



Manidoo Giizissons • Little Spirit Moon

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# WIN AWENEN NISITOTUNG

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

## Coalition opens to help Michigan tribes

By RICK SMITH

A new independent agency recently opened its doors to bring coordinated help to those who endeavor to prevent and address domestic violence among Michigan's 12 federally recognized tribes.

While the organization has been in existence for about a year under a planning grant, Uniting Three Fires Against

Violence recently hung its shingle at its headquarters at 531 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The offices are adjacent to the River of History Museum.

"We are a coalition for all 12 tribes to act as a training source, technical assistance and resource center," said Kellie LaVictor, executive director. "There was no spot in Michigan

where all the tribes could turn to for any assistance whether it was policy development, grant writing, training or presenting, providing resources and so on." She said the help tribes receive through Uniting Three Fires Against Violence is tailored to their needs and includes tribes with more developed anti-domestic violence programs helping tribes lacking such placements.

The organization's stated mission is to unite and empower American Indian communities in Michigan to end domestic violence and sexual assault, to collaboratively promote positive change for individuals experiencing violence or abuse and provide resources for safety and advocacy to ensure the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional well-being of American Indians victimized by violence.

The organization is an American Indian nonprofit agency supported by grant funding and membership support. Memberships are on an annual basis and entitle one to monthly e-mail messages on coming training opportunities and conferences as well as current local, state, tribal and national issues regarding domestic violence. Members also have access to a network of individuals for information, referrals



### Uniting Three Fires Against Violence

and technical help addressing domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking along with a quarterly newsletter.

Memberships range from \$1,000 for tribal governments to \$25 and \$50 for individuals. Scholarships are available to help defray membership dues for programs or individuals with limited funds.

LaVictor resigned her position as a magistrate judge with the Sault Tribal Court to assume the executive directorship for Uniting Three Fires Against Violence. Beatrice Jackson is an outreach coordinator for the organization and Dulcey Garber is a resource center coordinator. They anticipate inducting one more person to help soon.

The organization is guided by a board of directors that includes President Angelyn Makomenaw, domestic violence coordinator for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe; Lori Jump, program director of the Sault Ste. Marie Advocacy Resource Center; Toni Schopp, Sault Tribal Court retiree; Ruby Hatfield, victims advocate for the Bay Mills Indian Community; and Roxanne Mannisto, a member of the Pokagon Potawatomi Indians with education and experience in social work and criminal justice.

To learn more about Uniting Three Fires Against Violence or to become a member, visit [www.utfav.org](http://www.utfav.org) or call (906) 253-9775.



Photo by Rick Smith

Kellie LaVictor, executive director of the recently opened Uniting Three Fires Against Violence serving all 12 federally recognized American Indian tribes in Michigan in building programs to prevent and address domestic violence and related issues.

## Tribe invests in renewable energy concern

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians signed a memorandum of understanding to purchase a 15 percent equity stake in Indian Energy LLC.

Indian Energy is a 100 percent American Indian-owned renewable energy development company based in Newport Beach, Calif.

Founder and CEO, Allen G. Cadreau, is a Sault Tribe member and one of only a few Natives who understands the full breadth of utility scale power plant development.

"I have always had the vision of partnering with my own tribe for the purposes of diversifying our revenue streams," Cardeau said. "We have an incredibly talented tribal membership and it is time we begin utilizing them in our quest to sustain our people's traditional way of life, assist with tribal elder programs and to ensure the future of our seventh generation."

The company has a joint venture agreement with

Quadrant LLC to develop the Cucupah Nation's renewable energy resources on behalf of the nation. The company has submitted proposals to other North American tribes interested in entering the renewable energy sector and is seeking to provide renewable energy for the United States military. The Cucupah Nation has a land base of over 340,000 acres and has some of the world's richest solar, wind and geothermal resources on the North America Continent and is committed to using these resources to better their way of life.

Indian Energy will use the proceeds from the equity sale to continue development efforts on behalf of the Cucupah Nation and to pursue the company's current pipeline of renewable energy projects.

"Tribal nations have some of the most valuable lands as it relates to renewable energy and the stars are aligned for us as a people," said Indian Energy

CIO Henry Bouley, also a Sault Tribe member. "We are com-

mitted to assisting tribal nations develop, own, operate and pros-

per from their own renewable and sustainable resources."

### Indian Energy LLC and Sault Tribe

—In its effort to achieve economic self-sufficiency, the Sault Tribe seeks investment opportunities that can benefit our members now and into the future.

—The tribe's main revenue sources are its five Kewadin Casinos in the Upper Peninsula and federal funding. With gaming becoming increasingly competitive, the tribe is seeking to diversify its business portfolio.

—Various Indian tribes are exploring investments in, and development of, renewable energy projects. The National Wildlife Foundation estimates tribal lands cover about 5 percent of the United States and hold about 10 percent of the

country's renewable energy resources.

—Renewable energy is energy that comes from natural resources that are renewable: sunlight (solar), wind, water (rain, rivers, oceans), and geothermal (trapping the heat of the earth). From 2004 through 2009, worldwide renewable energy capacity grew at rates of 10 to 60 percent annually for many technologies.

—Nations and industries across the world are actively exploring renewable energy as a way to lower energy costs and consumption and the environmental damages caused by the production and use of fossil fuels.

—The Sault Tribe has signed an agreement to purchase a 15 percent equity interest in Indian Energy LLC, a 100 percent Native American-owned renewable energy development company based in Newport Beach, Calif.

—The mission of Indian Energy, founded by Sault Tribe member Allen G. Cadreau, is to provide renewable energy power plants on Indian tribal lands in North America. The company is committed to identifying and developing opportunities for insuring tribal sovereignty; self sufficiency and future long term revenue streams that provide a means to maintain the traditional tribal way of life.

See "Indian Energy," pg. 5

## Commissioners wanted

Sault Tribe members who live in units I and IV who may be interested in joining the Sault Tribe Housing Board of Commissioners/Utility Authority Commission.

Candidates must be 18 years of age and live in the unit they represent. Not necessary to be a resident of Housing facilities but residents are eligible to sit on the commission.

This is a voluntary position, mileage is paid.

Some of the duties associated with the position are approving policies for the Housing/Utility authorities, hearing tenant grievances and reviewing and approving budgets for Housing/Utility authorities.

The commission meets once a month on the third Monday of each month.

You must submit a letter of intent with three letters of recommendation from Sault Tribe members. These documents can be sent to the Housing Authority, 154 Parkside Drive, Kincheloe, MI, 49788.

The commission has two openings for Unit I and one opening for Unit IV.

If you have any questions, please call Sheila Berger at (906) 495-5555.

## Committee opening

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Election Committee has one open seat on their committee. Interested Sault Tribe members should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation to Tara Benoit, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 49783.

Call (906) 635-6050 or email tbenoit@saulttribe.net.

## Christmas camp

Mary Murray Culture Camp hosts a children's Christmas craft camp.

Youth are invited to participate in craft camps on Dec. 10-11 and Dec. 17-18. All supplies provided. If transportation is needed, meet at the Niigaaniigizhik Building on the scheduled Fridays at 6 p.m., returning on the following Saturdays at 6 p.m.

Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

To make sure we have enough supplies, or if you have questions, please call Adrienne or Lori at 635-6050 to register.

## Survey thanks

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority would like to say "thank you" to everyone who submitted the 2010 housing survey. The survey data has been very useful in preparing the 2011 Indian Housing Plan. It provided excellent insight into what members feel the housing needs are in our service area. If you haven't sent in your survey and would still like to, please do so we can continue to update the information.

Several surveys indicated they needed some form of housing assistance, below is a short list of services currently available with contact information.

Sanitation (water/sewer), Jena McKerchie, ACFS, 632-5250

Homeownership, Dana Patrick, Housing, 495-1450

Home Improvement Program, Joanne Umbrasas/Sheila Berger, Housing, 495-5555

Low-income housing, Mariea Mongene, Housing, 495-1450

If you would like to speak to someone about what might be available to meet your needs, please call the Sault Tribe Housing Authority at (906) 495-5555, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. EST.

Again, "miigwech" to everyone who returned the surveys.

## GFS food show

Kewadin is excited to partner with Gordon Food Service (GFS) for a holiday food show on Tuesday, Dec. 14 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. in the Woodlands Room at Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie.

GFS will be offering several holiday items at the discounted rate the tribe and casinos receive. Payment can be made by payroll deduction, cash, check or credit card. Orders will be available for pickup at the Sault Ste. Marie store during Christmas week. Time will be announced at show.

This event is open to all casino and tribal employees and tribal members.

If this proves successful, GFS will consider expanding this type of event to the other locations for next year.

## Doors for sale

Sault Tribe Housing exterior door sale, \$99.99 until Dec. 30. Additional discount for Sault Tribe members.

Call Ryan, (906) 495-5555.

# Diabetes project shows successful health results

A five-year Indian Health Service (IHS) project indicates risk factors for diabetes and cardiovascular disease can be reduced among American Indians who have the nation's highest rates of diabetes.

The IHS implemented the project in response to the diabetes epidemic in American Indian communities.

The project was established by Congress in 1997 to fund diabetes prevention and treatment services in Indian health programs.

In 2004, Congress established the project as an initiative to apply research findings in real-world settings to prevent diabetes and cardiovascular disease. It consists of two initiatives on diabetes and heart health. Overall, 66 grants were funded that served 110 tribal communities.

"The project has shown it is possible to translate the results of prevention research into diverse Indian health settings," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "We know from their work that it is possible to

reduce risk factors for diabetes and cardiovascular disease in American Indians."

Using a method adapted for Native patients, people at risk for diabetes were encouraged to lose weight through increased physical activity, healthy eating habits and individual and group coaching.

On average, those who completed the follow-up assessment had a significantly reduced eight-year risk of developing diabetes.

Enrollees also achieved significant weight loss, increased physical activity, improved consumption of healthy foods, lower blood pressures, lower glucose levels and improved health-related quality of life at the follow-up and annual assessments compared to baseline.

The project was funded in 30 IHS, tribal and urban Indian health programs to implement an intensive, clinic-based case management intervention to reduce cardiovascular disease risk factors in individuals with diabetes.

Enrollees who completed the follow-up assessment had a significantly reduced 10-year risk of developing coronary heart disease. Enrollees also had significant improvements in meeting goals for control of blood pressure and blood glucose and achieved improved lipid profiles. For example, the percent of enrollees with blood pressures < 130/80 mmHg increased from 42 percent at baseline to 49 percent at the first annual assessment.

Enrollees also achieved increased physical activity, increased use of aspirin, and

more became non-smokers from baseline to annual assessments.

"The project grantees achieved these outstanding results through a collaborative approach to developing innovative and creative prevention strategies," said Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, IHS director. "IHS is now planning to disseminate their positive results, best practices, and lessons learned throughout Indian country."

In September 2010, the Indian Health Service competitively awarded 69 cooperative agreements to previous and new sites to continue to implement the SDPI Diabetes Prevention and Healthy Heart Initiatives and to help disseminate best practices from the experience of the demonstration projects over the past five years.

The selected sites are meeting in Albuquerque, NM, in November to begin this new phase of these initiatives.

The sites will continue to evaluate their progress and will receive technical assistance as they implement program activities.

"The new cohort of sites will share successful strategies from the demonstration projects at their first meeting and will develop dissemination strategies to share this information with all other SDPI grant programs in the coming years," said Dr. Kelly Acton, director of the IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention. "We look forward to working with them to continue these successful programs and to share their best practices and lessons learned with other programs."

The official IHS website is at [www.IHS.gov](http://www.IHS.gov).

## HOUSE FOR SALE



### 6-Bedroom Home For Sale!

Reduced to \$55,000!

2 baths, large dining and living rooms. Insulated, metal roof, energy efficient furnace, full basement, new wood stove, fireplace and hot tub. On trust land - no property taxes! Buyer must be a Sault Tribe member. Owners relocating. Great home for a large family.

Call (906) 495-2089 today!

## Letter to the editor

My daughter, Jacquelyn Salter Miller, was awarded the Native American Award by her company Raytheon Missile Corp. She was in the Air Force as a M/Sgt. for 23 years. She lives in Vail, Arizona. She's the commander of the Air Force post there and her husband is in the Air Force and is very active.

— *Mary Salter*

Gould City, Mich.

## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor  
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. sub-

ject to editing and are not to exceed 400 words. Unsigned submissions are not accepted.

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

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

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](http://www.saulttribe.com) beginning on its publishing date.

### Subscriptions:

The regular rate is \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. Please call for other foreign countries. Subscribe by sending your name and mailing address to the address below with your check or money order made out to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

### Advertising:

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Contact information:

Win Awenen Nisitotung

Attn: Communications Dept.

531 Ashmun St.,

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Telephone: (906) 632-6398

Fax: (906) 632-6556

E-mail: [saulttribenews@saulttribe.net](mailto:saulttribenews@saulttribe.net)

# Board authorizes employee vacation, promotion policies

SUBMITTED BY RICH RAND  
HR DIRECTOR

At the Nov. 23 board of directors' meeting, measures were taken involving Human Resource's policies for vacation and promotions.

Beginning in calendar year 2011, employees will no longer be required to use at least 50 percent of accrued vacation during the year. This means that if a team member earns four weeks of vacation, it is not necessary to use at least two weeks during the year. Under current policy, if at least two weeks was not taken, vacation would be forfeited up to half of the annual rate. Rollover maximums and cash out maximums remain per current policy. Vacation accruals will still be stopped if there are 240 hours in the vacation bank, and a maximum payout when leaving the organization remains at 160 hours. It is hoped that this policy change will allow greater flexibility for employees to better plan their

time off needs.

Also beginning in calendar year 2011, a new "promotion" policy has been authorized. The board resolution re-establishes the use of promotional opportunities for employees and in some cases allows a department to promote rather than having to go through the posting and interviewing process. It is hoped this will lead to decreased lead times for filling certain positions. It will now be possible for managers to promote for jobs which have a natural progression as well as having a departmental posting for other supervisory or managerial promotional opportunities.

The Human Resource Department has the policies and will be meeting with the major departments to advise as to the use of the new policies. They will also be available online. Any employee may also inquire within Human Resources should they have questions.

# Tribe gives \$380,000 in 2 percent funding

Sault Tribe disbursed \$379,854 in 2 percent slot revenues this fall across its seven-county service area. The 2 percent funds paid mostly for education and well-being endeavors, most notably \$21,750 for Munising School renovations. Equipment for emergency services across the tribe's seven county service area were purchased with the money, such as Jaws of Life equipment for Moran Township and fire equipment for Hendricks Township. Humanitarian causes such as the Chippewa County spay and neuter program and Schoolcraft County MSU community baskets were also funded.

The tribe disburses 2 percent funding twice annually and has disbursed over \$31 million in the EUP since the inception of the distribution in 1993. The slot revenue comes from the tribe's five Kewadin Casinos in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Hessel, Manistique and Christmas.

The following requests were funded this fall:

Unit I — Lake Superior State University, United Nations conference, \$11,611; Kinross Charter Twp., Kinross Recreation Center, \$11,611; Chippewa County, Animal Control Shelter Spay/Neuter Program, \$16,111; JKL Bahweting, \$2,500; Sault Area Public Schools, Sault High Scoreboard, \$17,207 and additional funding for equipment or supplies, \$6,111; and Chippewa County, community center remodeling/upgrades, \$15,000.

Unit II — Clark Township, Cedarville Harbor expansion Project, \$8,619; Hendricks Township, community shelter, \$3,500 and Fire Department equipment, \$2,500; Newberry Elementary, A Lens into the World, \$500; Three Lakes Academy, Get Them Outdoors, \$5,000; Pickford Township, Pickford Community Library, \$24,389; Engadine Consolidated Schools youth activity programs, \$7,500; Rudyard Area Schools, public library, \$12,900; and Pickford Public Schools, welding program, \$5,243

Unit III— Moran Township, Jaws of Life, \$3,000; City of St. Ignace, Little Bear operations, \$25,651, library operations, \$14,000, Ojibwe Museum, \$5,000 and Chiefs Park development, \$10,000; St. Ignace Township, sewer project, \$10,000; and St. Ignace Area

## Sault Tribe has disbursed over \$31 million in the EUP since inception of the distributions in 1993.

Schools, LaSalle High School bowling, \$2,500.

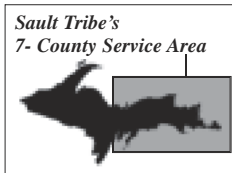
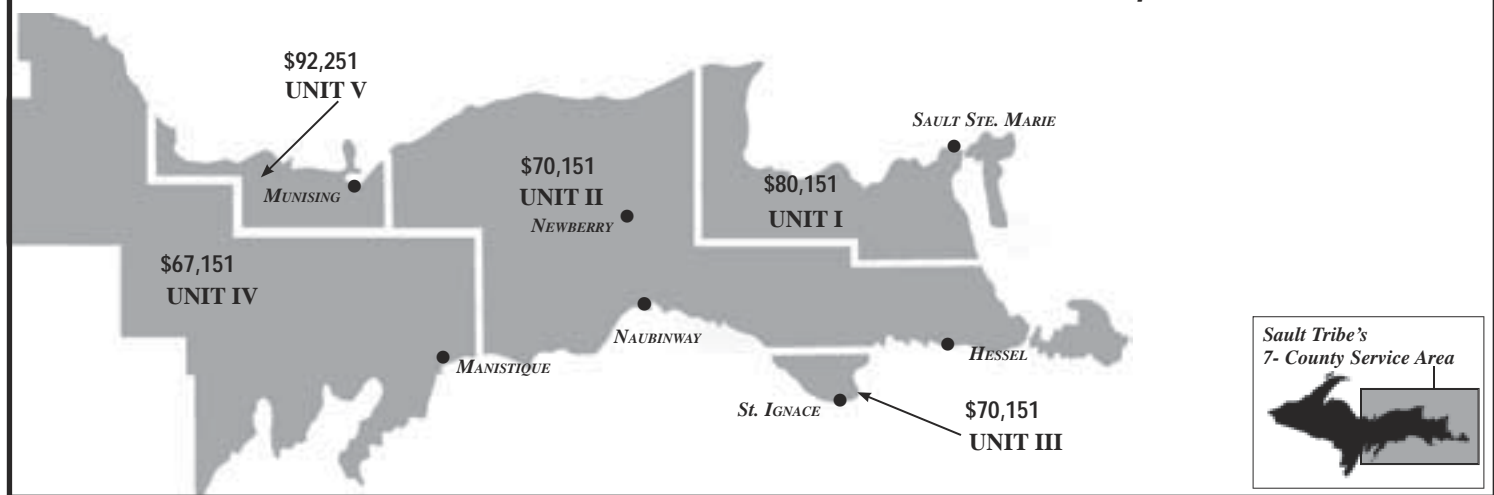
Unit IV — Negaunee Public Schools, Title VII, \$3,000; Ishpeming Public Schools, Title VII, \$3,000; Gladstone Area Schools, Title VII, \$3,000; Rapid River Public Schools, Title VII, \$3,000; Escanaba Area Schools, Title VII, \$3,000; Manistique Area Schools, Title VII, \$3,000; Big Bay De Noc School, Title VII, \$3,000; Schoolcraft County MSU, community baskets, \$3,401; Nah Tah Wahsh Public School, Willow Creek Building, \$22,500; Schoolcraft Medical Care Facility, furniture, \$3,749; City of Manistique, Little Bear kitchen renovation, \$7,500; Maple Ridge Township board, new roof for township hall, \$2,500; Big Bay De Noc School, CUP baseball, \$1,500; and Bay De Noc College, YMCA, \$5,000

Unit V — Northern Michigan University, community recreation, \$10,000; Au Train Twp., All Veterans Memorial, \$10,000; Munising Public Schools, school renovations, \$21,750 and Title VII, \$7,000; Marquette Area Public Schools, Title VII, \$10,000; North Star Academy, physical health program, \$5,000 County of Marquette, RSVP, \$7,500 and media leadership, \$5,000; Alger County, Altran, \$5,000 and Commission on Aging, \$5,000; and Burt Township, disc golf course, \$6,000.



Chippewa County Animal Shelter manager and Sault Tribe member Deb Cox with two pets, one of whom is a nursing mother. Many adult pets come into the shelter needing to be spayed or neutered and they cannot be adopted until they are "fixed," to avoid even more unwanted puppies and kittens. The tribe funded the spay/neuter program with 2 percent funds this fall. (Photo by Brenda Austin)

## Fall 2010 Sault Tribe 2% Distributions = \$379,854



# Mayo Clinic receives \$6 million to expand Native outreach

ROCHESTER, Minn. — Mayo Clinic Cancer Center has received a \$6 million five-year Community Networks Program Center grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to further develop its cancer health disparities outreach within American Indian communities.

Mayo Clinic has a 30-year history of working within these communities to help improve health outcomes, recognizing that they suffer from high incidence rates and poor survival

rates for most cancers.

Founded in 2000 as one of 18 NCI-funded special populations networks to support culturally appropriate cancer control activities, Mayo Clinic's Spirit of EAGLES program, supporting Education, Advocacy, Grants, Leadership, Elders and Scholarships in Indian Country, created a national consortium of about 200 members, including indigenous representatives and students, advocacy groups and

academic centers.

The new Spirit of EAGLES Community Network Program will continue this collaboration, focusing now on comprehensive cancer control, including translational research, clinical trials and continued community-based participatory research.

Specifically, this funding will enable clinical research studies to be conducted in Alaska and Wisconsin, as well as help formalize the Hampton Faculty Fellows Program to

mentor the next generation of Native American cancer control researchers.

As one of only two American Indian medical oncologists in the country, Mayo Clinic's Native American programs director Judith Kaur, M.D., is uniquely positioned to lead this program.

"This grant will enable us to build upon the important community outreach and research that we have been dedicated to

over the past three decades," said Dr. Kaur, who works with a multidisciplinary team of Mayo colleagues dedicated to disparities outreach.

"The program has been gaining momentum, especially the many important relationships we've established within these communities. We're looking forward to expanding our crucial work to help educate and subsequently save lives," she added.

# JKL Bahweting PSA to get new parking lot

By BRENDA AUSTIN

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — In an effort to make more parking available to parents and staff at JKL Bahweting School, property at 1360 Marquette Ave. was recently purchased with plans to develop a 30-40 space staff parking area.

The property is located across the street from the schools east parking lot with development to begin this spring.

The new parking area will also be available for parent parking during evening school events.

In addition to the new purchase, an expansion project of their existing parking area on the north end of the west lot was completed this fall. That project provided more paved parking space for buses, staff and parents. School Superintendent Susan Palmer said the staff and administration are excited about having additional parking spaces to help relieve the stress of parking shortages during school events.

The school's sign is being replaced with a new sign partially funded by grant monies from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. The new sign will feature a scrolling marquee that will be used for school announcements and to promote health conscience messages for the youth and their families. The existing sign will be moved



Photos by Brenda Austin

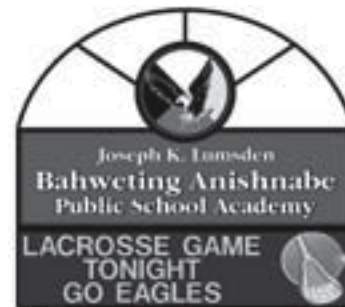
Above: Looking from the back of the property where the new staff parking lot will begin construction this spring towards the front of JKL School. Below: A new piece of playground equipment behind JKL school in the newly renovated play area.



to a new location on school property.

A busy summer for improvements at JKL, the playground also received a facelift and expansion. Existing equipment was rearranged and a few new pieces purchased after raising the bed of the play area and adding cedar mulch for surfacing. The raised bed will prevent water from collecting and the cedar mulch will provide a more shock absorbent surface for youth during playtime. The school has plans to add a few more pieces of playground equipment in the near future.

Inside the classroom, eighth grade students are looking forward to a fun-filled day trip to Northern Michigan University (NMU) in Marquette where they will attend a career exploration day with students from other state charter schools. Not to be outdone, the sixth graders will also be visiting NMU this spring for a three-day Wildcat Scholars Program where they will get a taste of college life and explore career opportunities.



## U.S. DOJ Office of Tribal Justice opens doors

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Attorney General Eric Holder recently announced the establishment of the Office of Tribal Justice as a separate component within the organizational structure of the Department of Justice. The action underscores the department's commitment to tribal issues and is required by the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, which was signed into law by the president on July 29, 2010. The statute was adopted with the support of the department and the administration.

President Obama declared November 2010 National Native American Heritage Month.

"I am proud to say today we have formally established the Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ) as a component of the Justice Department," said Holder. "In the coming years, OTJ will play an important role in continuing the critical dialogue between the department and tribal governments on matters including public safety. The establishment of OTJ as a permanent component in the department has been a priority for me and this administration and it is a critical step in our work to improve coordination and collaboration with tribal communities."

The Office of Tribal Justice was originally established in 1995 as a unit within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General in response to tribal concerns. Since that time, the Office of Tribal Justice has served as the primary channel for tribes to

communicate their concerns to the department, helped coordinate policy on Indian affairs both within the department and with other federal agencies, and sought to ensure that the department and its components work with tribes on a government-to-government basis.

The Office of Tribal Justice takes its place today as a stand-alone, permanent component within the department's organizational structure, with internal managerial authority and an established reporting structure through the associate and deputy attorneys general. Over the course of the last 15 years, the Office of Tribal Justice has gained wide acceptance and support throughout the government and among Indian tribes, it is recognized by many as the expert within the federal government on a wide variety of legal issues affecting Indian country.

In addition to fulfilling its historical mission, the Office of Tribal Justice continues to play a key role in the department's ongoing initiative to improve public safety in Indian Country.

In September, hundreds of American Indian and Alaska Native communities received almost \$127 million to enhance law enforcement, bolster justice systems, prevent youth substance abuse, serve sexual assault and elder victims and support other efforts to combat crime. These grants are the first under the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, a new

effort combining 10 different Department of Justice grant programs into a single solicitation.

In January 2010, the deputy attorney general directed all U.S. Attorneys' offices with districts containing Indian Country (44 out of 93) to meet and consult with tribes in their district annually, develop an operational plan addressing public safety in Indian country, work closely with tribal law enforcement on improving public safety in tribal communities, and to pay particular attention to violence against women in Indian country and make prosecuting these crimes a priority.

The Office of Tribal Justice continues to fulfill the department and administration's commitment to a consultation and coordination policy that ensures effective communication with Indian tribes. The director of the office is the official designated to ensure departmental compliance with Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments. The office frequently engages in tribal consultations and related government-to-government communications with leaders from Indian tribes. This engagement has involved representatives from a variety of components including U.S. Attorneys' offices, the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Explosives, the Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women and

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

The office is staffed by a director, Tracy Toulou, two deputy directors and a special assistant, all of whom are serving on detail from other department

## DOJ implements Indian prison incarceration plan

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons recently implemented a key provision of the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 by launching a four-year pilot program to begin accepting certain tribal offenders sentenced in tribal courts for placement in Bureau of Prisons institutions.

The program allows any federally recognized tribe to request the bureau incarcerate a tribe member convicted of a violent crime under the terms of Section 234 of the Tribal Law and Order Act and authorizes the bureau to house up to 100 tribal offenders at a time, nation-wide. By statute, the pilot will conclude on Nov. 26, 2014.

Said Associate Attorney General Tom Perrelli, "This is one step among many to bolster the safety and security in tribal communities. Under the landmark Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, the Justice Department will continue to work with our tribal partners on a multilateral approach that includes better law enforcement training, enhanced treatment and preven-

tion programs, and improved tribal crime data gathering and information sharing."

components and its operating expenses are borne by those components. The president's fiscal year 2011 budget request includes additional staff and direct funding for the office.

tion programs, and improved tribal crime data gathering and information sharing."

In anticipation of the Tribal Law and Order Act, Attorney General Eric Holder in January 2010 directed all U.S. Attorneys' Offices with districts containing Indian country (44 out of 93) to: meet and consult with tribes in their district annually; develop an operational plan addressing public safety in Indian country; work closely with tribal law enforcement on improving public safety in tribal communities, and to pay particular attention to violence against women in Indian country and make prosecuting these crimes a priority. The Justice Department routinely briefs Congress, and state, local and tribal governments on the progress of the Tribal Law and Order Act implementation.

A fundamental goal of the Bureau of Prisons is to reduce future criminal activity by encouraging inmates to participate in a range of programs that have been proven to help them adopt a crime-free lifestyle upon their return to the community.

# White House invites tribal leaders back for second inter-governmental conference

BY RICK SMITH

The White House announced in mid-November that President Obama invited all federally recognized tribes to send one representative from each tribe to a second White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 16. The conference is part of an ongoing outreach to Indian Country by the president and provides an opportunity for tribal leaders to have face-to-face communication with high-level administration representatives.

In an official White House press release, President Obama said, "I look forward to hearing directly from the leaders in Indian Country about what my administration can do to not

only meet their needs, but help improve their lives and the lives of their peoples. This conference will serve as part of the ongoing and important consultation process that I value, and further strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship."

President Obama hosted the first White House Tribal Nations Conference on Nov. 5, 2009, where mainstream and tribal governmental leaders hashed through issues such as strengthening the government-to-government relationship, health care improvement, public safety improvement, education enhancement, sustainable economic development and other concerns.

National Congress of American Indians President

Jefferson Keel released a statement applauding President Obama's efforts at building bridges with Indian Country, "With the announcement of the second Tribal Nations Summit, the Obama Administration reaffirmed that tribal governments are equal members in the family of American governments. The federal trust relationship between the U.S. government and tribal nations is a non-partisan relationship. Our meetings with the executive branch have a long term focus of creating healthier and stronger tribal nations, to strengthen the entire nation."

During the 2009 summit, Obama signed a presidential memorandum that directed federal agencies to fully imple-

ment *Executive Order 14175, Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments*. The order was the start of increased tribal consultation on the part of the federal government in matters concerning Indian Country. The agencies were also tasked with submitting detailed plans on how they intend to execute the order.

Since then, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act passed into law last March as part of the Affordable Health Care Act bringing sweeping improvements to health care in Indian Country. The Tribal Law and Order Act signed into law last July mandated and outlined more efficient and effective Indian Country justice and crime prevention.

"We are moving in the right direction, but our work is not done," Kimberly Teehee, senior White House policy advisor for Native American Affairs, noted earlier this year on an official blog.

"To bring real change to tribal nations, we must continue to work together, on a nation-to-nation basis, in order to realize a future where Native people live long and healthy lives in safe communities, where they are able to pursue economic self-sufficiency and where their children and grandchildren can have an equal opportunity at pursuing the American dream. We will continue to look to the wisdom and experience of tribal leaders to inform our policy agenda."

## ~ Miigwech ~

The Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program would like to say "miigwech" to all of the members and hunters who donated and collected bear fat for our program. We had so many people helping that we ended up getting a great amount for medicines. We appreciate all your help and support.

## Tribes building business bridges with Turkey



BY RICK SMITH

The Bay Mills Indian Community was among 17 American Indian tribes from several states that recently spent eight days, from Nov. 6 to Nov. 14, as guests of the Republic of Turkey to foster trade.

The excursion was arranged by the Turkish Coalition of America, a multi-faceted organization based in Washington, D.C., with objectives of educating the general public about Turkey and Turkish-Americans and rendering general support to their ethnic concerns.

While in Turkey, the delegation met with Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmet Davutoglu and members of official government trade councils.

The group networked in assorted business meetings and conferences at Istanbul Technical University and saw sites of historical interest.

According to the Turkish Coalition of America, the Republic of Turkey wants to form business relations with

American Indian sovereign tribes that can make their own business deals and offer trade incentives such as tax breaks.

Turkey is currently the seventh largest trade partner of the United States with an annual exchange of about \$11.8 billion, according to the Associated Press.

The other American Indian entities that took the trip to the Republic of Turkey were the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians of Wisconsin, Navajo Nation of Arizona and New Mexico, Couer d'Alene Tribe of Idaho, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, Seneca Nation of New York, Rosebud Sioux and Sicangu Oyate of South Dakota, Assiniboine, Sioux, Crow, Salish and Kootenai tribes of Montana, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Fort Sill Apache, Osage and Quapaw nations of Oklahoma along with the Colville Reservation tribes and the Yakama Nation of Washington.

## NARF recently turned 40

BY RICK SMITH

The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) is the oldest and largest nonprofit law firm that expressly guards the rights of American Indian tribes, organizations and individuals across the United States.

The organization stems from the 1960s when the federal government funded legal aid services for disadvantaged people. At many of those legal services placed on or near Indian reservations, it was little known in legal circles at the time but it soon became clear that American Indians have a unique legal status governed under federal jurisdiction. Indians are subject to a complex body of law and administration called Indian law.

The California Indian Legal Services, one of the federally mandated legal services for poor people, developed a pilot project in 1970 called the Native American Rights Fund. The project, financed by the Ford Foundation, became its own entity a year later and

moved to Boulder, Colo, a central location where it remains today to serve American Indians across the country.

NARF concentrates in five areas of Indian law. Those areas are preservation of tribal existence, protection of tribal natural resources, promotion of American Indian human rights, accountability of governments to American Indians and developing Indian law and educating the general public about indigenous rights and issues.

Over the years, NARF has helped about 250 tribes and multiple thousands of American Indians in protecting sovereignty, rights, religious freedom and traditions as well as acquisition of federal recognition and remains and burial artifacts from museums and other agencies.

These days, NARF also operates the National Indian Law Library which serves the organization as well as anyone in the general public working on behalf of American Indians.

The library offers free refer-

ence and research assistance by professional staff and does extended research for a nominal fee. In addition to free access to the library's physical collection housed in Boulder, patrons have free online access to the library's tribal law documents, research aids and catalogue.

Those so inclined can get free access and subscriptions to the Indian law bulletin service. According to NARF, the bulletins "provide succinct and timely information about new developments in Indian law."

For a nominal fee, copies of documents and loans of some original documents are available. The organization also sells and distributes NARF and library publications.

In addition to the library, visitors to the organization's website at [www.narf.org](http://www.narf.org), will also find a news center, case updates, podcast information and links to an assortment of ongoing projects such as the initiative of the Tribal Supreme Court Project.

### From "Indian Energy" Pg. 1

—Currently the company has a basket of renewable solar energy projects in different phases of development that could potentially supply up to 1.3 GW (gigawatts) of electricity. A large coal-fired power plant or nuclear power plant produces about 1 GW of energy. One gigawatt is equal to 1 billion watts, or enough to power 1 million 100-watt light bulbs.

—Renewable energy is better for the environment and can replace other sources of energy, including coal-burning electric plants that release mercury into the environment and can contaminate fish and water.

—Global warming, caused in part by the burning of fossil fuels, harms land, water, fish and animals.

—For more information, including details of specific Indian Energy LLC projects and services, visit the company's online website at [www.indianenergyllc.com](http://www.indianenergyllc.com).

## ARMED SECURITY OFFICERS

**DK Security is recruiting for ARMED SECURITY OFFICERS** to work at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Marys Falls Canal site in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. **EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE IS A MUST.** Armed security experience preferred; must have high school diploma/college degree preferred; previous military and/or law enforcement background preferred; must have ability to read and write fluently. Must possess excellent organizational and communication skills, above average computer skills are needed and must be able to pass an extensive criminal background check, physical fitness agility test and drug screen.

Wage is \$13.92 per hour. Resume/application may be submitted to: [nancyrhodes@dksecurity.com](mailto:nancyrhodes@dksecurity.com) or mailed to DK Security – 5160 Falconview SE, Kentwood MI 49512-Attn: Nancy Rhodes; via fax to 1-616-656-4200 or download an application at [www.dksecurity.com](http://www.dksecurity.com). For more information, call 1-800-535-0646. EOE.

# Future of Bay Mills Indian Community Vanderbilt Casino still under review

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

BAY MILLS, Mich. — On Wednesday, Nov. 3, the Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) quietly opened the doors to its newest and smallest casino in Vanderbilt, Michigan taking most local residents, state and federal officials completely by surprise.

With other tribes and state officials questioning the legality of the casino, BMIC responded with a Nov. 5 press release that the casino has met all of the applicable legal criteria, including:

— The operation must take place on qualified Indian lands.

— The tribe must have a valid gaming compact with the state, pursuant to federal law.

— The tribe must abide by tribal gaming regulations, which must be approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission and the Secretary of the Interior.

In a process that normally takes years to obtain signatures required to establish even an

on-reservation casino, the tribe has gone through none of the usual routes involved with the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). A key step in the IGRA process involves taking land into trust for the tribe, which the BMIC has yet to do.

Because the tribe purchased the land near Vanderbilt with money it had received in exchange for giving up its aboriginal lands, Bay Mills seems to have taken the stance the land is therefore exempt from the usual IGRA processes placed on off-reservation gaming. "This is something we have been working on for a long time," said BMIC Chairman Jeff Parker in a release.

The 47-acre parcel in Vanderbilt, eight miles north of Gaylord, was purchased in August. Located just off I-75, the 1,200 sq. ft. casino houses 40 slot machines in what used to be the Project Nature Welcome Center attached to the TreeTops resort complex.

Joy Yearout, deputy director of communications for Attorney General Mike Cox, said, "It [the casino] is still under review by our office in consultation with the governor. There was a meeting in Lansing shortly after the casino was opened with representatives from the attorney generals office, the governor's office and the Bay Mills tribe. Our review of the situation is still ongoing."

According to Shannon Jones, spokesperson for BMIC, "Other than the press releases we have sent out, on the advice of counsel, Bay Mills has no further comments."

A coalition of Michigan tribes, angered by the tribe's disregard of IGRA rules, voiced their opposition to the Vanderbilt casino by issuing the following statement:

"We are strongly opposed to the illegal gaming activity announced by the Bay Mills Indian Community today in Vanderbilt. This attempt to conduct Indian gaming in the

absence of trust land is a serious violation of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and long-held federal Indian gaming policy.

"Bay Mills has also violated the state gaming compacts, most notably Section 9 which clearly requires the consent of all Michigan tribes to pursue gaming on non-reservation lands. We call on the National Indian Gaming Commission, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior to work together with Governor Jennifer Granholm and Attorney General Mike Cox to take swift and immediate action to close this illegal gaming operation, which threatens to undermine the significant public support for Indian gaming here within the State of Michigan and around the country."

The coalition includes the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Gun Lake Tribe of Pottawatomi Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians,

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Pottawatomi Indians and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Off reservation gaming pertaining to IGRA is currently being discussed and reviewed nationally.

According to *thetimesherald.com* in a story dated Nov. 8, a partner in a firm specializing in American Indian gaming issues believes the new casino is a "test" project for the tribe's ambitions to bring a gaming facility to Port Huron. Larry Rosenthal of Letan Consulting, told the *Times Herald* he is confident that if the government allows the BMIC to keep the casino open, the tribe would be more likely to begin a larger project in Port Huron based on the same legal theory.

Local residents see the casino as a positive move, according to a BMIC press release, which also stated that Vanderbilt has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation.

# IRS seeks to return \$3 million in pending tax refunds to 2,297 Michigan residents

DETROIT, Mich. — The United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is looking for 2,297 Michigan taxpayers who can claim their share of undelivered refund checks totaling more than \$3 million.

These undelivered refund checks were returned to the IRS

in tax law which introduced new credits or expanded existing credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit.

If a refund check is returned to the IRS as undelivered, taxpayers can generally update their addresses with the "Where's My Refund? [www.irs.gov/individuals/article](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article)" tool on [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). The tool also enables taxpayers to check the status of their refunds.

A taxpayer must submit his or her Social Security number, filing status and amount of refund shown on their 2009 return.

The tool will provide the status of their refund and, in some cases, instructions on how to resolve delivery problems.

Taxpayers checking on a refund over the phone will receive instructions on how to update their addresses.

Taxpayers can access a telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling (800) 829-1954.

While only a small percentage of checks mailed out by the IRS are returned as undelivered, taxpayers can put an end to lost, stolen or undelivered checks by choosing direct deposit when they file either paper or electronic returns. Taxpayers can receive refunds directly into their bank, split a tax refund into two or three financial accounts or even buy a savings bond.

The IRS also recommends that taxpayers file their tax returns electronically, because e-file eliminates the risk of lost paper returns.

E-file also reduces errors

on tax returns and speeds up refunds. E-file combined with direct deposit is the best option for taxpayers; it's easy, fast and safe.

The public should be aware that the IRS does not contact taxpayers by email to alert

them of pending refunds and that such messages are common identity theft scams.

The agency urges taxpayers not to release any personal information, reply, open any attachments or click on any links to avoid malicious code

that will infect their computers.

The best way for an individual to verify if she or he has a pending refund is by going directly to the [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) website and using the "Where's My Refund? [www.irs.gov/individuals/article](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article)" tool.



by the U.S. Postal Service due to mailing address errors.

The IRS can reissue the checks — which average about \$1,315 — after taxpayers correct or update their addresses with the IRS.

"We want to make sure taxpayers get the money owed to them," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "If you think you are missing a refund, the sooner you update your address information, the quicker you can get your money."

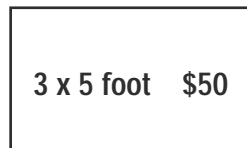
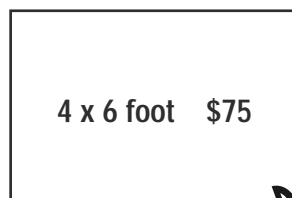
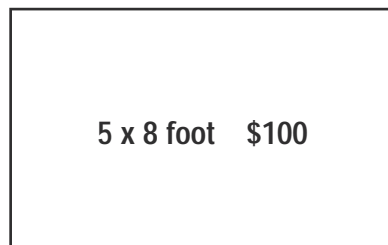
Nationally, a total of 111,893 taxpayers are due one or more refund checks totaling over \$164.6 million. Some taxpayers are due more than one check.

A taxpayer only needs to update his or her address once for the IRS to send out all checks due.

The average dollar amount for returned refunds rose by just over 28 percent this year, possibly due to recent changes



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# American Indian farmers and USDA settle class action law suit for \$760 million

See important notice on page 8

By RICK SMITH

American Indian farmers and ranchers across the country were recently awarded a \$760 million settlement in the 11-year-old class action discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm loan programs in *Keepseagle vs Vilsack*.

According to the lawsuit, the USDA denied thousands of American Indian farmers and ranchers equal opportunities given to Euro-American farmers and ranchers in acquiring

farm loans, related services and outreach.

The U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., ordered the USDA to pay \$680 million in damages and forgive up to \$80 million in outstanding farm loan debt to thousands of American Indian farmers and ranchers who attempted to farm or ranch between between Jan. 1, 1981, and Nov. 24, 1999, attempted to acquire a farm loan from the USDA during that period and, during that same period, complained about discrimination

to the USDA either orally or in writing, on their own or with the help of a representative such as a tribal government.

Those who qualify as members of the class action suit may eligible for payments up to \$50,000 or more and forgiveness of some, or all, outstanding USDA loans.

American Indian farmers and ranchers who were included in an earlier class action lawsuit against the USDA stemming from discrimination in 1997 are excluded from the *Keepseagle*

vs Vilsack class action.

Payments from the lawsuit will commence once the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., approves the settlement, after any possible appeals are resolved and the claims process is completed.

More details and updates are at [www.indianfarmclass.com](http://www.indianfarmclass.com), requests for claims packages can also be made on the site.

Jefferson Keel, president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) praised the settlement as "long

awaited justice for American Indian farmers and ranchers who have only sought an equal opportunity to work hard and succeed."

According to the NCAI, the settlement also brings with it improvement in the USDA farm loan services and initiatives for American Indian farmers and ranchers. It establishes the Native American Farmer and Rancher Council to work with USDA leaders in enhancing access and services along with other improvements.

## USDA sacred sites procedures under review

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Tribal Relations and the U.S. Forest Service are jointly leading an initiative to conduct formal tribal consultations on the effectiveness of existing department and agency sacred sites laws, regulations, and procedures, beginning in late November.

In a Nov. 3 letter sent to tribal government leaders and officials, Harris Sherman, USDA under secretary for Natural Resources and the

Environment, and Tom Tidwell, chief of the Forest Service, encouraged tribal leaders and members to actively participate.

The letter states in part, "The USDA (Office of Tribal Relations) and the Forest Service want to hear from you regarding how to improve our policies for sacred sites while simultaneously balancing the Forest Service's mission to deliver forest goods and services for current and future generations. We need your help to examine the effectiveness of

existing laws and regulations as well as recommendations for future policy or guidelines that will ensure a consistent level of sacred site protection that is more acceptable to tribes."

The first national telephone consultation session to introduce the effort and initiate the process will take place on Nov. 29, 2010. In-person and telephone listening sessions will then occur throughout the country from December through February. The second national session is slated after all local sessions are complet-

ed. This call will summarize the listening sessions, provide an additional opportunity for tribes to comment and set the stage for the next phase of this effort, including government-to-government consultation.

For the Nov. 29 call, members of tribes can call between 2 and 5 p.m. Eastern time at (888) 469-1285, and at the prompt, enter pass code 5116673#.

Throughout this initiative, comments about sacred site policies can be posted at [www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations), or

can be emailed directly to [tribalsacredsites@fs.fed.us](mailto:tribalsacredsites@fs.fed.us).

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of National Forest System land, provides stewardship assistance to non-federal forest landowners and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. For more information, visit [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us).

## DOD website helps young to search career options

By RICK SMITH

Young people aged 16 to 24 years may want to log on to [www.myfuture.com](http://www.myfuture.com) to help explore options for their futures. The website is produced by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and incorporates the latest available information about colleges,

careers and military service opportunities. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities along with the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Defense, Education and Labor contribute all of the reports on the site.

The DOD describes the site as a central resource for infor-

mation on finding a career, getting into college and exploring military options and gaining insight into each option.

Visitors to the site seeking career possibilities can get statistics and other information on subjects from growing trends in employment to job requirements in thousands of jobs.

In addition, one can learn how to be a shining stand out among others in resumes or interviews.

The tools and information one can find about getting into college not only covers how to figure out which college or

trade school one might find most suitable but the academic requirements as well. Thrown in are links that address paying for schools and what to expect in life on campus.

Facts about military options include standards, requirements, benefits and programs of the five branches of the armed forces.

"By placing the military side by side with college and career opportunities, the website allows them to explore all possibilities and gain insight into each option," said Matt Boehmer, director of the DOD

Joint Advertising Market Research and Studies program, in a media release.

"We also make the point that the three do not have to be mutually exclusive," he added.

The site doesn't include career counseling, but relies on self-assessment as the key function in developing goals. According to the DOD, the site provides a range of information heretofore unavailable on a single location and it's useful for those who already have career goals in mind and those just starting the self-assessment process.

## FCC to modernize 911 communications

*Texting, photo and data sharing wanted*

By RICK SMITH

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced intentions to modernize 911 emergency communications services on Nov. 23.

Julius Genachowski, chairman of the FCC, said the agency is going to incorporate the "life saving potential" of text, photo and video in emergency communication services.

"911 is an indispensable, live-saving tool," said Genachowski in a prepared statement. "But today's 911 system doesn't support the communication tools of tomorrow. Even though mobile phones are the device of choice for most 911 callers, and we primarily use our phones to text, right now, you can't text 911. It's time to bring 911 into the digital age."

According to the agency, 911 emergency communications services were established as a national standard in 1968 and has been a successful lifeline to those in distress. More than 237 million Americans place over 237 million 911 calls every

year, averaging 650,000 each day.

These days, about 70 percent of 911 calls originate from mobile phones and, increasingly, Americans are using cell phones more for texting, sending photos and videos. The FCC sees the untapped potential of using these new technologies to provide public safety officials with critical, real-time, on-scene information.

Genachowski pointed out many 911 call centers lack the technical capabilities and resources to receive texts, photos, video and other data and call center operators are not trained to use the new technologies effectively.

Standard proceedings to launch such a modernization project commences this month with gathering public input on making the transition from the current 911 system to the "broadband-enabled, next generation 911." U.S. citizens may call the FCC at (202) 418-0500 or log on to [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov) to provide their input.



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# If You Are a Native American Who Tried to Get a Farm Loan or Loan Servicing from the USDA,

## You Could Receive Benefits from a \$760 Million Class Action Settlement.

A class action Settlement with the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) has been reached. The lawsuit claimed the USDA discriminated against Native Americans who applied for or tried to apply for farm loans or loan servicing. The USDA denies it did anything wrong.

### Am I included?

The Class includes all Native American farmers and ranchers who:

- Farmed or ranched or attempted to farm or ranch between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999;
- Tried to get a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA during that period; **and**
- Complained about discrimination to the USDA either on their own or through a representative during the time period.

You are not eligible for this Settlement if you filed a claim, or intend to file a claim, in another USDA discrimination case like Pigford I or Pigford II (Black farmers), Garcia (Hispanic farmers) or Love (Women farmers).

Because of a law passed by Congress, you are also not eligible for this Settlement if you **either**:

- Experienced discrimination only between January 1 and November 23, 1997; **or**
- Complained of discrimination only between July 1 and November 23, 1997.

### What does the Settlement provide?

The \$760 million Settlement will pay cash to Class Members for valid claims as well as attorneys’ fees (between 4% and 8%, subject to Court approval) and awards. The Settlement includes up to \$80 million in USDA loan forgiveness for Class Members who qualify. The USDA will pay an additional \$20 million to implement the Settlement and will make some changes to their farm loan programs. Any money left after all payments and expenses have been made will be donated to one or more organizations that help Native American farmers and ranchers.

### What can I get from the Settlement?

The amount of money you will receive will depend on whether you file a claim under Track A or Track B. It will also depend on the total number of claims that are filed and approved.

**Track A** – You can get a payment up to \$50,000 for your discrimination claim plus an additional 25% paid to the IRS to reduce any income tax you may owe.

**Track B** – You can get the amount of your actual damages up to \$250,000. Track B requires more proof than Track A.

**USDA Loan Forgiveness** – Under both Track A and Track B you can get forgiveness on part or all of your eligible USDA farm loans plus an additional 25% paid to the IRS to reduce any income tax you may owe.

### How do I get benefits?

You will need to file a claim by **December 24, 2011** to get benefits. After the Court approves the Settlement, meetings will be held across the country to help Class Members file claims. You can register for a Claims Package at the website or by calling the toll-free number.

### What are my other rights?

- If you want to keep your right to sue the USDA about the claims in this Settlement, you must exclude yourself by **February 28, 2011**. Unless you exclude yourself, you will be bound by the terms of this Settlement.
- If you stay in the Settlement, you can object to or comment on it by **February 28, 2011**.

The Court will hold a hearing on **April 28, 2011** to consider whether to approve the Settlement and the attorneys’ fees. The Court has appointed attorneys to represent the Class. You or your own lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense.



# Menard family makes serving their country a family affair

## FATHER, DAUGHTER, SON DEPLOYED TOGETHER IN IRAQ

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — As we remember spending Thanksgiving with family and friends and get ready for the Christmas holiday, military families would like to believe the people in their community are thinking of them.

In this post 9/11 environment with the housing crisis, health changes, post-election challenges and terror plots being thwarted — it seems almost every other day — we should take a moment now and then to remember our troops and why they put their lives on the line for the rest of us.

A local family, the Menard's, have made serving their country a family affair. Terry and Deb have been together since she was 13 and have been married for 38 years. Their son Shawn has a 13-year old son, Gabriel and their daughter, Ann, has an 8-year old daughter, Lily and a son, Austin, who is 5.

Shawn and Ann are enlisted in the US Army National Guard 1437th Multi Role Bridge Company based out of the Sault, while their father - Terry - retired from the unit in 2004 after 30 years of service.

Asked who had the toughest job, all three agreed that Deb did. The backbone of her family, Deb served as sounding board, community projects coordinator, mom, grandmother, babysitter and wife. Honored for her commitment to her family and community, Deb was awarded the highest civilian award by the Adjutant General of Michigan — the Michigan Legion of Merit.

Terry joined the Army in 1969 at the age of 18. In the 82nd Airborne, he was transferred to Germany with the 8th Infantry Division in an armor unit. From there he went to Vietnam with the Americal Division. According to Menard, the Americal Division only exists during a time of war in the southern hemisphere. The unit was created during WWII on the island of New Caledonia and instead of giving the unit a number they named it after both nations. It later became known as the 23rd Infantry.

The last combat unit to leave Vietnam, the men and women of the Americal Division headed home in April 1972.



Shawn Menard, Deb Menard, Ann Menard Dailey and Terry Menard (left to right).

Back in Sault Ste. Marie, Terry decided to enlist in the National Guard Reserve and went back on active duty in 1983. In 1998 he transferred to the 177th Infantry Regiment at Fort Custer; he transferred back to the 1437th in time to deploy with his son and daughter to Iraq in 2003. "I don't think we had any combat experienced soldiers in that whole unit," he said. "I knew what they would be going into, I recruited some of the kids in that unit. I could contribute and teach them things they wouldn't have any knowledge of. I knew it would be hard on Deb but I thought it was important to go. Having been deployed — it is a lot less stressful to be there in theater then to be home when your kids are gone."

Ann said they sometimes struggled with the line between operations staff and father and daughter, twice getting into an argument over who was going to carry her bags.

SSG Shawn Menard joined the Navy in 1990 before graduating from high school. Six years later he joined the Navy Reserve and worked on a mobile dive and salvage unit. Returning home in 1998, he joined the Guard and transferred into the 1437th. "I think that is the best unit I will probably ever belong to," he said, "and I think the best job in the Army is being a 21 Charlie — being a boat operator."

One of the things the 1437th doesn't see a lot of, according to Shawn, is heavy combat operations. Having a pension for action, he sought out jobs that would allow him to use his combat skills. Falling into a unique opportunity, Shawn joined a joint U.S. and Latvian unit where U.S. personnel were embedded in a Latvian reconnaissance platoon in key leadership positions. "It was like a 1960s style special forces for internal defense," he said.

An infantryman and a company advisor, he had a whole company of Afghan soldiers he was responsible to train for combat operations. "We ended up losing a few guys at the end, it was a rough ride," Shawn said.

Shawn was awarded a Bronze Star with a V-device in Afghanistan and a Combat Infantry Badge for engaging the enemy as an infantryman in ground combat; the same awards his father was awarded years ago in Vietnam. While training to deploy to Afghanistan again in 2011, he is also working full time for the state as a trainer.

SSG Ann (Menard) Dailey joined the Guard in 1997 as a senior in high school. "I went to see my dad one day at work and walked down to the recruiters office and decided to join on a whim," she said. Dailey started in a part-time administrative position before going full time

as an active duty guard. In 2003 she became a non-commissioned officer and has been working in training and operations. "I like my job and I like operations but I would never deploy with my family again," she said. "When my brother would go down the road I would track the vehicles and sometimes the tracking system would go down. Or something would happen — the vehicle was no longer on the route and you knew when they were supposed to return; I would be waiting and wondering when they didn't return on time. It's bad enough with your friends, but with family it adds extra stress."

Ann and her husband Jeremy, who is a lieutenant in the Guard, met while they were deployed. Jeremy also served as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division and is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in 2012.

Deb said the experience of having her husband and children deployed together in Iraq was indescribable.

"If you are going to do this job, having a family that understands and supports you helps," Shawn said. "Being able to tap my dad's experiences was very helpful. Nothing you learn in Iraq is going to apply to Afghanistan. Vietnam — for better or worse — is a much closer war to what is going on in Afghanistan. When I first came into the Guard there were only a handful of Vietnam veterans left. Those guys knew stuff that would keep you alive, but it's not written down anywhere. Even when you are in a bad place doing a hard thing, you are so busy doing that thing that your focus is really nailed to that. My dad was there, knows how bad it was and there was nothing he could do to help other than give me advice."

Shawn, who has two college degrees, said he has turned down safer, better paying jobs to do what he is doing. "I'm a soldier. I'm going to go where I'm supposed to go whether I believe in what I'm doing or not. What you are fighting for when you are in combat is not ideology; it's not even patriotism — that's too esoteric and ambiguous. In the middle of a firefight all you care about is that you love the guy to your

right like a brother and you know you have to keep him safe and he has to do the same for you. When I am on some mountainside somewhere I don't have any control over what is going on back in the States. But others do and they need to pay attention to what's going on in the world and what our government is doing. Make sure those lives are there for a purpose, not just to accomplish a mission."

Terry said there is much in the military that is driven by politics. "They have lost track of the fact that those are human lives we are dealing with. We send a unit into a valley and there is a disconnect that those are America's young kids, not just a unit with a number on it."

Deb said American men and women are going off to war without the protection of the best equipment available. "Shawn spent thousands of dollars of his own money before he went to Afghanistan so he had the best boots on his feet and the best armor, because they don't provide the best. American's should know that our soldiers are buying their own equipment to protect themselves — it's shocking," she said.

Shawn spent about \$7,000 on equipment that was necessary to his survival in Afghanistan that was not provided by the military. "That is your life insurance," he said. "You pay a heavy price in a lot of different ways to be a soldier. A lot of young soldiers can't afford to buy their own boots and equipment because they are not paid well. My mother always told me that eventually you get to the point where your blood turns green. That's what happened."

Shawn has four more years of active duty before he qualifies for a full retirement. He plans to continue training young men and women for combat and return to school for a Ph.D. in psychology and work with soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress. Ann plans on returning to school for a bachelor degree in psychology. Terry has an associate degree in business administration and was the first person in his family to graduate with a college degree. Deb remains their rock and the center of their family unit.

# How to beat the holiday blues when you are grieving

FROM SAULT TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Did you know there is no "right" or "wrong" way to observe the holiday season when you are grieving?

Losses come in many forms. Death of a loved one, a pet, job loss, separation from family members, break-up, divorce or deteriorating health are just a few examples of losses that may trigger a grief process.

Many people become more acutely aware of their losses on significant dates, such as

holidays, birthdays and anniversaries. Planning ahead can help to make such days meaningful, even in the midst of grief.

The most important thing is to find a way to handle the holidays that feels right for you.

Here are some things to consider as you search for what feels right.

— What would feel best to you — doing what is familiar, doing things very differently, or some combination of old and new ways? By doing things just a bit differently, you can pre-

serve traditions while acknowledging that things have changed.

— How much do you want to be around other people?

Find a balance between time for yourself and time with others. Choose to be with people who are supportive, comforting, whose company you enjoy.

— Find out how others close to you may be affected by the loss and the holiday. Talk about your plans and make compromises to ensure everyone is comfortable and their needs are met.

— Limit unnecessary stress. Decide what is really important to you in observing the holiday and what is not. Be careful of doing things just because someone says you "should."

— What might you do to honor your loved one on the holiday? Burning a special candle, hearing music your loved one enjoyed, recalling fond memories or doing something to help others in memory of your loved one are all possibilities.

— Recognize that your day may include laughter and joy, as

well as tears and sadness.

If, in spite of planning ahead for this holiday season, you or someone you know needs more emotional support than friends and family are able to provide, remember that Sault Tribe Behavioral Health provides urgent, brief and ongoing counseling services to tribal members of all ages. Call the Behavioral Health office in the Sault at 635-6075 or outside of the Sault, call the nearest tribal center and ask to speak with Behavioral Health staff.

# Understanding the Sault Tribal Court

SUBMITTED BY JOCELYN FABRY

This article is the first in what we hope will be a series of articles focusing on our Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court. The goal of these articles is to provide information to the membership and the community at large regarding tribal court – to explain the court's structure and judicial processes, as well as to highlight any new developments with the court.

The Tribal Court encourages interest in the judicial process and any resulting public scrutiny or constructive criticism. Consequently, the tribal court hopes that this recurring series of articles aids in stimulating such interest while also providing the public with a tool to further delve into the emerging tribal jurisprudence.

In the judicial system, the court's role is that of interpret-

ing and applying the laws and resolve disputes that arise under them in the name of the tribe. The board of directors enacts the law. The tribal court has no involvement in cases until they are filed in the court. Once a case is filed in the court, the court conducts hearings and reviews the evidence presented by the litigants in a structured, legal framework. The court then renders a decision by applying the pertinent law as enacted by the board of directors to the facts as presented by the parties. The tribe's laws consist of the tribal Constitution, the tribal Code and board of directors' resolutions and other enactments.

Our tribal court system now has a two-tiered framework. We have a trial-level court and an appellate court. The trial-level court was first established by

board Resolution 5/11/77J in 1977. The board of directors, under the authority set forth in Article VII, Section 1(g) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, established the tribal court as it currently exists within Chapter 80 of the tribal Code. Chapter 80 provides that the tribal court has "the jurisdiction provided in the tribal Code and in any subsequent enactment of the board of directors." Tribal Code §80.106. As such, the tribal court is not a separate, independent branch of government and only has the authority granted to it by the board.

The appellate court, which has "the exclusive jurisdiction to review the decisions of the tribal court," was established via enactment of Chapter 82 of the tribal Code. Tribal Code

§82.109.

Tribal Code currently provides that the tribal court has jurisdiction to hear the following types of cases: criminal, child welfare, juvenile delinquency, landlord-tenant, guardianship, civil garnishment, adoptions, conservation, torts, workers compensation, traffic, civil infraction, enforcement of foreign judgments, civil contempt, emancipation, general civil and personal protection orders.

We will devote future articles in this series to explaining the jurisdiction and procedure involved in the different types of cases. Currently, the tribal court does not have the jurisdiction to hear divorce, custody, child support or probate cases involving tribal members, among other types of cases.

The tribal court is at 2175



Shunk Road, in the George K. Nolan Judicial Building. The court holds the majority of its hearings in this facility, but does currently travel to Manistique on a monthly basis to hold hearings in cases arising in the western portion of the tribal service area. The court also makes use of its videoconferencing equipment to conduct hearings in outlying areas as well.

Should you have further questions regarding tribal court, please call the court at (906) 635-4963. While staff cannot provide legal advice of any kind, we would be happy to answer any questions that are informative in nature.

## Working to make Gem Island a Sault Tribe historical site

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

SUGAR ISLAND, Mich. — A letter signed January 31, 1861 by the Bishop of Upper Michigan, Frederic Baraga, left a one-acre or more piece of land as a reservation for Native Americans living in a small village on Sugar Island.

That piece of land has since been sold to a private party who has logged all the timber from the site. Deciding to look into the matter and try to reclaim the reservation land as a historical site, Sault Tribe members Leslie Ruditis and Micky Frchette recently traveled to the Diocese of Marquette Bishop Baraga Association to do some research. Archivist for the Diocese, Elizabeth Delene, found a map in the 1931 Hillsdale Archeological Atlas of Michigan that shows an Indian reservation in that spot dated 1855.

Frchette said Bishop Baraga

went to the people in the community known today as Gem Island and asked to build a Catholic church in their village. It is said the elders of the time were hesitant, so Baraga told them if they allowed a church to be constructed he would make the site a reservation so it could never be sold and would permanently belong to the Native peoples there.

The church of St. Joseph in the village of Point of Peninsula on Sugar Island was then constructed with the blessing of Chief Shawanibnessi and Bishop Baraga where it stood until about 1940.

The Diocese is currently performing a search for the original survey of the land. Ruditis and Frchette hope once the survey is found the tribe will be able to use that to their advantage in obtaining the land back.

Ruditis and Frchette, members of both the Gem



Photo by Brenda Austin

Left: Micky Frchette and Leslie Ruditis

Island Preservation Group and the Sugar Island Powwow Committee, have brought the two groups together to work on this project. "Our long-term goal," said Ruditis, "is to get that land back for our people and make it a historical site so it can no longer be sold."

The letter, witnessed by E. Perrault and Chief

Shawanibnessi, states:

"Bishop Frederic Baraga, and Shawanibnessi, and all the Indians who live here at Point of Peninsula, all of them are happy that a Catholic church was built here in their village, and that one acre of land was selected to have here a church. But this land, and the church, no one will be the only owner,

all together will own it; the priest will own it, so that he may say Mass here, and that he may preach here, and do all that the priest thinks that he must do; but the Indians will own it, to worship there, and that they do all things as much as they think Catholic Christians must do.

"The priest will never be able to sell it; and the Indians who are living here now, and who will be praying here (those who will be Christians) will not be able to sell this piece of land and the church."

Ruditis said that while reading the *History of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie and Marquette, Vol. II*, by Rev. Antonine Ivan Rezek, he ran across an entry naming today's Gem Island the "Place of Reserve."

Leslie Ruditis can be contacted by emailing: leslieruditis@yahoo.com.

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## Burial ground cleaned up



Photo by Leslie Ruditis

HONORING OUR ANCESTORS — On Nov. 9 and 10, members of the Sugar Island Powwow Committee cleaned up the ancestral burial grounds memorial in Sault Ste. Marie's Brady Park. Frisky and Elizabeth Young discussed the state of the grounds at the committee's November meeting and the group decided the grounds could use a good clean up before the snow flew. Young, Brandon Salvorsen, Shawn Payment, Clarence "Bouncer" Cadreau, Micky Frchette and Leslie Ruditis mowed and raked the grass for a fresh start in the spring. The theme of the Sugar Island powwow is "Honoring our Ancestors," and what better way to show respect for our ancestors than to clean up the site, noted Ruditis. Above, left: Shawn Payment, Brandon Salvorsen and Bouncer Cadreau.

# McKillip and Bangert wed

Christy Mckillip and Merle and Carol Preseau of Cheboygan, Mich., announce the marriage of their daughter/granddaughter, Natassia, to Scott Bangert of Algona, Iowa.

They were married by Monsignor Michael Hazard on July 17, 2010, in Kalamazoo, Mich., at St. Joseph's Cathedral. Natassia's matron of honor was her cousin, Amanda Garlock (Preseau) of St. Ignace and the best man was Nicholas Bartz of Des Moines, Iowa.

Natassia and Scott currently live in River Falls, Wisc. Natassia is a special education teacher at New Richmond High School working with students who have severe/profound disabilities. Scott is a police officer with the River Falls Police Department.



# Kevin Rice helps his college team win cross country championship

Sault Tribe member Kevin Rice last October helped his Cross Country college team place first at the 2010 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Cross Country Championship Oct. 21 in Cary, N.C. The Winston-Salem State Rams dominated the meet to win the first cross country championship since the WSSU cross country program was started in 2005.

According to a write-up in their local paper, one of the highlights of the meet was a last minute sprint by Rice who moved up four places in the final 100m of the race to place eighth with a 27:08.5. The surge gained key points for the Rams and demonstrated the heart that the team showed all season long.

A freshman at Winston-Salem State University of Winston-Salem North Carolina, Kevin joined the



Coach of the Winston-Salem State Rams cross country team and Sault Tribe member Kevin Rice (L-R).

Rams this fall as one of the top newcomers to the team. He is a 2010 graduate of Ben L. Smith High School, Greensboro, N.C., where he earned numerous honors including all-conference in both track and field and cross country. He is an exercise science major and the son of Kevin Rice Sr. and Rebecca Rice.

# Birth...



**KAMBRIAH ROSE LINDBLAD** was born Sept. 29, 2010, at 2:32 p.m. at Marquette General Hospital to mother Michelle Lindblad.

Kambriah was 7 pounds, 6.6 ounces and 20 inches long.

Grandmother is Sue (Lindblad) Snyder and great-grandmother is Rose Milburn.



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Dec. 3-4 - Electric Motor Fish  
Thursday Night Comedy  
December 9 - Tyrone Davis with Gooch

Show begins at 9:00 p.m.

**St. Ignace**  
Dec. 3-4 - Center Stage  
Wednesday Night Comedy  
December 8 - Tyrone Davis with Gooch

Show begins at 9:00 p.m.

**Manistique**  
Dec. 3-4 - Karaoke

## Old Fashioned Christmas

Kewadin Hessel

November 26 through December 5, 2010

## Breakfast with Santa

Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie DreamMakers Theater

December 12, 2010

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

## Light Up the Night!

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December 31, 2010

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# Soo Jr. Lakers Pee Wee AA hockey team wins Greyhound International AAA tourney

The Soo Junior Lakers Pee Wee AA team won the Greyhound International AAA Showdown tournament across the river in Canada.

In semi-final action on Sunday, the Junior Lakers shut out Pino's Junior Greyhounds 8-0.

Sault Tribe member Brenden MacLaren had a hat trick, Ashton Calder, another Sault Tribe member, had two goals and single goals were made by Brendan Miller, Brenden Krause and Ryley Alaspa.

Travis Zaborowski had three assists and Tanner Reattoir had the shut out in net.

In the championship game, the Junior Lakers faced York



The Soo Jr Lakers Pee Wee AA hockey team.



Sault Tribe member Brenden MacLaren.

Simcoe Express from the Toronto area, who also was undefeated heading into the

final game. The Lakers won 12-5. Brenden MacLaren had four goals, Brendan Miller and Brenden Krause had two goals, single goals were made by Ryley Alaspa, Ashton Calder, Derek Crane and Zak Lasley. Landon Hubbard had four assists and Tanner Reattoir was in net.

## Pfc. Joseph Schwiderson serving in Marine Corps

Joseph Allen Schwiderson enlisted in the delayed entry program of the United States Marine Corps while attending Brimley High school and is a June 2009 graduate.

He left for basic training on Jan. 25 when he went to the United States Marine Corps recruit depot in San Diego, Calif. Joe graduated April 23, 2010, as Pvt. Schwiderson.

Schwiderson proceeded to Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he attended the school of infantry. He is stationed in 29 Palms, Calif.

He is the son of Rick Schwiderson of Brimley and Carl and Melissa Starr of Sault Ste. Marie.

He is the grandson of Robert



and Ann Schwiderson of Dafter, Hildia and the late Norm Ball of Marquette, great-grandson of Norma Amarose and the late Mike Amarose of Hessel and the late Joe and Racheal Schwiderson of Dafter.

## Pfc. Ricky Schwiderson stationed at Fort Irwin

Ricky James Schwiderson enlisted in the National Guard while attending school at Michigan Youth Challenge Academy in Battle Creek, Mich. After graduation on Dec. 6, 2009, he became a recruiting assistant for the National Guard.

Schwiderson was sworn into the Army on May 10, 2010, and left for basic training at Fort Benning, Ga. He graduated on July 23, 2010, going on to the school of Infantry where he graduated Aug. 27, 2010, at the National Museum of Infantry Ceremonial Grounds at Fort Benning.

He is stationed at Fort Irwin, Calif., National Training Center.

Schwiderson is the son of Rick Schwiderson of Brimley, and Carl and Melissa Starr of



Sault Ste. Marie. He is the grandson of Robert and Ann Schwiderson of Dafter, Hildia and the late Norm Ball of Marquette, great-grandson of Norma Amarose and the late Mike Amarose of Hessel and the late Joe and Racheal Schwiderson of Dafter.

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The staff of Win Awenen Nisitotung wish you and your family a merry Christmas and happy and healthy new year!

# STAY launches new website for kids, adults

SUBMITTED BY BARB SMUTEK

The Sault Tribe Alive Youth (STAY) Project is pleased to announce the launch of our official website, [www.stayproject.org](http://www.stayproject.org).

We have been successfully reaching out to people through social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Myspace. Find us using the search term "STALiveYouth" and join

[www.stayproject.org](http://www.stayproject.org).

over 1,000 people who have connected with us to prevent youth suicide.

Our new website is very exciting. We have worked hard to provide interesting, relevant and educational information for youth, college students and young adults, parents and professionals on the topics of suicide prevention, bullying, mental

health, getting help, statistics and lots of great resources.

Also, we want to say "g'tchi miig-wech" and give credit to the professional website development company, Miwebmedia.com. It would not have been possible without the countless hours that were contributed by Miwebmedia.com to the layout and design of the STAY Project site.

The purpose of the STAY Project, a three-year grant funded by SAMHSA, is to develop and implement a tribal youth suicide prevention program and early intervention plan for the eastern and central Upper Peninsula of Michigan, to help our youth stay alive.

If you have questions feel free to contact us at: [stayproject@saulttribe.net](mailto:stayproject@saulttribe.net) or (906) 635-8629.

# Smutek speaks at international conference

SUBMITTED BY ANGELINE BOULLEY-MATSON, EDUCATION DIRECTOR

The Sault Tribe Alive Youth (STAY) Project was recognized recently as an outstanding tribal youth suicide prevention project.

STAY Project Manager Barb (nee Gravelle) Smutek was invited to speak at the sixth annual World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health



and Prevention of Mental and Behavioral Disorders in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 17-19, 2010. The STAY Project was highlighted for developing the Seven Feathers Partnership Board, an advisory board comprised of tribal and non-tribal partners from across the seven-county service area.

Smutek spoke as part of a panel on *Breaking Down Silos: Cross-Project Collaboration*

*to Support Communities in Promoting Mental Health and Wellness in Native Communities.*

The conference focused on sharing best practices in the field of mental health.

The STAY Project is a three-year grant through the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act and administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Sault Tribe will have received \$1.5 million

through the end of the project to develop and implement a tribal youth suicide prevention and early intervention plan for the eastern and central Upper Peninsula.

For more information about the STAY Project or to get involved with the Seven Feathers Partnership, please contact Barb Smutek at (906) 635-8629 or [bsmutek@saulttribe.net](mailto:bsmutek@saulttribe.net).

# Christmas at Alberta House exhibition and sale Dec. 1-24

**Original art for decorating and gift giving**

The work of area artists and craftsmen will be on display in Alberta House Arts Center Dec. 1 - 24, in the annual "Christmas at Alberta House" exhibition and sale.

On display is a wide variety of original, handcrafted items for the home, for the Christmas tree, and for Christmas giving. Included is original jewelry; Christmas cards; nautical and wildlife paintings, photographs and prints; sculpture; pot-tery; hand woven and hand knit apparel and table linens; blown and stained glass; wood crafts; pine needle baskets and much more.

Alberta House is located at 217 Ferris Street, one block west and one half block south of the Post Office in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. It is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday through December 24.

For more information call Alberta House at 635-1312 or

log on at [www.saultarts.org](http://www.saultarts.org).

Alberta House is owned and operated by the Sault Area Arts Council, a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the arts in the Sault area.

## Thank you

I would like to express my sincerest gratification to the Sault Tribe Higher Education Committee in honoring me as a recipient of the Bernard Bouschor Scholarship.

In demonstrating my appreciation, I will continue to strive towards success while pursuing a teaching degree at Michigan State University.

It is with the gracious support of this scholarship I am able to pursue such opportunities, helping me achieve the goals I have set and continue to set for myself.

Again, thank you for your support.

—Sincerely,  
Jessica Stone

# Happy Holidays Merry Christmas

We would like to wish you all a very merry, happy holiday season!

We will be closing at noon Friday, December 24 to celebrate the Christmas Holiday.

Remember...  
Our ATMs Are Always Open

It's all about YOU



## Health clinic announcements

**Hessel monthly foot clinics**  
Schedule with Terrie Milligan  
Non-diabetic: Second Wednesdays, 9-11:30 a.m.  
Diabetic: Third Tuesdays, 8:30-11:30 a.m.  
Diabetic: Third Thursdays, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

**Hessel blood pressure and blood sugar clinics**  
Third Mondays, 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Hessel diabetic support**  
Third Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

**St. Ignace monthly foot clinics:** Schedule with Community Health.  
Non-diabetic: First Mondays

Diabetic: Second Tuesdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Diabetic: Fourth Thursdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**St. Ignace baby 101 education class**  
Mackinac Straits System Hospital, second floor, Sault Tribe conference room B. Enter through emergency room. 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14 and Jan. 11. Infant CPR will be covered.

**St. Ignace diabetic support**  
Third Tuesdays: 1-2 p.m.  
Mackinac Straits System Hospital, second floor, Sault Tribe conference room B.

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# Folks from far and wide gather for annual Anishinaabe Veterans Powwow in Kinross



Above, military veterans lead the first grand entry of the seventh annual Anishinaabe Veterans Powwow in Kinross on Nov. 13. Left, a fancy dancer shows off his bustle.



Sault Tribe's seventh annual Honoring our Anishinaabe Veterans Powwow in Kinross took place on Nov. 13 and 14.

This year, 50 dancers, four drums and a crowd of 350 attended.

The powwow included a heart-felt rendition of the Star Spangled Banner performed by Danielle Petingalo and a military 21-gun salute thanks to an area veterans' organization.

Gene Reid served as head veteran for the powwow, Gary Gibson as head male dancer

and Theresa Chingwa as head female dancer. Joe Medicine served as master of ceremonies and Dale Anderson was arena director. Drums were Sturgeon Bay from Harbor Springs, Bahweting Singers from Sault Ste. Marie, Eagle Lodge from Bay Mills and Elk Spirit from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

According to powwow committee member Bud Biron, people came from all over the region — from Toronto to Mt. Pleasant and points in between. "It was a great

### Photos by Rick Smith

powwow," he said. Folks came from Minnesota in the west and Vermont to the east.

All enjoyed a feast on Saturday evening and a breakfast and brunch were served on the following day. The spirit of Rosemary Gaskin's frybread was there as her great granddaughter, Amber Gaskin, made frybread reminiscent of Rosemary's. Biron recounted how, when Joe Medicine

announced free frybread, there was a virtual stampede. "It was a fry bread riot!" he laughed.

The Kinross Powwow Committee thanks Chippewa Animal Clinic in Sault Ste. Marie, Willabees of Brimley, BP Gas Station of Kinross, the Pizza Parlor, Clyde's of Kinross, Anderson Tackman, DJ Malloy, Attorney Dyke Justin, Sault Tribe, Sault Tribe Housing

Authority, Henry Anderson, Tammy and Bud Biron, Deb Pine, Tony Nertoli, Sault Tribe's YEA Program and everyone else who contributed. Special thanks go to Kewadin Casinos for help with the rooms and whitefish.

The committee is very appreciative of all the donations, time and support to make the powwow honoring our veterans a big success.



Above, youngsters follow in the procession in their finery. Right, veterans posting staffs and colors. Lower right, a shawl dancer shows her colors and moves. Below, ladies looking like royalty.



Below, Sault Tribe member Melissa Causley captured some of the colorful beauty at the Anishinaabe Veterans Powwow in Kinross.



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Our mission is to use traditional values and cultural practices to encourage our youth in responsible decision making while giving knowledge of the legal system and principles.

Volunteers are needed for Teen Court staff. If you are between the ages of 12-18 years old and interested contact Jennifer Blair at the Sault Tribe Teen Court Office.

Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians: Teen Court  
2175 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Contact person: Jennifer Blair, Juvenile Probation, (906) 635-7742

## 23rd Annual 2010 Sobriety POWWOW

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Head Female and Male Dancers:  
Bernadette & Maheengun Shawanda.  
Arena director: Dale Anderson  
Emcee: Joe Medicine

**Grand Entry 1pm and 7pm  
Feast at 5pm**

Call Cecil Pavlat or Elaine Clement at  
(906) 635-6050 for more information.

## Manidō Giizisoons Little Spirit Moon Spiritual Gathering

Thursday, Dec. 30,  
12-6 p.m.

Niigaanagiizhik Building  
Cultural Center,  
2 Ice Circle

12 p.m. Lunch Social  
1 p.m. Teaching Circle  
5 p.m. Giveaway

Everyone is Welcome!  
Please bring your dishbag.

Sponsored by  
Sault Tribe  
Powwow Committee.



Midnight Countdown! Games! Hand Drum Exhibition! Potato Dance!  
Vendors! Free Skate! Coloring Contest! Give-away!

**Absolutely no Drugs or Alcohol**

# United Way Committee sells soup and frybread



Photos by Brenda Austin

Left, Lisa Moran handing Sheila Bingras of Kewadin Casino Housekeeping a bowl of soup at the United Way fundraiser. Sheila's sister Jennifer Helminen, also of Housekeeping, waits behind her in line while Cecil Pavalt waits his turn.



Jake Sellers visits with Terry Romano (L-R) as he waits for his order.



Above, Sault Tribe United Way volunteers working at the soup and frybread fundraiser Oct. 29, at Sault Kewadin Casino's Bingo Hall.



Soup and frybread in hand, Jennifer Helminen and Sheila Bingras (L-R) head for the dessert table.

# Kudos to Kewadin Team members of the month



November's Team Member of the Month in the Sault is Tristan Nolan of the DreamCatchers Restaurant. Not pictured: November team member of the month at Hessel was Northern Reward Clerk Maggie Rounds. Way to go Tristan and Maggie!



Congratulations to Bar Server Sherry Carros, Christmas November team member of the month. She is always there with a smile to share with customers and co-workers.



**GEORGE BELONGA**

George Belonga, 89, of St. Ignace, helped his wife for 25 years in a foster care home, and was a foster parent to dozens of youth. Mr. Belonga died Nov. 13, 2010, at Mackinac Straits Long Term Care Facility.



He was born June 7, 1921, in Carp River, one of 12 children born to Oliver and Mary (nee LaFave) Belonga.

He married his wife, Gladys, June 20, 1942.

Mr. Belonga worked on the construction of the Soo Locks. He also worked for Fern Barrett Homes as a truck driver and for Hollingsworth Lumber. He retired after 36 years of service with Edison Sault Electric Company, as plant operator in St. Ignace.

He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church.

Mr. Belonga was a key player in the establishment of the elders of the Sault Tribe. He loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing and taught his children the same. He played fast pitch softball and was an avid bowler. He had a sewing machine business in his home and was known as someone who could fix anything. He had a small farm on Rabbits Back Road and raised a large garden and goats and sheep to feed the family. In his early years he was in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

He is survived by five sons and their families, Chico Belonga and Wayne and Cheryl Belonga, all of St. Ignace, Ken and Tammy Belonga, Donald Belonga and Jeff Belonga, all of Lansing; a daughter and her family, Gloria Louder of Cheboygan; nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He is also survived by a sister, Lucy Savard of St. Ignace.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Gladys, who died Oct. 16, 1994.

Visitation was on Nov. 15 at Dodson Funeral Home. Services were on Nov. 16 at the funeral home with Deacon Don Olmstead officiating. Burial was in St. Ignatius Cemetery, beside his wife.

Pallbearers were family members.

Memorials may be made to hospice.

**DARREL CORP**

Darrel Corp, 62, passed away Nov. 5, 2010, in Waterford.

He was born Aug. 24, 1948, in Sault Ste Marie to Herman and Elizabeth "Betty" Corp.



Mr. Corp grew up on Murray Street in St. Ignace, and was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

After high school graduation, he joined the merchant marine and then the U.S. Army, serv-

ing a tour in Vietnam as a truck driver. He was a prison guard for the Michigan Department of Corrections for 20 years and lived in Rudyard during this time.

Many remember his little cabin on the hill and the home he built on this property, his family said, complete with a backyard shooting range, animal feeders and one of the area's tallest flag poles.

After retiring, he moved to Phoenix, Ariz., for a brief time before returning to Michigan.

Mr. Corp loved target shooting and guns, photography, and wildlife preservation. Well known for his animated stories, he had a wonderful sense of humor.

He is survived by four children, Carol Haller of Grand Rapids, Sarah Corp of Waterford, Nathan Corp of Phoenix, and Ashley Nylund of Grayling; a sister, Nancy Sasada of Milwaukee, Wisc., and a lifelong friend, Kevin McClean.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Betty, and a brother, Jacque.

Family visitation and services were on Dec. 4, at the Kewadin Shores event center in St. Ignace.

**JON CORP**

Jon Anthony Corp, 56, of Flint and Tombstone, Ariz., died Nov. 15, 2010, at Henry Ford Hospital, where he had spent more than a month in the intensive care unit. He was unsuccessful in his effort to overcome liver failure, which in turn led to kidney complications.

He was born May 14, 1954, in Flint to John William and Isabella Mary (nee DeMaria) Corp.

He was graduated from Swartz Creek High School, and was employed by General Motors for a brief time.

Mr. Corp was especially proud of his Indian heritage and was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. To honor this heritage, a traditional Indian ceremony will be held at a later date when he is buried in the family plot in Gros Cap Cemetery.

Mr. Corp's favorite memories included summers he spent assisting his grandmother, Agnes Corp, with her rental cabins in St. Ignace. He loved to travel, and for a period of time lived in Houston, Texas, but always returned to Flint. Four years ago he moved to Tombstone where he spent the winter months, returning each spring to Flint and St. Ignace, his favorite place.

Mr. Corp enjoyed hunting and shooting sports, and became a champion quick draw shooter in the state of Arizona. He had many friends around the country.

He is survived by a brother and his family, Joseph J. and Becky (nee Wolak) Corp of Goodrich; three nieces, Heather (nee Corp) Alexander, Nichole Corp, and Cristina Jones, and

several cousins. Also surviving are two of his best friends, Dale Scanlon and Gregory Ryan.

**RITA M. DALE**

Rita M. Dale, 76, died Nov. 24, 2010, at War Memorial Hospital. She was born May 5, 1934, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Orval and Delphine Dietz.



She attended St. Mary's Elementary and Loretto High School, graduating in 1952, and studied political science at Lake Superior State University. On Oct. 19, 1957, she married William D. Dale. She was a lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie and worked, served and volunteered in many positions and offices until her death. Rita was a talented artist, avid bird-watcher and nature lover. She especially enjoyed family outings, nature, and picnics along the beach. She cherished her family and loved spending time with her grandchildren. She was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

She was a member and past president of the Chippewa County Democratic Party. She served multiple terms as a Chippewa County Commissioner and on the Upper Peninsula Board of County Commissioners.

At her time of death, she served on the War Memorial Hospital Board as the board secretary and finance and quality assurance chairperson, Community Care Clinic Board chairperson, and was a member of the Dialysis Board. She was co-chair of several annual Hospital Auxiliary flea markets and she also served on the Chippewa County Health Department Board and the Osborn Trust Management Board.

At various times, she served on the Sault Ste. Marie Historical Development Committee, Bayliss Public Library Board, Community Action Board, Board of Canvassers, Block Grant Board, State of Michigan Community Corrections Board, director of numerators for the U.S. Census Bureau and the Eastern Upper Peninsula Mental Health Board.

Throughout her life Rita volunteered for many causes, including Washington School PTA, Sault Area High School Band Boosters, Hiawatha Skating Club, St. Joseph's Thrift Shoppe, Alberta House, Friends of Bayliss Library, WMH Auxiliary, Campfire Girls, United Way, Boys' and Girls' Club, American Cancer Society, Sault Area Sports Boosters, Habitat for Humanity, Chippewa County Triad and JKL Bahweting School PAC.

She is survived by her children, Jennifer Dale-Burton and son-in-law Mike Burton of Bay Mills Twp., Jane Dale-Palermo, Carolyn Dale and son-in-law Eric Gadjinski, all of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Kirsten Hoover of Tampa, Fla., Jamie Hoover of Clinton Twp., Mich.,

Todd Theel, Tyler Theel and Travis Theel, all of Sault Ste. Marie; sisters, Lisa Dietz and Barbara Dietz, both of Sault Ste. Marie, Leah VanAman of Sandusky, Ohio; and many nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind her lifelong friend, Dolores Swick, and her beloved pets.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William (Bill); brothers, Elvin "Sonny" Dietz, Orval Jr. and Billy; and sisters, Mary Lou Poole and Betty Clark.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 1, 2010, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with Father Peter Zaczynski as Celebrant. Hovie Funeral Home assisted the family. Memorial contributions to the care and comfort of chemotherapy patients at War Memorial Hospital are welcome.

**CONNIE FREDERICKSON**

Constance "Connie" Madeline Frederickson of Frankfort walked on to join our Lord on Nov. 24, 2010. She was born on April 25, 1930 on Neebish Island, the daughter of George and Ann Lawrence.



She grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and graduated from Loretta High in 1948. She married Carl "Cubby" Frederickson in Sault Ste. Marie on Jan. 26, 1949, who preceded her in 1996.

She is survived by her children, Carl Jr. (Jan) of Gladstone, Lucy (Ron) Shobridge of Benzonia, Mary (Gary) Jacobson of Fife Lake, Cynthia (Howard) Herron of Benzonia, Robert of Detroit, foster children, John (Sandy) Lawrence of Honor and Lynda (Eddie) Lawrence of Barbeau. Also surviving are two brothers, George (Rose) Lawrence of Sault Ste. Marie, John Lawrence of Flint; sister, Marlene Sherman of Pipe Creek, Texas; 13 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by daughter, Kristine 1959; son, Patrick 1974; parents 1980; two granddaughters, Elizabeth 1979 and Angela 2004; brothers, Joseph 1930 and Charles 2006; sister, Virginia 1931; and foster brother, Oren 2000.

Connie resided in Frankfort with her family for 30 years, where she enjoyed spending time with her best friend, Elizabeth Charters. She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. In 1981, she moved back to Sault Ste. Marie with her husband and youngest son.

Connie enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren, knitting, reading, and going to concerts and playing the slots. She was blessed with a great sense of humor and enjoyed a good joke. She spent her last two years at Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital Long Term Care, where she will be greatly missed. While there she was cared for by some of her children's playmates and friends.

A memorial service took place on Dec. 4 at Jowett Family Funeral Home in Benzonia. Arrangements by Jowett Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Service.

**ALLEN GREEN**

Allen R. Green, Jr., 45, of the Evergreen Shores area in St. Ignace passed away on Nov. 18, 2010, at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital in Petoskey, following a short illness.



He was born on Aug. 26, 1965, in St. Ignace to Allen R. and Pauline (nee Cadotte) Green of Mackinac Island.

He graduated from high school in Cedarville and was a contract painter who operated a business, Al Green Painting. He worked on Mackinac Island, Cedarville and in St. Ignace, and painted for the Grand Hotel and also contracted to paint carriages for the hotel.

Mr. Green was a certified welder.

Known as "Tub" to his friends, Mr. Green loved fishing, hunting and camping. He was an outdoorsman and a family man.

He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and at one time attended Holy Childhood School in Harbor Springs.

He is survived by a son, Allen R. Green III of Moran; three daughters, Samantha Green and Glenda Green, both of Fruita, Colo., and Sara Green of St. Ignace; three grandchildren, Lily Campbell, Jamisin Green and Leyna Green; his mother and stepfather, Pauline and Ron Halberg of St. Ignace; two brothers and their families, Sam Green of St. Ignace and Dan and Tracy Green of Watersmeet; two sisters and their families, Christine Sutter of St. Ignace and Lois Green of Goetzville, and a brother-in-law, David Sayles of St. Ignace.

He was preceded in death by his father, Allen R. Green Sr., a sister, Sonya Sayles, and his grandmother, Bertha Green.

Services were on Nov. 23 at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace with Deacon Donald Olmstead officiating. Visitation was on Nov. 22 at Dodson Funeral Home, with a prayer service by Father Ted Brodeur.

Pallbearers were Daniel Green, Joseph Miller, Theodore Olsen, Martin Bester, Clarence Swinehart, James Graham, James Sayles and James Hadley.

Memorials may be directed to the family with envelopes available from Dodson Funeral Home.

**NANCY ANN HAHN**

Nancy Ann Hahn, 71, of Buchanan passed away Nov. 17, 2010, at her home. She lived life with humor until the end. She belonged to the Sault Ste. Marie tribe of Chippewa Indians.

## From "Walking On" page 17

Nancy was born Feb. 26, 1939, in St. Joseph. She married Leonard Tidey Sr. in 1965 in St. Joseph and Roland D. Hahn in 1986 in Indiana.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her two husbands - Leonard Tidey Sr. in 1980 and Roland D. Hahn in 2005.

She is survived by sons - Don "Buzzy" (Lorreen) Geisler of Eau Claire and Len "Pooky" (Christina) Tidey of Colorado Springs, Colo.; daughters - Denise (Rob) Cecon of Eau Claire and Lori (Steve) Fairbanks of Cedar Falls, Iowa; stepdaughters - Monica Hahn of California, Heide (Don) Briggs of Berrien Springs and Andi (Mark) Varner of Fisher, Ill.; two very dear cousins - Carmon Green of St. Ignace, Mich., and Janet Flynn of Indiana; beloved uncle Edward Martin of St. Ignace, Mich., and a very loving friend, Nancy Gaul, of Buchanan. She had 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Services were on Nov. 23 at Hoven Funeral Home in Buchanan with Father Joseph Gray of St. Anthony's Catholic Church officiating. Visitation was from earlier in the day to the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will be in Gros Cap Cemetery in St. Ignace at a later date.

Memorials can be made to the family for a scholarship for the Sault Tribe or to the donor's choice.

## PENNY KING

Penny L. King, 57, of St.

Ignace, died Nov. 5, 2010, at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital in Petoskey. She was born Sept. 12, 1953, in St. Ignace, to Vernon and Patricia (nee LaDuke) McCrory.

She graduated from high school after attending Ursuline Academy through the eighth grade.

Ms. King was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She drove a taxi for Straits Cab for more than 20 years.

She is survived by two sons and their families, Patrick and Kayla McCrory and John and Lori Smith King, all of Kincheloe; a brother, Joseph McCrory of Mount Pleasant; a sister, Joann Rutledge of St. Ignace, and six grandchildren, Jessica, Justin, Vanessa, Morgan, Shaina, and Nakia.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Vernon, who died in 2007.

Services were on Nov. 12 at Dodson Funeral Home in St. Ignace. Burial will be in St. Ignatius Cemetery, on the McCrory lot.

Memorials may be directed to the family to help with funeral costs, with envelopes available at Dodson Funeral Home.



## EDWARD R. LATOUR

Edward R. LaTour, 50, of Hessel, Mich. passed away peacefully on Oct. 31, 2010, at War Memorial Hospital surrounded by his family after an 18-month bout with cancer.

He was born Sept. 15, 1960, in Cedarville to Edward R.T. and Shirley (nee McLaughlin) LaTour.

He was a disabled American veteran of the Vietnam War. He worked for Sault Tribe for 25 years in security and maintenance, retiring last year because of illness. He also worked as a cemetery sexton in Marion, Ohio, and worked for Whirlpool. He sailed as a merchant mariner on the Great Lakes, loved to hunt and fish and go to camp near Mio.

He was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, American Legion Post 3 in Sault Ste. Marie and the VFW post in St. Ignace.

He loved karaoke and would always win with his great voice.

He lived in Hessel since 2006.

He is survived by three wives, Linda LaTour of Hessel; Debbie LaTour of Hessel and Linda LaTour of Delaware, Ohio; a special friend, Eleanor McKelvey of Kinross; a son, Brian LaTour of Hessel; daughter, Amy Pollard (Ken Bean) of Kinross; sister, Sharon and the late Donald Hawes of Hessel; brother, Terry LaTour (Robin St.Andrew) of Hessel; three grandsons, Trevor LaTour, Isaac LaTour, Joseph Suggitt Jr.; nieces and nephews, Chad, Mandy, Valjean, Christopher and Stacy Huffman.

He was preceded in death by his parents, father in 1969 and mother in 2002, and a brother, Brian in 1968.

A memorial service was on Nov. 12 at Dodson Funeral Home in St. Ignace with Pastor Floyd Lamoreau officiating. Interment will be later in Cedar Cemetery.

Memorials would be appreciated to the family for funeral expenses with envelopes available from Dodson Funeral Home.

## JACKIE MORELL LUCAS

Jacqueline "Jackie" May Morell Lucas, after fighting a long battle against cancer, passed away on Oct. 31, 2010 in Houston, Texas. She was born on July 25, 1964, to Clyde and Janet Morell in Kenosha, Wisc.

Jackie was a member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She maintained her Native American heritage through fishing, hunting and her love of the outdoors.

Although through the years she loved to bow hunt with her father, she just shot her first deer in 2007. She also loved arts and crafts, especially making Christmas decorations and dream catchers.

Jackie was very spiritual and enjoyed contemporary Christian music. She also took great pleasure in doing things for others



and was always there to support her friends and family.

She resided in the Houston area since 1982 and was the corporate treasurer of her father's company, Quality Service Assoc. for 15 years.

She is preceded in death by her mother, and by her great-aunt, Maybel McPherson, as well as relative tribal members from the Lewis and Sabastian families.

Jackie is survived by her loving husband of 27 years, Richard Lucas; son, Tony Lucas; daughter, Nicole Lucas; father and step-mother, Clyde and Roberta Morell; brother, Charles Morell and wife Robyn; sisters, Michelle Johnson and husband Jerry, Marilyn Mian; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ted and Judy Lucas, numerous nieces, nephews and four dogs.

Visitation and service took place on Nov. 3, 2010, at the Crowder Funeral Home in Pearland, Texas. Entombment immediately followed the service at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Dickinson, Texas.

## RICHARD MASTA

Richard J. Masta, 76, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Nov. 23, 2010, at War Memorial Hospital Long Term Care Unit.

He was born in Escanaba, Mich., on July 21,

1934, to the late Alexander and Margaret (nee Lesage) Masta.

Richard was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and the Operating Engineers Union. He loved to fish and hunt, and enjoyed playing cards with friends. At a very young age he married Adeline Harbaum and even after their separation, they remained good friends.

Richard is survived by his children, Geraldine Lizyness of Rockwood, Mich., Richard J. Masta, Jr. of Sault Ste. Marie and Charles "Alex" (Maxine) Masta of Walkerville, Mich.; six grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister, Theresa "Dolly" Gill and many special nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; five brothers, Leo, Laurence, Clement, Stanley, and David; and a sister, Cecelia Hansen-Dishno.

Visitation was on Nov. 26, 2010, at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and ended with a brief service. Burial will be at Will Walk Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to help with funeral expenses. Condolence may be left online at www.csmulder.com.

## SHANNON VERT

Shannon Vert, 26, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., left her loved ones unexpectedly on Nov. 6, 2010, of a brain aneurysm.

She lived for the moment and loved life. She was the dancing queen, social butterfly, caretaker and the welcomed entertainment of anything in which she partook. Family and friends meant

everything to her.

Shannon's love for others and definition of family knew no boundaries or formality. She was a very special young woman who touched the lives and hearts of everyone she knew.

She taught us to dance like no one is watching, tell stories as if they are legends, seize the happiness life has to offer and that it is impossible to be loved by or to love too many people.

Shannon was employed by Dr. Ganzhorn and, as previously noted, she loved caring for others. She was also an organ donor and her spirit will continue in those who have received her generous gift of life.

She leaves behind the love of her life, fiancé Dane Stanaway, son of Bill and Chrissie Stanaway; her grandparents, Ralph and Wilma Vert, who raised her along with Joe and Kim Dunn, Thelma and Joe Riley, Ralphie and Susan Vert, Cindy and Mike LaCross, Marty Vert, Mark and Laurie Vert, Nancy and Bill Cupp, Carla Hurlburt, Marci and Mike Kravis, as well as her brothers Shawn and Steven Vert, nephew Jordan, aunts, uncles and cousins who were like brothers and sisters to her, in addition to countless friends. She would also want to mention her two dear pets, Kada and Bella.

Her father, Milo Vert, also of Sault Ste. Marie, preceded her in death.

Visitation and services were Nov. 12 at the First Church of Christ. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

Donations may be made at the Soo Co-op Credit Union, 536 Bingham Ave. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, to help with expenses.

## CHRISTOPHER CRAFT

Christopher Lyle Craft, 55, died Monday, Nov. 22, 2010, at his home on Mackinac Island, next to the Grand Hotel.

He was born Aug. 30, 1955, in Kalamazoo to Melvin Lyle and Barbara (nee Claxton) Craft.

Mr. Craft graduated from Portage Central High School in 1973. He was the director of security for the Grand Hotel and had worked for the Musser family for 28 years.

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

He is survived by a son and his family, Christopher and Danielle Craft of Grand Rapids; a daughter and her family, Taryn and Fred Isaacs of Grosse Pointe; his father, Melvin Lyle Craft of Independence, Missouri; his mother and her family, Barbara and Bernie McClary of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario; two brothers and their families, Curtis and Denise Craft of Midland, and Denny and Debralee Craft of Lees Summit, Missouri; a sister, Patricia Craft, Burlington, Ontario; two grandchildren, Ella Craft and Andrew Isaacs, and a granddaughter expected soon. He also leaves nieces and nephews and a special friend,



Amanda.

Services were Monday, Nov. 29, at 2 p.m. at Dodson Funeral Home in St. Ignace. Visitation was from noon to 2 p.m. Denny Craft officiated the service. Memorials may be directed to the family, with envelopes available at the funeral home. A recipient for the memorials will be decided later.

## Memorials

In remembrance of **Brandy Isrow**, to the one I loved as my daughter. I love and miss you every day. I will always love you and will always be in my heart.

Love, Teresa McClurie

In remembrance of **Tom McClusky - Red Feather** Aug. 24, 1953-Dec. 16, 2009

May God continue to hold you, Tom McClusky. I am grateful for all the moments you took my breath away. I'll love you forever.

No one knows the tears still inside me.

People think it's all passed, they think I'm all better. Every once in a while I think, I hope, I pray that things will be better too. But then I remember. And the pain floods back, and the bottom falls out, and I fall and I fall. And I know once again that things aren't all better. My loved one is gone, and I cry alone. —Author not known

From your wife, Angel Eyes, Pam McClusky

My beloved son, I love and miss you very much and wish you were still here with me. The Lord called you home.

Sadly missed by your mom, brothers and sister.

May Machin,  
Your loving mother

I love you and miss you so much Uncle Tom.

I love you.

Your niece, Cindy Mitchell

In remembrance of **Gloria "Sunshine" Paquin** Sept. 6, 1928 - Nov. 12, 2007

You passed away three years ago today. I never thought I'd see the day, let alone be okay. Seems as though I feel your soul, still not ready to let you go. I wake up and think mom, why did you have to go and leave me alone? God took you home, I see your smile and think I'll be okay for a little while. I see the sun and see it shine and take me back to your namesake - Sunshine. I see the roads we used to go, used to make you smile, even if it snowed. To see the trees, it seemed you would gleam, like the morning stream. The glow of the moon, with the smile on its face, lets me know you're in God's grace. I see the green-green grass, means you're free at last, it's all in your past. God's taken you Home, you're free at last. I love you still and always will dear, dear, mother, dear.

Love your daughter,  
Connie Paquin



# Maampii de'aame ke'aabe

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Lake Superior State University featured a display of Anishinaabe art and more in the Shouldice Library art gallery through Nov. 30.

*Maampii de'aame ke'aabe (We are still here): A Collection of Contemporary Anishinaabe Arts, Crafts and Dress*, was available for public viewing, free of charge during regular

library hours.

The collection, which came to campus from the Shipman/Ailing family, was sponsored by the Native American Student Organization in honor of November as Native American Awareness Month.

Beaded artwork including necklaces, barrettes and purses, along with crafts such as turtle purses and a drum, three jingle

dresses and sketches by Graz Shipman showcasing some of the techniques still used in Native art today. Many of the beadwork pieces and craft items were created by local artist Rene Shipman and her friends and family.

For more information about this collection or future displays, contact Mary June, 635-2862, mjune@lssu.edu.



LSSU photo by photojournalism student Michelle Boursaw

From left, Tammy Beard and Diana Hickman check out the Anishinaabe exhibit in the Shouldice Library art gallery during a campus tour of LSSU on Nov. 17 with Admissions tour guide Jamie Roberts.

## Students demonstrate new technology at state capitol



Photo by Mike Porter

**SHOWCASE** — Michigan State Senator Jason Allen (center) greets students from Soo Township Elementary School, in Sault Ste. Marie, who participated in the 10th annual Michigan Student Technology Showcase held Nov. 10 at the State Capitol Building in Lansing. Pictured are teacher Lynn Swartzlander (rear, left) and students (front, from left) Maddison Picotte, Haley Alaspa, Rebekka Ranta, and teacher Jill Celestino. Sponsored by the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, the event attracted 35 elementary, middle and high schools to show elected members of the Michigan State Senate and House of Representatives how technology is being used in the classroom to enhance student achievement.

## Walk for Warmth raises money for needy families

SAULT STE. MARIE — Every winter, Walk for Warmth (W4W) helps dozens of Sault-area families keep the home fires burning, or at least helps keep the furnace running.

A last line of defense in the home-heating struggle, W4W provides funds to help defray home-heating costs to those who can meet criteria, and is administered by the Community Action Agency in Chippewa County.

Several fundraising activities provide the revenue used to help pay heating costs, the best-known of which is the annual Walk for Warmth, scheduled this season at 9 a.m. Feb. 19.

“Last year’s walk raised about \$10,000,” said Kevin Riley, Community Action’s weatherization emergency services director and liaison to the W4W Committee. “We spent that and more helping people with their heating costs in 2009-10, but it was a relatively mild winter. If it is colder this season, we will need to raise considerably more. We certainly will have requests for more than \$10,000.”

Student groups and organizations at Sault Area High School, Lake Superior State University and other area educational institutions raise impressive sums for W4W via walk challenges, contests and fundraising activities.

“Now is the time for school and work groups to organize

competitions,” said David Jahn, CEO at War Memorial Hospital, and co-chair of the W4W committee. “Challenge a school group, service club or your family members and try to raise as much as possible for a great cause. Our goal is to provide heating assistance for every family in need this winter. And plan to walk with us on Feb. 19.”

Traditionally, the mile-long walk takes place on a Saturday morning in February, heading south from Avery Square on Ashmun St. to Easterday Ave., and back north to Water St., then proceeding back to Avery Square for chili, hot chocolate and awarding of prizes to participants.

Last winter, Douglas Lundstrom, 12, from the Sault, was the single most-successful fundraiser, which helped him win recognition as Volunteer of the Year in the Youth Division for the entire Upper Peninsula.

Incidentally, his family was one that benefitted from W4W assistance in 2009.

“At the time, we were struggling as a one-income household,” said Jennifer Lundstrom, Douglas’s mother, and a Community Action employee. “Heating costs were sky high and I asked at the Community Action Agency if there was any way we could qualify for assistance. We got immediate help, and it was wonderful. Just getting a monthly bill paid can



Douglas Lundstrom and his mother, Jennifer Lundstrom, former recipients of Walk for Warmth funds who now raise funds for the non-profit organization. Last winter, Douglas was selected Volunteer of the Year in the Youth Division for the entire Upper Peninsula.

make such a difference when a family is having difficulty making ends meet.”

W4W applicants are carefully screened by the Community Action Agency. W4W aid is used only as a last resort, after Department of Social Services, Salvation Army and other social-service requests have been exhausted.

“We try to help everyone who gets to our step in the process,” said Riley. “We do not have funds enough to help every requesting family, but we do the best that we can until

funds are exhausted and we are careful not to assist any one family or person more than one time during a heating season or to help someone who is not truly in need.”

The Lundstroms take part annually in the W4W and raise funds in advance.

“We know from experience that the walk is a worthwhile experience and such a helpful program,” she said. “I know many people who need and rely on W4W and utilize the program. Douglas has a goal of personally raising \$1,000 this

season. The Community Action Agency gets overwhelmed with phone calls as winter wears on each year. I know that people are already calling, seeking program and qualification information.”

Groups or individuals interested in raising funds for W4W in 2010-11 may access pledge forms on the United Way, Soo Co-Op Credit Union, Cloverland Electric or Community Action Agency websites or by visiting the Community Action Agency’s downtown office.

# August Elder Advisory Committee meeting

Summary - approved minutes of the Aug. 23 Elder Advisory Committee meeting.

Phil Payment opened the meeting at 12:27 p.m. Two collections were taken; one for Bob Menard and family for the loss of his grandson, and one for Phyllis Colegrove and family for the loss of her son and grandson.

Dolore LeVeque offered a prayer.

Joan Karlson took the roll. There was a quorum with eight voting members and seven alter-

nate members present. Absent voting members were excused by motion.

Ann Miller was the only guest in attendance. Emma LeClerc, AmeriCorps VISTA represented staff. No tribal chairperson or board members were present.

The agenda and the minutes of July 26, 2010, were accepted with no changes.

Old business:

2010 Scholarship Program, only five applicants to date.

Report on letter to board of

directors regarding reinstating Holly Kibble, Bob Menard submitted letter to the board, pending response. Also, Phil Payment will call Courtney Kachur regarding the legality of petitions in tribal centers. It was decided to write petitions in support of Holly.

Report on letter to board/ election committee regarding "meet the candidate" forum, pending response from board and election committee. There was none to date

New business:

Coming NICOA/MIEA meeting in September, Emma LeClerc handed out more travel information to those committee members who will be attending. Discuss Sault Tribe's turn to host MIEA meeting in 2011: tabled to next meeting.

Elder Service Division report, Emma LeClerc presented results of the survey about which elder benefit budget cuts should be reinstated first. The results were as follows, in descending order: funeral assistance, recreation, Christmas check, transportation,

health fund optical, health fund hearing. Emma also handed out the updated schedule for the needs assessment.

Questions and comments from elder audience: inquiry about the board salary, it was determined that there was no point asking.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m. with the next regularly scheduled meeting to be Sept. 21, 2010.

*Submitted by Emma LeClerc, on behalf of Joan Karlson, secretary.*

# September Elder Advisory Committee meeting

Summary - approved minutes of Sept. 21 Elder Advisory Committee meeting.

Bob Menard opened the meeting at 12:18 p.m. and a prayer was offered by Dolores LeVeque. A moment of silence was observed for those of our community who recently walked on and for our armed forces and their families. Bob Menard took the roll. There was a quorum. Seven voting members and five alternate members were present. Those absent were excused. Five guests were in attendance. There were no staff members present, nor was Chairman Joe McCoy or any board members in attendance.

The agenda was accepted with the addition of item 8.c., "Develop questions for Elder Services director job interview."

The minutes of the August 23, 2010 meeting were approved without change.

Old business:

Phil Payment, scholarship program coordinator, commented on the progress of the program and that the applications were in the hands of the judges for their determination of the winner. He also informed the group that there were two applications that had to be eliminated from consideration because they did not meet the requirements. He intends to bring the results of the judging to the next meeting for the group to make the award.

Bob indicated he had received a letter from Chairman Joe McCoy saying the termination of Holly Kibble is final. There were signed petitions supporting her reinstatement from the elders of Newberry, Escanaba and Munising. It was a consensus that the petitions be submitted to the board of directors in spite of the letter from Chairman McCoy.

Bob indicated he has had no reply from the Election Committee regarding the sug-

gestion that a "meet the candidate" forum be set up prior to an election for each of the areas having a unit subcommittee. There will be a follow-up to that request.

New business:

A brief discussion ensued regarding the combined National Indian Council on Aging and the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) meetings to be held Sept. 25-28, 2010.

Bob said he had communicated with Joe McCoy and Kristi Harwood regarding the fact that it is the Sault Tribe's turn to host a MIEA meeting and that Kristi Harwood gave tacit approval to hosting the April 2011 meeting.

Bob indicated he had suggested to Chairman McCoy that since Holly's replacement is extremely important to the elders, that the elders should have a role in selecting that person. The matter was passed on to Kristi Harwood and she

discussed the matter with Bob. She didn't find direct involvement in the interview process acceptable and workable but did say that she would entertain questions from the elders to be included in the interview by the interview panel. Bob drafted six questions to be a starting point for the group in a discussion to develop and prioritize a set of questions. The following are the questions agreed to by the group, in the order of priority:

1. What role do you feel that elders should play in the tribal community?

2. What role should the Elder Services director play in the affairs of the Elder Advisory Committee?

3. Do you feel that the Elder Services director should regularly travel to participate in monthly unit subcommittee meetings?

4. Should the Elder Services Division budget include funding for elder participation in

state and national elder oriented events?

5. What importance would you place on maintaining a viable meal program for the members of the outlying elder subcommittees?

6. What knowledge do you have of the socio-political structure of tribal elders activities in the tribal community?

7. Do you think that management should assign someone to orient the new Elder Services director to the new job?

Bob will submit the prioritized list to Kristi Harwood by 12:00 p.m. tomorrow with a copy to each member of this committee.

There was no Elder Services Division report. There were no questions or comments from the elder audience. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m. with the next regularly scheduled meeting to be Oct. 25, 2010.

*Submitted by Bob Menard for Joan Karlson, secretary*

# October Elder Advisory Committee meeting

Summary - approved minutes of Oct. 25 Elder Advisory Committee meeting.

The meeting was opened by Bob Menard at 12:18 p.m. with a prayer being offered by Dolores LeVeque. A moment of silence was observed for those of our community who recently walked on and for our armed forces and their families. Secretary Joan Karlson took the roll. There was a quorum of nine voting members present. Those absent were excused. Four alternate members were present. Eight guests were in attendance. Emma LeClair represented elder staff and neither the Chairman Joe McCoy nor any board members were present.

The agenda was accepted without change, as were the minutes of the Sept. 21, 2010, meeting.

Old business:

Phil Payment, scholarship program coordinator, reported that application judging has been completed and the winners decided. Unfortunately, Phil didn't have his base sheet with him so he couldn't identify the winners by name; however, they were applicants six and seven. Phil indicated that there were nine applicants and that two of the applications were not considered as they

did not meet one or more of the requirements. Phil will get the names to Emma LeClair so that she can submit them for payment of the two \$500 scholarships. Phil will also write a piece for the tribal newspaper on the program winners and he volunteered to coordinate next year's program, if there is one.

Bob indicated that he still has had no reply from the Election Committee regarding the suggestion that a "meet the candidate" forum be set up prior to an election for each of the areas having a unit subcommittee. It was a consensus that he find out who the chairperson of the Election Committee is and follow-up on that request.

Bob reported he learned that four of the six questions submitted by the Elder Advisory Committee to be used at the interview for the new Elder Services Director were, in fact, used. He didn't know which ones. It is known that a lady by the name of Sheryl Hammock was chosen for the job and that she will take over this next Thursday. It was decided that Bob meet with Ms. Hammock and establish a dialog for the elders.

Bob indicated he had had a preliminary discussion with Kristie Harwood about the Sault Tribe hosting the April

2011 meeting of Michigan Indian Elders Association. Kristie said that money had been budgeted and that the new director will have to make the preliminary arrangements. Bob will assist her using his past experience hosting the event. Tentatively, it will be held in the third or fourth week of April to take advantage of more clement travel weather.

New business:

After a brief discussion, it was decided by a 7-2 vote that the Elder Advisory Committee would not meet again until March 28, 2011, to take into account the potential for adverse winter driving conditions.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the combined National Indian Council on Aging and the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) meetings of Sept. 25-28, 2010, hosted by the Grand Traverse Band in Acme, Mich. Due to conflicting events, there was no quorum for the MIEA meeting and therefore no business could be conducted. Bob pointed out that unfinished business will have to be taken care of at the April meeting by the new president, Clinton Pelcher.

Elder Services Division report, Emma LeClair reported she is continuing with her work

on the elder survey and that she will be working on an elder abuse grant.

Questions and comments from the elder audience,

Bob Macabee informed the group regarding the coming powwow honoring the veterans

to be held Nov. 13 and 14 at the Kinross Recreation Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m. with the next regularly scheduled meeting to be March 28, 2011.

*Submitted by Bob Menard for Joan Karlson, secretary*

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# Building Healthy Communities Grant awarded to Manistique elementary school

SUBMITTED BY KERRY OTT

The students at Emerald Elementary School in Manistique learn how to make exercise and healthful eating regular parts of their time at school and at home, thanks to a Building Healthy Communities Grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

The grant funds help Emerald to implement programs teaching students and parents about nutrition and physical activity across the school curriculum and outside of the school day.

Teachers at Emerald have received training, materials,

and equipment necessary to implement the Exemplary Physical Education and Physical Education (EPEC) and Nutrition (PE-Nut) curricula at the school. EPEC is an award winning PE program designed to promote life-long physical activity skills in students. PE-Nut is part of the Healthy Classrooms/Healthy Schools program and uses a whole-school approach to motivate students, parents and educators to be physically active and eat healthier. In PE-Nut, physical educators, classroom teachers and principals work together to improve nutrition and physical



Second grade students in Mrs. Karen Sherbinow's class at Emerald Elementary School in Manistique received their Super Healthy Hero glasses recently as part of the Healthy Classrooms/Healthy Schools Program implemented at the school. At left, Ms. Kathy Dale's first and second grade students learn how to add short bouts of physical activity into their school day from Tracie Abram, health and nutrition educator from MSU-Extension, Schoolcraft County.

activity in K-5 school settings.

Tracie Abram, health and nutrition educator with MSU-Extension in Schoolcraft County is working with Emerald teachers to implement the programs.

Recently Ms. Abram awarded students in Ms. Kathy Dales first and second grade classes and Mrs. Karen Sherbinow's

second grade class their healthy superhero glasses as they learned to identify opportunities for healthful eating and physical activity in their environments. Ms. Dale's class put the lessons into practice with a healthful snacks Halloween party. Currently, Ms. Abram is implementing the program with second, third and fifth grade

classes at Emerald, and will be working with kindergarten, first and fourth grades over the winter.

Other programs to be implemented over the winter months at Emerald include: a walking club for students and a BodyWorks program to help parents and other caregivers improve family eating and activity habits, beyond the school environment.

The City of Manistique Recreation Department is the community partner in the grant with Emerald. The city has received \$2,000 for Safe Routes to School planning activities and for implementing part of the action plan from a *Promoting Active Communities* assessment which is currently being conducted.

The Sault Tribe Strategic Alliance for Health project in Manistique assisted Emerald in writing and implementing the grant program. For more information about the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Building Healthy Communities grant, please contact Kerry Ott at 341-9561 or Emerald Principal, Jason Lockwood at 341-4332.



## Strategic Alliance for Health is promoting Walkable Liveable Communities in the U.P.

The Sault Tribe Strategic Alliance for Health Project sponsored a Walkable, Liveable Communities workshop in November conducted by Dan Burden, an internationally recognized authority on bicycle and pedestrian facilities and programs, livability, sustainability and smart growth. The main purpose of the event was to bring together key stakeholders from the four funded Strategic Alliance for Health Communities: Manistique, Munising, St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie.

The workshop gave participants an opportunity to look back on changes made to improve walking and biking in each community since Dan's visit and workshops in October of 2009 and also to look forward on what needs to be done. People from two new partnering communities of Kinross and Newberry came to learn from Dan and the other funded communities about how to begin the process of developing a vision for creating healthy, livable, sustainable and prosperous communities.

The workshop began with a walking audit of downtown Newberry.

Strategic Alliance for Health Community Coordinators provided a list of improvements made in their respective communities and reported on ideas for next year.

• The Manistique Strategic Alliance for Health Coalition has completed a sidewalk

inventory and the Manistique City Council unanimously adopted a Complete Street resolution on September 13, 2010. They have also initiated a farmers' market, which has increased access to fresh, local foods. Plans for this year include improvements on M 94 to include sidewalks, decorative lighting, and four pocket parks. The Safe Routes to School committee is working to complete a grant application in March 2011.

• The Munising Strategic Alliance for Health Coalition has also completed a sidewalk audit and improved crosswalks near the Mather Elementary School. Munising has also received a Transportation Enhancement grant from MDOT to complete 1.5 miles of a bike path. Munising is working on development and adoption of a complete Streets Resolution and a Safe Routes to School grant application.

• The St. Ignace Mackinac County Wellness Coalition and Strategic Alliance for Health project have identified two crosswalks which need improvement in order to be safe for pedestrians. These crosswalks will be repainted in the spring. The coalition plans to work on development of a Complete Streets Resolution to be adopted by the City Council. The City would also like to develop a pedestrian transportation plan to be included in the City's Master Plan.

• The Building a Healthier



Participants gather to begin a walking audit of Newberry. From left to right, Lisa Simmons, Newberry Tribal Health Center; Erin McNamara, Tahquamenon Area Schools; Jessica Price, MSU Extension; Sundae Garrrod, Helen Newberry Joy Hospital; Bill Glime, Village of Newberry; Nick Derusha, LMAS District Health Dept.; Dan Burden, Walkable, Liveable Communities, Inc.

Community Coalition and Strategic Alliance for Health in Sault Ste. Marie have joined forces to provide a Complete Streets resolution which the City of Sault Ste. Marie adopted on August 2.

As part of the Safe Routes to School initiative, the Sault Tribe Transportation Planner has made safety improvements to JKL Bahweting School's student drop off/pick up by paving 8th St., adding a sidewalk and adding a parent drop off/pick up site to relieve congestion at the school bus pick up/drop off. The coalition also identified and assisted the city in painting nine miles of bike lanes. Coalition members are continuing to conduct walking audits to identify areas for improvement and are expanding the Safe Routes to School initiative to include

three elementary schools and the Sault Middle School.

The Partnering communities of Kinross and Newberry also developed some ideas to make their communities more walkable and livable.

• Newberry participants want to look at making crosswalks more visible, implement a Walk to School Day, provide some maintenance and promote the Zellar Trail. Some long term goals developed were: implementing a Farmers' Market, conducting sidewalk audits, more lighting on side streets and the Zellar Trail, working on complete streets for Newberry Avenue, and working on the proposed Civic Center to provide more recreation opportunities.

• Kinross participants indicated that there is a need to

connect tribal housing to stores and shopping. There is also a need for traffic calming at tribal housing sites and for more lighting on walkways. The U.S. Bike Route 35 has been proposed to go through Kinross. The community will be responsible for marking the route with signage.

Dan Burden's message to the group was simple. There are some key things that all Walkable, Liveable towns have in common. These are: farmers' market, healthy corner stores, community gardens, gateways, public art, benches, green spaces/ gathering spaces, complete streets, mini circles, trees and boulevard streets.

The Sault Tribe Strategic Alliance for Health (SAH) is assisting these communities by providing each with \$5,000 this year to implement non-motorized transportation planning. SAH is also providing a stipend of \$3,000 to each partnering community to work on policy, systems and environmental change.

For more information and to learn how you can be involved, contact your community coordinator listed below. For information about the SAH project in Newberry or Kinross contact Donna Norkoli at 635-8844.

In Manistique call Kerry Ott at 341-9561; Munising call Randy Sundell, 387-4721; St. Ignace call Jeanette O'Rourke, 643-8689 and in Sault Ste. Marie call Michelle Conway at 632-5255.

# Resource management survey coming in 2011

By ERIC CLARK, BIOLOGIST,  
INLAND FISH & WILDLIFE  
DEPARTMENT

As previously reported, Sault Tribe received grant funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP).

The IRMP is a document that will articulate a long term vision sustaining our natural

resources for seven generations and a strategy to achieve that vision.

The Sault Tribe has many different programs and departments that both directly and indirectly manage our natural resources. We will use this strategy to help us manage our resources in a deliberate manner with a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.

In developing this strategy, the tribe is gathering ideas and information from our membership. You may have completed a pilot survey or participated in a focus group in the past year.

In the early months of 2011, Sault Tribe will be working with Michigan State University to conduct a mail and online survey of the membership. This survey will provide the tribe

with valuable new information and follow-up information to the 2005 Inland Hunting, Fishing and Trapping survey.

If you receive a survey in the mail please take the time to fill it out and return it to Michigan State University. Your input is truly vital to our understanding and protection of the ways that members use our shared natural resources - and member

feelings and opinions regarding resource management directions.

By completing this survey, you can help create our long term vision for Sault Tribe natural resource management.

If you have any questions about the IRMP project, please contact the Inland Fish and Wildlife Department at (906) 632-6132.

## Burn barrels soon to be relics of a different time

Just about anyone who has a little gray in their hair remembers the days when their mom would send them out to the back yard with a brown paper bag filled with discarded mail and food wrappers and a strike-anywhere match. The mission: Burn the trash.

Now, burning household waste — anything from paper to wood, plastics and foam products — is an anachronism in most of the state. Beginning April 1, 2011, it should be just a distant memory everywhere as new regulations on open burning go into effect.

The current exemption to state regulations against open burning that allows folks to burn their household trash will be eliminated.

“This is not a novel idea,” said Jim Ostrowski, an environmental analyst with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment’s Environmental Assistance Program. “In fact, Michigan is one of just a handful of states that still allows people to burn trash without restrictions and the only Great Lakes state that

does not restrict or prohibit the activity.”

Simply put, burning trash is not a good idea. It allows the release of environmental contaminants - such as hydrogen cyanide, benzene, lead, mercury, dioxin and carbon dioxide — into the environment. Just the fine particulate matter in the smoke itself is potentially harmful to people with respiratory issues and can result in both acute and chronic health effects, such as asthma. Youngsters and the elderly can be especially vulnerable.

And the other side effects? Trash burning not only results in numerous smoke and odor complaints, it is often the cause of wild fires as well as property fires.

The change in regulations will not include burning leaves, brush or yard clippings, but even in those cases there are alternatives that are more environmentally sound, such as composting.

Prior to the change in April, burning household refuse is allowed in burn barrels, though unattended fires are never a

good idea and can always have serious consequences. The DNRE estimates that 30 percent of all wildfires are caused by burning debris and hundreds of thousands of dollars of property damage occurs annually because of outdoor burning.

Burn barrels are often a source of conflict between neighbors; which “right” is more important: allowing people to burn household refuse or guaranteeing that everyone can open their windows without noxious smoke and odors getting into their homes?

Forest fire regulations require a burn permit for any fires outside of a burn barrel at anytime the ground is not covered with snow. In northern Michigan, most burn permits are issued by the DNRE, though in southern Michigan — and some larger northern Michigan communities — burn permits are issued by the local fire department.

Information about burn permits is available online at [www.michigan.gov/burnpermit](http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermit).

The change in regulations will generally not effect open

burning of trees, logs, shrubs and brush as long as the burning occurs at least 1,400 feet outside the limits of an incorporated village or city. However, there are a number of areas in the state that the DNRE considers priority areas where such burning is NOT allowed. A list of these priority areas can be found at the website [www.michigan.gov/openburning](http://www.michigan.gov/openburning), under “Michigan Open Burning Laws and Rules.”

Typically, open burning of leaves or grass clippings is prohibited in municipalities with populations exceeding 7,500 unless local ordinances specifically allow the practice.

The new rules do not apply to recreational or campfires. So you don’t have to worry about the youngsters missing their s’ mores.

The DNRE has no intention of forming a posse to round up people who continue burning household refuse, but prefers to focus on educating people about the dangers and potential adverse health effects of burning. However, local officials

may choose to enforce the provisions if they deem it necessary in response to complaints from residents adversely affected by burning. The department expects that some local units of government will either change existing ordinances or create new ones to address open-burning issues.

“We realize that there are going to be some road blocks and challenges,” Ostrowski said. “It will take a cooperative partnership with local units of government to implement this change successfully.”

Among the tools the DNRE hopes will ease the transition is a database to help citizens identify waste disposal options in their areas and outreach materials — developed in partnership with the Department of Community Health — to educate both citizens and elected officials about the open-burning rule and the dangers of trash burning.

Ideally, the change in regulations will result in less pollution, less smoke, less odor, fewer wildfires and better health for everyone.

## Planning for next year’s garden helps fill winter months

SUBMITTED BY LARRY DYER  
TRIBAL EXTENSION EDUCATOR  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

The end of the gardening season is bittersweet, the hard work is done for the season, but so are the warm summer days and pleasant hours in the garden. If you aren’t quite ready to give up gardening for the year you could start on next year’s garden in your mind. This is a good time to start planning next year’s garden because this year is still fresh in your mind.

If you haven’t been keeping a journal of your gardening activities, now would be a good time to take stock of this year’s garden and write down what you remember. Which varieties did well and which did poorly? What crops do you wish you had planted more of? What questions came up that you would like to spend time researching during the winter months?

Your garden will be more productive and manageable if you take the time to plan the garden layout and crop rotation. There is no one correct way to lay out your garden, but there are some guidelines to follow. To start with, think about what you want to grow. Some things like potatoes and sweet corn require more space than others. Many crops can be

managed more intensively in a smaller space, such as lettuce, spinach, herbs, and trellised cucumbers or green beans. It is very important to pay attention to spacing of your plants when you are planning your garden beds. Each crop will have an optimal spacing, which can be varied somewhat depending on the fertility of your soil and how carefully you water. It’s easy to overcrowd your garden when you are putting seeds or small transplants into bare ground. But crowding can lead to nutrient or water stress and disease problems. Try to visualize August with large robust plants and space accordingly.

When laying out your garden try to place tall crops like sweet corn, trellised tomatoes or pole beans where they won’t shade the smaller plants. You could follow an early season crop like spinach with a summer crop like Swiss chard. Cool season crops like spinach, broccoli, Asian greens or cabbage can be planted in the spring then again in the fall. You can also use space efficiently with companion planting — plants that grow well together. Perhaps the best-known combination is the traditional three sisters garden of corn, beans and squash.

For long-term garden health it is important to have a crop rotation. Crops in the same

plant families will often have similar nutritional needs, pests and diseases. So it is good to group plants into family groups and rotate through a sequence of crops or family groups.

Some common plant families are nightshade (tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, potatoes), legume (beans, peas), squash (cucumber, melons, watermelons, squash), mustard (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, Asian greens) and beet (spinach, Swiss chard, beets).

An important consideration is how big of a garden you want to manage. Do you want to grow enough tomatoes to can your supply for the whole winter, or do you just want a few slicers for salads? Answering questions like that will help you decide what kind of beds to make. If you want a large garden, have the land and have access to equipment you may want to plant directly in the ground. If space is more limiting and your gardening ambitions are smaller you may want to build raised beds. Raised beds can also be helpful for people with limited mobility — they can even be made wheel chair accessible. If you don’t have space for garden beds you could plant your garden in containers — anything from decorative planters to five-gallon buckets.

A good source of information to help with your planning is [www.extension.org/pages/Vegetables:\\_Planning\\_and\\_Preparing](http://www.extension.org/pages/Vegetables:_Planning_and_Preparing). When it comes to actually putting seeds and plants in the ground everything may not go exactly according to plan. But a plan will give you a good starting point and will help you make good decisions when another gardening season rolls around.

Larry Dyer is a tribal extension

educator with Michigan State University Extension working with the Bay Mills Indian Community, Hannahville Indian Community, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

His office is at the Emmet County MSU Extension office in Harbor Springs. He can be reached at (231) 439-8982 or [dyerlawr@msu.edu](mailto:dyerlawr@msu.edu).

### MSU Extension brown-bag lunch gardening series with Larry Dyer

Michigan State University Extension Educator Larry Dyer has been hosting an informational series, “Talk gardening with Larry.” The program is a brown bag series held on the fourth Thursday of each month (except December) from 12-12:50 p.m., in the Sault Tribe Health Center auditorium.

Each brown-bag session will have a topic with hand-outs, but after a brief presentation the conversation can go to whatever people have on their minds and in their gardens. So bring your lunch and come “talk gardening with Larry.”

Larry Dyer is a tribal extension educator with Michigan State University

Extension working with the Bay Mills Indian Community, Hannahville Indian Community, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

His office is at the Emmet County MSU Extension office in Harbor Springs. He can be reached at (231) 439-8982 or [dyerlawr@msu.edu](mailto:dyerlawr@msu.edu).

Dates and topics:

- Jan 27 - Planning your garden
- Feb 24 - Deciding what seeds to order (bring your favorite catalogs)
- Mar 24 - Starting your own seeds
- Apr 28 - Composting

# I'm dreaming of a green Christmas

BY KATHIE BROSEMER,  
ENVIRONMENT DEPT.  
MANAGER

No, not without snow, what would Christmas be without snow in the U.P.? No, I mean "green" Christmas, as in, energy saving, low-trash, low-carbon-footprint Christmas. We can all give this gift to Mother Earth this Christmas, with a little thought and planning.

'Tis the season for overconsumption and waste, it seems. Did you go bargain-hunting on black Friday or cyber Monday? You're not alone. In fact, you were probably part of a pretty good crowd. But overconsumption is what's driving the environmental problems of our age, including the biggest bogeyman of them all, climate change. The more we drive, buy and throw away, the more carbon goes up in smoke for powering vehicles, factories and landfills. Buying something made in and shipped all the way from China, wrapped in excess packaging, that will break and be trashed and replaced, is just not sustainable.

So, what's a North American to do? The drastic step is to opt out completely. Black Friday is also known as Buy Nothing Day, [www.buynothingday.org](http://www.buynothingday.org). Check that one out for a mind-bender. But you don't have to

cancel Christmas or turn into Scrooge to be a little greener.

Start by paring down your Christmas gift list. If your extended family hasn't already done so, see if you can get others to agree to exchange names rather than everyone shopping for everyone — just how many presents do adults need, anyway? Start a new reuse tradition with those who agree. One idea is that gifts could all be "regifted," perhaps a favorite book or DVD could be passed along. Homemade gifts or edible gifts make lovely and thoughtful low-environmental-impact presents, too, as are gifts of a ser-

## TALKING TRASH

The tribe's Environment Department is gathering information and stories to incorporate into a solid waste management plan for the tribe.

Do you have stories about old dump sites, interesting local recycling initiatives, current open dumps that are a problem?

We need to hear from you. Confidentiality assured, no names need to be named.

Please call 632-6050, extension 26033, or email [kbrosemer@saulttribe.net](mailto:kbrosemer@saulttribe.net).

vice or experience. Babysitting, car washes, theater tickets, all make wonderful and valued gifts.

Some ideal Christmas gifts help the recipient save the planet, too. Consider whether someone could use energy-saving light bulbs, low-flow but high-pressure showerheads, weatherstripping, or the gift of your time to install these things for them.

Gift wrap is another way you can save the earth, and save money, too. Most purchased wraps contain metallic coatings and dyes that are toxic when burned — if you have some of this, don't put it in a fireplace, woodstove, or burn barrel, you don't want to breathe these poisons. Better yet, figure out a way to avoid buying any. You can make the wrap part of the gift with a nice Christmas kitchen towel or napkins. You can wrap gifts in some cheap Christmas print fabric, or even the funny papers. You can enlist the kids and make potato-print wrapping paper with tempera paint. You can purchase reusable gift bags, whether paper or cloth, or make cloth ones yourself. Reusable bags can be stored from one Christmas to the next and thus make wrapping paper and bows one less thing you have to run out and

buy each year.

Christmas lights have come a long way in recent years. First we saw the big, old, hot, energy hogs replaced with mini lights, and now they've evolved even further with the advent of Christmas LED lights. These save so much energy in use that they more than make up for the carbon-cost to manufacture, so don't feel guilty about taking your older light strings out of circulation. If you only take one Green step this holiday season, make it this one. Replace older light strings with LEDs.

Oh, Christmas tree. If you already own an artificial tree, don't throw it out just because I'm going to advocate for natural. Take very good care of it and make it last as long as you possibly can. You see, these trees are mostly made in China, from PVC plastic (dioxins formed in manufacture and released when disposed of) and metals, and they are not recyclable. Just reuse it as long as you can.

But if you don't already own an artificial tree, don't buy one. Get a real tree, perhaps consider a potted one that you can keep cool until spring and plant out for Earth Day (I have mentioned Earth Day, right? It's April 22). But if you can't afford a potted tree or can't take

**Ideas to take it easy on Mother Nature this holiday season**

care of it until spring, a locally-cut real tree is your best choice. Christmas trees are usually grown on marginal farmland, where food crops wouldn't work out well anyway, and they provide an income for people who are living close to the land. Afterwards, you can recycle them by putting them out for winter bird habitat, then in spring clipping off the branches to use for fire starter for your campfires. It all goes back to Mother Earth.

There are many other ideas out there to green your holiday season. Eat locally-harvested foods, and don't waste food — plan ahead, freeze leftovers, share. Reuse Christmas cards for gift tags. Cut down on car use by combining shopping trips. Don't idle the vehicle — it's wasteful and unnecessary. Use natural plant materials for decorations and wreaths. You can, no doubt, think of many more.

Use your imagination and think of what Mother Earth would like for Christmas.

Stop in at 206 Greenough St. in the Sault, and meet the Environment staff in our new digs Dec. 21 (the winter solstice) between noon and 4. We'll have fresh coffee and hot cider on, and we'd love to meet you.

## Tribes, private landowners can apply for WHIP

WASHINGTON, D.C. — USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently issued a final rule for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) that adds a new national priority for restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

The new WHIP national priority is "to protect, restore, develop, or enhance important migration and other movement corridors for wildlife." This complements the four existing national WHIP priorities that focus on activities to benefit native fish and wildlife habitats,

at-risk species, and declining or important aquatic wildlife species, in addition to reducing the impacts of invasive species on fish and wildlife habitat.

Authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, WHIP is a voluntary program for conservation-minded landowners who want to develop and improve fish and wildlife habitat on agricultural land, non-industrial private forest land and Indian land.

The final rule incorporates a number of other changes to the original program, including:

— Restricting eligible lands to private agricultural land, non-

industrial private forest lands and tribal land;

— Clarifying that pivot corners and irregular areas are eligible habitat;

— Increasing the proportion of annual funds available for long-term agreements (15 years or longer) to 25 percent;

— Providing the Secretary of Agriculture discretionary authority to address state, regional, and national conservation priorities; and

— Establishing a \$50,000 annual payment limit per person or legal entity.

Applications are accepted

continuously and are ranked by the state conservationist, based upon criteria developed with input from the state technical committee. The program is available in all 50 states and territories.

WHIP applications must address traditional natural resource issues such as water quantity, water quality, grazing lands, forest health, soil management, emerging natural resource issues and climate change.

USDA published an interim final rule for WHIP on Jan. 16, 2009, and published amend-

ments to the interim final rule on March 12, 2009, and July 15, 2009, each time soliciting public comments.

Additional information about WHIP is available at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip). To view the final rule, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

This year, 2010, represents the 75th year of NRCS "helping people help the land."

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

## USFS urges awareness of illegal drug operations on public lands

USFS officials are urging members of the public to steer clear of possible illegal drug operations in Michigan's national forests and report anything they might see.

For many years, the Forest Service and other law enforcement agencies have worked together to identify and clean up illegal drug operations on National Forest lands in Michigan. In 2010, a total of 1,500 marijuana plants were removed from National Forest lands in Michigan, according to a press release. A methamphetamine production site ("meth lab") was also found on the National Forests this year, with nine suspects under investigation, according to the release.

For the first time, authorities are finding large drug trafficking organizations operating marijuana gardens on Michigan's National Forests.

According to Forest Supervisor Tom Schmidt, the safety of National Forest visitors and Forest Service employees is the agency's top priority. All local partner agencies are committed to keeping our National Forests' workforce and public safe, and preventing the resource damage that occurs from the illegal marijuana operations.

"While it's unlikely visitors will come across this kind of activity, we also want to make sure that hunters, hikers, campers and other recreationists know how to stay safe," said Schmidt in a recent release.

Most illegal drug production activity is during the spring and summer months, but the sites can remain dangerous year-round due to chemicals, explosives and other materials sometimes found on the premises.

Common signs of marijuana gardens include:

— Informal, unmarked hiking trails;

— Human habitation in remote areas; signs of established camping, cooking, and sleeping areas;

— Gardening paraphernalia like hose drip irrigation, fertilizer bags, insecticides and tools;

— Pungent strong odor. Marijuana plants can have a strong smell, especially on hot days;

— Paper cups, chicken wire, or plastic sheets. These are often used for starting and protecting plants;

— Signs of cultivation or soil disturbance in forested areas, especially in remote areas;

— Trash in remote areas; — Propane bottles or tanks. Growers use propane to avoid smoke from campfires;

— Sights or sounds of human activity in remote forest

areas;

— People sitting in the forest along forest roads. They may be growers waiting for food drops or supplies;

— Food cached near trailheads or alongside roads;

— Individuals with firearms when hunting seasons are closed;

— Booby traps such as explosives triggered by trip wires.

Signs of a methamphetamine production lab include the presence of household chemicals, glassware, tubing and cookstoves or Bunson burners.

If you come across signs of illegal activity do not approach or confront the individuals present at the site; do not in any way indicate that you are suspicious of their activities. Instead, the Forest Services recommends:

— Immediately leave the

area along the same route you entered.

— Watch for other people in the area.

— Be aware of your surroundings at all times. In some instances, potentially dangerous devices or harmful materials might be nearby.

— Make every effort to avoid contact with suspicious packages or equipment; they might be highly volatile.

— When you are safely away, write down a detailed description of the activities taking place, the area, the people and any vehicles.

— Immediately report the activity to local law enforcement or Forest Service personnel.

If you have questions about illegal drug-related activity on the Hiawatha National Forest, please contact our law enforcement staff at (906) 786-4062.

# Chairman McCoy reports to the membership



**DARWIN "JOE" MCCOY**  
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Merry Christmas and happy new year!

It is a pleasure to inform you that the board of directors and I have been looking outside of the gaming industry to diversify our investment portfolio. As you may know by now, the tribe is considering an investment in a renewable energy company, named Indian Energy LLC, based in Newport Beach, Calif. The company is 100 percent Native American-

owned and headed by CEO Allen G. Cadreau, a Sault Tribe member and experienced engineer with long standing energy sector expertise.

In October, the tribal board of directors voted to purchase a 15 percent equity stake in the company, which seeks to develop, build and operate conventional, renewable and hybrid solar power plant technologies in the United States, Mexico and internationally.

The tribe has retained a law firm to examine the company and help us determine if this is a sound and prudent investment. We await the report from the firm. No investment will be made until we receive the report and it can be considered again by the board.

You, the tribal members, elect a board of directors and a chairman to represent the membership on matters of importance, including investment opportunities. We only make informed decisions after hours of long meetings with tribal members, consultants,

attorneys and others in determining if it will be a wise and good opportunity for the tribe and its members.

In other news, please know the Sault Tribe is closely watching future developments surrounding the casino recently opened in Vanderbilt by the Bay Mills Indian Community. It is my understanding that Bay Mills believes it is exercising a right it is entitled to under the Michigan Lands Claim Settlement Act. The Sault Tribe supports the active engagement of treaty rights and appropriate demonstrations of the sovereignty of all federally recognized tribes.

Later this month, I will travel to Washington, D.C., for the second annual Tribal Nations Conference. Last year, President Obama agreed to keep lines of communication open between the White House and our tribal nations. I look forward to seeing what has progressed since our first meeting. During the conference, I will discuss with other

tribal leaders and leaders in Washington how we can better work together to improve funding for membership services.

Also, the board and I have been collectively looking at ways and investigating opportunities in reaching an agreement regarding the Charlotte Beach Land Claims Settlement, one of which I plan on discussing during my visit to Washington, D.C.

In addition, I will be submitting important health issues during this time such as asking for support to push Congress to make permanent the Special Diabetes funding initiative (SPDI) legislation. This funding directly targets diabetes in tribal communities. I will also ask that they fully fund tribes for Contract Health support costs. We always have a shortfall as to funding all the support costs that the tribes' shoulder in the funding agreements. And, finally, fund the new initiatives in the re-authorized Indian Health Care Improvement Act for unfunded

initiatives such as long-term care, assistive living, home health care and hospice services for tribal members.

On Nov. 10, I was honored to represent the tribe at the 35th annual memorial service held by the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society in memory of the 29 sailors lost aboard the Edmund Fitzgerald. Not only does this ceremony represent the Edmund Fitzgerald, but all the fisherman and mariners who have lost their lives on the Great Lakes – including our tribal fisherman.

In closing, I wish you and your families the best during this holiday season. If you do not have plans for New Year's Eve, bring your family to the Sault Ste. Marie Sobriety Powwow. For information, check our web site at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) or call Elaine Clement, (906) 635-6050 or Cecil Pavlat, 635-6050, 440-7849 (cell), 632-4719.

Happy holidays,  
Chairman Joe McCoy

## The best Christmas memories are our families



**CATHY ABRAMSON, DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Blessings to you and your family during this holiday season. I hope this finds you and yours happy and in good health.

Christmas has been known

to be the giving season. Unfortunately, because of the media and the commercialism, so many people have come to believe that the only way to have a good Christmas is to have one that is filled with lots and lots of presents under the tree. We need to remember, you don't have to have money to give.

During these hard economic times its been so hard for so any of our families to be able to buy special gifts for their children and families. Maybe the most important thing we need to remember is the importance of giving of your time and talents. It doesn't cost a dime. As a matter of fact, my most special Christmas memories were when my dad, Ken McCoy, would play his old

and not so fancy guitar and we would all gather together and sing Christmas carols. We didn't have any money but the spirit of Christmas filled our drafty old house with warmth and happiness. I cherish those memories and count those as the greatest gifts that we received.

Just recently, I attended the funeral of Rita Dale, my elder, my mentor and one that I consider to be an ogitchita quay. This is a woman who truly lived a life of giving. She spent quality time with her family and friends and gave so much to others by becoming active in her community.

Rita was actively involved in the political arena in our community where she served countless hours on the

Chippewa County Commission and the War Memorial Hospital board among a variety of other committees. She worked hard to make life better for the people in our community.

When I was first elected to the board of directors, Rita was someone I looked to for advice. I continued to ask for her advice throughout the years. Rita helped pave the way for women to represent our communities in the political world that really once was a man's world.

As a tribal leader and as a woman, I want to say that I truly appreciate all the hard work that she did for our people and our community. She and my sister, Bonnie McKerchie Spring, were among the strong women who

helped clear the way for those women who now serve in leadership roles. They were my mentors and I will not forget all the gifts they have given to our people now and for future generations.

I enjoyed seeing everyone at the Anishinaabe Veterans Powwow in Kinross and I look forward to seeing everyone at the New Year's Eve powwow at the Big Bear. Here's to the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of new years! Remember! Jesus is the reason for the season!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (906) 322-3823 or [cabramson@saulttribe.net](mailto:cabramson@saulttribe.net). I look forward to hearing from you!

## Despite controversy, we must move forward



**DJ MALLOY, DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Thanksgiving has come and gone and we look ahead to Christmas, a season of renewed hope, charity and the celebration of faith. This time of year, it is difficult for me to be anything less than optimistic. So, I will make this report short and as positive as possible.

There are issues before us that are controversial with the membership as well as a divided board as to how to move forward. But move forward we

must.  
INDIAN ENERGY

A petition has been presented to oppose the resolution to enter into an investment agreement with Indian Energy LLC. The signatures have been validated and the petition meets all the requirements needed to cause a referendum of the people to decide the issue. All that remains for the board to do is to announce to the membership that it is valid and begin the referendum process. I am one of those who voted in favor of this venture, for reasons as stated in my last unit report. But I fully respect the right of the people to call the question to the voters as a whole. I respectfully ask that each of you take time, as I did, to investigate all of the pros and cons in order to make a well-informed decision on the issue before casting your ballot. Information can be found on the company's website, [www.indianenergyllc.com](http://www.indianenergyllc.com), as well as the U.S. Department of

Energy's report on Renewable Energy for the years 2010-2035; [www.eia.doe.gov/oiarf/aeo/pdf/0383\(2010\).pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiarf/aeo/pdf/0383(2010).pdf). Things to keep in mind while researching is that this is a U.S. company owned and operated by Natives, for Native tribes. We have no role in managing the company. We would be investors who seek to receive dividends as the company grows and prospers. The owners of the company, Sault Tribe members, are looking to make the trip back to the Sault to do a presentation to the membership and answer any questions people may have. I will support your voice at the board table.

ROMULUS CASINO  
BUSINESS PROPOSAL

Recently, there have been several member-driven meetings and a petition circulating regarding the board's most recent decision to enter into a business contract with two partners to settle our Charlotte Beach Land Claim suit. In

exchange, we would receive trust land in Romulus, Mich., and the partners would receive a 26 percent stake in the future casino's profits. The contention seems to be driven by the fact that one of the partners is a past associate in Greektown where we lost hundreds of millions of dollars, and finally ownership this fall. I was one of six board members who opposed this partnership. We should know very soon if this, too, will be put up for referendum. My advice here is the same. Please do your homework to allow for an informed decision if you are asked to cast a ballot for or against this business venture. Again, I will support your voice at the board table.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I wish you all the warmth and love this season brings. I wish each of you health and prosperity. And, most of all, I wish renewed hope and faith for all of us. Please remember to look about you this season

and share what you can. Even a smile is a welcome gift to someone who is struggling.

Miigwech! As always, please write me at [dmalloy@saulttribe.net](mailto:dmalloy@saulttribe.net) or call me at (906) 440-9762 with your questions and concerns.

Merry Christmas and happy new year!

DJ Malloy, Unit I Director

**Christmas at Alberta House**  
Works of area artists and craftsmen is on display in Alberta House Arts Center, 217 Ferris, Dec. 1-24, in the annual "Christmas at Alberta House" exhibition and sale.

On display are a wide variety of original, handcrafted items including original jewelry, Christmas cards, nautical and wildlife paintings, photographs and prints, sculpture, pottery, hand woven and hand knit apparel and table linens, blown and stained glass, wood crafts and pine needle baskets.



# 'Tis the season for referendums ...



CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

My intention was to devote this unit report to Christmas cheer and an introduction to Indian Energy LLC, a large scale utility development firm with whom we've recently partnered. But news of this strategic partnership has prompted an individual tribal member to collect 100 petition signatures to strike down the initiative in a referendum election.

First, let me say, I absolutely support the tribal citizens' right of referendum because it is a constitutionally protected right. I only wish this referendum (which cost tribal operations approximately \$30,000) was predicated on something more than misinformation and misguided intent.

But it is what it is. You will soon be getting an election ballot in the mail to vote whether this tribal business decision is allowed to stand.

Therefore, I will attempt to explain why our tribe must begin to strategically diversify our economy and why our investment in Indian Energy is a sound decision and ask for your support.

## UNLIMITED NEED, LIMITED RESOURCES

Most of our tribe's challenges would benefit from additional resources, especially money. Elder care, housing, healthcare, substance abuse, job training, police and safety, defending against federal action and the list goes on. The never ending challenge is unlimited need and limited resources.

As a result, not only is managing existing resources wisely, but developing a vision, plan and executing that plan to create economic growth, jobs and increased revenue also a key responsibility of the tribe. Sitting on our hands or kicking the can down the road for another day is not an option. We must begin to diversify our revenue in order to weather future downturns in our current economy. Some would argue that strategic diversification should wait until we retire our debt in seven years. But it is apparent that even with debt retirement, our currently held five casinos will not keep pace with forecasted needs and I would argue that continuing to invest only in gaming is a risky approach for our future. A passive alloca-

tion of assets into something other than treasury bonds or commercial savings account is a prudent first step to economic diversification. And, just to be clear, we are NOT talking about Elder Trust Fund monies, rather, accrued reserve funds.

With that consideration in mind, the tribe has committed to a \$2.5 million investment for a 15 percent equity stake partnership with Indian Energy LLC. To be sure, this is a seed venture capital investment and by nature poses some risk. After a careful internal assessment of our tribe's own tolerance for risk, the board proceeded to evaluate the equity proposal through an exhaustive due diligence procedure, and, as we go to press, is completing an agreement that spreads the investment over a two-year period and has terms and conditions, benchmark provisions, exit and liquidity strategies and equity protections that are favorable to the tribe.

I want to assure you that sound decision making utilizing established evaluation criteria (McMillan-Siegel) was applied to mitigate the inherent risks to any investment at the seed stage of development and Indian Energy met the factors:

- Strong management team and industry support of key industry sector partners
- Capable of sustained effort;

- Thoroughly familiar with the targeted market;

- A track record relevant to the venture;

- Demonstrated market acceptance;

- The target market enjoys a significant growth rate;

- The venture has a proprietary market advantage;

- The venture will stimulate an existing market;

- There is little threat of competition in their target market in the next three to five years;

- The venture will create a new market;

- Return on Investment (ROI) targeted conservatively at 10 times investment in five to 10 years;

- Access and ability to capitalize development;

- We will not be required to make subsequent investments.

## SO WHAT IS INDIAN ENERGY LLC ?

Indian Energy LLC is a Native American-owned energy development company whose mission is to provide renewable energy power plants on Indian tribal lands in North America. Currently, the company has a basket of renewable solar energy projects in different phases of development which could potentially supply up to 1.3 GW of electricity.

Recently Department of the Interior Director Salazar announced the first permit for

development of a large scale utility facility on federal lands and southwest tribal nations are anxious to develop like facilities on their tribal trust lands.

Just as casino gaming once stood on the horizon as a viable economic frontier, the vast tribal land resources of the southwest are now emerging as a competitive advantage in renewable energy production and Indian Energies LLC are poised to develop this emerging market. Indian Energy LLC enjoys key industry sector support. They will succeed with or without us. The question is whether we will be able to participate in this opportunity. I urge you to support our tribe's efforts to diversify our economic growth during this referendum process.

Plans for informational workshops and town hall meetings are under way. More to come in the next unit report (but first we must get through the referendum process). In the meantime, please feel free to call me anytime with your questions and concerns: (906) 484-6821.

*Merry Christmas to all. May your dreams come true this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year.*

Catherine Hollowell  
Tribal board, Unit II  
(906) 484-6821  
(906) 430-5551  
Unit2tribal@gmail.com

# Best wishes for the coming holiday season



DEBRA PINE, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT I

Ahniin kina gwaya!

Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season from my family to yours!

I missed the last issue of our tribal newspaper due to the flu. It's tough when you're sick but it's even worse when you are

sick and your kids are all sick. Hopefully, this flu season will be easy on us as a tribe.

In the last issue, the big topic was Indian Energy and a majority of the board supported this endeavor. I, too, gave my vote of support for a 15 percent equity stake in this company.

As Anishinaabe people, we are taught that caring for Aki, Mother Earth, is one of our primary responsibilities. I believe supporting this company is a big step in that direction.

Renewable energy is the new gold rush; similar to what gaming was back in the 1980s for us as Indian people. Renewable energy is on everybody's radar across the country. It has no racial boundaries. A renewable energy mandate is being considered at the state and federal levels that would require states and government facilities, like military bases, to have their

energy portfolios be 20 percent renewable energy.

The company we voted to invest in is a development company. Indian Energy would go in, develop an energy field with what resources are available and then flip it. Each project is assessed for its resources, whether it is sun, natural gas, methane, wind or a combination, and then set up to meet the needs of area.

The beauty of this company, or rather its edge, is that it would have access to Indian lands that are not subject to local land ordinances or federal laws. This will allow the company and the tribes it is working with to move more swiftly than, say, another energy company working with a town or a city. Renewable energy, such as solar fields, takes up a good amount of land. The company will only need tribal councils to agree to

the development and then the project is off and running.

One of the main things I really like about Indian Energy is this: "We are committed to assisting tribal nations develop, OWN, OPERATE and PROSPER from their own renewable and sustainable resources." You can Google Indian Energy LLC and visit its website.

Currently, though, I am concerned by a possible referendum coming out against our investment in Indian Energy. At the time I am submitting this report, it was confirmed that 108 valid signatures were gathered to send this out to the membership for approval.

I ask that you look toward the future of our tribe and support our decision to invest in Indian Energy. Some facts that I want you to be aware of are: First, the money is NOT

COMING OUT OF OUR LANDS CLAIM MONEY. Second, it is reserve money realized by the deep cuts that were made in 2008. Third, we have an elderly population that is due to double in seven years due to the "Boomer" generation. This fact lent itself to my decision to support this company. Fourth, the current interest rates are dismal. We are not getting the return on our money that we did pre-recession. I believe this company has the ability to generate a better return on our money.

Planning for the future is one of the responsibilities I take very seriously.

Once again, I ask you to look toward the future of our tribe and support our decision to invest in Indian Energy.

G'tchi miigwech for your time. Miiijn netaawgiing and stay healthy!

# Getting your groove on

is going well for everyone. In Unit III, we are utilizing Sault Tribe Construction for plowing the rez this year, so be patient and give them time to get their groove on, thanks.

Head Start will be getting a new bus for the binogiis this year and the new drive is completed at the Shores Casino along with the Moores drive behind the casino!

I've been receiving an influx of emails about a supposed referendum about Romulus.

The board passed a resolution a while back to allow two business entities to try and get the Charlotte Beach land claim passed through Legislation during this lame duck session. It seems that some don't want that to happen, citing the fact that there is some kind of underhanded business going on. Sorry if I don't see it that way — I'm a common sense kind of guy who knows that some will use the Internet medium as a platform to purport effigies that

are biased to say the least. The tribe is trying to move forward in a positive manner, and this vindictive rhetoric and demagoguery should be taken with a grain of salt; all the negativity is harmful to one's overall wellbeing.

That being said, I would like wish everyone the best during this holiday season, merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Baamaapii,  
Unit III Director Pat Rickley



PATRICK RICKLEY, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT III

Aanii all,  
I hope the start of this winter

## Moving?

Be sure to call Sault Tribe Enrollment Department at 635-3396 or (800) 251-6597 to update your new address.

Watch for the new 2011 *Win Awenen Nisitotung* schedule for monthly deadlines in the January edition of the paper.

Not moving but have questions about your paper? Call us at (906) 632-6398.

# Vice Chairwoman comments on land settlement



**LANA CAUSLEY, DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

## INDIAN ENERGY LLC

As reported in the last tribal paper, the board supported the proposed agreement to move forward in purchasing an equity investment in Indian Energy LLC of Newport Beach, Calif. This endeavor has been in the works for many years by its owner before being proposed to our tribe.

In her last report, Director Abramson thanked directors who supported this project. I was absent from the meeting when the vote and final discussion was held. At this time, I would NOT have been in favor of moving in this direction. It's not due to the project merits or the company goals and projections — I believe that from a financial standpoint, an investment of this nature is not appropriate at this time. We reorganized and restructured and planned to reevaluate and

prioritize what was needed for adequate services to members. Then, once the evaluations and projections for our programming was complete, we would consider a possible increase.

I spoke with Allen Cadreau, the founder and CEO of Indian Energy, and he has agreed to attend an elder meeting and hold membership meetings to explain the project and its vision. This project can be a good decision for us in the future and be sustainable for our tribe.

My position on the matter is strictly financial. We have many upcoming battles — \$177 million lawsuit in Detroit, 7+1 legal fees and/or appeal fees, health care requirements, increased cost for services to members, the debt we carry, the notes that are due, legal fees in general with any project we want to realize, many things are on my mind about our financial picture and I want and will remain cautious when making those decisions.

But now that the majority of the board made the decision to move forward with Indian Energy, I support and expect the proposed outcome within the given time frame. Look for meetings in your area, if you live outside the area and cannot make one, please call me any time with your thoughts or questions.

## CHARLOTTE BEACH LAND CLAIM SETTLEMENT

The board decided to begin

the process to gain a settlement with lands. We have had many discussions on the topic and again, a majority has agreed to join with two businessmen in the battle. It will be an uphill one and we need all the support we can get.

Please trust and know that the board members are trying to gain what is ours. We ask questions, negotiate and debate. None of us are selling out, rolling over, no back door deals and all of us understand the controversy in this matter. To simply do nothing is not an option. With our tribe in great need of self-sufficiency we have to legislate, litigate and come to decisions that will profit us. Call your board members for the facts. We are exercising due diligence on this and if we prevail, it will be a great benefit to us. If we don't, we have spent no money trying, since others are meeting the financial obligation for the proposed legislation.

## 2 PERCENT DISTRIBUTIONS

We reviewed the requests submitted for our unit's 2 percent distributions this cycle and below are the amounts awarded. I'm pleased to report that almost all requests were partially or fully funded.

Clark Twp., \$8,619 for harbor project;

Engadine Schools, \$7,500 for youth activity project;

Hendricks Twp., \$6,000 for Community Shelter and Fire

Department;

Pickford Schools, \$5,243 for welding program;

Pickford Township, \$24,389 for library project;

Rudyard Schools, \$12,900 for youth project;

Three Lakes Academy, \$5,000 for youth project; and,

Newberry Schools, \$500 for youth project.

## UNIT II CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Our Unit II children's Christmas parties in the area this year:

**Detour, Drummond, Hessel, Cedarville, Rudyard areas** — Dec 11, Hessel Tribal Center, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Newberry, Tahquamenon areas** — Dec. 8, downtown, Newberry Community Building, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Naubinway, Engadine areas** — Dec. 12, Veterans Hall, 3 p.m.

The above parties are organized and funded by members volunteering their own time. Because our unit is so large we have always had to hold more than one party and I am very thankful to members in our communities who step up and take care of this for our children. If you see the people below, they deserve a "miig-wech" for making sure our kids have parties.

**Newberry, Tahquamenon areas** — The Newberry tribal elders group and Lois Bryant, Shirley Kawalki, Fannie Aslin, Lorraine Kanne, Nancy Keller.

**Rudyard, Kinross areas Christmas party** — Dawn Griffin and crew.

**Naubinway, Engadine areas** — Marilynn McAurthy and crew.

**Detour, Drummond, Hessel, Cedarville, Rudyard areas** — Lisa Burnside, John Causley, Justin Pollard, Dorothy Currie, and a special thank you to Betty and Ken Ermatinger for donating their dress down funds.

I'm sure all have many others they recruit to help, so "miig-wech" to all.

With Christmas here, it gives us an opportunity to be with ones we love and opens up people's hearts to listen more compassionately and carefully. With that, I wish all of you a very blessed and special season. I believe miracles happen (no matter how small) every single day, so watch and then smile.

I love this tribe and always know that no matter the rumors or hard times we have to endure as a tribe, I and the entire board want us all to prosper. I look forward to the coming year and will give my best to secure our future.

Merry Christmas and thanks to our veterans and their families who are away from home. They all really struggle for their fellow service men and women and loved ones this time of year. I personally wish the miracles to them.

Baamaapii,  
Lana Causley  
(906) 484-2954

# Discussing a snapshot of the tribe's major items



**TOM MILLER, DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I hope that everyone is well and enjoying our beginning to winter. I am preparing myself for a few months of white knuckle driving, but that comes with living in the Upper

Peninsula.

A key news item is the referendum turned in on the Indian Energy project that the board of directors had voted to invest in. I was told that some erroneous information was being circulated that the investment monies would be coming out of the land claims monies. That is not accurate, the monies, a total of \$2.5 million in scheduled payments over 12 months with threshold requirements before each payment, would come out of surplus.

As I have previously stated, we need to diversify in different businesses and with that comes a degree of risk. If we continue to have another 15 years of gaming in the limited competition market as it is now, we will be lucky. Hopefully, the vote

will allow the Indian Energy project to continue.

There is also an attempt to referendum a Romulus Letter of Intent (LOI) proposal that was voted on recently. The LOI was an attempt to get congressional movement on extinguishing the Charlotte Beach land claim. Part of the LOI was the tribe agreeing to enter into a development and management agreement with the investors, if they could assist the tribe in securing the necessary legislation.

I did not vote for this LOI due to the fact that I did not believe it was in the best interest of the tribe, nor were all the document signatures complete. With the lame duck session of Congress, I do not believe there will be much movement on anything positive regarding Indian

country.

There are a couple of items that are in the works that could be harmful to the tribes. Senator Feinstein's legislation limiting casino expansions is one. I will keep you informed as I hear how these things are proceeding.

Another point of major concern is the state of Michigan and its recent attempt to charge two of our tribally-licensed commercial fishermen in state court. This is a very serious threat to our treaty rights and our ability to regulate them as a tribe. The board does have legal counsel developing a response to the state on this matter.

The 7+2 appeal process is continuing. The board is also working on establishing a reservation-wide education com-

mittee that will encompass all departments and committees that are part of the Education Department. It will allow all the different areas of Education to be aware of what is happening overall and to develop a plan as to the needs of the tribe and where are we going with education. It should increase the efficiency of the tribe in the delivery of education services.

Our casino enterprise system is doing quite well and has not suffered the expected slowdown as the rest of the state has.

This is a snapshot of what I feel are the major items that the board has in front of it at this point, but rest assured that will change by the next unit report.

Have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. If you have any questions, please contact me at (906) 644-3334 or 322-3827.

# On the road again — snow!

us on the board with so many issues to be dealt with. One issue was the Indian Energy investment which I myself am in favor of. We have to look ahead for the future of our children, grandchildren, and our next generations as they will be our leaders.

I would like to thank all the board members who voted to give funding to all our children's Christmas parties as this is the start of giving back during this festive season.

Some of the things that have been accomplished in

Unit V are Unit V meetings, elder dinners, a health meeting, participation in Native American children's plays (with special thanks to Cindy DeJong and Linda Hutchinson who are employed by Title VII for the Munising School District), attended the STAY Program that focuses on suicide prevention, discussion and future distributions of 2 percent monies, also my responding to many phone calls and emails.

In closing, I would like all the children to know the set

sites, dates and times for the Unit V Christmas parties:

— Munising Mather Elementary gym: Dec. 15, 3:30-5 p.m.

— Marquette NMU: Dec. 18, please call Joe Gray at (906) 249-3303.

Remember, keep the emails and phone calls coming.

Email:

jcanderson@saulttribe.net

Phone: (906) 450-7299

(906) 387-2413

Sincerely,

Joan Anderson,

Unit V Director

## PASTIE SALE

Dec. 14 at the

**Niigaanagizhik Building**

**from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Cost: \$3.50 per pastie**

All proceeds benefit Anna "Rose" Menard and family.

Rose is a dedicated employee and former board member.

Pick up will be at the Niigaanagizhik Building. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call the Advocacy Resource Center at 495-1232.



**JOAN (CARR) ANDERSON, DIRECTOR, UNIT V**

Happy holidays to all, it was another busy month for all of

## Sault Ste. Marie

Anishinaabemowin classes, Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., at the Niigaanagiiizhik Ceremonial Building.

These Ojibwe language classes begin with potluck dinners and you are invited to bring your favorite dish to share.

Instructor demonstrates different stories and language sheets are provided to those in attendance for vocabulary recognition.

It's a great time to eat, visit and enjoy our culture.

Everyone is welcome. Call (906) 635-6050 for more information.

Drumming, Mondays, 7-9 p.m., at the Niigaanagiiizhik Ceremonial Building.

The drum is the heartbeat of the Anishinaabe people.

Hear different songs and styles of singing. It's a great time for family participation in singing and dancing or just listening.

For more information, call 635-6050.

Anishinaabemowin language class, Thursdays, 12-1 p.m., at 531 Ashmun Street.

No registration is necessary. Please bring your brown bag lunch.

For more information, call 635-6050.

Unit I Elderly Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month after the noon meal at the Nokomis/Mishomis Center, 2076 Shunk Road.

For questions, call 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

## St. Ignace

Anishinaabemowin language classes, Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m., at the McCann Center.

Participants will enjoy a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. followed by a language lesson at 7 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information, call 635-6050.

Unit III Elderly Committee meets on the second Friday of each month after the noon meal at the McCann Building.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Unit III constituents meet on the fourth Monday of each month, 6 p.m., at the McCann Center.

For more information, call Keith Massaway at 643-6981 or Patrick Rickley at 440-5149.

## Hessel

Anishinaabemowin classes, Mondays, 5-7 p.m., at the tribal center.

For more information, call 635-6050.

Unit II Elderly Committee meets on third Mondays after the noon meal at the tribal center. Call (888) 711-7356.

## Newberry

Elderly Advisory Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 12:30 p.m. at the tribal center.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Unit II Elderly Committee meets on the third Friday of each month at 11 a.m. at Zellar's Village Inn.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Anishinaabemowin classes, Tuesdays, 2-3:30 p.m.

Call Orien Corbiere at 635-6050 or the Newberry Tribal Health Center at 293-8181 for more information.

## Manistique

Unit IV Elderly Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month after the noon meal at the tribal center.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

## Naubinway

Unit II Elderly Committee meets on the last Wednesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at the Naubinway Pavilion. For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

## Escanaba

Unit IV Elderly Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month on the second floor of the Willow Creek Professional Building, 3500 Ludington Street. Catered meal at 5:30 p.m. followed by meeting.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

## Munising

Unit V Elderly Committee meets at the tribal center at 4 p.m. on the first Monday of each month.

Dinners on the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

Unit V meeting for all tribal members, 6 p.m. at the tribal center on the second Thursday of each month.

For more information, call Joan Anderson at 387-2802.

## Marquette

Unit V Elderly Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month, 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn.

For questions, call (888) 711-7356.

## Notices

General meetings of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors typically take place on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Open forums for members start about 5 p.m. and meetings start around 6 p.m. All Sault Ste. Marie meetings will be held at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center, other locations are to be announced.

Special meetings typically take place on the second and last Tuesdays of each month.

Special meetings may be called from time to time by the chairperson or by majority vote of the board of directors. Locations, dates and times for meetings are subject to change. In the event a special meeting is called that is open to the public, an official announcement will be released.

General meetings, special meetings and workshops are open to the public unless otherwise noted as closed. To view approved resolutions, please visit [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) and go to the board downloads section.

Meeting schedules are published in the Sault Tribe newspaper annually prior to the start of yearly meeting cycles. Schedule information can be acquired anytime at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) with a search for "board schedule" or by calling (906) 635-6050.

Foster homes provided by Sault Tribe members are needed for our young.

Make a difference in the life of a child, consider being a foster parent.

Call Anishinaabek Community and Family Services at 495-1232 or (800) 347-7137.

Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities needs your help.

We are looking for volunteers to serve on our Parent Advisory Committee.

The committee is instrumental in developing programs for our children throughout the seven-county service area, creating policy and representing their communities to determine where spending will be most beneficial to the greatest number of our youngsters.

The committee is comprised of volunteers from throughout our tribe's service area and meets once a month on the third Wednesday.

We encourage all relatives of children or anyone interested in their welfare to join us.

All meetings are open to the public and we welcome your participation.

For more information, please call Youth Education and Activities at (906) 635-7010.

Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities in Sault Ste. Marie offers many fun and educational services to youth from kindergarten age to high school seniors.

Computer lab, Monday through Friday, 3:30-6:30 p.m., and on Saturday, 11-4 p.m.

Computers are available for use in a relaxed atmosphere with opportunities for socializing and other fun.

Free tutoring is available daily for everyone. Young folks can learn how to animate objects, customize websites and other exciting media projects every Monday.

On Tuesdays, we can conduct science experiments concentrating in school core subject areas such as chemistry and physics.

We dabble in art on Wednesdays, creating all sorts of masterpieces.

On Thursdays, the local tribal youth council works on developing projects for our community and gets some play in as well.

We have parties on Fridays and show off our moves in Dance Dance Revolution tournaments.

Board game lovers of all ages can enjoy a peaceful afternoon dueling in a fierce game of Scrabble or other games every Saturday.

Come visit for a good time and to meet new people or old friends. Free drinks and snacks are every day.

We're waiting for you at 2428 Shunk Road next to the enrollment office.

If you have any questions, please call Jill King at 440-4494.

Book your party at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center.

We're equipped to accommodate skating parties, group parties and birthday parties and we rent our hospitality room, basketball and volleyball courts.

Call (906) 635-7465.

DeMawating Development Property Sales and Rentals offers three and four bedroom duplexes for rent. Low move in costs only \$200 for Sault Tribe and Kewadin team members.

First three months of payroll deducted rent will be increased to cover cleaning and pet fees, if applicable. Rent must be deducted from pay to receive the low move-in cost benefit.

Attention American Indians: lease to purchase three bedroom 1.5 bath duplexes available if qualified.

DeMawating is within one of the Sault Tribe's tax agreement areas and an equal opportunity company.

You do not need to be American Indian to rent a home.

For information on any of our properties, please contact the DeMawating office at 42 Wood Lake, Kincheloe (906) 495-2800.

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program available for appointments in Sault Ste. Marie, Kinross, St. Ignace, Hessel, Manistique, Marquette and Munising health centers.

Bring semaa for an offering to appointments with healers. Traditional healing is holistic. Women on their moon cycle should make appointments before or after their cycles.

For information, call Ted Holappa 632-5204, Laura Collins 632-0236 or Peggy Hemenway 632-0220.

Sault Tribe arts and crafts exhibitions and sales are scheduled for Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Bawating Art Gallery at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

The events feature hand-crafted gifts for all occasions.

Participating vendors must be members of a Sault Tribe member's household.

For further information, call Rachel McKechnie at 632-0530 extension 53573.

Sault Tribe extends an open voter registration policy to all members. Once members register to vote, it is permanent unless members change residency into or out of election units where living when originally registered.

Sawyer Village in Gwinn, Mich., is a Sault Tribe housing enterprise. Housing units consist of three and four bedroom townhouse apartments, duplexes and single homes.

Rentals range from \$350 to \$725 per month. The units include ranges, refrigerators, basements, garages, washer and dryer hook-ups and most of them have a dishwasher.

Flooring options are hardwood or carpeting. Most pets are accepted and we have month to month leases.

Eagle Ridge Apartments, located in Marquette, consists of two buildings with eight two-bedroom apartments in each building. These apartments include all utilities and are \$575 per month with one-year leases.

We have eight experienced team members who manage Sawyer Village and Eagle Ridge.

Come make one of our houses your home. Call (906) 346-3919 to set up an appointment today.

Children must have at least one biological parent who is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians before they can be enrolled as full, bonifide members.

Simply submit a copy of the child's courthouse birth certificate or state copy, social security number and current mailing address. You may mail or fax this information to the enrollment office, or drop it off in person. Please allow two to three weeks for children's tribal cards to arrive in the mail.

Sault Tribe flags are available for purchase by calling 632-6398 or toll free (800) 793-0660.

Desk flags (3x5 inches) are \$3, banners (18x24 inches) are \$30, parade flags (3x5 feet) are \$50, pole flags (4x6 or 5x8 feet) are \$75 and \$100.

Add six percent sales tax and \$4.50 for shipping of first item plus \$1 for each additional item.

Beadwork classes every Thursday, 6-8 p.m. at the Ojibwe Cultural Learning Center and Library, 531 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie.

Visit to register or call 635-6050.



**PAM & LORRIE  
TILLIS & MORGAN  
CHRISTMAS SHOW**

## December

**Pam Tillis and Lorrie Morgan  
Christmas Show**




19th | 7 p.m. Sunday | \$35.00

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27th | 7 p.m. Thursday | \$34.50

On Sale Now

## February

**George Jones**

11th | 7 p.m. Friday | \$49.50 | On Sale Now



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CHRISTMAS**

**THE <sup>SECRET</sup> MARIQUETTE  
EST. 1854  
ST. IGNACE**

# American Indian farmers and USDA settle class action law suit for \$760 million

See important notice on page 8

By RICK SMITH

American Indian farmers and ranchers across the country were recently awarded a \$760 million settlement in the 11-year-old class action discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm loan programs in *Keepseagle vs Vilsack*.

According to the lawsuit, the USDA denied thousands of American Indian farmers and ranchers equal opportunities given to Euro-American farmers and ranchers in acquiring

farm loans, related services and outreach.

The U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., ordered the USDA to pay \$680 million in damages and forgive up to \$80 million in outstanding farm loan debt to thousands of American Indian farmers and ranchers who attempted to farm or ranch between between Jan. 1, 1981, and Nov. 24, 1999, attempted to acquire a farm loan from the USDA during that period and, during that same period, complained about discrimination

to the USDA either orally or in writing, on their own or with the help of a representative such as a tribal government.

Those who qualify as members of the class action suit may eligible for payments up to \$50,000 or more and forgiveness of some, or all, outstanding USDA loans.

American Indian farmers and ranchers who were included in an earlier class action lawsuit against the USDA stemming from discrimination in 1997 are excluded from the *Keepseagle*

vs Vilsack class action.

Payments from the lawsuit will commence once the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., approves the settlement, after any possible appeals are resolved and the claims process is completed.

More details and updates are at [www.indianfarmclass.com](http://www.indianfarmclass.com), requests for claims packages can also be made on the site.

Jefferson Keel, president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) praised the settlement as "long

awaited justice for American Indian farmers and ranchers who have only sought an equal opportunity to work hard and succeed."

According to the NCAI, the settlement also brings with it improvement in the USDA farm loan services and initiatives for American Indian farmers and ranchers. It establishes the Native American Farmer and Rancher Council to work with USDA leaders in enhancing access and services along with other improvements.

## USDA sacred sites procedures under review

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Tribal Relations and the U.S. Forest Service are jointly leading an initiative to conduct formal tribal consultations on the effectiveness of existing department and agency sacred sites laws, regulations, and procedures, beginning in late November.

In a Nov. 3 letter sent to tribal government leaders and officials, Harris Sherman, USDA under secretary for Natural Resources and the

Environment, and Tom Tidwell, chief of the Forest Service, encouraged tribal leaders and members to actively participate.

The letter states in part, "The USDA (Office of Tribal Relations) and the Forest Service want to hear from you regarding how to improve our policies for sacred sites while simultaneously balancing the Forest Service's mission to deliver forest goods and services for current and future generations. We need your help to examine the effectiveness of

existing laws and regulations as well as recommendations for future policy or guidelines that will ensure a consistent level of sacred site protection that is more acceptable to tribes."

The first national telephone consultation session to introduce the effort and initiate the process will take place on Nov. 29, 2010. In-person and telephone listening sessions will then occur throughout the country from December through February. The second national session is slated after all local sessions are complet-

ed. This call will summarize the listening sessions, provide an additional opportunity for tribes to comment and set the stage for the next phase of this effort, including government-to-government consultation.

For the Nov. 29 call, members of tribes can call between 2 and 5 p.m. Eastern time at (888) 469-1285, and at the prompt, enter pass code 5116673#.

Throughout this initiative, comments about sacred site policies can be posted at [www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations), or

can be emailed directly to [tribalsacredsites@fs.fed.us](mailto:tribalsacredsites@fs.fed.us).

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of National Forest System land, provides stewardship assistance to non-federal forest landowners and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. For more information, visit [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us).

## DOD website helps young to search career options

By RICK SMITH

Young people aged 16 to 24 years may want to log on to [www.myfuture.com](http://www.myfuture.com) to help explore options for their futures. The website is produced by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and incorporates the latest available information about colleges,

careers and military service opportunities. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities along with the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Defense, Education and Labor contribute all of the reports on the site.

The DOD describes the site as a central resource for infor-

mation on finding a career, getting into college and exploring military options and gaining insight into each option.

Visitors to the site seeking career possibilities can get statistics and other information on subjects from growing trends in employment to job requirements in thousands of jobs.

In addition, one can learn how to be a shining stand out among others in resumes or interviews.

The tools and information one can find about getting into college not only covers how to figure out which college or

trade school one might find most suitable but the academic requirements as well. Thrown in are links that address paying for schools and what to expect in life on campus.

Facts about military options include standards, requirements, benefits and programs of the five branches of the armed forces.

"By placing the military side by side with college and career opportunities, the website allows them to explore all possibilities and gain insight into each option," said Matt Boehmer, director of the DOD

Joint Advertising Market Research and Studies program, in a media release.

"We also make the point that the three do not have to be mutually exclusive," he added.

The site doesn't include career counseling, but relies on self-assessment as the key function in developing goals. According to the DOD, the site provides a range of information heretofore unavailable on a single location and it's useful for those who already have career goals in mind and those just starting the self-assessment process.

## FCC to modernize 911 communications

*Texting, photo and data sharing wanted*

By RICK SMITH

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced intentions to modernize 911 emergency communications services on Nov. 23.

Julius Genachowski, chairman of the FCC, said the agency is going to incorporate the "life saving potential" of text, photo and video in emergency communication services.

"911 is an indispensable, live-saving tool," said Genachowski in a prepared statement. "But today's 911 system doesn't support the communication tools of tomorrow. Even though mobile phones are the device of choice for most 911 callers, and we primarily use our phones to text, right now, you can't text 911. It's time to bring 911 into the digital age."

According to the agency, 911 emergency communications services were established as a national standard in 1968 and has been a successful lifeline to those in distress. More than 237 million Americans place over 237 million 911 calls every

year, averaging 650,000 each day.

These days, about 70 percent of 911 calls originate from mobile phones and, increasingly, Americans are using cell phones more for texting, sending photos and videos. The FCC sees the untapped potential of using these new technologies to provide public safety officials with critical, real-time, on-scene information.

Genachowski pointed out many 911 call centers lack the technical capabilities and resources to receive texts, photos, video and other data and call center operators are not trained to use the new technologies effectively.

Standard proceedings to launch such a modernization project commences this month with gathering public input on making the transition from the current 911 system to the "broadband-enabled, next generation 911." U.S. citizens may call the FCC at (202) 418-0500 or log on to [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov) to provide their input.



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ALUMINUM: siding, old boats, canoes, electrical cable, storm and gutter.  
COPPER/BRASS: used electric wire, copper pipe, old faucets, plumbing fixtures.  
TIN / STEEL: used stoves, washers, dryers, metal shelving, car body parts, metal fencing, construction steel/tin.