

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

# THE SAULT TRIBE NEWS

Visit us online at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com)

Manidoo giizisoons: "Little spirit Moon"

Win Awenen Nisitotung "One Who Understands"

December 15, 2006 • Vol. 27 No. 17

## Briefs

### Artisan's craft show

The Sault Kewadin Casino is hosting an artisans craft show in the Baweting Art Gallery, Thursday through Sunday, until Dec. 23, between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. This is a great place to do your Christmas shopping and support our Native artisans as well.

### Kewadin Casino hotel special

Kewadin Casinos would like to once again say thank you to all Sault Tribe members and team members this holiday season. To express their appreciation for your business throughout the year they are offering a special rate during this holiday season. Now through December 29, Kewadin Casinos is offering the following special rates:

- Kewadin Casino Lakefront Inn, St. Ignace:
  - Standard room — any day, \$39 plus tax.
  - Whirlpool room — any day, \$45 plus tax.
  - Suite room — any day, \$51 plus tax.
- \$15 Kewadin gold voucher for those who qualify.
- Kewadin Casino Hotel and Convention Center, Sault Ste. Marie and Kewadin Shores Casino and Hotel, St. Ignace:
  - Standard room — any day, \$44 plus tax.
  - Whirlpool room — any day, \$51 plus tax.
- \$10 Kewadin gold voucher for those who qualify.

The above rates are based on double occupancy and availability. Additional cost for each additional guest. When making your reservation, state you're a Sault Tribe member or a team member. During check-in, you must show your Sault Tribe membership card or team member badge. We look forward to serving you! Happy holiday's from Kewadin Casinos. For reservations call, 1-800-KEWADIN (800-539-2346) or the Kewadin Casino Lakefront Inn at (800) 322-8411.



Veronica Frye, 3, was very excited about her visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Sault Tribe childrens' Christmas party held Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

Photo by Brenda Austin

## Hessel community drum, Mukwa Giizik, born



Hessel community members celebrated the birth of their new drum, Mukwa Giizik, with a pipe ceremony, talking circle, the drum tying and a feast. Some are shown here just prior to the event. Committee member Gene Biron is at the far right. Photo by Rick Smith

BY RICK SMITH

Tribe members in Hessel gathered on Dec. 7 at the tribal center to celebrate the culmination of efforts by a committee to create a community drum. The committee formed in September of 2005 with the purpose of bringing a drum to the members of Hessel. The final step in finishing the drum was tying wet hides onto a specially built cedar frame. The celebration was marked with a pipe ceremony, talking circle, the tying, a feast in honor of the drum and a giveaway.

"We want this community to heal," said Gene Biron, committee member and one of the drum builders. "This community needs

this medicine for healing and helping the youth."

Biron indicated the committee will stay formed to advocate for other traditional needs in the area. "The people here are very committed," he said.

Some of the other members of the committee are Cal Burnside, Lisa Burnside, Lana Causley, John Causley, Arline Graham and folks from Drummond Island.

Biron said, until now, the community invited the Black Bear Drum to meet community needs. The Black Bear Drum is the Biron family drum.

Help and support for the new drum came from the Bawating Drum and singers, who donated

materials and time to the project.

"Our main vision is for the kids to learn a different way other than drugs and alcohol," said Biron. "The drum is the heartbeat of our people. The heartbeat draws people in for good things."

Biron cited examples of good things such as opening and sustaining communications between generations and comforting those who are sick in spirit. He added that drums help people develop or strengthen bonds with each other, their culture and communities.

About 20 children attend weekly drumming sessions at the tribal building where they learn about Anishinaabe traditions and enhance their sense of identity

and worth.

Speaking on the power of drums, Biron said he and his family have first hand experiences with spiritual healing of drums and how that may lead one to a better and happier life.

The name given to the drum is Mukwa Giizik or Cedar Bear. It was the name envisioned by a tribe member attending the ceremony.

"It was a very good ceremony," Biron said. "The drum tied perfectly."

The Hessel members also built a lodge, next to the community center, that was completed last summer. The lodge is used for traditional functions.

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# Updates, Lobbying for our Tribe, Holiday Volunteering



**Aaron A. Payment, MPA  
Tribal Chairperson**

**BUDGET UPDATE:  
THE SKY IS NOT FALLING**

Over the course of the last several months, there have been unsubstantiated reports that the Tribe is in financial dire straights. This is simply not the case. Though it is true that we originally had proposed budgets that would have caused a cost overrun and may have required the Tribe to either borrow money or conduct layoffs to balance the budget, I am happy to report that after several months of administrative recommendations and budget constrictions efforts, we have reduced the budget request to project a balanced budget for 2007.

There was previously discussion of the need for layoffs, but I am happy to report that we do not anticipate having to layoff regular employees to balance the budget. Since serving as your Chairperson, we have balanced the budget each year: 2004 = \$3 million surplus and 2005 = \$500,000 surplus. This is in contrast to just prior to my serving as Chair, when the budget cost overrun was about \$3 million each year. Today, the Tribal budget is managed in a more professional manner than ever before.

Nonetheless, a few members of the Tribal Board continue to want to use a supposed budget shortfall as justification for political retributive layoffs. In a budget meeting, after it was clear that we were not facing a budget deficit at all, a few Board members actually seemed upset that we would not be able to lay people off. Recall in previous reports, I noted that some wished to undo an already approved 'indirect cost proposal' under the assumption that we would save Tribal dollars. Based on a presentation by our Accounting staff, it is now obvious that such a concept would not save dollars but would likely only sacrifice Membership services.

Regardless of all of the rhetoric to balance the budget through layoffs, there is currently no need for layoffs as we have already balanced the projected budget while preserving Tribal jobs.

**UNPROFESSIONALISM -  
ATTACKING TEAM MEMBERS**

Last month, a Tribal Board member chose to make a personal attack on a key casino team member. Many members I speak to have complained about the use-

less nature of these attacks and to express how dissatisfied they are with a Board member's abuse of their office by using their article to attack Tribal Members in their article. In the past, Director DJ Hoffman has criticized this practice. I am therefore asking him to join me in condemning this and all attacks and use of Board reports in this way. Any demonstration of support or words of encouragement for our team members (who work hard in their employment positions) would be appreciated by any member of the Tribal Board.

In previous reports, some Board members have made no bones about their lack of support and desire to find fault with the Kewadin Shores project. Sadly, even though a standing invitation (for nearly two years) was extended to all Tribal Board Members to attend the construction project meetings for the St. Ignace project, some chose not to attend. Rather than trying to find fault, wouldn't it be refreshing if these Board members were to have chosen to help the project at the time that it mattered - during the construction rather than complain now?

During the week leading up to the opening of the new Shores casino, our team members at St. Ignace worked very hard to prepare the new casino to open. This was not without its challenges and glitches, but Kewadin Shores team members worked hard alongside their general manager - Darcy Chase and Kewadin Casinos COO - Tony Goetz. Tony and Darcy both worked 70+ hours each that week to open the new casino. Tony Goetz has confirmed how dedicated Darcy and all the team members were in getting ready to open. A Board member, however, chose to mischaracterize Darcy's efforts by suggesting that Darcy was nowhere to be found.

I don't understand this approach and can only guess that this Board Member's slight on Darcy Chase is intended as retribution toward Director Denise Chase for not participating in the secret meetings with select Board members in violation with the spirit of the Tribe's Open Meetings Act. Again, for the record, the Casino COO - Tony Goetz has confirmed that Darcy and all the Shores Team members worked diligently to ensure our new casino would open on time and with as little disruption as possible.

This Board member owes Darcy Chase and the entire Membership an apology for using his report to attack team members politically - he has done so at least a half dozen times in the last year. This is unacceptable. Our team members do not deserve to be attacked in this manner.

**UNITED TRIBES OF MI VICE-  
PRESIDENT APPOINTMENT**

Recently, I was nominated and accepted the interim appointment as the Vice-President of

the United Tribes of Michigan which is a coalition of Michigan Tribes who formed to share our common Tribal issues with the Michigan and federal legislatures on issues in which we agree. So far we have focused on developing a strategy to protect the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver from any unjustified fall out of the Constitutional Amendment in Michigan which eliminated affirmative action. We are also encouraging the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to spend more effort marketing the Michigan gaming industry and Tribal Arts and Crafts as an integral part of the tourism trade in Michigan to help boost the economy. We also have a goal to reduce our dependency on outside lobbyist when we can perform much of our own government-to-government relationship building. This is not a paid position, and will only complement my role as Chairperson as it will help to rebuild relations with our fellow Michigan Tribes.

**WASHINGTON DC TRIP**

During the first week in December, a delegation of the Tribal Board of Directors and I made our way to Washington DC to do our best to ward off any adverse legislation in the waning days of the current legislative session. Of concern were a few bills that threatened to erode our sovereignty by granting some level of say over our gaming operations to local governments. These bills contradict over two hundred years of legislative policy, judicial pre-

cedence, and ultimately - the authority which serves as the basis for our Tribal sovereignty - the United States Constitution.

Our visit was successful. I want to offer a special thank you to those Board members who formed a solid team working for the betterment of our Tribe. It truly was a team approach and very complimentary. I also want to recognize Meghan Kelly-Powell, for her efforts in coordinating this trip and keeping us on schedule and on point. Meghan, one of our first interns from the early 1990s, is a Tribal member and the daughter of our first Tribal judge from the time of recognition. Meghan works as a our federal liaison; she will be writing a summary of our efforts as well as regular updates on legislative items that affect our Tribe. Great job Meghan!

**VOLUNTEERING DURING  
THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

I would like to take a moment to thank all those volunteers and team members who work at our Tribal Children Christmas Parties across the service area. This is hard work as we have literally over a thousand children who receive presents annually from Christmas parties. Purchasing and wrapping thousands of presents and all of the work in organizing these parties, including the clean up, is done by some of the kindest people I know. I want to offer a special thank you to Sue Henderlite for her oversight over all the parties. This year, I was

approached by several grateful individuals who said this year was the best one ever. Next month, we will be running a thank you ad to the volunteers and the companies we do business with, that donated about \$10,000 this year (a new record) to making our children's Christmas party a resounding success.

**MY CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE**

This year, I am renewing a family tradition of helping out the Salvation Army in their fundraising efforts during the holidays by bell ringing for charity. On Saturday - December 23rd, I will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at the Sault Ste. Marie, MI Wal-Mart. For those Tribal Members and Kewadin and Governmental Team Members who stop by between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to make a donation of \$10 or more to the Salvation Army, I will put your name into a drawing for a gas gift card of \$50 from the Midjim.

Finally, for those who wish to ring in the New Year in a safe and sober way, please join us for our annual sobriety New Year's Eve Powwow held at the Big Bear Arena in Sault Ste. Marie. Again, this year, I will draw as a door prize 10 (\$20 gift cards) for those who ring in the New Year with us.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please contact me by Email at [apayment@sault-tribe.net](mailto:apayment@sault-tribe.net) or call (906) 632-6578 or toll free at (888) 94-AARON.



Sault Tribe members volunteering at the Salvation Army (Sault Ste. Marie) annual Thanksgiving dinner - Left: Rhonda Mastaw, Maggie Nolan, Jossie Payment, Karen Howell, Aaron Payment, Dan Stinehart and Desi Clewley.

**Tribal membership meetings**

Format: We open up the floor for questions from members and updates are given. If you have any questions about the meetings, please call me toll free at: (888) 94-AARON.

Area	Time	Date	Location
Unit 1	6 p.m.	January 15	Sault at Kewadin Casino Ontario room 1
Unit 2	5 p.m.	January 17	Newberry Tribal Center
Unit 3	6 p.m.	January 24	St. Ignace at McCann School
Unit 4	5 p.m.	January 3	Escanaba Heirman Center room 963
Unit 5	11 a.m.	January 13	NMU University Center Nicloet room
Tri-County Detroit area	12 p.m.	January 14	Detroit at Greektown Casino
Mid-Mich.	12 p.m.	January 28	Okemos, MI/Nokomis Learning Center
Northern Lower Mich.	6 p.m.	January 28	Inverness Township Hall, Cheboygan

# Northern Hospitality open in new location



Jeff Behling

former Heartland building at 827 Ashmun Street next to Parker's Hardware.

General Manager Jeff Behling, said, "I like being at our new location downtown; if we can be part of the revitalization process of the downtown area that is a good thing for the tribe and the community."

Behling said he is currently looking at new furniture lines to give customers more choice. "The new furniture lines will allow customers to look at a sofa on the floor and be able to choose from maybe 160 different fabrics. I want to offer more custom choices for our customers. With the new warehouse space constraints I don't have as much room to keep excess stock in the back. This means that if I can custom order a product and give you a good price, I will sharpen up my pencil even more to make it worth



while for you to say, hey, I can wait five weeks if I am going to get that good a deal and get what I want."

Northern Hospitality provides flooring and furniture at great prices for tribal employees and members in addition to the local community. Their in-store inven-

tory consists of carpeting, vinyl flooring, ceramic tile, hardwood and laminate flooring and furniture for every room in your house.

Northern Hospitality also handles big projects for the tribe such as furnishings for its hotels and casinos in addition to commercial work for non-tribal businesses.

"We are up and running at full strength. What we lost in warehouse size we have made up for in quality. We had a lot of support during our move. Sault Tribe Construction did a great job; all the subcontractors, tribal administration and the board of directors were behind us all the way. My crew was fantastic; they worked a lot of hard hours. I have nothing but good to say about everything that happened during the move, everyone was very willing to lend a hand," Behling said.

A grand opening is in the works for late December or early January with prizes, give-a-ways and discounts. Be sure to watch for announcements regarding date and time.

Northern Hospitality can be reached at (906) 635-4800.

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Northern Hospitality, the tribe's flooring and furniture store, is now open at their new location and invites you, family and friends to come in and see the new showroom located in the

## Greektown Casino offers dealerless poker

DETROIT — Beginning next year Greektown Casino will offer dealerless poker for those looking to cash-in on the Nation's current poker craze.

Greektown Casino will be the first casino to install computerized poker tables in Michigan. The tables will operate without dealers, real cards or poker chips. Players will instead make their routine plays on a touch-screen display.

The new poker tables follow the current gaming trend which

seeks to offer more computerized gaming, such as the case with coinless slot machines. Greektown Casino along with many other casinos across the country recently converted to coinless slot play.

Computerized poker will ultimately save the casino money because it won't have to pay dealers. However, the Greektown Casino reports they don't anticipate losing any of their current dealers, because the tables are in addition to the traditional tables

on hand.

Greektown will still have 19 traditional poker tables in the their two designated poker rooms for those who favor dealer-staffed tables.

Players will need to purchase money cards from the cashier's window to play the new game.

Greektown Casino is hoping to draw in those who play poker online and also hopes to entice traditional poker players to test-out the new game.

## Lawsuit over Indian trust accounts has new judge

WASHINGTON — Elouise Cobell, the lead plaintiff in the class action lawsuit over the federal government's mismanagement of Individual Indian Trust accounts, expressed hope recently that the new judge assigned to the decade-old dispute will speed resolution of the litigation.

Ms. Cobell's comments came after Chief U.S. District Judge Thomas F. Hogan assigned the Cobell versus Kempthorne case to District Judge James Robertson.

In his order, Judge Hogan noted that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia had expressed hope that the parties will "work with the new judge to resolve this case expeditiously and fairly."

"We can assure Judge Hogan and Judge Robertson that this is also our wish," said Ms. Cobell. "We want to see this case resolved quickly. We will work in good

faith with Judge Robertson to end this century-long injustice that the government has done to Native People."

Titled "Cobell versus Kempthorne," the class action lawsuit deals with the abuse of trust accounts that were established by Congress in 1887 to hold the proceeds from the government-arranged leases of Indian lands, mostly in the West. Proceeds from oil, gas, grazing, mineral and timberlands were supposed to be deposited into those accounts.

Evidence in the lawsuit has shown that many of records needed for those accounts have been lost or were never recorded. Despite repeated instructions from Congress and the courts, the Interior Department has yet to perform an accounting of the assets.

## Organization helps meet needs of Indian youth

BY RICK SMITH

According to their Web site, Running Strong for American Indian Youth<sup>®</sup> began in 1986 as a project of Christian Relief Services. Their stated mission is to help American Indian people meet their immediate survival needs — food, water and shelter — while implementing and supporting programs designed to create opportunities for self-sufficiency and self-esteem, particularly for tribal youth.

It is noted on the Web site that their goal is to build the capacity of communities, grassroots Indian organizations and individuals to leverage their strengths to solve problems. Through long-term development programs such as organic gardening, housing, water resource development, nutrition and health care, in order to foster self-sufficiency on Indian reservations across the United States.

Billy Mills, Olympic gold medalist and an Oglala Lakota

(Sioux) from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, serves as Running Strong's national spokesperson. Mills travels throughout the country speaking to American Indian children and their families, spreading his message of inspiration and opportunity for many Indian youth based on dignity, character and pride. He plays an integral role in all of the youth programs, which are designed to build a new generation of Indian leaders who demonstrate healthy life-styles and take pride in their heritage. Running Strong programs are designed and implemented by local Indian people with the organization's advisory board acting as a resource to preserve, promote and respect Indian culture and values within each program.

Running Strong offers programs in developing organic agriculture, culture and language, emergency heat, housing, youth, midwifery and wells. The organic

agriculture and housing programs are focused on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

The organization has headquarters in Alexandria, Va., near Washington, D.C., along with field offices in Pine Ridge, Berkshire, N.Y., and Eagle Butte, S.D.

The Running Strong for American Indian Youth advisory board consists of representatives from various tribes across the country, including three from Michigan, and dignitaries such as former Cheyenne U.S. senator, the Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell, two other senators and a U.S. representative.

The organization can be reached by e-mail at: [info@indianyouth.org](mailto:info@indianyouth.org).

The Running Strong for American Indian Youth Web site address is [www.indianyouth.org](http://www.indianyouth.org).

*Merry Christmas from the staff of the Communications Department*

## American Indian home ownership increasing

SUBMITTED BY CAROLYN O'NEIL

While many Americans are making their way home for the Christmas holiday, American Indians are celebrating, in many cases, their improved chance of owning a home.

Recent data for the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, which was released by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council for 2005, shows that American Indians increased their number of mortgage originations.

Home ownership is still lower than the national average 56 percent vs. 68 percent, according to 2000 census statistics, there are signs that the rate is improving and more loans are being made to Indian borrowers.

Mortgage opportunities are improving for Indians, particularly through the Housing and Urban Development Department's Section 184 Indian Housing Loan

Guarantee Program. Created in 1992, the program provides 100 percent reimbursement to private lenders in case of default. As of July 2006, it had facilitated 3,505 loans. Another boon to mortgages is Fannie Mae, which at 2005 year-end had purchased \$1.056 billion in investments on tribal lands for 9,505 units over the past five years.

To help boost home ownership rates among Indians, the National American Indian Housing Council launched a new Web site on Sept. 25, 2006, [www.NativeAmericanHomebuyer.com](http://www.NativeAmericanHomebuyer.com). The site has already seen 26,000 page visits and is expanding with new items such as advanced mortgage calculators that offer features like answering how prepaying changes loans, simple savings calculations and figuring how much house you can afford.

# Christmas Break Drop-In Week

Spend Christmas Break at the Bear  
December 27, 28 and 29



Arcade!!



Concession Stand!!

Drop-In Basketball/Volleyball  
12:00-5:00 PM  
\$2.00 Adults/ \$1.00 Students

Public Skating  
1:30-3:20 PM  
\$3.00 Adults/\$2.00 Students

Toddler/Adult Skate  
12:15-1:35 PM  
\$2.00

Drop-In Hockey (Ages 16+)  
12-12:50 PM

For more information, please call  
635-RINK

Two Ice Circle • Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan • 49783 • 1-906-635-RINK • 1-800-588-RINK • 1-906-635-4916 (FAX)



## Drum Social

Everyone is welcome

Where: Manistique Tribal Community Center on Hwy US-2  
When: December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Eve)  
Time: 8:00p.m. Until midnight

Please bring a healthy snack to pass to help Celebrate Native Health

This is a DRUG and ALCOHOL free event

Sponsored by: Anishinabe Nimmki Tribal Youth Council



# Bezhgodaa Anishinaabe Bemaadziwining "Let's Be One In Our Way of Life"

Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

19<sup>th</sup> Annual New Years Eve

Sobriety Pow Wow

December 31st, 2006

Grand Entry 1:00 & 7:00 Feast 5:00

Big Bear Arena 2 Ice Circle, Sault, MI

ALL PUBLIC WELCOME COME HELP US RING IN THE NEW YEAR!

EMCEE: BUTCH ELLIOTT / ARENA DIRECTOR: FRANK BUSWA

HEAD VETERAN - TONY DAVIS

HEAD MALE - DALE ANDERSON / HEAD FEMALE - RITA BOULLEY

HOST DRUM - POPLAR SINGERS

FUN CONTESTS FOR ALL AGES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT

Spiritual Gathering December 30th from 10:00 to ?  
at Niigaanagizhik

Vendor Space is Limited contact Melissa. Pow Wow Information Please contact Bud Biron, Josh Homminga or Melissa Causley at 906.635.6050

## Winter spiritual gathering

Dec. 30  
At the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building  
11 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie  
10 a.m. until done.

Any questions please contact the Culture Division at (906) 635-6050.

## Super creamy, stove top cheese macaroni

From the kitchen of Bob Flowers

In an ongoing effort to create diabetic friendly meals, I experimented with making my own cheese macaroni using whole grain noodles. The results came out great, and so I'm sharing them with you. Feel free to change the amount and sharpness of the cheddar cheese used in the recipe to make your own version more or less bold.

Ingredients:  
3 tbs. all purpose flour  
3 tbs. butter or cooking oil (I prefer safflower oil when using oil)  
¼ cup medium sharp Cheddar cheese, finely grated  
1/8 cup Mozzarella cheese, finely grated  
1/8 cup fresh Romano, Parmesano Regiano, or Asiago cheese, finely grated  
1 can (12 oz.) condensed milk.  
1 cup uncooked whole grain pasta (spirals are nice as is penne pasta for this dish).

Bring water to a boil in a medium sauce pan. While the water is heating, melt the butter in a another sauce pan. Add the flour and whisk together over medium

heat until smooth. This is called a roux. Let the roux cook for two minutes, then add the condensed milk, a little at a time. Whisk it in until the paste absorbs it all before adding more. Continue until all of the milk is used and you have a smooth and creamy sauce (this is called a béchamel, or white sauce). Season with one-quarter tsp. salt.

If the water is boiling, add the pasta, turn down the heat to simmer, and cover. Set a timer for ten minutes. Turn off the heat under the sauce and add the cheese, a little at a time, while whisking together. Cover and let sit for five minutes. Remove the cover and whisk until silky smooth. When the ten minute timer goes off, drain the pasta and mix into the cheese sauce. Serve with Bratwurst or Polish sausage and your favorite veggies.

For a richer flavor, use a sharper cheddar. Also, the sharper the cheddar, the less of it you need to achieve the flavor you want.

Kelly Constantino, Youth Education and Activities services coordinator in Unit IV, will be holding a flute camp in Escanaba Saturday, Jan. 6. The flute camp will be at the Escanaba Civic Center and is being sponsored by the culture camp. Bud Biron and others will be there to instruct participants on how to make flutes and teachings of the flute. The camp will start at 8 a.m. and wrap up around 4 p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Space is limited so please call Kelly Constantino at (906) 789- 0976 or cell (906) 322-0832 to reserve your spot.

Moving? Don't forget to bring us along by contacting the Sault Tribe Enrollment Department and giving them your new address as soon as possible so that you won't miss a single issue of *The Sault Tribe News*. You can call Enrollment at (906) 635-3396 or (800) 251-6597.

# Heartburn in Indian Country: Proposition 2 passed

BY RICK SMITH

"This is a very sad day for Michigan as our state has delivered a message on race, gender and equality that is deeply disturbing. It is unfortunate that affirmative action was presented to voters within a deliberately racial context that preyed upon the fear of Michiganians as opposed to the hopes created by the rich diversity of our state. The proponents of Prop 2 succeeded only in stoking the fires of racial miscommunication; they have worked to divide rather than unite Michigan," Michigan Civil Rights Commission Chair Mark Bernstein and Michigan Department of Civil Rights Director Linda V. Parker released these remarks last Nov. 8, a day after the Proposal 2006-2 vote, creating a Constitutional amendment banning affirmative action in Michigan.

Bernstein and Parker added, "In the coming weeks and months, we anticipate a variety of lawsuits from parties on both sides of this issue. Through these lawsuits, we will come to better understand the specific impact of this proposal. We can only hope that this impact does not harm our

ability to harness the diversity of our human resources to the fullest extent; in preparation for the rich ethnicity of the emerging global economy."

Proposal 2 passed overwhelmingly in the mid-term elections on Nov. 7, by nearly 60 percent, or more than 2.1 million voters. Now Michigan's Indian communities are watching and waiting to see if the death of Affirmative Action in this state is going to splash over and bring an end to the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver as well. "Of course our community is very disappointed it passed. Our education committee did a very strong campaign against it," said Keweenaw Bay Indian Community President Susan LaFernier. "We had 'No on two' signs posted all over, we had a 'No on two' radio campaign, we pulled out all the stops on this thing. We looked closely at the wording of all the proposals. I was especially surprised there were women who supported Proposal 2, I guess they didn't really understand the issue and its cost to them."

Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Vice Chairman George Bennett

lamented, "I'm not happy. It puts the free tuition at risk and it doesn't move Indian Country forward at all. It's unfair."

"We're very disappointed that a majority of voters were misled by a deceptive campaign pushed by out-of-state interests seeking to exploit people's differences. The Native community must continue standing together to educate the general public about our rights," said D.K. Sprague, chairman of the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan.

Sault Tribe Communications Director Cory Wilson stated, "In our opinion, Proposal 2, technically, should not affect the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver Program. The waiver program is not a race-based initiative but rather a government-to-government agreement. If we do hear about any changes to the program, the Sault Tribe will do its best to inform our tribe members in a timely manner."

The Sault Tribe education director, Angeline Matson, echoed Wilson's statement in a letter to the editor of the Michigan State University newspaper after a story in The State News paraphrased

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon as saying that scholarships, such as the Indian waiver, will be affected by the passage of Proposal 2. "I disagree with the statement 'will be affected' — the statement is an absolute certainty, and this is most certainly not the case," Matson wrote. "For clarification, the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver is a legislative action to a government-to-government agreement in which the state of Michigan agreed to provide free education to Native Americans in exchange for the land in Mount Pleasant upon which the former federally operated Indian boarding school was located.

"This exchange is referred to as the 'Comstock Agreement,' named after then-Gov. William Comstock. The state of Michigan did not uphold its end of this agreement from 1934 until the tuition waiver law was passed in 1976. In fact, the state was ineligible until 1972 to receive Johnson O'Malley Program funding from the federal government for Indian education programs — specifically because the Comstock Agreement included the statement that Michigan would provide this

education to Indians without cost to the federal government.

"The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that it is permissible to treat Native Americans differently from other citizens when that treatment is tied to the unique trust relationship and obligations of the federal government to Indian tribes (Morton v. Mancari). The obligations of the federal government — as it pertains to educating Native Americans — were transferred in part to the state of Michigan through the Comstock Agreement.

"The obligation of the state of Michigan remains, and the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative should have nothing to do with the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver."

In any case, it appears by accounts in Michigan's major newspapers that the battle over Proposal 2 is far from done. Lawsuits have already been initiated against the measure, and legal experts say a conclusion may be as distant as 10 years from now.

# Report: Government policies harm minority men

BY RICK SMITH

A national non-profit research and policy group based in Washington, D.C., recently released a report indicating U.S. government policies contribute to withering health, education and employment opportunities for minority men. The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies released the study commissioned by an Oakland, Calif., group, led by Mayor-elect Ron Dellum, to examine the effects of U.S. policies on men of American Indian, Hispanic, Asian and black ancestry. "Policy failures and systemic barriers have diminished community health and

limited the life options for young men of color," the report noted.

In addition, The Dellum Commission report outlines policy recommendations addressing issues related to health, justice and incarceration, education, employment, family and the media.

The report found that American Indian men must overcome poverty, social exclusion, inadequate schools and poor health systems to rise above ill health, ignorance and lack of gainful employment common in Indian Country.

"These findings only confirm what we, as Native communities, are faced with on a day-to-day

basis," said National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Joe A. Garcia. "Our young people are the future of Indian Country and we can no longer afford for them to fall through the cracks of a flawed system."

Among the recommendations in the report: establish universal health coverage, all states extend health coverage to uninsured children not covered by state Medicaid or other insurance programs, increase the minimum wage and the availability of student loans and to review sentencing guidelines that imprison nonviolent offenders for extended periods.

"Our governments must work together to address these problems," said NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Johnson. "A good example of how these working partnerships can be facilitated is the recent gathering of state and tribal leaders in Palm Springs as a joint project between NCAI and the National Conference of State Legislatures to promote tribal-state collaboration."

The NCAI Policy Research Center contributed to the report by compiling existing data that further illustrate social and economic disparities facing American Indians — for example, rural Indians

are five times more likely to be welfare recipients, Indian children are three times more likely to be in foster homes than Caucasians, and Indian men are victims of violent crimes up to four times higher than any other ethnicity.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies is identified on its Web site as a national, non-profit research and public policy institution. The Joint Center is recognized today as one of the nation's premier think tanks on a broad range of public policy issues of concern to African Americans and other communities of color.

## 2007 Production Schedule

### Win Awenen Nisitotung, "One Who Understands" The Sault Tribe News

Public deadlines: Tuesday 9 a.m.	Distribution dates: Fridays
January 2	January 12
January 23	February 2
February 13	February 23
March 6	March 16
March 27	April 6
April 17	April 27
May 8	May 18
May 29	June 8
June 19	June 29
July 10	July 20
July 31	August 10
August 21	August 31
September 11	September 21
October 2	October 12
October 23	November 2
November 13	November 23
December 4	December 14

This newspaper is published on a three-week production cycle. Please note the distribution date when submitting event information for our community calendar.

Submissions can be mailed, faxed, sent via inter-office mail or e-mail.

The distribution date is the earliest the newspaper can arrive in the seven-county service area.

The Sault Tribe News can be viewed online in its entirety via the Internet at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) the date the newspaper is distributed.

NOTE: A tribal public service announcement (PSA) is free, has priority for publication and is set at the discretion of the editor.

Advertising is also available. For more information contact Darryl Brown at (906) 632-6398 ext. 26330.

The Sault Tribe News is an official publication of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

## Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors 2007 calendar

January 2	Sault Ste. Marie
January 16	Kincheloe
February 6	Sault Ste. Marie
February 20	St. Ignace
March 6	Sault Ste. Marie
March 20	Hessel
April 3	Sugar Island
April 17	Sault Ste. Marie
May 1	Sault Ste. Marie
May 15	Manistique
June 5	Escanaba
June 19	Marquette
July 3	Mackinac Island
August 7	Munising
August 21	Newberry
September 4	Sault Ste. Marie
September 18	Manistique
October 2	Munising
October 16	St. Ignace
November 6	Sault Ste. Marie
November 20	Hessel
December 4	Sault Ste. Marie

Unit I: 10 Meetings: Sault Ste. Marie (8), Kincheloe (1), Sugar Island (1)

Unit II: Three meetings: Hessel (2), Newberry (1)

Unit III: Three meetings: St. Ignace (2), Mackinac Island (1)

Unit IV: Three meetings: Manistique (2), Escanaba (1)

Unit V: Three meetings: Munising (2), Marquette (1)

General meetings of the board of directors are held the first and third Tuesday of the month.

All general meetings start at 6 p.m. All Sault meetings will be held at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center, other locations to be announced.

For further information please call Joanne or Tara at the administration office, (800) 793-0660, extensions 26337 or 26338.

## Department of Justice announces tribal Web site

The Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) announced the launch of a new tribal justice and safety Web site, [www.usdoj.gov/tribal-justiceandsafety](http://www.usdoj.gov/tribal-justiceandsafety). The Internet home page will be a resource for American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and communities, and will help the general public and other federal agencies to better understand the resources available for improving safety in American Indian communities.

"I am honored to deliver the promise that I made to provide a 'one stop shop' that will enhance the prevention of and response to crime and the administration of justice in Indian country," said Regina B. Schofield, assistant attorney general for the OJP. "This will serve as a medium for talking about promising practices across the nation. Crime knows no boundaries, and the tribal justice and safety Web site is another way we are using technology to prevent crime and violence from taking root in our communities."

The site serves as a single source of information about courts, corrections, law enforcement, crime statistics, crime prevention, legal and other public safety issues.

# Meeting briefs

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians held a special meeting on Nov. 14. Board members Joe Eitrem, Dennis McKelvie and Keith Massaway were absent.

**Resolutions:** *Voting is not noted on unanimous decisions.*

The board approved official support and encouragement for the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc., to administer a nursing workforce diversity program for fiscal years 2007-10.

The board also voted in favor of the council seeking a Health Resources and Services Administration grant to fund increased nursing education opportunities for people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The board met again for a general meeting on Nov. 21 in

Hessel. All board members were present. Minutes were approved from a meeting on Nov. 7.

**Resolutions:** The board approved amending Tribal Code Chapter 30 to read that the tribal Child Welfare Committee shall consist of nine members and the number of committee members required to reach a quorum shall be five.

The United States Coast Guard was officially invited to enter into government to government consultations with the goal of restructuring the safety zones to the satisfaction of both parties.

The board meets regularly on the first and third Tuesdays of each month and tribe members are invited to attend.

# Greektown: Boom or bust



**Dennis McKelvie**  
Unit 1 Representative  
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Since 1998 we put over \$125 million into this project. We have very little in return so far.

We paid \$275 million to our partners, as well as millions to our minority partners because we "needed them" for their connections and their expertise in the Detroit area.

Regardless of the circumstances that got us to this point, now we are here and we have to make it work.

Greektown is the financial future of the tribe!

We have hit a lot of road blocks in our quest. It is important that the membership understands the many obstacles that have crossed our path in this process, as well as the hurdles we have yet to overcome. Among them are:

- We were set back by a late opening due to problems with our partners getting licensed, so we had to buy them out.
- Next, we were supposed to be in the temporary casino for two

years and paid \$50 million to go to waterfront along with the other two casinos. The waterfront move was halted by environmental, as well as monetary, roadblocks.

• Then the City of Detroit was sued by Lac Vieux Desert Tribe. The casinos settled the suit which cost Greektown \$40 million.

• Once we moved forward and bought seven acres of land for \$35 million. This land now sits idle as casino plans have changed. It is an asset that we will sell to offset expenditures in Greektown. The questions that remain are when, and for how much?

• State imposed a new six percent tax which cost us nearly \$26 million per year.

• Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGC) set financial restraints with a stringent covenant model based on our EBITA debt to income ratios.

• We decided to stay in Greektown and add parking, there was a nine month delay in purchasing properties to begin building.

• We requested that the MGC move our covenants back, because of late start, to allow for a smoother lending process, as well as to maintain annual monetary upstreams to the tribe.

The Michigan Gaming Control Board is not too friendly on the idea of moving our covenants. I don't know what the problem is — if they don't like the tribe or they don't think we can manage it — all we ask for is a fair playing field.

At a meeting last November it was even stated that maybe we should look at selling it — selling

it is not an option — it would all be spent in a few short years.

Costs up, federal grants are going down — short time thereafter — cuts.

All I ask, is that we be treated no differently than Motor City or MGM.

We will not sell, they are wrong. We are the only Michigan-based casino in Detroit that is 100% minority owned. All the money that is made, other than interest payments, stay in Michigan. The gaming control board should be doing what is right, not only for us but for the state of Michigan. So if we succeed, the State wins, for more of our people will use more of our resources rather than the state's resources for services.

Do we want to be the board that lost the biggest investment we had? Do we want to lose our future?

The problem is debt load. We would still be doing great if it wasn't for the tax increase, \$19 million reduction in tax load. The tax load will be lifted when we finish our permanent parking and hotel to pay off our debt.

We are the only casino in Detroit with minority partners.

With the increased competition up north, our growth outlook is not as rosy as it once was. This is why Greektown must work.

We need to work collectively to make this work in Detroit and at home. Happy holidays!

Sincerely,  
Dennis McKelvie  
Unit 1 Board Representative  
(906) 632-7267.

# Membership Q & A

**Q:** Recently, I was sent some very disturbing e-mail that attacked our hunting and fishing rights. They said the Indians are going to be allowed to harm and deplete the natural resources of the state. How should I respond?

**A:** Please do not respond to these types of inflammatory attacks. They carry the tone of ignorance and selfishness and are completely void of the truth.

Think of the irony, a non-native accusing Indians of harming the natural resources of the earth. This is laughable and one really has to question where this mindset and difference in belief comes from. Although column space does not allow me to speak to the many differences between the native and non-native ways of thinking, I do feel that I should address a couple of them.

To begin with, there is a very real difference between hunting and fishing for sport, and hunting and fishing to sustain life. The first may have its roots in the Euro-American belief that man must conquer nature and, taken as such, they have become activities that are done for recreation and pleasure. While there may be no harm with getting some leisure time in, an unfortunate consequence is that this can lead to competition amongst individuals as in who can get the most fish or the biggest



Clarence Hudak and DJ Malloy animal. In the latter instance, the goal is pure and simple, and that is to provide food and sustenance for one's self or one's family.

Secondly, there is the belief that the natural resources are the property of the state and can only be used with permission through the payment of licensing fees. The Anishinaabe know that this is not the case. The plants, animals, land and water can not belong to any human or state. They belong to the Creator and he has put them on Mother Earth as gifts for us to use when we need them, but only with deep respect and thankfulness. Therefore, most Native people will only take what is needed, leaving the rest, while humbly respecting the balance and harmony of nature.

So, with this being said, please understand that there will always be those who will attack our culture and ways of thinking but consider the source, stay strong, and do not dignify them with a response.

## Chippewa County Animal Shelter offers Good Luck Black Cat adoption special

In an effort to find homes for the many black cats that are frequently passed over in favor of flashier pets, the Chippewa County Animal Shelter is having a Good Luck Black Cat adoption special through the end of January.

Adopters will be the recipients of *Black Cat Good Luck*, in that first 15 black cats or kittens adopted during this period will come with a spay/neuter certificate, a value of \$55 to \$95, and a free vaccination and worming, a value of \$35. A small adoption fee will apply.

For further information, phone the shelter at (906) 632-2519 or see the adoptable pets at: [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)

## Charter Cable televises Sault Tribe general board meetings

Marquette and Alger Counties  
6:30 to 11 p.m., Channel 8, Fridays  
Sault Ste. Marie  
3 to 5 p.m., Channel 2,  
Mondays and Thursdays  
St. Ignace  
9 a.m., Channel 12, Mondays  
Escanaba and Manistique  
3 to 5 p.m., Channel 8, Wednesdays

## THE SAULT TRIBE NEWS

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Cory Wilson.....Communications Director  
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer  
Rick Smith.....Staff Writer  
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Sherrie Lucas.....Administrative Secretary  
Nathan Wright.....Web Site Administrator  
Darryl Brown.....Advertising Sales Associate

*The Sault Tribe News* 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.  
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**SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

**HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
1 Vacancy Unit IV

**JOM COMMITTEE**  
3 Vacancies (different units)

**HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
1 Vacancy

**HEALTH COMMITTEE**  
2 Vacancies (different units)

**CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE**  
1 Vacancy

**SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE**  
1 Vacancy

Send one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation (tribe members only) to:  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors  
Attn: Joanne Carr  
523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 635-6050, (800) 793-0660, fax (906) 632-6696  
Email: jcarr@saulttribe.net

The next deadline for submissions to *The Sault Tribe News* is Jan. 2, 2007.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Voicing our concerns in Washington D.C.



**Keith Massaway**  
Unit III Representative  
Sault Tribe Board of Director

First of all, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This is a wonderful time of year and all of the snow gives me the Christmas spirit and a back ache.

I was very grateful to be asked to join a group of board members who went to Washington, D.C., on the fourth of December. We were put on a very tight schedule of meetings with the Republicans and Democrats of both the House and the Senate.

This is a very dangerous time in the government when one

political side is losing control and a lame duck session has an opportunity to pass legislation. There are many bills that are not helpful to any tribe. One such bill is HR 4893, which is a bill restricting Indian gaming. This bill would be a threat to our sovereignty and our land claims. We talked to many legislators and to their staffs on how this bill would do great harm to the rights that we were given in our treaties.

Many listened and agreed, some listened and stood on different arguments, but I must say that by us being there in Washington and in their offices, they all allowed us to put forth our views and our positions and took all of them into consideration. We saw 26 different house and senate staffs. This is an enormous amount of work and time.

I have to give most of the credit to the success of this trip to our federal liaison, Megan Kelly Powell. She had all the arrangements in place when we arrived. She gave us briefings and walked us through the many talking points and discussions that we had to get into.

In politics, the Congressmen do not want to see the staffers but

want to talk to the leaders of the tribes and hear the messages they bring.

A brief rundown of other conversations consisted of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act, the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, the Ester Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act, all of which we were in favor of.

We also discussed issues like the St. Mary's River pollution problem. This was a very enlightening trip and I must say your tribal leaders all worked together and put forth a very strong message.

Thank you again for all the phone calls, the letters and the messages, and again I wish you only the best this holiday season.

I will continue to have time set aside to meet with you and discuss your concerns. Please call me if you wish to set up an appointment.

Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781. Phone (906) 643-6981.

## Board visits Washington D.C.



**Todd K. Gravelle**  
Unit I Representative  
Sault Tribe Board of Director

The tribe's board of directors recently visited Washington D.C. to push legislators to address a wide range of important legislation which affects our tribe.

Some of these issues include the Restricting Indian Gaming to Homelands Act of 2006, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Act of 2006, the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Act of 2006 and the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver.

All of these pieces of legislation (whose passage or defeat) will have a profound and lasting impact on our tribe. The purpose of our visit was to lobby various lawmakers to make known our position on these issues. We had some immediate success!

While we were there, we met with Senator Colburn's office and indicated our dismay on his decision to prevent legislation on Native American Language Immersion programs from coming to a vote. After we discussed the issue with his office, we were informed that he decided to lift the hold on the legislation and that it would go back to the House of Representatives for a vote and probably pass and become law.

On another issue at the state level, the United Tribes of Michigan (an organization recently organized in which our tribe is an active member), is also developing a strategy to address

the impact that Proposal 2 will have on our tribe. Proposal 2 was recently passed as a state Constitutional amendment that purports to eliminate affirmative action in the state of Michigan. It is our position that this proposal does not impact the Michigan Tuition Waiver.

We are in the process of developing both a legal strategy to present to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission to protect the waiver and legislative strategy.

Our legal position is quite simple. The tuition waiver is a government-to-government agreement that the tribes in this state have with the State of Michigan and not the result of a racial preference. We believe that once we educate lawmakers in this state of this simple fact, the waiver will remain intact. If that argument is not persuasive to state lawmakers, we do have a contingency plan. We are also prepared to go to our federal lawmakers to make the case to hold Michigan accountable for its agreements and mandate that any money that goes to the state is conditioned upon the state honoring the tuition waiver. We are active in this area and are determined to protect the waiver.

At the tribal level, I plan to bring legislation to our board of directors that would create a maternity leave policy for our tribal employees. Additionally, I plan to present an amendment to our criminal code which creates a statute of limitations on which crimes might be prosecuted.

Every state in this country, and most tribes, has a statute on the time period when crimes must be prosecuted — this is a statute of limitations. We should have statute to prevent abuse by requiring the tribe to prosecute crimes in a timely manner and not allow the tribe to have an open-ended process that can only invite abuse.

I also want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at Todd K. Gravelle, 713 Maple Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

## Happy holidays!



**Shirley Petosky**  
Unit V Representative  
Sault Tribe Board of Director

Merry Christmas dear friends, I'm writing just a short column this time, because time got away from me.

I've been to Thanksgiving

parties and now I get to start on Christmas parties. It sure has been hectic, but lots of fun.

New flu vaccine came in to the clinic in Munising and will be administered on two different afternoons.

Dec. 7 was yesterday, as I write this. I couldn't help but think what that day must have been like for my mom and her family and my dad and his family 65 years ago!

Our nation has been up and down in world ratings but never so high as during World War II.

But our own people were hard put to be recognized as players in the field. My dad always told me about a young Native American in uniform out with a crowd on leave and the local tavern owner wouldn't serve him because "We don't serve Indians in here." Our black people were treated the

same.

Thanks to God both groups proved how valuable they were. Prejudice still hangs around folks. Maybe it can be stopped with us.

A little kid that has a hard life, and we don't understand why the parents don't just shape up, still needs help. The widow who should have handled her money better, the young man who should have known better and on and on. They all need us. Remember reversals of fortune happen in the blink of an eye.

Stretch your heart to its limit at Christmas, it will all come back to you many times over.

Remember, fight nice.

God bless you.

Shirley and family  
(906) 387-2101  
shirleypetosky@yahoo.com.

## Past year has been exciting for our tribe



**Robert LaPoint**  
Unit II Representative  
Sault Tribe Board of Director

This past year has been very exciting for our tribe. To start with, I want to thank all of the members who served on the Constitution Committee. Their

time and effort is deeply appreciated. Regardless of the final document, the members who worked on this committee have contributed to a long awaited goal of trying to improve our Constitution. I think they accomplished this goal in less than one year. When they first started, there were some who thought it could take two years to accomplish a new draft. I think regardless of the outcome, we are a better tribe for trying. Director Gravelle deserves credit for bringing forth the plan to reform our Constitution and the members should give him a vote of thanks.

We also went through another election cycle and I am very grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the members in Unit II and all members at large. I am fairly certain this will be my last term in office. Three terms in office, 12 years, is long enough. My focus has always been

on the long term success of the tribe. For the record, I have resigned from the Greektown Gaming Board. I have resigned for personal reasons and any rumors to the contrary are simply false. I thought Greektown was a bad idea from the beginning, I campaigned against it, and now we can compare it to the situation in Iraq. There are no good answers. Do we cut and run? Do we stay and bleed? It seems like everyone is working against us, including the Detroit newspapers. The state of Michigan continues to get \$250,000 daily or roughly \$2 million a week. This is not sustainable. We also have to pay the state \$9.2 million a year for their administrative costs. We owe \$22 million that has to be paid in early 2008. That is roughly 90 days worth of money that we give to the state. Some members believe we should sell Greektown.

I believe all options need to be on the table.

While I am on the subject of Greektown, I want to ask, what is a fun kabob? That is what the billboards advertise in Detroit. When you look at the Motor City billboards and the MGM billboards, there is no mistake who they are. Our billboards once again hide our business name and identity. This is no good! If this is the best that Berline can do for us, then maybe it is time for them to go. We do have one good advertisement out there. The newest public service ads are real good. Even the TV ad for Kewadin casino with employees is pretty decent. All we really need on our billboards is our logo.

As we approach the end of this year, I would say we have accomplished a lot but we still have a long way to go. We need to really begin to think how can we get

out of debt. Increase our business is one way. We need to explore other business ideas as well, ideas that don't require big investments. If we do create a new business EDC, we need to consider diverse points of view. We should include the members in a business development committee. Our members did such a wonderful job creating a new draft constitution, maybe we should listen to them about ways to save and make money. It will take some creative collaborative effort but we are in the information age creating business on the Internet needs to be part of our business future.

I wish everyone a happy holiday and Merry Christmas. Keep a positive perspective for the future, we have so much to be thankful for. May God bless all of us. Bob LaPoint, (906) 493-5311.

# Submitted for your consideration



**DJ Hoffman**

**Unit I Representative  
Sault Tribe Board of Director**

I would like to start out this unit report by thanking the current chairperson for clearing up misconceptions concerning myself and past election hi-jinks. I am appreciative that the chairman has openly admitted that I, personally, had nothing to do with the salacious mailings that were sent out during the last chairman's election. While those of you that know me, know better. **It only takes a small shadow to cast doubt.**

T.E.R.O.

I, along with Director Miller, will be working in weeks to come on legislation that will establish a Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) within the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

This office would be the advocate of the tribe member employees, ensuring their fair treatment in hiring and retention.

It will push to have all existing management held accountable for any and all actions or inactions, including Human Resources.

The, suggested, T.E.R.O Commission's intent is to provide oversight, reporting directly to the tribal board of directors, on the activities occurring within our employment, as well as contracting structures. Its sole purpose is to ensure compliance, and to enable tribe member employees, as well as tribe member owned businesses the protection and opportunity that they rightfully deserve.

#### Information to consider

We have a regulatory commission in place, currently, that provides oversight in a similar fashion, albeit over a quite different area, the Gaming Commission. What I am suggesting is employment/contracting compliance.

#### Education

There are many avenues by which we can expand upon opportunities for our tribal membership. Without expanding our pocket books.

Currently we utilize a vast assortment of vendors, from consultants to contractors. It would be possible to request that these vendors provide internship opportunities for our members while conducting business with us. Imagine internship opportunities for our membership within companies such as Coke, Bally's, and legal consulting firms. These types of opportunities provide members with employment opportunities and valuable train-

ing that can be brought back into the tribe. Utilizing existing contractors for apprenticeship opportunities could provide members exposure to field such as plumbing, electrical and carpentry. We can use these resources to provide futures for our members.

I look forward to working with our staff, as well as any of the directors on the board to ensure that these types of opportunities become a reality.

#### Budgets

We, as a tribe, are embarking on a difficult journey. We are currently experiencing budget shortfalls in certain key areas that need to be addressed immediately. This is what I am concerned with; the present as well as our future. We need to tighten our belts, literally, to ensure membership services. We must remain fiscally responsible not only now, but in the future. We will get through this!

When the words budget shortfall and fiscal responsibility are placed together people immediately tend to think of budget cuts. There will be budget modifications to ensure that departments spend within our means. We will be working to "cut the fat" in areas to ensure that expenditures essential to services remain.

I believe that in order for the tribe to progressively move forward, we need to hold our leaders and employees accountable.

Accountability starts at the top of the proverbial food chain. The board must be accountable for their actions or inactions. We

must look out for the betterment of the membership. We must concentrate on the issues at hand, and not the personal discrepancies or dislikes that are currently halting the progression of this tribe. Professional conduct must be mandated. This is not a children's game, where people choose sides. This is not a game at all. There is only one side, that of the membership.

Accountability also must be addressed with our employees. If businesses fail, or managers go over budget, they must be held accountable. If people cannot perform the duties necessary to perform at a level that enhances the services for the membership, then those positions should be re-evaluated.

We need to know where mistakes are being made so that we do not repeat those mistakes in the future. Services cost money. Money that is overspent or unearned does not aid in the development, retention and enhancement of services for the membership as a whole.

#### Win Awenen Nisitotung

If you look at the front page of this paper you will see these words in a smaller print, under the heading *THE SAULT TRIBE NEWS*. I believe that it is time that we start out the new year by maintaining our identity and will be requesting that the name of the paper revert back to what it once was. We must never forget where we came from, or where we are going.

#### They were chosen

It shall be a privilege to serve our people, an honor to be given the power to strengthen and uphold our traditional ways.

To have the foresight to seek unity of other members for the "good" of the whole and not for purpose of self claim nor recognition and not to tear the base of the foundation but to build a stronger base by protecting the old ways and, extending open arms, embrace the ideas of our youth.

**For then our children will continue to learn from their leaders the power of unity through positive reinforcement to allow them to flourish, to be brave, to be proud and learn to lead.**

**Our leaders were chosen for their insights to our future, their wisdom to learn from our past. Help us to help them follow the right path, Keep them strong to conquer only our enemies and not our right to sovereignty.**

Looking at the quote above, I am reminded of the responsibility of a member of the Board of Directors. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the membership of this tribe.

I would like to personally wish all of you a happy holiday and ask that if you have any issues or concerns to please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,  
DJ Hoffman  
Home: (906) 635-6945  
Cell: (906) 322-3801  
Toll free: (866) 598-5804  
E-mail:  
djwhoffman@hotmail.com

## Little Bear, the making of a brave

BY JAMES CARR

Bgii Mukwa, or Little Bear, was down by the river with his friend, Running Warrior. "My father says it's time I became a man. I am now 13 summers old and you'll never guess how he wants me to prove this."

"By going out and finding the prettiest girl in the village and walking up to her and kissing her," Running Warrior guessed.

"Wrong. He didn't name me Little Boy Who Kisses Girls, he named me Little Bear. What he wants me to do is take this little bitty knife he gave me and go out in the woods, find the biggest bear in the woods and bring it back to the Chief. I hate to say this but my father has either lost his mind or he wants me dead."

"You can't bring your bow and arrow?"

"Nope. Gotta use this knife and my bare hands."

"Won't he listen to reason?"

How would he like to fight a bear?"

"He told me he fought a bear when he was a young brave. Killed him and saved a couple of little kids from being mauled. Says if he did it so can I. He also told me he got ripped up quite bad."

"You shouldn't have too much trouble with an old bear, Little," Running said. "What I would do

is just play dead. Then when that old bear got close and was sniffing, I'd let him have it. I'd take that big old knife you got, jab him in the eyes, nose and ears. Then you can cut him down at your leisure. Good luck," he said as he walked away.

Little Bear felt all alone. Is no one thinking of me? Everyone is making like this is no big deal. Like it's done every day. If I were to go over and tell White Snow, she'd probably be proud that I'm going out and getting killed.

He decided to go home. It was time to eat the evening meal. Maybe his mother would show him sympathy like she always did with her children.

After supper she told him to go to bed right away and get his rest. "Tomorrow you find the bear, kill it and bring me some meat. I'll make bear steak, bear beef soup with vegetables and bear broth. All thanks to you, my Little Bear."

That was the final blow. He went to bed thinking, "Oh well, I've lived 13 years and had fun. Maybe they'll be sorry when I'm dead and gone."

He slept restlessly, dreaming of the big bear and how he'd kill him. How was he going to kill the animal he was named after?



Then he thought, "Not really, I'm Little Bear, this is Big Bear I'll be going up against."

The next morning he woke up, ate and off he went.

It was mid-afternoon before he spotted the signs of a bear. During this time he'd also been hunting small game. He now had three rabbits and two small birds, all taken with his knife.

He was also carrying some rope with him.

He started putting his plan into action. He cut off some of the rabbit he had caught, and approaching the bear quickly threw him some meat. The bear took the meat and began running after Little Bear back towards his village. Little Bear kept throwing pieces of rabbit meat behind him as he ran. About a half mile from

the village he set his final trap. With the last of the rabbit meat and the rope he set a snare to catch the bear in a noose around the neck.

It worked and the bear was pulled upward by the branch with the noose around his neck fighting and clawing at his unseen enemy. Little Bear, using another piece of his rope, tied it around the bear's body to the trunk of the tree. The bear was now secured to the tree but was still fighting and dangerous. He decided not to bring the old black bear to the chief.

He headed into his village and went to the chiefs lodge. "I've got something for you that my father said I had to bring to you to become a man today."

The chief said, "I've heard about this, where is the prize?"

Little Bear brought the chief to the tree where the bear was tied and said, "Here is your prize, chief. I was named Little Bear in honor of this animal. Now my father said I must kill one of my animals for so slight a reason. I thought I would prove myself more of a man by capturing one and bringing it to you. You can do what you wish with him. I wish you would let him go. He hasn't hurt any of our people. My doing this is much like our warriors do when they fight our enemy; when they run up to them, grab something off them or just touch them

and then retreat. They've made a coup. I've made a coup with Chi Mukwa, Big Bear.

Chief Taquah took out his knife, walked over to the thrashing bear and cut the rope around his body and then carefully cut the rope holding his neck up in the tree. The bear tumbled to the ground and turned to the two men and eyed them for one long moment. The Chief and Little Bear just stood there looking back. Then the bear turned and ambled away.

"Come, the chief told Little Bear. They went to the village and to Little Bears lodge. The chief spoke to Little Bear's father.

"You sent your son out to kill a bear and bring it back to me. He didn't do it."

Little Bear's father felt shamed.

"He did something much more brave and something much more honorable. He was named after this giant animal and he did not wish to kill one for no reason. He captured one and brought it in to me. I let it go. Your son made coup today. Your son is now a man that you can be very proud of. He will not only walk bravely in years to come but he will also walk wisely. A rare combination. Be proud of Chi Mukwa, your son Big Bear.

**The next deadline for submissions to *The Sault Tribe News* is Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 9 a.m.**



# LSSU students garner regional fisheries award

SAULT STE. MARIE, – Four Lake Superior State University students were among only 25 people from all over the United States who received special honors during the 2006 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Omaha, Neb., Dec. 3-6.

Michigan natives Bryan Engelbert of Bruce Crossing, Bill Keiper of Pickford, Kandi Schnurer of Sault Sainte Marie; and Eric G.W. Smith of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, received the Janice Fenske Memorial Award for Outstanding Students. The award is a tribute to a Michigan Department of Natural Resources' fisheries biologist who died in 2005.

The four were selected based on academic ability and scholarly achievements. They displayed what a selection committee with the American Fisheries Society considers to be an enthusiasm



From left to right are Bryan Engelbert of Bruce Crossing, Mich.; Eric G.W. Smith of Sault Ste Marie, Ont.; Kandi Schnurer of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; and Bill Keiper of Pickford.

Photo by John Shibley

to protect fisheries and wildlife resources through management activities, as well as a motivation to teach others. They attended an exclusive breakfast that provided

an opportunity to network with top professionals from state and federal agencies, as well as academia.

This was the second Fenske

Award for Schnurer, who received the citation in 2005.

Schnurer is finishing a senior thesis project that studied what impact activities at the Michigan National Guard camp in Grayling has on wetland ecosystems that drain into a nearby lake. So far, her results suggest that Camp Grayling does not have a negative impact on the ecosystems she evaluated. She will be graduating in December 2007 with a degree in fisheries and wildlife management.

Keiper is graduating in December with a degree in fisheries and wildlife management. His senior thesis project looked at whether artificial nests are a good approach to helping waterfowl flourish in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Of the 75 artificial nests he monitored over a three-year span, only one was occupied by a duck. His conclusion, at least

within the scope of his study, is that this nesting approach may not be a viable alternative.

Keiper and Schnurer presented their senior research during a symposium held on campus Dec. 1-2.

Engelbert and Smith, also fisheries and wildlife management majors, are just beginning their thesis research. Engelbert is comparing ageing techniques for Lake Whitefish, while Smith is conducting a mammal survey on nature conservancy property in Luce County, about an hour west of the Sault.

Like Schnurer and Keiper, they will have opportunities to share their results at professional conferences that LSSU students and faculty attend throughout the year. Senior research symposiums are also held every fall and spring for the public and campus community.

## Higher Education programs

BY JANICE M. LEWTON,  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Happy holidays from the Higher Education staff.

2006-07 Higher Education Self-Sufficiency Program—

Please make sure that when sending in your grades that it includes your name, the school's name, the fall semester or term 2006, your grades, etc.

You can mail your grades to

Sault Tribe Higher Education, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or fax (906) 635-7785 or e-mail them as a word document attachment to jlewtan@saulttribe.net.

Keep in mind that we cannot issue any checks until late January 2007.

Also, we cannot process any checks without an application on file.

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

If you're in our area, our office is located at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie.

## LSSU Native American Student Organization

SUBMITTED BY STEPHANIE  
SABATINE

The 2006 fall semester has been a busy one for students belonging to the Lake Superior State University Native American Student Organization (NASO). The NASO is alive and well on the LSSU campus this year.

NASO students have hosted two Indian taco sales on campus, which have proven to be quite successful. The LSSU campus community has experienced the taste of Indian tacos and they are hungry for more.

NASO hosted events which helped the campus community celebrate Native Heritage Month such as hosting a traditional potluck featuring wild rice and other



NASO members- Back left is Danny Stinehart, Jeff Gaus. Front left is Naomi Weber and Nichole Causley.

Native American dishes.

The community is encour-

aged to visit the Native American Center to participate in activities.

## LSSU and BMCC team up with new course offerings

SUBMITTED BY STEPHANIE  
SABATINE

Bay Mills Community College and Lake Superior State University are partnering to offer a 300 level sociology class titled "Sociology of Women." The class will be offered starting in January at BMCC. It is scheduled on Monday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Students may register for the sociology class at LSSU. Registration can be completed online at [www.lssu.edu](http://www.lssu.edu).

Financial aid resources are listed on the LSSU Native American Center Web site at [nac.lssu.edu](http://nac.lssu.edu), including a link to the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver. Benefits

for BMCC students or others include for those students who plan on transferring to a four-year institution, this class will count as a three credit 300 level sociology class, the class will count as a social science elective at BMCC and students will experience what it is like to participate in a 300 level university class; while remaining on the BMCC campus.

LSSU and BMCC are also partnering to offer NA154, traditional drumming and singing I. This BMCC course will be taught at the LSSU campus at the Native American Center on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will count for three BMCC credits. Students

may register for the traditional drumming class through Bay Mills Community College. Visit the Web site [www.bmcc.edu](http://www.bmcc.edu) or contact BMCC at (800) 844-2622.

For further information, contact Kathy Adair at (906) 248-3354, extension 4107; Stephanie Sabatine at the LSSU Native American Center (906) 635-6664 or the instructor for the LSSU sociology course, Shawna Mauldin at (906) 253-1857 or Mike Willis, the instructor for the BMCC traditional drumming course at (906) 248-3354, extension 4234.

## College Goal Sunday

SUBMITTED BY HEATHER  
CORBIERE, HIGHER EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

*Whether you choose a traditional college, community college, vocational or technical school, College Goal Sunday can help you get the money you need!*

College Goal Sunday is a free program that helps families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is required to apply for federal financial assistance for higher education opportunities.

### Benefits of attending

- Get the most financial aid you can.
- Talk with expert financial aid administrators.
- In-depth, line-by-line explanation of the FAFSA form.

- Announcement of all filing deadlines.

### What you should bring

- Parents and students should bring their latest tax information or last pay stub from the previous year in order to complete the form.
- The FAFSA form allows families to estimate their financial information, which can be corrected after their taxes have been completed.

For more information on College Goal Sunday and to find a location near you, please visit [www.collegegoalsundayusa.org](http://www.collegegoalsundayusa.org). You can also call our office at (906) 635-7784 or (800) 793-0660 ext. 57784 and the Higher Education staff will be able to assist you.

## Fashion design scholarship available to American Indian youth

Academy Award nominated costume designer Jacqueline West has established a fashion design scholarship for a American Indian youth at FIDM/The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, Calif.

The scholarship will be awarded to an outstanding Indian youth interested in the study of fashion or costume design. It is open for entry now and will be awarded in early 2007.

The scholarship is open to youths of American Indian descent only.

Applicants should send an essay of why they would like to win the scholarship along with up to five sketches to Jacqueline West/New World, C/O Shirley Wilson, Public Relations, FIDM/The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, 919 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90015.

Sketches may be of fashions of costumes from any time period, be they examples of clothing designs, American Indian, theater or film creations. Judging of applicants will be based on both talent and need. Essays and sketches may be sent starting immediately; all applications must be received by Jan. 31, 2007.

The scholarship is valued at \$22,000 and includes full tuition, fees, books and supplies. It does not include transportation, living expenses or incidentals. The recipient of The Jacqueline West/The New World Scholarship will be announced in April 2007 for matriculation in September.

A blue ribbon panel including Ms. West and officials from FIDM will judge the winner's sketches and fulfillment of other requirements.

### Free college classes

Bay Mills Community College offers three on-line courses at no cost.

- Native Cuisine
- Native American Art and Artifacts
- Sharing our Native Culture

To learn more, call (800) 844-2622 or visit their website: [www.bmcc.edu](http://www.bmcc.edu).

Bay Mills Community College is an accredited two-year tribal college located in Brimley, Mich. In recent years, BMCC has developed an impressive, cutting edge technological infrastructure which has allowed BMCC to reach beyond the borders of Michigan and offer on-line instruction throughout North America.

## Attention Alger County Parents

If you are the parent of a child from newborn to five years old, it is very important for you to enroll your child as a Sault Tribe member. The Education Division is trying to improve preschool and child care services in Alger County for Sault Tribe members. We need an accurate number of how many young members we have living in Alger County. Please contact Enrollment at (800) 251-6597. Thank you.

# Jennifer Hentkowski — clinical supervisor of tribe's mental health program



juvenile probation, foster care, abuse and neglect cases. I also did home-based clinical services for nine years and more recently outpatient clinical therapy for the past three years at Hiawatha Behavioral Health in the Sault," she said.

The Sault Tribe mental health and substance abuse programs, formerly housed under ACFS, made a move to the tribe's health department in April 2006. "Jennifer brings a great deal of dedication and enthusiasm to this position; she will be focusing all her energy and expertise on the mental health program," Sault Tribe clinic manager, Tony Abramson, said.

Hentkowski's specialty is child and adolescent therapy. She said, "I do a lot of art and play therapy. One of my goals for the mental health program is to build on the child and adolescent aspect as far as overall well being for the community. Children are the future and what we role model and teach them is going to carry on for generations. I am very passionate about that. I work hard and strong in advocating for kids and families and ensuring that they have the appropriate services to fit their needs. I will be helping staff to build on the skills they already have; whether it's working with adults, families, kids or substance abuse."

Abramson said he is looking forward to working with Hentkowski. "Jennifer comes from a strong social work and therapy background. One of Jennifer's strengths is that she comes from a facility that is accredited and is familiar with that process. She knows all the regulations and requirements that it would take us to become accredited; she has already taken hold of some accreditation issues and is working on resolving them. We are seeking CARF accreditation in the near future and are currently in the application process. What that means to the mental health program is that we can be a licensed outpatient mental health facility. Obtaining CARF accreditation provides an indication and assurance to clients, other agencies and third party payors that we meet or exceed national mental health and substance quality standards," Abramson said.

Hentkowski will be supervising mental health therapists in the tribe's seven-county service area and also coordinating services with psychiatrist Dr. Meeker in addition to providing urgent care services when needed.

Mental health program clinical supervisor Jennifer Hentkowski can be contacted at (906) 632-5200 ext. 23240.

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Bringing passion, clinical skills and a strong background in social work, newly hired mental health clinical supervisor, Jennifer Hentkowski, plans to help the tribe's mental health department grow in services and to nurture and build employee skills.

Hentkowski has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Lake Superior State University in the Sault and a master's degree in social work from Grand Valley State University. She graduated from high school in Rogers City, Mich.

Her first position after her undergraduate studies at LSSU was as director of the Youth Services Bureau of the Oscoda County Probate Court in Mio, Mich. "I have experience in

# Barb Gravelle hired as Human Resource recruiter



being a front line person connecting interested people with our tribe," she said. Gravelle plans to attend job fairs at most Michigan universities and colleges. "I will also be doing job fairs at local high schools. I am currently working with the education department to put together a career day for seventh and eighth grade students to learn about career opportunities. This will also help them prepare in high school by taking the right courses to prepare for what they want to do in college. Retaining people within our community to live and work is one of our goals."

Gravelle remains active with the YEA Tribal Youth Council as an advisor. "I am learning a different set of skills as part of Human Resources and employment. It was a good move for me and I look forward to working with other team members to match tribal positions with qualified interested individuals," she said.

Human Resource Director Cheryl Bernier said, "We are excited to have Barb working in Human Resources on our recruiting efforts. It is a pleasure working with her as she has a lot of enthusiasm and such a positive attitude. She will do a great job working with people and letting them know of the employment opportunities with our tribe."

Barb Gravelle can be reached at (906) 635-4937 ext. 53447 or email: bgravelle@saulttribe.net.

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Barb Gravelle was hired in October by the tribe's Human Resource Department as a recruiter. She began working for the tribe in 1999 as a student services assistant for the Youth Education and Activities program (YEA) and last March accepted the position of youth education coordinator.

Gravelle will be graduating this May with a bachelor's degree in communications, with minors in public relations and professional communication.

As a recruiter, Gravelle will be working with tribal departments to determine their employment needs and recruiting people to help fill those needs. "I will be attending job fairs and putting together a career showcase for younger students to emphasize and promote working for the tribe. I am looking forward to

# Trish Sterling new early childhood programs manager



She earned her associate degree in early childhood education while working as a teacher aide and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in human resource management, both from LSSU, and then a master's degree in public administration from Northern Michigan University.

Sterling's past work experience includes teacher of the then Sault Tribe Parent Child Center, comparable to today's Early Head Start program, and then teacher for the Sault Tribe Head Start class. Most currently Sterling has come from the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan where she has experience as Head Start center director for the Pokagon Band and, from there, the Little Traverse Bay Band where she remained for the past five years.

"I am glad to be home and raising my infant son in the community I grew up in near family and friends," she said.

Sterling said there are plans to

expand childhood programs within the tribe's seven-county service area. "Head Start and Early Head Start are much more than educational programs; we provide healthy meals, have standards for immunizations, hearing and vision checks, provide family service and mental health activities. It's a holistic approach; not just education, day care or a healthy meal in the morning. It is all of those things," she said.

Head Start and Early Head Start are income-based programs currently serving 130 Sault Tribe children and their families with a waiting list for enrollment. The Sault Tribe Child Care Center is a paid service. "The Child Care Center provides more than just daycare for the infants and toddlers and their families. They have lesson plans and activities that are stimulating and age appropriate," she said.

Trish Sterling can be contacted at (906) 635-7722.

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Trish Sterling has come full circle. She began her career in 1992 as a teacher aide for Sault Tribe Head Start, left to gain additional experience and was recently hired as the early childhood programs manager.

Sterling now oversees Early Head Start, Head Start and the Child Care Center.

## Sault Tribe Child Care Center

Circle time in the infant room this month is directed toward the coming holiday season. Right: The children are enjoying infant room teacher Miss Wendy reading "Clifford Christmas." The children are making Christmas decorations for the classroom and to share with their families.

Currently the infant classroom has 13 children enrolled as old as 18 months. For more information about the early education programs, please contact (906) 632-5258.



## Sault Tribe Human Resources Positions available — applicants

November 2006	
Overall: Open positions (All tribal operations)	184
Total positions filled	80
	76% — Sault Tribe members
Applicant - position ratio	
860 applicants to 184 positions (4.7 people apply for every position)	4.7 ratio
November 2005	
Overall: Open positions (All tribal operations)	186
Total positions filled	82
	64% — Sault Tribe members
Applicant — position ratio	
1039 applicants to 186 positions (5.6 people apply for every position)	5.6 ratio

## Tribe member selected to be student ambassador



Student ambassadors are selected for being outstanding students and have to pass an interview to be considered.

Corbin will be traveling to Hawaii with a group of delegates in the summer of 2007. The group will be spending 14 days studying Hawaiian culture and history.

This honor will earn him high school credit.

Corbin is the grandson of Levi (John) Montry Jr. and the great-grandson of Bridget and Levi Montry of St. Ignace.

Corbin is raising money for his tuition and anyone who is able to donate can send their donation to Corbin care of Rita Leeman at 5610 Shoeman Rd., Haslett, MI 48840.

Corbin Levi Simzak, 10, a fifth grader at Ralya Elementary School in Haslett, Mich., has been selected to be a student ambassador with People to People International.

# Christina Wilkins hired as Chi Mukwa youth program administrator



Graduating in December of 2004, Wilkins holds a bachelor of science degree in human services from LSSU and is in the second year of a three-year master's degree in social work through Grand Valley State University.

The after school program, which runs Monday through Friday until 5:30 p.m., has recently collaborated with JKL Bahweting School's after school program on Mondays and Wednesdays to allow their students a wider variety of physical activity. About 80 students are bussed from JKL to Chi Mukwa in addition to the 15 currently enrolled in The Bear Necessities program. "I was impressed with how well everything fell into place. It has worked out very nicely," said Wilkins.

"I have seen a lot of benefit from the after school program," Wilkins said. "The children love it and I have a wonderful staff that has been here a long time

who love what they do."

The children take part in a variety of physical activities throughout the week. Flag football, cone hockey, basketball, ice skating, outdoor play and occasional field trips are just a few examples. The children also participate in arts and crafts and board games. The after school program runs on the same schedule as the public school system. "On half days we try to find other activities so the kids don't get bored. We have been to the Dondee Lanes bowling alley and GKC Varsity Theaters. GKC opened their doors just for us and we watched a Friday matinee. We had the theater all to ourselves," she said.

Anyone interested in "A Bear Necessity" After school program should contact Christina Wilkins at (906) 635-4777 for more information.

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Christina Wilkins was recently hired as the youth program administrator for The Bear Necessity After School and Summer Recreation programs.

Wilkins started her career with the tribe in January 2005 as the child advocacy coordinator for Anishnabek Community and Family Services (ACFS).

## Stelzer and Bird share wedding vows

Ryan Bird and Heather Stelzer were married Sept. 23, 2006, at 2 p.m. in Moran, Mich. Art Kievit officiated the ceremony.

The bride was given by her parents, Leonard and Susan Stelzer of Moran, and the groom was given by his parents, Steve and Jolene Bird of Moran.

Katie Stelzer, sister of the bride, served as maid of honor. Ashly Peterson and Erica Hershmen of St. Ignace and Christine Hush of Cheboygan served as bridesmaids. Jr. bridesmaid was Jennie Bird, daughter of the groom.

Chuck Huffman, friend of the groom and cousin of the bride, served as best man, Vincent Seewald, Jeff Erskine and Mason Joe Bird, son of bride and groom, all of Moran, served as groomsmen. Junior groomsmen was Jared Fenlon of St. Ignace. Flowergirls were daughters of the bride and groom Shyanne Bird and Ally Stelzer. Ringbearer was Jacob Fenlon.



# Stork Report...



**Alex Eugene Pringle** was born Nov. 6, 2006. He weighed eight pounds, four ounces and was 20.25 inches in length.

Proud parents are Bradley R. and Jessica G. Pringle of Sault Ste. Marie. He has a five year old sister, Virginia Gene.

Grandparents are Eugene and Margaret Pringle of Saginaw, Mike and Fran Riley of Saginaw.



John and Teresa Cummings of Lake Orion, Mich., announce the birth of their daughters, **Isabel Claire and Faith Olivia**. They were born on July 23, 2006, at Beaumont Hospital in Troy, Mich. Isabel was born at 9:09 a.m. weighing four pounds, 10 ounces and measured 17.25 inches in length. Faith was born at 9:10 a.m. weighing four pounds, eight ounces and measured 17 inches in length. They have an older sister, Ashley, 18 months old.

Other twins in the McKerchie family are their great uncles Ray and Russ and cousins Jeanie and Joanie. Grandparents are Jim and Irene Sears of Goodrich, Mich., and Ray and Betty Cummings of Ortonville, Mich. Great grandmother is Catherine Rooney of Belfast, Ireland.

**Sky Lynn Pearce** arrived on July 14, 2006, in Grand Junction, Colo. She weighed six pounds,

six ounces and was 19 inches long.

Sky's parents are Brian and Amee Pearce of Rangely, Colo. Sky also has a big brother, Donte, age three.

Grandparents are John Candy Titmus of Rangely and Harold and Judy Sexton of Rangely.

Mom and grandma Judy are members of the Sault Tribe.



We are proud to announce the arrival of **Alyndria Grace Kelley** (above) and her twin brother, **Lewis Lester Kelley** (below). Born, Nov. 25, 2006, at Bassett Army Hospital at Ft. Wainwright, ALA. Daddy is Alex Kelley stationed at Eielson AFB, ALA. Mommy is Dana Sue Lynn Kelley Granddaughter of Dianne Cowell of St. Ignace Mich. Dana's Mom and Dad are DJ and JB Cowell of Fairbanks, ALA. Alex's Parents are Brian and Terri Kelley of Round Lake Ill. Alyndria weighed two pounds, three ounces. Lewis weighed two pounds. They are now at Providence Hospital in Anchorage, ALA. Both are doing very well. Mom and dad are with them.



## Twin brothers have sons born three months apart to the day

**Kaiden Quinci Lane Woodhall** was born June 1, 2006, at War Memorial Hospital. He weighed seven pounds and was 19.5 inches in length.

Proud parents are Daniel Anthony John Woodhall and Mandi Riemersama. Grandparents are Muriel Evans and Dennis Woodhall, both of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Art and Vivian Riemersama of Dafer, Mich. Great-grandparents are Ronald J. Lane and the late Muriel M. Lane of Sault Ste. Marie; John and Melva Williams of Stalwart, Mich. Aunts and uncles are Dennis and LeighAnn Woodhall, Melissa Evans all of the Sault; and Ashley and A.J. Riemersama of Dafer.



**Hunter Allen Joseph Woodhall** was born Sept. 1, 2006 at War Memorial Hospital. He weighed eight pounds, 2.6 ounces and was 22 inches in length. Proud parents are Dennis Allen Joseph Woodhall and LeighAnn (nee Folkersma) Woodhall. Grandparents are Muriel Evans and Dennis Woodhall, both of Sault Ste. Marie; Lorna Smetak of Kinross and Ed Folkersma of Rudyard. Great-grandparents are Ronald J. Lane and the late Muriel M. Lane of the Sault; David and Margaret Folkersma of Rudyard. Aunts and uncles are Daniel Woodhall and Melissa Evans both of the Sault; Stephanie and Lisa Folkersma of Rudyard.



*Merry Christmas, babies! Love, Gamma*

Tune in to the Sault Tribe This Week Saturday Morning Show, with George Snider from 10 to 11 a.m. every week on AM 1230 WSOO. You'll hear news, tribal information, live interviews and music and other great features. Also listen for Sault Tribe This Week with Tom Ewing scheduled on Tuesdays on AM 1230 WSOO at 9:35 a.m., WNBY-FM 12:37 p.m. and 5:38 p.m. in Newberry and WIDG-AM 9:04 a.m. in St. Ignace. Wednesdays WNBY-FM 12:37 p.m. and 5:38 p.m. and Thursdays on WSUE-FM (Rock 101) at 10:25 a.m and 4:25 p.m.

## Regional social studies fair participants



The following Sault Area Middle School Native American students were chosen to attend the regional Social Studies Fair at LSSU on Dec. 1. Left: Shelby Dale, Emma Harrington, Rich Little, Micah Corbiere, Carl Mason, Holly Austin and Haran Ellis (missing from the photo is Shelby Nichols). Shelby Nichols (eighth grade) took second place, while Shelby Dale (eighth grade) tied for third. Haran Ellis (seventh grade) took second place. Congratulations to everyone who participated. The Sault Area Middle School would like to thank Kewadin Casinos for providing transportation.

## Winter drum feast — Dec. 20

Niiganageezhik Building  
6 p.m. until done.



Bring a dish to pass and dish bags.  
For more information call Ogeemachichuk  
at (906) 635-6050 ext. 26144.



# Kewadin Casino wellness program working to keep team members healthy

Kewadin Casino team members are learning how to get fit and stay healthy thanks to the Sault Tribe Community Health Services staff and the Steps to a Healthier Anishnaabe program.

During the month of November, community health staff hosted health screenings at each of Kewadin's five casino locations. These screenings were implemented as a follow up to an April health fair and a physical activity and nutrition challenge called "Let's Get Moving Kewadin" that team members had the option of participating in during the summer months. The health screenings offer all team members a variety of services including blood pressure, total cholesterol and glucose measurements as well as a test that monitors the amount of carbon monoxide in the lungs and blood. Sault Tribe nutrition staff also provided individual counseling on risk factors for heart disease and diabetes.

"This screening gave team members an opportunity to learn about their risk factors for chronic diseases such as heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes commercial tobacco use plus how they can make simple lifestyle changes to reduce these risk factors," said Donna Norkoli, Steps Grant coordinator. "When

## Tips for healthier baking and cooking

Sugar and fat are what make many holiday treats taste so good. They are also what can lead you off your healthy eating path. There are many ways to get a great taste while reducing or replacing sugar and fat.

Sugar is important in baked foods for browning, volume, tenderness and moistness. Replace only part of the sugar with low-calorie sweeteners in baked foods like cakes, cookies, muffins and quick breads unless you are following a tested recipe. You may replace all of the sugar with low-calorie sweeteners when sugar is primarily used for the sweet taste in fruit fillings for pies and cobblers, custards, puddings, beverages, frozen desserts, sauces and marinades. Fat is important in baked goods for flavor, moisture, tenderness and structure. Learn to gradually adjust your favorite recipes to reflect healthier choices. The following are a few ideas to help you in adjusting your favorite recipes.



Above: Left is Michelle Cournaya, Manistique Kewadin Casino team member, is having her cholesterol and glucose checked by Kellie Lakosky, Community Health technician at the Manistique Tribal Health Center. Above right: Left is Stacy Storey, Sault Tribe nutritionist, counseling Betty Sorrels, Kewadin Shores keno manager, about healthy eating.

we look at the results from this screening compared to the earlier screening in April, we are hoping to see a decrease in risk factors and an increase in healthy behaviors among participants of the program."

According to the Web site healthpromotionadvocates.com, unhealthy habits are the primary contributor to the six leading causes of death in the U.S.; heart disease, cancer, stroke, respiratory diseases, accidents and diabetes, which collectively account for over 70 percent of all deaths.

The premature deaths and physical disabilities impact our

lives and the lives of our families in many ways — physically, emotionally and financially.

According to the United States Dairy Association, healthier diets could prevent at least \$71 billion per year in medical costs, lost productivity and lost lives.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that if all physically inactive Americans became active, we would save \$77 billion in annual medical costs.

Thirteen studies that calculated cost/benefit ratios showed the savings from worksite health promotion programs are much

cream, cream cheese, mayonnaise, salad dressing and cheese decrease the fat calories in dishes like dips, appetizers and salad dressings without sacrificing flavor. Reduced-fat cheese provides good flavor and melts easier than fat-free cheese.

When a pan needs to be greased or oiled, use a nonstick cooking spray. Lining baking sheets with parchment paper eliminates need for greasing the pan and speeds clean-up.

For more heart healthy ideas and recipes, visit [nhlbi.nih.gov](http://nhlbi.nih.gov).



When baking, replace all or part of the vegetable shortening or butter with canola oil, trans free margarine or fruit purees. Replace butter, margarine or shortening with three-quarters the amount of oil.

Unsweetened fruit purees add moisture to lower fat foods. Both unsweetened applesauce and canned pumpkin add extra moisture and sweetness to recipes so you won't notice the decrease in sugar and fat. Replace up to half of the fat in a recipe with applesauce or fruit puree. Try to decrease the sugar content so the end product is not too sweet — a half cup of applesauce equals one tablespoon of white sugar.

Plain, low-fat yogurt or low-fat sour cream can replace regular sour cream in cakes, cookies and muffins. Using yogurt or buttermilk in a baked food increases the moisture and improves the texture of pancakes, cornbread and muffins.

Low-fat or skim milk, sour



Photos by Donna Norkoli and Kim Sakis.

Kewadin Casinos. "We are very fortunate to have a service like this to offer and are very excited to continue this program and others in 2007."

Both the Community Health and Rural Health staff are working together to bring this program to all five of the Kewadin Casinos. "Over the next few years, we hope to see healthier, happier team members and families, as a result of this comprehensive program," said Norkoli.

## Community Health says, "Get Moving, U. P.!"

Get ready, set, go! Starting Jan. 1, 2007, the Wellness Council of the Upper Peninsula (WELCUP) will be kicking off its sixth annual "Get Moving, U.P." program. Over an eight-week period, participants will learn how to incorporate more moderate or vigorous activity into their daily routine. Participants will be able to keep track of their daily minutes of physical activity online by going to [www.fitup.org](http://www.fitup.org).

Sault Tribe Community Health educator, Donna Norkoli, will be promoting this program to all Kewadin Casino team members through the Kewadin Casino Wellness Program. Any team member wishing to participate may register as part of the Kewadin Casinos' team.

Community Health educators at the Sault Tribe Health Center will also be promoting this program for all Sault Tribe members and their families. All Sault Tribe

members and family members may register as part of the Sault Tribe team. Prizes will be given to participants through weekly drawings to those logging minutes of physical activity during the week.

Participants will get into the habit of increasing their physical activity and see how fun and easy it is to do so. Whether you like to hike or dance, you can "trek your way, or two-step your way" into better health. As long as the activity gets your heart pumping, any type of physical activity will do! Just keep track of your minutes of physical activity and exercise your way to better health by Feb. 25, 2007. For more information or to register online visit [www.fitup.org](http://www.fitup.org).

For information on joining the Sault Tribe team or the Kewadin Casinos team call Donna Norkoli at (906) 635-8844.

## American Cancer Society celebrated 30th anniversary of Smoke-out

On Nov. 16, 2006, the American Cancer Society celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Great American Smoke-out, an annual event that encourages smokers and spit tobacco users to give up smoking or chewing tobacco for the day.

In addition to encouraging people to go tobacco-free, the American Cancer Society and its sister advocacy organization, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network ask Americans to join in efforts to advocate for smoke-free communities. Significant reductions in tobacco use in the last 30 years have made smoking the exception, not the norm. The combination of smoke-free communities and tobacco

cessation support is critical to helping smokers quit and stay tobacco-free.

In Michigan, disease caused by tobacco and secondhand smoke exposure remains the top two leading causes of preventable death. More than 17,000 Michigan residents die annually from diseases caused by tobacco and secondhand smoke.

The good news is that these deaths are 100 percent preventable. Studies have also shown that smokers who quit begin to reverse the effects caused by using tobacco within 24 hours of quitting! The risk of heart attacks, which kills the most users, is cut in half. Smokers who stop will improve their health and the health of their

family members who live with them.

It is never too late to quit. According to the American Cancer Society, smokers who quit begin to reverse the harmful effects caused by tobacco use almost immediately and this process continues for years:

After 20 minutes, blood pressure and pulse rates drop to normal.

After eight hours, the carbon monoxide level in the blood drops to normal and the oxygen level in the blood increases to normal.

After 24 hours, chances of heart attack decreases.

After two to three months, circulation improves, walking becomes easier and lung function

increases up to 30 percent.

After one to nine months, coughing, sinus congestion, fatigue and shortness of breath decrease.

After one year, risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a smoker.

After 10 years, lung cancer death rate is similar to that of nonsmokers.

After 15 years, the risk of coronary heart disease is that of a nonsmoker.

(Source: American Cancer Society; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

The Great American Smoke-out encourages smokers to begin by quitting for 24 hours. In addition to talking with your local

healthcare provider, the following are quit tips and strategies that can help:

- Remove all cigarettes, matches, lighters and ashtrays.

- Keep your hands busy with alternative activities: write, sew, read, etc.

- Nibble on healthy snacks: carrots, celery, sugarless gum, mints, fruit.

- Exercise.

- Stay positive.

- Picture success.

Keep in mind, it's never too late to quit and don't quit quitting. For additional help, please call Sault Tribe Community Health Services at (906) 632-5210 or your local tribal health center.

# World Aids Day observance

SUBMITTED BY LARRY KLEIN

Okay, we know that the HIV crisis is over. You don't have to worry about catching it because there is a cure. If you do happen to be unlucky and catch the HIV disease just take a pill and everything is alright. No problem anymore, right?

Wrong! Maybe dead wrong on all the above if you do happen to become HIV positive.

Just a few facts to bring the crisis back to reality: World wide, five people die of AIDS every minute, 8000 die every day.

An estimated 40 million people worldwide are living with HIV at the end of 2005, and more than 20 million people have died of AIDS since 1981. At current rates it is devastating — comparable to the plague of the Middle Ages.

Whole economies are floundering as a result of this health care crisis especially in the developing countries. It is a social, economic and health challenge to the world. You might think this is horrible, and it is, but the Centers for Disease Control have declared



Left: Stacey Roy, Sault Tribe Community Health HIV/Aids health educator, Stacey Storey, Community Health nutritionist and Larry Klein, HIV prevention coordinator. On Dec. 1, the Sault Ste. Marie community held an observance of World AIDS Day at the Sault Tribe Health Clinic. There was a short program with refreshments, information and other supplies. If a person is interested in learning about HIV tests, they should contact Larry Klein at (906) 632-5265.

Photo by Brenda Austin

that we are still in the early stages of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

U.S. citizens should also be aware that over a million people

here are HIV positive with approximately 40,000 new cases each year. There are also approximately 300,000 people who are

HIV positive and don't know it.

Although medications are bringing down the death rate, it is almost impossible to survive, financially, from the economic burden this illness places on an individual or family (\$10,000 to \$20,000 per year), especially taking in consideration the current health care system.

Now something for you to remember: HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. This is the virus known to cause AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). If someone is HIV positive, it means they have been infected with the virus. A person infected with HIV does not have AIDS until the virus seriously damages their immune system, making them vulnerable to range of infections, some of which can lead to death.

If you pay close attention to the above facts and add this: It takes a person approximately 10 years to actually experience symptoms and become sick (HIV to AIDS). So, if you do not get HIV tested you can be spreading the disease

on to others for about 10 years without even knowing it (don't think that just because your girl or boy friend is tested and comes out negative that means you are negative — she or he could just be lucky).

Finally, a few more facts: HIV is spread through unprotected sex (vaginal, anal or oral), sharing needles, from mother to fetus or newborn and blood to blood contact. Protecting yourself simply means creating a barrier between yourself and the infected person if you are engaging in any of the activities mentioned above (nothing is as simple as it seems). You either abstain from behaviors that put you at risk or else use protective measures (condoms, don't share needles, etc.) to ensure your physical safety from the disease.

World AIDS Day is a time for us to remember those who have died, are infected and affected with HIV/AIDS. This takes in about all of us. The event has been observed throughout the world since December of 1988.

## Heather Lester is a CHS patient care coordinator at Lambert Health Center



Heather Lester started working for the tribe in 1999 after graduating from North Central Michigan College.

She has worked as the patient care coordinator at the Lambert Health Center since starting in 1999.

As the patient care coordinator, she has regular contact with patients who are in need of specialty appointments or testing that they are unable to have performed at the clinics. She sets up all the referrals for outside care. Lester also helps patients in the service area stay up-to-date with the Sault Tribe Contract Health Program.

If anyone has questions regarding the program or referrals, they can contact Heather at (906) 643-8689.

Heather has three children and resides in St. Ignace.

## Second opinion yields treatment changes for half of patients

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — More than half of breast cancer patients who sought a second opinion from a multidisciplinary tumor board received a change in their recommended treatment plan, according to a new study from the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center.

A multidisciplinary tumor board includes a network of specialists from different disciplines devoted to treating breast cancer, including surgery, radiation oncology, medical oncology, radiology and pathology.

Researchers looked at the records of 149 consecutive patients referred to the U-M Cancer Center's multidisciplinary breast tumor board for a second opinion. The patients had already been diagnosed with breast cancer after having undergone initial evaluation, breast imaging and biopsy, and they already had a treatment recommendation from another hospital or care provider.

Overall, 52 percent of the patients evaluated had one or more changes in their recommendations for surgery. The changes were a result of breast imaging specialists reading a mammogram

differently or breast pathologists interpreting biopsy results differently. In some cases, the initial recommendation was changed after the case was reviewed by medical oncologists and radiation oncologists prior to surgery.

Results of the study appear in the Nov. 15 issue of the journal *Cancer*.

"A multidisciplinary tumor board that involves the collaborative effort of multiple medical specialties allows expert opinion and recommendations based on the most recent research findings. Meanwhile, the patients come to only one setting, with no need to visit multiple specialists individually," says study author Michael Sabel, M.D., assistant professor of surgery at the U-M Medical School and part of the U-M Cancer Centers multidisciplinary breast tumor board.

U-M currently has multidisciplinary clinics in 11 tumor types.

An estimated 212,920 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. For more information about breast cancer treatment, call Cancer AnswerLine at 800-865-1125 or visit [www.mcancer.org](http://www.mcancer.org).

## Muscular dystrophy tests yield encouraging results

TUCSON, Ariz. — Researchers have successfully used stem cells to treat dogs with a form of muscular dystrophy similar to the Duchenne (DMD) type in humans, the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) announced recently.

The investigators, including Maurilio Sampaolesi and MDA-funded Giulio Cossu of the San Raffaele Scientific Institute in Milan, Italy, used a special kind of stem cell called a mesangioblast that can be isolated from muscle biopsies of living donors.

Thirteen dogs, divided into three groups, received either cells from healthy donors, their own cells that had been corrected to have the protein missing in DMD or no cells at all. The dogs that received cells from healthy donors responded the best, with one of that group walking well at

13 months (most dogs with the disease have difficulty walking by eight months of age and die at about one year).

"Many therapeutic approaches have been successful in mice with muscular dystrophy, but this is the first example of functional improvement in a large-animal model of the disease, and a major step toward testing these cells in the clinic," said Sharon Hesterlee, MDA vice president of translational research.

The dogs in this project were injected from three to five times with 50 million cells at one-month intervals. The cells were injected into the arterial system of a limb. Some of the animals were also treated with drugs to suppress the immune system.

Results were documented biologically and through at least two measures of muscle func-

tion. There was no evidence of immune response in any of the dogs.

"It's not clear how long it will take to move this promising work to the clinic, but we're cautiously optimistic," said Valerie Cwik, MDA medical director and vice president of research. "The fact that the protein was effectively delivered to several muscles, rather than just one muscle at a time, is very significant."

MDA is currently funding Cossu to isolate mesangioblasts from human biopsy tissue in anticipation of future studies.

MDA is a voluntary health agency that provides services, research, and professional and public health education. The association's programs are funded almost entirely by individual private donors.

## The pain from fibromyalgia is real

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Many people with fibromyalgia, a debilitating pain syndrome that affects two to four percent of the population, have faced the question of whether the condition is real.

Fibromyalgia often has been misdiagnosed as arthritis or even a psychological issue.

Increasingly, though, the scientific knowledge about fibromyalgia is growing, and a new paper from the University of Michigan Health System says there are "overwhelming data" that the condition is real, is characterized by a lower pain threshold and is associated with genetic factors that can make some people more likely to develop fibromyalgia.

The review paper, in the December issue of the journal *Current Pain and Headache Reports*, cites recent studies involving pain, genetics, brain activity and more.

The paper's authors hope these findings will lead to a better understanding and acceptance of

fibromyalgia and related conditions.

"It is time for us to move past the rhetoric about whether these conditions are real, and take these patients seriously as we endeavor to learn more about the causes and most effective treatments for these disorders," said Richard E. Harris, Ph.D., research investigator in the Division of Rheumatology at the U-M Medical School's Department of Internal Medicine and a researcher at the U-M Health System's Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center.

A growing amount of research related to the neurobiology of the condition supports the notion that the pain of fibromyalgia is real.

Studies at U-M and elsewhere using two neuroimaging techniques, functional magnetic resonance imaging and single photon emission computed tomography, indicate there is a difference between patients with and without fibromyalgia.

"In people without pain, these

structures encode pain sensations normally. In people with fibromyalgia, the neural activity increased," says Daniel J. Clauw, M.D., director of the U-M Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center and professor of rheumatology at the U-M Medical School, and an author of the new paper. "These studies indicate that fibromyalgia patients have abnormalities within their central brain structures."

The authors note that there are some legitimate areas of debate regarding fibromyalgia, including disagreements about how precisely it should be defined and whether people with the condition deserve compensation. But none of those disagreements should detract from the acceptance of it as a condition causing real pain, they say.

Reference: *Current Pain and Headache Reports*, Dec. 2006, pp. 403-7.

# STARS ballet dancers take to stage with USA Ballet Company in a production of *'Twas The Night Before Christmas*



Tasha Cook, 10, Alysia Brewer, 7, and Hannah Paquette, 10, played the parts of playful children in the party scene of *'Twas The Night Before Christmas*.

Dianna George serves as director of the Soo Theatre Arts Resource Studios (STARS) dance program. Her students were invited to perform in December with a traveling ballet company, USA Ballet Company, and perform in *Twas the Night Before Christmas* at the LSSU Fine Arts Center.

STARS students rehearsed with and were instructed by the USA Ballet Company before their performances. Diana George was assisted by Lucy DeVoy during the performances.

George teaches children to adults movement, pre-ballet, ballet, jazz and tap. She also directs the Footlight Dancers, the advanced performing ensemble.

The mission of the STARS program is to provide people of all ages with affordable educational experiences in the fine arts. STARS is a program of the Soo Theater Project, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

For more information on STARS or to register for classes visit: [www.sootheatre.org](http://www.sootheatre.org).

## Photos by Brenda Austin



Left: A member of the USA Ballet Company instructs STARS students Martina Vollman, Anna Olsen (hidden behind Martina), Rita DeVoy, Sara Olsen, and Holly Ann Beck who all played the parts of Russian dolls.



Left: Rita DeVoy, Martina Vollman, Anna Olsen and being instructed is Sara Olsen.



Left: Martina Vollman, Anna Olsen, Rita DeVoy, Sara Olsen and Holly Ann Beck taking a bow.

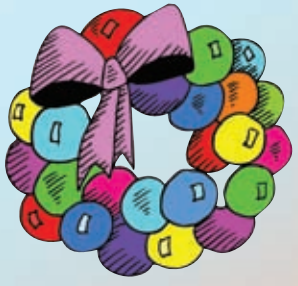


Left: Whitney McKenzie and Hope Ramer in the party scene.



Footlight Dancers-Left: Caroline Zinser, Elise Beaudoin and Allyson Dale taking a break from rehearsal. The Footlight Dancers played the part of gingerbread cookies.

# Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors



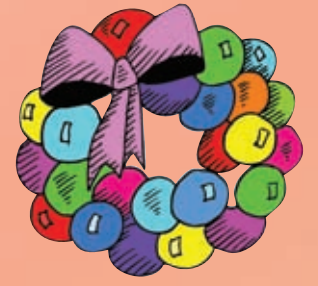
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*WE WISH YOU A  
SAFE AND MERRY  
CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!*



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Unit III Representative



# ACFS team member of the year



Jeanne King, Manistique case aide, receives the ACFS team member of the year award.

The Employee Advisory Committee requested nominations for the ACFS Team Member of the Year. The nominees were Sault Ste. Marie secretaries, Kari O'Gorman, Angel Peer and Amber Visnaw along with USDA truck driver Richard Rapson and Manistique case aide Jeanne King. After the nominations were received, the ACFS team members voted for their favorite choice. The votes were close,

each within two votes. ACFS would like to congratulate Jeanne King, the ACFS Team Member of the Year.

Roxanne Mannisto, a Manistique case worker nominated Jeanne and had this to say about her, "She has been very helpful to me this past year. She is excellent at her job, she really picks up on significant details with the families we see. Most of all, she really cares for the families and the children our agency serves. If she didn't care she wouldn't pick-up on the detail or provide significant information that is relative and important in our casework."

"A case aide is in a position where they have to be flexible with families and also personalities of different caseworkers. I know I'm not always the easiest person to get along with and she deals with all of us on the western end pretty well! Jeanne is open to ideas and is confident to express her ideas and opinions, this really helps to trouble shoot and problem solve. I have come to appreciate and value her as a co-worker."

"Not only does Jeanne provide support for caseworkers, families and children, she also helps in annual audits, organizing our charts and she created a tab system for which the state auditor complimented Binogii Placement Agency. Jeanne is our "computer expert" too, she has saved everyone in our office so many times by assisting the "computer illiterate" especially with recovering a document that has disappeared!

"Most of all, Jeanne is a good friend, she provides honest feedback and she is fun to work with, she is incredibly funny and we all need that when work gets stressful."

Jeanne King will receive a Team Member of the Year plaque and Kewadin Casinos donated a room and meal for two. The other ACFS nominees receive a framed certificate. ACFS has a great team of workers and by acknowledging the accomplishments of each other we all benefit. Congratulations to Jeanne King our other nominees and the team members at Anishnabek Community and Family Services.

## Child care development fund news

ACFS has recently put together a child care directory for parents whose children attend a child care home or center. Parents are provided with a broad range of resources specific to each county in the tribe's services area. To obtain a free copy of this directory, please call (800) 726-0093.

The most important thing to remember when choosing child care is that your child is receiving the best possible care. A good child care setting respects children, has open and on-going communication and a shared plan for the well-being of children. There are four types of provider settings that a parent has to choose from: Family home (up to six children), group home (up to 12 children), center (over 12 children) and in-home or relative provider. When

choosing your provider, here are some helpful hints: Interview the caregiver and let them know your expectations, check references and always stay involved.

Help in paying for child care can be obtained with funding available for child care expenses through Anishnabek Community and Family Services. Parents are encouraged to inquire if they are working or attending an approved educational program.

Money to help child care businesses may be available. If you are a licensed child care provider you may be eligible to receive quality activity assistance. This assistance is made available to providers who accept tribal CCDF subsidy. Funds are limited to providers experiencing barriers in continuing their child care

business. If you are considering being a licensed child care provider you may be entitled to a start-up grant.

Here are some coming events: An open forum will be coming to your area in February, 2007. This is an opportunity for parents and providers to review the CCDF plan and provide input for new program implementation.

Child care providers: The tribe's annual child care conference is scheduled for March 27, at Kewadin Casinos in Sault Ste. Marie.

All services are available throughout the tribe's service area. Please contact (800) 726-0093 for more information about the Child Care Development Fund.

## Domestic violence during the holiday season

SUBMITTED BY JULIE MENARD AND ANNA ROGERS-STOTT

Some people across the nation and right here in our tribal community may find the holidays difficult. ACFS would like to remind women in domestic violence situations the Advocacy Resource Center has advocates available to assist. If you are in need of a safe place to stay away from violence the "Lodge of Bravery" may be an option for you. The Lodge of Bravery is a residential shelter for abused women and children. Call the Advocacy Resource Center toll free at (877) 639-7820 for more information regarding the Lodge of Bravery.

Women's talking circles are held in Sault Ste. Marie and in St. Ignace to help all women who are in stress situations. The talking circle in the Sault is every Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Advocacy Resource Center at 1111 Minneapolis Street.

The St. Ignace talking circle

is the first, second and third Thursdays of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the former McCann School.

An article by Jeannette Norman, Bella Online domestic violence editor, reminds us that the holidays are not always happy times. During November and December, stress runs high in most families. Finances are stretched to buy gifts or to travel to see family members. Seeing those family members we don't quite get along with or not being able to see relatives and friends can add even more stress to a relationship. Excessive alcohol consumption is usually an added factor at this time of year. Sometimes our expectations of what should happen compared to what actually happens can give us the holiday blues. Many of us try to out do ourselves during the holidays and arguments happen.

Christmas is prime time for abusers who use control over their

victims. The abuser knows the victim wants to be with family and friends but many abusers use this to get a tighter grip on their victims causing even more stress.

One person recalled, "The look of satisfaction on his face as I cried on Christmas Day because he took the car keys from me so I couldn't go to my parent's house made me sick to my stomach."

Millions of women are dealing with abuse at home, not just physical abuse, but emotional, verbal, sexual and cultural abuse. Nothing you say or do causes your partner to abuse you and it is impossible for you to prevent this abuse by being the perfect partner.

If you are in an abusive situation, remember, you are not alone, you are not to blame and help is available. There's no excuse for domestic violence!

Advocacy Resource Center, call (906) 632-1808 or (877) 639-7820.

# Thirty Michigan counties participated in adoption day

SUBMITTED BY ROBYN HILL AND ROBERTA FISHER

The Michigan Supreme Court declared Nov. 21 to be Michigan Adoption Day. On that day, over 30 counties participated in the fourth annual Michigan Adoption Day, co-sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and Department of Human Services. Many adoptions were finalized that day, drawing attention to the adoption process and to the fact that thousands of foster children in Michigan need permanent homes. While statistics show us that most individuals are more interested in adopting young children, children of all ages need homes!

The following is an excerpt from an article on the Web site [www.michiganadoption.com](http://www.michiganadoption.com). This story does not have an author to acknowledge, but instead helps us to gain perspective from the eyes of a person who has been adopted.

"It amazes me how long and complicated my journey has been, the hows and whys are all now answered, but knowledge seems to be the only real difference in me. As I reflect back, I remember my mother telling me how I came to be adopted and what condition I was in when my parents first got me from the orphanage. All these years of knowing how sickly I was and how several pediatricians told my parents I would die, the reality just never registered. The doctors told my parents to give me back to the agency, that if I didn't die, I would be a drain on them emotionally and financially."

In today's world, I would be termed a "failure to thrive" baby, but by the standards of 1959, they didn't know any better. I am here today because my mother did not return me to the agency, she had faith that with time and love, I would pull through, and I did.

There is so much that we seem to take for granted and ignore in the adoption arena but I for one

am glad that we are making progress. It is astounding to me that my mind had no words or prior experience on which to base my pain, but my brain and my body kept a very accurate account. Every nerve ending remembers those first lonely days and I am grateful for the loving arms of one woman who never gave up and I praise her defiant and rebellious heart. If she were here today, I would say thank you, not only for adopting me, but for giving me life."

Anishnabek Community and Family Services' Binogii Placement Agency is licensed by the State of Michigan and through a contract established with the state, provides foster care and adoption services to all children of the Sault Tribe within the tribe's service area. Reuniting children with their birth parents is always a priority however, in some cases, doing so is not in the child's best interest. Courts may terminate parental rights in cases of child abuse and neglect, creating a need for foster and adoptive parents in the community.

By opening up their homes to children in need, foster and adoptive families make a loving decision to become a part of the growth and development of these children. In our seven-county service area, we have many families such as this who are providing, or who have made an application to provide, a permanent home and permanent connection for a child. Many are relatives, many are not, but all strive to be the best and only placement.

So far this year, the Binogii Placement Agency celebrated with five families in the finalization of 11 adoptions. If you have that gift of love to give a child of any age, and if you are a tribe member living in our service area who is interested in learning more about adoption, contact Anishnabek Community and Family Services at (906) 632-5250.

Anishnabek  
Community and Family Services



*Biidaajmowin*

*Bringing news from ACFS*

## ACFS seeks wood vendors

Using a wood burning furnace is an efficient way of heating, and as fuel prices rise, more people are heating with wood. ACFS assists qualified low income families with the cost of heating their homes and would like to develop a wood vendor list with contact information and prices for families needing wood for their homes.

ACFS could use wood vendors throughout the service area. If you have a surplus of wood you would like to sell and would like to be placed on a wood provider's list for heating homes, please contact the Sault Ste. Marie office at (906) 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093. If you know someone with wood who might not see this article please let them know to contact ACFS. Miigwetch!



# Blue Oyster Cult, Lonestar headline 2007 entertainment schedule

A host of energetic entertainers are featured on the 2007 entertainment schedule for Kewadin Casino's DreamMakers Theater and St. Ignace showroom. The schedule, which is continually updated, will feature the following:

Jan. 13: Blue Oyster Cult and Starship featuring Mickey Thomas — performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Tickets are \$28.50.

Jan. 28: Lonestar — performing at the St. Ignace Casino. Tickets are \$42.50.

Feb. 8: The Oak Ridge Boys performing at the St. Ignace casino. Ticket price is \$35.

April 20: George Jones performing at the St. Ignace casino. Ticket price is \$48.50.

May 9: B.B King performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$37.50.

"We have been working on our 2007 line up for the past few months and hope to announce additional performers by the end of December," said Bill Marsh,



On Jan. 28, Lonestar will be performing at the St. Ignace Casino. Tickets are \$42.50.

marketing director for Kewadin Casinos.

Kewadin Casinos offers the perfect environment for great entertainment. From the 1,500 seat DreamMakers Theater in Sault Ste. Marie or the 30,000 square foot entertainment area in

St. Ignace to the smaller entertainment venues, there is something for everyone when it comes to top notch entertainment.

In addition to the larger venues, Kewadin offers three lounge areas featuring entertainment, the Rapids Lounge in Sault Ste.

Marie, the Northern Pines Lounge in St. Ignace and the Team Spirits Bar in Manistique. "Our smaller venues feature local or regional bands and comedians on a regular basis, mostly on the weekends," said Marsh. For a complete listing of Kewadin's entertainment schedule, visit [www.kewadin.com/calendar](http://www.kewadin.com/calendar) or call 1-800-KEWADIN.

Kewadin Casinos, with locations in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Manistique, Christmas, and Hessel, offers top notch entertainment along with outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities in the beauty of Michigan's scenic Upper Peninsula.

Enjoy the upper and lower Tahquamenon falls, the Soo Locks, the quaint island town of Mackinac Island, Pictured Rocks National Park, along with fishing, boating and much more. In addition, enjoy Las Vegas style gaming with more than 2,400 slots to choose from and many table games including keno, three card poker, craps, blackjack, roulette,

let it ride and live poker.

Our affordable rooms will make you feel right at home whether you're staying on-site or at one of our well-appointed properties off-site. Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie offers 320 well-furnished rooms, deluxe suites, indoor spa, pool and fitness room. We also offer comfortable accommodations at our other casino locations throughout the Upper Peninsula with our Kewadin Casino Lakefront Inn and our new Kewadin Shores Hotel in St. Ignace.

Kewadin offers many dining choices including our award-winning DreamCatchers Restaurant in Sault Ste. Marie, the Mariner's Cove Restaurant in Manistique, the Horseshoe Bay Restaurant in St. Ignace or Frosty's Bar and Grille at our Christmas location. All of our locations feature unique delis, which offer exceptional snacks and sandwiches. For more information, call 1-800-KEWADIN (539-2346) or visit [www.kewadin.com](http://www.kewadin.com).

## Employees share holiday spirit

The holiday season will be brighter for families across the Upper Peninsula thanks to the employees of Kewadin Casinos.

The casinos, located in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Manistique and Christmas, all participated in a giving program or drive this year. "I am so proud of our team members," said Tony Goetz, casino chief operating officer. "This is what the holidays are all about."

Nearly every department at the Sault casino sponsored a family through the Department of Social Services with fifteen families being sponsored. Kewadin's Manistique casino sponsored a can-a-thon and toys for tots drive in conjunction with WLUC-TV6 in Marquette for team members and patrons. Kewadin Christmas adopted two local families and Kewadin St. Ignace sponsored an employee food drive. In addition, the tribe's human resources department sponsored a giving tree, the Casino's Food and Beverage Department sponsored a Christmas party for the Tribal



Above: Canned and non perishable foods collected to date at the Manistique Kewadin Casinos through the TV6 Can-A-Thon the casino participates in.

Youth Program and additional families were individually adopted by casino team members through the tribe's Anishnabeck Community and Family Services department.

"Working together builds communities, friendships, and teaches our children the joy of giving," said Victoria Johndrow who coor-

inated the Sault Adopt a Family program. "We look forward to doing this again in the years to come."

In 2005, twenty five bags of toys and gifts and six boxes of food were delivered to families throughout the area thanks to the employees of Kewadin Casinos Hotel and Convention Center.

## Kewadin team members visit Vegas

Four lucky Kewadin Casino team members were chosen to receive an all expense paid trip to Las Vegas! The team members were drawn randomly from a pool of those who had perfect attendance in 2005. Dwane Lane, Kewadin Sault slot attendant; Ralph Burby, Kewadin Sault deli; Deanna Clifton, Kewadin Manistique housekeeping; and Hope Neun, Kewadin Christmas cage, were the lucky winners. The group took the trip October 1-6, 2006 and enjoyed a stay at the Mirage hotel. Each winner was able to bring a guest. The trips are a yearly gift from MCTV and are given to team members as an additional benefit for being a part of the Kewadin team.



Vegas bound! Steve Sprecker, general manager of Kewadin Sault, left, and Alan Bouschor, vice president of marketing & sales, far right, along with Vegas trip winners Ralph Burby and Dwayne Lane shortly before their trip.

## Ring in the new year Kewadin style!

It may be cold outside, but the events Kewadin is bringing you this month are hot! Back by popular demand is the Gumball Rally at all five casino sites in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Manistique, Christmas and Hessel!

Be sure to stop into our Hessel Casino this month because multiplier madness Wednesday is back! Every Wednesday until Jan. 31, 2007, there will be random drawings for cash from 4 to 9 p.m. The more you play, the more money you could win!

Ring in the new year Kewadin style at any of our five casino locations! Don't miss your chance this New Year's Eve at a free entry into cash prize drawings from 6 p.m. to midnight. Make sure you use your Northern Rewards Club card while playing because random draws will also be held throughout the night. Winners will be able to choose a Kewadin crystal ball full of cash!

For information on these or promotions and events, visit at [www.kewadin.com](http://www.kewadin.com) or call 1-800-KEWADIN.

Good news from...

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY MICHELLE BOUSCHOR

## Team member survey results announced

The results of the Kewadin Casinos team member survey, which was completed by team members at the 2005 end of the year bash, were released. The survey helps human resources compile information on team member jobs, insurance and make changes to team member benefits. Highlights of the survey are listed below.

- 45.5 percent of team members have worked for the tribe over nine years.
- 82.48 percent of team members like their job.
- 59.74 percent of team members find their co-workers cooperative and friendly.
- 67.1 percent of team members find their supervisor's attitude towards them usually fair or fair at all times.
- 63.5 percent of team members believe Kewadin has good

- will in the community.
- 56.96 percent of team members believe their supervisors keep them informed on company policy, plans and developments.
- 74.14 percent of team members rate their satisfaction with the 401(k) plan as positive.
- 47.63 percent of team members believe their supervisors are well or highly qualified.
- 57.68 percent of team member level of satisfaction with sick leave is good, excellent or outstanding.
- The locations in this report included the Sault, St. Ignace, Manistique, Hessel and Christmas casinos.
- A total of 611 surveys were completed. Team members are encouraged to contact the Human Resources Department with any questions or concerns.

# Employment Opportunities!

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

**Cool Places!**  
**Cool People!**  
**Cool Jobs!**



**Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians**

## GOVERNMENTAL OPENINGS

Medical Social Worker Until Filled  
 Youth Program Group Assistant Until Filled  
 Physician Assistant Until Filled

## SAULT KEWADIN CASINO

No openings

## MANISTIQUE

No Openings

## HESSEL

No Openings

## CHRISTMAS

Gaming Shift Manager III Until Filled  
 Line Cook Until Filled  
 Bartender Until Filled

## ST. IGNACE KEWADIN CASINO

Deli Cooks (2) Until Filled

## ENTERPRISE

Midjim Assistant Manager/St. Ignace Until Filled

## Missing children



**Avery Stately**  
 Age: two, DOB: 09/24/2004  
 Sex: Male  
 Race: American Indian  
 Hair: black, Eyes: brown  
 Height: 3'00"  
 Weight: 36



**Tristan White**  
 Age: four, DOB: 09/06/2002  
 Sex: Male  
 Race: American Indian  
 Hair: black, Eyes: brown  
 Height: 3'04"  
 Weight: 45

Case Number: NCMC1058347

Avery and Tristan are half brothers. They were last seen at their home in Redlake, Minn., on the morning of Nov. 22, 2006. Avery was last seen wearing a light gray sweatshirt, a white T-shirt, Old Navy faded blue jeans and white Spiderman sneakers. His nickname is Ave. Tristan was last seen wearing a dark blue Spiderman jacket, a black and white striped shirt, blue jeans and black and gray boots. If you have any information about these children, call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at (800) 843-5678 or the Redlake Police Department at (218) 679-3313.

## Manistique sweat lodge

The Manistique Tribal Center will conduct an individual men's and women's sweat lodge on Jan. 7, 2007.

If you, or anyone you know, are interested please call us at (906) 341-9528.

There will be a feast afterwards which will be potluck style, so if you attend we ask that you bring a dish to pass. We also ask that you bring a towel.

## Women's wellness gathering Biboon 2007

Jan. 25-28 at the Mary Murray Culture Camp on Sugar Island. For information, or to get an application, contact Karen Howell or Selina McLean at (906) 635-6075 or toll free (800) 726-9105.

Funded by the Sault Tribe American Indian Substance Abuse Program.

# USDA announces fiscal year 2007 sign-up for up to \$20 million in conservation innovation grants

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has announced the request for proposals for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). The CIG program is designed to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies.

"CIG rewards the creation of new and innovative approaches to managing the nation's natural resources more effectively and efficiently," said Johanns. "It allows applicants to come up with practical solutions to address conservation and resource management on a local, regional or national scale."

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service administers CIG. For FY 2007, up to \$20 million is available for the National CIG competition. Funds for single or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, will be awarded through a nationwide

competitive grants process with applications accepted from all 50 States, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) and the Pacific Basin Area (Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) from all eligible government or non-government organizations or individuals, including federally recognized tribes.

There are three CIG categories available in FY 2007:

**Natural Resource Concerns** Category-up to \$10 million available for proposals addressing one or more of the CIG natural resource concerns. This component was also offered in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

**Chesapeake Bay Watershed** Category-up to \$5 million available for proposals addressing one or more of the CIG natural resource concerns in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This

component was also offered in 2005 and 2006.

**Technology** Category-up to \$5 million available for proposals addressing one or more of the CIG technology categories. This component was offered for the first time in 2006.

Applicants should explain how large a geographic area the project would benefit. These projects may be watershed-based, regional, multi-State, or nationwide in scope. Applications should describe the use of innovative technologies or approaches, or both, to address a natural resource conservation concern or concerns.

Funding for CIG is made available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). All proposed CIG projects must involve EQIP-eligible producers. CIG funds that are used to provide direct or indirect payments to individuals or entities to implement structural, vegeta-

tive or management practices are subject to the \$450,000 EQIP payment limitation. CIG is not a research program but rather a tool to stimulate the adoption of conservation approaches or technologies that have been studied sufficiently to indicate a high likelihood of success, and are likely candidates for eventual technology transfer.

CIG will fund projects targeting innovative on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. Technologies and approaches that are commonly used in the geographic area covered by the application, and which are eligible for funding through EQIP, are not eligible for funding through CIG. Proposed projects must conform to the description of innovative conservation projects or activities published in the Announcement of Program Funding (APF).

CIG funds pilot projects and

conservation field trials that can last from one to three years. Grants for approved projects cannot exceed 50 percent of the total project cost. The federal contribution for a single project cannot exceed \$1 million. At least 50 percent of the total cost of the project must come from non-Federal matching funds (cash and in-kind contributions) provided by the grantee. While NRCS will provide technical oversight for each project receiving an award, the grantee is responsible for providing the technical assistance required to successfully complete the project.

To view the Announcement of Program Funding or to apply visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig) or [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

For more information about NRCS conservation programs visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) or the nearest USDA Service Center.

# Granholt says new Merit Award Scholarship most important bill facing lawmakers

LANSING – Governor Jennifer M. Granholt recently said no single piece of legislation is more important to Michigan's families and children than the new Merit Award Scholarship and repeated her call for state lawmakers to approve it so every student will have the opportunity to pursue a education after high school.

The measure, which is a critical component of the governor's economic plan she successfully campaigned on in her bid for re-election, is being considered by the House Appropriations Committee. It has already been approved by the Michigan Senate.

"If we want the jobs of tomorrow in Michigan, we need to make this commitment to this year's high school seniors and beyond," Granholt said. "The new Merit Award will send a powerful signal to employers across the country and around the globe — Michigan will have the nation's best-educated workforce.

I believe this measure is not only necessary and desirable, it is critical to Michigan's economic future."

The new Merit Award is a \$4,000 scholarship that would be available to every student who wants to earn a college degree or technical certification. Currently, the Michigan Merit Award is based on standardized test scores and is awarded to only half the students who graduate high school.

The proposal combines the best features of the current Michigan Merit Award Scholarship with an approach that will also provide encouragement and financial support to the majority of our students — those who do not qualify for the current Merit Award based solely on standardized test scores.

Among key features of the Governor's new Merit proposal are the following:

- Beginning with the high school class of 2007 — this year's

high school seniors — students can use the \$4,000 scholarship to attend any college or university in Michigan, public or private, and a wide array of technical training programs.

- Students who do well on the high school assessment can earn half their scholarship, \$2,000, during their freshmen and sophomore years and earn the remaining \$2,000 by successfully completing two years of post-secondary education, earning an associate degree, junior status at a four-year institution or technical certification.

- Students who do not receive a qualifying score on the assessment test can earn their entire \$4,000 scholarship by successfully completing two years of post-secondary education. They will be able to demonstrate their "merit" by earning the post-secondary credentials that employers demand.

The governor's proposal is

a direct response to the central recommendation of the Cherry Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth — that Michigan must make post-secondary education universal. Students may choose to attend four-year colleges and universities or community colleges, or participate in technical training programs, but they must continue their education beyond high school.

Granholt noted that last spring she signed the historic bipartisan legislation making Michigan's high school graduation requirements among the most rigorous in the nation.

"Now that we have taken this step to ensure that all our students are ready for success beyond high school, we must also be prepared to support their aspirations to higher education," Granholt said. "The new Merit Award legislation does just that. Every day action is delayed on the new Merit Award is a day that Michigan is not gain-

ing more ground in the battle for jobs and economic growth."

The new Merit Award Scholarship is part of Granholt's comprehensive economic plan, a \$6 billion plan that is now being implemented. Part of that plan is helping workers get the skills they need to fill job vacancies that already exist. The plan also ensures that our young people have the skills necessary for jobs that will exist tomorrow — jobs that require a college degree or technical training.

"Nothing is more important to Michigan's families and children today than creating good-paying jobs," Granholt said. "To those who argue we can't afford a scholarship for all our students to pursue their education, I argue that we can and must invest in every student."

## Extra help available with Medicare prescription drug

BY ED DWYER, SOCIAL SECURITY MANAGER IN ESCANABA

Medicare's open enrollment period for prescription drug coverage in 2007 runs through December 31. During this period, all eligible beneficiaries may choose to enroll for the first time, choose a new plan or stay in the plan they already have. If you or someone you know is on Medicare and has limited income and resources, it is important to remember that extra help is still available with cost of plan premiums, co-payments and deductibles.

You may qualify for this extra help if your income is below \$14,700 a year as a single person or below \$19,800 a year if

you're married and living with your spouse. Your income can be higher if you support other family members who live with you or have earnings from work. Keep in mind, new income limits will be determined in early 2007. For 2006, your total resources must be less than \$10,000 if you are single or \$20,000 if you are married and living with your spouse. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds, but do not include your house and car. Resources can be slightly higher (an additional \$1,500 per person) if you will use some of your money for burial expenses. In 2007, the resources limit will increase to \$10,210 for an indi-

vidual and \$20,410 for a married couple living together.

If you think that you might qualify for the extra help, you can complete an online application at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call (800) 772-1213, TTY (800) 325-0778, and a representative will assist you in filing an application over the phone. You can also visit your local Social Security office.

For more information about the prescription drug program itself, you can go to [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), where decision-making tools such as the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder are available, or call (800) MEDICARE, (800) 633-4227 or TTY (877) 486-2048.

## Young member bags buck



Sault Tribe member Dustin Cornwell, age 12, got his opening day buck at 11:30 a.m.

## U-M expert offers tips to avoid serving up heartburn with holiday meals

WRITTEN BY KRISTA HOPSON

ANN ARBOR – Whether it's thoughts of sugarplums, turkey and mashed potatoes covered in gravy, sweet potatoes, or pumpkin pies with whipped cream dancing in your head, no holiday celebration would be complete without food – and lots of it.

But some tasty holiday treats may leave you reaching for the antacids instead of another turkey drumstick. And for the 15 million Americans who experience chronic heartburn, or Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD), the holidays can be especially painful. "The holiday season is clearly one of the worst times of the year for patients with GERD," says William Chey, M.D., a gastroenterologist at the University of Michigan Health System. "The large amounts of food we eat during the holidays, and the types of food served during the holidays – especially fatty and caffeinated foods – can be a recipe for disaster for chronic heartburn sufferers."

GERD is a common digestive

condition caused by a relaxed or weakened lower esophageal sphincter – the muscular valve between the esophagus and the stomach – that is unable to prevent stomach acid from flowing up into the esophagus.

After eating, people with GERD will often experience a burning feeling in their chest, similar to heartburn, as well as a sour taste in their mouth as a result of the stomach acid in the esophagus.

Lifestyle changes – not eating certain foods and avoiding large meals – can help relieve some of the symptoms of GERD. But avoiding holiday food temptations is not always easy. To help people with GERD survive the holidays, Chey dishes up some advice to keep your stomach and esophagus merry and acid-free. Chey's five tips for surviving the holidays with GERD:

- Don't overeat: "Large amounts of food distend, or stretch the stomach, which can cause the lower esophageal sphincter to relax and release acid

back up through the esophagus," says Chey.

- Stay caffeine-free: Caffeinated beverages and foods like soda pop, ice cream and chocolate will work to aggravate symptoms of GERD.

- Avoid fatty, greasy foods: Foods that are f-a-t-t-y will only spell trouble for people with GERD. "Excessive fats in foods work to slow the process of food leaving the stomach. If food isn't emptied from the stomach, it can backup into the esophagus," says Chey. In addition, he notes, fatty and greasy foods promote relaxation of the lower esophageal sphincter, allowing acid rise into the esophagus.

- Keep the wine in the bottle: Chey says research has consistently shown that red wine can cause heartburn. White wine, too, may cause acid reflux-related symptoms.

- When you eat is as important as what you eat: The time of day you eat can have an impact on acid reflux disease. "Gravity actually serves as an important barrier

for acid reflux during the day. So when you lie down at night after eating a meal, you no longer have that gravity barrier to prevent acid reflux," notes Chey. For people who tend to have nighttime acid reflux symptoms, Chey recommends that they avoid eating or drinking three to four hours before bedtime.

Treating GERD - Over-the-counter antacids are some of the most widely used products to relieve the symptoms of heartburn.

"Antacids are a very attractive option for heartburn sufferers because they provide immediate relief," says Chey. "The problem, however, is that the effects of antacids are short-lived, and there are some side-effects associated with their use such as diarrhea or constipation, particularly if you ingest a large amount."

Another group of over-the-counter medications that provide fast relief are called Histamine 2-Receptor Antagonists, which include medications such as Pepcid® or Zantac®. While these

medications have longer-lasting effects than antacids, Chey says they offer only modest benefit for patients with frequent and severe heartburn symptoms. And, he warns, that overuse of such medications may lessen their effectiveness in some patients.

The most effective options for people with acid reflux disease, however, are Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI). PPI include Prilosec™, which is available over-the-counter, or prescription strength alternatives, available from your doctor.

"While these drugs don't work as quickly as other over-the-counter options, they are by far the most potent drugs in terms of suppressing acid production by the stomach, and relieving acid reflux symptoms," says Chey. "They're also good to use before a big meal, such as Thanksgiving dinner, to help prevent symptoms of acid reflux."



# News of other nations

## Northern tribes rally to boost economy

MINNESOTA — Hundreds of people gathered in Mahanomen for an economic summit between the White Earth, Red Lake and Leech Lake Indian tribes. Tribal leaders invited economic experts from across the country. They're hoping the event leads to new partnerships and opportunities that will create much needed jobs.

All three northern Minnesota tribes suffer from high unemployment and stagnant economies. The two-day summit is the first time the tribes have joined together to talk about solutions. Leech Lake Tribal Chairman George Goggeye says the goal of the summit was to explore potential business and economic opportunities from which the three tribes will grow healthy, self-sufficient communities.

"We've talked about this in our planning sessions, that, how Red Lake could help Leech Lake," Goggeye says. "How Leech Lake could help White Earth, and how we could just keep things within our bands, whether it be products or services or whatever it may be. That opportunity has always existed, so, this is where it all starts."

Casinos have been the primary economic engine for the tribes for nearly two decades. Gaming has created thousands of jobs in the region. But tribal leaders say the three reservations are geographically isolated, making casinos far less lucrative than tribal gaming operations closer to the Twin Cities.

One message echoed over and over at the summit is that the tribes need to develop economies that go beyond gaming. Dave Anderson was the keynote speaker on the first day of the summit. Anderson, an Ojibwe Indian from Wisconsin, is the founder of Famous Dave's restaurant chain. He believes one solution is to encourage more private business ownership.

"It just can't be tribes owning businesses," Anderson says. "I think, just due to the nature of casino gaming, the tribe has to be in ownership of that. But as far as true economic development, I think the future for Indian Country lies in individual entrepreneurship."

The number of private businesses in Indian Country has grown, but that growth has been slow, says Jackie Johnson, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians. She says it's more typical that people living on reservations go off the reservation for goods and services; to get their car fixed, go shopping or go to a movie. Johnson says that's got to change.

"What we haven't done is create a large enough service industry to ourselves," says Johnson. "We still tend to go off the reservation for our services and until we get that turned around, I mean that is an economic opportunity. Those individual entrepreneurs will make a difference to our local economies."

Tribal governments have tried to play that role, with some success. The Red Lake tribe owns its own grocery store. The Mille Lacs tribe has one, too, as well as a bank and a few other businesses.

But private business development has been slow according to Johnson, because many tribe members don't own their own homes and so don't have the necessary credit for business loans. She says not enough people in Indian Country are literate in business and financial skills.

"Government management is a business. Housing development is a business," Johnson says. "Health care delivery is a business. And are we treating those as businesses and therefore building a workforce that understands it has a business philosophy? Are we taking our children and giving them the right financial literacy skills that they need to be in a competitive world?"

Efforts to create non-casino jobs on the reservations have had limited success. Over the past few years, the Red Lake Tribe has started a water bottling plant, a door factory and a modular home factory. All of those businesses failed. Red Lake Tribal Chairman Buck Jourdain blames politics and poor planning.

"A lot of the projects that don't succeed in Indian Country are attributed to a rush to create jobs in general," Jourdain says. "A lot of times when you have new administrations come in, they don't want to waste a lot of time doing the educating, doing the due diligence and a lot of thorough planning. And you spend a ton of money and throw it into projects that are not well thought out. And also, tribal politics plays a part in that."

Many in Indian Country say government reforms that separate politics from business are necessary for tribes to develop healthy economies. Former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., spoke to summit participants and they also brainstormed more economic development ideas.

— *National Public Radio*



## Dartmouth College head

### apologizes to American Indians

NEW HAMPSHIRE — The president of Dartmouth College has apologized for a string of incidents this fall that many American Indian students viewed as racist.

In an e-mail sent to students, president James Wright urged students to do more to make the university a welcoming and respectful place.

"They are members of this community . . . they are your classmates and your friends," Wright wrote of the American Indian students. "And they deserve more and better than to be abstracted as symbols and playthings."

The American Indian Council, a group made up of faculty, staff and a few students, took out an advertisement in the student newspaper describing a troubling series of events.

According to the ad, fraternity pledges disrupted an American Indian drumming circle on Columbus Day, and earlier this month, the crew team held a "Cowboys and Indians" theme party. Team captains later apologized.

Though the school discontinued its unofficial American Indian mascot in the 1970s, some students and alumni have continued to use it. *The Dartmouth Review*, a conservative, independent student newspaper, gave incoming freshmen T-shirts featuring the symbol. And at homecoming, at least one Dartmouth student sold shirts depicting a rival school's mascot performing a sex act on a "Dartmouth Indian," the university said.

The ad also expressed concern about a dining hall mural painted in the 1930s depicting the school's founding. It shows one American Indian holding a book upside down and another lapping rum from the ground. The mural, which has been covered for years and is to be removed during renovations, will be preserved at the school's art museum.

"I really feel like the college does not care enough about Native students," says Samuel Kohn, a sophomore who is from Montana and a member of the Crow tribe. He praised Wright's letter and his decision to meet with American Indian students last week, but says the comments were long overdue and didn't go far enough.

Dartmouth's 1796 charter describes the school's primary mission as educating "youth of the Indian tribes in this land . . . and also of English youth and any others." But only 19 American Indians graduated from the college over the next 200 years.

In 1970, Dartmouth renewed that mission and began recruiting American Indian students. There now are about 150 American Indian students, making up three percent of the student body.

The school has an office dedicated to working with American Indian students and offers an American Indian studies program. Wright says he is considering other ways to address the problems, such as speaking in greater depth at freshman orientation about the school's history with American Indians.

— *Associated Press*

## Women of War statues dedicated

TEXAS — A Lakota Sioux woman was among those introduced and paid tribute at the dedication of the Women of War statues at the Veterans War Memorial in the southern Texas town of McAllen.

The two seven-foot bronze, free-standing statues depict one woman in a World War II uniform of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and the other in a Navy Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) of the same era.

During World War II, women served in the military as members of the WAC, WAVES, Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, Marine Corps Women's Reserve, Coast Guard SPARS (Semper Paratus-Always Ready), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron, Women's Air Force Service Pilots, U.S. Army and Navy nurses, Red Cross. Women also helped fight the war serving on the home front by caring for their families and working in war factories; they were likened to the lasting symbol of Rosie the Riveter, a war time figure on posters recruiting women factory workers.

Margaret E. DeWolf Clepper served as a Navy pharmacist mate third class during the war. She met her husband, James Clepper, while she was stationed at a naval air station in Glenview, Ill. She married him in early 1946.

During the dedication ceremony, Mrs. Clepper wore the same uniform that she wore in World War II.

The keynote speaker was Brigadier General Joyce Stevens, the first female general of the National Guard, and Emma Hernandez, who was a yeoman second class during World War II, introduced all the women veterans present.

— *The Monitor, with thanks to Sault Tribe member Donald E. Carrow of Mission, Texas.*

## Tribes bar church

### protesters from soldier's funeral

NORTH DAKOTA — A church group that protests around the country at the military funerals of veterans of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq were barred from recent services for an American Indian soldier on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, tribal officials say.

Members of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan., planned to demonstrate at the funeral of National Guard Cpl. Nathan Goodiron, known as Young Eagle on the reservation, who died on Thanksgiving in Afghanistan.

Church members say the deaths of soldiers are punishment from God for the country's tolerance of homosexuals. But the chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes says the council passed a resolution barring the church group from the reservation. He says the council won't allow "harassment that is intended to provoke ill feelings and violence."

Tribal leaders passed a resolution that prohibited the group from protesting on the reservation, said Marcus Wells Jr., chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes.

The 9,500 members of the Three Affiliated Tribes are from the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations.

— *The Knoxville News Sentinel*

## New Web site plans

### to catalogue all U.S. Indian tribes

FLORIDA — The Web page opens up to a colorful map of a pre-Columbus United States of America, with 301 different American Indian tribes dotted from sea to shining sea.

"This is the way America used to look," says Miccosukee recording artist Lee Tiger, showing off his new American Indian Web site, [discovernativeamerica.com](http://discovernativeamerica.com).

Tiger expects the Web site, which is still under construction, to launch by Christmas.

[Discovernativeamerica.com](http://Discovernativeamerica.com) is a comprehensive look at all of the 301 American Indian tribes that exist or existed in the area that now comprises the 48 states of continental America, with an additional 261 in Alaska.

In addition to historical data, the Web site also provides information on travel and entertainment offered on existing reservations.

The offerings include everything from Everglades adventures in Florida to horseback riding vacations in Montana, canoe camps in Idaho and spiritual retreats in Arizona.

Tiger, 56, of Davie, Fla., is best known as the surviving brother of the pop music group, Tiger Tiger. His brother, Stephen Tiger, died in June at 57.

Lee Tiger said the idea for the Web site came to him a few years ago while he was in Europe promoting American Indian excursions in Germany.

"I found there was no one-stop Web site that could give me and the people I was meeting historical information on the hundreds of tribes in the United States," said Tiger, who after five years of research — and \$20,000 — has discovered dozens of tribes he never knew existed.

Since he was in the travel business, he figured it only made sense to provide detailed travel and entertainment information for the reservations of existing tribes.

Tiger hopes the Web site, which he owns, will get sponsorship from the reservations featured on the site.

"In Europe, people are fascinated with American Indian culture and relate to it, sometimes more than other aspects of American life," said Tiger's wife, Gosia, a native of Poland who met him while working in a hotel in Germany.

Like most Europeans, she says she became enamored of American Indian life while reading the books of best-selling German writer Karl May, who specialized in the American West and its native peoples.

"May showed the struggle and strength of American Indians," said Gosia Tiger, who helps her husband with promotion, research, writing, and translation for the site.

Growing up under Communist rule in Poland, she said, "I was struck how much my life was like the American Indians' — finding natural ways to cure our illnesses, growing our own food, refusing to give in."

Though struck by his wife's political connection to his culture, Lee Tiger insists that his site is not political, but a means to provide cultural exchange.

Lee Tiger said the Web site, where users can log on for free, will be completely funded by American Indians. "We are up to the letter 'N' states — Nevada," his wife said, explaining that they only have 14 more states to go before the site is up and running.

— *Fort Wayne News Sentinel*





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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

Sault Ste. Marie, MI

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JOHN BERRY'S  
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

Sault Ste. Marie, MI

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## Scholarship

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### The Board of Regents Scholarship:

- \* Covers tuition for sixty-six credits
- \* Is limited to Michigan Federally Recognized Tribal members
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- \* Mandates that fifty-percent of the classes must be taken on the campus of BMCC per semester
- \* Requires students to display good moral character

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Bay Mills Community College

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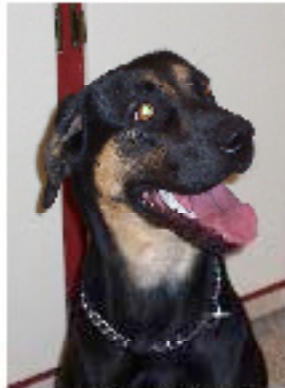
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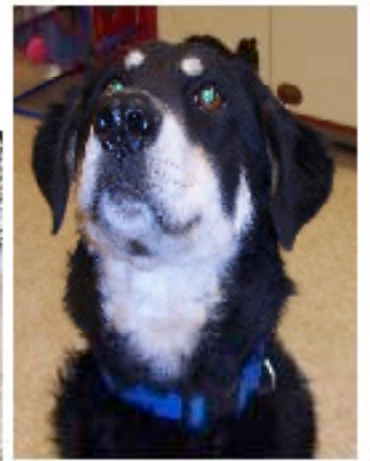


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