.105(2) of the Prevailing Wage Ordinance.

Approval and support granted for submission of a request for FY 2018 litigation support funds by the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Approved and accepted terms to resolve litigation for the failure of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to live up to the representations and promises made to induce the tribe to enter into contracts for administration services.

The tribal tax code was amended regarding tribal hotels near casinos on trust lands to enhance educational and cultural purposes among the tribe's five districts.

A FY 2017 budget modification was approved for sexual assault services for an increase of \$4,448.85 from the U.S. Department of Justice.

A FY 2017 budget modification was approved for Head Start increase of \$49,577 from U.S. Health and Human Services and for Early Head Start for an increase of \$32,673 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

An FY 2017 budget was established for the Family Spirit Program for Inter-Tribal Council (ITC) funds of \$71,000. Another fiscal year 2017 budget was established for \$20,000 through the ITC from the CDC Breast Health Grant.

Fiscal year budget document 003 was approved for \$56,674,615 of which \$16,976,329 comes from tribal support.

An FY 2017 appropriation was approved for \$1,332,020 for governmental capital purchases of which \$724,020 comes from other revenue and \$608,000 from tribal support.

FY 2017 budget document 004 for enterprises was approved for revenue of \$9,664,585 and expenses of \$9,560,428.

An enterprises capital purchase budget for FY 2017 was approved

for \$807,666.

Board Chairman Aaron Payment was nominated to serve a three-year term representing Sault Tribe Housing Authority on the HUD Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee.

FEB. 21 MEETING

Gary "Tom" Derwin was appointed to a two-year term as president of the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) and granted funding from an existing budget to cover travel expenses associated with official duties.

Carol Strauser was appointed to a two-year term as MIEA delegate representing the elders of Sault Tribe.

Remittance of \$15,000 for National Indian Gaming Association dues was approved along with the appointment of Aaron Payment as a delegate and Kenneth Ermatinger and board members as alternates.

Negotiations and contracting for renovation of the George K. Nolan Judicial Building was authorized between the tribe and U.P. Engineers and Architects for design, geotechnical and construction engineering and also authorized expenditures from Department of Justice funding.

A special contract for providing legal services was approved for negotiation with Bruce R.

Greene and Associates. Another contract for legal services was approved for Butzel Long and Plunkett Cooney regarding general civil litigation and related matters.

A special counsel contract was approved for Alexis Lambros and Frost Brown Todd for legal services.

A contract was approved for the law firm of Morisset, Schlosser, Jozwiak and Somerville to represent the tribe in treaty fishing rights issues in the amount of \$77,500 for FY 2017.

FY 2017 budget was established for \$170,896.43 in BIA funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Adaptive Management.

Modifications of the 2017 budgets for general health center medical and nursing and the Manistique Health Clinic was approved for a change of personnel and reallocation of expenses. Another modification.

To see these resolutions and the voting matrix in their entirety, visit www.saulttribe.com. Click on the "Government" link on top of the page, then click on "Board of Directors." On the left under "Menu," click on "Downloads," and look for "Board meeting votes and approved resolutions."

Five Generations



From left, son, Ashton Munro (first birthday); father, Alexander Munro; great-great grandmother Lillian Hoertz; great-grandmother, Kathleen Egert; and grandfather, Ronald Munro.



MORE GRANDBABIES — From back, Melesa Kinney, Ronald Munro, Kathleen Egert, Lillian Hoertz, Ava Kinney and Scarlet Kinney.

Tribe rolls out tribal action plan to combat substance abuse in our tribal communities

Substance abuse is an unforgiving disease that continues to ravage our tribal communities. By implementing a tribal action plan to combat substance abuse, together we can achieve our vision of a healthy Anishinaabe nation.

In 2012, Sault Tribe began the process of drafting such

a plan under a grant Tribal Court received from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. Since that time, a group of the tribe's dedicated team members, members of the tribe's board of directors and community members have worked consistently on this project until the

plan was completed and approved earlier this year by the board of directors.

A brochure for tribal members in the seven-county service area is being mailed out. To ask questions or get involved, contact Tribal Court, (906) 635-4963.



How TAP was created

In 2011, Tribal Court garnered a grant from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, that included funding for establishing a Tribal Action Plan (TAP), an opportunity for tribes codified in the *Tribal Law and Order Act*. The tribe met to discuss the crises of drug abuse and deaths of our young people. Those who attended made a commitment to keep working toward a solution. The board of directors passed a resolution on Nov. 20, 2012, to begin the process of developing a TAP and establishing a TAP Advisory Board to plan and conduct a community assessment in the tribe's service area.

The TAP Advisory Board used community surveys, community forums, focus groups, tribal data and an in-depth interview with a recovering member to make the assessment.

TAP goals

Our TAP is a long-term strategic plan made up of goals we will work toward achieving in the coming years. The TAP is considered a "living document," which means it can be re-evaluated and amended over time to better meet the needs of our members. The objectives for each goal are designed to make that goal work, and each goal aims to make the TAP work. (See goals at right).

TAP implementation

The TAP implementation strategy addresses four areas to ensure TAP continues and succeeds: community commitment, assignment of responsibilities, sustainability and TAP implementation schedule.

TAP will become sustainable and

ongoing through the continual involvement and commitment of the TAP Advisory Board, goal subcommittees and the tribe's board of directors. Instead of a birthright of addiction, our people will have a legacy of recovery to pass down to future generations.

Current status, next steps

The board of directors approved the TAP and a TAP coordinator position is posted.

In the ongoing effort to combat substance abuse, the tribe is already providing many programs, services and events, such as:

- Annual Recovery Walk
- Gwaiak Miicon (Drug Court) and federal court collaboration
- Family Preservation Court
- Criminal Code amendments

- Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Narcan (opiate antidote to stop overdoses) units
 - Public service announcements
 - Prescription drug drop box
 - Promotional handouts (magnets with important phone numbers, "Sault Tribe Strong" bracelets)
 - Continued staff training, (e.g., drug identification and recognition)
 - Exploring use of Vivitrol (treats opiate and alcohol addiction, easing drug cravings) through IHS
 - Health clinic extended hours
 - After-hours care with triage nurse
 - Sobriety powwow and community powwows
 - Family fun nights
 - Traditional feasts
- To read the entire plan, see "TAP Action Plan" on the front page of www.saulttribe.com.

Tribal Action Plan goals will make plan work

GOAL 1 — Prevention education and activities are available throughout the tribe's service area.

- Achieve a 15 percent increase in participation rates to family-friendly community events by the end of year one.
- Research, plan and implement evidence-based prevention programs for youth by the end of month 18.
- Organize and establish family and community-driven substance abuse support groups by the end of year one.
- Complete a cost analysis report containing each objective needed to complete goal one by the end of month 12.

GOAL 2 — Substance abuse data collection methodology and plan is implemented and sustainable.

- Complete a data plan, supported across departments, which includes a full review of past surveys, by the end of month 18.
- Complete a cost analysis report containing each objective needed to complete goal two by the end of year one.



GOAL 3 — Treatment is accessible to all members seeking treatment services.

- Complete a feasibility plan for a "continuum of care wellness campus," including medical detox, culturally appropriate residential treatment and transitional housing by the end of year two.

GOAL 4 — Healing-to-wellness courts are implemented throughout the tribe's service area.

- Establish and operate a detox center/inpatient treatment center (four- to six-week program) by the end of year three.
- Establish and operate a residential treatment center/transitional living center (three- to six-month program) by the end of year three.
- Create a supportive, therapeutic, sober-living housing community (six-month program) by the end of year three.
- Complete a cost analysis report containing each objective needed to complete goal three by the end of year one.



GOAL 5 — Culture and traditional medicine are integrated into the tribal justice system.

- Develop a list of accessible traditional and cultural resources available across the service area by the end of year one.
- Integrate traditional alternatives into current justice system practices by the end of year one.
- Complete a cost analysis report containing each objective needed to complete goal five by the end of year one.
- Design, implement and operate a re-entry drug court program

by the end of month 18.

- Complete a cost analysis report containing each objective needed to complete goal four by the end of year one.



GOAL 6 — Accessible transportation for members seeking prevention and treatment services.

- Develop and coordinate transportation services to prevention events by the end of year one.
- Complete a cost analysis report including all steps needed to complete goal six by year one's end.

GOAL 7 — The tribe continues to commit resources to our Tribal Action Plan.

- Create complete list of resources needed to support TAP by the end of month three.
- Establish memorandums of understanding with community partners for provision of resources and services.
- Hire a TAP coordinator.
- Sault Tribe Board of Directors approves a budget for the necessary resources to support the TAP annually.



JKL Bahweting students enjoy storytelling and snow snake competition

By Rick Smith

Students, parents and staff of JKL Bahweting Public School Academy in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., enjoyed the conclusion of the 2016-17 storytelling season on March 2. The cultural observation began with tasty salads, sandwiches and other goodies in the school's cafeteria, before 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 in the classrooms beginning in January and ending in the first week of March with an invitational session. One of the school's teachers, Dr. Chris Gordon, is also the culture and language coordinator for the

school. He started this year's session with a brief examination of the functions of stories in all cultures and particularly among Anishinaabe folks.

Gordon conducted another modern day version of an Anishinaabe custom in the bright sunshine of the following day with the 16th annual Bill Morrison Shoshiimaan Championship, a snow snake competition on a 300-foot long icy 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 induce 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.

"The students spent several weeks sanding and then wood burning Anishinaabe woodland designs in preparation for the competition," said Gordon. "The sticks are pre-cut so they only have to sand them. They do not get practice typically due to the time it takes to get the track ready and actually being out there."

The entire fifth grade competed in preliminary runoffs to produce a field of 10 finalists who vied for either an eagle head championship trophy as well as second or third place medals. The winners this year were Ryan Eicher taking first place with a shoot of 171 feet, Garret O'Dell with a shoot of 160 feet took second place and Starr Austin captured third with a slide of 157.5 feet.

Photos by Rick Smith



Dr. Chris Gordon, JKL culture and language coordinator and instructor, speaks to the assembly about customs of storytelling among cultures as he facilitates the program.



Fourth grade student Serenity Yonkers leads off the storytelling with an Anishinaabe version of the Cinderella tale.



Fifth grade student Steven Habusta tells a tale about oak trees to the gathering.



Second grade student Lilly-Ann Pratt concludes a story in which she used a toy snowy owl with a rotating head as a visual aid while she gave an account of how it came to be that owls turn their heads to extreme degrees.



After his snow snake has run the course, a student hustles off toward Dr. Gordon in the distance to check his distance.



The snow snake track with youngsters waiting for the competition to start.



A student launches her snow snake onto the track.



A student aligns her snow snake just before launch.

Purple loosestrife: another invasive species

LAURA COLLINS-DOWNWIND, ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Many invasive species that have infested the United States and Canada were brought here for their aesthetic value for flower gardens. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is one of the invasive species brought over for its beauty. What people did not know was how that species would spread and threaten the native plant species of our area.

Purple loosestrife was brought to the United States and Canada in the early 1800s by settlers from Europe and Asia who wanted the plant for their flower gardens. Seeds were also brought over in ship ballast holds from European ships, which used soil to weight down the vessel for ocean stabilization.

Purple loosestrife is a semi-aquatic perennial plant that can rapidly degrade wetlands and is hardy enough to encroach on farmlands and rangelands. It is estimated that over 469,500

acres of wetland, marshes, pastures, and riparian meadows in the United States are affected by purple loosestrife. Wildlife and native plant species are choked out by this invasive.

The leaves are downy, with smooth edges arranged opposite of each other in pairs alternating down the stalk at 90 degree angles. The perennial rootstock on mature plants are extensive and can send out up to 30 to 50 shoots, creating the dense web that chokes out other plant life. Purple loosestrife flowers are purple spikes that develop on the top of each stem. Each stem contains five to seven individual petaled purple flowers.

Sault Tribe and the local partner, Three Shores CISMA, treat Purple loosestrife by hand pulling, clipping tops, and, in some cases, pesticides or biological control methods are used. Consistency is key when it comes to management of this invasive species.

Sault Tribe Environmental has begun a "See Something, Say Something" campaign.

If you have a sighting of any invasive species, please contact

the Environmental Department at (906) 632-5575 or the Three

Shores CISMA at (906) 632-9611.



Above, purple loosestrife chokes out another wetland. Over 469,500 acres of wetland, marshes, pastures, and riparian meadows in the United States are affected by purple loosestrife. It is best to contact the Environmental Dept. when you see some — it is easily confused with Native wildflowers, as seen below.



Purple Loosestrife, INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT



Blazing Star, Native Wildflower



Fireweed, Native Wildflower



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Cutting number of deer tags per member not warranted from a biological standpoint

FROM IFWD

The Inland Fish and Wildlife Department (IFWD) has received numerous comments regarding the number of deer tags issued to tribal members. Comments often suggest that IFWD should reduce the number of deer tags issued to tribal members or make the Sault Tribe harvest a buck-only harvest.

IFWD staff does not believe that reducing tribal deer tags will have a biological effect on deer populations within the 1836 Ceded Territory. Of the 4,009 deer tags issued by Sault Tribe, only 5.5 percent of Sault Tribe hunters (116 individuals) reported harvesting three or more deer (See Figure 1). If the number of deer tags had been cut to two tags for each member with a license, a total of 212 deer would have been saved across the 3.8 million acres of the 1836 Ceded Territory. A number this small has little effect on the deer population.

Furthermore, in 2015 Sault Tribe harvest made up approximately 2 percent of combined state and Sault Tribe deer harvest within the 1836 Ceded Territory (1,950 of a combined 108,006 estimated deer harvest). Within Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce counties, combined harvest by state and Sault Tribe hunters was estimated to be 2,260 deer. About 35 percent of total harvest was from Sault Tribe hunters. This is where Sault Tribe makes up the largest proportion of the combined deer harvest (See Figures 2 and 3).

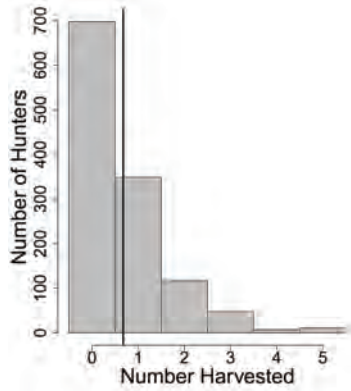
On average, Sault Tribe harvested 0.09 deer/square mile throughout the 1836 Ceded Territory, whereas state hunters harvested 4.91 deer/square mile. Within Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce counties, Sault Tribe hunters harvested 0.17 deer/square mile compared to the state hunter rate of 0.47 deer/square mile. This is where deer population



numbers are the lowest and Sault Tribe hunters make up the largest proportion of non-state hunter harvest.

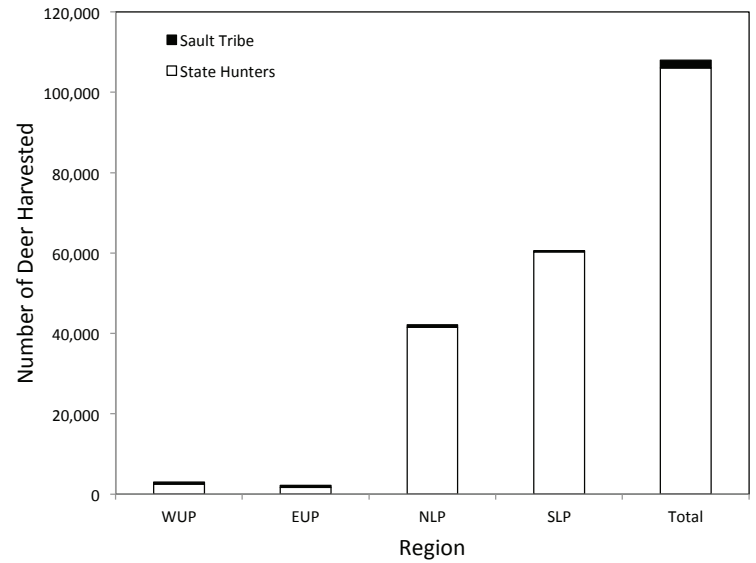
In addition to harvest rates, there are many other factors driving deer populations throughout the 1836 Ceded Territory. These include predators, weather and habitat conditions, all of which are out of IFWD control. IFWD would like to inform concerned tribal members that their comments are not being ignored and we sympathize with their concerns. At this time, IFWD does not feel that cutting tags is warranted from a biological standpoint. Due to the low number of tribal members harvesting three or more deer, IFWD believes that tribal members that need to harvest three or more deer should have that opportunity. If, in the future, a larger proportion of tribal members are harvesting deer and it is having a greater effect on deer populations, IFWD will reconsider suggesting to Sault Tribe policy makers that there is a need to reduce deer tags.

IFWD would like to thank all

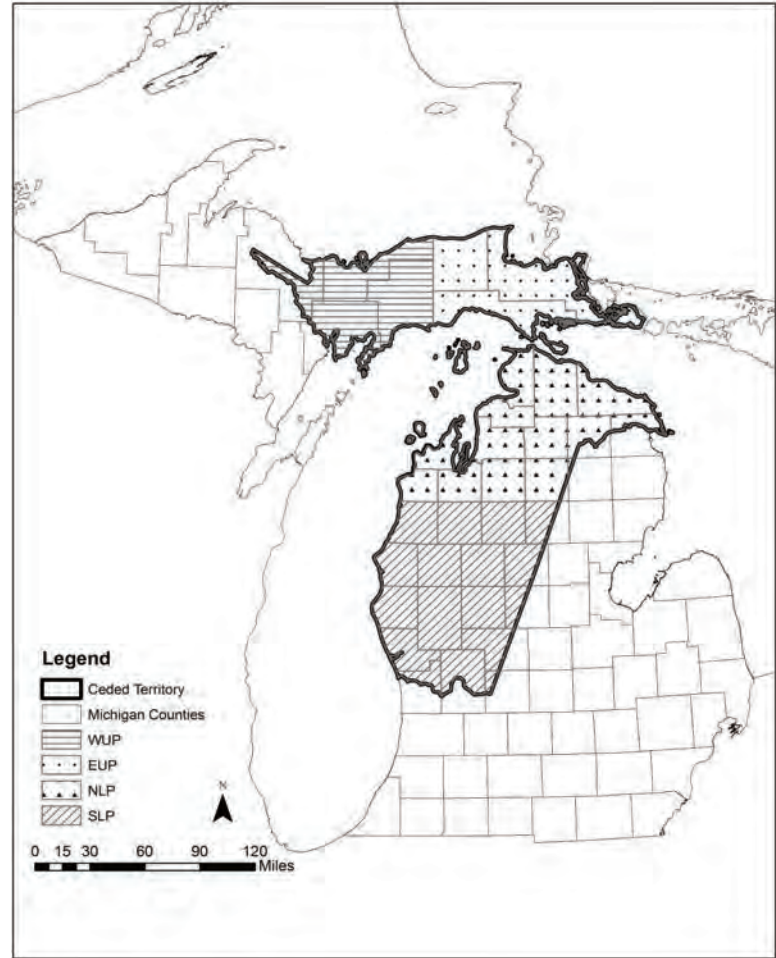


The estimated number of hunters harvesting a given number of deer in 2015. The mean harvest per hunter is plotted as a vertical line for reference.

tribal members for their continued participation in the annual harvest report for inland fish and wildlife harvest. IFWD staff members review all comments and harvest data. IFWD would like to remind all members that harvest reports are very important to our management of tribal harvest activities. The earlier these reports are turned in, the more accurate our harvest estimates can be.



A comparison of the estimated harvest by Sault Tribe and the estimated harvest by state hunters of white-tailed deer within the 1836 Ceded Territory. Please see the map below for a description of regions.



Regions used for comparison of deer harvest by Sault Tribe hunters and state hunters.

Think spring! Outdoor recreation season is coming soon

BY TIFFANY ESCHERICH

Outdoor recreation season is right around the corner and with that comes the spread of invasive species.

Many recreational activities promote the spread of invasive species and have the potential to devastate the beautiful landscapes we all enjoy. Activities in our area include canoeing, kayaking, camping, ORV use,

boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, etc. It's important to know how your outdoor activities promote the spread of invasive species that have a negative impact on the landscape and what you can do to minimize the threat.

Come see the Sault Tribe Environmental Department booth at the Anishnaabek Community and Family Services 19th annual Family

Celebration on Monday, March 27, 2017, at the Chi Mukwa Recreation Center to learn about recreation opportunities in our area and how to minimize your footsteps while enjoying those activities. Our information promotes child-parent interaction and we have "swag bags" available while supplies last for those interested in learning about these activities. Visits

by boat owners are especially encouraged as they are the front line defense against spreading aquatic invasive species in our waters.

In addition, we will also have information and order booklets available for the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District tree sale to encourage planting native plants in your yard with your children, as opposed to horticultural types that may become invasive and cause issues for homeowners. Tree sales orders are due March

31. Orders can be picked up in Sault Ste. Marie at Kaines Ice Rink Friday, April 28, noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. to noon. Pick up time in Newberry at the Newberry Light and Water Board is on Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. to noon.

For general questions regarding invasive species, call the Sault Tribe Environmental Department at (906) 632-5575.

Tiffany Escherich is the environmental specialist-pesticides for the Sault Tribe. Environmental Department.

2017 Conservation Committees Meetings

All Great Lakes Conservation Committee meetings take place at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and are scheduled for the third Monday of each month and begin at 5 p.m.

Contact Linda Grossett at (906) 635-6050 or lgrossett@saulttribe.net with any questions.

2017 meeting dates are on Mondays, are March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20 and Dec. 8

All Inland Conservation Committee meetings take place at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and are scheduled for the first Monday of each month and begin at 4 p.m.

Contact Linda Grossett at (906) 635-6050 or lgrossett@saulttribe.net with any questions.

2017 Meetings dates are March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 10*, Aug. 7, Sept. 11 (Wednesday)*, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4. (* Date moved due to a holiday.)



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Sault High grad gets full ride scholarship to MSU

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Keeping up with homework assignments and maintaining good grades is an expectation many students fall short of in their high school careers. Kaitlyn Goodman, 17, began at a young age making those expectations a reality and it has paid off in a big way — she was recently notified that she is a recipient of the STARR Scholarship through Michigan State University, where she will be attending this fall.

The scholarship pays all regular costs for eight semesters at MSU, including tuition, fees, books, room and board, and incidental expenses, beginning with the fall semester of each year.

According to the universities website, an anonymous private donor established the STARR Charitable Foundation Scholarship offering high school seniors residing in the State of Wyoming and in the Upper



Peninsula of Michigan with a unique educational opportunity.

Goodman said that in addition to maintaining a high GPA, currently 4.03, she also got involved in school activities and organizations, and put in many volunteer hours. In order to become a member of the National

Honor Society in her junior year, she spent many hours volunteering as a freshman and sophomore. She also joined the Sault Health Adolescent Care Center (SHACC), a health-advocacy group; Business Professionals of America and Health Occupation Students of America. “Being involved in those groups helped me be confident and well spoken and also made me more aware of the health skills I need to become a veterinarian,” she said.

Goodman has also earned certificates in Microsoft Office Suite.

Living on a small farm in a rural community also had benefits for her. Four years ago with her father’s help, she bought a chicken coop and a handful of young chickens — and thus began her journey into selling and marketing her eggs and animal husbandry. The next animals to call the Goodman farm home were a few

goats and a baby cow that she bottle raised. She bred the goats, and the following year when the weanlings were sold she milked the does and froze their milk for soap making. “Goodman Farms goat milk soap is doing really well,” she said. Since then she has also hand raised two more cows.

Her undergrad degree will be in animal science, focusing on nutrition and genetics and the agriculture industry. From there she plans on attending MSU’s pre-vet program, and joining Production Livestock Scholars — a program that reserves 10 spots for veterinary students per year and helps them become accepted into the veterinary program.

In addition to raising farm animals, Goodman also hunts bear and coyote with her father, Dean. They raised, trained and hunt nine bluetick coonhounds. She also recently got an Australian Cattle

dog and takes care of their two barn cats. She has accompanied her parents on hunting trips since she was an infant, and said she enjoys bear hunting because she can tell each dogs bark apart from the others and what the different types of barks signal. Having a close connection with her animals from a young age is what has led her decision to become a veterinarian she said. “Students should apply for scholarships even if they think they won’t be accepted, because I honestly didn’t think I would get one and now I’m sitting here with a full ride,” she said. “You miss all the opportunities you don’t take.”

Goodman’s parents are Dean and Becky Goodman and her sister Kylie, 12. She is the granddaughter of Dennis and Jeanie Watson of Sault Ste. Marie, and the late Enos and Dorothy Goodman of Bentley, Mich.

JKL School students of the month



CONGRATULATIONS TO JKL SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH — Back row from left, Morgan Brow, Kurtis Feltis, Felicity Madigan, Henry Finrock, Archie King, Felicia Tippett, Justin Anderson. Middle row from left, Kayden Gentry, Eli Smith, Ryder Rizzo, Jada Hall-Pine, Abbie Church, Caleb Daley, Eliana Cymbalist, Scarlett Uhrig. Front from left, Aple-Gebe Matchinski, Stephenee Murdock, Iris Adams, Parker Rath, Samantha Toll, John Creekmore, George Tessier, Elea Cornwell, Karter Franklin and Khloe Franklin.

JKL girls club donates to shelter

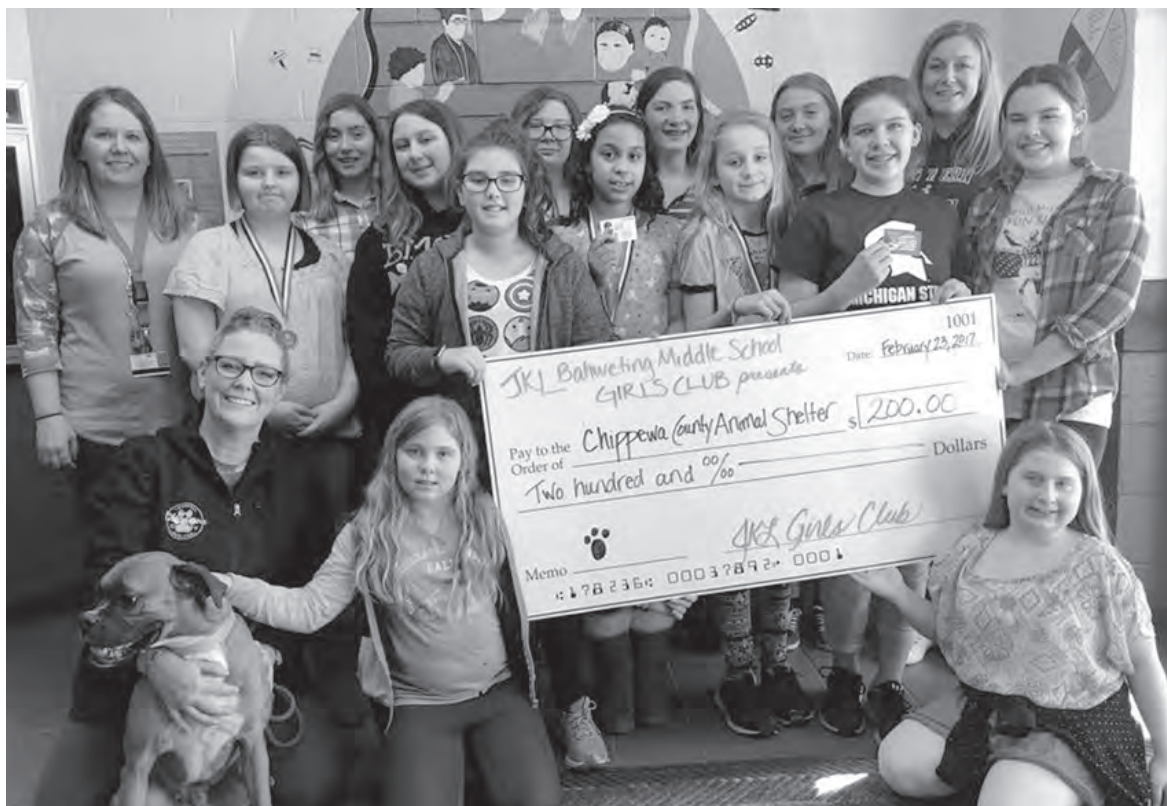


Photo by Lori Jodoin, JKL School

The After School Girls Club at JKL Middle School, facilitated by Heather Purple and Janna Deneau, held a “live your pet” fundraiser where students brought their stuffed animals to school for the day and paid a dollar to be donated to the animal shelter. Pictured are (back row, L-R) Janna Deneau, Jenni Garrod, Madaiisa Hefner, Chelsea McLeod, Zoe Bell, Mataya Curtis, Shaelyn Reno, Isis Howell, Ellie Purple, Kylie Goodman, Heather Purple, Miriam Clark (front row L-R) Animal Shelter employee Isabella Stratton and Savannah Wing.

2017 GED programs now being offered

Consolidated Community School Services (CCSS) and the Sault Tribe Adult Learning Center are once again offering free GED preparation classes and testing to tribal and community members.

Free classes take place at several locations in the eastern Upper Peninsula. In Sault Ste. Marie, classes meet at the MI Works! agency every Monday

through Wednesday, 12:30-4 p.m., and at the JKL Bahweting Middle School every Monday through Thursday, 6-8:45 p.m.

Contact Tanya Pages at 632-6098 or tpages@eupschools.org for more information.

For information on other area programs, please call the CCSS main office at (906) 495-7305 or visit our <http://ccss.eupschools.org> or Facebook page.

From “Walking on,” pg. 9

FRANCIS RAMSEY

Francis “De” Ramsey, 99, a full-time resident of North Ft. Myers, Fla., since 2006, a snowbird since the 1970s, formerly of Indian River, Mich., passed away on Feb. 18,



2017, in Cape Coral, Fla. He was born June 15, 1917, in Detroit, to Ernest and Emma Ramsey, now deceased.

De was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. During WWII, De inspected aircraft built in the Detroit area. He would go out and talk to groups about the war effort.

De was a former owner of City Cab and the Doghouse Restaurant in Cheboygan, Mich. Most of his work career was in the trucking industry. After he retired, he was employed by the State of Michigan as a harbor master on Mackinac Island. He taught himself how to play the keyboard and spent many years entertaining at nursing homes in Cape Coral, Ft. Myers, Indian River and Pasadena, Calif., areas.

He was past commodore of yacht clubs in Portage, Ind., Wyandotte, Mich., and on Mackinac Island. He belonged to the Blue Gavel Organization

and Lions Club. He was a past member of the Little Stone Church, Topinabee Community Church and Slater Bible Chapel. He enjoyed boating, fishing, carpentry, golf and traveling.

He is survived by his two loving children, Richard and Ruth Ramsey of North Ft. Myers, Fla., and Diana and John Sukta of Merrillville, Ind.; one sister, Virginia; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; as well as several extended family members.

De was preceded in death by his wife of 73 years, Maude; two children, Bernice and Wilfred; six siblings, Wilfred, Harriet, Bill, George, Don and Violet; as well as a granddaughter, Tracy and great-granddaughter, Robin.

A memorial service was celebrated on Feb. 26 at Slater Bible Chapel, in North Ft. Myers.

Donations may be made to Hope Hospice, 9470 Healthpark Circle, Ft. Myers, FL 33908 or the Slater Bible Chapel Memorial Garden Fund, 18130 Matt Rd., North Ft. Myers, FL 33917.

Friends are invited to send condolences via the online guest book, which can be found at www.mullinsmemorial.com.

Mullins Memorial Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Cape Coral, was entrusted with final care.

McCoy shares family history and trips to Sugar Island

Thank you Jennifer for contacting me regarding my family picture from our 2015 Christmas Eve celebration. It didn't include our entire family but it was a traditional church night and opening presents with the kids after church.

As I mentioned, there are many tribal members who no longer live in the Sault Tribe area. I thought a possible spot in the newspaper for those of us from out of the area to show old pictures of family when they lived or visited the Sault over the years.

— Tom McCoy

Editor's Note: Thanks to Tom for writing in. *Win Awenen Nisitotung* encourage members to write in with their memories and photos.

Miigwech.

Tom McCoy's memories

My family experiences involved my sister Mary and I visiting Sugar Island back in the '50s and '60s. My grandparents Robert (Bob) and Mamie McCoy lived on Sugar Island along the St. Marys River; to me, it was always



Tom McCoy's family on Christmas of 2015, in Sarasota, Fla. From left, granddaughter, Kaylyn; sister, Mary; granddaughter, Ophelia; brother-in-law, Jerry; daughter, Kasey; and Tom. He also has three daughters not shown, Jennifer, Tonia and Amanda.

an adventure! It was so beautiful in the summers on Sugar Island

with the cliffs across the river mirrored by the river early in the

morning when the water was like glass. When we first arrived, the first thing I would do was jump out of the car, head for the shed and grab a fishing pole. I'd head down to the dock and, amazingly, would catch something on the first or second cast.

My cousins, Bobby and Bonnie Ousterhaut, lived with my grandparents when I was young and my cousins, Buzzy and Laverne McCoy, lived next door with my aunt and uncle, Honey and aunt Louise McCoy. Along with my sister Mary, we all had a great time.

My dad was called Donny McCoy on Sugar Island, but no one called him that anywhere else we lived. He was 6-foot 5-inches and was always called Don anywhere else. My Dad loved visiting, but he would not allow my grandparents to speak Ojibwe while we were visiting. My Dad raised us as Irish white people and never admitted to our heritage. I found out when I turned 30. He would not talk about his life as a young kid growing up on Sugar Island. I never found out why he would

never open up, sad.

When I was about 7 or 8 we would take the rowboat out at night. We would take a white washbasin with a hole in it and a headlight plug mounted in it with some black glue. He would plug a headlight from an old car into it and we would take a car battery with us.

He had built a transom mount, which would put the headlight just under the water, attach it to the battery and — POW — it lit up the whole bottom. He had along pole with a gig on it and we would go spear fishing. I'm sure all of you know what I'm talking about, but to a little kid back in the mid '50s that was incredible to me. We'd spear a couple of trout and a pike or two and head back in. We had breakfast, lunch and dinner, fantastic.

Anyway, that's this McCoy's memories from a long, long time ago. I am writing this on Feb. 14, 2017, and on the 16th I turn 65. I know how Samuel Clemens felt writing about his adventures on the Mississippi, ha!

Blue Devil's hockey season ends in pre-regional playoffs against Alpena at Chi Mukwa Arena

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Chi Mukwa (Big Bear) Arena was packed for the second pre-regional playoff game between home ice team the Sault High Blue Devils, who faced off against the Alpena Wildcats on March 2. Before heading into the game, the Blue Devils had a record of 19-7, "a good year," according to Head Coach John Ferroni.

"We made it to the second round of playoffs, which is a nice accomplishment in the world of high school hockey," Ferroni said. The final score of the evening was Blue Devils 1, Alpena 3.

Now in his sixth year as head coach for the team, Ferroni said the Blue Devils have won the regionals the past four years, advancing to the quarterfinals and were state runners up two years in a row.

Ferroni said that the guys on the team are expected to keep their academics up and also put in 10 to 15 community service hours per season. "This group of kids were All State All Academic, meaning the team accumulated



Photo by Brenda Austin

Alpena's goalie defends his net against the Sault High Blue Devils. See the entire team below.

a 3.3 total GPA average — six years in a row for our program," he said.

Academic Advisor Mike Ellis and Coach Ferroni discuss academics every day with members of the team and keep on top of their homework and how well they are doing in their classes. If one of the guys needs help, they find him a mentor — sometimes

a teammate — to act as a tutor.

Their volunteer hours include working with the Special Olympics at the beginning of the year, helping at children's Christmas programs, volunteering at the Kaine's Klassic, school fun days at the Big Bear and working with local food banks. Ferroni said the team raised \$1,000 for the Kelsey Raffaele Students

Against Texting campaign by organizing and staffing a successful powder-puff game.

"They are a great group of kids," he said. "I have a couple of really good captains that have lead the team."

Ferroni has been involved in Blue Devil's hockey for the past 18 years, the first 12 as assistant coach before becoming head coach six years ago. "I have a really good staff of guys," he said. "I have a couple of assistant coaches that help me, and this will be our tenth year together overall. We co-coach and discuss everything and try and make decisions based on good discussions."

This was the team's first year having home ice at Chi Mukwa. "Being at Big Bear is new and exciting and we were really happy when the school told us that we were going there," Ferroni said. "The staff there has been tremendous, you don't have a good ice rink without good maintenance people. Rod Hutte, the head of maintenance, has been phenomenal to work with

and Phil Eames has also been tremendous. Tammy Graham and Rex Matchinski have been fantastic to work with, they are always making sure things are going well."

According to Ferroni, all the amenities the team needs are housed within the arena. "Big Bear has something going on all the time — there are birthday parties, volleyball leagues, weight room, and people coming and going that you run into that you haven't seen in a while because they are using the facility for something," he said. "It's exciting to be a hockey team in that building; it's a special time for our guys. The majority of the guys we are coaching grew up using Big Bear when they were kids. We have been very welcome there and my guys are always at the rink, it's been a great experience."

So as the end of this season has arrived for the Blue Devils, coaches and teammates are looking forward to returning to Big Bear in September for another successful year on the ice.



OUR TRIBE IS THE LARGEST EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI: & the Chairperson Doesn't Even Have a Secretary!



Chairperson Aaron A. Payment, M.P.A., M.A.Ed
"Representing All Members Everywhere"

Ahneen, Boozho, Negee,

As I write this I am working hard to find our new normal. Never in our Tribe's history has the Chairperson of our Tribe been so diminished. I am not overstating the fact that I do not super-

hell is going on with the Sault Tribe". Still, your elected leadership has made their decision, denied the right of referendum and unfortunately (without a separation of powers), that is that. Five hundred Members and I



(L to R) Former Assistant Secretary Larry Roberts, Standing Rock Chair, Dave Archambault, Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive for Mille lacs Band, Former Secretary Sally Jewell, NCAI President Brian Cladoosby, Me, and Anne Marie Bledsoe Downs, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Interior, Below is Jacki Pata, Executive Director for NCAI, Billy Kirkland, President Trump White House Native American Advisor, and Me.



vised even one tribal team member employee - not even a secretary. I do my own scheduling, take my own clerical notes, and do my own follow up. Tribal leaders, and Members of Congress have asked, "what the

resisted this decision and signed a referendum petition in December because we are 100% confident that those who just returned me to office expect the Chairperson to have some level of authority. Even Tribal Board

Members Keith Massaway and Dennis McKelvie who have run against me in the past for Chair, have pushed for a more sensible limited delegation as they have expressed no matter who is Chair, they must have a minimum level of authority. I supported the referendum process because I know you expect me to work. I have advanced executive administrative experience and two graduate degrees in Administration with another impending. Given the Board refuses to budge, we simply have to wait until the next election cycle to express whether or not you agreed with their decision. While thwarting your right of referendum, your only remaining remedy is though your right to hold them accountable though your vote!

MOVING FORWARD IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR TRIBE

Despite the actions of the Board, I have approached my remaining responsibilities with an every greater commitment to protect our assets and to educate Congress and the new Trump Administration to uphold our Treaty Rights, Trust Responsibility and try shield our funding from the cuts to non-defense discretionary spending President Trump recently announced. In some cases, these cuts will amount to 30% cuts to Tribal federal budgets if States get preferential treatment over tribes. As retired long time Tribal Board Member Cathy Abramson used to say, "we pre-paid" for what we get. It is not welfare or based on the horrible atrocities tribes experienced. We paid for what is rightfully ours with the blood, sweat, tears and millions of acres of land we ceded to make this great nation great.

The picture to the top left is of the President of the National Congress of Ameri-

can Indians, Brian Cladoosby and me showing off the t-shirt my nephew designed to remind Congress that "Treaties are not discretionary". My former staff made over a thousand of these buttons to share them with other tribes, Members of Congress and the Administration. Sequestration hit us hard. More cuts will mean entire programs and services will be shut down. This is a critical time that necessitates Tribal unity rather than more petty tribal BS that has become common. Just read other reports in this paper. Despite this, I will do my best to shift gears and fight for our Tribe.

I have already picked up where I left off under the previous Presidential Administration. To the left (middle of the page) is a photo of former Secretary Sally Jewell with her key team and a few tribal leaders. I was honored to be one of six to meet with her upon her starting her job when first appointed and then



U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI)

left is of a Congressional hearing to understand the threat to Indian Country of repealing the Affordable Care Act. For our Tribe, it could mean cuts in health revenues by about 24% or about \$6 million. All of the recent gains for rural health like Escanaba, Marquette, and even areas like Newberry may simply be erased. If the ACA is repealed, so too will the authorization for Indian Health Service. As the Co-Chair of the HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Council and an Executive Officer for NCAI, I have been one of the loudest voices on protecting



(L to R) Front row: Joe Garcia, Council Okkay Owingeh Pueblo; Lance Gumbs, Shinnecock Indian Nation; Me; Roger Rader, Council, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi; Back row: Larry Wright, Chair Ponca Tribe of Nebraska; Larry Townsend, Lumbee Tribe; Norman Hildebrand, Wyandotte Nation; and Liana Onnen, Chairwoman Prairie Band of Potawatomi.

on her last day of work. My role at this level is not accidental. It is hard earned and substantial to protect not only

our health care funds. I believe my testimony enlightened and supported efforts to retain our health care.



"Leaders are tested through challenges and triumphs. Great leaders rarely realize their place in history as their humility often masks their contributions. Chairman Archambault is one such leader. Through the No DAPL struggle, he has led with distinction, vision and care for our Indigenous people."

- Chairperson Aaron Payment, Saulte Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

our resources but that of all Indian tribes. I am proud of my work here.

Below that photo is of a meeting I was invited to attend of a few tribal leaders from across the Nation to provide an orientation to the new White House Senior Native Advisor. He listen intently. I believe his job will be challenging but we appear to have an advocate and partner moving forward.

The photo on the bottom

It amazes me that I can have the kind of standing among tribal leaders across the country and be respected by Members of Congress but be subjected to such hate, and jealousy by some of our own Board. My feelings are not hurt, but all Members should be offended that the voters of the Tribe and those who sign referenda petitions don't matter. Petty jealousy will be our undoing.

Chi MeG-witch, Negee!



(L to R) Congressmen Derek Kilmer (WA), Raul Ruiz (CA), Frank Palone (NJ) during a hearing to protect the Affordable Care Act and Permanent Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHS). Chairperson Payment testified.

We need to work together better for progress



DJ HOFFMAN
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

The tribe has many obstacles facing it in the near future and we need to make sure that we address our deficiencies and ignore our personal disagreements to move our tribe forward.

COLA

Resolution (2015-264) was approved by the board of directors (on Dec. 8, 2015) to ensure that, as we move forward, our employees are no longer left behind. For FY 2018 the COLA for employees is projected to be 2.5 percent.

CASINOS

We have recently completed interviews for the casino CEO position. I am hopeful that in the next few weeks we will have the position filled with a highly qualified candidate.

While I have stated it in the past, as well as unsuccessfully proposed legislation to enable it – the tribal board of directors should not be the

Gaming Authority or Gaming Commission.

These bodies should be comprised of an independent body that has knowledge and experience in the gaming industry. Free of politics, our casinos may once again be a potent economic force.

HUMAN RESOURCES AUDIT

The Human Resources audit is complete and should be provided to the board of directors in the coming weeks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our tribe's Economic Development director continues to push forward exploring new and innovative opportunities for the tribe.

I look forward to providing more information on these projects as they materialize. I am hopeful they will provide much needed new revenue streams.

JKL BAHWETING SCHOOL

The tribe received a request from JKL Bahweting PSA to expand the classrooms for its middle school to meet its current capacity.

The JKL Fiduciary and PSA have been collaborating on bringing this request to fruition for the benefit of all our community's children.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

I have posted this in my past reports:

The threat of substance abuse has been historically prevalent in Indian Country. As a tribe, we need to do more and focus more upon prevention and treatment of this affliction. Often times

substance abuse issues result in criminal prosecution and incarceration.

While this is one option, it does not provide treatment or prevention from this affliction.

When the tribe sends an individual to jail, there are court costs as well as the tribal financial obligation to hold these individuals in local jails (we do not have our own).

We should be looking at developing our own in patient treatment center to tackle this issue head on.

The funds earmarked for incarceration could just as easily be utilized for treatment. Our former medical center in Wetmore sits vacant and unused and would provide an excellent possibility in the development of such a facility.

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

These things can be accomplished with our current funding by collaboration and proper planning.

We have the tools to make a difference; it is past time we did.

It is essential this issue is repeated, for without taking action to provide treatment options (including prevention), the threat will continue to ravage our community.

While the board authorized \$50,000 in the fall of 2016 to develop an RFP for treatment/

inpatient services, as of today it has not been acted upon. Please contact your representatives and inquire as to why this has not been done.

COMMUNICATIONS

One of the biggest impediments to our tribe's success is communication. As a tribe we need to ensure that responsible and factual information is provided to the membership on a regular basis instead of the constant influx of altered-Native facts.

In the past, minutes from tribal board meetings were published, which many other tribes publish in their respective papers.

To increase accurate information, I will be bringing action items for consideration by the board to ensure that detailed board minutes are included, with voting matrixes, in the next few months.

I welcome any other suggestions to bring forward to increase information and input from the tribal membership.

One thing is certain, as a board we have never been accused of providing too much information,

CODE OF CONDUCT

The following is pursuant to the Constitution of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians:

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNING BODY

Section 1. The governing body of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians shall consist of a board of directors.

Sec. 2. A chairperson shall be elected at large by the voters

of the tribe and shall serve as a member of the board of directors.

Over the past 20-plus years, there have been many articles, e-mails, and more recently, social media posts regarding board actions and inactions, or conversely those of the chairperson.

It is important that the membership understand that, collectively, the board of directors includes the representatives from the various units as well as the chairperson. No one board member is without fault for our tribe's failures, just as no one board member is responsible for our successes.

To ensure a more professional environment for the benefit of our tribe, I will be proposing to work with any and all members of the board of directors to adopt a Code of Conduct (*one with teeth*).

In closing, 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 we appear to be confined to.

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

Crown ordered to pay band members \$390,000

FROM BATCHEWANA 1ST NATION SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont. —

A provincial court judge ordered the Crown to pay \$390,000 for withdrawing logging charges against four Batchewana First Nation band members on the eve of trial. (See <http://bit.ly/rvsayers>)

Justice Kwolek of the Ontario Court of Justice found the prosecution's conduct justified a costs award. "I find that this delay by the Crown in reaching a decision to withdraw the charges in May of 2016 was 'a marked and unacceptable departure from the reasonable standards expected of the prosecution,'" Justice Kwolek wrote in a 28-page judgment released on Feb. 13, 2017.

"The decision emphasizes what BFN has stated consistent-

ly throughout this prosecution: that negotiations must take place on a 'nation-to-nation' basis in the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to actions and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," Batchewana First Nation Councillor Stacey Tijerina said.

The court ordered the Crown to pay \$90,000 to Clinton Robinson and \$300,000 to Gilles Robinson, Philip Swanson and Batchewana First Nation Chief Dean Sayers.

"I find that such an award is appropriate to express the court's denunciation of the Crown's actions in the circumstances of this case while providing reasonable indemnification in accordance with the existing case law," Justice Kwolek wrote.

The charges date back to incidents in 2007 and 2008. The parties were charged in 2008 under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, which prohibits logging in a Crown forest without a licence. They first appeared in court on Nov. 6, 2008, but a trial wasn't scheduled until September 2015. The parties pled not guilty to all charges and the trial was adjourned to May 16, 2016.

In May 2014, expert witness James Morrison provided a report to substantiate the band members' claim the Batchewana First Nation had the right to harvest timber resources for sustenance, trade or sale under the 1850 Robinson Treaty that had likely not been extinguished under the 1859 Pannefather Treaty, an invalid

treaty.

On May 6, 2016, the Crown wrote to the court stating that it would not proceed with the prosecution and would be seeking leave to withdraw the charges. The Crown sought to withhold its own expert's report, but eventually disclosed it when faced with further defence applications. The Crown conceded an award of costs would be fair and appropriate.

The band members did not

consent to the Crown withdrawing the charges because they wanted to address the issues of treaty and aboriginal rights. "In light of the Crown's withdrawal and Justice Kwolek's decision, BFN has decided to commence civil proceedings to litigate the validity of the 1859 Pannefather Treaty and we will continue to take the highroad as we seek redress in the pursuit of our aboriginal and treaty rights," Chief Dean Sayers said.

Sault Tribe committee vacancies

- The following committees have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Joanne Carr or Linda Grossett, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Call (906) 635-6050 for any questions.
- Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Two vacancies (men, 4-year term)
- Cultural Screening committee - Two vacancies (4-year term)
- Great Lakes Conservation Committee - Three vacancies - large vessel (4-year term)
- Inland Conservation

- Committee - Three vacancies (4-year term)
- Health Board - Two vacancies (4-year term)
- Higher Education Committee - One vacancy (4-year term)
- Housing Committee - Three vacancies, Unit I (4-year term), Unit II (4-year term) Unit V (4-year term)
- Election Committee - Six vacancies (4-year term)
- Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - Six vacancies (2-year term)
- Child Welfare Committee - Five vacancies (4-year term)
- Unit I Sault Elders Subcommittee -Two Regular, one

- alternate (4-year term)
- Unit II Newberry Elders Subcommittee - One regular seat vacancy, one alternate (4-year term)
- Unit II Hessel Elders Subcommittee -Three regular seat vacancies (4-year term), two alternates (4-year term)
- Unit V Munising Elders Subcommittee - two alternates (4-year term)
- Unit V Marquette Elders Subcommittee - One vacancy (4-year term)
- Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) - One vacant delegate seat, one alternate seat

Bonnie Culfa lauded



Assistant Health Director Joel Lumsden and retired Health Director Bonnie Culfa. Lumsden presented Culfa a plaque given to her by the Bemidji Area Indian Health Service in "Recognition of 11 years of service, leadership and dedication to the Sault Tribe Health Division." Joel accepted the plaque on Bonnie's behalf at the 2016 Indian Health Services meeting in Minneapolis, Minn.

Board interviewing prospective casino CEO



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

The good news is that currently the board is taking many actions that many probably thought would never happen. I am hoping we continue to move forward with our government operations, economic development and casino operations.

We are in the interview process for a casino CEO. We have been working with a headhunting agency that has brought a fair number of qualified applicants to us. This time around the board has chosen to be the interview panel. Our executive director asks the same list of questions to each candidate and the candidate has a chance to ask theirs. The board can make notes and rate each candidate.

I cannot express to you how pleased I am with our new economic development director. He hit the ground running and has brought forward so much information and possibilities in his first few months. At this point I personally wish we could clone him. I am very hopeful that we will soon be advancing our current enterprises and embarking on new ones.

Since the executive director has taken over the administration of the government operations we are seeing transparency. We are informed when things arise and action is taken immediately. It will not be an easy or clear road ahead, but we are moving one step at a time. Some team members will notice the change in being held accountable.

Some of the things that need to be corrected are better-run meetings. We do not need to have a review of the agenda. Normally we have discussed the resolutions we will be voting on once, twice, maybe three times. This is a waste of staff's time that they could be working and probably would rather be.

Membership issues are scheduled for 4-6 p.m. and rarely start at 4 p.m. Some members may come at 4 p.m. and have to work at 5 p.m. and sit and wait and may never get a chance to speak to the board if we are off schedule. If we gave the full 2 hours, we would not have to limit members to 5 minutes and could

possibly have exchanges and answer more concerns. I think it is unfair to the members in the areas outside Sault Ste. Marie to only be allowed 5 minutes when these areas have one, two or three meetings in their area per year.

Frequently we get belittled by the chair saying we had Robert's Rules of Order training and don't know what we are doing. Funny thing is, during the training we were told that once a business meeting starts you no longer allow public comment. The chair announced that the first meeting or two following the training and now if he has supporters in the audience or is mad at the board he takes questions.

Since the November Hessel meeting, the chair has gotten upset and has left several workshops or meetings. Many times I get frustrated with my fellow board members or the chair but I don't run out the door because I didn't get my way or I don't agree or like what the topic of discussion is. We have a responsibility to the membership to try to work together to move forward in a positive way. We are not always going to agree and sometimes it isn't fun making tough decisions that affect people but that is our job.

There seems to be a lot of breaching of confidential closed session information lately. Some

of it makes it to social media. This is unprofessional and unfair to our members and staff.

At the Feb. 7 meeting, Director Hoffman brought forward a resolution to distribute the tax we put on our hotel rooms into a fund for culture and education. The resolution was amended to be distributed equally by unit. There was much debate on this because of the size of other units. I supported the equal distribution because even though an area such as Munising may have fewer members than the Sault or Kinross does not mean the need is greater. Unit I has many more opportunities than other units, such as the Sugar Island Culture Camp. The farther a member gets from the Sault, the less services are available, so the need is greater.

I keep being reminded by some of my fellow board members that the name of our tribe is Sault Tribe so apparently that means the tribe revolves around Sault Ste. Marie and the members who live there. When management or executive level jobs, etc., are posted they are told they must work out of the Sault. So members who do not want to move their families are SOL. Even though today's technology allows for people to work around the world, you must physically be in Sault Ste. Marie. This is so shortsighted since the rest of the

world operates in this fashion. Apparently some people just want a limited number of members to get those jobs and not even the best qualified.

This is only exemplified when it comes to the 2 percent distribution when Unit I's long-term commitment is over \$700,000 and Unit III is \$100,000. Since both the St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie casinos earn over \$500,000 a year to be distributed. The Sault only earns about \$30,000-\$50,000 more a year than St. Ignace. I was looking for some way to get a long-term commitment for a much needed fire hall in St. Ignace and was told to basically take it out of the pot we already get. This is so frustrating and unacceptable!

As long as board members want to continue to uphold the same policies and shortsightedness, our businesses or tribe will never meet its true potential. It is time to decide what the priorities are and how we can achieve them. The old mentality is not working. If the intent of the tribe was to have high paying jobs and opportunities for a few select families or groups then maybe they should have just started their own business, if it is only about them!

Any questions or concerns, please contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.

Good, exciting things are coming to Unit V



**ANITA NELSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT V**

I do not know about you but I'm looking forward to seeing the daffodils and tulips popping through. I am also excited to tell you some good news for Unit V — funds will be available for Alger and Marquette for health, culture and education.

Health Education and Wellness Manager Lisa Myers contacted me via correspondence that the funding came through for the enhancement of the Superior Playground (Central School). The staff will be reaching out to the Alger Coalition to draft the contract to move forward with the project. This inside educational playground will be available to our Native children free of charge. Thank you, Lisa, for your efforts and thanks to Tyler LaPlaunt for writing the grant.

In addition: RE: Tax Code Section. 43.805 Distribution of Tax Proceeds.

According to this resolution,

a percentage of the tax proceeds retained by the tribe under this tax agreement will be transferred into the general fund. The BOD voted to divide the money between the five units for educational and cultural purposes. I have not been informed how the policy and procedure for this will be implemented or the exact amount awarded but will keep you updated. The board voted on this Feb. 7, 2017. (This is a short version of the complete resolution).

Reminder, if you are planning to apply for the spring 2 percent monies, the cycle ends on March 31. Your application must be received by that date. The 2 percent application is on the Sault Tribe's web page (www.saulttribe.com/about-us/2-percent). They can also be mailed to interested parties. Contact person Candace Blocher, cblocher@saulttribe.net. The fall cycle ends Sept. 30, same requirements.

Again, the board has been busy completing the year-end budgets and setting up interviews for a new CEO. We have received several applications. We will be conducting this type of business again for this week as well. I have met the new Elder Services director, Latisha Willette, in the Sault and have attended two elder meetings with her thus far. Her enthusiasm is notable from her performance at the meetings.

I haven't found the time to take part in our local powwow

meetings because of prior commitments but will help if needed when the time comes. I asked one of the committee members to keep me updated. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped in making the bake sale a success. Your hard work is appreciated. It's important to know that our tribe and Marquette's Unit V donated money to the NMU Native studies powwow. The flyers for this have been posted. I hope you were able to attend.

Our elder chair for Unit V, Tom Derwin, was approved funding by our board for travel to attend the Michigan Indians Elder Association (MIEA) conferences. He serves as president of the MIEA. Chair

Carol Strausser of Unit IV was approved by the board to fill the position of delegate for the MIEA. These positions are two-year terms. Congratulations to both of you. I know you will serve us well.

A benefit was held in our area for one of our ill team members. It was absolutely amazing how much the community, tribal members and workers came together for such a worthy cause. Thousands of dollars were raised. I attended but not sure who all participated. Whoever you are, it was very much appreciated.

My quote for this month is: I'm in favor of keeping dangerous weapons out of hands of fools. Let's start with Facebook.

Anita L. Nelson,
Unit V Representative
(906) 379-7825

Moving ?



TRIBAL MEMBERS!
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Chase updates Unit IV on tribal business, events



**DENISE CHASE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

As I reported earlier, in *Resolution 2016-289 – Selection of Outside Counsel 2020 Great Lakes Treaty Rights Negotiations*, the board authorized and directed the tribal chairman to enter into negotiations with the firm of Morisset, Schlosser, Jozwiak and Somerville on the terms of a contract and present that proposed contract to the board for review and approval.

The board recently approved the special counsel contract between the Sault Ste. Marie

Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Morisset, Schlosser, Jozwiak and Somerville firm. This contract retains the form to provide legal services to the tribe for our treaty fishing rights.

The board also approved the establishment of a budget for treaty fishing rights special counsel in the amount of \$77,500 for FY 2017 using tribal support funds. Will update you as we go forward and will also make sure that the community meetings are held and advertised to get the fishermen's and tribal members' input.

The tribal board participated in the interview process last week of several candidates for the Kewadin CEO position. No decisions or recommendations have been made to date and I will update you in the next report.

A new Elder Division director was recently hired — Latisha Willette. She will be making her rounds and is scheduled to attend all the units elder monthly meetings. Welcome, Latisha.

The Elder Transportation Program recently hired a new driver for the western end,

her name is Nicole Maudrie. Remember, currently the rides to your medical appointments are still free at this time. If you need a ride, call the Elder Transportation number, (888) 711-7356.

The ACFS Division still has Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds available to provide low income energy assistance to tribal members. If you are in need of heating assistance, call your local ACFS office or contact Viola Neadow at (800) 347-7137 or 341-6993.

Dr. Anderson, director of dental clinics, is still in the process of recruiting chief solo dentist and staff dentist positions for the Manistique dental clinic. Once these positions are filled, they will meet the unmet dental needs of the populations of tribal members residing in and around the five western end counties of the tribe's service area. The tribe has recently passed a more competitive compensation and benefit package, which will help in the successful recruitment of dentists at our rural clinics.

Community events: A Parenting Awareness Fun Night

is on Friday, March 17, at the Manistique Community Center from 5 to 7 p.m. Many fun activities are planned, like a cake walk, craft tables, games, face painting, door prizes, food and fun for all ages. Information tables will include parenting resources. For more information or to donate a cake, please call Sharon or Viola at (906) 341-6993. Hope to see you there.

A board of directors meeting is on March 14 at the Manistique Tribal Center, 4-6 p.m., membership issues; 6 p.m. board meeting.

Powwows — 24th Annual NMU Learning to Walk Together Traditional Powwow, Saturday, March 18, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Vandament Arena.

Escanaba's "Caring for Our Elders Traditional Powwow" Saturday, March 25, at the Escanaba High School Gymnasium, 500 S Lincoln Rd. Escanaba. Host drum, Medicine Bear; co-host drum, Niiwin Nimkii; invited drum, Munising Bay Singers; emcee: Joe Medicine; head veteran: Glen Bressette Sr.; arena director, Glen Bressette Jr.; head male

dancer, Shawn Paul; head female dancer, Shaynee Showano; schedule: grand entry at noon, potluck feast 5 p.m., retiring flags 7 p.m. Free admission, all drums welcome, limited vendor space. For more information, call Jennifer at (906) 241-9733.

Elder committees — The elder committees are inviting and looking for elders 60 years of age and older to attend their monthly meetings and dinners. Following are the local elder meals, meeting times and locations.

Marquette area, Units IV and V, elders' meeting and dinner at 5:30 p.m., Holiday Inn, Marquette, first Thursday of the month.

Manistique area Unit IV elders' meeting and luncheon at 12 p.m., Manistique Tribal Center, second Wednesday of the month.

Escanaba elders' monthly meeting and dinner, 5:30 p.m. at the Willow Creek Building, third Thursday of the month,

Thank you.

I can be reached by calling (906) 203-2471.

Denise Chase,
Unit IV Representative

Reporting on past month, planning on future



**LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

There are several projects I want to report on this month. The board has completed many projects and we have made some positive directions in the last few months. The first couple of months this year we took quite a bit of time to review and go over our governmental budgets for 2017. Although I want to steer toward performance based budgets (I'm hoping this will be something in future) we passed the annual operating budgets in full recommended by administration with very few minor changes. Many employees put hours and hours of work into the planning and I'm confident, with our executive director's leadership and the dedicated program directors and staff, it will be a good year.

I'm so relieved to report that after many inquiries and then ultimately having to bring forward an actual resolution at the board level (sponsored by myself and Director Hollowell) several months back to complete and advertise a request for proposal to commit to start the aggressive search for a treaty rights attorney or firm to assist with our coming 2020 treaty negotiations. After public inter-

views, input from those present and recommendations from the Great Lakes Conservation Committee, we secured a well-known successful specialized firm for our endeavor. It took a no-nonsense approach by Unit II and Unit IV directors to get this moving, keep moving and completed. I'm grateful that we can begin the strategizing and planning to protect and hopefully enhance our sovereignty in exercising our rights. It was sometimes painful getting to the last final stages of securing this but I am grateful the board came to a conclusion and finally made this solid.

In past reports, I spoke about the need for a health care assessment. To take action, myself and other board members brought forward a resolution a few months back to secure a professional consulting group to evaluate and make recommendations of our health care delivery system. After planning and prioritizing what we would like to see, we have now completed the request and are actively advertising for this project to move along. Our goals were to have insight of our department on efficiencies, procedures, consistency and most of all quality of care for our members. Speaking for myself, I know how hard our staff work to keep our centers and clinics running smoothly so with the professional recommendations, and "what's working in the medical arenas and for Indian people" for services is what I hope to gain out of this. I'm confident that all staff can use this as tools for training, knowledge and input that will keep our health centers the best they can be as all our staff work hard and success for them in their commitment is crucial.

I'm very happy to report that

our Culture Department took the initiative to plan the "Honoring our Waters" powwow at the casino sprung structure in St. Ignace March 11-12. Vision to help our team members become involved was part of this endeavor. Colleen Medicine and Jackie Minton took the reigns as women and community members to make it possible to expand out in other areas, keeping our traditional ways and also bring notice and respect to our waters. It's extremely important for our casino workers and all others to have that opportunity to gather and take part, holding this in an area that makes it easy for those to attend is appreciated.

Above, I spoke about minor changes to the 2017 budgets. One change that was discussed at length and advocated for a very important need, we included the funding to hire a full time tribal action plan coordinator position. As you all have read in many of my past reports, it took us a great deal of time to form a committee (team members, program managers, board members and community members) develop and conduct mail surveys, plan and schedule community meetings, forums and focus groups and then compile a detailed plan to address substance abusers in all our communities. This has all been complete. It always should be a project changed based on what we can enhance but now we have made the final commitment to the project and will be interviewing and hiring a full time position so that they can help guide the goals and objectives of the plan throughout the departments, monitor that all goals are being met and identify any additional items we can include to continue to service this area of need. This was one of the

endeavors that I committed to as my priority and I'm grateful to see that it now has committed resource and a gateway to keep the commitment moving forward.

As everyone is aware we had an exit in our position of CEO for the casinos properties. Many rumors were spread but the fact is the position departed voluntarily and cited that they wanted to be closer to their family (different state). While this position is one of the most crucial for our success to manage and lead, the board of directors acted swiftly and to be honest most professional as I've seen. Within a couple of days we posted and began the aggressive recruitment of securing another, within a few weeks we identified many potential candidates that applied, our Human Resources screened for reviewing qualifications expected and we scheduled the candidates immediately.

We have already starting interviewing and in the next few days will complete this process and hopefully make a selection. I am grateful that the board did act quickly to address this and more thankful for the team members on the front line who stepped up in the time of need. It's not always said as much as it should be but the casinos do not run themselves and when troubled waters came very unexpected, many showed dedication and commitment and it's noticed. The tribe's executive director, casino CFO and government CFO were a huge part to the quickness in the process as well. I'm confident we will have a CEO secured placement by the next report.

We have hired a qualified tribal member EDC director; he has already brought forward evaluations on existing business-

es and future potential projects. This position has been in the works since I became elected years ago and has always been a priority of mine. The outcome this far is so beneficial for our tribe. His direction and expertise will steer us in a direction of furthering our economic endeavors.

Finally, at the end of the month myself and other board members will be attending the Midwest Alliance for Sovereign Tribes (MAST) in Washington, D.C. I've attended many years in the past and it crucial for us as leadership to gather with other tribes in the Midwest to discuss areas of concern, create impressions as our own nations and most importantly meet face to face with national representatives to educate them about our needs, their treaty responsibilities and the outcomes we expect at the national level. It's always a sincere experience for me as us as leaders and so many leaders from other tribes have one main objective and its commitment to our tribe's well being.

All the above came with its own discussions and battles of course, but the board worked together and made an end point on all of them. All of us are quite settled in the fact that things needed changing, as many areas needed attention. I'm looking forward to continuing to address areas that need that.

As always, if you would like to meet or discuss anything please feel free to contact me for meeting or call. I look forward to moving in a positive direction with recent changes in our structure and confident in our staff's ability to do that.

Baamaapii,
Lana Causley-Smith
(906) 484-2954
(906) 322-3818

McLeod meets with legislators, speaks at IJC



**JENNIFER MCLEOD,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aanii, Anishnaabek, it continues to be an uneasy time as all of Indian Country watches what the new administration is going to do. But that doesn't mean that we sit idly by and wait. Director McKerchie and I attended the National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Winter Session in Washington DC, on Feb. 12-16. This was a very important session (see agenda below).

Ten congressional Leaders (five Democrats and five Republicans) presented to NCAI, and shared their perspectives of what to possibly expect. Although many tried to be positive, it is clear that things are going to change, and probably not for the better for tribal people. But, the

congressional leaders' level of commitment to Indian Country and their understanding of the trust relationship between the federal government and tribes left us with hope.

In addition to attending the NCAI conference, we "walked the hill" and had appointments with individual congressmen and congresswomen. I am grateful to Mike McCoy, legislative director, and Meghan Starling, federal liaison, for their hard work scheduling the appointments and especially for their assistance during the meetings. I feel the four of us worked very well together as a TEAM, and did an excellent job educating members of Congress about our tribe's needs. I especially enjoyed our meeting with Congressman Dan Kildee. I gave him one of the buttons I had made, and he put it on immediately (see immediate right).

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell was very helpful to us as well. In her "no nonsense, direct to the point" manner, she laid out clearly what work we had ahead of us (see below). It is good to have such strong advocates of Indian Country there to help tribes. We are very fortunate.

Growing our own tribal leaders

In a previous report, I introduced you to the two tribal youth I am mentoring for tribal leadership, Samantha Hale and Alana



Congressman Kildee and McLeod.

Dyament. They traveled with me to Lansing for the United Tribes of Michigan meeting. These girls were incredible. They were the centers of attention during the evening networking meeting and did such a good job introducing themselves, asking questions and especially answering the many questions they were asked. As a special treat, State Senator Wayne Schmidt invited them to a meeting of the state Senate the following morning. While there, Senator Schmidt formally introduced them and the girls beamed as all the members of the Senate rose and applauded them (see lower right).

At the end of March, the girls will be presenting at the Michigan Indian Education Council's Critical Issues Conference in Marquette, Mich. The theme of the conference is "Traditional Knowledge Systems." Samantha and Alana will be explaining how they are being mentored, what they are learning and how this serves our tribe. It is an honor to work with them, and I am very proud of their accomplishments.

Great Lakes water quality

I attended a consultation of the International Joint Commission on Great Lakes Water Quality, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. This group serves as an independent assessor of the progress made by the Canadian and United States governments in relationship to the United States-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (1972). It seeks not only scientific input, but also from the public and local governments/tribes. There is great concern that decisions of the Trump administration regarding the gutting of the EPA will have serious, negative impacts on the quality of the Great Lakes water. This could be devastating.

When it was my turn to speak, I explained that our tribe is very involved with the science of water quality, but what I felt was important for me to speak about was the tribal perspective in caring for Mother Earth and how we regard water. When I concluded, I told them that human beings have a choice — we can learn to live with the earth, and be a PART of creation (not the REASON for creation) or we could become extinct. And if we choose extinc-



From left, Samantha Hale and Alana Dyament on state capitol steps.

tion as a result of human beings disrespecting the earth and all that depend on her, and eventually destroy the environment as we know it, the earth will go on. She will in time, heal herself and return to a state of balance. It is a choice that human beings must make. Worldwide, indigenous people are speaking with the same voice, sharing the same message, the same warnings and asking the same question: *What path will the "modern" people choose?*

I guess this commission appreciated what I had to say. They asked a lot of questions and then invited me to participate in a brief interview for a film they are making about what the Great Lakes means to people.

Moving forward

Despite some of the obstacles and challenges since we changed the day-to-day management of tribal operations, our tribe is moving forward. The tribal board chairperson no longer is in charge of day-to-day operations and can now focus all of his time on the

governmental aspects of representing our tribe. He continues to represent our tribe in a good way at the state and national levels. The day-to-day operations are being handled by the tribal executive, Christine McPherson. I am happy with her progress and the efficiencies that are occurring. Many of the people who work for the tribe have expressed that things are improving. We still have a ways to go, but we are moving forward.

We all have our work cut out for us as we struggle to make sense of the new president's changes that have already occurred and the ones that will be coming. I will be heading to D.C. again in March to help educate new congressional leaders and their staff on the importance of treaty obligations and to make sure they understand that: Tribal Treaties DON'T EXPIRE!

Anishnaabe gagige (Anishnaabe for Always),
Jen
(906) 440-9151
Jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com
Jmcleod1@saulttribe.net
2 Ice Circle Drive
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783



From left, directors McKerchie and McLeod, Congresswoman Dingell and Legislative Director Mike McCoy.

Executive Council Winter Session | 15th Session
February 13 - 16, 2017
Capital Hilton, Washington, DC

Sunday, February 12
 1:00pm - 3:00pm Board Meeting

Monday, February 13
 7:30am - 5:00pm Registration and Rules and Credentials Open
 8:30am - 12:00pm State of Indian Nations - offsite at the Newseum
 8:30am - 12:00pm Day 1 Breakouts
 1:30pm - 5:00pm 1st General Assembly

Tuesday, February 14
 7:30am - 5:00pm Registration and Rules and Credentials Open
 8:30am - 12:00pm 2nd General Assembly
 1:30pm - 3:00pm 3rd General Assembly
 3:30pm - 5:00pm Breakout Sessions
 7:00pm - 10:00pm 19th Annual Leadership Awards Banquet

Wednesday, February 15
 8:30am - 12:00pm 4th General Assembly
 1:30pm - 3:00pm Tax Session
 3:30pm - 5:00pm Agriculture Session
 1:30pm - 5:00pm Post Meetings & Hill Visits
 6:30pm - 8:30pm Capitol Hill Reception - NMAI

Thursday, February 16
 8:00am - 5:00pm Hill Visits & Consultations
 9:00am - 12:00pm FCC Meeting on Tribal Issues
 8:30am - 5:00pm Tribal Interior Budget Council Meeting (TIBC)

All Meetings and General Assemblies, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Host Hotel:
 For registration, sponsorship opportunities, and other information, please visit www.ncai.org



From left, Alana Dyament, Senator Wayne Schmidt and Samantha Hale.

McKerchie getting up to speed on tribal board



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

I've attended my first National Congress of American Indians and United Tribes of Michigan meetings last month and cannot stress what a critical time this is for Indian Country to come together and advocate for our issues and concerns. It was an honor and privilege to represent our tribe and to speak with sen-

ators and members of Congress and urge them to stand up for sovereignty rights and treaty obligations.

They were a busy few days in Washington, D.C., going from congressman to congressman and learning the ins-and-outs of promoting Sault Tribe issues like retaining the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, expanded Medicare — all of which help the Sault Tribe deliver health care to our members. These were only some of the issues Aaron Payment, Jennifer McLeod and I continued fighting for on Capitol Hill. During any transition of power it is important to remind and educate lawmakers and budget decision makers of treaty obligations.

Treaty obligations don't expire; these are not handouts, our ancestors "pre-paid" for these rights. The Constitution is like a treaty between the people of the United States and U.S. govern-

ment, we ask those who honor the Constitution to also honor the treaties — both are promises made on hundreds of years old paper. Simply put, we need to educate and continuously remind the United States government of their obligations.

I am very humbled and grateful to try and assist our people and wanted to say "thank you" for this opportunity. Although my time has been short, I've learned quite a bit. In addition to the workshops and meetings, I've joined and/or been appointed to several committees including the Audit/Tax Committee, Gaming Authority/Gaming Commission, J.K.L. Bahweting School Fiduciary Committee and the Child Welfare Committee. I've sat in on interviews, employee appeals and policy meetings and have attended most of the Great Lakes Conservation Committee meetings, the Inland Conservation Committee meetings and CORA

meetings to learn as much as possible. I also try to attend the elder meetings and plan to make more effort to attend other committee meetings in addition to talking to members about issues daily.

Oftentimes, the board only hears the complaints and that's not a bad thing as it helps us show where improvement could be made. But we can't forget all the good things and the many members served throughout our communities; those who have received excellent service and benefits promptly. I, too, am guilty of this and want to say "thank you" to all tribal employees; sometimes we as a board don't get to express our gratitude at meetings and workshops. We have many members in many communities, and it takes many, many employees to serve them and our customers; your hard work does not go unnoticed. We have much work still to be done, I will continue representing every

tribal member to the best of my abilities and continue trying to improve our work environment for all team members.

Our community has a large void now that Harlan Downwind has walked on. He was our tribe's traditional healer and is sorely missed. Not only did he name all my children, provide doctoring on several occasions to several family members and taught us many teachings, he was also a good friend. Harlan was married to my little cousin, Laura, and we are blessed to have him in our family. I've attended several fasts with Harlan and many sweats. He is respected in many communities and the loss is felt throughout Ojibwe country. Laura will do an amazing job raising her girls and I know he will be looking over them. Although his time here was cut short, his impact will be felt forever. Chi miigwech, Neeogabo. Baamaapii, niigii - muckaday miigwen.

2020 Consent Decree negotiations firm hired



DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

The Manistique board meeting was changed to March 14 at the Manistique Tribal Center — 4 p.m. starts community input and the meeting starts at 6 p.m.

On March 17, the Manistique ACFS program hosts a Parenting Awareness Fun Night from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Manistique Tribal Center on US-2 right next to the casino. They will have a cake walk, crafts, games, face painting, prizes, food and fun for all. Hope to see you there!

Caring For Our Elders Traditional Powwow is on March 25 at the Escanaba High School gymnasium in Escanaba, Mich. Grand entry at noon followed by a pot luck feast at 5 p.m., please bring a dish to pass. They have a great variety of vendors every year — see you there!

At the Dec. 13 meeting, we passed a resolution to hire legal firm Morisset, Schlosser, Jozwiak & Somerville of Seattle, Wash., for our 2020 Consent Decree negotiations. It was a long road and after some resistance from the chairman and staff to enact the board approved resolution, we were finally able to get a contract and budget passed at the Feb. 21 meeting in St. Ignace. I will be working to get a date set for our first meeting with Mr. Morisset and the board to discuss our next steps. The tribe will hold several community meetings throughout the seven-county service area for our fishers and members to give input to Mr. Morisset that will be

vital for the 2020 negotiations. I feel the fishermen's input is vital to this next decree, they are the ones on the water — the decree affects their livelihoods. They have had to live with the last consent decree for 20 years and it has had a negative impact on our fishermen.

Resolution no: 2017-20 Amending Tribal Tax Code Section 43.504: Distribution of Tax Proceeds

Be it resolved, that the Tribal Tax Code, Section 43.805, Distribution of Tax Proceeds, is hereby amended to read as follows:

43.805 Distribution of Hotel Use Tax Proceeds.

The Tax Commission shall remit to the Tribe all hotel use tax proceeds from Hotels owned by the Tribe which are located within a one-quarter mile radius of a Licensed Gaming Establishment located on Tribal and Trust Lands, and the Tribe shall transfer such tax proceeds into the general fund. The Tax Commission shall remit to the Tribe all hotel use tax proceeds from Hotels which are not located within a one quarter mile radius of a Licensed Gaming Establishment located on Tribal and Trust Lands, and the Tribe shall consolidate such proceeds quarterly, and the percentage of the proceeds retained by the Tribe under the Tax Agreement shall be transferred into the general fund. Of the total tax proceeds transferred to the general fund under this section, five cents out of every 12 cents (5/12) shall be earmarked to enhance educational and cultural purposes, to be disbursed evenly among the five units.

At the Feb. 17 board meeting, resolution Amending Tribal Tax Code Section 43.504: Distribution of Tax Proceeds was submitted by Director Hoffman. Initially the resolution would take five cents out of every 12 cents from our hotel tax proceeds and transfer them to the general fund and then earmark them for education and cultural purposes.

I made an amendment to disburse the funds evenly among the five units for education and cultural purposes. It was a lengthy and heated discussion and unfortunately, we were called greedy again. One board member made the statement you don't have a hotel in your communities.

The purpose of our tribal casinos' and enterprises are to provide revenue for membership

services in the seven-county service area. We are not greedy and I am disgusted at how some board members talk about our members who live on the western end. We continue to request services for culture/language - education and very minimal in my five years on the board has been brought to the western end. I would like to thank the board members who voted yes along with me — directors

Chase, Sorenson, Causley-Smith, Hollowell, Nelson and Masseway. Now each community will have about \$50,000 to use for education and cultural purposes.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

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

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**A Tribute to
Haggard,
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Featuring Jeff Carson

Saturday, March 25

Show Starts at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 26

Show Starts at 4 p.m.

Ticket Price
\$12.50



**ABSOLUTE
JOURNEY**

TRIBUTE

Saturday, April 8

Show Starts at 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 9

Show Starts at 4 p.m.

SAULT STE. MARIE
DREAMMAKERS THEATER

shannon
crockett
imagery

Ticket Price
\$12.50



Kewadin
CASINOS

SAULT STE. MARIE
DREAMMAKERS THEATER

Local artist

Melissa Lee

Returns to the Sault

Saturday, April 15

Show Starts at 8 p.m.

Ticket Price
\$12.50

First 250 cash ticket buyers
receive FREE Album

