



Minobii niibaa-anama'e giizhigad!

Merry Christmas!

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

Manidoo Giisoonhs • Little Spirit Moon

December 20, 2013 • Vol. 34 No. 12

White House hosts annual tribal conference

By Rick Smith

Over 300 of the nation's 566 leaders from Indian Country invited to the 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference on Nov. 13 met with 13 heads of departments of the federal government in the Sidney R. Yates Auditorium at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. The president and his cabinet leaders focused on the improved relationships between the federal government and Indian Country since the installation of his administration and committed to continue to strengthening the relationship over the remaining time of his administration. A few tribal representatives spoke on a variety of issues including leaving a "roadmap" to guide future administrations on working with Indian Country.

A dozen tribal representatives spoke with the president in a more intimate setting during a listening session in the Roosevelt Room at the White House on Nov. 12. The White House indicated five others representing the federal government in the meeting were Secretary of the Interior

Sally Jewell; senior advisor to the president, Valerie Jarett; White House Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Munoz; director of the National Economic Council, Gene Sperling, and director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, David Agnew. Indian Country leaders in the session represented tribes in Minnesota, Oklahoma, Washington, New Mexico, New York, Montana, Utah, Alaska, California, Arizona and South Dakota.

According to the White House, the meeting was the starting point of a week-long series of events hosted by the White House Council on Native American Affairs and provided tribal leaders an opportunity to interact directly at the highest levels of government. The tribal leaders in attendance discussed a wide range of issues facing Indian Country such as gainful employment, business expansion, education and jurisdictional challenges.

At the conference on the morning of Nov. 13, the attending Indian Country representatives heard from the heads of the Interior, Veterans Affairs,

Health and Human Services, Transportation, Energy and Justice departments before forming into eight break out sessions to discuss issues. During the afternoon, heads of the Environmental Protection Agency, Labor and Agriculture addressed the gathering. The cabinet officials talked about their respective department's goals in advancing tribal communities.

Next, nine members of the the White House Council on Native American Affairs, formed by an executive order last June, were introduced for a listening session of commentary from the Indian Country representatives. Each tribal representative was allotted four minutes to address the council.

First up to speak was Brian Cladoosby, chairman of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community of LaConner, Wash., and the recently elected president of the National Congress of American Indians. He asked, "Are you our trustee?" After a pause, he was given an affirmative answer. Cladoosby indicated he asked the question because he

See "Conference," Page 12



The U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs heard testimony from two panels on Nov. 14 in Washington, D.C., regarding the impact of sequestration on Indian Country and shortfalls in contract support costs. The first panel was composed of Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn of the U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs and Acting Director of the Indian Health Service Yvette Roubideaux. Indian Country representatives on the second panel were, from left, Aaron Payment, chairman of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors; Jefferson Keel, lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Nation, Ada, Okla., and former president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI); Karen Diver, chairwoman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Cloquet, Minn.; Phylliss Anderson, chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Choctaw, Miss.; and Alfred "Bud" Lane, vice chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Siletz, Ore. Missing from photo, Brian Cladoosby, president of the NCAI.

Payment testifies before White House, Senate committees; Also cited in "Faces of Austerity" requestration report

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Chairman Aaron Payment attended the 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 13 and had an opportunity to speak to the White House Council on Native American Affairs. He also spoke before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on Nov. 14 at an oversight hearing on sequestration and contract support costs.

In his testimony before the White House committee, Payment

called for Indian Country funding to be mandatory instead of discretionary, as federal support is mandated by agreement in many treaties.

"The funding that we receive for our tribe based on the U.S. policies is not reparations or entitlement. We paid for these services with the blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors," he said. Words he reiterated in a statement he made the following day as a member of one of two panels testifying before the

U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs during an oversight hearing on contract support costs and sequestration.

While speaking before the committee, Payment gave a brief overview of Sault Tribe and its use of contract services. An early point he raised is that federal contract support is intended to enable tribal governmental services to function, it hinders services through the lack of federal reimbursement. "And while we try to keep these costs as low as

reasonably possible, they cannot be eliminated entirely," he said. "At the same time, these costs are audited every year. So when the federal government, through the Interior Business Center, sets these costs for a new year, the government is setting these costs based upon real audits. None of this involves guesswork. In short, these are hard costs — real costs — and they simply have to be paid. But the agencies do not pay them. That's right: the government does not pay these contract

costs, at least not in full."

Payment indicated the federal shortfalls are nothing new to Indian Country, but changes brought by a Supreme Court decision in the summer of 2012 allowed for tribes to file claims to cover shortfalls, "After that," said Payment, we confirmed that our claims over the BIA contract shortfalls were being covered by the 'Ramah Navajo' class action lawsuit, so we focused on filing claims over our IHS

See "Testimony," Page 12

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For members who registered with the tax office in 2013

Please note the following when filing your 2013 Michigan income tax return:

A change in members' tax status is reported to the Michigan Department of Treasury on the 15th of each month. The treasury then recognizes members' status on the first of the following month. This date will determine how many months of the year you can claim a state income tax exemption.

The 4013 tax credit is based on the same amount of months as

your state income tax exemption that is reported to the treasury upon your registration with the Tax Office.

Example: If you registered with the Tax Office prior to Jan. 15, 2013, your income will be exempt from Michigan income taxes for 11 months of the year. (Based on the fact that you remained in a tax agreement area through out 2013).

Your 4013 tax credit will also need to reflect that you only resided in the tax agreement area

for 11 months; you would not qualify for the entire year.

Example: If you registered with the Tax Office in the month of November of 2013, your income will be exempt from Michigan income taxes for only the month of December 2013.

Your 4013 tax credit will only be for one month of 2013.

It is very important that when filing your state income tax return that the correct amount of months you are exempt is recorded, if there is a discrepancy between

what you file and the information the Michigan Department of Treasury has, your refund could be delayed.

If you file electronically and receive an amount that is incorrect, the state could audit your return, which could result in penalties and interest in addition to

monies owed back to the treasury. **IMPORTANT:**

- Registering with the Tax Office in 2014 will not exempt you from 2013 taxes or give you the 4013 tax credit.

- Registering in a present tax year will not give you any exemptions for prior tax years.

Vacant seats on Sault Tribe committees

The following Sault Tribe committees have vacancies. Interested members should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from Sault Tribe members to Tara Benoit, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. Please email tbenoit@

saulttribe.net with any questions.

Vacancies:

Child Welfare Committee, two seats.

Great Lakes Conservation Committee, one seat for a small boat captain.

Health Board, one seat.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee, two seats for men and two seats for women.

Election Committee, two seats. Unit I Elders Subcommittee, one seat.

Inland Committee, one seat.

Census sweepstakes winners announced

Last month, in November of 2012, Lake Superior State University conducted a census of all Sault Tribe members. The first census since 2002, it will be used to understand the Sault Tribe community's needs.

All returned census surveys submitted by the deadline were automatically entered into a census prize drawing.

The following lucky members are the winners of the five

incentive prizes for submitting their census forms by Nov. 15. Winners will be contacted by the tribe.

\$250 — Judith C. Luellwitz of Brookfield, Wisc.

\$500 — Terry J. Chase of Manistique, Mich.

\$750 — Thomas A. Young, Tecumseh, Mich.

\$1,000 — Julia J. Berthume, Dickson, Tenn.

\$2,500 — Susan M. Truitt,

Chatsworth, Ga.

Thank you to all members who participated.

In the months to come, the tribe will be analyzing census data. Information gleaned from the census will help the tribe better understand the membership, better distribute funds for needed programs and services and will aid the tribe in justifying requests for funding in the future.



ACFS staff received young visitors from the Sault Tribe Child Care Center during the annual Halloween trick or treat tour last October. Here, visitors from the future, Iron Woman (Deborah Loonsfoot) escorts Buzz Lightyear (Carl Sheber, left) and a scary character (Tristan Ortiz) on their rounds.

Site	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Manistique	6	4	4	2	5	4	3	5	4	3	4	2
Marquette	8	6	6	4	7	6	8	7	8	7	6	4
Newberry	10	10	10	8	9	10	10	11	10	9	12	8
Kinross	14	12	12	10	14	12	14	13	12	13	10	30
Hessel	20	14	14	14	16	16	18	15	16	17	14	12
Rapid River	16	18	18	16	20	18	16	21	18	15	18	10
Munising	22	20	20	22	22	20	22	19	22	21	20	16
Cheboygan	24	24	24	24	28	24	24	25	24	23	24	18
St. Ignace	28	26	26	28	30	26	29	27	30	28	26	22

*** Please Note:** Dates are NOT ALWAYS IN CALENDAR ORDER and are also subject to change.

MEMBERSHIP LIAISONS

Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact liaisons when they need help with tribal issues:

Unit I
Jennifer Tadgerson
Sault Ste. Marie
(906) 635-6050
jtadgerson@saulttribe.net

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

Units IV and V
Rita Glyptis
Manistique/Munising centers
(906) 450-7024
rglyptis@saulttribe.net

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
Rick Smith.....Staff Writer
Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Win Awenen Nisitotung
Attn: Communications Dept.
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Fax: (906) 632-6556
E-mail: saulttribenews@saulttribe.net.

Thanks to tribal medical staff

Dear Editor,

To whom it concerns, I didn't know how to write this, but I would like to thank the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Center staff, the nurse, doctors and person who took the X-rays.

Terry Malloy sent me to Carla Behling. They found a stent in my kidney and had me go to Petoskey Northern Michigan. Urology, Dr. James Howard, he

got permission to remove it.

I was sick for a year and went to many doctors. They didn't know what was wrong with me, then the doctor, Amber Snyder, started treating me. I want to thank all of them for saving my life. Thank you Sault tribal center.

Thank you,
— Jennifer Warner
Brooksville, Fla.

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Board measures of Nov. 5 and Nov. 19 meetings

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors convened a meeting on Nov. 5 in Sault Ste. Marie. All 13 were present.

Development was approved for a privately funded swim team to involve youngsters of the tribe to encourage regular physical activity into their lives.

New procedures were approved for applying for small mesh gill net permits. Henceforth, according to resolution, "an individual wishing to apply for a small mesh gill net permit shall do so pursuant to these procedures:

1. Applications must be made in writing to the office of the executive secretary to the board of directors. The executive secretary shall contact Law Enforcement, who shall determine whether the applicant has on record: (a) a major infraction; or (b) has never received a small mesh permit before.

2. If neither (a) or (b) apply, then the executive secretary shall place the application before the board at their next regular or special meeting.

3. If either (a) or (b) apply, then the executive secretary shall place the application before the Great Lakes Conservation Committee and:" (a) the committee shall vote on an application procedure, pursuant to its rules of procedure; (b) the committee may not approve an application per a phone vote; (c) if the applicant is not present, the committee shall not vote on the application; (d) before voting on an application, Law Enforcement shall provide the committee with documentation of event underlying the infraction; and (e) the executive secretary shall place the committee recommendation on the application before the board at their next regular or special meeting.

4. Any application approved contrary to these procedures shall

be deemed void.

A resolution was approved to officially oppose the continued use of the "Indian" name and mascot of the Washington, D.C., franchise of the National Football League (NFL). The resolution calls for the franchise to change the name, logo and imagery associated with the current name and prohibit the sale of associated merchandise. It also asks all involved with the NFL to educate fans about the history, cultures and current conditions of indigenous peoples around the world as well as partnering with American Indian tribes, scholars and educators to raise awareness about American Indians and to work toward ending discrimination in all forms.

A fiscal year 2014 budget for the "Three Mile Project" was approved with \$75,000 from the state of Michigan. Another budget was passed of \$24,500 funded by the state for scenic byways.

The board approved a fiscal year 2014 budget modification to Title VI - Elderly, decreasing U.S. Health and Human Services revenue of \$6,840 and decreasing tribal support \$10,116.89 to reflect the actual amount of a grant and reduction for an unfilled position. Further, approval was given to decrease the USDA Nutrition Services Incentive Program revenues by \$4,002 to reflect the actual amount of the grant award.

Approved committee requests: Child Welfare Committee — accept the resignation of Tara Benoit, effective immediately. Appoint Vicki Gardner, four-year term expiring November of 2017.

Election Committee — appoint James McKerchie and Dee Eggert, four-year terms expiring November of 2017.

Cultural Committee — appoint Dean Auger, four-year term expiring November of 2017.

Health Board — appoint Frances Hank, four-year term expiring November of 2017.

Special Needs/Enrollment Committee — appoint Abraham Boulley and Dean Auger, two-year terms expiring November of 2015.

Unit II Hessel Elders Committee — appoint Frances Hank and Terry LaTour, four-year terms expiring November of 2017.

Unit III St. Ignace Elders Committee — appoint Delores Calcaterra, four-year term expiring November of 2017.

Unit V Munising Elders Committee — appoint Inez Steinhoff, Ellen Golisek, Anita Nelson, Jane Karacson, Debra Johnson (alternate) four-year terms expiring November of 2017.

The board convened another meeting on Nov. 19 in Hessel. All board members were present.

Resolutions presented to the board for consideration were:

Mackinac Co. Cooperative Agreement, FY 2014/17 Transportation Improvement Plan, FY 2014 Budget Document 004 Enterprises and Videotaping Board of Directors Meetings.

Under new business, a committee request and an enrollment item.

Resolution 246, Mackinac Co. Cooperative Agreement passed by a unanimous vote authorized expenditures up to \$38,275.50 from the Sault Tribe Transportation Maintenance Fund for snow and ice removal during the winter season by the Mackinac County Road Commission on parts of Mackinac Trail and 3 Mile Road.

Res. 247, FY 2014/17 Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan passed by a unanimous vote for projects developed between the tribe and BIA for tribal shares funding. The board is requesting the BIA to incorporate the plan

into their transportation improvement plan as a required step for the tribe to receive "tribal shares" funding.

Res. 248, FY 2014 Budget Document 004 Enterprises passed by a unanimous vote authorizing expenditures and revenues for key components of the tribal organization essential to the tribe's continuing operation. The board approved revenue of \$13,394,926 and expenses of \$13,090,558.

Res. 249, Videotaping Board of Directors Meetings was passed by a majority of the directors, with two "no" votes. The body of the resolution reads:

"WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to establish a video record of its Regular and Special Meetings subject to certain restrictions embodied in Tribal Code Chapter 14: Rules of Procedure; and "WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Tribe to control the production of, retention of, and ownership, of the video record.

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors, directs the Entertainment Department, Communications Department, and the MIS Department, to develop a plan to facilitate the video recording of regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors and to establish a video archive, to house, in perpetuity, the video records and shall present the plan to the Board of Directors within thirty days of this Resolution being adopted. This will include uploading the videos to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians official website, with member only access.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above assigned staff shall prepare and present any necessary budget

modifications.

"BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that live broadcast of any type by any individual at a regular meeting, special meeting or workshop is prohibited."

Added to the agenda were resolutions 250, 2014 Tribal Climate Change Program; 251, Administration for Community Living (ACL) Administration on Aging (AOA) Application; and 252, Special Events FY 2013 Budget Modification; all were approved by a unanimous vote.

Res. 250, 2014 Tribal Climate Change Program. The BIA provides vulnerability assessment funding and action planning for wildlife through the Tribal Climate Change Program. The board authorized the chair or his duly authorized representative to administer any agreements for program.

Res. 251, Administration for Community Living (ACL) Administration on Aging (AOA) Application: "...the Board of Directors supports, approves and authorizes the Elder Service Division to apply for Administration for Community Living (ACL)/Administration on Aging (AoA) funding from the Health and Human Services order to secure funding to provide direct services to Native American Elders with a funding cycle of April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2017."

Resolution 252, Special Events FY 2013 Budget Modification: The board approved a budget modification to the FY 2013 budget for the 2013 children's Christmas parties to increase the other revenue account \$7,062. No effect on tribal support.

All approved resolutions can be viewed in their entirety by visiting www.saulttribe.com and follow tabs named Government, Board of Directors and Downloads.

Election season approaching, are you registered?

FROM THE SAULT TRIBE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Next June, the Sault Tribe conducts another general election. The notices of election will be posted on Jan. 31, 2014.

What does this mean? Sault Tribe members should make sure they have registered to vote (see below). The notices of election also act as the official start of the election cycle allowing members to submit letters of intent to

become potential candidates and to start campaigning.

How do I register? If you live within an election unit and your address is up to date with the Enrollment Department, then you will be automatically registered in the coming election. If you live outside an election unit and have previously registered, you are all set — registration is permanent. **However**, if you live outside an election unit and have not previ-

ously registered, you need to complete a registration form and send it (see notice of election for deadline).

Why do members who reside outside an election unit have to fill out a form? Members who reside outside an election unit can **choose** which unit in which they would like to vote. Once registered, you will be registered for all coming elections **unless you move into or out of**

an election unit. Please make sure your address is current with Enrollment.

Below is the registration form. Clip out and return to the Sault Tribe Election Committee, P.O. Box 102, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. The form is also available online at www.saulttribe.com/government/tribal-elections.

After Jan. 31, members seeking tribal office may start to campaign provided they follow

the rules set forth in the Election Ordinance. No campaigning shall take place prior to the notice of election per Tribal Code. "Campaigning" shall mean all efforts designed to influence members to support or reject a particular candidate, including without limitation, advertising, rallying, public speaking, or other communications with members.

We ask that any member seeking tribal office to fully read the Election Ordinance and understand the nominating process, rules governing campaigning, and the necessary reporting required to run for office.

Any member wishing to spend funds supporting or opposing candidates may do so provided they follow the Election Ordinance and obtain necessary forms.

Community members are encouraged to volunteer for mailing out ballots and assisting in the count. We will continue informing members with future articles explaining different aspects of the election process.

Any questions or concerns, please email electioncommittee@saulttribe.net

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

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STREET (PHYSICAL) ADDRESS _____

CITY & STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

To verify identity, please include last four numbers of your social security: - - -

I understand that this voter registration card must be completed and received at least 90 days prior to a general election to be eligible to vote in Tribal Elections.

I register to vote in Unit _____ SIGNATURE _____

(Must have signature to be Valid.) DATE _____

Ewing, Burlak accept positions on court staff

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Two new team members joined the staff at Chippewa Tribal court in October.

Steven Ewing is the court's probation officer and Christina Reynolds Burlak, LLMSW, works for Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Program with a court specialty as a clinical social worker.

For Burlak this means she is working for both agencies and will be seeing clients with scheduled appointments at Behavioral Health and also working with clients through tribal court. Once she receives her accreditation through the tribe, she will be assisting clients with domestic violence and chemical dependency issues. One of her main areas of interest is addiction counseling.

Burlak has a master's degree in social work from City University of New York, Hunter College School of Social Work, and a Master of Science in urban policy and management from the Robert J. Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy.

For the past 20 years, she worked in New York City for a number of homeless shelters as the deputy director, director of social services, housing specialist, placement counselor and instructor and, most recently, as the senior program director for Project Hospitality's O'Connor House in Staten Island, which served formally homeless people and families challenged with HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and mental health challenges.



Christina Reynolds Burlak (above), and Steven Ewing (right), recently accepted positions at tribal court.

Burlak grew up in Pontiac but her maternal family has roots deep in the soil of Sault Ste. Marie. Her great grandmother was Elizabeth Ance of Sault Ste. Marie, grandmother Molly Bell and her mother Clara Bell Reynolds, both of Pontiac. "We never really had the opportunity to learn about the traditions and teachings of the tribe," she said. "I feel like I'm home, the Sault is incredibly beautiful." Burlak said she learned of her new position after watching the tribe's website for employment opportunities. "As early as going to graduate school I wanted to come back and help with the problems of alcoholism and drugs. This would be on my bucket list – to come back and be able to make a contribu-

tion. I had a lot of opportunity in my life and have graduate training plus over 20 years experience in social work - I wanted to bring that back home to the tribe. I think a lot of folks do that, they go back to their communities and give.

"Being Native American has been very important to me, but it's not just about us. It has to be about the entire community," she said.

Ewing was born and raised in the Sault and attended Sault Area Schools, graduating from LSSU with a degree in Criminal Justice in 1980. After graduation in 1980 he obtained a position with the BIA in conservation and law enforcement where he had the opportunity to attend the Federal

Criminal Investigator School in Glenco, Georgia. Four years later in 1984 he took a position with the Michigan Department of Corrections in Berrien County as a parole/probation officer. Then in 1993 he transferred back to the Sault and went to work in Chippewa County as a parole/probation agent until 2009 when he became a field supervisor for the counties of Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, Mackinac, Chippewa, Cheboygan and Presque Isle until his retirement in September this year.

Being a tribal member and having previous professional contact with tribal service providers and tribal court for years, he jumped at the opportunity to interview with Judge Jocelyn

Fabry at Chippewa Tribal Court for the probation officer position.

As a tribal probation officer, he works with adults who commit misdemeanors and juvenile offenders. "I supervise offenders in the community that the Judge places on probation," he said. "I monitor them to insure compliance with the courts order of probation, that they are attending their appointments such as mental health services, substance abuse services and community service work."

Ewing said, "In my short time at Tribal Court I have found that my team members and people I work with from other tribal agencies exhibit high levels of professionalism, expertise and dedication that has been simply amazing. That's good for the Sault Tribe, the community and our clients."

Judge Fabry welcomed both Burlak and Ewing to her team of court professionals, and said, "Christina and Steve both bring a wealth of experience and knowledge with them to the court and I am so thrilled to have them on our team. The membership involved with the court will benefit greatly from the level of services they can provide."

Play a word game and help feed starving people around the world at the same time? Have fun while you build your vocabulary and feed the hungry at www.freerice.org.

JETA recognized as top supplier of the year

SAN RAMON, Calif., — JETA Corporation, a Native American woman owned business with corporate headquarters in Neenah, Wisc., was recognized as Small Business Supplier of the Year at Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company's supplier awards ceremony on Oct. 28.

The event took place at the

company's San Ramon Valley Conference Center in California in conjunction with its 2013 supplier conference.

JETA received this award for continually expanding its supplier base to meet PG&E's needs and its stringent supplier scorecard metrics. JETA collaborated with PG&E to simplify the receiving,

delivery and invoice processing; and enabling electronic commerce through SAP. In the area of customer service, PG&E rated JETA as "phenomenal" in response and timeliness. In the past year, JETA provided PG&E with a total material savings of \$208,186.

JETA's president, CEO and owner, Sault Tribe member Linda (nee Russell) Grow, thanked the team of individuals that make up the JETA organization and all the manufacturing partners, wholesalers and strategic suppliers for their contribution and commitment to the service excellence making this recognition possible. "I am again humbled to be honored and my thanks go to my grandmother, Pearl McGahey, who fought so strongly for our tribe to be recognized," Grow said. "She paved the way for my success and I hope to pave the way for the next generation. It is our responsibility to help foster hope for our children and instill in them a fire to achieve with honor, dignity and ethics for all Native tribes. It burns in my soul and heart to do this for my grandmother who influenced me to never give up, and maybe not for my generation but for the next, there always has to be a ray of hope."

JETA represents over 1,500 manufacturers covering safety supplies, industrial and construction tools, electrical and

MRO supplies supporting the energy channel. Grow believes the future is rich with opportunities and PG&E continues to

light the path for small, disadvantaged, diverse companies providing that chance to fulfill dreams.



Sault Tribe member Linda Grow, president and CEO of the JETA Corporation based in California.



Saving energy is smart business, and earning rebates is easy.



ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319

Cook opens Sault auto body repair shop

By RICK SMITH

Fulfilling a long held ambition of going into business for himself, Sault Tribe member Kevin Cook recently hung the sign of his auto body repair shop at 1526 East Easterday Avenue (adjacent to the “Y” intersection at Easterday and Spruce Street) in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

“Opportunity knocked and I took it,” said Cook. His shop was operated for decades as Peller’s Auto Body until the previous owner retired. The craftsmen struck a deal and soon Cook’s Collision opened for business.

Licensed in 1988, Cook indicated he makes available 30 years of experience in auto body repair work for his customers and numerous training certifications in the field received through the Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair (I-CAR), the Automotive Technical Education Group, a DuPont refinishing program and other agencies.

the auto body repair craft comes from stints with automotive dealerships around the state as well as a local dealership. Cook’s Collision handles all body damages from light to major collision and all of his work is guaranteed. He also welcomes rust repair work and offers free estimates on all repair projects of any kind.

With the opening of his shop, Cook joins three of his brothers who operate their own shops performing mechanical services. His brothers, “Bucky” and Tom manage long-established businesses on Portage Avenue, while Mike opened for business on Ashmun Street back in 2011.

The motto on the company’s business cards reads, “No job too big or too small, we repair them all.” Cook’s offers free estimates and accepts projects on domestic and foreign made vehicles.

Open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Cook’s can be reached at 635-1872.

The bulk of his experience in



Kevin Cook stands beside his auto body repair shop at 1526 East Easterday Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He brings 30 years of training and experience to folks in the area in need of automotive body repair services on both foreign and domestic vehicles.

Hunt opportunities at Native American Careers

By RICK SMITH

Folks of American Indian ancestry seeking nationwide opportunities for gainful employment or related matters should visit www.nativeamericancareers.com.

Billed as America’s largest online job board, the website offers full-time, part-time and freelance employment listings by different priorities such as location, salaries and job types. Further, it lists opportunities for internships, temporary work and volunteer positions.

The website is powered by and linked to Native American Encyclopedia. Clicking on the encyclopedia link takes one to a multitude of resources relevant to American Indian people, tribes or things. One could spend hours just exploring the fascinating features of the encyclopedia site from news to legends.

Another link on the website takes you to an events calendar of activities submitted from throughout Indian Country.

Visitors must check out the website’s blog for sometimes

humorous but helpful information about coping with work or finding employment. Some recent article titles include *How to deal with a senile, blind, unthinking, incompetent boss — like yours*, *10 Reasons to Work and Live in Alaska* and *How to Get a Job — Do Your Homework*.

What’s more, the site enables employers to submit and update job listings as well as allowing job seekers a place to submit profiles and post resumes for review by potential employers.

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Fifth grade students at JKL Bahweting Anishinaabe Public School Academy made greeting cards for deployed U.S. service members who couldn’t be home with their families for the holidays.

Cyber crimes come in a variety of forms, including identity theft, fraud, and viruses. Reduce your chances of becoming a victim by taking these important steps online: Set strong passwords, change them regularly, and don’t share them with others. Keep your operating system, browser, and other critical software optimized by installing updates. Use privacy settings and limit the amount of personal information you post online. Be cautious about offers — if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Get additional information about protecting yourself online and reporting incidents from the United States Department of Homeland Security.

Justin starts first Indian swim team in state

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Just as at home in the water as he is out of it, Sault Ste. Marie attorney Dyke Justin saw a need within the Sault Tribe community for a tribal swim team and on Nov. 5 gained board approval for its creation.

Although the team now has a green light to hold its first organizational meeting, it is a privately funded team without a budget. Justin said that won't slow him down and shouldn't stop youth from participating. Fundraising events involving swim team members in creative activities, such as baking pizza or pasties together in a local kitchen, will become an important part of the team's financial health. There will also be a small participation fee, however Justin said if a family can't afford to pay the fee, other arrangements would be made.

Tribal youth ages six to 18 are welcome to participate. The team will have workouts three days a week, including Saturday's, for about two hours each session.

Justin, who will be the team's head coach, said there were five things he noticed that told him this was the right time and place for a Sault Tribe swim team. The first is the fact that over 50 percent of the people using LSSUs pool are Native American. The second was kids from the tribe's reservation are sneaking into the casino's pool to swim. The third is a pair of famous record-setting

Ojibwa swimmers and his fourth reason, which is diabetes, has "cut through the Native American population like a hot knife through butter." And last, Justin himself has Type 2 diabetes and has seen how he can drop glyce-mic points when he swims – during an average workout he drops almost 150 points in a half hour.

Justin has enlisted the help of nutritionist Charla Gordon who will be spending a half hour every two weeks talking with the kids about healthy snacks and nutritious meals. "If I can help make a child healthier because of exercise and modifying their life-style by getting them to eat better – you have won. I don't need to have world champions on my team, I have kids that are healthy and happy," Justin said.

Justin said he also plans on incorporating some traditional language into his coaching vocabulary. "Anytime you can take an athletic program and make it culturally relevant to the kids – that's called legal steroids," he said. "I want these kids to be excited."

The third member of the swim team's staff is Assistant Head Coach Nicholas Donaldson. "I would like to thank the Sault Tribe for making this team a reality and giving me the opportunity to be the assistant head coach. I am excited to share the native language and culture by using it in daily practices and swimming events involving our Native



Dyke Justin

youth," he said. "Swimming is an incredible activity for promoting health as well as teamwork. It also provides young people with a sense of belonging and strengthens their bonds to our community. In addition, our team will give us the opportunity to teach diabetes awareness and prevention as well as teaching the value of proper nutrition and improving self-discipline. I am in the process of getting my USA coaching license, which will allow the team to compete in nationwide swimming events.

"In the end, this team is an incredible opportunity for Native youth to explore this popular sport while staying connected to the Native community. I am honored and excited to be a part of this first ever Native American swim team in Michigan," Donaldson said.

The swim team will work with tribal elders to choose their name. Team colors are royal blue, orange and white.

Justin says he anticipates having swimmers in the LSSU pool this month. "I tried to put together what I hope will be a model for other Native American teams," he said. "We are going to compete with two other teams from Canada, but I am not going to have the team compete until they are ready. My goal for this summer is to have some outdoor meets and I want to work our way to the Native American Games and the Diversity and Indigenous Games – all in the summer months. One is held in British Columbia and the others in Texas and Oklahoma."

In honor of two Ojibwa swimmers from the 1800s, Flying Gull and Tobacco, both of who Justin said could have been Sault Tribe ancestors, he is offering a special incentive for youth who can swim 50 yards in under 30 seconds. He expects to have at least three youth who will be able to accomplish that feat and win his specially designed shirt. According to Justin, in the mid-1800s Flying Gull and Tobacco were invited by the Swimming Society in England to participate in a race in which Flying Gull set a world record at that time when he swam the length of a 130-foot pool in 30 seconds. Justin said the North American Indians astonished the

British athletes by using a very fast overhand stroke later named the crawl while the British relied on the breaststroke.

"If you swim faster than you have ever swam before, then you have won as far as I'm concerned. I don't coach for champions, I coach for heroes – heroes get up eight times after they have been knocked down seven," Justin said. "If someone were to follow these kids for a year they will see differences in attitudes and lifestyles. Some of the best performances I've ever seen in the water are not first place finishes, it's the kids digging for third place."

Justin said the team will also be partnering with Families Against Narcotics and helping out with community events.

There are about 40 Native American swim teams in the U.S. according to Justin. "I am going to send an invitation to the other 11 federally recognized tribes in Michigan and invite them to the first Native American State Swimming Meet. It is all conjecture at this point, but if I can develop a tribal league and we can swim against each other, how wonderful would that be!" he said. "Having no budget is not going to stop us, we will tough it through and go from there."

The team has a website under development, for a glimpse of what's to come visit them at: www.anishinaabeswimming.com.

Tribal youth council established at Malcolm High

BY RICK SMITH

The first student led governing body in years at Malcolm High School in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., was established in recent weeks, and they have interesting ambitions.

The Malcolm Mavericks Tribal Youth Council originated with an idea from school paraprofessional Robert McRorie, who conferred with advisor Allison Campbell about the possibility of starting a student council. They found strong interest in the idea among the students and the wheels were set in motion. An election of officers was conducted, the council was formed by a proclamation resolution and passed governing by-laws.

The council has goals of not only making things better for their academic experiences, but contributing to making their com-

munity better as well.

One of the council's projects involves growing plants specifically for ceremonial purposes at the school's hoop house nursery. The Mavericks council met with the Sault Tribe Grand Youth Council in Newberry where the idea was discussed and approved. The next hurdle to clear: the Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools administration. Since tobacco was an obvious stumbling block without an accurate understanding of the plant as it applies to Anishinaabe customs, Owen Nolan, vice-president of the Mavericks council, wrote a letter explaining the differences between commercial tobacco and the kind of tobacco planned to be raised at the school. He included a primer on the roles the plant plays in traditional Anishinaabe customs and ceremonial preserva-

tion. Among the uses he noted, tobacco is instrumental in showing respect and gratitude to the Creator for using the resources of Mother Earth and is used in ceremonies to help the spirits of the departed to cross over to the afterlife. Nolan also noted the council plans for tobacco crops, "After our tobacco is harvested, we will offer it to the tribal elders and Culture Department to use in ceremonies or hunting and gathering."

Sandy Sawyer, Malcolm High principal, forwarded the letter to Timothy D. Hall, superintendent of Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools, where the proposal was given final approval.

In addition to helping to reinforce tribal customs, council members have plans to help folks in other ways, such as conducting

charity fundraisers, adopting families to help during Christmas seasons and other functions. Mariah LaCross, council secretary, said the members are interested in having the school and its student body further engaged in "trying to be part of the community in a good way."

In addition to improving ties

with the community, Sawyer anticipates seeing council recommendations for improving life and learning in the halls, hoop house and classrooms of Malcolm High.

Currently, the Malcolm Mavericks Tribal Youth Council is composed of 16 students in all representing freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors.



Photo by Rick Smith

Malcolm High School administrators who were instrumental in helping students in forming the new organization are pictured with the officers of the Malcolm Mavericks Tribal Youth Council. From left, Rob McRorie (standing) advisor; Owen Nolan, council vice-president; Neal Pavlat (front), council co-vice-president; Allison Campbell, advisor; Brianna Hart, treasurer; Haylie Bergstrom, council president; Mariah LaCross, sergeant-at-arms; Vanessa Leapley, public relations officer; Weston Pulbrey (standing), secretary; and Sandy Sawyer, school principal.

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Sault Ste. Marie Kewadin Casino recognized by Michigan's Polish Legion of American Veterans

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Polish Legion of American Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary Department of Michigan presented Kewadin Casinos Convention Sales and Banquet staff a recognition award on Nov. 8 for outstanding service. The Legion held their 53rd Biennial State Convention Aug. 28-31 at Kewadin Convention Center and Hotel.

Eugene Hentkowski, president of the Polish Legion American Veterans Dept. of Michigan Convention Corporation, said, "We presented a plaque to the casino for their excellence in hosting the convention. The staff and everybody we encountered were excellent. We had two busloads of people and everybody enjoyed it, you couldn't ask for better help. We plan on coming back in two years. This casino is excellent at taking care of our veterans." Hentkowski is a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran and past State Commander of the Legion.

Hentkowski said he had been to Kewadin Casino before with the American Legion and DAV and other veteran organizations, but this was his first time there with the Polish Legion.

Gerald Check, past State Commander, said, "We had a real great time here. It was the first time I had been to the U.P. for a convention and it turned out very nice. We had close to 80 people on the buses and some people drove up, we had about 110 delegates at the convention." Check is a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

Ed Mendell, State Commander of the Polish Legion of American Veterans said he had been to the casino once before as the State Commander of the AM Vets not long after the casino opened, this was his first time back since then. "We really enjoyed it," he said. "Everybody was extra special to us and everyone enjoyed the banquet, the food was delicious. We didn't have any complaints at all at this convention." Mandell is a WWII U.S. Navy veteran.

Recognizing their bus driver for making the drive memorable, Mandell said, "The bus driver was extra nice, everybody really enjoyed him. I remember he had a long Polish name that started with a 'T.'"

Convention Sales Manager Todd Olmstead, said 2013 was a banner year for hosting veter-



Polish Legion of American Veterans President, Gene Hentkowski presented Kewadin Casinos Chief Operating Officer Tony Goetz with a recognition plaque for their assistance and commitment to Veterans groups throughout the country. Looking on are the many casino employees who help with the conventions along with Jerry Check, Past State Commander (far left) and Ed Mendell, State Commander (behind Goetz) both of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

ans organizations at the casino, including the American Legion State convention in June, the first

time the conference has been held in the U.P. since 1922, and it was so successful the American

Legion is planning on returning in 2016. The Disabled American Veterans conference was also held in June and has taken place at Kewadin Casino for the past 10 years and they have booked their conference at Kewadin through 2015 - and the AMVETS were there in June as well.

Olmstead said, "These groups are getting good value for their dollar. For us to get these groups year to year and have groups coming here for 10 and 15 years and make reservations for two years out, says and means a lot. And our COO Tony Goetz is a former Marine and is able to get up in front of the veteran groups and talk to them. I think that goes a long way."

Other groups that have held their conferences at Kewadin Convention Center and Hotel include the Anishinaabe Language Conference, which is celebrating their 20th year in March; Michigan Moose and Elks have both been wonderful groups and repeat clients for years, according to Olmstead. The U.P. Chapter Credit Union League is also a large group that puts on a trade show and large banquet.

Teamwork: Casino staff pulled together in a crunch

BY MICHELLE BOUSCHOR

"Team work is strong in our department," said Chris Toulouse, housekeeping supervisor for 17 years. "In order for that to happen, you have to support your staff — you are all there to work. If you work for your staff, they will work for you — respect each other."

The summer of 2013 will be remembered as one of the most difficult on record for Kewadin Sault's housekeeping team members. With their department only half staffed during the busy summer season, they were nearly at their wits end and ready to give up. How could they do it all themselves? Instead of giving up, they came together. They discovered that with a positive attitude and the right training they could do it. By working together, making decisions together and opening lines of communication, every department can overcome what they think they cannot, together

as a team.

"What we do is very difficult," said John Cleary, executive housekeeper. "This summer, we asked more of our people than we ever have before. But, our team remained positive, didn't throw in the towel and we all got through it."

Housekeeping staff worked six-day weeks and sometimes 12-hour shifts just to get the job done.

"Our job does not just entail cleaning the rooms," Cleary said. "Staff also handle the laundering and prepping of towels, sheets and comforters; upkeep of the casino floor, convention center and theater; and all laundering needs for other areas of the casino."

"This summer I saw more team work than I have in a long time, but not just from housekeeping — from all areas," Cleary added. "We were all in it together."

The summer months are some

of the busiest for the casino's hotel. Rooms to be cleaned during the summer average 7,517 a month. This means hotel housekeeping has to be ready and on task to clean a room, flip it for a new hotel guest, have it ready for a 4 p.m. check-in and meet guests' expectations. When the department is fully staffed, it is a big job. And when they are short staffed, the job is tougher but is always done.

Casino team members saw the struggle hotel housekeeping was having and stepped up. "They would put their duties on hold and help the hotel out whenever they could — overnight, afternoon, day — everyone played a part," said Cleary.

Many lessons have been learned from this summer's experience: letting others know when you are challenged and struggling, keeping an open line of communication with other managers and your staff and invest in

your staff by allowing them to be part of the team decision-making process.

It's hard asking for help, but everyone needs help at some point. And Cleary did just that at a casino department head meeting. He relayed the message about the difficulties his team was facing and how hard it was on everyone. Shortly after the meeting, calls to help his staff started coming from all areas of the casino.

"People from administration, hotel, groups, sales, marketing, were calling asking what they could do to help," he said.

He extended special thanks to the casino housekeeping staff — as under the gun and understaffed as they were — for pulling together to assist on the hotel side.

Now that is true teamwork.

At a time some might think was the worst time to go through training, Cleary pulled his entire

supervisory staff together and, with the help of the training department, set up special management series training. The group went through courses on positive reinforcement, hiring, how to correct performance and teamwork.

"What we really learned was how to empower our staff, which is what helped us get through this summer. Empowering our staff allowed them to make decisions and to take it to a new level at work and in life for the betterment of the greater good," Cleary said, adding that empowerment is a motivator. "To have staff know they can make a decision and they will be supported makes staff want to do more."

"I commend each and every housekeeping team member," Cleary added. "We could not have gotten through this summer without each and every single one of them."

Over \$1,200 given to support local cancer prevention programs by Kewadin Casinos

For the second year in a row, Kewadin Casinos' Pinktastic tournaments have raised money for two area health departments. The Luce, Mackinac, Alger and Schoolcraft Health District (LMAS) and the Chippewa County Health Department will receive their share of \$1,275 with the intent of helping women receive assistance for preventative care.

"We are so thankful for the donation to our Breast and Cervical Cancer Control program," said Debbie Hoder, business manager for the program.

"This donation will enable LMAS to continue service to the eligible women in our communities with these much needed health screening services." In total, the LMAS program received \$675.

In Chippewa County, \$600 was given to the Pink Ribbon Classic Fund earmarked for local women who have not yet been able to register for insurance. "The funds will help cover their deductibles," said Sheri Buckley who oversees the Pink Ribbon Classic Fund.

The funds were raised with a \$5 donation from Kewadin Cares for each participant in two

Pinktastic tournaments. One was in St. Ignace on Oct. 4-6 and another in Sault Ste. Marie on Oct. 18-20.

The Kewadin Cares program began in 2003 when the casino started partnering with area organizations to raise awareness of our pledge of allegiance and United States armed forces and veterans. The program has since grown to include holiday giving programs, anti-bullying awareness, drinking and driving awareness campaigns and support of organizations like Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Vanderschaegan lauded at Christmas casino

Anthony Vanderschaegan is the Christmas team member of the month for November! He is a dealer who has worked at the casino since June 2007. A very excited Anthony tells us the best part about his job is interacting with customers and co-workers, and it shows in his work performance. "Anthony is an excellent example of an employee," said Sue Beauchaine, pit supervisor and shift manager. "He comes to work on time, never complains and comes to work to do a good job with a positive attitude."



Anthony Vanderschaegan and Pit Boss Linda Cole.

Ontario chiefs unite in rejection of education act

THUNDER BAY, Ont., — Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy and the First Nation leadership in Ontario are united in their rejection of the federal proposal on a First Nations Education Act and have announced plans to imple-

ment their own education vision through a direct action strategy, which will be implemented in First Nation communities across the province.

“We discussed education at length over the last two days and along with maintaining our rejection

of the federal legislation on education we also collectively affirm our inherent right to establish and control our own educational systems and institutions,” said Beardy. “Additionally, we are developing a plan of action to assert our jurisdiction over education.”

First Nations in Ontario insist that federal and provincial governments align their respective laws, regulations and policies to conform to the jurisdiction of indigenous peoples.

“Our people have agreed that we must continue to assert our inherent jurisdiction over education by developing and implementing our own education laws and regulations which will lead to the establishment of our own education standards and systems,” said Grand Chief Gordon Peters who holds the education portfolio for the chiefs in Ontario.

“First Nations in Ontario

vowed to stop the federal First Nation Education Act and will refuse to abide by or implement the act if it is unilaterally pushed through parliament. Action is currently underway garnering public and political support for our position. We continue developing strategies based on all available options including challenging resource extraction, direct action and litigation,” said Beardy.

The conservative government released the federal government document, *A Proposal for a Bill on First Nation Education, in October*. Prior to the public release of the proposal, the minister of Aboriginal Affairs stated to the National Chiefs Committee on education that he would not proceed with the act, if there was enough First Nation opposition.

“We have offered recommendations on how the consultation process could have been more meaningful for First Nations and

on how we can be accommodated by coming to a common understanding of funding inequities prior to a proposal for a bill, and it has completely fell on deaf and unwilling ears,” said Beardy.

“Proposing bills and passing legislation before dialoguing on funding has never been acceptable to First Nations, nor will it ever be,” Peters added.

“There is never going to be a positive move forward in relations with indigenous peoples in Canada if proposals for bills and legislation are rammed down our throats. This just isn’t going to fly with our youth, the very population the federal government purports to be doing this for.”

Beardy and Peters have called the proposal a major step backward and a springboard for a collision course with indigenous peoples that is being set up by the federal government.

Batchewana community outraged by lack of charges

BATCHEWANA, Ont. — Since the Sault Ste. Marie Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) news release was issued, *Charges laid in the death of Jesse Roach*, Batchewana First Nation’s leadership have been inundated with outraged community members.

In the official release on Nov. 4, 2013, the OPP stated that Terry Mosher, was charged with the following: Obstruct a peace officer as per sec 129 (a) of the Criminal Code of Canada and with fail to report accident as per sec 199 (1) of the Highway Traffic Act of Ontario, charges the First Nation feel are deeply inadequate.

“The lack of charges are very disconcerting. We are trying to seek clarification to justify these nominal charges. I contacted the OPP this morning and was told that the investigators have done their due diligence,” commented

Chief Sayers.

The First Nation is working to determine what if any other charges were contemplated, and how the investigators arrived at these disappointing charges.

Chief Sayers stated, “this outcome is unacceptable, I am struggling to understand why a number of obvious charges weren’t entertained such as criminal negligence causing death or failure to stop at the scene of an accident. There is a history of legal disparity in this city when the victim is of First Nations descent, we are calling on the crown attorney for a complete review and revisit of the investigation to rectify this alarming situation”.

For More information, please contact the Batchewana First Nation Chief and Council (705) 759-0914, extension 201.

Code talkers recognized with Congressional medals

WASHINGTON, D.C. — American Indian code talkers played a significant role in Allied victories during the major campaigns of World War I and World War II. While the Navajo Code Talkers have been acknowledged and awarded Congressional gold medals for their service, what widely unknown is the extensive participation for these purposes by Native code talkers from dozens of tribes.

Recently, these courageous warriors were honored with the presentations of Congressional medals for their valor and service to this nation. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) joins the nation in honoring these daring and humble warriors who played a critical role in preserving and protecting this country, our freedoms and our ways of life.

Code talkers from various tribal nations served as highly classified specialists on dangerous battlegrounds. These soldiers were so valuable to the war effort that their commanding officers

were ordered to kill the code talkers in the event of imminent or actual capture. The code talkers were aware of this added risk to their lives and continued to face that threat every day in action.

The Congressional Gold Medal is awarded as the “highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions made by an individual or institution.” Other recipients include George Washington, Thomas Edison, Jonas E. Salk, Rosa Parks and the Navajo Code Talkers. Thirty-three tribes were recognized in a ceremony on Nov. 20 ceremony and the families of deceased code talkers received silver medals.

The NCAI is extremely proud to have contributed to the effort to recognize these distinguished men and wish to express appreciation to tribal leaders, tribal community veterans and the congressional sponsors with whom the organization worked for many years to accomplish this long overdue recognition for these war heroes.

Families Against Narcotics meetings

FAN meets at 5:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the Huntington Bank meeting room in Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, call (906) 203-8959, email Chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org or visit www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org.

Prescription Drug Abuse Support Group meetings in Sault Ste. Marie

Have you experienced loss, heartbreak or diminished relationships due to someone else’s use of prescription drugs? The Prescription Drug Abuse Support Group meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 6 p.m. at the Huntington Bank in Sault Ste. Marie on following dates: Jan. 6, Jan. 20, Feb. 3, Feb. 17. Please call Linda at (906) 440-7252 or Suzy at 248-3545 for more information.

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Tribe receives USDA Housing Preservation Grant

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS BEGINNING APRIL 1, SERVING FIRST 20 HOUSEHOLDS

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

USDA Rural Development has a longstanding relationship with tribes and offers many programs that strengthen Native Americans and their communities. Some of those programs help tribes and tribal members start and expand businesses, buy homes, improve infrastructure and preserve their culture and lands.

As part of Rural Development's efforts to support Native American communities, the Sault Tribe was recently awarded a

\$38,309 Housing Preservation Grant. Sault Tribe Housing Director Joni Talentino, said the grant will be used for the tribe's Weatherization Program, which provides energy conservation improvements to tribal owner-occupied homes located off of the tribe's reservations. The program provides up to \$5,000 in assistance to tribal households to repair or replace items such as windows, doors, furnaces, sealing of basement opening and foundations, wrapping of pipes, insulat-

ing mobile home skirting, venting and roof repairs and replacement, among others, to make the home more energy efficient.

The application period begins April 1 and Talentino said the Housing Department is hoping to serve a minimum of 20 tribal family homeowners. To be eligible, the home must be located within the tribe's seven county service area and the applicant must meet income guidelines. There is no lien placed on the home for this program.

There is a minimum tribal match for this program from tribal funds of about \$50,000 for 2014. Talentino said, "Tribal funding is allocated on a year-by-year basis according to the tribe's finances and the board of directors. This is the first time the housing authority has applied for this grant and been awarded it, we intend to continue applying for it every year.

"I am very excited about receiving this grant because it is going to allow us to serve more

tribal members in 2014. With the funding that we had in the past we were able to serve about 13 or 14 applicants. This will allow us to serve at least 20 in 2014. So that's really good, especially when times are tough and there are federal budget cuts, at least we are able to provide a few more families with that program," she said.

Because funding is limited, the program is first come, first served. For more information, call (906) 495-5555.

Tribe receives two grants for transportation planning

BY RICK SMITH

Sault Tribe is among 183 tribes receiving a total of \$8.6 million for 195 transportation projects, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration. Sault Tribe is receiving two grants worth \$47,500 for a pair of projects, according to Wendy Hoffman, transportation planner for the tribes Planning and Development Department.

Hoffman explained funding from the first grant of \$35,000 is going to be used to focus on expansion of a current pilot study in progress in collaboration with AAA Foundation for

Traffic Safety, Sault Tribe and Opus International. She said the funding is going to facilitate the development of a comprehensive transportation plan that will include the tribe's entire service area, which covers 19,061 square miles.

Plan objectives, Hoffman noted, include reducing "death and serious injury on roads through a program of systematic assessment of risk that identifies major safety shortcomings which can be addressed by practical road improvement measures." Further, she added, objectives include ensuring risk assessment is at the heart of strategic decisions on roadway improvements,

crash protections and standards of roadway management. "More specifically, we will be able to develop star ratings and a safety investment plan for our entire service area," she said, indicating the initial project only included a portion of the tribe's road network.

In addition, Hoffman indicated the plan is to provide information on where the most affordable and cost-effective road improvements can be made and forecast the reduction in traffic deaths and serious injuries when the plan is implemented, economic benefits and the cost of the plan including capital and maintenance costs.

The second grant of \$12,500 will be used to focus on developing a comprehensive tribal transportation plan, according to Hoffman. She said it is expected that a complete plan will provide a foundation for collaboration, identify key areas of concern and create a framework to accomplish identified goals and objectives. Hoffman will oversee the development, implementation and evaluation of the plan with input and review by a consultant. "Key partners from multidisciplines will be recruited to work collaboratively on a steering committee to strategically identify and address challenges unique to our tribal community,

identify resources and establish communication to develop the plan," she said.

In an official announcement, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said, "Residents living in our nation's tribal communities need and deserve safe roads and bridges and we are committed to ensuring that everyone – regardless of where they live – has access to safe transportation. These new funds will help improve the safety of roads in Indian Country for everyone who depends on them and will improve the quality of life for the tribal communities they serve."

USDA announces historic year for investing in Indian Country

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The USDA and Rural Development recently commemorated Native American Heritage Month and highlighted USDA programs that offer assistance to and strengthen Native Americans and their communities. As part of that, they made available a press release announcing historic grants and loans in Indian country totaling over \$600 million for fiscal year 2013.

USDA's Rural Development Deputy Under Secretary Patrice Kunesh said she doesn't believe that many tribes are doing enough to take advantage of what Rural Development can offer them. To combat that and bring more awareness to the issue, she is working with colleagues in the Natural Resource Conservation Services, the Farm Service, the Office of Tribal Relations and the Food and Nutrition Services

to spread the word wherever and whenever they can. She said Rural Development is also working with the Departments of Energy, Commerce and the U.S. Treasury, as well as the Department of the Interior, to let tribes know about their investment in Indian country and what services and support may be available to them.

Kunesh said, "To my great surprise and tremendous appreciation I find that Rural Development alone last year invested \$660 million in Indian Country. But more than the investments that Rural Development has made in terms of funding, we have really forged wonderful relationships with Indian tribes."

One of those tribes is the Sault Tribe, which has built a strong relationship with USDA repre-

sentatives and recently received a Housing Preservation grant for \$38,309 to rehabilitate 20 homes.

Kunesh began her tenure with the USDA last May. At the time she was serving as the Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

One of her priorities for 2014 is to try and establish significantly more partnerships across the federal government and with tribes. She said a top priority right now is for Congress to provide a comprehensive multi-year Food, Farm and Jobs Bill as soon as possible. Another need she is working to address is to put nutritious food on the table in Indian Country and invest in good food for tribal youth in schools.

Kunesh does not believe the current level of funding for Rural Development is at a level to suf-

ficiently meet the needs in Indian country, but she said it's also not sufficient to meet the needs in rural America either. "Rural America is the heart of the United States and the work that rural America does drives the U.S. economy in terms of feeding us and supporting all the things that we need in the U.S. and is so incredibly important," she said. "The budget is not sufficient and we really do need to look at funding levels that are reflective of the contributions that rural America makes."

During 2013, Rural Development hit a few historic highs in their work with Indian country, including an investment of \$275 million to bring new and improved electric infrastructure to over 80,000 Native peoples. They also made their largest single

investment to a tribe when they approved a \$40 million direct loan and a \$10 million loan guarantee for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to finance a new healthcare facility. Over \$114 million was also invested in 73 loans and grants through their Community Facilities program, which represented a 600 percent increase over the previous fiscal year, according to their press release. It was also announced mid-November that 24 tribal colleges were selected for grants to upgrade their infrastructure and for other improvements.

"Rural Development is about serving rural America and Indian country is synonymous with rural America. The needs of rural America are synonymous with the needs of Indian country," Kunesh said.

USDA announces value-added producer grants

WASHINGTON, D.C.

— Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced the availability of nearly \$10.5 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities designed to give them a competitive business edge.

"U.S. agriculture is connected

to one in 12 American jobs and value-added products from home-grown sources are one important way that agriculture generates economic growth," Vilsack said. "Supporting producers and businesses to create value-added products strengthens rural economies, helps fuel innovation and strengthens marketing opportunities for producers – especially at

the local and regional level."

The funding is being made available through the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Program (http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_vapg.html). Grants are available to help agricultural producers create new products, expand marketing opportunities, support further processing of existing products or goods or to develop specialty and niche products. They may be used for working capital and planning activities. The maximum working capital grant is \$200,000; the maximum planning grant is \$75,000.

Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups. Funding priority is given to

socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers or ranchers and to small to medium sized family farms or farmer/rancher cooperatives.

The Value-Added Producer Grant program is one of many USDA programs that support the development of strong local and regional food systems as part of the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative. Launched in 2009, the initiative strengthens ties between agricultural producers and their local communities, helping meet growing consumer demand and creating opportunities for small business development. Initiatives like this create new income opportunities for farmers, generate wealth that will stay in rural communities and

See "USDA grants," page 11



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Boreal chickadee species in decline in Michigan

FROM THE AUDUBON SOCIETY

The boreal chickadee, aptly named for its dependence on the boreal forest, is a superb indicator species in Michigan. Simply put, if the boreal forest is declining so is the boreal chickadee population.

In Michigan, boreal habitats can be found in the Upper Peninsula and consist primarily of cold-tolerant coniferous trees, such as black and white spruce, balsam fir, jack pine and

tamarack (larch). Additionally, the boreal chickadee favors black spruce-tamarack wetlands. This makes Michigan the southernmost range for this non-migratory resident species and easily susceptible to habitat degradation.

The boreal chickadee, which looks similar to the very common black-capped chickadee, has experienced a 73 percent population decline between 1965 to 2005 (Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas) and thus put the species

on National Audubon's, "Top 20 Common Birds in Decline" list. The current population is a mere 5.2 million individuals compared to 40 years ago when the population stood at an impressive 20 million.

This decline may be attributed to changes in the amount and quality of boreal habitats in recent decades. Excessive logging, drilling and mining has threatened mature boreal forests throughout the bird's North American range.

The boreal forests of the Upper Peninsula are still recovering from the effects of logging during the turn of the last century. Although these boreal forests have rebounded, they are still not at their fullest potential to attract boreal chickadees, which were very common in the Upper Peninsula before the logging boom of the 1800's (Barrows).

Another probable factor in the species' population decline in Michigan is climate change. As the species' southernmost range a minor one or two degrees in temperature change can, over time, reduce the amount of boreal habitat in the Upper Peninsula. With smaller areas of boreal forest available the boreal chickadee population in the state will decline further as the bird retreats to Canada in search of suitable habitat and food.

The future of the species depends heavily on better cultivation practices of boreal forests and improving industrial methods for logging, mining and drilling. In Michigan, encouraging public land managers to have bird-friendly management plans and to increase protected areas of boreal forests will also help the chickadee. Conservation of this specific habitat will improve lives for an abundance of other Michigan-native boreal species such as the gray jay, black-backed woodpecker, northern flicker, belted kingfisher, great horned owl, saw-whet owl and olive-



sided flycatcher. Reducing the effects of climate change will improve the boreal chickadee population as well. There are a few easy ways you can help such as staying informed on current legislation regarding greenhouse emissions and alternative energy, along with conserving energy where you live, work and play.

Although the boreal chickadee is on National Audubon's, "Top 20 Common Birds in Decline" list it has not made it on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List yet. This means there is still time to help this species and prevent it from joining the threatened or endangered species list. If you would like to contribute to boreal chickadee conservation, contact Michigan Audubon at michiganaudubon.org or the Boreal Song Bird Initiative at borealbirds.org.

From "USDA grants," page 10 —

increase access to healthy, local foods in underserved communities. All of these actions boost local economies.

The announcement came as more than 1,400 communities nationwide geared up to support Small Business Saturday, a day dedicated to championing small businesses on one of the busiest shopping weekends of the year. This year's Small Business Saturday was on Nov. 30.

Rural Development is encouraging applications from tribal organizations as well as applications that support regional food hubs. Applications supporting value-added activities related to bio-based products are also encouraged.

Since 2009, the Obama administration has provided agricultural producers with almost \$80 million in Value Added Producer Grant assistance that has supported more than 600

innovative, value-added projects.

In fiscal year 2012, for example, the Mississippi Delta Southern Rural Black Women in Agriculture Association received a \$44,000 working capital grant to provide a variety of services in the delta region.

The cooperative delivered oven-bakeable sweet potato fries to local Head Start programs and schools; cut, washed and bagged greens for local restaurants; and delivered sustainably grown and heirloom sweet potatoes to local and specialty grocers regionally and nationwide.

The sweet potatoes are processed at the vegetable facility at Alcorn State University, in Lorman, Miss.

The project is supplying emerging markets with locally grown produce to enhance production, marketing and distribution infrastructure among women and minority landowners in per-

sistently poor rural communities.

Additional examples of how VAPGs assist local and regional food producers are available on the USDA Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food, which is searchable by zip code and key word.

Grant applications are due by Feb. 24, 2014. More information about how to apply is available on page 70260 of the Nov. 25 Federal Register or by contacting any USDA Rural Development state office.

A comprehensive new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill would further expand the rural economy, Vilsack said, adding that's just one reason why Congress must get a comprehensive Bill done as soon as possible.

USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values.

TOURNAMENTS

\$15,000 Spin to Win
Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie
January 24-26, 2014

\$15,000 Poker Blast
Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie
February 14-16, 2014

\$15,000 Spin to Win
Kewadin St. Ignace
February 21-23, 2014

\$22,500 Mega Bingo
Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie
February 22, 2014

SUNDAY Craps - St. Ignace
• Registration at the Gaming Pit 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
• Tournament starts at 6 p.m.

Hi-Only Poker - St. Ignace
THURSDAYS
• Registration at the Gaming Pit 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
• Tournament starts at 6 p.m.

Midnight Madness - St. Ignace
TUESDAYS
• Registration at the Gaming Pit 10 p.m.
• Tournament begins at 12 a.m.

Kewadin Party Pits
Kewadin St. Ignace & Christmas
1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month 7-11 p.m.
Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie & Manistique
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month 7-11 p.m.
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January 1 (New Year's Day)
February 2 (Super Bowl Sunday)
February 14 (Valentine's Day)

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January 25 and February 15, 2014
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March 1, 2014 the event will take place from 6-11 p.m. with credit and cash draws throughout the night and the five grand prize draws at each casino at 11:15 p.m.

Promotion subject to change or cancellation at management's discretion. See Northern Rewards Club or kewadin.com for official rules. Promotion available at all Kewadin Casinos.
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All Kewadin Sites

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• Cash Draws: 6 p.m.-11 p.m.
• First 100 to register at NRC get a free gift!
Music, Appetizers, Party Favors & FREE Champagne!
Rules & details at the Northern Rewards Club.

Fantastic Friday Social
All Kewadin Sites
Every Friday from 4-10 p.m.
• Random draws on slots and tables
• Earn double & triple points
• Top 3 each Friday
PLUS ... one entry each Friday for the Grand Prize Draw!

Keys & Credits Monday
St. Ignace, Christmas, Hessel, Manistique
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Your Chance to Win a Car!
PLUS ... Win Your Share of Over \$2,500 in Kewadin Credits!
Four cars have been given away!
For details and official rules see kewadin.com.

2014 Black Lake Sturgeon Lottery Application

Sault Tribe has an allocation of 1 sturgeon from Black Lake in Cheboygan County in 2014. We will conduct a lottery on January 20 to determine who will have the opportunity to harvest a sturgeon. Please fill out the following application and return to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement at: **PO Box 1829, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.** **Application must be received by 5:00 P.M Friday January 17th.**

First Name	<input type="text"/>	Middle Name	<input type="text"/>	Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>			City	<input type="text"/>
		State	<input type="text"/>	Zipcode	<input type="text"/>
File Number (Red # on Tribal ID)	<input type="text"/>			Phone Number	<input type="text"/>
STS #	<input type="text"/>	Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>	Sex	<input type="text"/>
		email address	<input type="text"/>		

Deer harvest facts — not fiction

JENNIFER DALE-BURTON, EDITOR

John Walker, in the Nov. 5 “Fish Story” column in the Pioneer Tribune wrote, “A lot of hunters feel two of the main reasons are all the predators out there making a meal out of the fawns and any other deer they can catch. The other main reason given is the overwhelming number of Indian Licenses being given out. They say in some cases there are families that have a dozen or more of these Indian kill tags. I don't know what factors are really affecting the deer herd but something surely is.”

Walker wrote in a subsequent email that he had heard from at least two tribal members that they thought there were too many tags being given out.

Here are a few facts that may help members and others understand the tribal deer harvest a little better, and perhaps put it in perspective:

Sault Tribe's deer harvest for 2012 was 4,000 deer, taken by 3,600 hunters. That's an average of 1.11 deer per hunter. The

Holiday tree tags and photo album project

Did you know that holiday trees are available for cutting on Hiawatha National Forest land? If you are one who likes the “thrill of the hunt,” the excitement of trudging through the snow in search of the perfect tree, then we have the perfect opportunity for you. For the price of a “tree tag” (\$5) and a little sweat, you can cut your own tree from national forest land. To obtain a permit, in the form of a “tree tag,” stop at your local ranger district office.

Along with your permit, you will receive tree cutting guidelines, information regarding cutting areas and suggestions for flame-proofing your tree.

The Forest Service is offering

Maple sap apps due Jan. 15

FROM IFWD

Pursuant to Tribal Code 23.405, tribal members have the right to gather sap on federal forestland for the purpose of making maple syrup. Permits for sap gathering have to be approved in advance by the Inland Fish and Wildlife department and

tribe's harvest was distributed across 32 counties in the U.P. and Northern Michigan with 8.93 percent of the harvest in Delta County and 12.74 percent in Schoolcraft, counties from which Walker was writing.

Cars make more of a dent in the deer populations than the tribe does. According to Michigan.gov, there are more than 60,000 reported vehicle-deer crashes in Michigan every year. That means for every deer taken by a tribal hunter, 15 others are hit by cars.

According to the state's report, 654,100 state licensed hunters took 418,000 deer in 2012, with 15 percent of these taking two deer — that's 98,100 state hunters taking two, and the remainder taking one. In fact, 12,703 deer taken in one weekend during the youth hunt is over three times what Sault Tribe hunters harvested for the entire season.

Sault Tribe's deer hunt is mostly for subsistence. While some tribal hunters are looking for that trophy buck, many more are just hunting for food.

something new this year — an online holiday tree-cutting photo album that we hope will add to the fun of cutting your tree and spread the idea of getting outdoors in the winter. When you pick up your tree tag, ask for information on how to participate in the holiday tree cutting photo album project.

For more information about tree tags, call the U.S. Forest Service at Manistique (906) 341-5666 (Tree tags available on Wednesdays only), Munising 387-2512 (daily), Rapid River 474-6442 (daily), St Ignace 643-7900 (daily) or Sault Ste Marie 635-5311 (call ahead).

the Forest Service. Members interested in sap collection this coming spring must submit application by Jan. 15 to the Inland Fish and Wildlife Department. Applications can also be found online at saulttribe.com or by contacting the IFWD at (906) 632-6132.

From the Front Page

From “Conference,” Page 1

had yet to hear any federal body mention Indian Country advocacy as part of their mission. Further, he gave three suggestions on working with 21st century American Indians: 1) Work directly with tribal leaders, 2) look at what's been done in the past and 3) treat Indian Country as equal partners. “We need our trustee to be worthy of our trust,” he added. “If you treat Indian Country as equal partners, everybody wins.”

Tribal leaders from Maine and Arizona addressed the council and were followed by the chairman of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors, Aaron Payment. He called for Indian Country funding to be mandatory instead of discretionary, as federal support is mandated by agreement in many treaties. “The funding that we receive for our tribe based on the U.S. policies is not reparations or entitlement. We paid for these services with the blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors,” he said. Words he reiterated in a statement he made the following day as a member of one of two panels testifying before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs during an oversight hearing on contract support costs and sequestration.

Speaking before the Council on Native American Affairs, Payment further urged the federal government and Indian people to stick together to find solutions to the sequestering situation and to protect tribal funding.

Six more tribal representatives spoke to the council before the session was closed.

Karen Driver, chair of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, introduced President Barack Obama for his address. The president essentially recounted the many initiatives to strengthen Indian Country brought by his administration and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to continue building Indian Country by concentrating on four key issues of protecting tribal justice and sovereignty, building economies, expanding high quality health care and protecting tribal lands.

Following the president's speech, all were invited upstairs for a reception.

From “Testimony,” Page 1

contract shortfalls. We did that in the summer of 2012, but since then, nothing has happened.” He expressed bafflement that happens when the federal government

under President Obama had shown much promise for Indian Country in righting age old wrongs, and while there have been considerable steps taken in the right direction, it's far from over.

“I believe the president is committed to seeing these issues resolved fairly and quickly. But I also believe that there are some in the agencies who do not see it that way. The government doesn't ‘win’ when it pays less than it owes, the government ‘wins’ when justice is done — justice. And the Supreme Court has made it perfectly clear that justice here means paying the portion of the contracts that the agencies failed to pay at the time.”

Indicating that Indian Country can't take more of the same, Payment expressed confidence that stopping the long-standing funding battle is what is an outcome desired by the president, Congress and tribal leadership.

Payment is also cited in a 130-page report produced by NDD United, a coalition of non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs. The NDD agencies and organizations provide governmental functions for the benefit of all. Such functions include medical research, public health, education, economic growth, safety and security, housing and so on.

The report, titled Faces of Austerity: How Budget Cuts Have Made Us Sicker, Poorer and Less Secure, defines federal funding as either mandatory or discretionary. It names Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid as examples of mandatory type programs. Further, discretionary funding is split between defense discretionary and non-defense discretionary. Congress has the choice each year on funding levels for discretionary programs during the annual federal budget process.

The report indicates “tribal communities are losing the battle in the nation's war against chronic disease.” It describes the chairman of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors as “living on the front lines of that battle” in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The report indicates Michigan has long been a state with one of the highest death rates from chronic diseases among Americans Indians.”

“My parents and grandparents all died in their 50s and 60s,” Payment was quoted. “Our elders used to live to be 80. In our community, 60 now marks the end of life. We're losing the keepers of our language, culture and wis-

dom.”

The report briefly describes the Indian Health Service (IHS) as the principal federal health care provider for Indian Country and how Payment understands the value of IHS in preventing larger numbers of chronic diseases among Sault Tribe, but it has long been inadequately funded. “Even when fully funded, we were only functioning at 56 percent of the documented need,” the report cites him as saying. “There is and has always been significant unmet need across the tribe.”

While the health care needs and costs for members have increased, the tribe's IHS funding has remained stagnant, and sequestration cut another \$220 million from HIS, according to the report, rendering a cumulative setback on the tribe through a 40 percent decrease in its IHS funding.

Further, sequestration compounds matters for the tribe not only through health service cuts, but through other cuts to Head Start, public safety, natural resources, sanitation and housing.

Payment estimates the tribes IHS funding could be cut by \$2.5 million if the sequestration continues into 2014, which would have a devastating impact on health services. “We have cut into the fat already, so we will have to cancel more services,” Payment is quoted. “We have 11 health clinics now. If sequestration continues, we will have to close all but one and pink slip 20 percent of our medical staff.”

The report indicates what troubles Payment most is the historic and continuing lack on the part of the federal government to live up to its government-to-government relationship with Indian Country, especially in terms of seemingly putting Indian Country on a low priority when it comes to funding, in spite of treaty obligations to the contrary. The report notes that Payment wants to see the federal government honor its obligations to Indian Country in full, “Treaties and tribes are not discretionary.”

To see the testimonies in full, visit www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/oversight-hearing-contract-support-costs-and-sequestration-fiscal-crisis-indian-country and <http://new.livestream.com/usinterior/WHtribal/videos/34741330>. The Faces of Austerity report can be downloaded at www.publichealthfunding.org/ndd_report/ndd-report-digital.pdf.

USCG Sault hosts Native American Month event

Photos by Brenda Austin

Lt. Erica Metzger, United States Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie, approached Sault tribe this fall with the idea of bringing Coast Guard personnel and Sault Tribe people together. Delighted with the idea of sharing the tribe's rich culture and history, Communications Director Jennifer Dale-Burton worked with Metzger to make arrangements, including a line-up of tribal dignitaries to speak at the Nov. 25 event.

About 45 Coast Guard personnel and some family filled the small mess hall. Sault Tribe Chairman Aaron Payment spoke of the tribe's pre-recognition years and the hardships many members faced on a daily basis. Cecil Pavlat, tribal repatriation specialist, and his apprentice, Colleen St. Onge, spoke about the history of the St. Marys River and why the Bawating area is so important to the Anishinaabe.

A small feast of traditional foods followed with participants bringing dishes of venison, blueberries, strawberries and wild rice and nuts. Conducting water teachings, Amy McCoy Sayers led the roomful in making tobacco twists and binding them together. This, along with the feast offering, was

offered to the water in an outside ceremony on the USCG Cutter Katmai Bay after the feast wrapped up.

Seamen Storekeeper Michael Urena Nogue, from Orlando, Fla., stationed in the Sault for the past three months said, "I always wanted to know about Native American culture, and for the first time I got an aspect of what it is like — not what the TV shows me. The traditional foods were delicious, but the best part for me was the water ceremony — for me it was like a cleansing."

Other tribal attendees were ITFAP environmental coordinator, Mike Ripley; Mary Murray Culture Camp coordinator, Jackie Minton; and Governmental Relations Director Mike McCoy.

Dale-Burton said the event was a success and hopefully the first of many joint events and opportunities to help each other. "I'm so glad Lt. Metzger approached us — we enjoyed working together," she said, thanking everyone who attended and spoke, especially Coast Guard personnel Lt. Metzger, SK3 Jesenia Nunez and SNSK Michael Urena Nogue for helping with the feast and Amy Sayers for sharing water teachings.



Geezhik Sayers hands out cloth for each participant to make a tobacco bundle.



Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment speaks to a crowd of 50 at the Soo USCG base.



Amy McCoy Sayers talks to participants about our responsibility to the water.



Participants attach their tobacco bundles together with ribbon, above and below.



A feast offering for the water, above, made by Colleen St. Onge, below.



Malcolm observes 10th Thanksgiving feast



Photos by Rick Smith

The 10th annual Malcolm High School Thanksgiving celebration in Sault Ste. Marie once again featured American Indian drumming, dancing, singing and generous helpings of good food, cheer and guests of honor.

Students, school faculty and staff along with invited elders from the Hearthside Assisted Living Facility listened to Chris Gordon of JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy reflected on the significance of the occasion contrasting the holiday with Anishinaabe customs and expressed thanks appropriate to the ethnicity for the blessings of the day. JKL fifth grade student Gezhiday Matrious danced in a jingle dress to songs of the Ogimaa-Minisinoos Drum from the school. In addition, an attendee offered words of thanks in a Christian style.

Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a sumptuous traditional Thanksgiving dinner featuring tasty turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes provided by funds from the JKL Fiduciary Committee and other delectable offerings contributed by the school staff and faculty. The Fiduciary Committee contributed to the celebration since the Malcolm High student body has a large number of former JKL students.

Members of the Ogimaa-Minisinoos Drum of JKL Bahweting Public School Academy, from left, Geezhik Sayers, fourth grade; Cameron Hoonstra, fifth grade; Trey Forgrave, fourth grade; Kyle Dowd, sixth grade; Chris Gordon, JKL instructor; Anthony King, fourth grade; Scott Garcia, fifth grade; and Zack Cole, sixth grade. Other current members of the drum not pictured are Michael Gunkel and Gegek Webkamigad; dancers and singers, Jenna Hominga, Gezhiday Matrious, Jada Pine-Hall and Alexia Pine-Hall.



Above, this side-by-side photo arrangement gives readers a feel of the 2013 Thanksgiving assembly at Malcolm High School as the school principal, Sandy Sawyer, addresses the gathering just before the start of serving the feast. Folks standing behind the tables served the entrees enjoyed by all. Below, folks begin filing through the food line.

The faculty, staff and students of JKL Bahweting PSA and Malcolm High School cordially wish everyone a happy holiday season!



Casino art gallery offers many holiday treasures



Michael McKenzie recently moved to the Sault from Escanaba and started selling his crafts in November. He sells turtle and rabbit pouches with traditional bead work, Christmas ornaments, scarves, mittens and sweater hats. His mother, Georgine McKenzie, is a tribal elder and makes many of the hats he has for sale. He also offers wares made by Ashley Berauthume, Karen Corbett and Cory Shipman.



Lisa Dietz has been selling her crafts at the Kewadin Casino Baawating Art Gallery since 2009. From January to September, artisans gather once a month on the second Thursday through Saturday to display their handmade crafts. Dietz said she is there during the holiday season for most of October through the first half of December.



Michael Shampine and his mother, Sharon Shampine, have been selling her jewelry at the art gallery for the past five years. He also makes dream catchers and magnets.



Debbie Flowers sells her necklaces, rings, bracelets and earrings — all made from quality glass beads and semi-precious stones. She also does silversmithing and bead-work. Prices for her hand made jewelry ranges from \$5 to \$45. She also sells some fishing flies made by her husband, Bob Flowers.



Ambrose Peshlakai has been selling his crafts at the art gallery for the past eight years. He sells sterling silver and turquoise jewelry, Colorado alabaster and inlay stone pendants. A talented artist, he also offers pencil drawings for sale. Peshlakai said he spent four months in New Mexico learning how to use jewelry tools.

Photos by Brenda Austin

JKL third graders decorated a tree to be auctioned off at the LSSU Festival of Trees. The event helps raise money for the LSSU Dance Company.

The students refer to their decorated tree as all natural. It is safe for birds. Decorations on the tree include cranberry garland, peanut butter pincones and apples sliced so you can see the star shapes of the cores.



Chairman donates to help Hessel elders



Chairperson Aaron Payment donated \$500 to Hessel Elders last month presented to them at the Hessel Tribal Center.

2013 Sobriety POWWOW

Everyone Welcome!

December 31 at LSSU's Norris Center

**Grand Entry 7pm
Feast at 9pm**

**Biboon Celebration:
Saturday Dec. 30, 1-6 p.m.
at Niigaanagiizhik Building**

Storytelling! Teachings! Learn the Moccasin Game! Fry Bread, Corn Soup, Galette, Macaroni Soup Contest with Prizes, and Giveaway!

**Head Vet
TBA**

**Head Male & Female
CODY BLUE
SHILOH LUSSIER**

**Host Drum
WOODLAND SINGERS**

**Co-host Drum
SPIRIT LAKE**

**Master of Ceremony
JOSH HOMMINGA**

**Arena Director
Keith Smith**



3 Person Hand Drum Competition 6 p.m. — 1st Place \$300, 2nd Place \$200, 3rd Place \$100

Jingle Dress Special — 1st Place \$300, 2nd Place \$200, 3rd Place \$100

Men's Traditional Special — 1st Place \$300, 2nd Place \$200, 3rd Place \$100

Absolutely no Drugs or Alcohol.

DAVID F. FRAZIER

David F. Frazier, Sr., 66, a lifelong Naubinway resident, died unexpectedly of natural causes in his deer blind on Nov. 15, 2013.

Born on March 31, 1947, he was one of 13 children of George and Beatrice (nee Pond) Frazier. Dave was raised in Naubinway by his step-father, Albert "Tuffy" Frazier, and his mother. Dave graduated from Engadine High School in the class of 1966. Following graduation, he attended Bay De Noc College. On May 18, 1974 he married the former Mary Martindale of Newberry. Together they lived in Naubinway where he was a commercial fisherman, a proud owner/operator/captain and, as of this last summer, a three-generation family fishing vessel, the Echo. Because of his love and passion for the outdoors, he never considered his occupations as work. Dave was employed as a tribal conservation officer for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians from 1979-82.

Since 1989, he was a member of the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Dept. He received the Fire Fighter of the Year award in 1993 and was an engineer and safety officer for the department. Dave was a U.S. Army veteran, serving from 1967 until his honorable discharge. He was a member of Post 290 of the American Legion in Engadine, the Big Mac Pak Snowmobile Club of Naubinway and was a horseshoe league member at the Cove in Naubinway. He also served as the Garfield Township sexton for over 20 years and was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. David loved attending his grandchildren's sporting events, no matter where they were competing.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Alex, George, Harold and Bill; and his sisters, Mary Oven and Betty Stansbury.

David is survived by his wife, Mary, in Naubinway; and sons David (Debra) Jr. of Engadine and Kevin of Naubinway. Also surviving are two grandsons, Zachary and Isak of Engadine; and his sisters, Larrie (Donald) Brackebury of Escanaba, Catherine Nolton of Waterford, Barbara Davis of E. Lansing and Sarah (David) Walsh of Naubinway; and his brothers, Peter (Betty) Frazier of Traverse City and Walter K. Frazier in Naubinway.

Visitation and services were on Nov. 22-23 in Naubinway at the Christian Fellowship Church with Pastor Tim Miller officiating at the church and performing graveside services. Military graveside honors provided by the American Legion Post 290 and Native American ceremonies followed at the Naubinway Cemetery.

Condolences can be expressed at beaulieufuneralhome.com. Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry assisted the family with their arrangements.

PETER A. GOUDREAU

Peter Alvin Goudreau,

aged 84, of University Park passed away on Dec. 7, peacefully at home among his family.

He is survived by his sons, Peter John Goudreau and wife Linda, Dr. Jeffrey Bennett Goudreau and wife Sally; and grandchildren Christina, Melanie, Alexander and Savannah.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara; sister, Rita and sister Mary Salter and husband Jack and brother, Wilbur Goudreau, Jr.; nieces, Jacqueline Salter, Robin Higgins, Angela, Carol and Roxanne Goudreau; nephews, Dennis and Gary Salter and William Anderson.

After the passing of his wife in 2009, he moved to Dallas to be close to his sons and their families. Living next door to his four grandchildren was a blessing, providing them all the opportunity to know and love each other. Despite the extensive time that he devoted to various ministries in his community, he repeatedly verbalized that his family was his greatest joy and that he was blessed to spend his final years so nearby.

Pete was born on September 14, 1929 in Muskegon, Michigan. He grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with one of his first and most memorable jobs being a bell hop at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island during the heydays of the 1940's. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Michigan Technological University followed by graduate studies in Business Management at the University of Tennessee, Oak Ridge, and the University of Houston, Clear Lake. Pete had a long and successful career in engineering management including early work in his career for the U.S. Rubber Company, Dow Chemical Company and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He retired to Florence, Alabama from the Du Pont Company in 1991 after many years working in maintenance, production, and technical management. Pete was active in various professional organizations including AICHE, AIPE, and ISA. Peter proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War.

During retirement, Pete found passion and joy as a long time servant of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Before joining the local conference after his move to Dallas, he and two friends had started and managed the first St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Florence. He continued his diligent service to the society by volunteering at the Dallas St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store weekly. Pete was a permanent fixture at every bundle Sunday, regularly attended weekly meetings and participated in home visits to those in need. A close friend describes him as a "great servant of Christ and someone I want to emulate for the rest of my life."

Pete was also a devoted member of the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization, the Knights of Columbus, having joined the order in 1953. He was



a third and fourth degree knight active in councils in Florence, Ala. (3989) and Dallas, Texas (799). He was also a member of the Father Abram J. Ryan Assembly. Pete is described by his friends as a "quiet, hard-working member of the council, always quick to volunteer for the Lenten fish fry dinners."

Pete was a faithful parishioner of Christ the King Catholic Church where he was found "every morning in the fourth pew on the right." He regularly attended the Wednesday evening bible study at the church. He was well known at the church and consistently described as a "great guy, a sweet man."

Pete served as a volunteer at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas for several years at the professional desk, welcoming guests and navigating them through the hospital. He was described by the other hospital volunteers as "fabulous, always the first to show up at events and a joy to be around."

Pete was also an active officer in the Berea, Ohio Elks and an elder in the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Visitation and services took place on Dec. 12-13 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Dallas, Texas. The family requests that any donations in his honor be made to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 8017 Preston Road, Dallas, Texas 75225.

RICHARD A. LAMBERT

Richard A. Lambert, 66, of St. Ignace, passed away on Nov. 26, 2013, at McLaren Northern Michigan hospital in Petoskey. He was born on Oct. 14, 1947, to Willard and Helen (nee Cousequat) Lambert in Sault Ste. Marie. He grew up in Onaway.

He married Beverly Bellmore on April 21, 1980, in Cheboygan.

Mr. Lambert worked as a pit boss at Kewadin Casino in St. Ignace. He enjoyed calling bingo on Wednesday evenings at the St. Ignace VFW and was a member and elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife; his stepson, Raymond Kuznicki of St. Ignace; and his brother, Rodney Lambert of St. Ignace.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

No services are planned at this time. Dodson Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

CONRAD W. LAPLANTE

Conrad W. LaPlante, aged 53, of Baraga, passed away on Nov. 23, 2013. He was born in L'Anse on March 30, 1960, the son of Anthony "Tony" LaPlante Sr. and the late Ilene (nee Miller) LaPlante.



Conrad attended schools in Baraga. On July 30, 2005, he married Nichole Bemis in Baraga. Conrad had worked in the maintenance department at Baraga State Park and was employed at the Baraga Ojibwa Casino for the past 28 years, most

recently as surveillance manager. He was a member of Holy Name of Jesus Church, former member of Baraga Housing Commission and a retired Baraga Fireman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, cooking, reading and spending time with his daughter "Heidi Bird."

Mr. LaPlante is survived by his wife, Nichole; daughter, Heidi; step-daughter, Liannea; father, Tony LaPlante, Sr. of Baraga; brothers, Tony (Debbie) LaPlante of Sault Ste. Marie, Tom (Tracy) LaPlante of Baraga; sisters Clara (Donald) Chosa of Baraga and Patty (Paul) Paavola of Elo; special aunts, Irene and Kathy, and aunts Marion Bennett and Helen Stein; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and other family members also survive.

He was preceded in death by his mother; brother, Kurt; and nephew, Travis Seppanen.

Visitation and funeral services took place on Nov. 26-27 at the Reid Funeral Service and Chapel in L'Anse with Pastor Judy Mattson officiating.

Mr. LaPlante's obituary may also be viewed and condolences sent to the family at www.rfsc.net.

LEO R. MENDOSKIN

Leo Raymond Mendoskin, aged 62, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Nov. 23, 2013, at War Memorial Hospital. He was born in Owosso, Mich., on Feb. 14, 1951.

Ray is survived by his wife, June Mendoskin; a daughter, Keri Mendoskin; a son: Ray Mendoskin, who passed on Nov. 25, 2013; five grandchildren, Justin Burton, Brandi Roy, Tommy Mendoskin, Kaylee Riffey and Chelsea Riffey; two great-grandchildren, Gracie and Aurora; sisters, Cora Gravelle and Virginia Gurnoe; and many nieces and nephews.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Carrie (nee Smith) Mendoskin; four brothers, Richard, Joey, Tommy and Billy; and two sisters, Bonnie and Sally.

Funeral services and visitation took place on Nov. 26 at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building. Burial will be at Willwalk Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations would be greatly appreciated to help with funeral expenses.

RAYMOND L. MENDOSKIN

Raymond Leo "Little Ray" Mendoskin of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Nov. 25, 2013. He was born in Battle Creek, Mich., on June 24, 1973.

Little Ray is survived by sons, Justin N. Burton and Tommy R. Mendoskin; a daughter, Brandy A. Ray; his mother, June Mendoskin; sister, Keri Mendoskin; granddaughters, Aurora M. Hodge and Gracie Bennett; nieces, Kaylee Riffey and Chelsea Riffey.

Ray was predeceased by his father, Ray Leo Mendoskin.

Visitation and services took place from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building. Burial will be in Willwalk Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to the family of Raymond Leo Mendoskin would be appreciated. Clark Bailey Newhouse

Funeral Home and Cremation Center assisted the family. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

DIANE R. NOLAN

Diane R. Nolan of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. passed away on Dec. 3, 2013, at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey, Mich. She was born on July 19, 1938, in Hessel, Mich.

She enjoyed gardening, camping and outdoor activities. Her door was always open to her children, grandchildren and her many friends. Diane was a member of St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church and enjoyed her time at the Living Word Church.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Joseph A. Nolan; children, Sheila (Tim) Savoie, Kenneth (Peggy) Cook, JoAnne (Kelly) Hewitt, Shawn (Linda) Nolan; Kathleen Flesher, Cheryl (Loren) Nolan, Gary (Amy) Nolan, Ryan (Melissa) Nolan and Michael (Loretta) Nolan; grandchildren, Nicole Savoie, Travis Savoie, Brandon (Laura) Cook, Joseph W. Nolan, Isaac (Kayla) Nolan, Kellie Marie Nolan, Elly (Loren) Nolan, Joseph R. Nolan, Jordan Flesher, Zack Flesher, Justin (Corin) Nolan, Jessi (James) Quigley, Johnathan Nolan, Dakota Nolan, Paula Hanskett-Nolan, Taylor Nolan, Mikayla Graham, Jacob Graham, Trevor Cryderman, Anthony Nolan, Maddison Nolan, Seth Nolan, Hailey Gagnon, Rheanna McKechnie, Ronnie McKechnie and Raven McKechnie; great-grandchildren, Brianna Hart, Joseph J. Nolan, Allie Nolan, Abby Nolan, Lore'n Armentrout, Dane Armentrout, Gavin Armentrout, Josh Green, and Collin Nolan.

Diane was preceded in death by her parents, Louie and Helen Smith; daughter, Terri Nolan; and grandchildren, Christian Flesher and Katlyn Flesher.

Visitation took place on Dec. 5 at Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home and Cremation Center. Services were conducted on Dec. 6 at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church with Brother John Hascall officiating. Burial will be in Maple Ridge Cemetery Sugar Island, Mich. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com

OTTO E. SUGGITT

Otto E. Suggitt died on Nov. 29, 2013, at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He was born on Oct. 14, 1956, in Sault Ste. Marie.



Mr. Suggitt was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and founder of Kinross Clyde's. He was a genuine kind and giving father, grandfather and friend.

He is survived by his children, Michael (Mary) Suggitt of Chesterfield, Mich., Sandy Jacques of Port Huron, Mich., and Michelle (Jeff Kinder) of Sterling Heights, Mich., Jakie (Rich) Vidlund of Negaunee, Mich.; grandchildren, Eddy

See "Obits," page 18

Why and how you should enroll in the Affordable Care Act, known as “Obamacare”

BY DANIEL FRYE,
SAULT TRIBE HEALTH CENTER
How does health insurance work 2014?

Health insurance works like this: you pay a monthly premium rate for every month you have coverage. The higher the rate the less out-of-pocket expenses you are responsible for and the larger network of doctors and providers you can use. All plans starting after 2014 are required to offer the same minimum benefits, rights and protections.

About 85 percent of Americans already have health coverage and won't have sign up for ObamaCare. In other words, if you have Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance or are one of the nearly 50 percent of Americans who gets their coverage through their employer, you are safe and have nothing to do.

The 15 percent of Americans

who don't currently have health insurance will either have to obtain health insurance, get an exemption or pay a per month fee on their tax returns for every month they are without health coverage starting in 2014.

In June, the Obama administration issued a final rule allowing all American Indians and Alaska Natives who are eligible to receive services from an Indian healthcare provider to receive an exemption from the shared responsibility payment if they do not maintain minimum essential coverage under the Affordable Care Act. Prior to development of the final rule, only a portion of the American Indian and Alaska Native population – members of federally recognized tribes – would have access to an exemption from the requirement to maintain minimum essential coverage under the law.

The final rule reflects comments and feedback received from Indian Country through rulemaking and the tribal consultation process. The Affordable Care Act permanently reauthorizes the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, provides new opportunities for health insurance coverage, eliminates cost sharing such as co-pays and deductibles, and provides special monthly enrollment periods for members of federally recognized tribes who enroll in health plans offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

How do I sign up For ObamaCare?

The Sault Tribe Health Department encourages all members to explore all of their options. There is a benefit to both the tribal member and the Sault Tribe by being insured. It gives members more control and flex-

ibility over their own health care. Third party reimbursement from insurers also helps the Health Department with operating costs and providing services to all members throughout the service area.

You can sign up for ObamaCare's marketplaces by going directly to healthcare.gov, filling out and sending an application by mail or by telephone. The marketplace is set up so that the consumer can shop for their best options and decide what best suits themselves or their families. Some plans will offer subsidies; by going to healthcare.gov you can type in all of your information and the website will give you your options. Prior to going to healthcare.gov you can also go to Kaiser Permanente's website and use their calculator to get an

idea of the cost. Note: this website won't include the tax credit, that must come from healthcare.gov. The Kaiser website is: <http://kff.org/interactive/subsidy-calculator>. If you qualify for a tax credit you will be able to use it two ways, monthly or annually. Either every month you would pay the remaining balance after the credit or at the end of the year while filing your taxes with the IRS, you can receive your tax credit in one payment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of your tribal health centers. Each health center has certified applications counselors on site who can help assist members with questions or concerns regarding healthcare.gov or basic questions about signing up for health insurance.

ITC of Michigan receives health initiatives grant

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan was recently awarded a grant to provide training and assistance to tribal populations experiencing health disparities due to tobacco use and cancer from the federal Office on Smoking and Health and the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control.

The five-year grant, totaling more than \$625,000, will be used to develop training materials and offer assistance to tribes

throughout the U.S. and will focus on the council's National Native Network initiative, which uses tribal partners from the Cherokee Nation, Lumbee Tribe, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, California Rural Indian Health Board and the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board.

The purpose of the grant is to provide training and technical assistance for tribal populations experiencing tobacco related and cancer health disparities via the

National Native Network and its partners. It is the second five-year grant the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan has received to support its work on this important health issue affecting Indian Country.

“We appreciate the continued support and collaboration with the Office on Smoking and Health and the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control to further our education and outreach efforts within local tribal communities,” said Derek J. Bailey, government

relations and tribal policy consultant for the council.

The Office on Smoking and Health and Division of Cancer Prevention and Control has worked collaboratively with the National Native Network across the Indian country to develop a culturally specific cancer education training and technical assistance over the past several years. The training and technical assistance addresses various types of methods and best practices to

educate, increase awareness and provide cultural traditional teachings for the sacred use of tobacco, which in its pure form is recognized by many tribal nations as a sacred element.

For more information on the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's cancer education programs, please call Noel Pingatore at (906) 632-6896. For more information about Keep It Sacred, please visit www.keepitsacred.org.

Employee snapshot - Brandi MacArthur

Name: Brandi MacArthur
Dept.: Higher Education
Position: Administrative assistant
Years at Job: Almost three years with the Education Department, but I have been working with the Sault Tribe since 2002.

What I like best about my job? – Being able to assist students with the college process. As a first generation student, I had no idea how to sign up for college or what I needed to do. It was a very confusing process. Now as a college graduate, I can help students and provide them with the guidance and encouragement that they need to obtain a post-secondary education outside of high school.

I spend a lot of my time working with the Higher Education Database, which allows me to track all of the student applications, and run queries to find eligible students for various funding opportunities as they become available.

Higher Education recently launched Pay It Forward: Career Mentoring Program. This program focuses on aligning freshman with older students who have already

completed the college process and have entered into a career field so that way the more experienced students can help guide the new students on their way to a successful post-secondary education and career.

What is my job? – I assist members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians who are obtaining a post-secondary education at a college or university. I process all of the student applications for each of our three programs: scholarships, grants, and our self-sufficiency incentive award program.

Bio – Growing up on Sugar Island has greatly influence my way of life, I spend a lot of my free time with my boyfriend, Matt, and together we hunt, fish, and gather. A few months ago, I was selected to serve on the Sault Tribe Conservation Committee where we focus on preserving our resources. My mentors have taught me how to bead earrings, properly gather quills to make quill boxes, and have opened my eyes to other crafts/resources available to me.



From “Obits,” page 17
Beste, Jacob Haugh, Connor Suggitt, Colin Suggitt, Kassidy Vidlund and Tristen Vidlund; siblings, Joe (Debbie) Suggitt, Fran (Ron) Warner, Betty Ann Suggitt, Doris (Dewey) Bradley, Pat (Sherly) Suggitt and Michael (Darlene) Suggitt; as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Otto and Dorothy “Dot” Suggitt; sister, Rose Strong; and brother, Ricky Suggitt.

Visitation and services took place on Dec. 3 at the Niigaanaagizhik Ceremonial Building. Final resting place will be in the Lakeview Cemetery in

Kinross.

Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home and Cremation Center assisted the family and online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

In memory of **GLORIA “SHINE” PAQUIN**, Sept. 6, 1928-Nov. 12, 2007

Mom, you and daddy blessed us with wonderful parents so you could provide us with our children and grandchildren through your love. Now, we're left with only our memories.

I remember you rocking and singing your lullabies until we went to sleep. As years went by,

each one of us had our turn while the others listened. You taught us how to walk and talk, you gave us eyes to see with and ears to hear with – to hear the songs we loved that you sang to us.

The many challenges you had to face on your unstable legs from being teased about them to working on them from morning until dark splitting wood, baking, cooking, washing clothes and scrubbing our diapers on a scrub board everyday. Until daddy, then sister Rose, passed on and that took its toll. But you kept on with what you could, and then it was my turn to proudly do for you. Just that little bit made me feel

good to see you give the smile to me that you gave to us through all the struggles you had to bare all those years.

But, mom I'm so proud of you and what you stand for.

Grandpa nicknamed you “Sunshine” as everyone knew you for all the right reasons - that smile you greeted everyone with until the last few days of your life.

These reasons and so many others I can't count are why I love and miss you every day. I love you mom! Always and forever, so “Shine on my little shining star.”

Your daughter, Connie Paquin

Visit kids.gov

If you're looking for ways to keep your kids learning online, visit Kids.gov, the U.S. government's official web portal for kids. Kids.gov offers activities for kindergarteners through eighth graders and provides resources for parents and teachers. You'll find games, art projects, videos, ideas for outdoor activities and more.

Hollowell appointed to EPA National Tribal Caucus

Unit II Director Catherine Hollowell has been appointed to the US EPA National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC). She will represent Region 5, which is the Great Lakes region of the United States.

EPA established the NTOC in February 1994 to improve communication and build stronger partnerships with the tribes. The committee is comprised of 19 tribal leaders (tribal caucus) and EPA's Senior Leadership Team, including the Administrator, the Deputy Administrator and the Agency's Assistant Administrators and Regional Administrators.

Hollowell is also a member of the Anishinaabeg Joint Commission comprised of Sault Tribe, Bay Mills Indian Community, Batchewana First Nation and Garden River First Nation established to protect the



St. Mary's River.

NTOC meets on a regular basis to discuss implementation of the environmental protection programs for which EPA and the tribes share responsibility as co-regulators. All tribes are encouraged to communicate with the members of NTOC.

Remembering a friend and a brother

Ahnee. My name is Keith Wachter. I am a tribal member from Munising, I was born and raised in Naubinway.

Several months ago there was an article in the tribal paper about commercial fishermen. I don't recall the writer's name, but I thought it to be well done.

I know full well the nature of commercial fishing, being from Naubinway. My grandfather, William "Bill" Wachter, was a founding member of the Commercial Fisherman's Association of the Great Lakes. It was the only profession he ever had.

In May 2013 I lost a near and dear friend, Robert "Bobby" Hanson, also a commercial (trib-

al) fisherman. Bob fished with a 25-foot small boat either out of Naubinway or Little Lake Harbor on Lake Superior.

He fished with his brother David when they initially started. The last few years he fished alone.

In my estimation, he was a man among men. He often told me he actually liked it that way — he could call his own shots and not have someone to depend on him. To say it's a tough way to make a living is really an understatement. He was a friend and brother. The best Nishnabe I can muster is; Pende gem wahnakiwin, Kaniss. Miigwech for being my friend.

Keith

Here are some phone numbers to call to update your new address:
 Enrollment: (800) 251-6597 or 635-3396 (This is the number you should call to change your address for the tribal newspaper).
 Health Center (Sault): 632-5200
 Human Resources: 635-7032

Thibert named Sault Kewadin team member of the month for December

Wade Thibert, production assistant at Kewadin Sault, is the team member of the month for December. Thibert has worked at Kewadin since 2010. He started in the Banquets Department before finding his way to Entertainment. He and his girlfriend, Andrea, have a beautiful 6-month-old daughter. "I love seeing the smiles on faces of customers after a show," Wade said when asked about the most rewarding part of his job. "I'm happy and thankful to work with such respectful coworkers that recognize the time and effort all of us put in." Thanks, Wade for all you do and congratulations on your award!

Bratton takes silver and bronze in world championships

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Andrew Bratton has a lot to be proud of. Four years ago he was attending college away from home and during a semester break he returned for a visit. During that time he offered rides to his younger brother who was taking karate lessons.

The more Bratton watched, the more he became enamored with the sport. The following semester he transferred schools and moved back home to begin taking lessons at Hayme Serrato's Martial Arts (HSMA) in Ortonville, Mich. Since then he has made first-degree black belt in Tang Soo Do and in October traveled to southern Italy with Team USA for the World Karate and Kickboxing Council Championships. He received the bronze medal in his creative forms division and silver in his musical weapons division. "This is the first big international competition I had been to," he said. "The level of competition was a lot higher than I anticipated. I have a lot more work to do to get the gold medal in 2014, but I was proud of myself."

According to HSMA's website, Bratton has twice received perfect marks at testing, was Outstanding Student of the Year for 2010 and 2011, and in 2011 was Competitor of the Year and Novice Instructor of the Year. He is a member of HSMA's competition team and his weapon is the Bo Staff. He competed in the Michigan Sport Karate Circuit in 2011 taking first place in weapons, in forms and in sparring. Last year was a big year for Bratton - he was awarded the 2012 Competitor of the Year and Certified Instructor of the Year and also earned his 1st Dan (black belt) and received his certification as a black belt instructor in December.

Bratton has plans to attend the international competition in 2014 in Dublin, Ireland, but this time his sight is set on the gold. "Now that I know what I am up against I know what I have to do to get where I want to be. It's going to



Andrew Bratton (left) and his instructor, Master Hayme Serrato.

come down to making the team again in June."

In order to qualify to be on Team USA and travel to October's championships, students from the Ortonville studio traveled to Ohio for a regional qualifier and then to Dearborn, Mich., for a national qualifier, where if they placed in the top four in their division they became part of the international team. Bratton said that five students, including himself, from HSMA qualified and went to Italy. "I like the sport, it's a team sport when you are competing at these huge international tournaments, but at the same time it puts a lot of pressure on the individual. Sometimes it's extremely tough, but I have to motivate myself — and I like that," he said.

While attending college for

a degree in primary education, he said he practices between six to eight hours a week. Between now and June he plans to step things up and put in more intense training and longer hours.

"The karate showed me what I wanted to do when I moved back home. I hadn't declared a major at the time, but after spending about six months in karate I decided I wanted to teach," he said. He is currently attending Oakland Community College in Auburn Hills, Mich., and hopes to transfer soon to Oakland University to finish up his degree.

Bratton graduated from Goodrich High School in 2009. His parents are Kristie Bratton and David Bratton (step-father) and younger brothers Stephen and Ryan.



Airman Passenier stationed in Montana

Sault Tribe member Tawni Marie (nee Whipple) Passenier, aged 20, graduated from U.S. Air Force basic military training at Lackland AFB, Texas, and is currently stationed in Great Falls, Mont. She will be deployed to Japan for three years in June 2014. Her parents are Ron and Denise Whipple and Elizabeth and Kevin Vonlinsowe. Grandparents are Gloria Whipple and Lola Walburn of Muskegon, Mich. and great-grandmother Betty Rorhlack of Mackinaw City.



LaJoice quadruplet's born

Proud parents U.S. ARMY Spc. John LaJoice and his wife, Tracie, announce the birth of their quadruplet miracles — Charlie, Korey, Hunter and John. The quadruplets were born at Columbus Regional at Midtown Hospital at 12:19 p.m. to 12:21 p.m. on Nov. 13. The babies ranged in weight from 3 lbs. 5 oz. to 4 lbs. 5 oz. and in length from 16.5 to 17.5 inches. Grandparents are Shirley (Andrews) and Mark LaJoice of Jacksonville, Fla. The quadruplets are joining sister, Karie Maree, 6, at home.



Charlie Austin



Hunter Lee



John Jose



Korey Dylan

The quads joined older sister and mommy's helper Karie Maree, 6, at home.

Student given life saving Heimlich maneuver

JKL Bahweting School kindergarten paraprofessional, Jennifer Corbiere, was monitoring students at lunch on Nov. 20 when she noticed one little boy, Connor Miller, with his lips turning purple as he struggled to breathe. She quickly assessed the situation and performed the Heimlich maneuver on the choking student. Connor's dad, Steve Miller, took

him to the doctor who gave him a clean bill of health and Connor went back to school. If not for the low child to staff ratio at the school that allows for very close supervision of the students and Corbiere's quick action, the story could have had a different ending. Pictured, left to right, Steve Miller, Connor Miller and Jennifer Corbiere.



Left: Steve Miller, Connor Miller and Jennifer Corbiere

FALL 2013 HIGHER EDUCATION INCENTIVE AWARDS OPEN

By BRANDI MACARTHUR

It's that time of year again. Sault Tribe Higher Education is offering the Self-Sufficiency Incentive Award program for the fall 2013 semester. This program pays an estimated \$30 per credit hour for courses passed with a C or better. However, this does not include repeat courses. Fall semester is considered any college course completed between August 2013 and December 2013.

Interested students must complete an annual higher education assistance application packet available for download on our tribe's official website (www.saulttribe.com). Under the membership service tab, select "Education," and scroll down a little bit and click on Higher Education. This will open the main Higher Education information page, which has our logo in the upper right-hand corner. Just under this logo it says, "Click here for the higher education assistance application packet." The first page of the packet is for your reference. The second and

third page (the application and W-9 form) must be completed by the student and returned to my office along with a copy of the student's current tribal card. If the student's card is expired or they have lost it, please follow the instructions on page 4 to get a new one.

The fall 2013 grade report must include all of the following information: the student's full name, name of the college, Fall 2013 (as the semester), final grades for each course, and number of credit hours per course. These items must be on the original report with no alterations: no handwriting, no copying and pasting, no highlighting. Usually, an unofficial transcript or a report printed directly from the college website will contain all of the required information and work best for the program.

All grade reports will be processed after the program closes on Jan. 31, 2014. All students will be mailed a confirmation letter in the regular mail that will confirm the number of credit hours that

each student submitted for the program. These letters will take at least one week to arrive after I receive and process the documentation. Checks are usually mailed out in early-to-mid April. Once the checks are ready for mailing, a program update will be posted to our Facebook page (Sault Tribe Higher Education).

It is recommended that students keep documentation of submitting any documents to my office. I do not keep any applications on file from one year to the next so it is very important that the student complete the entire application packet. Due to the high volume of applications, I cannot accept any late documentation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brandi MacArthur, administrative assistant, Sault Tribe Higher Education, bmacarthur@saulttribe.net, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, (906) 635-6050, extension 26312, or 635-7785 (fax).

JKL ugly sweater day fundraiser

JKL Bahweting School had an Ugly Sweater Day on Nov. 20 to help raise money for the eighth grade class trip Chicago. Kids and staff paid \$1 each to wear an ugly sweater. Second grade winner, Cayson Erno, found a sweater that was already ugly and then added a doily to make it even worse. Middle school teacher, Aaron Litzner, took first prize among middle school staff.



Kewadin Shores security supervisor Tony Stefanski receives award

Gerald (Tony) Stefanski, right, supervisor for Kewadin Shores security team, recently received a Medal of Honor for Gallantry from the St. Ignace Fire Department for his role as a volunteer fire fighter.

In early November, Stefanski was involved in a rescue on Chain Lake in which two area youth went through thin ice. Members of the St. Ignace Fire Department dressed in water rescue suits made their way across the ice to the youth, pulling a boat to tow them back to shore.

Responders included 13 members of the Fire Department and other area law enforcement agencies including the Sault Tribe Police Department.

Please remember to avoid crossing frozen bodies of water in a single file, never venture onto the ice alone, never drive on the ice, and look for large cracks or depressions.

For more ice safety tips, visit the Michigan DNR website, michigan.gov/dnr.



PROUDLY REPRESENTING YOU AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS

Aaron A. Payment, MPA
Tribal Chairperson
“Representing All Members Everywhere”

Ahneen, Booze, Negee:

A great deal has happened this last month. While some of the reports to the Members in our paper are peppered with accusations and misinformation, I chose to focus on propelling our Tribe forward. I have been on a world-wind tour of activity to do just that. First, let me recognize Cathy Abramson for being a stalwart partner in representing our Tribe at the National level. Her leadership in Indian health issues has been expert and invaluable.

While some on our Council refuse to recognize our contributions,



we have had opportunities and have acted to protect or increase our federal funding. A perfect example is the invitation I received by the US Senate Indian Affairs Committee on the issue of Contract Support Costs for the Indian Health Service. This issue surrounds an amount our Tribe contends the Federal government

owes us for our self-governance administration of our health care system. We estimate that we were shorted no less than \$4 million. Taking the time to advocate this issue has a potential real and significant value. Five tribal leaders from across the country were invited to testify. I was honored and did my best to represent our people.

The key message is that these funds are owed to us for land cessations in the 1836 and 1855 treaties. At the newspaper deadline, I am being considered for a national appointment to make recommendations to the Indian Health Service to resolving this matter. If selected, I will travel to D.C. in January to try to find solutions rather than unduly

capping the U.S. government’s liability to us. While this issue is contentious, I believe I can aid in finding a diplomatic solution. I have to admit, I find these opportunities pretty cool. **Please see the links below for**

LINKS TO SENATE TESTIMONY & WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS SUMMIT ADDRESS:

<http://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/oversight-hearing-contract-support-costs-and-sequestration-fiscal-crisis-indian-country>
At Time Index ~ 1:51:16 & 2:13

<http://new.livestream.com/usinterior/WHtribal/videos/34741330>
At Time Index ~ 1:01

WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS SUMMIT ~ Nov. 13, 2013

In October, I was nominated and elected to serve as the Vice President for the National Congress of American Indians for the Mid-West regional. NCAI has been around since 1944 and is the premiere National Native organization to advocate for tribes and uphold our treaty rights. We have an embassy in Washington, DC. There are eleven other regional vice-presidents from across the country and a President, 1st Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. I am honored to represent our people and other Natives from across the country. Serving on this body provides our Tribe resources, information, and opportunities that even the biggest lobbying budget cannot buy. Given we have virtually no lobbying budget, our association with NCAI and my role as regional VP will put us in the right place at the right time when opportunity knocks.



I need to thank our Board of Directors for finally approving my \$10,000 annual travel budget so I can fulfill this duty. While my predecessors had an unlimited travel budget including a private chartered plane, I am nonetheless grateful. Several of my national appointments include travel and expenses from federal agencies, so this amount should suffice. It is, nonetheless, sad that Director Pine characterized this travel as padding my resume and refused to support my travel even when all other Board Members did.

During my recent trip to DC, I attended my first day long NCAI meeting. We meet three

times a year. My committee assignments include health, education and research related sub-committees. This fits well with my appointment to the HHS Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Council (STAC) and HHS Tribal Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC). While my travel is covered, there is no compensation for these. Our benefit is in the direct access to budget and policy information, and opportunities to set priorities for these federal agencies. Rather than settling over crumbs, I have the chance to fight for a larger piece of the pie.

I published my schedule for this trip last so I went go into detail. I will say that both Cathy and I worked 16 hour days while in DC. One assignment, I had was to meet with Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington) who is the Chair of the Senate Budget Committee. Our goal was to explain the basis for our funding in pre-paid treaty obligations to exempt tribes from sequestration. Another delegation met with Congressman Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin) to make the



same arguments. I believe we had an impact, but time will tell. I also met with Congressman Tom Cole



(R-Oklahoma) who is American Indian and influential in budget talks with his Republican colleagues. He was extremely helpful in helping us to forecast the possible trajectories that the National Budget may take. At this point, my best guess is that either tribes will be exempt from sequestration or sequestration will not take affect in 2014 at all. If so, this will afford our Tribal Board the opportunity to

replace funding for some programs that have been decimated.

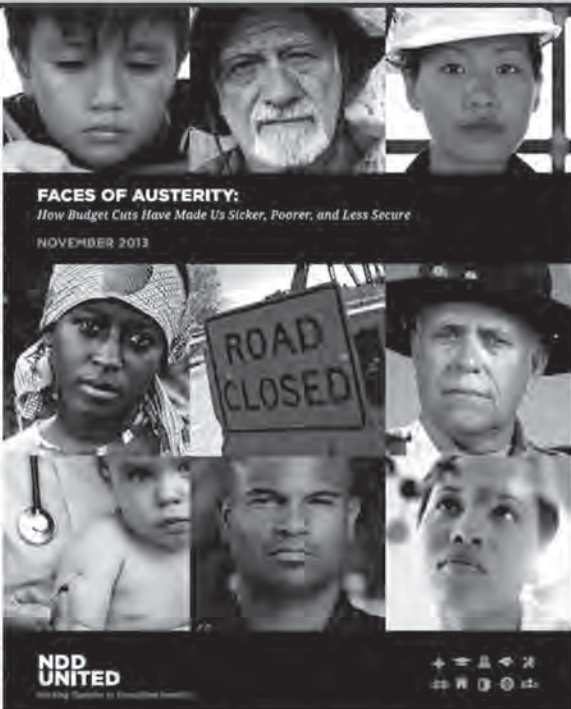
Both Cathy Abramson and I got to participate in the White House Tribal Nations Summit which was a day long event, where the President meets with us; the Presidential Cabinet (ie. Secretaryies of Interior, Health and Human Services, Transportation, Commerce, Labor, Education, Domestic Policy, etc.) dialog with tribal leaders. This year, I was one of 12 tribal leaders from some 500+ tribes who were invited by the White House to address the new White House Council on Indian Affairs which is a body made up the cabinet members. I am already somewhat familiar with the Secretary of Interior Sally Jewel, as I was one of 10 tribal leaders who were invited to meet with her last year when she first accepted the post.

While I am in DC, I take every opportunity to advocate for our Tribe. One way I do this is to share a document created by our team of division and program directors, our Budget Team, Assistant Executive Director Angeline Bouley, Executive Director Christine McPherson, Legislative Director Mike McCoy, and Communications Director Jennifer Dale for preparing and revising this document which helps me to illustrate to legislators the impacts of sequestration, government shut down, and legislative decisions. We have a

Over 350 Elected Tribal Leaders from all Across “Indian Country” Packed the Lecture Hall



During my September trip to DC, I was invited by an advocacy group to provide a Native voice to a National Report of the impacts of sequestration to programs we all enjoy as citizens. Many of these services, we take for granted, like Head Start, Community Action, Meals on Wheels, Upward Bound, Workforce Investment and Job Training, Food Stamps or Commodity Foods, Woman and Infant (WIC) services, and countless State and Local programs which receive funds from the Federal government. These programs have been drastically cut due to sequestration.



I was pleased to join this effort. I will admit to a level of bias with respect to these issues as I (like many of our people) grew up in sheer poverty. Fortunately for me, I was born in 1965 when the Great Society programs were enacted. I grew up on Food Stamps and Commodity Cheese. I am not only, not ashamed of this, I want to make sure any other Tribal Member has the benefit of these services as well. This should go without saying as a Tribal leader, but the tone and tenor of some of our Board has been to get the deadbeats off the dole. A direct quote was, "we have to do something about the chronic users" and learn to, "live within our means." Certainly, there are some who remain in poverty and continually use our help, but to characterize our own people in this way to is demonize them and blame them for the conditions in which they

find themselves. I find this shocking and counter cultural to our Anishinabe Biimaadziwiin. As a high-school drop out who went on to earn several degrees, I could claim I pulled myself up by my bootstraps, but I recognize the help I had along the way and will fight to ensure others have the same opportunities. Please read the *Faces of Austerity* report by going on-line (see link to the right) and help us tell the story of how humanity benefits from these services.

Finally, this trip to DC was awe inspiring. I kept thinking of our founders Fred Hatch, Joe Lumsden, Mike Wright, Rosemary Gaskin, my Grandmother Maria (Boulley) Parr, and our ancestors who I felt with me this entire trip.

Chi McGwitch, Negee, *Aaron*

FACES OF AUSTERITY REPORT

CUTS TO INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE VIOLATE TRUST

FEATURING: Aaron Payment, Chairman, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Upper Peninsula, Michigan

A 21ST CENTURY PLAGUE

Tribal communities are losing the battle in the nation's war against chronic disease. On average, 16 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have type 2 diabetes, a key risk factor for heart disease. In some areas, such as southern Arizona, the rates are as high as one in three. More die of heart disease at younger ages than other Americans; one-third die before the age of 65.

Living on the front lines is Aaron Payment, Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Upper Peninsula, Michigan—a state with one of the highest death rates among Native Americans. Heart disease, diabetes, alcoholism, disability, and mental illness plague Aaron's tribe of 44,000, and have since he was a boy:

My parents and grandparents all died in their 50s and 60s. Our elders used to live to be 80. In our community, 60 now marks the end of life. We're losing the keepers of our language, culture, and traditions.

CRITICAL, BUT NOT ENOUGH

Borne out of a centuries-old relationship between the United States and tribes, the Indian Health Service (IHS) is the principal federal health care provider for 2.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives in 566 federally recognized Tribes. IHS supports personal and public health services to improve the health status of Native Americans and honor the tribes' inherent sovereign rights.

Aaron sees IHS' value because he spent much of his youth living without it. IHS was one of the Sault Tribe's first federal programs when first federally recognized in 1974. "Without it, our chronic diseases would be much worse," said Aaron. Today, with IHS support the tribe employs 260

health care professionals who provide care to more than 11,000 people.

Still, it's not enough. As Aaron explained, only one-third of the tribe lives in the IHS service area and may access care.

Even when fully funded, we were only functioning at 56 percent of the documented need. There is and has always been significant unmet need across the tribe.

GOING BACKWARDS

The tribe's IHS funding has been flat since 1996, even as health needs and costs of care have both increased. Sequestration cut another \$220 million from IHS. The cumulative impact on the tribe is a 40 percent IHS funding decrease. "We're going backwards," he said. The tribe must now "triage" services under "Priority 1A" status, providing only catastrophic care that is costly in monetary and human terms. For example, the tribe will pay for a foot amputation necessitated by diabetes, but can no longer afford preventive services to avoid diabetes altogether. Said Aaron,

We have already cut prevention for more than 2,000 elders. There is a vaccine to prevent shingles, but because we are at Priority 1A status and the disease isn't life threatening, we can't afford to vaccinate.

Sequestration has a compounding impact within the tribe, hitting IHS as well as Head Start, public safety, natural resources, sanitation, and housing. Tribes receive a significant portion of their funding from the government—some as high as 60-70 percent.

NO GOOD WAY TO CUT

Should sequestration continue in 2014, Aaron estimates his tribe's IHS funding could be cut by \$2.5 million. With no "good way to cut," there will be a "dramatic" impact on health:

We have cut into the fat already, so we will have to cancel more services. We have 11 health clinics now. If sequestration continues, we will have to close all but one and pink slip 20 percent of our medical staff. 85 percent of tribes are rural, including my own. In the best of circumstances now, my people drive 2 hours round trip to a health clinic. If we have to close clinics, the drive could be as much as 4 hours, one way.

There are other real consequences to the uncertainty caused by lawmakers "kicking the can" on a sequestration fix:

I'm conservative, and I always balance our budget. My 2014 budget assumes sequestration and once approved by the council, I can't spend a dollar more. When I lay off physicians next year, I can't hire them back even if Congress eventually fixes sequestration.

What troubles Aaron most—more than the cuts—is the federal government's eroding obligation to the tribes:

I just want the federal government to honor our treaties. We paid for our health, education, and wellness into perpetuity with the blood, sweat, tears, and wisdom of our ancestors. It's a trust thing. Treaties and tribes are not discretionary.

To Download the full report and learn more about how to protect services that benefit our people & our neighbors, please visit the web page below:

<http://www.nddunited.org/>



ST Children's Christmas Party in Kincheloe with volunteers Director DJ Malloy and the Rec Center Director Dee Dee Frasure.



Above: Personal Donation to Sault Tribe Children's Christmas Parties bring total raised to nearly \$9,000!



Below: Personal Donation to Hessel Elders. Each Elder Sub-committee received between \$500 and \$1,000.



2013 SAULT TRIBE Chairperson CALENDAR

DECEMBER

December 2, 2013

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8am Signatures 10am-4pm Financial Reviews: Governmental 4pm Island Conservation	8am Signatures 9am NCAI Budget Conference Call 11am TBOD Closed Workshop 12pm Lunch 1pm TBOD Workshop 3pm TBOD Meeting Agenda Review 3pm Membership Issues 6pm TBOD Meeting - Sault	8am Signatures 8:30am-10am Executive Team 10-11am NMU Skype Lecture 12pm-2pm Hessel Members' Meeting 2pm NCAI Conference Call 4pm-6pm St. Ignace Members' Meeting	9am BIA Budget Conf Call 10am Budgets for Mods 12-2pm Escanaba Members' Meeting Willow Creek Building 5pm-6pm Manistique Members' Meeting Manistique Tribal Center 6pm Manistique Elder's Christmas Party-Tribal Center	9:00am BIA Conference Call 12pm-2pm Marquette Member Meeting West Science Building 3:30pm-5:30pm Munising Members' Meeting Munising Tribal Center	1pm-3pm Kincheloe Children's Christmas Party Kinross Rec Center 5pm-8pm Members' Meeting Kewadin Casino (Sault)
Out of Office 12pm CORA Special Session Regarding Walleye bye-catch issue Traverse City, MI	10am Workshop: Legal/Budgets/HR 12pm Lunch 1pm TBOD Prep Session for Next Week 11am Unit 1, 2 & 3 Elder Christmas Lunch 4pm CCC Strategy Session	8am Signatures 10am Tribal Census Adhoc Committee 6-8pm Member Meeting: Traverse City Grand Traverse Resort 100 Grand Traverse Resort Blvd. Acme, MI	11am-3pm CORA at GTR Traverse City 7pm-9pm Member Meeting: Grand Rapids Ramada Inn Plaza 3333 28th Street, SE	12pm-2pm Member Meeting Nokomis Learning Center 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos 2pm Meeting with MI Legislators 6pm-8pm Member Meeting Flint Holiday Inn 5353 Gateway Centre	11am-2pm Member Meeting Detroit American Indian Health & Family Services 4880 Lawndale 7pm-9pm Member Meeting Cheboygan Beaugrand Township Hall 1999 Old Mackinac Rd.
8am Key Personnel Interviews All Day 6pm Great Lakes Conservation	10am Workshop: Legal/Budgets/HR 12pm Lunch 1pm General Workshop 3pm TBOD Meeting Agenda Review 3pm Membership Issues 6pm TBOD Meeting - Sault	8am Signatures 10am-12pm Executive Team 3pm Division Directors 3:30pm Program Director	8am Signatures 10am-12pm Team Member Appointments 3-5pm Casino & Enterprise Budgets 6-9pm Stop Bullying Now at Kewadin	12-1pm Newberry Members' Meeting Newberry Tribal Center 1-2:30pm Newberry Elders Christmas Party - American Legion 4pm Hessel Elders Christmas	11am-2pm Sault Children's Christmas Party
8am Signatures 10am-12pm Team Member Appointments 12pm Legal 1pm Legislative/Planning/Appropriations 2pm Ken Ermatinger (Gaming Coms)	CHRISTMAS EVE 8am Signatures 10am-12pm Team Member Appointments 1-5pm Office Coverage	CHRISTMAS DAY 8am Signatures 10am-12pm Team Member Appointments 1-5pm Members' Office Hours	8am Signatures 10am-12pm Team Member Appointments 1-5pm Members' Office Hours	8am Signatures 9am M.A.S.T. Executive Session Conference Call 1-5pm Members' Office Hours	8am Signatures 10am-12pm Team Member Appointments 1-5pm Members' Office Hours
8am Signatures 9am Member Services 10am Executive Director Monthly 11am CFO Monthly 12pm Treaty Rights & Natural Resources Protection [Law Enforcement: Conservation, Fisheries, Inland, Environmental] & Individual Times	NEW YEAR'S EVE IHS FY2015 Budget Negotiations?? 8am-5pm Office Coverage 2pm-12:01am New Year's Eve Sobriety Pow Wow	NEW YEAR'S DAY 2014			

I have never seen a business as profitable as a casino



**KEITH MASSAWAY, DIRECTOR,
UNIT III**

There have been a few members whom have asked me to show the other membership that our business enterprises make a profit. I went to the tribe's legal department, accounting and CFO of the tribe and asked if I could disseminate this information in my unit report. The discussion ended with a consensus that I could not because this information is privileged and confidential, but the members do have a

right to see this information in private. So, basically, I can not print exact numbers in my unit report. I attempted to bring this to the entire board of directors but, as of this unit report, it has not been discussed yet.

So, here is my attempt at explaining our business profitability without divulging any privileged and confidential information. Our casinos are extremely profitable. We, in the recent past, have netted over 28 million in a year. Our Midjims have consistently made several hundred thousand dollars each year. Our rental and leasing of housing have returned hundreds of thousands of dollars also each year. The furniture and flooring store is also profitable and adds to the tribal coffers.

So, you say, if that is correct, the tribal businesses are doing very well. They are indeed! Now, to explain what happens to all of that profit. First of all, our Midjims, although the tribal government isn't taxing its members, it is taxing the businesses it owns.

The taxes are called corporate taxes and almost all of the profits are swept over to the tribal government side for membership services. Actually the system works very well except over the years the tribal tax rate now is so refined that at the end of the year we have, in fact, taken all the profits and then some. The enterprises have to come back to the tribal government to get dollars for repairs and capitol improvements. The government is very stingy with these give back dollars because the focus of a government is to supply services for the members and not on building, improving and capitalizing business.

So, even though the Midjims make hundreds of thousands of dollars in profit, they keep little, if any, and repairs go wanting. It is the same with the other businesses except for our casinos. Our bank loans specify that our earnings to debt ratio has to be a specific number or higher. The government can only take 17 million a year over to them out of the

profits. This leaves a considerable amount for all of the needed functions like marketing, promotions, repairs and improvements. It also ensures that enough is left over so the casino will make its debt reduction payments in full.

With a business like a casino, equipment and furnishing wear out quickly with such heavy use. Millions of dollars go out to payroll and benefits and reinvestment, player promotions and marketing have to be maintained to keep a crucial edge up on our competition. All are vital to the existence of a casino. Here is the rub: the casino markets have shrunk considerably over the last few years. Nationally, regionally, tribally and locally the casino industry takes in substantially less. As profits shrink, so does the reinvestment, but the government's appetite does not shrink, it increases.

Growing or sustaining government services means funding increases are needed. As a businessman I want the tribal businesses to retain the needed capitol

to maintain and improve their enterprises. They need to contribute liberally to the government but not to the point of hurting or irreparably disabling the businesses' ability to grow and remain profitable. I have not ever seen a business that is as profitable as a casino.

I hear many members ask that we get out of the casino business and into other sectors of enterprising businesses, it is not that easy and it is not as profitable. Extending into other areas means huge start up costs and open competition from the largest in the corporate world. Profits usually don't begin to show up for a few years and that would be detrimental to the government and its services.

Thank you for all your e-mails and calls. Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace, MI 49781, kmassaway@msn.com, (906) 643 6981.

Supporting legislation to include bullying in criminal code



**JENNIFER MCLEOD, DIRECTOR,
UNIT I**

Aanii, Anishnaabek, before I launch into my article, I want to take a moment to say MIIGWETCH (thank you) for this beautiful year. It was one filled with many challenges, obstacles and great joy. We welcomed new members into our families, but also said farewell to others. Life is like that, tremendous joy, as well as pain. We are taught how precious each of us is, and to never take for granted the time we have together. I want to wish you all the joy of this holiday season, the love of family and all the good things the Creator has provided for us. Miino-niibaaniima – Merry Christmas.

Bullying is cruel. It is a perva-

sive problem that can have negative consequences for our tribal communities and for the right of our citizens to live in a safe environment *without fear*. Children suffer it in school, adults suffer in the workplace and it has spread virus-like throughout our nation, state and tribal communities through the use of the Internet. Sadly, suicide is on the rise, and bullying is fast becoming a reason why.

Bullying includes direct behaviors such as words, conduct, social media posting (cyber bullying), as well as indirect activities like spreading rumors and doing other things that cause a person physical or psychological intimidation. But it is not just the "target" of the bullying that suffers – those who stand by passively watching or actively encouraging bullying are also victims of these hostile acts. Bullying occurs in all forms, against all ages, and it must be stopped.

I am against bullying, and have written legislation for our tribe that not only establishes support for policies and procedures to address bullying in our communities, but also directs that it be established in our criminal code, with real consequences. By the time this article publishes, perhaps it will be known if six other members of the board of directors

feel as I do, and bullying will be unlawful in our tribe. Until that time when it becomes law, we must all do our part to "be a hero" to anyone we feel is being bullied.

One of the things we can all do, is to "step up." We can teach our children what to do. We can educate ourselves on what to do. *Stopbullying.gov* is an excellent web resource that explains what is bullying, cyber bullying, how to respond to bullying, how to prevent bullying and how to get help. I have personally found that trying to stop bully-like behavior can be very challenging, but we must never give up! Over the course of my term as a member of the board of directors, I have seen numerous instances of what I consider bully-like behavior from the chairman of our tribe, and I am "stepping up" in this unit report to address it. It is unacceptable.

Speaking only for myself, as a member of the board of directors, as a mother, a grandmother and an Anishnaabe woman, I DO NOT condone the negative, untruthful, antagonistic, harsh, deceitful and bully-like actions and statements of Aaron Payment against anyone. Despite the good work he has done for our tribe, his behavior against many individuals including employees, trib-

al citizens, children and elders are unbecoming of his office, are his own, and do not reflect the opinion of the board of directors or the tribe. The board of directors has worked on this issue behind closed doors on numerous occasions and it has not worked. In fact, at our last attempt, Chairman Payment walked out of the meeting before it was even adjourned.

No one, least of all the members of the board, want our members or employees to feel threatened, bullied or harshly treated. Many members have felt we were condoning or accepting of this kind of behavior and that is absolutely untrue! We have simply run out of options available to the board at this time to try to stop the chairman from committing these cruel acts against our members. I will not add to the victims pain by giving an accounting or providing examples. The threats began with his election night speech, and have not stopped. One need only read his reports in our paper or look at the various Facebook groups where he posts to see how the intimidation occurs.

I am compelled to bring this issue to our people in hopes that, through member support, we can bring this bad behavior to an end, and move forward in a positive way. This is not about

fighting with the chairman. I have tried for over a year now, to set a good example by not giving his remarks an audience. I have always tried to respond to hurtful and untrue things said about me, with simple statements of truth. However, the negative behavior has extended beyond politics, and it is my duty to help protect the tribal members and others who are being targeted. The tribal anti-bullying law will hopefully be a deterrent to bullying and, if not, then at least it can provide real consequences for this reprehensible crime.

Victims of bullying need to know that there is someone who will step up – someone who will say, "This is not acceptable." If you believe that bullying by anyone, INCLUDING ELECTED OFFICIALS is not acceptable, "Step up, be a hero." Write, text, email or phone your unit director or your chairman, post it on your Facebook wall, tell everyone: **Bullying in Indian Country is NOT OK. It is not our way.**

Working together, we can make bullying stop!

Anishnaabe gagige!
(Anishnaabe for always).

Jennifer McLeod
(906) 440-9151
Jmcleod1@saultribe.net or
jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com

From the kitchen of Bob Flowers - delicious turkey soup

The next time you roast a turkey, save any leftover skin and bits of meat and add them to the carcass to make your own turkey soup.

Ingredients:

1 turkey carcass, ribs, back, tail, neck, etc.
1 cup chopped spinach leaves
½ cup pearl barley
2 large onions
3 large carrots
Leftover turkey skin
Salt
1 ½ tsp. ground sage
1 tbs. coarse-grind black pepper

Place the turkey carcass into a large soup pot and cover completely with water. Cover the pot, place over medium heat. Alternately, place into your slow cooker, set to medium. Simmer for four to five hours. After two hours or so, add water to again cover the bones. Cook for the remaining time.

At the end of the cooking time, the bones should be soft and the house should smell like cooking turkey. Remove the bones and strain through a colander into a large bowl. Put the

broth back into the pot. Slice carrots and onions into bite-sized pieces and add to the broth. Add a tsp. of salt, stir and taste. If it tastes right, add the remaining ingredients. If not, add more salt or more water. Remember to season carefully. If there isn't enough of something, you can always add more, but once it's in the pot, it's not coming out.

Cover and turn heat to medium. While the soup is starting to cook, remove as much meat from the bones as is possible and add it to the soup. Cook over low

heat for about forty minutes. The soup is done when the barley is softened. Serve with a hearty homemade bread with butter.

For fun, and to surprise your family, here's a bit of tomfoolery. I've been teasing my kids, and now my grandkids, ever since they were old enough to speak that one day, I was going to serve some "dirty-sock-soup." Before Thanksgiving I bought some food-grade cheesecloth and had a friend sew it into two socks. When I made the soup, I had my 4-year-old grand-

daughter dip these "socks" into soy sauce to stain them a dirty brown color. Just before serving the soup, we added those socks to the soup, and made sure to ladle a sock into her mom's and my own soup bowl. We served a very tasty and strange looking soup that night. We had "dirty-sock-soup" for dinner, just before my daughter and grandkids had to go home. It was great fun and brought smiles.

Now you have a new idea for tricking your friends, family or whomever.

Abramson invited to tribal nations conference



CATHY ABRAMSON, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

November was an extremely busy and exciting month for me. Because I serve as the Bemidji area representative on Secretary Sebelius' Tribal Advisory Committee, I was among the tribal leaders who were invited to the 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C. I am always quite honored to represent our Anishinaabe nation at these national meetings. Whenever I have the opportunity to speak, I do so on behalf of our ancestors, our elders, our present citizens and those future generations.

On Nov. 12, Chairperson Payment and I met with Senator Debbie Stabenow regarding a number of issues, and, in particular, contract support costs. After that, I returned to the National Congress of American Indian (NCAI) preparatory meeting for the Tribal Leaders Summit. NCAI produced a short film in regards

to the mascot issue. Make sure you check it out.

By special invitation, I attended the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signing ceremony between Notah Begay of the Notah Begay III Foundation and Dr. Yvette Roubideaux of Indian Health Service (IHS). They are collaborating on activities aimed at preventing childhood obesity in American Indian and Alaska Native youth. Sharing of best practices on the implementation of community-based activities directed at addressing this issue will be included. While in attendance, I had the opportunity to share with them the great success of our Chi-Nodin Running Club. It is my hope that we can revive this very popular and successful club.

After the MOU signing, I attended the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs listening session. This was the most emotional and powerful session I have ever attended. Tribal leaders described the harsh effects of sequestration brought upon their communities. A tribal chief cried as he told his story on behalf of his people. It was obvious that our spirits were with us in this room. Our Native people there were refueled with conviction and strength to carry out our mission that our ancestors fought so hard for.

On Nov. 13, I attended the White House Tribal Nations Conference and got to shake hands with President Obama. I was very happy to hear him say that they will be working on the

contract support costs issues. This is the first time he has publicly stated this. I am hoping that this is a good sign. As many other tribes, our tribe is owed approximately \$4 million in contract support costs. This has been a long-standing issue and one I hope comes to a resolve soon.

While at the summit, I attended the IHS listening session. I presented the effects of sequestration, the importance of advanced funding and the continued need to hold IHS harmless from any future sequestrations. I, also, had the distinct honor of meeting Secretary Sally Jewell of the Department of Interior.

On Nov. 14 and 15, I attended the Health and Human Services Secretary Tribal Health Advisory Committee meeting. This is a time when tribal leadership meets face to face with the various heads of agencies such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), IHS, Administration for Children and Families (which includes Head Start), Administration for Community Living (Administration on Aging), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Health Resources and Services Administration and National Institutes for Health.

Issues I brought forth before Secretary Kathleen Sebelius was the need to keep Indian Health Services held harmless in case of another sequestration, advance appropriations for IHS, the need for a tribal liaison in the Office of Management and Budgets and a Tribal Advisory Committee to advise OMB. Another issue brought forth was the concern with continued cuts in Head Start, which would make the standards impossible to meet.

I would like to take this time to thank our board of directors for their support and understanding with the work I do on our people's behalf at the national level. I am from the Wolf Clan and my job is to protect our people and our way of life. I am doing so



Memorandum of understanding signing ceremony between Notah Begay of the Notah Begay III Foundation and Dr. Yvette Roubideaux of Indian Health Service (front, left and right).



Left, Senator Mike Crapo, ranking member of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Cathy Abramson (center), Chair of the National Indian Health Board and Sault Tribe Unit I board member. Right, Congressman Mike Simpson, chairman of the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Committee, a member of the House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Committee and the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Both members are completely supportive and are pushing our issues. Congressman Simpson was especially supportive of Education.

by being an active participant so that we may prevent any more inequities and travesties that have already been bestowed on our people.

I would also like to take this time to say chi-miigwech to all of you (especially my family) who have supported me throughout these years. We never accomplish anything by ourselves. We accomplish what we do because

of the presence of our ancestors and the continued prayer from our people.

With that said, I wish you all peace, love and happiness during the Christmas season. Remember always, Jesus is the reason for the season!

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



Cathy Abramson (left), chairperson of the National Indian Health Board, getting a report from Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the director of Indian Health Services.

McKechnie earns child development credential

Robin McKechnie, an early childhood educator at the Sault Tribe Child Care Center in Sault Ste. Marie, recently earned an Infant and Toddler Child Development Associates (CDA) credential from the National Council for Professional Recognition in the field of Early Childhood.

"Robin is not only an employee of the Child Care Center, but she is also a Head Start grassroots success story having been a Head Start child herself," said Tiffany Menard, manager of the center.

"She was also a parent in the program before becoming an employee." Menard further indicated McKechnie's three children are all successful graduates of the Head Start Program. Her youngest son even participated in the Early Head Start Home Based-Program for children providing home visits to pregnant moms and children

from birth to three years old. "Robin believes that Early Head Start and Head Start helped get her children prepared for school in a manner in which she never could have done on her own," noted Menard.

In order to earn a CDA, McKechnie had to take three classes on early childhood development through Bay Mills Community College, submit a professional portfolio to the Council for Professional Recognition, work under observation in the classroom and pass both a written and oral tests administered by a CDA representative.

McKechnie must have continuous professional development and recertification to maintain the certification, just like all other educators.

"As Robin's supervisor," Menard said, "I hope she will continue on with her education and

earn her associate degree in early childhood development."

McKechnie started working at the Child Care Center in 2006 as a part-time aide and was promoted to a full-time aide position in 2011.

She believes completion of the CDA classes and obtaining this credential reinforced the importance of her role as an early childhood educator and provided a better understanding of the importance of her job with the infants.

"As the supervisor of the Child Care Center staff, I completely agree that having staff who believe in the philosophy that child care is not just babysitting, but an educational experience for children makes for a much more successful and well run program," said Menard.

"I am super proud of Robin for her commitment to the program in achieving this credential."



Focusing on truths — two sides to every story



BRIDGETT SORENSON, DIRECTOR, UNIT III

This month's report will be focusing on truths. I really can't fathom why anyone would want to go around and spread lies, partial truths or spinning what actually happened or was said. An example would be if I said, "Jack did not show up to work today" You might think fire him, or that maybe he quit. What was not said is that Jack was hospitalized. There are two sides to every story but unfortunately you may be getting only part of the one side of the story.

It has been said that I want to fire people out of retribution. I am not that kind of person who retaliates. My 10 years working for the tribe had a few bumps along the road but, for the most part, was a very enjoyable time in my life. Now that I am a member of the governing body it makes sense to try to improve the things that I saw and continue to see and point them out and hold that chain of command accountable.

I was involved in a dispute with the chairman on Facebook towards the end of September. Something I typed was not keeping up with what my mind was saying. If someone read the post slowly they would realize it does not make sense as typed. I apologize to this team member for what has been construed. I DID NOT say to fire this person. Do I think people need to be accountable? Absolutely! This conversation ended in the chairman threatening to sue me for a statement that I made regarding him. Threatening to sue me will not make me cower, it will not make me change my values.

It has been said that I breached confidentiality with the casino team member surveys. The surveys were anonymous, were kept in envelopes and opened by the

whole board and chairman. I did photo copy a small percentage of them to make sure that there was no funny business. The chairman merged the documents and that is when I realized along with other directors that all the information was not there. There is a serious conflict of interest on his part for merging the document when the surveys contain information about his family member (I am not suggesting anything on the relative). I did not need to do the surveys to know what was going on, I lived it, and I have a great relationship with the team members that I think threatens people.

Recently it was stated that I had a team member from my unit who was terminated and that he supposedly talked to me and I sat on his appeal hearing. I can tell you this much, anytime a team member contacts me I specifically say, I cannot talk to you because I am or may be on your appeal hearing. The funny thing is that the person he is implying that happened with I did not even know he was terminated. I did sit on an appeal the day he implied this happened and it was not even someone from my unit.

It is being stated that at our last meeting we shut down membership issues specifically because at large members were in attendance. We were behind all day and wanted to get the meeting started. We opened the meeting and voted to wait until the end of the meeting for membership issues. The whole process is not easy especially if you are running behind because on one hand you have staff that have been waiting to present and members in the audience who may have come to hear these presentations and resolutions and then you have members that may just be there to address the board, either way someone has to wait. Every member that had a concern was heard by the board that night.

In my 1.5 years on the board, the chairman has left four meetings before we were finished. After looking at past video recordings, this also happened during his last term.

As far as the resolution for Livestream that I presented, my goal was that when videotaping our meetings the tribe should own the information. It should be done by an employee of the tribe and be viewed by only Sault Tribe members. I really do not

understand a valid argument to those stipulations. The entertainment manager is a salaried team member, attends the meetings and has new capable equipment so the membership will still be able to watch the meetings. For those who do not realize what is happening is all for politics and campaigning. Some people like to grandstand for a camera. I have no problem as an elected official being videotaped. When the parties involved are not neutral and using it as a tool for campaigning it is wrong. I don't think that people realize that by allowing the world to view our meetings we are only harming ourselves. The information is our member's business and no one else's.

The next election cycle is almost six months away. The chairman requests a \$50,000 travel budget. Projected for 2014 we are \$71,000 in the black for a multi million dollar organization. His travel is included in the board budget. Directors have asked him for the past six months or so to do his own budget for travel. Every time the item comes up there is no supporting documentation. There should be X amount of trips to D.C. or other cities, X amount of hotel stays, X amount of mileage, X amount of meals. This is just a guide which would be helpful to make a decision on. The board voted on Dec. 2 to approve a \$10,000 budget. In my personal opinion, I believe the money will be spent on the meetings around the state, post cards, room rentals and food and beverage. Put the pieces of the puzzle together, travel budget, statewide meetings (with fewer than 10 members per meeting in the U.P.), election six months away. There has been little or no commitment to attend the monthly elder meetings in our units unless there is a picture and a check to be presented. The new request is for election information, hence the calling of a special meeting on Dec. 10. The original request was denied by the enrollment and election committee chair and now our team members are being threatened of insubordination if they don't comply. Thankfully, the Enrollment Department and Election Committee report to the board as a whole.

The casino COO has presented the board with their 2014 budgets. This came up for a vote on Dec. 2. I told the COO that

I could not and will not support this budget until he trims some fat off the top. We need front line team members to serve our customers. How do you save money? By cutting 10 front line workers or a couple top heavy positions? In the year and half we have been presented with positions that people are holding that are not reflective of actual performance or skill set. The casinos need an overhaul. The plan has been to continuously cut with no plan for increased revenue. Some people say the board micro manages too much, some say the board needs to take action. I believe that we have staff that is responsible to manage our businesses but if we don't get moving in the right direction, the board will be making necessary changes.

The tribe is in an ugly state right now. Tribal members, team members, board member's and their families are being threatened and bullied. I do not condone this behavior. The board has met and has been advised of freedom of speech. While I may partially believe that, I guess I am naïve or something to think that just because we have the freedom of speech someone would threaten, lie or bully anyone. This creates a hostile work environment which I do believe was a reason we lost the 7+2 case. Members have stated that the directors need to work with the chairman; I was very much on board with that during my first six months or so until I witnessed these behaviors. Has anyone considered that the person claiming to have a degree or qualifications in leadership would actually lead and work with the 12 of us? An example would be for me to try to divide my kids against each other and bully them. Do they respect me? Do they want to work with me? The funny thing is that the vast majority of the board works together. We do not need to be friends, we just need to come together and compromise to move forward. I can disagree with my fellow directors on a resolution and move on. The key here is to move on!

I suggest for someone that is relatively new to tribal politics to read archived newspapers on the Sault Tribe website, past video taped meetings and past meeting minutes to shed some light on the truth.

On the Dec. 2 meeting agenda

were constitutional amendments that have not been discussed by the board during a workshop. These were a separation of powers, at large representation, right of initiative, recall and a bill of rights. I really get disgusted when items are added to a meeting, especially of this importance, when the board has not had the opportunity to discuss the items prior to a vote. Members see our agenda and may want to be present for a certain discussion or vote on an item and we table it because we have not had the opportunity to discuss it as a group. When it comes to constitutional change we need to go into our communities and talk to our members and get their input. I believe the Chairman is afraid he is losing support and wants to hurry up and pass laws so he can try and get more support with new board members. He has continually stated who his favorite is and most recently said she is the only one worth keeping. What do you think about that statement? Is your representative working for you? My job is for the Sault Tribe not one person's interests.

I recently had one of my at large members email me that she was very much upset with me. She claimed I have come out against things that would be helpful time and time again. Nothing specific was mentioned so how do I know what you wanted me to support nor to ask what my reasons may have been about what I was supposedly against? I have been accused of not fighting for all members? What does that mean? When I vote it is for the best interest of Sault Tribe. I cannot offer much other than conversation for support to out of service members. It was also stated I have become very dark and that I am ready to fight all the time. I am a very passionate person who likes to have fun and does not like to be around negative or dramatic behavior. When you are constantly defending yourself, your members, your team members and your co-board members from lies, threats and bullying behavior, I believe you are ready to fight. I will fight for what I believe in and will not back down from anyone, but I am not a fighter until you put my back to the wall. The last thing is I am truly sorry that out of area members feel like they are the

See "Two sides," pg. 26

Fall 2 percent distributions have been awarded



JOAN (CARR) ANDERSON, DIRECTOR, UNIT V

As I write my months report, I will start out saying "happy and safe holidays" to all. Remember this is the season for giving and forgiving. This is what Christmas is all about, so have a good one.

On board news, we have finished our 2 percent monies. Short term and long term contributions out of our casino's revenue to our cities and counties. Every unit of long term is different and the short term is divided. In Unit V, the long-term amount that was sent out was \$39,000 and that was for the fall. The short term for the fall was \$61,991.91 and the wants were \$194,362.50, so you really have to look at this

very carefully and make some big choices. This is how I tried to be fair: Forsyth Township (fire truck), \$4,000; Skandia West Branch (fire truck gear), \$4,000; Munising Public Schools Native American Education (GED), \$15,497.90; City of Munising Food Pantry, \$5,000; North Star Academy Community Learning, \$1,000; Marquette/Escanaba Fleet Funding undercover car, \$5,000; City of Marquette NMU Resource Center, \$2,500; AuTrain Township trail head development, \$5,000; Alger County Altran, \$5,000; Marquette Meal on Wheels, \$5,000; and County of Marquette Dental Outreach, \$1,500.

I really did the best I could with fairness and distribution.

I will move on to our Unit V areas. For people who are becoming 60 years old in our area and want to be involved, come to our elder's doings and meetings for our Munising and Marquette area. Here is some information: Our Munising chairman is Anita Nelson (906) 387-4763; Munising dinners are on the first Monday of the month starting at 5 p.m. and the third Monday is a meeting at 4 p.m. and dinner at 5 p.m. In case of cancellations in Munising, I would check at the tribal center (906) 387-4721.

Our Marquette chairman is Joe

Gray, (906) 249-3303. Marquette's meetings and dinners are on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. This activity is held at the Holiday Inn in Marquette.

So members get involved, you are welcome. If you need more information I will try and help, call me at (906) 387-2802.

Remember, we have moved our prescription pick up in Marquette from the Salvation Army to the Medical Center, room 108. For further information, call the tribal center at (906) 387-4721. I am very happy about this, it is a start for our Marquette area.

Have a great holiday with family and friends!

Leading by example and lessons shared by elders



**DEBRA PINE, DIRECTOR,
UNIT I**

Ahniin kina gwaya! Hello everyone! How are you this fine holiday season?

Recently I have been struggling with an important topic, one I find myself on the receiving end of. It's bullying. I was always taught that you lead by example. This is even more important now considering the position I hold.

As a young person, I was taken to ceremonies, deep in the

woods over in Hannahville. The old people would hold them way in the back woods so nobody would find us. Looking back, I understand now why they did it that way. It was to protect our way of life because the government outlawed the practice of Native religion. I didn't question it too much then, I just attended. Happy to be with my friends who were Indian like me.

The old people of the time did not have the benefit of television and most of them thought it was a waste of time anyways. The ones who practiced the traditions also said it interfered with them and their communication with the other side. The belief is that your helpers will always come to help you but you need to be at peace and paying attention in order to see or hear the signs. Television just added noise.

One of the most interesting teachings for me was the teaching on leadership. They gathered the kids, mostly tweeners. The little kids did not have to participate, they could just play

in and around the circle but us older ones were expected to act our age and pay attention. We were being taught respect for our elders. When an elder spoke, you sat quietly and asked no questions. It was believed that your questions in your head would be answered if you took the time to listen patiently. It was hard, especially when you are sitting with your friends, all you want to do is visit.

The old man leading us talked about how the leaders have the hardest job in the world. They carry the weight of the people on their backs. He spoke Anishinabe first and then would translate for those of us who were not fluent. He talked about past leaders and the strength they must have had in order to endure removal, the loss of our land and the starvation of our people. He spoke so eloquently that nobody moved and we all listened intently as he moved around the fire, quickly making eye contact with each one of us to see who was actually listening. He would then tilt

his back to the stars and continue with the lessons we needed about caring for our people and the difficulties we would probably eventually take over this enormous job. I don't think any of us believed that part, heck, we were just kids. Now I see these people who I went to ceremonies with, seated on their councils, just like me. Drawing strength from the same memories of the ceremonies we attended as kids.

In the end, before he let us go get ready for bed, his parting words were, "Be kind to your leaders. You don't know what they carry. Understand that if you are not kind and patient with your leaders, you won't know good leadership until you are without it."

Sharing this with you is hard for me considering the secrecy surrounding the ceremonies. These are lessons from the Wabino and are meant to be shared around a fire during one of the four seasonal gatherings. Writing it and sending it out to

you feels strange to me and yet necessary.

Many times when I am faced with difficulties as a leader, I draw on this memory. It's a hard thing to do, lead by example, especially when you have grown up on the reservation and your first instinct is to fight. I want to say a special prayer for the elders who took the time to teach us back then, I had no idea as a young person what a gift I had been given and how important it's been in helping me in this time of my life.

This is where I will stop for now. You all take what you need from what is shared and leave the rest. May the Creator bless you this coming Christmas season.

Minobii niibaa-aname'e giizhigad! Merry Christmas!

Dbaajimitaadaa! Biginoonshin! Let's talk about it, call me!

Baamaapii kawaabmin! See you later.

Sincerely,

Debra-Ann Pine

(906) 440-1334

debrapine@yahoo.com

Proposed constitutional amendments: Right of Initiative, Recall and Removal, Bill of Rights and a new Unit VI



**DJ MALLOY, DIRECTOR,
UNIT I**

Last month, I wrote about a resolution that had been placed on a meeting agenda after I proposed reducing board wages by 25 percent. The intent was to prohibit board members from having employment outside the tribe under the contention of "conflict of interest." If passed, it would have disqualified me from sitting on the board, and would have prohibited anyone from having employment, in any capacity, outside the board of directors. The author of the resolution pulled it off the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. It isn't a dead issue, but for now, it appears to be on the back burner.

Constitutional reform — I have placed four items on the December meeting agenda. Each one is a proposed constitutional amendment: Right of Initiative, Recall and Removal, Bill of Rights and a proposal for the addition of an At Large Unit VI with elected representation. I am hoping that these items, and perhaps others, can be put out as a ballot question to you via a Secretarial election.

I thought it best to wait to put these items on the agenda until the draft document from

the Constitutional Convention Committee had been completely explored. Once it was rejected and set aside by the board, I felt compelled to offer singular amendments to assist Sault Tribe citizens. Constitutional reform has little support as a whole document rewrite. However, I believe it is important to have a mechanism whereby the members can petition their government for change as well as have a way to remove or recall elected officials who they believe have failed them. The Bill of Rights amendment would guarantee the same rights afforded U.S. citizens, and the At Large Unit VI would offer one or two elected board seats to members who reside in Michigan North of the 45th parallel and south of the Mackinaw Bridge, or who currently live outside the service area and choose to vote in that unit.

I believe in constitutional reform. When our tribe initially sought federal recognition, their intent was to be inclusive to those who reside within our traditional lands (1836 Ceded Territory). It was also their intent to provide a real constitution; not the Indian Reorganization Act boilerplate corporate document we were left with. It is difficult to imagine why the BIA rejected such a document, other than to say we couldn't govern ourselves as a genuine government.

Time and experience has proven the corporate template foisted upon us is, to say the least, an improper way to structure tribal government. We are not a corporation whose board of directors consists of industry experts (government or busi-

ness). Our board of directors is a body elected without minimum qualification mandates, background experience and there is no accountability during a term of office other than the ballot box. The tribe deserves better, and this system has to change. I will be placing these items on the agenda until we get forward movement on constitutional reform and put the power of the government back into the hands of the citizens.

Budget cuts — If the rumors out of Washington, D.C., are correct, by the time you read this paper, we will have avoided federal sequestration. Word is, they have come to an agreement that would eliminate sequestration for a two-year period. That means that the 2 percent in federal funding cuts made to our budget in anticipation of sequestration can be put back in the budgets from whence they came. I will not support any "willy nilly" reprogramming of these dollars. These cuts were made to budgets already deep in shortages to provide basic and most needed services.

Our Elders Division, Health Services Division, Head Start programs and other services that have had to endure the cuts deserve to be made whole again. I pledge my continued support to our programs, staff and membership services and to restore their budgets with the 2 percent earmarked to cover sequestration mandates.

I also still believe in cutting the board's wages back as a gesture of solidarity. The board should not be immune to budget cuts. When budget cuts are made to departments and staff, it is not done as if to say "you don't earn it." It is cut because

there are financial constraints. No more, no less. And so, too, is my belief about board pay. I am not inferring the board does not earn their pay. I am saying the board should take the same cuts each and every department must take. I have talked about this with tribal members and staff. I have not had even one person disagree with the premise.

Christmas and family — This time of year I especially remember all those who have walked on and the blessings they shared with me. I miss their hugs, seeing their smiling faces and their eyes twinkle with the glow of Christmas tree lights. And even though I miss them, I can still feel their love. I am lucky in that way. There are however, so many people who find this time of year to be too emotionally challenging. Keep your heart

open to these folks and try to make this holiday season a bit easier on them. Check in on your neighbors. Include people to have dinner with your family. Reach out to someone who has experienced a tragic loss. Help someone in need make Christmas come for their children. One act of kindness has been known to save a life, and it feels so good too!

I wish you all a joyous and merry Christmas! May your holidays be spent in the company of friends, family and loved ones. Nothing feeds our spirit or wellbeing more than love and happiness. I wish you all the very best of the season.

If you want to contact me, please email dmalloy@saulttribe.net or call (906) 440-9762.

Merry Christmas and happy new year!

DJ Malloy

Focusing on truths — two sides to every story

From "Two sides," pg. 25
stepchildren.

I cannot express enough that I use the analogy of my son living with me and I provide and am there for him, he moves to college and I am not right there for him and cannot provide for him any longer. It is not as though the tribe has kicked you out of the tribe. The U.P. is the homeland that we currently own and run our businesses and services from. I know it is not always easy, but the door is always open for our family to return home to a place we can take care of them. The key to being able to branch out our operations and services will be a downstate business venture with

sustainable growth.

I have confidence that our tribe will move forward in 2014. The board is grabbing the reigns and will be making those tough decisions to turn our casinos around. We will be working on strategic planning, paying down our debt and future economic development.

I wish every one of our members a safe and happy holiday season! Thank you for having the confidence in me to represent your interest.

Here is to great things in the New Year!

My contact info is:
bsorenson@saulttribe.net,
643-2123 (office) and
430-0536 cell.

Revenue, budgets and employment top priorities



**CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

We've had a full agenda of government and enterprise activities this month with revenue, budgets and employment being the top priorities. We have also had substantive discussions about how best to move forward in order to achieve economic, social and environmental prosperity for our people.

The big picture view is our obligation to:

- Protect and enhance the quality of the lives of members through a combination of economic opportunities and a safety net of social services;
- Protect the culture and traditional practices of our anishi-

naabe people;

- Respect and protect the spirit of the ancestors that have gone before and the future generations to come;
- Exercise the powers of self-government secured by the 1836 treaty;
- Protect and preserve the tribe's homeland;
- Protect the tribe's treaty rights both on and off reservation; and
- Provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone living within our homelands.

With respect to that discussion, it is becoming increasingly clear that governance through an institutional "committee process" will be a more productive method for accomplishing our objectives than our current method of governance through board workshops. For instance, the establishment of an Internal Audit Committee in 2010 has proven to be very effective.

So, with that in mind, I am bringing forward a recommendation to dust off the Economic Development Commission and redesign it to better serve as a vehicle for evaluating and driving economic initiatives under consideration. As well, there are

plans under way to reestablish an active Land Use Committee to better manage our tribal assets.

Finally, we are primarily a grant economy supplemented by tribal support dollars. Given the hardship it poses to our tribal operations when funding sources are continually in flux and uncertain, I will be advocating for a standing Budget Formulation Committee in order to effectively utilize the time and resources of our budget, accounting and departmental staff.

These are the foundational building blocks necessary to proactively accomplish tribal obligations to our people and communities.

A quick note about the Affordable Care Act (ACA): Although it has been a very partisan issue across the land and people have strong feelings about whether it is a good direction for the U.S., clearly it is here to stay. ACA has profound implications and opportunities for our tribal health system. We urge all tribal members who do not currently have private health insurance to investigate what is available through the health exchanges and/or eligibility for expanded

Medicaid. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Tribal Health at info@saulttribe.net or (906) 632-5200. We expect to get more information to all tribal members in January.

I would like to announce my recent appointment to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC) for Region V, which covers the Great Lakes area. I am deeply honored to serve in this capacity and to be a voice at the table for regional tribal nations and the dedicated staff who stand on the frontlines protecting the quality of our resources for generations to come.

The end of January begins another election season for our tribe. I sincerely hope everyone takes the time to share your thoughts and get answers to issues that are important to you. This is also a good time to make sure your address information is current and that you are registered to vote.

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT: Please call whenever you change your address: (800) 251-6597.

VOTER REGISTRATION: The voter registration form can

be download at our website at www.saulttribe.com/government/tribal-elections. Complete and sign (no photo copies) and mail to Tribal Election Committee, PO BOX 102, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

TRIBAL NEWSPAPER: *Win Awenen Nisitotung (One Who Understands)*. You can arrange to have the tribal newspaper sent via electronic mail by calling (906) 632-6398 or send email to jdburton@saulttribe.net. The benefit — especially to out of area tribal members — is the edition will be emailed to you on the day of publication.

I want to end by wishing a blessed Christmas season to you and your families; our workforce who so often go above and beyond the call of duty; to all our community volunteers and traditional helpers; and a special holiday wish for our active duty veterans who might be far from home keeping us safe. This is the season to pray and celebrate good tidings. Let's remember to show our love to one another.

Merry Christmas, everyone!
Catherine Hollowell
Unit2tribal@gmail.com
(906) 484-6821

Difficult to keep positive while communicating the hard issues we face — it's a monthly balancing act



**LANA CAUSLEY, DIRECTOR,
UNIT II**

I thought about this unit report all month. During our board meeting along with my personal and group meetings with elders and members, it seems that a lot do not want to read reports as its political and people get frustrated with attacks and propaganda. It's a fine line what to write and what to keep to myself as an elected official. This communication is our only true form out to the entire membership and it's difficult to keep positive but also communicate the hard issues we face. I don't want to write about all the untruths, hatefulness and political wars we face internally everyday, but I also cannot print that all is rosy within our government. I try to balance and get meaningful, truthful information out in the very little space I have once a month.

As I stated last month, we have many projects going on and with the coming election, you all will have to go through the same promises, hurry up we better do something and the same old hatefulness that comes with election. Truly watch and listen to peoples

words, this will guild you.

We continue to meet and work on recommendations for improvement at our casinos. We have been provided a detailed "SMART goals" list. These are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time based plans to increase revenue and promote a healthy workplace for us.

The key goals identified and deemed a priority:

MORALE — The measures to increase the morale in the workplace are, appeal policy re-established, policy's upheld with workplace gossip, leadership development training, reduce occurrences of nepotism/favoritism, performance based increases, reduce politics in workplace, positive initiatives in workplace, restructure hiring policy.

DRUGS IN THE WORKPLACE — The measures identified to decrease the drugs in our workplace are, Employee Assistance Program offered for first time offenders, change dates of drug testing, increase our at-hand resources to identify the use of drugs at work, increase surveillance monitoring, drug task force team.

COMMUNICATION — Enforce company communication policy, re-introduce quality control meetings with team members, schedule regular per shift meetings in each department, open forums with team members and management.

CLEANLINESS OF PROPERTIES — Improvement in structures repair, speed up hiring process in positions, hiring qualified personnel, regular inspections.

FOOD QUALITY — Cleanliness of individual departments and work stations, maintain

buffets seasonal, improve quality of presentation, proper food storage standards, provide proper training, ingredients in food.

These are a few of the goals that have been provided to the board with realistic plans to reach the improvements needed, along with a timeline for each. I want to say that, in the past, the board did not have to intervene to this extent and I, for one, do not like to micromanage or have this as a constant discussion, but times have changed and our casinos have lacked in many areas. It's clear through the recommendations provided by outside consultants as well as the team member surveys we completed. The above is just the start of many changes to come and I will expect all to be completed by the timelines given and will be prepared to hold accountable management to get the goals completed. We have had very candid discussions and our improvement plans cannot stall any longer. In closing about this topic, I hope that our planned changes and discussion do not get MIS-read as wanting anyone fired. Change is always hard, but true management and pride within our workplace will advance our properties and make us more successful in operations.

All the members probably do not know, but I managed a business in my past (along with many other life's experiences), it wasn't a high prestige company but rather a small operation that WAS and IS profitable. The position came with very long hours, constant review of savings, no nonsense approach to staff members protection with company policy, open door policy to staff suggestions and input and up front straightforward communica-

tion! I don't normally talk about my experiences, but I do pride myself in my common sense and success for the company I worked for, managing came with responsibility and expectations and once there, you either sink or swim. I loved the job, the challenges and hard work. I do bring that to the table and my expectations for our company's success are priority.

Miigwetch to all team members who work on the front line everyday, our casinos belong to you and the more ownership and pride you take in your positions is what will always make us successful.

We will be having discussions on certain amendments to our constitution. I've been working and recommending this approach from the start. We can discuss with members each and every amendment proposed and plan to accommodate the change as well as financially be able to sustain the change. This will be our discussion now for the next few months and I look forward to it.

Our budgets are balanced for the time being and as always, I simply won't spend money if it's not identified and a priority. I have requested that the administration identify staff that can review and vet business proposals that can increase our revenues, we have had this in the past and, to date, we have no one identified, it's upsets me greatly the stall and steps backwards we have taken with this approach. (I'm trying to be positive but wanted you aware it's a priority for me).

This past weekend a member created a map of all the (IHS) Indian Health Services locations available to our out of the service area members. The map

shows each location and contact information. I will be requesting that we do an article in our tribal paper as well as our own health division communicating this information for members that cannot make it here to our clinics. Look for this coming soon.

In closing, I must touch on the subject of the board's position in regards to bickering, fighting, etc. I firmly state that the board, in my opinion, is well versed in the problems we face and most have the desire to advance our people. We have different thoughts and discussion but, for the most part, it's respectful and we work together. I've voiced to my fellow board that taking the "victim" stance for past mistakes is old and simply is not an excuse anymore. Again, watch closely, members, I am confident you see through the muck and can identify the same old political cries that you have been hearing for years. I assure you I have respect for my fellow board members and most return respect to me in conducting business.

Christmas time — I'm thankful for our families and our tribe. I want to wish everyone a blessed season with you and yours, remember our veterans who especially struggle this time of year and thank them, hug them! Please do an act of kindness or take part in making a Christmas miracle come true, even if its a very small one, I so believe in miracles at this time of year, it kind of gives me goosebumps because I know they happen everyday.

Watch closely, baamaapii.

Lana Causley, Unit II board representative, (906) 484-3818 or 484-2954, Lcausley@saulttribe.net.

MANISTIQUE-ST.IGNACE-HESSEL-SAULT STE MARIE-CHRISTMAS



Photo by Carrie Reiser

BRET MICHAELS



AND

FIREHOUSE

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