



Win Awenen NISITOTUNG

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

August 8, 2008 • Vol. 29 No. 8



New tribal leadership takes oath of office

BY CORY WILSON

The Sault Tribe's new chairman and six newly elected board members took their oath of office on the evening of July 2 in front of a large crowd of supporters, family and friends at the Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie.

Darwin "Joe" McCoy was officially sworn in as the new chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Cathy M. Abramson (Unit I), Joseph V. Eitrem (Unit I), Bernard A. Bouschor (Unit I), Lana E. Causley (Unit II), Patrick D. Rickley (Unit III) and Tom Miller (Unit IV) also took their oath of office and will represent their respective units for the next four years as a member of the Sault Tribe board of directors.

McCoy recited the "Acceptance of Office and Tribal Oath" by stating, "I, Darwin "Joe" McCoy, having been elected to the office of chairman of the board of directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for a term of four years, beginning July 2, 2008, do hereby accept said office and affirm my eligibility for same as a member and qualified voter of the tribe. I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of chairman of the board of directors

of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians according to the best of my ability. In discharging those duties, I will honor the seven teachings of our people: love, respect, honesty, humility, truth, wisdom, and bravery."

Each of the newly elected board members recited the oath in turn and then gathered as a group to recite the Ojibwa Oath in our Anishinaabe language. Translated into English, the oath reads, "Continually, as our ancestors we in the past, and are now and will continually be forever; I will honor the Anishnabe way of life."

The six board members being honored gave a brief heartfelt thanks to the tribe, as well as their family, friends, supporters and those in attendance. McCoy followed by addressing the crowd with an acceptance speech and received thunderous applause from those in attendance as he stepped up to the podium.

"Thank you, thank you, this is a real honor," said McCoy. "I want to thank my family, my mother, and all of you out there smiling. It's great to see you all smiling. It's nice coming up here following all the board members. The good thing is, they said everything I wanted to say. I just want to keep all those smiling faces out there. And, for those of you who aren't smiling, give us a chance, we'll put a smile on your face."

Living Treaties Summit Aug. 13-15 at Kewadin, Sault Tribe and Garden River

Join us Aug. 13-15 for a wonderful summit for Anishinaabe by Anishinaabe! Hosted by the Anishinaabeg Joint Commission, "Living Treaties" explores the role of treaties in our lives today, done our way — with plenty of time for talking, traders, entertainments and food.

FREE REGISTRATION!

The event culminates with a border crossing into Garden River with a treaty signing and traditional feast! *Read more on page 7!*



Photo by Rick Smith

Election Committee Chairman Michael McKerchie administers the oath of office to election winners Unit III Director Pat Rickley, Unit I Director Cathy Abramson, Unit II Director Lana Causley, Unit IV Director Tom Miller, Tribal Chairman Darwin "Joe" McCoy, Unit I Director Joe Eitrem and Unit I Director Bernard Bouschor.

OFFICERS ELECTED

Causley first female vice chair

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors conducted the election of officers at the July 8 special board meeting held in Sault Ste. Marie.

Unit II Director Lana Causley was selected as the new vice chairperson, Unit I Director Cathy Abramson will serve again as treasurer and Unit I Director DJ Hoffman was selected as secretary.



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

The tribe's drum, Bahweting Singers, performed a closing song to end the ceremony.

Sault Tribe, Kewadin Casino begin restructure

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Kewadin Casinos announced plans July 30 to streamline operations by reducing its total workforce by approximately 2 percent in early August. This affects all tribal and casino facilities in the Upper Peninsula.

The announcement was made to team members earlier this week by Sault Tribe chairman Joe McCoy, the tribe's board of directors, co-executive director Kristi Little, CFO/co-executive director internal services Victor Matson Jr., and casino chief operating officer Tony Goetz.

"This is an extremely

tough decision to make; it has not been easy," said McCoy. "However, due to our financial position and to ensure the longevity of our tribe and the profitability of our tribal businesses, changes must be made. We have to look to our future and make decisions that will sustain our tribe and benefit our membership."

"Unfortunately, over the years, millions in tribal reserves has been dwindled down to nothing," he added. "According to financial analysts, if changes are not made, the Tribe will not recover."

McCoy said that although the situation is dim, it can be

fixed. "We are making adjustments, as hard as they are, so that we can maintain what we have and move the tribe forward," he said.

Administration plans to continue to look at various membership services, organizational

restructuring and technology updates that could help the tribe's financial position move forward.

"We will do our best to preserve tribal services for our membership," said McCoy. "However, we are taking a look

at how we provide those services, where we provide them and developing more efficient plans to ensure continuity of the top three membership priorities our tribe has: health, education and elders."

Greektown hiring for permanent casino and hotel; about 400 positions open

DETROIT—Greektown Casino began the process of hiring about 400 full-time workers to staff its permanent casino hotel, which will open early next year, the casino announced July 17. Some of the workers will start as early as August.

The casino has partnered with the Detroit Workforce Development Department (DWDD) to recruit as many qualified Detroit residents as possible. Starting immediately, DWDD staff will pre-screen candidates for the casino hotel jobs at four DWDD service centers.

Applicants who meet pre-screening criteria will be invited to attend a recruitment event later in the month where they will be interviewed and receive professional image/attitude information, life skills information, and more. Only pre-screened applicants will be invited to the recruitment event and be considered for jobs in the hotel.

"We're seeking high-caliber applicants from the City of Detroit and elsewhere to staff what will be a world-class hotel resort," said Greektown Casino CEO Craig Ghelfi. "The people we hire to staff our hotel must

demonstrate an ability to deliver the exemplary guest service for which we are known."

Positions are available in the areas of hotel services, catering/banquet services, housekeeping/environmental services, restaurant management, engineering/facilities, food and beverage, security and safety, purchasing, sales and more.

"This partnership is another example of our ongoing efforts to connect Detroiters with new career opportunities in emerging industries," said Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick. "Our Workforce Development Department is working diligently to get as many Detroit residents pre-screened as possible so they can be considered for jobs that offer good pay and benefit packages."

Residents interested in applying need to visit one of the DWDD locations for pre-screening:

DWDD Service Center
Downtown, 455 W. Fort St.,
Detroit, MI 48226, (313) 962-9675;

DWDD Service Center
East, 5555 Conner, Detroit, MI
48213, (313) 579-4925;

DWDD Service Center
North/New Center, 707 W.

Milwaukee, Detroit, MI 48202,
(313) 873-7321; and

DWDD Service Center
Southwest, 9301 Michigan
Ave., Detroit, MI 48210, (313)
846-2240.

Greektown Casino is an equal opportunity employer committed to employ, train and promote women, minorities and residents of the City of Detroit.

Greektown Casino's expanded gaming floor is scheduled to open in late August 2008, and the hotel is scheduled to open in early 2009.

In November 2007, Greektown Casino opened its new attached parking structure, marking the completion of Phase 1 construction work on the new permanent Greektown Casino. Phase 2 includes construction of the casino's new 400-room hotel and expanded gaming floor. The permanent casino and hotel will include a multi-purpose theater, buffet, three restaurants, and 25,000 square feet of additional gaming space. Total investment in the permanent Greektown Casino project will be about \$500 million.

Located at 555 E. Lafayette Avenue in Detroit's Greektown Entertainment District,

Greektown Casino features more than 2,300 slot machines and more than 70 table games in 75,000 square feet of luxurious Mediterranean-themed gaming space. Additional slot machines and table games will become operational when the gaming floor expansion is completed.

The Housing Authority has changed its main office from Shunk Rd. in Sault Ste. Marie to Kincheloe. New contacts are:
10 Woodlake, main office number 495-1450.
154 Parkside, main office number 495-5555.
Sheila D. Berger ext. 49523 (154 Parkside Drive)
Darlene Mastaw ext. 49505 (10 Woodlake Drive)
Joni Talentino ext. 49508 (154 Parkside Drive)
The new fax number is 495-5981.
The Sault office discontinued its previous fax number on July 8.

New Schedule for Board Meetings and Workshops TV Broadcasts



SAULT STE. MARIE
Thursday & Monday
CH. 2, 3-5 P.M.

ST. IGNACE
Friday
CH. 2, 9 A.M.-OVER

ESCANABA
Wednesday
CH. 8, 2-6 P.M.

MARQUETTE
Tuesday
CH. 8, 7-11 P.M.

Court of Appeals seeks elder appellate judge

The Court of Appeals announces a vacancy for an appellate judge and seeks to fill the vacancy with a tribal elder. All appellate judges are expected to meet the following minimum job requirements: (1) attend all oral arguments, court deliberations and meetings; (2) prepare for all cases by reading the entire case record and any briefs submitted in the matter; and (3) participate in the

drafting of appellate decisions and regulations. Additionally, it is expected that the Elder Appellate Judge will lead the Court of Appeals on issues related to tribal customs and tradition. At a minimum, it is expected that interested candidates will meet the following qualifications: (1) be a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; (2) be a tribal elder; and, (3) be capable

of meeting the job requirements.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest explaining how they meet the minimum requirements for this position to Kellie LaVictor at klavictor@saulttribe.net or P.O. Box 932; Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. For additional information, please contact Ms. LaVictor through e-mail or via phone at (906) 635-4963.

FOCAS free spaying and neutering clinic

FOCAS is sponsoring a free spaying and neutering clinic Aug. 10-12 for pet owners with low income who are residents of Chippewa County. FOCAS is hosting the MSU student veterinary clinic and will pay for services for all eligible pet owners from Chippewa County.

To sign up, contact Deb Green at 440-6770 or dgreen3@charter.net. Participants must

not exceed the following income guidelines:

FAMILY SIZE	INCOME LIMIT
1	\$22,000
2	\$28,000
3	\$36,000
4	\$40,000
5	\$44,000
6	\$47,000

In order to receive these services, proof of income or public

assistance will be required. One of the following types of proofs will be accepted:

2007 W-2, letter from employer, pay stub or other proof of income; Bridge card; Medicaid or AMP-MIHEALTH card; Supplemental Security Income letter; letter from public housing authority on established letterhead; or other evidence of public assistance.

Be the first to get Breaking News!

Sign up for your SAULT TRIBE E-NEWSLETTER at www.saulttribe.com

LATEST NEWS!

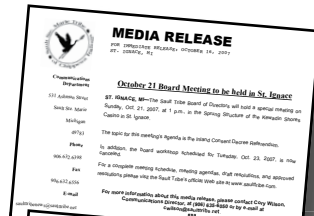
Important updates on issues that affect you.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES!

Latest updates to your membership benefits

NEWSPAPER!

Immediate notification when the latest issue becomes available online.



Win Awenen

Nisitotung

THE SAULT TRIBE NEWS

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Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
Rick Smith.....Staff Writer
Sherrie Lucas...Administrative Secretary

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

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

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Our name: Win Awenen Nisitotung, in our native language, means, "One who well or fully understands," pronounced "Win Oh-weh-nin Nis-toe-tuhng"

Visit us online: This issue can be viewed online at www.saulttribe.com beginning on its publishing date.

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Meet Joe McCoy, our new tribal chairman

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

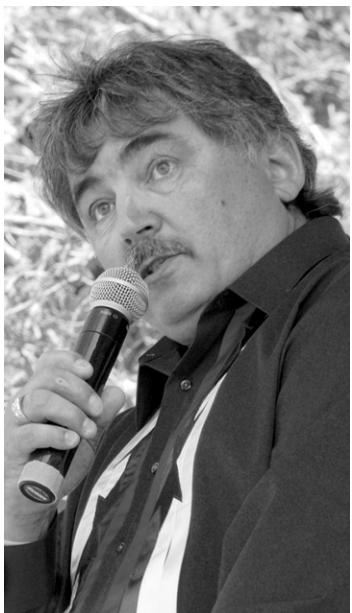
For the next four years, Darwin "Joe" McCoy will be waking up each morning and coming to work as the chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

"I am here for the people," he said, "our members."

Coming in at a time of major national economic downswing and tribal restructuring, he asks the membership to be patient as his office goes through a transition period. "I want to commend the members that I have met and the board of directors. They have all treated me with respect. The board has been real helpful and has been working with myself and the new board members to bring us all up to speed," McCoy said.

Invited by the tribe's Culture Department to attend the chief feast after the swearing in ceremony, McCoy was the first Sault Tribe chairman to accept the invitation.

"One of my main goals is



Chairman Joe McCoy

keeping our culture strong and making sure our next generations know where they came from," he said.

As the owner of two local businesses, MCM Marine and Sault Marine Supply, he has many years of business expe-

rience. "I am used to being responsible for people's livelihoods and have never had problems sleeping at night. I am not going to make any decisions that I believe are wrong or not in the tribe's best interest," McCoy said. "My businesses are in good hands and I don't need to be there on a daily basis for them to operate efficiently. A lot of my senior managers and supervisors have been doing their jobs for 15 years and more; they can handle the daily operations. I have the right people and they have my trust."

McCoy has also been sitting on the board of directors of Old Mission Bank since 1999.

Restructuring of our tribe, according to McCoy, will start at the top and work its way down. "We will cut what we feel can be cut with the least impact on our services, especially to health, elders and education. At this time we are not talking about cutting any

services, but there will be some downsizing of employees. We might be going to part time employees in some areas until we see some positive growth return within the tribe. The tribe has been spending more money than it has been taking in."

The chairman added, "I am hoping that a year from this spring we will be on the upswing and be able to put people back to work in positions where they can be making money for the tribe so that our tribe will prosper."

Casino management, the tribe's co-executive directors and chief financial officer/executive director of internal and financial services, are currently reviewing tribal departments to see where some restructuring can be done.

"Our casino businesses are our front line and I don't want to cut our front line. We can't cut our moneymakers, we have to restructure management," McCoy said. "The tribe is not

where it is at today because of one person, the tribe has been in a downward trend for a while. There was an entire board that made decisions; the tribe is where it is at today because of mismanagement. This didn't happen overnight, there have been many misguided and misinformed decisions that were made."

"There are a lot of good people out there that are going to be hurt. Upper management has personal relationships with the people that will be let go and it will be hard for them. The layoffs that are going to happen are not personal, it is a business decision based on the survival of the tribe," McCoy said.

McCoy and his wife of 17 years, Sharon, have four children and two grandchildren. He grew up on Sugar Island with eight siblings and as a child spent much of his time on or working near the water. His parents are the late Arthur "Nugs" McCoy and Joyce McCoy.

DeMawating Development second quarter pay-on-time incentive winners

Congratulations to Lois and Paul Cadreau. Their names were drawn as the winners of this year's gas grill giveaway for DeMawating's pay-on-time incentive program. Also congratulations to Martha Schielter, who won a brand new lawn mower in the first quarter drawing. Monthly

winners include Paula McKerchie, John Rayner, Buddy Rader and Lorretta Eavou, who took home \$50 gift certificates from a local business. Each of the 10 families drawn in May received a flat of flowers. Thanks to all of our tenants on making this a success.



Photo by Veronica Hickman

Lucky winners Lois and Paul Cadreau (left) receive their gas grill from Theresa Germain, DeMawating administrative secretary.

MSU Extension offers master gardener volunteer program class

If you have a strong interest in gardening and enjoy helping others, you are invited to enroll in the fall 2008 master gardener volunteer program class. Marquette County MSU Extension is accepting registrations for master gardener volunteer training, which will begin with an orientation meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008. Regular classes will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 10, and continue every Wednesday through Nov. 26, 2008. All classes will be held at the Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA) conference room at 321 East Ohio Street in Marquette from 6-9 p.m.

To become a certified

Michigan master gardener volunteer, you must attend all training sessions, pass a final examination and volunteer 40 hours of approved horticultural service to your community. Such service could include teaching a junior master gardener program, planting and maintaining MSU Extension demonstration gardens, writing gardening articles, a beautification project at a public building or facility, answering gardening questions from the public at the Extension office, judging flower and vegetable projects at the county fair or assisting community garden participants.

Training class size is limited. Individuals participating in the

class must pay an enrollment fee of \$195 to cover the cost of training materials, speakers and facilities. Registration for couples is \$335 and includes one manual. A limited number of partial scholarships are available. The complete *Michigan Master Gardener Training Manual* contains over 800 pages.

To apply, contact the Marquette County MSU Extension office at 475-5731, e-mail msue52@msu.edu or the Alger County MSU Extension office at 387-2530, e-mail msue02@msu.edu for a brochure and registration material. Applications must be received by Aug. 27.

Rendezvous at the Straits

Genealogy
 Conference

August 22, 2008

**Little Bear Arena
 St. Ignace, Michigan**



Anyone who is interested in the Straits area genealogy are invited to attend.

For More Information Call
 Karen Martin (906)635-0971
 Darryl Brown (906)635-6050
 or email rootdancer@sbcglobal.net

Sponsored By
Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow

Causley appointed to IHS Health Advisory Committee

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

Sault Tribe Unit II Director Lana Causley has been appointed by Acting IHS Director Robert G. McSwain to the Indian Health Service's Tribal Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC), formed this year to provide IHS with input from tribal leadership and tribal community.

"I am honored to accept this nomination," said Causley. "We as tribal leaders and community leaders have a responsibility to identify the problems our young people face as well as implement solutions to help them overcome the struggles."

Causley said that the fact that suicide, prescription drug abuse and crime among youth are rising points to the extreme stress on our young adults. "Having a seat at the table to help develop strategies to save our youth is truly an honor," she added.

Causley will represent the IHS Bemidji area on this national board, which consists of roughly 90,000 American Indians belonging to 34 federally recognized tribes in five U.S.



Lana Causley, Sault Tribe Unit II director

states, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois.

Sault Tribe Health Director Bonnie Culfa recommended Causley's nomination. "I am very proud that one of our tribal leaders has been accepted as the Bemidji area representative and that I could play a very small part in the process. I see this as a very challenging appointment for our tribal board member, Lana Causley, for the area office and for Director

McSwain," said Culfa. "This advisory board is a beginning point to find workable solutions that make an impact on our tribal community members who suffer such despair that they feel the only option is taking their own life or to numb themselves and their existence by the over use and abuse of drugs and alcohol."

Culfa had heard of McSwain's new initiative for herself in his keynote address on the 20th anniversary of self governance, describing it as his "intent to create an advisory board that would be comprised of tribal leaders who would be working on issues from the tribal grass roots perspectives to bring in innovative ideas to tackle the problems that devastate our tribal communities such as suicide, substance abuse, methamphetamine abuse, mental health, and other behavioral health issues that are affecting are tribal youth, young adult and adult population."

Lana Causley was her first thought. "As he was speaking I immediately thought of Lana because of her grassroots efforts

in our community to raise awareness and come up with strategies to prevent suicide and the LIFT group she helped establish."

Last year, after a rash of teenage suicides, Causley's energy, passion and leadership helped to launch a new Mackinac County Lucas Izzard Foundation for Teens (LIFT) group, an organization that aims to help prevent suicides by aiding troubled youth chaired by Causley. That concern, along with her sense of fiscal responsibility and her relationship with youth and elders, earned her the spot. The first BHAC meeting took place July 15 and 16 in Rockville, Md. IHS covers committee members' travel expenses.

According to McSwain, suicide is the second leading cause of death for Indian youth ages 15-24. Indian youth have the highest rates of suicide of any racial group of the same age range in the United States. In response, IHS formed a behavioral health work group, made up of 14 tribal health professionals. To address substance

abuse and suicide in Indian Country, Congress appropriated \$14 million for a methamphetamine and suicide prevention and treatment initiative, of which up to \$5 million may be used for mental health, suicide prevention, and behavioral issues associated with methamphetamine use.

McSwain said that once the committee is formed its first task will be to make recommendations regarding the use of that \$14 million.

"There are no easy answers and there is much healing and help that is needed in our community and in Indian country," Culfa said. "I am confident that Lana will play an important part on behalf of all tribal communities to develop 'best practices' that can be shared amongst all tribes to make a difference and to break the chain of devastation and to figure out where to best spend the money that has been appropriated by Congress. This is no easy task and I feel Lana is up to the challenge and will represent the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians very well."

Sisters, grandmothers of the tribe, drive truckload of donated items to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to flood victims

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — They called themselves "Nswi Nokmisag," (The Three Grandmothers). Three Sault Tribe sisters, Anita McKerchie, Carol Eavou and Bev Eavou (married to brothers) recently made the 12-hour drive to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in a truck pulling a trailer loaded top to bottom with donated supplies for victims of the recent Iowa flooding.

It all began with a phone call and some sisterly chatting. As one of the sisters was cleaning out her closet while talking, she said it would be nice to be able to donate her clothes to the flood victims, brought to mind by a TV announcer in the other room as the news came on, instead of selling them at a yard sale or taking them to a local charity. The plan had begun! As the two sisters talked they became excited about their idea. Wanting to make sure the donated items got into the hands that needed them the most, they decided to take steering wheel in hand and do what they could to help.

They left Sault Ste. Marie the evening of July 17.



Photo by Brenda Austin

G'TCHI MIIGWECH — Three Sault Tribe sisters, Anita McKerchie (right), Carol Eavou (left) and Bev Eavou (center) made a 12-hour drive to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 18 pulling a trailer loaded top to bottom with donated supplies for victims of the recent Iowa flooding. The three sisters said the community was very supportive with people calling from out of the area to offer their help as well. The three grandmothers — Nswi Nokmisag — wish to thank everyone who donated supplies and gas money.

It was quite an experience," McKerchie said. "It was something we really weren't prepared for emotionally. As we drove into the city and saw the sandbags still stacked around every building the grim reality hit us. We didn't expect all the

sandbags to still be there. We assumed that since the water had receded the bags would be gone and the town would be busy getting on with rebuilding their lives. Instead we got a much sadder picture — there were entire blocks of businesses

with all their contents sitting outside. There were piles of belongings left on curbsides waiting to be hauled away."

Nswi Nokmisag were very grateful for the response they received from local communities. "It was when we entered the Crisis Center and saw the peoples' faces, and smelled the stench of decay that we choked on our own feelings. We met with the Crisis Center management and staff; it was then the fun part began. No one there had any idea of the volume of donations we carried to them from our local communities. When we lowered the back door of the trailer there were gasps of total surprise and squeals of delight with a shout coming from the crowd, oh my God! As the news spread more and more people came to help us unload the much needed supplies and donations," McKerchie said.

After emptying the trailer of its donations and receiving hugs and handshakes from thankful residents, it was time for the Three Grandmothers to head home. McKerchie said, "The three of us rode in silence, looking straight ahead

and almost afraid to speak for fear that our voices would crack and tears would fall. Someone asked me, what's in this for us, what are we getting out of it? I told them we are getting back one of the greatest gifts of all, and that is knowing you have made a difference in someone's life. "It is our Anishinaabe way to share with those who are in need. This trip was about doing what we could to help the flood victims. We can make such a difference in others lives by using the gifts of our Seven Grandfather teachings, showing compassion and kindness to those who need it.

"How do you start rebuilding your life when you have lost everything but the clothes on your back and the shoes on your feet? For me it's knowing that because of the kindness and generosity of our home community, we were able to help so many needy people. I am so very thankful to be part of such a caring community. Thank you for your help. Miigwetchweyananik."

Sharing stories, memorials and negative impact of alcohol

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBE MAKES ALCOHOL IMPACT STATEMENT WITH QUILT

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

MT. PLEASANT, Mich. — A young man with a wonderful future ahead of him was looking forward to his graduating from high school in two weeks on the night he got in a car of a friend who was drinking and his future was over before it had a chance to begin. This is just one example of how alcohol impacts the lives of those in our Native American communities.

The Alcohol Impact Quilt Project (AIQP) began with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe during a meeting of the American Indian Sobriety Committee. "When you recognize the disproportionate impact that alcohol and drugs have had on Native American communities it is important for us to address these issues and try to raise awareness on the importance of a sober lifestyle," said

Marty Curry, photographer and Web developer for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and member of the American Indian Sobriety Month committee.

The project will be a collection of personal stories, memorials to loved ones and the negative impact alcohol has had on people in our lives. To participate you will need to purchase a 1 square foot piece of fabric or a larger 2-foot square.

You can use ink, sewn material, fabric pens, cut outs, personal effects or any item that will help convey your message. A 1-inch border must be left around the edges so the pieces can be sewn together.

"One of the ideas we tossed around during one of our sobriety meetings was starting a quilt similar to the AIDS quilt, which has become an institution in America in terms of hav-

ing an impact on raising AIDS awareness. We wanted to do the same thing for alcohol in Native communities," Curry said. "The impact of alcohol knows no bounds; it is not specifically a native issue and not specifically a non-native issue. It is felt in communities around this country."

According to Curry, the

See "Alcohol Quilt," page 5

Anishinaabeg Summit: Living Treaties features treaty signing, stories, discussions and more

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Tribal elders, traditional knowledge keepers, historians, researchers, teachers and students, government officials and community members will gather on Aug. 13-15 for in-depth discussions to better interpret the treaties that affect the Anishinaabeg.

Keynote speakers include Anishinaabe elder Eddie Benton-Benai, who will relate the Creation Story and participate in panel discussions, and Anishinaabe elder Fred Kelly, who will present a treaty overview. Pipecarrier Bucko Teeple will serve as moderator.

The four-tribe "Anishinaabeg Summit: Living Treaties" will take place in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., at the Sault Kewadin Casino Aug. 13 through Aug. 15. The event will end Friday night in Garden River First Nation with a treaty signing and traditional feast. Hosted by the Anishinaabeg Joint Commission (AJC), the event is sponsored the AJC's four member tribes, Batchewana First Nation, Bay Mills Indian Community, Garden River First Nation, and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, in cooperation with the Center for the Study of Indigenous Border Issues. The summit is also being sponsored by the Chiefs

LIVING TREATIES

Anishinaabeg Summit

August 13-15, 2008

Kewadin Casino, Convention Center
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.



Tribal Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, Historians, Teaching Faculty and Students, Researchers, Government Officials and Community Members will come together at Bahweting, the Gathering Place, for In-Depth Discussions to Better Interpret the Treaties that affect the Anishinaabeg

August 13	August 14	August 15
Preparatory Ceremonies	Eddie Benton Benai Creation Story	Border Crossing from Sugar Island to Garden River
Broadcloth Ceremony	Fred Kelly, Treaty Overview	Treaty Signing
Tribal Leaders Lodge	Old Time Shindig — Bring Your Instruments and Dance Shoes	Traditional Feast at Garden River First Nations Powwow
Welcome Reception		
<i>Daily</i>		
Sunrise Ceremonies, Treaty Presentations, Panel Workshops and Discussions, Teaching Lodge, Living Timeline		
Everyone is Welcome! Registration is FREE but Required!		



Registration & Information
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe:
Krista at 906-635-6050

Batchewana First Nation:
705-759-0914, ext. 147



Call for Papers
Phil Bellfy at bellfy@msu.edu
Deadline: July 7

Native Artisan Vendors Only
Laura at 906-632-7494

of Ontario.

The summit is free to attend

and registration is required. The event is of particular interest

to all Anishinaabeg, area law enforcement, border patrol, customs and immigration, border communities, educators, students, related academics, legislators and other government officials. To register, go to the event Web site at www.livingtreaties.org or call (906) 635-6050 or (705) 759-0914 ext. 147. Interested Native arts vendors should call (906) 632-7494.

Calls for papers issued this spring bring varieties of topics from a number of disciplines formal and informal, traditional and academic. Concurrent workshops and panel discussions will run daily in the afternoons.

Presentations will include the Anishinaabeg Creation Story, the Proclamation of 1763 and subsequent treaties made with both the United States and Canada. The organizers plan to publish a book containing a number of expanded versions of the presented papers and posters. The summit will offer an interactive treaty timeline that may be added to by participants that will also be preserved following the event.

Daily summit activities are sunrise ceremonies and opening prayer, workshops, panel discussions and a teaching lodge. On Aug. 13, opening

ceremonies including a broadcloth ceremony, tribal leaders lodge, drum, staff and prayers, begin at 8:30 a.m. A welcome reception will take place in the DreamMaker's Ballroom from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. On Aug. 14, Eddie Benton will relate the creation story at 10 a.m., followed by a lunch concurrent with speakers, including Fred Kelly. Thursday night we will indulge in one of our favorite old time entertainments — music and dancing in the ballroom with an open invitation to those who want to join in and play their acoustic instruments. On Friday, participants will travel to Sugar Island for a border crossing and treaty signing in Garden River, followed by a traditional feast at the Garden River Powwow.

Creation of the AJC was mandated by a treaty signed by the four tribes in November 2006 to strive for the preservation, protection and enhancement of the waters of the St. Marys River ecosystem. Please join us!

2008 Michigan Native Vote kicks off

SUBMITTED BY BOB NYGAARD

In 2004, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) spearheaded Native Vote, a groundbreaking non-partisan campaign to register and turn out a record number of American Indian and Alaskan Native voters.

The culmination of the Native Vote efforts in 2004 and 2006 was a resounding success for tribal governments nationwide. It empowered Native voters and raised the profile of

Native issues in the eyes of politicians. It was a historic movement for all of Indian Country. Native voters proved our voices can be heard with the power of the vote.

For the 2008 general election, NCAI Native Vote Michigan kicked off with a conference call on April 17, 2008, with a team of tribal coordinators from each of the 12 federally recognized tribes in Michigan. Su Lantz, of the Little Traverse Band of Odawa

Indians, is heading the team of coordinators.

The team will focus on Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) efforts and provide a plan to target every level of potential voters. Particular attention will focus on youth and first time voters, sporadic voters and elders. We have also secured funding for mailings, advertising, t-shirts, bumper stickers and buttons, among other things.

If you are not a registered voter in Michigan and will be

eligible to vote on Nov. 4, 2008, you need to register by Oct. 6, 2008.

Watch for more information in coming issues of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*.

You can also access information on voting by visiting www.nativevote.org and clicking on your state.

Let's Get-Out-The-Vote and let our Native American voices be heard!

Alcohol quilt project collecting panels

From page 4 project began on their tribal reservation and spread from there to the local community of Mt. Pleasant with summer school students making and submitting panels. Once the quilt is made the hope is to take it on the road to other communities and into schools to show the benefit of making good decisions and avoiding situations like those displayed on the quilt.

Success stories are also welcome. "If someone has been sober for 15 or 20 years we want to celebrate and promote that and make other people aware. The benefits of being sober are healthy families and relationships and good physical, mental and spiritual health.

There is a whole segment of the population, both native and non-native that is joining in and making efforts to be sober and lead a healthy lifestyle. We want to provide a creative way to express both the pain and joy of sobriety," Curry said.

About 75 squares have already been submitted. Anyone is welcome to participate, "For me and, I hope, for others, this project is a labor of love. I am trying to spare some of the youth the pain and loss to their families; I would like to help educate kids about outcomes when families lose a child at the age of 17 to drinking and driving. To show them how important it is to make good choices," Curry said.

The quilt will have a first

year showing at the American Indian Sobriety Month Freedom Walk on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian reservation during their annual powwow held Aug. 1 - 3. The Freedom Walk is Aug. 2 at 9 a.m. and begins at the tribal operations building and ends 1.5 miles later at the powwow grounds. "We are going to keep going and growing," Curry said. "We invite other tribes and community members and individuals who are committed to the sobriety message to join us."

If you would like to submit a panel for the quilt project send it to: AIQP c/o Marty Curry, 7070 East Broadway, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 or call (989) 775-4012 for more information.

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SPECIAL WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORT: Debt-Laden Casinos Squeezed by Slowdown

BY TAMARA AUDI AND JEFFREY McCracken,
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The gambling slowdown that began early this year is taking a serious toll on Las Vegas, with banks, investors and private-equity funds growing as tightfisted as the consumers who are gambling less in the slumping economy.

Once believed to be recession-proof, casinos are proving to be highly vulnerable to the economic downturn, which is striking the industry at a bad time. Las Vegas is entering its lethargic summer season, and a boom-time frenzy of grand expansion plans and private-equity buyouts has left casinos laden with debt.

Now, Wall Street is treating many gambling companies like a roll of the dice, with debt default or bankruptcy proceedings looming as possibilities for some companies as cash flow shrinks.

The industry is facing what insiders and analysts call its biggest challenge in years. Rising gasoline prices, the housing crisis and other economic troubles are prompting consumers not just to gamble less, but to spend less at the luxury boutiques and restaurants where casinos draw most of their profits. Struggling airlines are cutting service to Las Vegas. And pressures are building on casinos that cater to local residents, who have been hard hit by economic troubles.

"This is the toughest environment we've faced," says Gary Loveman, chief executive of global gambling giant Harrah's Entertainment Inc., referring to the economic challenges roiling the entire industry.

Casinos are being pinched by less access to cash as they grapple with predownturn expansion plans and billions of dollars of debt. Turnaround and bankruptcy experts say they are getting more calls from casinos than they have in years.



Entertainment LLC filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in May, defaulting on \$2.67 billion in bank and bond debt. Greektown Holdings LLC of Detroit and Illinois-based Legends Gaming, which has casinos in Louisiana and Mississippi, have also sought bankruptcy protection.

Other companies are sweating under debt agreements that require them to maintain minimum levels of cash flow, even during an economic drought. The public-debt market, spooked by four casino bankruptcies this year, reflects the concerns. Bond prices for a half-dozen casino companies, from Harrah's to small, Las Vegas-based Herbst Gaming, are trading at distressed levels, frequently below 60 cents on the dollar, on debt totaling about \$5.3 billion.

The credit squeeze is bad news for companies in the midst of multibillion

now trade below \$35.

The public debt of Harrah's, which is highly leveraged after a \$17 billion private-equity buyout last year, has traded as low as 52 cents on the dollar. Mr. Loveman, the chief executive, says Harrah's is profitable and is not in danger of default or a bankruptcy filing. The company, he says, is spending money to expand and improve existing properties, and is boosting visits to its regional casinos by chartering airplanes to fly in loyal customers.

HARD HIT

Credit-rating agencies have been hitting casinos hard. Moody's Investors Service, which rates \$79 billion in debt at casino companies, has downgraded 17 casino companies this year. Eleven more are on review for possible downgrade, from small but storied Vegas names such

as Golden Nugget to regional players like Penn National Gaming, which has 19 casinos, race-tracks and riverboats across the Midwest and South.

"The casino industry is in the midst of what could be its most severe downturn ever," says Keith Foley, who covers casinos for Moody's. "After 9/11, everyone thought Vegas was immune to just about anything, and it is suddenly obvious and maybe kind of scary that it is not."

Mr. Foley tracks 55 gambling companies with combined revenues of about \$52 billion. "The sector has grown up and is more susceptible than ever to economic downturns," he says. "Six months ago, all the bankers loved them. Now they are tightening up credit and terms on them."

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. casino analyst Joseph Greff lowered his estimates for operating cash flow for the industry's major players — MGM Mirage, Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Wynn Resorts Ltd. — because of what he wrote was "an unprecedented lack of visitation and

spend-per-visitor visibility." Mr. Greff wrote that investors don't fully realize "the magnitude and duration" of the downturn.

DANGEROUS SITUATION

The gambling industry has survived economic famine before. But the current consumer-driven downturn, coupled with a recent industry shift away from gambling and toward luxury amenities, high-priced entertainment and dining, has created a dangerous situation for Las Vegas.

The problems are weighing heavily on gambling companies that cater to the local Las Vegas population with low-glitzy, high-profit casinos built away from the tourist zone known as the Las Vegas Strip. Those companies thrived on the boom in southern Nevada's population, as families flocked to the area for jobs in the casino industry. But now those customers are holding back, pinched by a housing crunch and rising unemployment.

In April, revenues at casinos that serve the local market fell 9.5 percent from the year-ago period, according to Mr. Greff's analysis of Nevada records. By comparison, revenues at casinos on the Las Vegas Strip fell 1.3 percent in April.

Among those hard hit by the local decline is Boyd Gaming, started in 1975 by Sam Boyd and his son, Bill. The publicly traded company is bidding to become a big player on the Strip, via a \$5 billion casino development on 87 acres. The project, called Echelon, is slated to include five luxury hotels, a retail promenade and an exposition center.

Boyd is committed to funding \$3.3 billion of the project, through a \$4 billion credit line and its own cash. Despite the economic pressures and project costs, company officials say, Boyd has solid cash flow and a strong balance sheet. But Boyd has had to rely more on its credit facility as profits wane. Boyd reported a \$32 million loss in its latest quarter.

The company carries \$2.4 billion in debt. To complete the project, it is trying to secure more than \$1 billion in additional financing with two joint-venture partners.

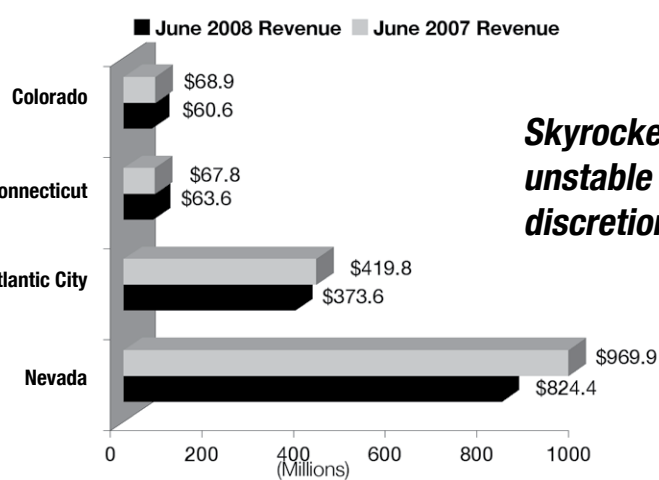
On June 26, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services downgraded Boyd to negative from stable, saying the "failure to secure financing in the near term could pressure the company's ability to meet its targeted completion" for portions of the project. If the opening, which is scheduled for 2010, is delayed, it could "strain the company's ability" to generate enough cash to remain in compliance with its bank covenants, the ratings agency said.

A spokesman for Boyd said the company is currently negotiating a financing package for the bulk of the additional funding. "We feel really good about our ability to finance that part of the project," says spokesman Rob Stillwell, referring to a \$950 million loan to develop two hotels in conjunction with Morgans Hotel Group.

Mr. Stillwell says Boyd hopes to secure the funding sometime this fall. "Assuming we get it done this year," he says, "it will not impact our opening plans."

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CASINOS DEALT TOUGH HAND



**Skyrocketing gas prices,
unstable economy dry up
discretionary income**

*Compiled by Win Awenen Nisitotung staff from state gaming commissions

"The volume of interest in casino turnarounds and situations has dramatically increased in the last three months," says Tuck Hardie, managing director in the restructuring group at investment banking firm Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin. "The economy has fallen hard, and to a magnitude people didn't anticipate. There are development projects that are having trouble even getting construction financing."

Several casino companies have defaulted on debt or have sought bankruptcy protection, tripped up by costly land acquisitions and ambitious new development. Kentucky-based Tropicana

developments in need of more cash. Analysts say an extended economic downturn threatens to hurt the industry for years to come. Companies that postpone or halt property upgrades and maintenance could find it more difficult to lure customers and to charge premium rates for hotel rooms.

Shares of several gambling companies have tumbled dramatically this year, washing out billions of dollars in market valuation. Las Vegas-based Boyd Gaming Corp. has fallen to about \$12 a share, a five-year low, from a high of \$54 last summer. After topping \$98 last fall, shares of casino giant MGM Mirage

Bill will combat disturbing sexual violence rate and violent crimes on reservations

By Rick Smith

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs submitted a bill on July 23 to confront runaway sexual violence against women and other crimes on reservations. Amnesty International and the National Congress of American Indians both hailed the bill as an historic effort to change circumstances contributing to the flourishing prevalence of violent crimes committed against Indians on reservations, which often go unresolved.

The bill is the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2008.

"It will also open the door for Congress to address erosion of

tribal authority," said Larry Cox, Amnesty International USA director, in an announcement. "It is gratifying that the legislation is receiving bi-partisan support from a wide range of Senators, as this is a tremendous step forward in the fight to improve justice for Native peoples in this country."

Jaqueline Johnson Pata, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians, noted in a statement, "The bill will help make sure the Department of Justice and Bureau of Indian Affairs are equipped to fulfill their responsibilities to tribal communities.

It will also increase the capacity for tribal governments to keep their communities safe."

In 2007, Amnesty International issued a report, titled Maze of Injustice: The failure to protect indigenous women from sexual violence in the USA, which notes American Indian women suffer "disproportionately high levels" of rape and sexual violence 2.5 times higher than the rate for other women in the country. The figure was derived from Department of Justice statistics.

In addition, a complex, bureaucratic maze of tribal, state and federal jurisdictions often

creates opportunities for perpetrators to commit crimes without facing consequences. Further, Indian Health Service facilities usually lack qualified staff and equipment to gather essential forensic evidence that could lead to prosecutions.

The intent of the Act is to clarify the responsibilities of the various governments involved, increase coordination and communication among law enforcement agencies, restore authority to tribal governments with appropriate resources and improve inter-agency collection and distribution of crime data.

"Many excellent provisions

are in the legislation and there is an opportunity to make constructive change right now," Johnson Pata noted in the statement. "NCAI looks forward to working with the Senate to get this bill passed."

Amnesty International USA offers a complete update on federal and regional initiatives designed to support American Indian survivors of sexual violence and help decrease such violence overall. The report can be viewed or downloaded at www.amnestyusa.org/maze.



Special diabetes program for Indians likely secured through 2011, tremendous victory

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Indian Country experienced a tremendous victory for Indian Health Care July 9 when the U.S. Senate approved the House-passed Medicare package on the unanimous consent calendar. The Medicare package (H.R. 6331) includes a two-year reauthorization — through 2011 — for the Special Diabetes Program at the current level of \$150 million per year.

Last month, the Medicare package passed in House by an overwhelming 335-39 vote. The bill will now go to the President Bush's desk for signing.

Over the past several years, tribes, the National Indian Health Board, the American Diabetes Association and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation worked to reautho-

size Secured Protein Discovery Initiative (SPDI) and Type 1 diabetes research with multi-year funding. Established in 1997 and last reauthorized in 2002 for five years, SPDI was set to expire at the end of this fiscal year (FY) 2008. Last December, legislators extended the program through FY 2009. Now, with the passage of the Medicare Package, SPDI is likely secured until FY 2011.

SPDI produces positive, measurable results. Over a period of nine years, tribal SPDI programs are attributed with achieving decreases in blood sugar levels by 1 percent, which reduces diabetes-related complications, such as blindness and kidney failure, by an outstanding 40 percent. The continuation of the successful

SDPI is essential because diabetes-related mortality rates for American Indians and Alaska Natives is 4.3 times higher than the general U.S. population.

The Medicare package has been under a veto threat because the nation's physicians remain divided over the levels of cuts to the physicians pay that would be experienced in various iterations of the Medicare package; however, with such immense bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, Congress can easily override a presidential veto.

Said Buford Rolin, chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee, "This is a long-fought for, serious victory for Indian Country. We are so grateful to our friends in

Congress for standing with our people against the plague of diabetes."

"This victory would not have been possible without the unwavering support and work

of every tribal leader, member and friend of Indian health care who worked on this effort — this is a victory for us all," NIH chairwoman, Sally Smith, said.

NCAI applauds Senate committee for introducing Tribal Law and Order Act

WASHINGTON—At a press conference in the capitol on July 23, the National Congress of American Indians Executive Director Jacqueline Johnson Pata thanked the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for their tireless effort in helping introduce the Tribal Law and Order Act that would improve data collection on crimes in Indian Country and ensure federal government accountability to provide safer Indian communities.

"The bill will help make sure the Department of Justice and Bureau of Indian Affairs are equipped to fulfill their responsibilities to tribal communities," Johnson Pata said. "It will also increase the capacity for tribal governments to keep their communities safe."

Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), who introduced the bill, said he is proud to announce a piece of legislation with such outstanding bi-partisan support

and that the bill is an aggressive start in the oversight on all law enforcement issues facing Indian Country.

"If you live on an Indian reservation, you only have half the protection," said Sen. Dorgan, who is also chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. "We can't continue to ignore the crimes on reservations. We have to deal with it and respond."

According to the BIA Office of Law Enforcement, most tribal communities have only two or three police officers patrolling an area the size of Delaware. The bill would allocate more funding for recruiting and training tribal officers.

"Many excellent provisions are in the legislation and there is an opportunity to make constructive change right now," Johnson Pata said. "NCAI looks forward to working with the Senate to get this bill passed."

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BAY MILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAKES CHANGES FOR FALL SEMESTER 2008

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INTERNET STUDENTS:

Full payment for tuition and fees will be required one week before the start of classes and books at the time of purchase except for students who have financial aid that is equal to or greater than the bill. If you have financial aid that is less than your student bill, you will be required to pay the difference at the time of registration. You must have a complete financial aid file before financial aid will be applied to your account.

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IHS mismanagement led to millions in missing property, sensitive data

By Rick Smith

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation has found that mismanagement within the Indian Health Service (IHS) led to millions upon millions of dollars lost through unaccountable disappearance of property.

The investigation was sparked by information from a June 2007 whistleblower's tip forwarded to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The GAO was asked to determine whether it could substantiate the whistleblower's allegations of lost and stolen property at IHS and if key causes of loss, theft or waste could be identified.

According to the GAO, a cursory investigation revealed the health service identified over 5,000 lost or stolen items worth about \$15.8 million from fiscal years 2004 through 2007. Missing items included mobile heavy equipment, all-terrain

vehicles, pickup trucks, Jaws of Life, laptop computers and digital cameras. Of particular note was a missing computer containing sensitive data, including social security numbers.

A physical inventory by GAO personnel at IHS headquarters identified over 1,100 information technology items, worth about \$2 million, were missing. The missing items represented about 36 percent of all similar equipment on records in 2007. In addition, the GAO reports that IHS staff tried to obstruct the investigation by fabricating hundreds of documents.

The GAO also estimated that about 1,200 pieces information technology equipment worth about \$2.6 million was missing from seven field offices representing about 17 percent of all such equipment at those offices.

The dollar value of lost or stolen items and the extent of compromised data are unknown, according to the

GAO, because IHS does not consistently document missing property. Additionally, the GAO only tested a limited number of IHS offices.

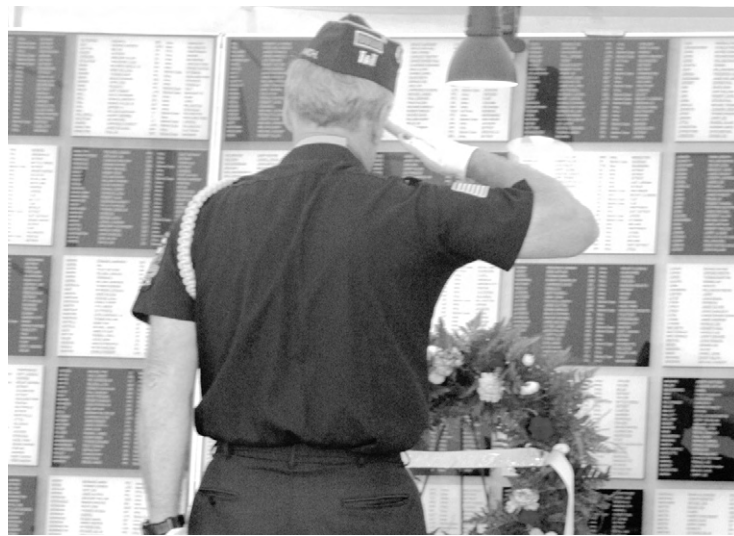
Cases where staff members fabricated documents and potential release of sensitive data was referred to the U.S. Health and Human Services inspector general for further investigation.

Evidence of wasteful spending was also found. Investigators said there are about 10 pieces of information technology equipment for every single employee at headquarters and found computers and other such equipment assigned to vacant offices.

The loss, theft and waste was attributed to the weak internal controls in IHS management that has been developing for over a decade.

The GAO made 10 recommendations to the IHS to update and enforce policies through physical inventories, tracking and safeguarding.

VETERANS HONORED



Photos by Brenda Austin

Above: Commander Dan Ingles salutes fallen veterans. Bottom: SSG James Young (left), Spc. John Bjunes (center) and Sgt. James Ellis (right).

Big changes coming to broadcast television

Big changes are coming to broadcast television. On Feb. 17, 2009, all full-power broadcast television stations are required to stop broadcasting in analog and continue broadcasting in digital only. This is known as the digital television (DTV) transition.

The DTV transition will be an historic moment in the evolution of TV. Broadcast television stations can offer viewers improved picture and sound quality and new programming choices. Since digital is more efficient than analog, it allows stations to broadcast several programs at the same time. This means broadcasters can offer consumers more programming choices. All-digital broadcasting also will allow us to significantly improve public safety communications and will usher in a new era of advanced wireless services such as the widespread deployment of wireless broad-

band.

Not everyone will be affected by the DTV transition in the same way:

— If you receive your local broadcast stations through a paid provider such as cable or satellite TV, you are already prepared for the DTV transition. However, if you have an analog TV that does not receive local broadcast stations through your paid provider, you will need a "digital-to-analog converter box" to watch digital broadcasts (see below).

— If you have a digital TV (a TV with a built-in digital tuner), you are ready for the switch. (If your TV is more than 10 years old, it probably is not digital. If it is less than 10 years old, check your owner's manual or ask the manufacturer.)

— If you have an analog TV with a rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears" on your set, you will not be able to watch full-power

broadcast stations after Feb. 17, 2009, unless you get a "digital-to-analog converter box."

A digital-to-analog converter box is a device that will convert the digital signals from a broadcast station to an analog format that your analog television can display. Also, if your existing antenna receives a good quality signal on VHF and UHF analog channels, it should work for receiving digital channels as well. This is true both for an analog TV connected to a digital-to-analog converter box and for a digital television.

Digital-to-analog converter boxes are available in stores that sell electronics equipment and through various online mail order retailers. The cost for a basic converter box is between \$40 and \$70. This is a one-time cost.

COUPON PROGRAM —

The federal government is offering each U.S. house-

hold up to two \$40 coupons that can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes. The "TV Converter Box Coupon Program" is being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which is part of the Department of Commerce. The number of coupons available is limited and applications for coupons must be received by March 31, 2009. Coupons may be requested in one of four ways:

- Call the Coupon Program's 24-hour hotline at (888) 388-2009, TTY: (877) 530-2634 (English TTY) or (866) 495-1161 (Spanish TTY);
- Apply online at www.dtv2009.gov;
- Mail a coupon application to PO Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000; or,
- Fax an application to (877) 388-4632.

For more information on the DTV transition, call us at (888) CALL-FCC or (888) 225-5322; or, by TTY at (888) TELL-FCC or (888) 835-5322; e-mail us at DTVinfo@fcc.gov; or visit our DTV website at www.dtv.gov, where consumer publications, fact sheets, and advisories on closed captioning and other DTV transition topics are available. FCC publications and other informational materials are also available in several foreign languages, in large print, in Braille and on audio disc.

The FCC is committed to ensuring that Americans are aware of the DTV transition and what they need to do to be ready for the end of analog full-power television station broadcasting in February 2009. With some preparation, all Americans can enjoy the benefits of the DTV transition.

— From the FCC

American Indian libraries receive more than \$1.2 million, 209 tribes served

WASHINGTON, D.C.

— On June 10, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded American Indian tribes across the United States \$1.22 million dollars to improve and sustain their library services. The grant monies will be distributed among 209 tribes and will bolster library services offered by American Indian tribal communities and villages.

This year, 34 applicants were awarded \$5,000 basic grants, totaling \$170,000. These grants are intended to support existing library opera-

tions and maintain core library services. Basic grants with the additional education and assessment option — worth \$6,000 each — were awarded to 167 applicants, representing 175 tribes, for a total of \$1,050,000. The education and assessment option supports hiring and training library staff, consultations from outside professionals for on-site library assessments and allows librarians to take continuing education courses, travel to give presentations and attend conferences. No cost sharing is required for either of these

grants categories.

"As repositories of history, as well as places to learn and interact, libraries play an important role in all communities," said Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Ph.D., director of IMLS. "The Native American Library Services Grants offer libraries in American Indian communities the opportunity to strengthen essential library services and develop new programs. The education and assessment option ensures that library staff is trained to assist patrons and preserve their past for future generations."

In addition to the basic grant program, IMLS also administers the Native American Library Services Enhancement grant program. To be eligible for these grants, an institution must have applied for a Native American Library Services Basic Grant in the same fiscal year. Enhancement grant recipients may receive up to \$150,000. These awards will be announced September 2008.

The next deadline for the Native American Library Services Basic Grants is March 3, 2009.

The Institute of Museum and

Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

New alliance seeks to expand high-speed Internet access to remote areas

Sault Tribe member's Nodin Communications joins group

BY RICK SMITH

Sault Tribe member Walter M. Walsh of Grayling, Mich., is the owner of Nodin Communications based in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Walsh announced Nodin Communications recently became one of seven northern Michigan Internet service providers in partnership to expand high-speed Internet access to more remote areas throughout northern Michigan.

The group is called the Michigan Network Alliance, "a cooperative effort using its combined, immense resources to build, expand and promote high-speed Internet availability throughout central and northern Michigan from Saginaw into the Upper Peninsula."

As for his company's part, Walsh said it is teamed with Cherry Capital Connection, another company in the alliance, to form Nodin WIFI, to be the eastern Upper Peninsula's rural high-speed Internet service provider and establish a new level of Internet access in the eastern



Walter M. Walsh

U.P. with a fully-managed, wireless network using fiber-optic technology.

According to the company, Nodin was established as a direct response to the void in rural Internet service in the eastern U.P. The company reports it is succeeding in accomplishing its goal of providing reliable local service by building its own managed wireless network and using a fiber-optic based connection to the Internet.

The company offers fixed-point wireless service in Sault Ste. Marie, Sugar Island, Soo Township, Dafter Township, Superior Township, Bruce Township and Picford. Service expansion to other communities in Chippewa and Mackinac counties should become available later this year.

The Michigan Network Alliance indicates rural Michigan is lacking in regards to broadband services and access to the Internet. High performance broadband services using assorted technologies benefit mostly heavily populated areas when it comes to home services. The alliance sees this situation not only a problem, but an opportunity as well. It is their stated goal to develop a common network infrastructure to serve economic growth and quality of life well into the future.

What's more, the alliance believes such developments could be replicated throughout Michigan.

Walsh started Nodin

Communications last September 2007 in Sault Ste. Marie and took up residence on Sugar Island on family property last May. He anticipates moving his family to the area in the near future.

With years of experience in information technology through the Michigan Army National Guard and federal civil service, Walsh underwent special training, testing and certification through Cisco Systems Inc., a

world heavyweight in the communications networking and products business.

"Nodin WIFI looks forward to serving the residents of the eastern Upper Peninsula through enhanced high-speed Internet services to better connect them to the world," said Walsh.

One can find Nodin WIFI on the Web at www.nodinwifi.com and Nodin Communications can be reached at 630-7999.

City EDC awarded 2007 Outstanding Rural Economic Development Partner



Left: Matthew P. Cullen, MEDC Executive Committee Chair and GM Executive; Jim Hendricks, Executive Director, Sault Ste. Marie EDC; Jeff Holt, Chairman, Sault Ste. Marie EDC; Governor Jennifer M. Granholm

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Last December, the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was presented with a Michigan Diversification Celebration governor's Outstanding Diversification Achievement Rural Economic Development Partner Award honoring their commitment for expanding the city's manufacturing base with nine major industrial expansions.

The EDC was also honored for establishing funding sources for economic development and growth through land sales and development projects.

A special tribute signed by state Representative Gary McDowell, Senator Jason Allen and Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, said, "In generating continual development and expansion for their community, the small staff of the Sault Ste. Marie Area Economic Development Corporation are truly deserving of this recognition. Collaborating with local

manufacturers, they have worked to secure numerous expansions and tax abatements amounting to over \$10 million in investment in the last 10 years alone. Proactive in their approach, they have also endeavored to establish funding to stimulate future economic development and industry for the Sault Ste. Marie community."

EDC Executive Director Jim Hendricks has a part time staff of three, governed by a board of directors. Sault Tribe member and employee Jeff Holt has been chairman of the EDC board for the past eight years. "It means a lot for us to have received this award because we were picked out of hundreds of rural economic development corporations," Holt said. "One of the things we are most proud of is that while manufacturing in the U.S. and Michigan has gone down in numbers of employees, Sault Ste. Marie has actually gone up and maintained."

Praising the city commis-

sion for its efforts on behalf of the EDC, Hendricks said, "Whenever the EDC has made a recommendation, almost always the city has backed it 100 percent. Over the long term it has been a very far thinking and smart city commission. We have had a very good working relationship."

The Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation was created in 1981 by the city. "You plant the seeds and hope they produce fruit, it may take years to germinate," Holt said. "They city has been very patient and supportive of our work. The biggest challenge in manufacturing is to keep the current businesses we have because about 80 percent of growth in manufacturing is in current businesses. The other 20 percent is from new business coming into the area. It is smart for us to take care of our existing businesses and I think we have done that very well."

For more information, call the city's EDC at 632-5779.

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Great Lakes Compact en route to the House

By Rick Smith

A four-year united effort by the Council of Great Lakes Governors to form protection for the waters of the Great Lakes concluded on July 8 when the last of eight governors of the region, Jennifer M. Granholm, ratified the Great Lakes Compact while seated at a picnic table along the shore of Lake Michigan during a ceremony in Saugatuck, Mich.

The compact outlaws diverting water from the Great Lakes basin except for special rare circumstances. It also requires the regional states to regulate high volume water usage and promote conservation.

Before becoming law, the compact must be approved by Congress and the president of the United States. Advocates

for the compact hope Congress gives the nod as early as this fall so that it can be signed by President Bush, whose administration appears not to be opposed to the pact.

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, chairman of the council, said it was gratifying to see the states of the Great Lakes region come together in such an unprecedented fashion to protect such an important natural resource.

Andy Buchsbaum, Great Lakes director of the National Wildlife Federation, called the event a once-in-a-lifetime achievement.

The measure passed by a unanimous vote in the Senate on Aug. 1 and sent to the House where the joint resolution is expected to be considered when

they reconvene in September, according to a Senate announcement.

"We are temporary stewards of this unique national treasure, the largest fresh water system in the world," said Senator Carl Levin (D-Michigan) in the statement.

"Senate passage of this Compact will help us protect the Great Lakes from water diversions and preserve this invaluable resource for future generations. Sensible conservation goals in water use will ensure that our children and great-grandchildren benefit from the Great Lakes as we do," the senator added.

In recent years, worldwide water shortages of fresh water have given rise to concerns of Great Lakes waters being

siphoned away, especially for primarily financial gain.

The U.S. EPA says the Great Lakes contain 95 percent of the national fresh surface water and comprise 20 percent of fresh

surface water worldwide.

The exclusion of American Indian sovereign involvement in the Compact led to the 2004 Great Lakes Tribal and First Nations Water Accord.

Pennsylvania members stop in for a visit



Photo by Brenda Austin

Michelle (left) and Les Fischer (back right) and their children, Thomas (front left), 7, and Shannon (front right), 13, traveled to the Upper Peninsula from Redding Pennsylvania recently. Les and the children are newly registered Sault Tribe members. "We were in the area visiting my mother and stepfather in Charlevoix so we came up to see the tribe and learn about our heritage," Les said. While in the Sault they bought a tribal flag and visited the Soo Locks. Les retired from the Marines after 20 years of service.

New renewable energy facility, Mascoma, will create 500-700 U.P. jobs

LANSING – State Representative Gary McDowell (D-Rudyard) announced on June 27 that Mascoma, a leader in low-carbon biofuels technology, will build one of the nation's first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plants in Chippewa County, creating 500-700 jobs in the Upper Peninsula and investing \$450 million in the community.

"I have always said that Michigan has the potential to become a powerhouse in renewable energy production, and Mascoma's decision to invest in the Upper Peninsula will turn that potential into real results," McDowell said. "Mascoma's cellulosic ethanol plant will create good-paying jobs for our workers, help reduce our dependence on foreign oil and produce clean, affordable energy. This is a very exciting announcement for our community and our state."

Mascoma CEO Bruce Jamerson said the facility would be located at one of two potential locations in Chippewa County. The site will be secured

through a land swap with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The facility is expected to be at full production by 2012 and produce 40 million gallons of wood-based ethanol annually. Because ethanol is blended at 10 percent, that would translate to 400 million gallons of ethanol-based fuel, which is currently sold at an average of \$2.90 per gallon, Jamerson said.

The facility is estimated to create 50 direct jobs and 150 construction jobs, plus hundreds of spin-off jobs in forest harvesting, transportation and other areas.

Mascoma chose Michigan for its vast sustainable forests, agricultural materials and the expertise provided by JM Longyear, a natural resource company based in Marquette. Mascoma will also work with Michigan Technological University in Houghton and Michigan State University to better utilize Michigan feedstocks for cellulosic ethanol production.

"Working with the state of Michigan, two of its leading universities, and JM Longyear on this significant project brings us closer to commercial scale production of biofuels that can promote energy independence, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and stimulate regional economic development," Jamerson said.

Mascoma's single-step cellulose-to-ethanol method, called consolidated bioprocessing, uses advanced technology to make ethanol from non-food based renewable sources like wood chips and other biomass.

"Mascoma's cutting-edge technology creates ethanol more quickly, efficiently and economically, and won't push up the price of food like corn-based ethanol does," McDowell said. "The Chippewa County facility will diversify our economy and keep our air clean and healthy. This plan capitalizes on Michigan's strengths and ensures that renewable energy will power Michigan's progress into the 21st century and beyond."

Paquin teaches quill class



Photo by Rick Smith

Ron Paquin (at rear table) conducts a workshop on crafting with porcupine quills at his studio in Sault Ste. Marie on July 28. Participants were from as far away as Middleburg, Va., and others came from Michigan towns near and far such as Traverse City, Dowagiac, Stalwart, Cedarville, Levering, Roscommon, Pickford, Atlanta, Petoskey and Lamont On The Grand.

American Indian diabetic study results good

Aggressively lowering cholesterol and blood pressure levels below current targets in adults with Type 2 diabetes may help to prevent — and possibly reverse — hardening of the arteries, according to new research supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health.

Hardening of the arteries, also known as atherosclerosis, is the number one cause of heart disease and can lead to heart attack, stroke, and death. An estimated 21 million Americans have diabetes and 284,000 die from it each year. Sixty-five percent of the deaths are related to cardiovascular

causes.

The three-year study of 499 participants is the first to compare two treatment targets for LDL (bad) cholesterol and systolic blood pressure levels, key risk factors for heart disease, in people with diabetes. Results are published in the April 9 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

In the Stop Atherosclerosis in Native Diabetics Study, one-half of the participants were asked to lower to standard levels their LDL cholesterol and blood pressure, while the other half aimed for more aggressive lowering of LDL cholesterol and systolic blood pressure. All participants were

American Indians 40 or older who had diabetes, high blood cholesterol and high blood pressure but no history of heart attack or other evidence of heart disease.

The study was conducted at four clinical centers in southwestern Oklahoma, Phoenix, Ariz., northeastern Arizona and South Dakota. All participants continued to receive their medical care, including diabetes management, dietary and exercise counseling and smoking cessation from their health care providers with the Indian Health Service.

"American Indians have a high rate of diabetes and cardiovascular disease related

to diabetes, but there are few clinical trials that address these issues in this population," said Barbara V. Howard, Ph.D., of MedStar Research Institute in Hyattsville, Md., lead author of the paper. "These study results provide needed evidence to help develop community-based programs to treat and prevent the epidemic of cardiovascular disease among American Indians."

On average, participants in both groups reached and maintained their target goals for blood cholesterol and blood pressure levels. The numbers of heart attacks and other cardiovascular events were similar between the two groups and lower than expected.

In addition, carotid artery thickness measurements of participants in the aggressive treatment group were significantly lower than those in the standard treatment group. Researchers report that, compared to baseline, carotid artery thickness increased slightly in the standard group and regressed in the aggressive treatment group, indicating a partial reversal of atherosclerosis. Furthermore, although heart size decreased from baseline in both groups, the beneficial change was significantly greater among participants in the aggressive treatment group.

(Source: NHLBI Communications Office)

A very belated thanks to the tribe for opening up the rolls and accepting my family and me in February 2006.

The timing was very special, since I got my tribal card in the mailbox just after stopping by church to pray for my grandfather, Joseph Bouchey, who was laid to rest Saturday, the closest prior mail delivery day.

Bernice Bouchey, his wife and my grandmother, is the individual with the Native American ancestry who was accepted a short time before this.

This is a late photo of grandpa at right).

Anthony Bouchey
Kalkaska, Mich.



Joseph Bouchey

is well, my heart and lungs are getting stronger. The only thing left to do is exercise, watch my diet and walk every place and everywhere I can.

To my friends, the Hessel elders, I love you all, thank you so much for cheering me on. Thanks for the candy and cookies and teddy bear. Thanks to my family, my sister Alice Gamble, my nieces and their husbands, my brother and sister in law, Harvey and Linda Dutcher in Lansing, and to my children and grandchildren. To the people of the Sault Tribe, miigwech.

I love you all. Always remember whether its God or our great Creator, he watches over us always.

Leona M. Brown
Kinueakwe
Hessel, Mich.



Photo courtesy Jo-Nell Berger

Tribal elder Edith Sitkoski loves her new bed, which is just the right size for her. The bed was purchased with a Sault Tribe donation.

To Arlon Goforth at Sault Tribe Maintenance Department,

I would like to thank Mark and Wayne for the outstanding job they did on my kitchen. They were very courteous when it came to my 16-week-old son and three-year-old daughter. I would recommend them for any job that needed to be done around the housing sites.

Thanks again,
Crystal LaFaver
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

I would like to send out a great big thank you to Tom Sauro, CHN, Sault Tribe Health Center for coordinating, and Dr. Chris Hall, Chippewa Animal Clinic and his staff, for servicing the rabies clinic. The annual rabies clinic this year was a great success. I directly see how beneficial this service is to the

community thru my housing residents. I have heard from them how appreciative they are. Having this service at various locations is so helpful in so many ways. It is so important that you have your pets vaccinated on an annual basis and this great service makes it much easier. Thanks to everyone who helped and please keep it going.

Cathie Menard, resident services specialist, Sault Tribe Housing Authority

Boozhoo,

To all of my Anishinaabe family and friends, I would like to say thank you for your show of love and kindness while I was in the hospital and my follow up trip for further testing.

I am happy to say that all

I would like to thank Sue St. Onge and the great bunch of children from the Youth Education and Activities Program for cleaning up the St. Ignace housing site. They did a wonderful job cleaning the woods and area surrounding the homes. I am sure the residents appreciate your efforts as well. Thanks again.

Cathie Menard, resident services specialist, Sault Tribe Housing Authority

Dear fellow members,

I am a registered nurse employed at Schoolcraft Medical Care Facility in Manistique, Mich.

I would like to thank our board, chairman and all tribal members for the donation of a low bed and alarmed mattress for our facility, funded by the two percent grant money.

This is a special hospital bed that can be lowered within six to eight inches off the floor, keeping the resident safe from falls from the bed or assisting the smaller resident in rising from bed unassisted. The mattress has a built in alarm so when a resident at risk from falls rises from the bed, staff hear the alarm and can respond quickly in assisting the resident.

I also wanted to share with you that the bed we purchased with your donation was given to a tribal elder living in our facility. She is small in stature and was not able to get out of our beds easily without assistance. She is now able to function more independently and safely. She asks that I include her in thanking you for your donation.

Thank you,
Jo-Nell Berger, RN
Edith Sitkoski, tribal elder
Manistique, Mich.

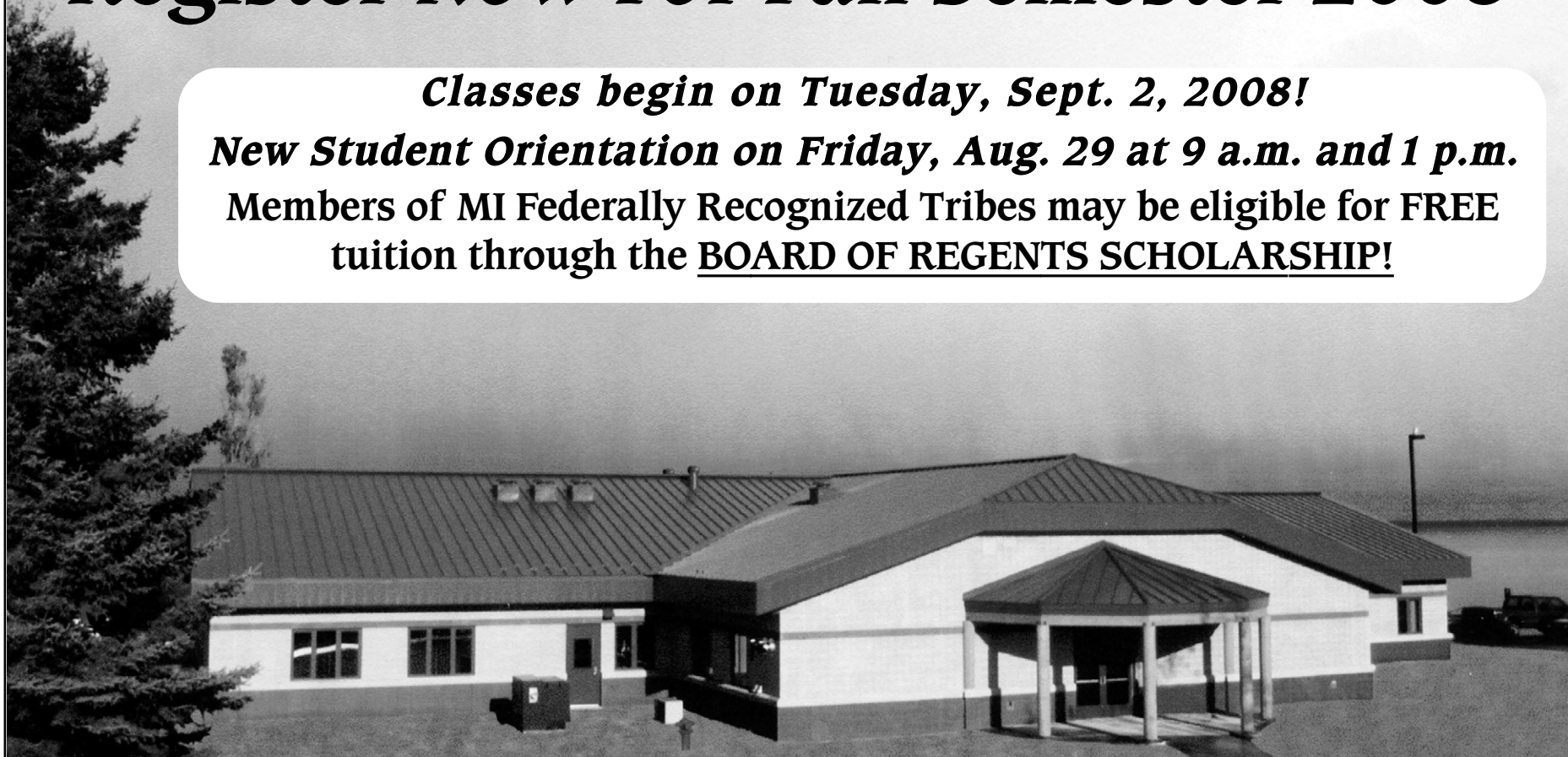
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Basketball camps help give kids an edge



YOUNG DRIBBLERS — Left, Lake Superior State University junior Scott Perkins, Jr., instructs a group through drills at the 2008 boy's basketball camp at Lake State. The annual camp, free for Sault Tribe members, took place June 23-26. Among the 40 boys taking part in the camp, more than half, 25, were members of our tribe. Right, Nicholas Johnston keeps his eyes on the target as he is coached on his shooting form.



Photos by Rick Smith



Sault Tribe member Leona Ellis focuses on the ball during a drill at the Lake State girls' basketball camp.



A student coach demonstrates technique at the 2008 Lake State girls' basketball camp. The girls' basketball camp took place July 21-24 at the LSSU Norris Center. Laker women's head coach, Jamie Pewinski, said 32 of the 64 girls participating in the camp were Sault Tribe members.



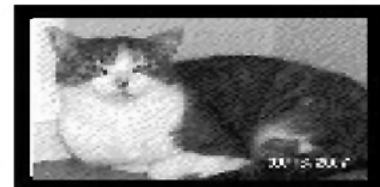
Photos by Paul Petosky

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME — Christmas Kewadin's Wizard of Oz float in the Munising fourth of July parade thanks all veterans as well as those in the serving now.



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