



WIN AWENEN NISITOTUNG

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

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Blueberry Moon
Miin Giizis



Court of Appeals affirms Election Committee Newly elected board members take the oath of office July 21

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — On July 15, the Sault Tribe Court of Appeals issued its decision in the appeal filed by tribal member Isaac McKechnie challenging the recent general election. The court unanimously rejected McKechnie's June 23 challenge and affirmed the June 29 decision of the Election Committee.

McKechnie argued that the Election Committee violated his rights by picking up the ballots from the Sault Ste. Marie post office at 4:30 p.m. on election day rather than at the customary 5 p.m. The court found that, because the post office stops processing election mail at 2 p.m. each day, no ballots would have been processed into the Election Committee's post office box after 2 p.m. Thus, the committee did not violate the Election Code by picking up the box at 4:30 p.m. instead of at 5 p.m., because the post office would not have processed any additional ballots into the box during that time period.

As a result of the court's decision, all pending election contests are now finally resolved. The Sault Tribe Board of Directors resumed its consideration of the election on July 21 at the Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie. The Election Committee certified the election results and the newly elected officials were formally sworn into office.

Above, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Directors sworn in July 21 (L-R): Unit II Director Lana Causley-Smith, Unit I Director Michael McKerchie, Unit IV Director Darcy Morrow, Unit V Director Anita Nelson, Chairperson Aaron Payment, Unit II Director Bridgett Sorenson, Unit I Director Denny McKelvie and Unit I Director Jennifer McLeod.



Photo by Brenda Austin

Fifth annual Bureau of Indian Affairs conference comes to Kewadin Casino

BY RICK SMITH

SAULT STE. MARIE — The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Midwest Region and Sault Tribe hosted the fifth annual Partners In Action conference at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., over July 19-22.

The conference attracted tribal and federal government interests from throughout the BIA Midwest Region area covering Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota and Iowa.

The BIA indicates the Midwest Region serves 35 tribal governments and reservations with a jurisdiction covering about 4.6 million acres in the coverage area. The regional office is in Bloomington, Minn., and three

multi-tribe agencies or field offices in Sault Ste. Marie, Bemidji, Minn., and Ashland, Wisc., along with a one-tribe field office in Red Lake, Minn. Additionally, the regional office provides direct services to seven tribes.

According to Diane K. Rosen, BIA Midwest Region director, this year's conference capitalized on unprecedented gains in Indian Country such as restoration of tribal homelands, expansion of economic development opportunities and trails blazed for safer and healthier communities. "With this momentum in mind," she noted in a welcoming statement, "We have selected '*Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present and Shaping the Future*' as the conference theme. Not only does this year's theme recognize past leadership for their incredible efforts in laying the foundations for sovereignty, it brings in the many new leaders who will create



Photo by Rick Smith

Above, some conference attendees in a legislative update session in the Kewadin Sault DreamMakers Theater as others take in workshops conducted in the mezzanine rooms of the Kewadin complex on July 19.

the blueprints to the future."

Rosen indicated the conference allows elected leaders and tribal staff opportunities to participate in a multitude of informative workshops, training and networking development. At any time during the conference hours, attendees could choose to attend from a selection of up to seven simultaneous breakout sessions or

workshops or ongoing individualized sessions.

Topics covered in the workshops included understanding federal government procedures, child welfare, natural resources, realty, human services, records management, fish and wildlife, transportation, gaming, legal issues, youth initiatives, justice and others.

ITFAP conducts first time stocking of 65,000 walleye in Lower Cheboygan River

CHEBOYGAN, Mich. — The Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program (ITFAP) stocked the Lower Cheboygan River with 65,000 walleye summer fingerlings on June 20. The program has stocked other areas of the upper Great Lakes and the St. Marys River since 1990, but this is the first stocking in the Cheboygan area of Lake Huron.

The fingerlings, about 2 inches long, were given an internal mark to identify them as stocked fish, which will help determine post-stocking survival and future

contributions to the fisheries. ITFAP officials plan to continue stocking walleye fingerlings in this area on an annual basis and will conduct field assessments to evaluate the success of the stocking program.

In addition to the Great Lakes, ITFAP also conducts walleye stocking individually and cooperatively in various inland waters. Between 2010 and 2015, Mullett Lake received 121,813 summer fingerlings and Black Lake 147,000. The number of 7-inch walleye planted in

the fall during this period was 18,750 for Mullett Lake and 20,167 for Black Lake. These fish were also marked for prospective study.

The ITFAP hatchery is administered by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians with additional funding provided by Bay Mills Indian Community and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

For more information, call ITFAP Director Tom Gorenflo, (906) 632-0072.

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Long-time board member Cathy Abramson retires



Photos by Brenda Austin

Above, Sault Tribe Board of Directors Unit I Representative Cathy Abramson celebrated her recent retirement from the board on July 9 at the Sherman Park pavilion with family and friends. Below, Abramson and her husband, Tony Abramson Sr., hold up the celebratory cake.



BY WAN STAFF

Cathy Abramson represented Sault Tribe members in service area Unit I for 20 years from the local to the national level. She accomplished a great deal, listened to her constituents' wants and needs and did her best to represent those to the board. She laughed, loved, cried, showed great strength and even greater leadership. She has been someone for the youth of our tribe to look up to and the adults to turn to.

After 20 years of doing her best for her people, she opted not to run again this year and instead looks forward to spending quality time with her family and sharing her values and passing on traditions to her grandchildren.

Some of her past accomplishments include Sault Tribe Head Start Policy Council-board liaison, Sault Tribe Healthy Traditions Advisory Council, Sault Tribe Community Transformation Alliance for Health Leadership Team, Gaming Commission, National Indian Health Board chairperson, Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee-Bemidji Area Representative; and the Secretary of Health and Human Services Tribal Advisory Committee-Bemidji Area representative.

Abramson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

She was born and raised on Sugar Island by parents Ken and Helen (nee Gurnoe) McCoy. She said families would gather at one another's homes to play cards and wait for dark so the men could set their nets or spear fish. And fun times were when someone grabbed a fiddle or guitar and sang while they played and others danced. Families went sucker clubbing every spring to be able to put smoked fish on their tables. They picked enough blueberries to last for months. They took care of elder family members and grew up listening to elders speaking the language. She said they were blessed with plenty of fresh fish, venison, wild game, berries, medicinal plants, clean water and fresh air.

Her father was elected to the

board in the tribe's early years, and taught a young Cathy the value of serving her people and about the riches of our culture and traditions. Her mother taught her the importance of taking care of families and elders.

Abramson said, "Many people have put their lives into developing our tribe – as an organization and as a community. Because of everyone's efforts, we have come a long way. While we all see our world just a little bit differently, there is a common thread that we must keep – and that is respect. I respect those elected and community leaders who have served before us and who serve us now. They and their families have sacrificed so much to serve our people. Positive community involvement is imperative for our tribe's continued success. Tribal leaders need to set the example. With faith and hard work, we will continue to accomplish great things for our people."

In Chairperson Payment's May 2016 unit report, he said, "Cathy's service to our tribe has been inspiring...Cathy has taught me to go after a bigger piece of the pie."

Abramson said, "I listened to you, our tribal members – my family, my friends, youth, elders, the far left, the far right, the hard core militant and the laid back passive. I heard you and your voices mattered. And, I grew. I carried with me all of your voices and the voices of our ancestors. I was proud to do so, and I think I will miss that the most."

She added, "Big sweeping gestures get a lot of attention – but it's the small everyday things that keep our tribe alive. It's families who help prepare for our funerals, our ceremonies, our powwows, gatherings, passing on our language, gathering and making our medicines, hunting, growing, gathering and cooking our traditional foods. Sharing is one of the oldest traditions, whether it be sharing your time, your harvest, or a meal. Chi miigwech for this journey we have shared. I will still be around if you need any help, advice, or a great pot of waboose nabob."

24TH GATHERING OF THE EAGLES

HESSEL POW WOW

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY AUG. 19-21

HELD AT THE HESSEL POW WOW GROUNDS
NEXT TO KEWADIN HESSEL CASINO



GRAND ENTRY:

Saturday
1 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m.

FEAST MEAL:

Saturday 5 p.m.

HEAD VETERAN:

Gene Reid

ARENA DIRECTOR:

Butch VanAllen

CO-EMCEE:

Joe Medicine
Cal Burnside

HEAD DANCERS:

Nick Cameron
Jackie Halfaday Minton

JR. HEAD DANCERS:

Desmond Skipper
Alysia Causley

SPIRITUAL HELPER

John Causley
Cal Burnside

FIRE KEEPER:

Dave Goff
Helper-Andrew Causley

SPIRITUAL GATHERING & POTLUCK

Friday Evening

All Drums & Dancers Welcome!

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Co-HOST DRUM – Sturgeon Bay
(Blanket Dance for Sunday Drums)

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Joanne Umbrasas - (906) 322-3668

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Resolutions passed at June board meetings

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors met on June 1 in St. Ignace with all present.

A budget modification was approved for American Indian Substance Abuse for a change in the personnel sheet, reallocation of expenses and a decrease in State of Michigan funding of \$142.

Approval was granted for a number of health programs to accommodate recent fiscal year 2016 federal funding with no effect on tribal support: Purchased and Referred Care budget for Indian Health Service funding of \$2,037,477; Good Health and Wellness budget for Centers for Disease Control funding of \$184,742; Partnerships to Improve Community Health for Centers for Disease Control funding of \$254,651; Special Diabetes for Indian Health Service funding of \$119,428; Healthy Heart for Indian Health Services funding of \$72,022; health center administration for Indian Health Service funding of \$78,225; and an unspecified modification for the St. Ignace clinic.

A fiscal year 2016 unspecified budget modification for Planning and Development passed as well as \$11,276 for sponsorships. A fiscal year 2017 budget was established for a state funding of a dock in Grand Marais for \$66,588, another to accommodate \$200,000 in state funding for Epoufette Harbor and a second resolution was passed to grant signature authority for contracting the work. A fiscal year 2017 budget was also established for a National Congress of American Indians data grant and other funding of \$27,276.

A pair of resolutions passed in support of submission of supplemental grants to the Office of Head Start to provide extended services to children and families as well as for cost of living allowance fund to support the Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

An amendment passed on the tribe's 2016 Indian housing plan under a grant along with a request for HUD approval. The Housing Authority was authorized to submit a grant application for \$600,000, the board confirmed by another resolution that funding requirements have been met.

Formal opposition to Michigan Senate Bill 0039 passed, the bill would alter definitions applicable to harvesting trees in public forests and interfere with treaty rights.

Endorsement passed on state House resolution 15, a proposal to urge the state attorney general to end the easement for Enbridge Line 5 under the Straits of Mackinac, and urged the governor and attorney general to take action as stipulated in the state resolution.

Tribal Code Chapter 21: Inland Fishing and Hunting was amended to authorize the tribal chief of police/conservation officer to permit or license the exercise of the right on tribal trust land or fee land and establish policies and procedures as seen fit.

Recommendation of the Sault Tribe Gaming Authority was accepted for the key position of the Kewadin Casinos chief executive officer.

The board met again on June 14 in Escanaba. All board members were present with the exception of Cathy Abramson and Lana

Causley.

The board passed 15 resolutions, 14 by unanimous vote:

Resolutions 2016-148 and 149 approve budget modifications for the Gaming Commission and Youth Education and Activities.

Resolution 2016-150 approves the tribe to participate with a number of other entities in the 2016 Department of Health and Human Services, State and Tribal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Implementation Partnership Grant.

Resolution 2016-151 and 152 modify the budgets of ACFS Title IV-B Subpart 2 and ICWA Title IV-B Subpart I.

Resolution 2016-153 authorizes Bacco Construction the contract for the St. Ignace tribal housing roads as the lowest and most qualified bidder.

Resolution 2016-154 authorizes the Environmental Department to apply for a BIA climate change adaptation planning to develop an energy resilience action plan.

Resolution 2016-155 and 156 authorizes the purchase of two land lots for future JKL School expansion.

Resolution 2016-158 opposes auction house sales of Native American sacred objects, objects of cultural patrimony and human ancestral remains.

Resolution 2016-159 modifies compensation of appellate court judges to \$200 to each reserve lay judge for each appeal assigned to that judge, except those already compensated as a tribal employees.

Resolution 2016-160 supports the change of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day and urges the cities of Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace, and com-

munities throughout the state of Michigan, to officially recognize Indigenous Peoples Day as well.

Resolution 2016-161 awarded a contract to Arrow Construction for the Odenaang Tribal Housing Roads Project.

Resolution 2016-162 approves an "indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity" contract between the tribe and Northwest Design Group for engineering services as needed for projects.

To see these and other res-

olutions approved at meetings in their entirety, log on to the official Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians web site and follow the links to government, board of directors and select downloads from the menu box; or cut and paste www.saulttribe.com/government/board-of-directors into your browser and select the downloads option in the menu box in the upper left hand of the screen to pursue approved resolutions.

Indian veterans invited to forum on building national monument

An open forum is set for the National Native American Veterans Memorial at the Mackinac Island Community Center on Market Street on Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All Native veterans are welcome! Meet National Smithsonian Committee members and enjoy refreshments. The event is sponsored by Captured Spirits on Mackinac Island, a Michlimackinac Historic Society exhibit.

Emergency preparedness kits for pet encouraged

In honor of National Pet Preparedness Month, the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division are encouraging Michiganders to create emergency preparedness kits for their pets to ensure complete family readiness during emergencies or disasters.

The likelihood that Michigan residents and their pets will recover from an emergency tomorrow often depends on the planning and preparation done today. During times of disaster, people risk their lives and the lives of others to save pets.

More than half of households in the United States include pets, according to the Federal Emergency Management

Agency. To create pet preparedness kits, ensure the following items are readily available in a safe location: Food (your pet's regular food), water, leash and collar, bowls, photo of your pet or ID and a photo of you with your pet, medications your pet needs, immunization and vet records (keep both updated), first aid kit, contact list of pet-friendly hotels, veterinarians and out-of-town friends and family; toys, rope and sanitation bags along with pet carriers.

Learn more about being prepared before, during and after an emergency or disaster at the MSP/EMHSD on Twitter at @MichEMHS or go to www.michigan.gov/miready.

For members' concerns

Three membership liaisons work with the chairperson's office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. This requires knowledge of the tribe and its practices, administrative experience and the ability to work with data, write reports and organize special projects and events.

The liaisons will also respond to and follow up on membership issues to ensure they are resolved.

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

membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or individually at:

Unit I — Sheila Berger, Office of the Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 635-6050, (800) 793-0660, sberger@saulttribe.net

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

Units IV and V — Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net

Sault Tribe employment opportunities

Please contact Sault Tribe Employment at (866) 635-7032 or stemployment@saulttribe.net. Apply online or sign up for email notifications at www.saulttribe.com

GOVERNMENTAL OPENINGS

Sault Ste. Marie, Kincheloe
Economic development director—full time/regular—open until filled

Early Head Start instructor—full time/regular—open until filled

Health Education supervisor—full time/regular—open until filled

Community health educator—full time/regular—open until filled

Custodian (Chi Mukwa)—part time/regular—open until filled

Telecommunications manag-

er—full time/regular—open until filled

Hessel, St. Ignace, Escanaba, Manistique, Marquette, Munising and Newberry

Chief solo dentist, Manistique—full time/regular—open until filled

Dietician, St. Ignace—full time/regular—open until filled

Staff dentist, St. Ignace—part time/regular—open until filled

Staff pharmacist, Manistique—part time/regular—open until filled

KEWADIN CASINOS OPENINGS

Sault Ste. Marie
Marketing director—full time/regular—open until filled

Guest room attendant—part time/regular—open until filled

Guest room attendant—full

time/regular—open until filled

St. Ignace
Bartender—(2) full time/temporary—open until filled

Bartender—full time/regular—open until filled

Guest room attendant—full time/temporary—open until filled

Restaurant server—part time/temporary—open until filled

Front desk clerk—full time/temporary—open until filled

Manistique

Gaming dealers—(2) part time/temporary—open until filled

Cook—full time/regular—open until filled

Christmas

Bartender—part time/regular—open until filled

Line cooks—(3) part time/regular—open until filled

Players club clerk—part time/temporary—open until filled

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

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

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

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

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Proposed commission would focus on Indian children

BY RICK SMITH

A bill recently passed by the U.S. Senate and a companion bill is under consideration in the U.S. House that would create a commission to study and identify challenges faced by American Indian children across the country.

If passed by the House and enacted by the president, the commission created by the bills would examine high rates of poverty, unemployment, child abuse, domestic violence, crime, substance abuse and the lack of economic opportunities. Further, the commissioned would be charged with developing recommendations to ensure the protection and education of Indian children as well as help to build thriving economies to benefit them.

The Senate bill was re-introduced by senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) and

Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), which proposes the name of the commission as the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children. The late Alyce Spotted Bear is described as a passionate advocate for American Indian children, recognized leader in education and a former tribal chairwoman of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation in North Dakota. The late Walter Soboleff was a Tlingit elder and statesman in Alaska.

“By creating a commission on Native children,” said Heitkamp, “We can begin to address chronic issues like abuse and suicide that has shattered the lives of too many young people and put holistic solutions in place that can positively change the lives of many Native kids.”

According to a briefing from

Heitkamp, the 11-member commission would have expertise in juvenile justice, social work and education along with mental and physical health. A bipartisan group including the president of the United States, Senate majority and minority leaders as well as the speaker and the minority leader of the House of Representatives would appoint commission members.

“Recognizing the need to include children in the conversation,” the brief noted, “the bill establishes a Native Children Subcommittee comprised of one young person from each Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) service area and one Native Hawaiian. The Native Children Subcommittee will provide advice to the commission members and offer insight to help guide the commission’s work.”

Further, the commission would have three years from the

date of creation and funding to issue a report including recommendations to reach the following objectives:

- Make better use of existing resources and identify ways to streamline current federal, state and local programs for better effectiveness and flexibility to devise programs and resources in the spirit of tribal self-determination focused on areas of most need.

- Improved coordination of existing programs benefiting American Indian children.

- Recommend measures to determine the well-being of Indian children and use the measures to propose short-term, mid-term and long-term national goals.

- Improved methods in collecting information surrounding American Indian children.

- Identify obstacles to public-private partnerships in

American Indian communities.

- Identify and highlight exemplary models that could be adopted in American Indian communities.

The commission would be funded through unexpended funds from federal agencies such as the Department of Justice, Department of the Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The bills are reported to have the endorsement of the NCAI, National Indian Health Board, National Indian Child Welfare Association, National Indian Education Association, United Tribes Technical College, Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Association, all North Dakota tribes and former U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) who is also the founder and chairman of the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute.

Tribal Youth and Community Protection Act in Senate

BY RICK SMITH

The U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs announced the *Tribal Youth and Community Protection Act* (S. 2785) passed by the committee to the Senate floor on June 22.

Senator John Barrasso, chairman of the committee, said, “This bill would protect Native children and promote public safety in tribal communities by extending tribal criminal jurisdiction in the same manner

under special domestic violence provisions in the Violence Against Women Authorization of 2013.”

Under the bill, according to Barrasso, expanded special tribal prosecution jurisdiction mandated in the *Violence Against Women Authorization Act* would be extended to violent offenses and attempted violent offenses against Indian children, tribal police and tribal court personnel conducting criminal proceedings

along with drug offenses.

Senator John Tester (D-Mont.), who also sits on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, introduced the bill last April. Co-sponsors of the bill are Democratic senators Al Franken of Minnesota, Tom Udall of New Mexico and Maria Cantwell of Washington.

In testimony before the committee delivered last May 18, Bureau of Indian Affairs Director Michael Black spoke in

support of the bill. He indicated two federal task forces concluded local control is the key for promoting public safety in Indian Country.

“The tribal provisions in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization of 2013 employed this principle and since its enactment, a number of tribes are making strides in combating domestic violence,” Black said. “S. 2785 continues to move in this direction by

strengthening tribes’ ability to protect their communities and prosecute non-Indian offenders.”

Black spoke in favor of a number of amendments to other bills that would support the Tribal Youth and Community Protection Act, including a measure to double the current authorized amount of appropriations to \$10 million under U.S. Department of Justice grants for fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

FOIA Improvement Act mandates creation of online portal

BY RICK SMITH

President Barack Obama signed a bill into law on June 30 to improve the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 requires federal agencies to make certain records available for public inspection in an electronic format. Further, the new law mandates the creation of an online portal where FOIA requests can be submitted to any federal agency.

“As all of you know, the Freedom of Information Act is one of the key ways in which citizens are able to find out what exactly is going on in government,” Obama said just prior to enacting the bill. “And the good

news is, is that over the course of my presidency, we have processed more FOIA requests — Freedom of Information requests — than ever before. And we have worked to make it easier and more transparent, putting more and more stuff online.”

Other federal administration officials indicated extending application of the FOIA to Congress would be another important step in increasing government transparency. Currently, the act only applies to the executive branch of the government.

According to release from House Oversight and Government Reform, the law “places the burden on agencies to justify withholding informa-

tion, instead of on requesting individuals to justify release of said information.”

According to a congressional summary of the act, the FOIA was enacted 50 years ago to give the public a right to access records held by the executive branch that were not made available, although those records were not classified as sensitive information, and closes loopholes and prevents other tactics used by the federal government over the years to deny, delay or obscure the disclosure of information.

People who have any disputes or complaints in acquiring information under the FOIA can seek assistance from the FOIA public liaison of the individ-

ual agencies involved or seek resolution through the Office of Government Information Services.

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform praised the passage of the act. “Passing bipartisan FOIA legislation is a major milestone and big step forward in fixing a broken process,” said Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), committee chairman. He added that the law “will help make government more transparent and accountable to the public.”

Said ranking member of the committee, Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), “We have been working on this bill in a bipartisan way for years.” He expressed

pleasure at seeing enactment of the law to update and improve the FOIA as its 50-year anniversary of the landmark legislation approaches.

Former committee chairman, Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), noted the law “effectively cripples the ability of the federal bureaucrats and power hungry government officials to keep information from the American people. I’ve led the fight for three years now to improve the broken FOIA process and, today, I’m glad to see these efforts become a reality.”

The bill passed through the Senate by unanimous consent in March, and passed through the House by voice vote in mid June.

Obama signs the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act into law

BY RICK SMITH

President Barack Obama signed the *Indian Trust Asset Reform Act* into law on June 22.

The historic act directs the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to take steps to establish a 10-year demonstration project for American Indian tribes to propose their own management plans for assets held in trust and eventually dismantle the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Special Trustee.

Over the span of a century, the mishandling of tribal assets in trust by the Office of Special Trustee resulted in the loss of an estimated \$176 billion in assets rightfully belonging to American Indian tribes by treaties.

The tribes successfully sued

The historic act directs the Department of the Interior to take steps to establish a 10-year demonstration project for American Indian tribes to propose their own management plans for assets held in trust and eventually dismantle the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Special Trustee.

the federal government in a drawn out class action suit now known as Cobell vs. Salazaar. The suit resulted in a 2009 settlement agreement of \$3.4 billion to compensate plaintiff tribes.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) hailed the enactment of the law as a major step forward in tribal self-determination over trust land

management. “Tribal leaders want to move to a system focused on tribal self-determination and economic opportunities,” said the NCAI president, Brian Cladoosby. “This act allows for tribes to have greater control over decision making and furthers tribal self-governance. It is a significant milestone for the modernization of the trust relationship

between the federal government and tribal nations.”

As reported in *Win Awenen Nisitotung* last March, the U.S. House of Representatives was the first congressional chamber to pass one of the twin congressional bills of the *Indian Trust Asset Reform Act*. The House bill, H.R. 812, passed unanimously on Feb. 24. More recently, the accompanying Senate bill, S. 383, passed on June 10.

Along with reaffirming the federal government’s fiduciary responsibilities to Indian Country and other measures, the act directs the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to establish a demonstration project of at least 10 years in length that allows American Indian tribes opportu-

nities to propose and negotiate their own management plans for assets held in trust by the federal government. Further, the act directs some DOI and BIA personnel shuffling and requires the DOI to prepare a transition plan and timetable for the closure of the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians.

According to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office, the act would also increase the authority of tribes to make contracts for certain services and activities on tribal lands without DOI approval.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) hailed the enactment as “a major step forward in tribal self-determination over trust land management.”

Local bar gutted and renamed *Three One Three*

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The former Back Door, now known as Three One Three, for the first time in over 40 years has working front doors and invites patrons in from either entrance. New owners Ashley Corbiere and Laura McKay (both Sault Tribe members) completely gutted and remodeled the building, making it a destination spot for those barely legal, to elders meeting friends for a drink.

The co-owners became friends when they worked together at the Country Club in Sault Ste. Marie, then later at Willabees in Brimley.

Corbiere left the restaurant business to open her own dance studio, Allure Dance Company, and rented space above the original Back Door for her business. She became friends with the building's owner, who kept trying to talk her into purchasing it from him.

So Corbiere approached her friend, Laura, and tossed the idea around with her. Her friend wasn't so sure about the idea and took some persuading by Corbiere, but finally agreed to the venture. They closed on the building in April 2015, and opened their doors the first week of February.



This Ashmun Street building is turning a new page, transforming from long-time bar "The Back Door" to "Three One Three," a bar with three distinct concepts — nightclub, northern rustic and lounge.

Corbiere said having an educational background in resort and beverage management has helped a great deal. McKay manages the Lock View Restaurant, which closes for the season in October

and Corbiere owns and teaches at her dance company.

Corbiere said, "It's very rewarding, but it's also very difficult." McKay said they are both busy 24/7, "but the nice part is

there are two of us, so if one of us wants to go for a little while the other one is here."

The bar has become a family affair for both women, who have involved their husbands, kids and parents in the remodeling efforts, staffing, and even furniture making. The only thing that is original to the former bar is the stage.

The bar's name, Three One Three, came from the concept of having three different bars under one roof with separate inside entrances for each one. City building codes had them rethinking their original plan, and although the three bar areas won't have their own entrances; they each have their own ambiance. The stage area is a nightclub, there is a north-country rustic area for the non-dancing crowd and a yet-to-be-built lounge area with a fireplace towards the back of the building is still in the works.

During the remodeling, the ground floor of the building received a new ceiling and insulation, all new wiring, and remodeled bathrooms.

An 18-by-14 foot outdoor patio is also being planned for those who would like to sit outside and enjoy the summer weather.

er.

McKay said, "One of the things we wanted to achieve is to have clientele of all ages. Come early and it's an older crowd, then when 11:30 hits it's a younger crowd for the dancing, so it serves everybody. There are the occasional nights that you have everybody in here at the same time, from young 20s to older 60s, and everybody is having a good time. Our biggest vision was to have more than one specific clientele, and I think we have that and it's what sets us apart from everybody."

The bar makes its own Sangria, its house margarita and Lake Superior Margarita with their own recipes. Both owners agreed their staff provides excellent customer service.

Bar hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. Entertainment happens Thursday through Saturday nights beginning at 10 p.m., including a DJ and live bands. One of those live bands is a local favorite – Corbiere's father and friends come in once a month to play country music and pack the place. "They don't have a name," Corbiere said, "They just get together and play in the garage."

Project Backpack helps hundreds of Chippewa Co. children

The Salvation Army, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and United Way of the EUP are teaming up for the sixth annual Project Backpack in Chippewa County. The distribution is at Van Citters field in Sault Ste. Marie and about 1,000 people are anticipated on the field throughout the day. The planning committee expects to hand out an estimated 600 pre-filled backpacks to students pre-K through eighth grade.

The distribution is open to the public and designed to help Chippewa County families struggling financially while trying to prepare their children for the coming school year. No income limit applies and families give statements of needs when they register on the day of the event.

Gates open at 11 a.m., and parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are all encouraged to bring kids out for this fun-filled day. "The intent is to create a carnival type atmosphere for families and get students excited about going back to school," said Raulaniesa Aranda, United Way's Volunteer Center coordinator.

Features include hotdogs, bounce houses, vision screenings and the Michigan Child ID program. In past years, attractions included face painters, balloon artists and more – all at no cost. This year, special guests Smokey the Bear and Seamore the Sea Duck from LSSU make appearances. Community organizations are invited to have activity booths and information about their own child or family-supportive programs. For example, Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes always comes with fun hands-on activities. This is a great way for struggling families to kick off the school year in a more positive, less stressful manner.

In preparation for the distribution, "yellow school bus" bins rolled out to area businesses and locations on June 21, participants included the main branch of Soo Co-Op Credit Union, Smith and Company Real Estate, Sault Tribe administration building, Hoover Precision Products and the Michigan Department of Corrections among others.

"We rely heavily on local donations to help fill backpacks and volunteers to make the day run as smoothly as it has the past six years," said Aranda.

Supplies needed include:

- Pencils for smaller hands
- No. 2 pencils
- Colored pencils
- Crayons

- Boxes of facial tissue
- One-subject notebooks
- Pocket folders
- Loose-leaf paper
- Rulers
- Erasers

Donations are also accepted at United Way of the EUP on the second floor of 511 Ashmun Street. Those wishing to hold donation drives are welcome to contact United Way for signs and supply lists. This year, our community can sponsor a child for \$15, which would pay for one supply-filled backpack to be distributed to one of the 500 children expected at the event. Businesses can sponsor the event via employee donations and drives or direct corporate dona-

tion, and can contact the United Way Volunteer Center for more information.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services community resource coordinator, Jennifer Dunton, has been with the event from its inception and enjoys being part of not just the planning, but the event itself. "Project Backpack is a wonderful collaboration of our community," Dunton said. "Year after year, the community gathers to help our youth begin their school year ready to learn. In a time when budgets are growing tighter and

tighter, this project is there to help families meet their children's needs. On the day of the event it's amazing to see the children's excitement for school to start, which makes it easily the best day of summer!"

Individuals or groups wanting to volunteer, organizations that would like to have a presence during the event on Aug. 12, and businesses that would like information on sponsoring this year's event can contact the United Way Volunteer Center at (906) 632-3700, ext. 3, or email volunteer@unitedwayeup.org.

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- NORA MASSEY, COUNTY TREASURER
- DAWN NELSON, FORMER COUNTY COMMISSIONER
- DALE NELSON, ST. IGNACE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
- PAUL FULLERTON, MACKINAC COUNTY AIRPORT MGR.
- JOHN & JERRI GRIFFIN, BROKER/REALTORS
- RIGHT TO LIFE

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"Lori's attention to detail is exceptional and her professional personality is a great reflection of what the County Clerk's office services should be, her honesty and integrity is an asset in an elected position."
-Mary E. Tamlyn Hobson

"Lori has been a dedicated employee for 28 years and has complete knowledge of the Clerk's duties, she deserves the chance to prove she can do the job"
-Dawn Nelson

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT LORI WISNER JOHNSTON #66816

Primary candidates weigh in on tribal issues

SAULT STE. MARIE — Sault Tribe asked State of Michigan House of Representatives candidates in the coming primary election five questions about Sault Tribe issues. Candidates in the tribe's seven-county service area and just below the bridge were sent a questionnaire and a distribution map of tribal members in the 105th through 110th voting districts.

Win Awenen Nisitotung received responses from 106th District candidates

Robert Kennedy (D) and Erin Kieliszewski (D), 107th District candidates Phil Belfy (D) and Kathy Twardy (R) and 108th District candidate Dana Dziedzic (D).

There were no responses from Triston Cole or Wyatt Knight in the 105th, Sue Allor, Jackie Krawczak or Jesse Osmer in the 106th, Lee Chatfield in the 107th, Alan Arcand, Beau LaFave, Darryl Shann or Scott Celello in the 108th; Kevin Pfister, Wagner Patterson, Joy Melody, Sara

Cambensy or John Kivela in the 109th; Gregory Markkanen or Scott Dianda in the 110th.

The candidates were given three days to respond via email and each response had a 250 word limit.

The five questions, numbered one through five in the answers below, are 1) What is your understanding of, and do you support, the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver? 2) Do you support tribal treaty

rights? Why or why not? 3) Do you support a public option for the Affordable Care Act? 4) The Michigan Indian and Family Preservation Act was enacted in 2013 and amended in 2015. As a member of the Michigan Legislature, how would you ensure full compliance with this act at the state and local level? 5) What ideas do you have to support joint efforts on tourism and tribal economic development?

The primary election is Aug. 2.

Candidates' Answers to Sault Tribe's Five Questions

105TH DISTRICT

No response.

106TH DISTRICT

ROBERT KENNEDY

1. If you are one quarter Native American blood quantum, are enrolled in a federally accepted tribe, are a resident of Michigan for 12 months, and are accepted at a Michigan public university or community college, you qualify for the waiver of tuition. I support this program and any other avenue to make college and higher education more affordable.

2. Yes, I support tribal treaty rights. Agreements made should be agreements kept. Native Americans were granted the right to hunt, fish and gather on mentioned land and this promise should be honored.

3. Yes, a public option is the best way to reduce the cost of health care because it would eliminate the private health insurance companies whose administrative costs are about 20 percent of the total cost of health care now. With a public option like Medicare the administrative cost is 2 to 3 percent. The savings could be passed along in lower premiums and/or better coverage.

4. I would ensure compliance by overseeing the state trial courts and the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) to be sure the rights of Indian families are protected. And if we err, let us err on the side of keeping families together.

5. I support the tribal cultural centers like in Standish and Mt. Pleasant and would advocate expanding to other regions. We should continue the cooperative effort between Lake Huron Discovery Tour and the Chippewa Indian Tribe. Also we should continue our support for the many powwows, which allow the Native American culture to be experienced by the general population.

ERIN KIELISZEWSKI

1. A solid education, including college study, unlocks the future for our children. Years ago, the state of Michigan made a promise to Native American residents in Michigan, telling them that the cost of tuition would be waived for them at state colleges and universities. It's shameful that the state has been negligent in holding up its end of the bargain by underfunding the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver program. As a retired educator, I want to see all of Michigan's children thrive and have good careers, which is why I strongly favor fully funding this program.

2. The state and federal governments have made numerous promises to Native Americans

through several treaties. It is important that the government uphold its end of the bargain. I support the rights negotiated in these treaties and oppose efforts to weaken or circumvent them.

3. The health care plan that is currently in place is something I did not vote for. While we can all agree the implementation and rollout of the law was far from perfect, I'm focused on working in a bipartisan effort to make sure it works for Michigan without costing Michigan taxpayers money. Additionally, we need to ensure that coverage for the Native American community isn't eroded by those trying to get repeal the ACA.

4. It is vitally important for a child to grow up rooted to his or her family and community, which is why I support the Michigan Indian and Family Preservation Act. It's imperative that the voices of tribal leaders are heard when it comes to caring for Native American children involved in involuntary placement proceedings. In order to get the maximum benefit from this program, I would look to both tribal leaders and the state's Department of Health and Human Services to address any gaps or issues identified by case work or court decisions.

5. Gaming is a popular activity that draws in visitors from neighboring states and benefits both the state and tribal economies. I support gaming-based tourism in our state. Michigan also has a rich Native American history that has largely gone untold to tourists. I'm encouraged by the new state law that directs the Department of Natural Resources to place signs along popular trails explaining Native American history in Michigan and point out sites of historic significance and I favor more programs like this. I'm also interested in efforts such as the Great Waters Initiative, in which the Sault Tribe is collaborating with other regional partners to promote cultural and outdoors tourism.

107TH DISTRICT

PHIL BELFY

1. As professor emeritus of American Indian studies, Michigan State University, I have a long-standing, deep and abiding interest in the MITW. While at MSU, I saw first hand the great benefit of the tuition waiver for Native students. I also am painfully aware of the illegal and immoral violations of the tuition waiver perpetuated by MSU, and other institutions, and how these reprehensible "policies" continue to harm great numbers of Native students. As a state rep, I will work tirelessly to see that the MITW agreement is fully

implemented (like eliminating the racist "blood-quantum" requirements), and each college and university is fully reimbursed by the state for every dollar of tuition that is waived by each college and university in full compliance with the MITW legislation.

2. As a citizen of the White Earth Nation, I whole-heartedly support the full recognition of tribal treaty rights. I'm afraid that many non-Native people (and almost all legislators and other "public officials") feel that the treaties are "outdated," which is certainly not the case. We must constantly remind them that, without the "land cession treaties" of the 19th century, there would be no "State of Michigan." If you don't support tribal treaty rights, you simply cannot support the existence of Michigan as a sovereign "political entity." Treaties are "two-way streets," recognizing the sovereign political rights of both "parties" to the treaties ("Indians" and the US).

3. While fully recognizing and in full support of the treaty right to health care, typified by the Indian Health Service (which I use whenever needed), I would very much like to see a "public option" included in the Affordable Care Act. Just as I see the IHS as a "human and treaty right," access to health care should be a "human right" of all (regardless of tribal status). The U.S. is the only modern industrialized country that refuses to provide it's citizens with universal health care as a right of citizenship. While an ACA "public option" would not guarantee access to health care for everyone, it would certainly be a step in that direction.

4. Well, the "compliance" that you refer to is not an option that can either be recognized by the courts or ignored at their whim. It is a legislative mandate. I have seen first-hand the devastation to Native families when state courts ignore that mandate — devastation the legislative is designed to mitigate if not eliminate. As a member of the state legislature, I would work to establish criminal sanctions against any state employee, lawyer, prosecutor, or court that refuses to recognize the rights of Native people and families under the Michigan Indian and Family Preservation Act.

5. By "joint efforts," I assume that you mean "cooperation" between the state and tribal governments. Well, cooperative joint efforts should be pursued and promoted only when such efforts don't infringe on tribal sovereignty. Generally, I oppose all efforts by the State of Michigan to reduce tribal governments to something akin to a "municipality," with tribes being forced to get "permission" from the state

to do anything on the tourism and economic development fronts (and nearly everything else, it seems). At the same time, tribes are sovereign and they should act like it. Having said that, as a member of the state legislature, I might support a "compromise cooperative" position — if the state wants to engage in "tourism and economic development efforts," they should be required to get "permission" from the tribes. "It's good for the goose, it's good for the gander."

KATHY TWARDY

1. I understand that any tribal member who is one-quarter or more tribal, will receive a waiver to attend one of the 15 public universities and 28 colleges of their choice. The person must also be a resident of the state of Michigan for no less than 12 months. Upon completion of the classes, the college or university can then submit paperwork to the state for reimbursement of the cost of tuition. I am in support of this program. This allows people to further their education in search for jobs to help support a better quality life. As far as the state paying back the colleges and universities, they have dropped the ball. The state owes LSSU, based in Sault Ste. Marie, large amounts of money. Because LSSU is located by a large tribal community, it is one of the hardest hit with these shortfalls in re-payments. This creates a negative impact for both the university, and for the community as it limits growth and development.

2. I do support tribal treaty rights. I think its important to support any federal document agreement between the tribes and the federal and or state government. I think that its also important for municipalities to have a great relationship with the tribe with which they are associated. Community partners are what I call us in Sault Ste. Marie and the Chippewa tribe. We consistently work together to make life better for everone in our community through development, projects and community programs.

3. I think when big government takes over programs, there is a huge amount of oversight and waste. Smaller governmental systems can usually have a better control over programs and are able to serve the public better due to close contact with patients and services. This being said, I am not in favor of insurance monopolies in statewide markets. Competition keeps the rates lower and the services at a higher quality for patients and members. As a small business owner, I know how difficult and expensive the current healthcare system is. I feel this system needs much work

to bring rates down to a reasonable cost so that all Americans' can enjoy the benefits of health care.

4. First and foremost, I would be in compliance with this act by voting to protect its current statute. The placement of this preservation act is to ensure that both state and local authorities are following the same guidelines as the current federal law. I believe that all children deserve the right to grow up in a loving and safe home, whether that home be on public land or on tribal land. The best way to ensure that children have a safe home is by ensuring that there is cooperation between the state trial courts and DHS with regard to these two Acts.

5. Pure Michigan is a beneficial campaign that brings many tourism dollars into the state of Michigan. Most of the historical areas of Michigan also contain local Indian tribes who also have so much history to offer, not only for Michigan but for the United States as well. When an area has both a CVB and a tribe, they can be working together to bring in more tourism to the area by offering even more history and culture. I for one, love that the EUP and northern Michigan offer so many reasons for people to visit and learn about Native American culture and how our founding fathers worked together to bring community to our area. Over the generations, the community has created unity amongst our cultures. The River of History Museum situated in downtown Sault Ste. Marie educates tourists about the tribal culture and history of our area. It's easy to see that we have a great working relationship and respect among us. However, as a state representative, I feel that I can help to expand on the tourism by identifying key groups and ideas to bring in more tourism which will benefit the tribes and the municipalities as well. The legislative seat for district 107, belongs to all of the people who live in the district, and all ideas and opinions are welcome to be heard.

108TH DISTRICT

DANA DZIEDZIC

1. The Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver is a law that allows members of federally recognized tribes to attend Michigan colleges and universities tuition free. Students must also be at least one quarter Native American. Through ancestral research, tribal committees determine eligibility. Students do incur living expenses, textbook costs and any other program fees while attending college. Often times, tribes will assist students with those costs, but that depends on

See "Primary," Page 7

State House of Representatives candidates answer tribal questions

From, "Primary," Page 6

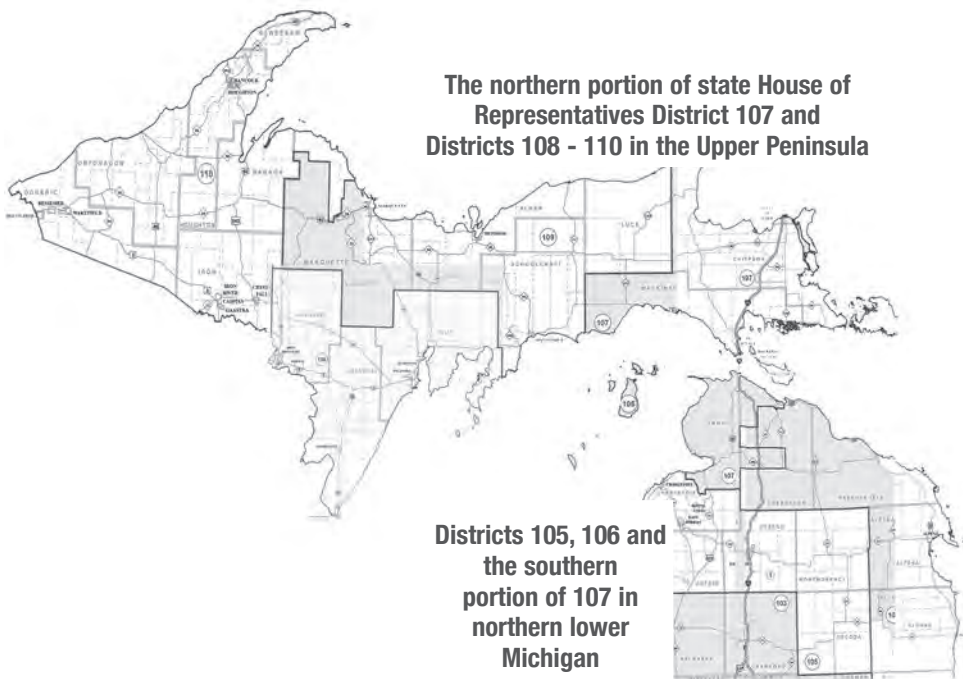
policies set forth in each tribe.

Native American children and schools have been left behind over the years. If our goal is to have a strong economy and thriving Native American communities, we must focus on funding education. I do believe if a tribe is doing well financially through gaming or tourism, they should be investing in their youth, too. Stipends, with certain conditions like a minimum GPA and perhaps community service given back to the tribe, could make all the difference in the success of a student. These practices far outweigh the costs. I fully support the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver for eligible students.

2. As an educator of history, I teach my students that when European people arrived in North America, Native Americans had organized systems of government. While they varied in structure, they were sovereign nations. People have the right to rule themselves.

Due to the sheer number of Native Americans living on the land, fighting the inhabitants on a large scale would not have been in the best interest of the Europeans. Rather, in exchange for land, the Europeans offered protection. The treaty process must be recognized between nations, including Native American tribes. Clearly, Native Americans have suffered over the years at the hands of the new arrivals onto this land. It is the responsibility of the United States of America to keep the promises it made to Native American through the formal treaty agreements. I fully support tribal treaty rights.

3. It seems as though Bernie Sanders' campaign has raised awareness to giving individuals the public option for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. Just a few days ago, President



The northern portion of state House of Representatives District 107 and Districts 108 - 110 in the Upper Peninsula

Districts 105, 106 and the southern portion of 107 in northern lower Michigan

Obama put it back on the table as a way to improve the law. We will need to wait to see what Congress does with the current plan.

Native Americans need access to quality health care. With higher rates of diseases like diabetes and alcoholism, we need to focus on not only prevention, but proven treatment programs. If having the public option for coverage is a better way to improve the lives of all Americans, I support it.

4. The Michigan Indian and Family Preservation Act was passed to work with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act. Of course, federal law always trumps state law, the Michigan legislation was passed as a way to ensure the federal law was being applied equally through our state.

Native American children were being removed from their homes at a much high-

er rate than non-Indian children by state agencies. While protecting children is very important to me, I also realize that there is a cultural difference in how various groups of people raise their children. Not everybody understands that differences do not necessarily mean one way is better than another. As an educator, I have had the pleasure of meeting with parents and often times grandparents at parent-teacher conferences. I appreciate the roll the grandparents play in raising Native American children. Older people teach their values and provide a wisdom that young parents have not yet experienced. They also tend to expect more from the children.

As a representative, I will strive to help Native American communities grow in both their cultural heritage and economic stability. Keeping families strong and together should be everyone's goal.

5. While our children were growing up, we piled into the family car and traveled this great country. Our destinations included Cahokia Mounds, Manitou Cliff Dwellings, buffalo jump sites and even the Crazy Horse monument in South Dakota. People are genuinely interested in Native American history and culture. It would be great if there was an education center centrally located in the Upper Peninsula that would allow tourists and school children a firsthand experience in Native American history.

The historic site at Cahokia Mounds had a great informational center. We participated in making pottery, learned about basket weaving and even hammered out arrow heads. The only disappointing thing I recognized was that Native Americans were not leading the activities. I felt it was a missed opportunity. Even though it is an archeological site, having Indians from either the Mississippi or Ohio River Valley lead the activities would be an excellent way to share their heritage. With the large population of Indians living in Upper Michigan, I believe this would be a great resource to share your culture.

I am impressed with the great strides Native American communities are making in economic development. The casinos have contributed to local economies throughout the region. Not only by providing jobs opportunities to everyone, but also in your continued support at local events like the state and county fairs. Non-profits like schools and local municipalities benefit by the 2 percent grants. I will support tourism and economic development within the tribes of Upper Michigan.

109th — no responses

110th — no responses



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See the Northern Rewards Club for registration information.



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Saturday, August 6

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Sunday, August 14

Show Starts at 4p.m.

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Enhanced Tribal Law and Order Act reauthorization pending

BY RICK SMITH

A bill to reauthorize and amend the *Tribal Law and Order Act* passed from the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to the full Senate on June 22. The bill, sponsored by the committee Chairman John Barrasso and Senator John McCain, would reauthorize provisions of the 2010 act and address Indian Country public safety needs with emphasis on increased access to data sharing, inter-agency coordination and juvenile justice.

“Reauthorizing and enhancing the Tribal Law and Order Act is an important step toward empowering tribal courts and law enforcement,” said Barrasso in announcing the bill’s passage.

“Our committee has heard testimony at several hearings that these steps are needed. I want to thank the members of the committee for passing the bill and will work to see it pass the full Senate soon.”

Some of the bill’s highlights:

- Requiring the U.S. departments of Health and Human Services, Interior and Justice to collaborate on reducing relapses of criminal behavior in those released from corrections systems and tasks the Justice Department with finding incentives for the departments to work together;

- Reauthorizing law enforcement and judicial training to prosecute and prevent abuse of narcotics and alcohol;

- Requiring the U.S. attorney general to share federal criminal information with American Indian tribes if needed and access to information from federal background checks and Bureau of Justice statistics if needed;

- Requiring Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention bi-annual consultations with American Indian tribes;

- Requiring law enforcement agencies to notify tribes when juvenile members enter state or local justice systems and tribal participation in advisory groups and services.

The bill was introduced to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs last May.

Cassie Holt moves on



Sault Tribe data analyst, Cassandra M. Holt, has taken a position with Urban Science as an CC&A analyst working with automotive marketing and analytic data. It is based in Grand Blanc, Mich. She said, “I have been blessed with my position and time here at Sault Tribe, and I am very thankful to have been a part of such a great team.”

Corps of Engineers streamlines tribal water collaboration

BY RICK SMITH

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently implemented two significant policy changes the agency says will benefit federally recognized American Indian tribes and their communities in tribal collaborations with the agency on water projects. The corps indicated the enhancements are based in tribal consultations and should expand opportunities for partnerships on projects such as management, restorations, emergency responses and safe-

guarding natural and cultural resources.

The first change involves delegating the authority of the Secretary of the Army to enter into collaborative agreements with tribes to be implemented at “any level of the organization, but primarily at the district level where on the ground project operation and management occur.”

“The delegation of this authority will allow corps divisions and districts to coordinate

directly with their local federally recognized tribes to engage in cooperative agreements that are mutually beneficial to the corps and tribes,” said Jo-Ellen Darcy, assistant secretary of the Army for civil works. “More specifically, these agreements will allow tribes to build economic capacity while working on joint issues with the corps pertaining to the protection of fish, wildlife, water quality and cultural resources.”

The second change eliminates the requirement for legally

binding partnership agreements between the federal government and non-federal entities for water construction projects, which usually required waivers of sovereign immunity. The corps noted the waiver of sovereign immunity clause was found to be offensive and unnecessary, leading many tribes to back out of projects.

“As a result,” according to Moria Kelley, communications director for the Army Corps of Engineers, “important projects that could have benefited tribal

economics and environments, species of significance or protected tribal communities from floods were not being planned and constructed. In cases where projects did move forward, a significant amount of time and funds were expended discussing and figuring out how to move forward with the waiver of the waiver of the sovereign immunity clause in place.” The removal of the clause eliminates a major obstacle to tribal-corps partnerships.

Brownfields Program monitors tribe’s vacant buildings

FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEPT.

The Sault Tribe’s Environmental Department is comprised of various different specialists with varying responsibilities and missions that all contribute to the goal of improving the environment around us and helping to sustain it for future generations. Perhaps the most under recognized program within the department is the Brownfield Department. Comprised of two individuals the department is in charge of property monitoring, identification of Brownfields, and Emergency Response plan-

ning for things such as chemical or oil spills.

The Sault Tribe Environmental Department Brownfields Program helps promote revitalization, redevelopment, and reuse of a property that may have been complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. It also monitors and assesses properties currently owned by the tribe.

Brownfields are, by definition, properties in which expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence, or

potential presence, of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, “It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 Brownfields in the U.S.” At the current time, none of the properties currently owned and maintained by the tribe are categorized as Brownfields. This means there is no evidence of existing issues from hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants. If and when the department becomes aware of an existing Brownfield, the public will be

notified.

Throughout the summer months the Brownfield Coordinator Abraham Mclarahmore visits each vacant property owned by the tribe. There are 28 vacant properties currently monitored by the Brownfields Program. During field assessments the condition of each property is recorded, evaluations of any environmental concerns are noted, and any special considerations needed to be put in place for each property are recorded onto Vacant Property Monitoring Forms.

As a requirement for the

grant money that makes this program possible, public records are made available for all tribal members and surrounding community. Updated Vacant Property Monitoring Forms, photographs and further information on each property can be accessed online on the Brownfields website as well as in person in the library located at the Department’s office on Greenough St. To access the information online please visit: www.SaultTribeBrownfields.com. To schedule a time to view the library and speak with the Brownfield’s coordinator, please call (906) 632-5575.

IHS awards \$7.6 million for urban Indian programs

BY RICK SMITH

The Indian Health Service (IHS) recently awarded 29 grants amounting up to \$7.6 million over a span of three years to boost the accessibility and support of urban health care services for American Indians. The grants are awarded under the IHS 4-in-1 Program in support of IHS veterans’ services in collaborations with the Veterans Health

Administration, government monitoring of results, alcohol and substance abuse prevention and cessation services, immunizations and mental health prevention and treatment services.

Indian health programs receiving grants are in Great Lakes states are Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeast Michigan

is the grant recipient in the state. Other awardees from Great Lakes states are the Indian Health Board of Minneapolis, Incorporated; Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center, Incorporated, in Wisconsin; and the American Indian Health Service of Chicago, Incorporated.

“We are pleased to be able to fund these urban health programs, especially with important services

related to mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment,” remarked Mary Smith, principal deputy director of IHS in announcing the grants. “These programs are integral components of the IHS improvement in patient care initiative and the strategic objectives focused on improving safety, quality affordability and accessibility of health care.”

Other states in which Indian health programs received grants are Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Washington.

Grants are awarded through the IHS Urban Indian Health Program, under Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

HUD publishes final policy on tribal consultation

BY RICK SMITH

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently published notice of final policy statement on tribal consultation in the Federal Register. The published policies bring HUD in compliance with an executive order issued in November of 2006 for federal agencies to develop policies in collaboration with American Indians to strengthen govern-

ment-to-government relationships between governments in Indian Country and the United States.

The purpose of the policy, according to the summary, is to enhance communication and coordination between HUD and federally recognized American Indian tribes and outline operational principles and procedures regarding federally recognized tribes.

The basic principles of the policy indicate HUD respects

tribal sovereignty and the unique relationship between the federal government and Indian Country. Further, the policy states HUD commitment in nurturing the government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribes through a number of measures to encourage cooperation with other agencies and organizations.

The tribal consultation process applies to all proposed policies

that have tribal implications and several procedures are outlined to enhance and make inter-government communications closer in all circumstances that may have implications for Indian Country.

The policy notes HUD may establish a standing committee consisting of tribal representatives to consult with on developing rules on issues relating to tribal self-governance, trust resources, treaty rights or other

rights.

One part of the policy prevents HUD from creating any regulation not required by law and has tribal implications that imposes costs to communities for compliance.

Three measures are outlined for steps to streamline procedures to increase flexibility for tribal waivers and limiting a turnaround time for applications submitted by tribes to 90 days.

St. Ignace museum hosts exhibit on boarding schools

BY RICK SMITH

The Museum of Ojibwe Culture in St. Ignace recently opened a new permanent exhibit touching on a dark and obscure facet of American history: Indian boarding schools. The exhibit focuses on three such schools that once existed in Michigan and displays testimony from two Sault Tribe members who attended one of the schools along with photographs of them as youngsters.

The exhibit, called *Broken Feathers: A Path to Healing the Circle*, opened on July 1. A reception for the exhibit on July 16 gave visitors a chance to meet the two members featured in the exhibit, John Michael Causley Jr. and Dalinda (nee Causley) Brisette, who attended the Holy Childhood of Jesus Indian Boarding School in Harbor Springs, Mich., during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The Indian boarding schools were originally designed by the federal government in the early 1800s to “civilize” American Indian children; or, put another way, to indoctrinate American Indian children in conforming to Euro-American

standards. The government later involved religious institutions, most notably the Catholic Church, which also forced conversions of Indian youngsters by various means from their “heathen” ancestral spirituality to Christianity.

The schools frequently created incalculable psychological damage, physical harm and sometimes death among the young Indians enrollees. Harm experienced in the schools often led to alienation among families, fractured communities and withering American Indian nations. For some in Indian Country, the boarding school experiences became an insidious legacy that continues to pass through generations; many unaware of the origin of their running social ills.

The legacy lives on in other ways as well. As reported in the June 3 edition of *Win Awenen Nisototung*, federal laws still exist mandating the schools and how they function. One law stipulates “the consent of parents, guardians or next of kin shall not be required to place Indian youth in said school.” Another law calls for withholding food and other rations as provid-



View of the Broken Feathers exhibit at the Museum of Ojibwe Culture in St. Ignace, Mich. ed in treaties if parents did not cooperate in releasing their children to attend the schools.

A bill was introduced in the Senate last April 13 to repeal such laws. The bill, *Repealing Existing Substandard Provisions Encouraging Conciliation*

with Tribes (RESPECT) Act (S. 2796), was introduced to repeal 12 antiquated but active laws dealing with American Indians during the period of varying degrees of hostilities between American Indian nations and the United States government.

Cloverland members hit with \$11.7 million surcharge

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Cloverland Electric Cooperative members now face an \$11.7 million surcharge or \$835,000 per month for 14 months to pay for the 2014-15 operating costs for the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette. Wisconsin Energy announced the plant would close after losing its largest customer, the two iron ore mines near Marquette, who chose a different electric supplier in 2013 under the state’s Customer Choice law. Wisconsin petitioned the Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission (FERC) to have the electric utilities in the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) cover the costs to keep the plant open to maintain electric reliability in the U.P. FERC agreed and allocated the approximately \$60 million in costs back to the electric utilities in the U.P. Cloverland’s portion is \$11.7 million and will be invoiced soon.

“This decision is very frustrating since over the years, we have not benefited from the power plant,” states Dan Dasho, Cloverland’s President and CEO.

“We and other organizations in the U.P. are challenging this decision, but we have to prepare now to collect and pay this amount.”

Cloverland Electric members and other ratepayers in the U.P. could face an even more devastating surcharge in the future if one sentence in Senate Bill 437 is not removed now while the energy legislation is under debate in Lansing. The governor’s office and the legislature are resisting the request to remove this one sentence. The sentence allowed the ore mines to move 100 per-

cent of their electric load to an alternate electric supplier while other large industrial loads were capped at 10 percent. If the ore mine exemption remains, and if the mines exercise customer choice again, then Cloverland Electric members could be held financially responsible for the new gas-fired power plant planned to be built in Marquette by 2020 that could cost more than \$300 million.

Cloverland Electric members are encouraged to contact Senators Schmidt and Casperson,

Representative Chatfield and the governor’s office. The message is simple: “Cut out the ore mine exemption in Senate Bill 437. That exemption has cost Cloverland Electric members \$11.7 million that we cannot afford.”

Cloverland Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned utility in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. It serves over 42,000 homes and businesses in Chippewa, Delta, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft counties.

Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act tacked on to defense bill

BY RICK SMITH

A bill floating in the U.S. Senate since January of 2015 and passed in the House in November of 2015 would amend the *National Labor Relations Act* to include tribal governments with federal, state and local governments in regulating labor and employment issues. The *Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act* was recently tacked on to the *National Defense Authorization*

Act. Essentially, the *National Defense Authorization Act* is the annual authorization of the U.S. Department of Defense budget and expenditures.

The *National Labor Relations Act* was passed by Congress way back in 1935. The act essentially mandates private employers to negotiate in collective bargaining with employees. Public employers (local, state and federal governments) were intentionally

excluded from the mandate in order to prevent operational paralysis brought by labor strikes and other employee interference that could jeopardize public welfare. Tribal governments were not included in the act, most likely because they were not considered as employers back when the bill was originally passed, if they were considered at all. The National Labor Relations Board, an independent agency of the U.S. government charged with governing the *National Labor Relations Act*, didn’t recognize

tribes as government employees until 2004. But, without an amendment to the *National Labor Relations Act*, tribal governments and their citizens were left twisting in the wind in regards to protection from stalled services caused by labor disputes.

The purpose as noted on the as yet unnumbered amendment called the *Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act* reads, “To clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian land.” The act mandates including the amendment at the end of subtitle

I of title X with the insertion of “or any enterprise or institution owned and operated by an Indian tribe and located on its Indian lands.” The amendment further describes the act applies to any Indian tribe, band, nation, pueblo or other organized group, community or individual with federal recognition.

The National Congress of American Indians passed a resolution in support of the *Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act* at its mid-year general assembly in June 2015.

Native American heritage law enacted

LANSING, Mich. — Legislation to recognize places throughout Michigan significant to the history of American Indians, including along trails that served as a foundation for many state roadways, has been signed by the governor.

“Michigan has deep ties to Native American heritage and this law ensures that it is preserved and recognized,” said Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R- Traverse City), the bill sponsor. “This continues our efforts to build and maintain a lasting relationship with the 12 Native American tribes that reside within Michigan’s borders.”

Senate Bill 523, now Public Act 247 of 2016, amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require a general recognition effort of Native American heritage and allows the state

Department of Natural Resources to provide signage and recognition of places along trails in the Pure Michigan Trails network.

Under the new law, the state Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will collaborate with tribal governments, educators, universities, the state Department of Transportation, the Michigan Historical Commission, the council for the arts and cultural affairs, Travel Michigan, the state historic preservation office, state archaeologist, and historical societies to develop and implement a plan to preserve Native American history in the state.

Numerous trails, including the Grand River Trail between Detroit and Grand Rapids, the trail from Toledo passing through Saginaw to Mackinac, and the St. Joseph Trail out of Detroit, have all contributed to the formation of

Michigan’s current highway system.

The Senate previously adopted Senate Resolution 93, establishing the fourth Friday in September as Michigan Indian Day. It recognizes the shared history between Michiganders and the peoples of the 12 federally recognized tribes, and the partnership established in a government-to-government accord that helped to enhance and improve communication, foster respect for sovereign status and facilitate the resolution of potentially contentious issues.

The bill specifically requires MDNR to work in consultation with tribal governments and other agencies to review, plan, and implement a master plan that will promote and preserve the history of American Indians within Michigan.



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Carlson, Frechette named Gates Millennium scholars

By RICK SMITH

Two Sault Tribe members, Shanise Carlson and Daniel Frechette, were among the 1,000 graduating high school students named as selectees of the 2016 Gates Millennium Scholars Program.

Both scholars graduated from Sault Area High School.

The Gates Millennium Scholars program, a \$1.6 billion initiative established in 1999 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, promotes academic excellence and provides opportunities for outstanding minority students with significant financial need

to reach their highest potentials by reducing financial barriers.

Further, the initiative aims to seamless support to increase minority representation in wide field of sciences, technologies, engineering, mathematics fields and disciplines in order to develop a diverse body of leaders for the country's future.

Carlson and Frechette were selected from a pool of 53,000 applicants to the scholarship program.

"The increasing diversity of our society reminds us that all of America's citizens must have access to higher educa-

tion if our nation is to sustain and advance itself as a global, competitive democracy in the new millennium," the Gates Millennium organization notes on its website. "The future of our economy and quality of life depend upon the preparation of a diverse cadre of leaders who can help build a stronger society. These potential leaders, especially those drawn from groups that have traditionally and historically been denied access to higher education, require the necessary support and opportunities to earn and complete a college education."



From left, Sault Area High School counselor for Native students, Jennifer Blair, Gates Millennium scholars Daniel Frechette and Shanise Carlson with Sault Area High School Principal Carl McReedy.

Morairty graduates from Casa Roble High School in California

Sarah A. Morairty graduated from Casa Roble High School in Orangevale, Calif., in May of 2016 with a 4.2 GPA and was one of 43 valedictorians in her class of 272 students.

Morairty was involved in the Native American Student program throughout her enrollment in the San Juan School District. She especially enjoyed the district's Native Youth Group and attending Native events in the community, which included the student leadership programs. She was one of two student representatives in the Native American Advisory Committee for the San Juan School District. She was a member of the National Honor Society serving as the vice-president. She was also in the Spanish Honor Society and served as the co-president. She is an avid fan of art and belonged to the school's art club.

During her senior year, she completed the requirements for medical assistant and volunteered at the McClellan AFB Medical Clinic, a facility serving local veterans.

Sarah will be attending the University of California Santa Barbara in September as a pre-med student where she plans to study biology with a minor in physiology.

Sarah is the daughter of Mary (nee Goudreau) and Kelly Morairty of Sacramento, Calif., and a

granddaughter of Don and Dana Goudreau of Trout Lake, Mich.



Prepare for potential disasters with a household inventory

By TERESA CLARK-JONES

Would you be able to recall everything you owned if your home suddenly burned down or was destroyed by a natural disaster? My guess is that this would be a difficult task, especially if you are under stress. One of the most important purposes of a household inventory is to provide proof of ownership for filing insurance claims in the event of loss by fire, flood, theft or other types of disasters. On the flip side, it helps you decide how much insurance protection you need to adequately cover your household furnishings and personal belongings.

From a financial standpoint, an inventory is helpful in planning and forecasting replacement needs for furnishings, equipment and clothing. It can also indicate the monetary value of your possessions for development of net worth statements, which show financial growth.

A household inventory is a collection of pictures or videos documenting all of your possessions. As part of the inventory, information would also be collected on the more expensive

items. This may include the date purchased, cost, warranties and more. Once the household inventory has been collected, it should be stored in a safe location so it won't be destroyed due to destruction of your home. Consider placing the household inventory in a bank safe deposit box, fireproof home safe or a secure online data filing system. With all the great technology available, creating your household inventory has never been easier. Most cell phones have the capability to video record your property. The most important step to take is to make sure that the information recorded is downloaded to a safe place and accessible when needed.

Record your household furnishings and personal items in a systematic way. Inventory one room at a time and record everything in the room. Don't forget to go into closets and take special pictures of the more valuable items. Open drawers and photograph or video record contents of each drawer. Lastly, record storage areas such as the basement, garage, attic and storage units. These areas need to be

recorded in the same way as the interior rooms of your house. Take pictures of the whole area and open doors to cupboards, closets or storage chests.

When it comes to prized possessions, take extra care in documenting jewelry, furs, paintings, special collections and other valuables. Group small pieces of similar items together and place on a solid-colored rug or cloth. Document the brand name and, if the item is extremely valuable, include a member of the family in the picture as proof that the item is really yours.

Once the household inventory had been established, it needs to be updated annually, at the least. When updating, consider the following tips:

- Major purchases need to be added to the inventory immediately.
- Small items should be done annually.
- Items that you no longer have should be purged from the inventory.

Teresa Clark-Jones is an educator with MSU Extension. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>.

Rex Skupien graduates summa cum laude

Sault Tribe member, Rex Skupien, graduated summa cum laude with a master's degree in psychology counseling from Western Michigan University. Skupien received a bachelor's degree from Ferris State University and a mortuary science degree from Worsham School of Mortuary Science in Chicago. He is employed as a behavioral health therapist at the White Cloud Family Health Care Center. He is a 2003 graduate of Sault Area High School. He is married to Sheila and has two children, Valorie and Robert. He is the son of Bob and Mary Beth (nee Belonga) Skupien.

Letter to the editor - An idea to help our people

An idea to help our people

Boozhoo. I've been thinking a lot lately about what our people need and how our tribe can help our people. There are more elders than ever before and not many good paying jobs available for our youth. So, what do we do? I don't think building more casinos is the answer. Not only are they costly investments, but they don't seem to be bringing the revenue they once did. Have you stopped by any of our casinos lately? I just don't think people have the discretionary funds to spend like they used to. I'm not saying shut our existing casinos down; let's just not build any new ones.

So, here's my idea: Why don't we develop our own green energy company? We could build wind generators and solar panels to provide jobs for our people and get us off the white man's power grid. We could provide free energy to our people, especially the elders. We could power our casinos, gas stations and offices. So, how do we do that? We go to other green energy manufacturing plants to see how it's done just like we did before we built our casinos. We send our people to learn the skills necessary to manufacture and install solar and wind energy. We conduct a cost benefit analysis and get our grant writers busy applying for all those federal funds available to tribal-owned businesses. We assess the feasibility of our empty buildings that could be retrofitted into warehouses and factories. We retrofit these buildings to accommodate manufacturing of green energy parts. Then, we get to work.

As far as where, there's enough going on in the Sault. Buildings in Hessel, St. Ignace, Munising, Christmas, Kinross and other tribal communities could benefit from having small factories in their locations. These could be the places to manufacture all the different parts for solar and wind energy. Then, all these manufactured parts could be sent to one location for final assembly and shipping. An example of such could be in Kinross where it provides close access to the highway, bridge and airport.

We can become sustainable communities once again and take care of our people. Let's lead the way into the future. I'm ready. Are you?

Miigwech,
Tribal elder Nick Kramen

Announcing winners of Sault Ste. Marie Powwow Elder's Raffle

First prize, Maggie Lane, \$200; second prize, Evelyn Cardimoni, \$100; and third prize, Kathy Cairns, for a one-hour massage from Shelly Kucharczyk at Wholistic Wellness Solutions. The elders thank everyone.

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These devices include television sets, VCRs, DVD players, answering machines, iPods, cell phones, stereos, laptops, desktops, anything with a remote, anything with a charger, anything with a clock display.

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Michigan State Police Sault Ste. Marie Post to host eight-week citizens' academy

The Michigan State Police (MSP) Sault Ste. Marie Post will host a citizens' academy, which will start Aug. 10 and end Sept. 28.

The eight-week academy will give citizens the opportunity to become familiar with the mission and operation of the MSP, understand the procedures troopers follow, increase their awareness of law enforcement's role in the community, and get to know personnel at the Sault

Ste. Marie Post.

The academy will meet at the Sault Ste. Marie Post on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9 p.m. A graduation ceremony will be held on Sept. 28.

Individuals who are interested in attending the citizens' academy should contact Ms. Camela Yeck of the Sault Ste. Marie Post at (906) 632-2217 or via email at yeckc@michigan.gov to obtain an application.

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Keeping your children safe online

Children are increasingly exposed to technology each day and at even younger ages than before. Often these children also have a better understanding of how technology works than adults and parents. In order for children to be safe online and to make safe and smart choices with their technology, it requires the adults in their lives to remind them about practicing healthful cyber-security hygiene and help them as they learn the advantages and disadvantages of technology and the Internet.

The Internet offers a world of opportunities for people of all ages. From connecting with friends and family, playing video games, watching television and movies, to completing everyday tasks like shopping, banking and working. While the Internet can be fulfilling, it comes with certain risks and when a child is using a

the CyberStance



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computer, normal safeguards and security practices may not be sufficient. Children present unique challenges because of their natural characteristics of innocence, curiosity, desire for independence and fear of punishment.

What's the best way to protect

your kids online? Talk to them. You don't need to be an expert on the Internet and technology, but understanding what children do online and the risks they face will help keep your child safe online. Ask the questions — if your child wanted to go over to a new friend's house, you probably ask questions, such as "Where do they live?" "Who else is going?" "Will their parents be home?" and so on. Have the same discussion with your kids about their Internet use. Which websites are okay to visit, what kind of information is acceptable and more importantly, what is not acceptable to share online. Highlight the fact with them that the online world parallels the real world and that there are both safe and unsafe things out there.

Next time: Keeping your Internet devices safe.

Sponsored by ISHPI.

Tribal home visiting, healthy start programs host quarterly meeting

MT. PLEASANT, Mich. — The Healthy Start and Tribal Home Visiting Program, administered by the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan Inc. had its quarterly in-person meeting on June 14 and 15 at the Ziiibiwing Center on the reservation of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe near Mt. Pleasant, Mich. Home visitors and administrators from 12 tribal communities attended.

The two-day meeting opened with introductions and an overview of program goals and updates, performance, evaluation and staff competency, led by Amanda Leonard, Tribal Home Visiting Program coordinator of ITC. A peer sharing and talking circle was lead by Michelle Schulte, Honoring Our Children Project director of ITC. Break out sessions were held in the afternoon, featuring a training on suicide prevention titled safeTALK. The event was presented by staff from American Indian Health and Family Services of Detroit. On the second day, the Asabike Coalition held its quarterly meeting. Conducted within the Healthy Start program, Asabike

Coalition focuses on reducing infant mortality and morbidity

while improving women's health in tribal communities.



American Indian Health and Family Services of Detroit SafeTALK trainer Darius Watkins explains suicide prevention to the Healthy Start and Tribal Home Visiting meeting participants at the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.



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Mentoring and volunteer work is a way of life for Sault Tribe member Joe Masters

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The young boy who grew up in Munising, located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula on the southern shore of Lake Superior, just as often answered to his traditional name – Thunder Bear – as he did to Joe. Now he is a grown man living in St. Louis, Mo., and volunteering at his alma mater, Washington University.

"St. Louis is not Indian country," he said. "A lot of times when people talk about Native people here, they speak in past tense like we don't exist. I use that as an opportunity to teach them that we still do exist. The kids where I work and volunteer all know that I am Native, so the common ground we share is from one minority to another. Most of the youth I work with are African American, there are a lot of similarities living in a white dominate culture."

Masters grew up in the Anishinaabe culture, attending ceremonies and powwows. He said that during his high school days he had good attendance but did poorly in school. He was later diagnosed with dyslexia - so reading and studying was always an effort for him.

He was also a drinker and partier, and said, "Later on in life I got sober, and it was definitely our culture that got me sober – looking out at the powwow grounds and



seeing the big drum and wanting to sing and dance but knowing it was a sober activity. So 20-some years ago I got sober."

He said he found strength being on the drum and talking to some of the other drummers, who also happened to be substance abuse counselors. "Just being around sober Native people doing sober activities all the time was my AA," he said. "From there I started working with troubled youth."

He spent some time in Sault Ste. Marie working for the tribe beginning in 2000, helping to start the men's group battery class at Victim Services.

He decided to return to school as an adult student and graduated from Northern Michigan University (NMU) in 2012 with a bachelor in social work degree. During his sophomore year, he earned a Ronald E. McNair

Scholarship, which is a federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Education designed to prepare underrepresented undergrad students for doctoral studies through involvement in research. He said that through the McNair Scholar program, he was teamed up with Tim Hilton, a professor at NMU, who supervised his undergrad research on Native Americans who had been incarcerated and then returned back to the reservation.

Masters said that research was published and is now in a two-volume book set that is used by professors around the country – titled Racism Behind Bars.

"Because of the work I did as an undergrad, I then earned a Catherine M. Buder Scholarship to Washington University in St. Louis, the number one ranked social work program in the coun-

try, if not the world. It was a full scholarship and it also paid me a stipend for living expenses. I got my masters degree there in 15 months," he said.

Since his graduation there, he has continued to be a presence on campus, acting as a research assistant and as a volunteer helping incoming bachelor level students with the process of making sure their applications are complete and proof read, and directing them to any scholarships he felt might be appropriate. He also worked with Native American candidates on their admission applications, giving them a better chance of turning in the proper paperwork and being accepted into the university.

In addition, he is the cultural liaison at Washington University's Catherine M. Buder Native American Center. As the cultural liaison, he blesses the powwow grounds, smudges, sings, and initiated a two-spirit program on campus. He also helps with traditional funerals, leads talking circles and tells traditional teachings. "Other universities who may be studying Native American cultures have invited us to talk to them," he said.

His bread and butter job is as the group living director at the Girls Hope, Boys Hope St. Louis. According to their website, "Boys Hope Girls Hope St. Louis scholars are enrolled in top-rated

schools in safe neighborhoods, and painstakingly matched to the college preparatory curriculum best suited to meet their individual needs."

The residential living program, for which Masters is a group living director, provides scholars a value-centered, family-like home with a strong network of support services to help students excel in and out of the classroom. Master's said the program just completed construction on a \$5 million home, which looks like three buildings, but is actually one. "Boys are on one side and girls on the other," he said.

Masters said the program is for kids who have had a rough life but do well academically. "It's a college preparation program and they live with us voluntarily from as young as age 10 until they go to college. Our last three scholars have all gotten full ride scholarships at major universities. We start them with college prep work as young as age 10. We are not a behavior modification program - we are a scholastic program."

Masters said he enjoys seeing his young charges learning, growing and maturing. He said the difference he sees in them is much more noticeable than his adult clients, who have often been incarcerated numerous times before he begins working with them.

Tribal accounting office provides checks and balances

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Many of us groan and procrastinate when it comes to balancing our finances. Imagine doing that for an entire multi million-dollar organization. That's what CFO Bill Connolly and the Sault Tribe Accounting staff does on a daily basis.

Accounting people have their own language, so without using terms only they understand, here are some of the services they provide: Daily and monthly accounting services for 165 companies; wire transfers; record cash activities; monitor grant activity compliance; internal audit function and controls; assist budget preparation and modification; coordinate five various external audit activities; assist with development of indirect cost proposal; debt financing and placement for major purchases and projects; annual report to members; install, and implement and monitor accounting and financial software.

And the team members responsible for completing all that are:

Senior accountant Amy Cappelli, a 20-year employee – she is the accountant for both Midjims and gas stations, real estate including DeMawating Development, Eagle Ridge, and Sawyer Village. She is also the person with the most knowledge of the eTech inventory systems and Infogenesis (point of sale tracking). She does reconciliations for Northern Travel and balances tribal credit cards for



Photo by Brenda Austin

Fixed Assets Manager Jake Sillers, accountant Rita Bricker, senior accountant Amy Cappelli, executive assistant to the CFO Jill Romano and accountant Julie Hagan.

governmental services.

Seventeen-year employee Rita Bricker is the accountant for the tribe's education and culture departments, tribal court, and law enforcement.

Julie Hagan, a 20-year employee, is the accountant for Northern Hospitality, the tribe's health centers, and Sault Tribe Construction. She monitors how much cash is on hand in the tribe's bank accounts to pay bills, and allocates and transfers money into the appropriate accounts.

Fixed Assets Manager Jake Sillers is a 19-year employee. He is the accountant for Purchasing and Shipping and Receiving. He tags any purchase over \$1,000 for inventory, including desktop comput-

ers, vehicles, and equipment. Sillers is a member of the Golf Scholarship committee, and volunteers his accounting services for the annual event. He also volunteers during the tribe's summer powwow handing out cash prizes.

CFO Bill Connolly is a 23-year employee, and has been the tribe's CFO since 2012. Connolly interacts with the tribe's board of directors, supervises internal services and enterprises, and is the accountant for the tribe's general fund.

Jill Romano is the executive assistant to the CFO. She is a 14-year employee. Her duties include processing leave slips, doing Kronos (time keeping), paperwork for job postings, and logging all mail that comes

through Accounting. She also assists in backup functions - such as if a senior accountant is out of the office and their accounts payable need to be processed. She works in the Sault Tribe Construction office at least one day a week on their payroll and bills, open purchase orders, and placing orders. She does scheduling for the CFO and assists in the tribal bid process and scheduling. She also takes monthly meeting minutes for the tribal audit committee.

Romano said they have very little direct interaction with the tribe's membership but a great deal with team members. "The Accounting Department provides checks and balances - and that is really important. Accounting watches budget-

ary information to make sure everything is falling in line, and expenses are being spent from the correct line item in the budget. It's a very important process to have," she said.

"If anybody had ever said I was going to work in an accounting field I would have told them they are crazy. Nothing about it years ago appealed to me. Having worked for our organization for so long, I have learned a lot and it seems this job was meant for me. It feels like everything I have learned has come full circle. I feel like I am challenged on a daily basis and am always learning new things. And the accountants here are a really great group of people to work with," Romano said.

35th annual Sault Tribe Traditional Powwow



The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians 35th annual powwow and summer gathering was held in Sault Ste. Marie July 6-10. The powwow started with the blessing of the grounds and on July 7 the summer gathering was held. There was also a kids carnival and hand drum contest. Above: Saturday evenings grand entry.



Mens dancers during Saturday evenings grand entry.

Photos by Brenda Austin



Left to right, Ashley Hackworth, Derek Bouschor Sr. and Mike Pilcher.



Left to right, friends Rylee Miller, 10, Laurie Maahs, Danika Jo LaBrache, 7 and Chaz Cook, 10.



Circling around the arbor during Saturday's grand entry.



Robin Bouschor, air quality specialist for Sault Tribe Environmental Department.



Ted and Shirley Recollet from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

For more Sault Tribe Powwow pictures, see page 14



Womens traditional, jingle and fancy shawl dancers.



Tribal elders participating in a dance.



Left to right, Rashard Minnis; Malakai Minnis, 13 months; and Haley Sebastian. Both Minnis and Sebastian are active duty Marine Corps members stationed at Parris Island, S.C.



Dezmen Skipper, John Hutchinson and Aden Hilborn.



Shelly Sparks and daughter Kendreya Teeple, 6



Lola Greatwalker, Turtle Mountain Chippewa of N.D.



A young fancy shawl dancer



Winnona Thomson-Bedell



Young traditional dancer



Left to right, Dee Zanker, Kelly Wilkinson with Max, Karen Sabatine and Hentley Wilkinson.



Dancers at the Saturday evening grand entry.



This little man was having a good time.



Alex Boultom from Petoskey, Mich.



Oginihns Zerbe, 8, from Saginaw Chippewa Tribe



Leah Van Aman (Peaches Dietz) and grandchildren Maddie Jarrell and Alexandra Herber, all from Ohio. Their grandma made their first regalia.

Sault Tribe's 20th Sugar Island Powwow held

Wonderful weather accompanied a milestone three-day gathering on Sugar Island where folks enjoyed the 20th annual traditional powwow during the weekend of July 15-17. All enjoyed plenty of food, browsing a variety of goods at kiosks, seeing old friends and making new ones as well as dancing or watching dancers. Above, military veterans carry staffs as they lead the evening grand entry on July 16.



Photos by Rick Smith
Emily Ann Barry of Thessalon, Ont., demonstrates her new molded plastic water whistle bought at a nearby vending kiosk. After the whistle is filled with water, it produces sounds of songbirds.



Above, Carmella Buswa of Bay Mills enjoys shade from the evening sun in the grandstand. Below, dancers in regalia.



Above, veterans carry national colors as they pass in review during the evening grand entry. Below, eye-catching ribbons and bustle. More photos on page 16.





Though aided with a cane, an elder leads a column of ladies during a Sugar Island Powwow grand entry.



Men's dance regalia featuring bustles, designs and ribbons.



Above, an active lad is coaxed into getting some nutrition. Right, viewers in the grandstand and dancers stand in silent respect for a ceremonial segment of the grand entry.



Photos by Rick Smith



Folks dig in to plentiful feast offerings laid out to satisfy appetites. Some folks brought their own accommodations for themselves and others plus a few kiosks had items for sale.

Pinkoski thankful for educational opportunity

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Savanna Pinkoski is entering her senior year at Michigan State University and credits the The Gates Millennium Scholarship Program, funded by Bill and Melinda Gates, for giving her the opportunity to receive a college education.

She is 36 credits shy of receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and said, "Michigan State University has been a life-changing experience, providing me with diverse, challenging, exciting, and life-changing opportunities."

MSU has one of the largest study abroad programs available to students, and she recently experienced a semester abroad attending an American-based school called John Cabot

University in Rome, Italy. "My experience of study in Rome was a dream come true. My freshmen year I started taking Italian language classes, so by the time I started my study abroad semester I would be learning my fourth semester of Italian language in Italy. It was very thrilling to know I would be able to communicate and interact with people in their own language once arriving in Italy. Before my study abroad experience I had never left the country, left alone lived in any type of metropolitan city in the states and I was more than eager to become culturally immersed and live a different lifestyle," she said.

Because she has an Italian heritage, Pinkoski wanted to learn as much as possible about

Italy while there. She spent 10 of the programs 16 weeks in Italy, traveling to Cinque Terre, Venice, and Florence, and to Naples, Sorrento, The Amalfi Coast, Capri/AnaCapri, and Palermo, Sicily.

She also traveled to Paris, France, Barcelona, Spain, and multiple places in Greece. "Before I knew it, an entire semester of college flashed before my eyes it was time to return to the U.S.!" she said. "My study abroad experience has been eye-opening. It has bettered me as a person and allowed me to revalue my future goals. If asked, I would say my favorite part about the experience was meeting so many different people from all over the world. I would highly suggest all students to study abroad, meet as many people as possible and take advantage of everything this world has to offer!"

Pinkoski said she's glad Michigan State isn't too far of a drive from her hometown of Sault Ste. Marie. With her senior year fast approaching, she is already looking forward to attending graduate school. She said, "Opportunities like these wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for my scholarship, teachers, colleagues — and friends and family. Thank you!"



Walking on...

WENDY S. GERMAIN

Wendy Sue "Gooley" Germain of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., entered into heaven on July 11, 2016, with her family and friends by her side. She was born on May 4, 1976, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.



She loved playing pranks on people and loved laughing, playing cards, Yahtzee, throwing horseshoes, camping, fishing, playing bingo, gambling and most of all she loved spending time with her family.

Wendy was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and is survived by two sons, Jimmie (Angela) Germain of Kinross, Mich., and Thomas "TJ" (Karen) Germain of Colorado Springs, Colo.; a daughter, Desiree (Boyd) Rolston of Kincheloe; mother, Suzy (Terry) Niemi of Dafter, Mich.; mother and father-in-law, Sherla and John Moore; a brother, Michael (Deets) Germain of K. Town; eight grandchildren, Domanik, Donta, Kristian, Phoenix, Jimmie Lee, Kiera, Annabell and Bryce; two nephews Michael and Dominic Germain; a niece, Khaliah (Chad) Dumas; four stepchildren, Eddie Willis, Timmy Willis, Janelle Willis and Jill Willis; longtime boyfriend, Scott Moore; and Ed (Humdy) Willis who raised a family with Wendy for many years and remained dear friends; several aunts, uncles, cousins and her dog, Scooby.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Mandi Jo Willis; grandparents, Hoppy and Eleanor Germain; father, Danny Bradley, and father, Frank Pellitier; four uncles, Kenneth (Weegie) Mongene, Jackie Germain, Richard (Lou) Germain and Larry McKechnie; cousins John Hackworth, Francis (Buzz) McKechnie, Wally Bosley, Jackie Bennett, Bobby Brabrant, Jimmie Lee Germain; and father-in-law E.J. Willis.

Visitation and services took

place at the Niigaanaagiizhik Ceremonial Building on July 15 and burial was in Donaldson Holy Family Catholic Cemetery. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

MARIA R. NELSON

Maria Rose "Lenore" Nelson, 57, of St. Ignace, Mich., died on July 6, 2016, at Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was born on Aug. 15, 1958, in St. Ignace to George "Jack" William John and Maria Melitta (nee Meunch) Prout.

Lenore grew up in St. Ignace and graduated from LaSalle High School. Over the years, she worked as a waitress, most of the time at the Huron Landing and then at the St. Ignace Truck Stop. She was an auxiliary member of the St. Ignace VFW Post where she often volunteered as a bartender.

Lenore enjoyed doing many types of arts and crafts and also gardening. She was a very caring person who loved visiting with longtime friends as well as with people she had just met.

Lenore is survived by her children, Jeremiah C. (fiancé, Stephanie Miles) Anderson of St. Ignace, Jessie Jo (Don) Turpening of St. Ignace, Starr R. (Dave) Carsten of Cheboygan, Mich., and William Green of St. Ignace. She is also survived by her siblings, Wilhelm W. Prout of Indian River, Mich., Delores G. (Donald) Litzner of St. John, Minn., Joseph J. (Doris LaDuke) Prout of St. Ignace, James R. (Margy) Prout of Vernonia, Ore., Alfred J. Prout of Detroit, Mich., and Jacqueline M. Prout of Garnet, Mich..

Lenore was preceded in death by her husband, Robert "Bob" Nelson, and her parents.

A memorial gathering took place on July 9 at the VFW Post in St. Ignace. Interment is in Hendricks Township Cemetery in Epoufette, Mich.

R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford assisted the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at rgalerfuneralhome.com.

Birth

VIVIAN L. WILLIAMS

A daughter, Vivian Laurel Williams, was born to Daisy Freward and Charles Williams on April 22, 2016.

She weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces, and was 20 inches in length.

She is the granddaughter of Sault Tribe member Tess L. Brazeau, and great-granddaughter of Sault Tribe member Betty Majestic.



Stewart begins position with tribe's Higher Education

Natasha Stewart started her new position as a student worker for the Sault Tribe Higher Education Department.

Her job duties include filing, computer work, Internet research, copying and calculations, in addition to processing and typing documentation.

Natasha enjoys biking, watching movies and playing softball.

She graduated with the Sault High Class of 2016 and plans on attending Grand Valley State University in the fall.



Moran breaks free from 30 years of cigarettes

FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH STAFF

Jami Moran, 44, has reached a six-month milestone of being smoke-free. It's an achievement she's incredibly proud of, especially after 30 years of using tobacco. During the last few of those years, Moran was smoking up to three packs a day.

"I wasn't in control," Moran said. "Cigarettes controlled every minute of my day—from the time my eyes opened to the time they closed at night."

Moran was fed up with the lingering smell of smoke in her hair, clothes and her home. All the while, her health and finances took a backseat to her addiction. It wasn't until recently that she realized the amount of money she was literally "burning" through every day.

"The only thing I had to

show for it were burn holes and wheezing lungs," she said.

Moran, who works as program manager of Victim Services for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, was referred to the tribe's Nicotine Dependence Program and scheduled an appointment. It was the most positive and life-changing decision Moran made for herself.

The Nicotine Dependence Program kept Moran on track with regular appointments and a personalized quit plan that included medication and nicotine replacement therapy. Moran said the program facilitator, Colin Welker, was instrumental in cheering her on along the way.

"Colin was a huge asset when it came to making me motivated with his empathy and

great sense of humor," she said.

As backup support, Moran used the "Smoke-Free" app on her cell phone to help keep track of the amount of money she was saving, the number of cigarettes not smoked, and the hours and days she was smoke-free. To date, she has been smoke-free for 172.7 days. That amounts to 8,634.4 cigarettes she did not smoke, and \$1,985.92 in savings.

While the money alone is reason enough for Moran to stay smoke-free, her improved health is also a key motivator. "While I did gain weight, I no longer have to use an inhaler because of the shortness of breath," she said. "My lungs no longer wheeze and whistle when I breathe, and the dentist no longer has to spend extra time scraping the tar off of my



From left, Jami Moran proudly displays her recognition of achievement certificate with Colin Welker, certified health education specialist for the Sault Tribe Nicotine Dependence Program.

teeth."

For more information about the Sault Tribe Nicotine

Dependency Program please contact Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

Is your baby sleeping safe? See the recommendations

About every two-and-a-half days in Michigan, an infant dies from accidental suffocation, entrapment or strangulation during sleep.

Over 560 Michigan babies have died in the past four years from sleep-related deaths. All of those tragic deaths were preventable.

American Indians have the highest rate of infant death due to unsafe sleep. In Michigan alone, enough Native babies were lost to fill three kindergarten classes. Native families want what's best for their babies. However, many factors make safe sleep complicated for Michigan families, including confusion about the Safe Sleep recommendations, conflicting messages from the past, media, stores that sell baby items and the false belief that "It will never happen to me."

Infant Safe Sleep recommendations:

- Place babies on their backs every time they go to sleep – even during the day, and even if you're visiting with friends or family.

- Sleeping while on their backs helps protect babies from re-breathing harmful carbon dioxide and will not cause choking if baby spits up. In fact, babies are more likely to choke while sleeping face down.

- Lay babies to sleep on a firm surface – car seats, swings and other sitting devices are not safe for routine sleep.

- Keep cribs or portable sleep areas completely clear from soft bedding and other objects like blankets, pillows, teddy bears and bumper pads. Bumper pads aren't actually effective at preventing injury and can increase the risk for suffocation, strangulation or entrapment of babies.

- Don't overheat babies or cover their heads with blankets or too much clothing. Babies just

need warm pajamas or a "wearable blankies" (sleep sack) to keep warm. Babies can overheat easily, even in the winter.

- Do not use wedges or positioning devices.

- Do not use home monitors or commercial devices marketed to reduce the risk of SIDS. Remember, just because something is sold in stores, doesn't isn't evidence it protects babies.

- Babies should sleep in the same room as their parents, but never in the same bed.

- Offer clean, dry pacifiers at bedtime and naptime.

Here are recommendations to protect babies while they are awake:

- Babies who are breastfed are less likely to die during sleep, because breast milk is the most healthful food for babies.

- Do not smoke commercial tobacco during pregnancy or after baby is born. Never smoke around baby. It is never too late

to quit smoking for the health of everyone in the family.

- Vaccinate babies. Shots may hurt for a short period of time, but they protect babies from a number of serious and potentially life-threatening illnesses.

- Women should receive prenatal care as early as possible during their pregnancy.

- Prenatal care will help moms and babies to be healthy all day and night.

- Baby should have "tummy time" every day. A responsible adult should supervise tummy time. This will help with infant development physically, mentally and socially. A bonus: tummy time helps prevent baby from getting a flat head. These infant safe sleep recommendations should be followed from birth until 12 months old.

The American Academy of Pediatrics developed this helpful list of recommendations for keeping babies safe during sleep

and while awake.

For more information including parenting resources, please visit the website aap.org or view the complete safe sleep guidelines at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2011/10/12/peds.2011-2284.full.pdf+htm>.

For more information, check out www.itcni.org and www.michigan.gov/safesleep.

For more information about Safe Sleep or other parenting information or family support services, please call ACFS at (800) 726-0093.

Anishnabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) shared this information regarding an important issue facing Michigan's American Indian communities gathered from a variety of sources, such as the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Michigan Department of Community Health and the Sleep Safe Campaign.

NCAI opposes operation of Line 5 under Mackinac Straits

SPOKANE, Wash. — At its June 27-30 midyear conference in Spokane, Wash., the National Congress of American Indians adopted a resolution to oppose continued operation of unsafe pipelines that endanger tribal lands and resources, particularly Enbridge's Line 5 under the Straits of Mackinac.

Aaron Payment, Sault Tribe Board of Directors chairperson, brought the resolution forward.

"The governor of Michigan recently capitulated on a water diversion from the Great Lakes, allowed the Flint drinking water disaster to happen and is dragging his feet on shutting down Enbridge Line 5 under

the Mackinac bridge," said Payment.

The Great Lakes represents over 20 percent of the fresh water in the world. Nearly 64 years ago, Line 5 was installed under the Mackinac Straits, which joins the lakes Michigan and Huron. Studies have shown a rupture in Line 5 under the

straits would be catastrophe that present emergency resources could not prevent. Enbridge's pipelines of a similar age have ruptured and caused extensive environmental and economic damages, such as Enbridge's Line 6 in the Kalamazoo River, which spilled 20,000 barrels at a cost of \$1.2 billion.

"I have brought resolutions to United Tribes of Michigan, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes and now the National Congress of American Indians for which I serve as an executive officer," said Payment.

"It is time for action rather than bureaucratic excuses. Shut down Line 5 now!"

Wild parsnip causes burns, brownish skin pigmentation

GLADSTONE, Mich. — Wild parsnip, also known as *pastinaca sativa*, is an herbaceous perennial with yellow-flowered umbels atop three to five-foot tall stems.

While it may be pretty to look at, people who touch the plant soon discover its less appealing trait: When the juices of wild parsnip plants touch your skin and are exposed to ultra-violet light, they cause serious rashes, burns and blisters called "phytophotodermatitis." The resulting skin discoloration can last several months. If you come in contact with wild parsnips and notice development of burns, cover the affected area with a cool, wet cloth and seek medical attention.

Wild parsnip's toxic com-

pounds are found in the juices of its leaves, stems, flowers and even fruits. Phytophotodermatitis will usually appear within 24 to 48 hours and is painful. In many cases, the blisters will lead to brownish pigmentation that can last for years.

According to Hiawatha National Forest's east zone botanist, Stephanie Blumer, this invasive plant has become increasingly common across the Upper Peninsula.

"The key for outdoors enthusiasts," she said, "is to learn to recognize this plant so that when you see it, you can avoid it."

How can you recognize wild parsnip? While it looks similar to several other carrot family plants,

the flowers of wild parsnip are yellow and the stem is smooth and green with very few hairs. Its leaves are long, saw-toothed, pinnately compound and form a basal rosette during the first year. The leaves are further divided into leaflets that grow across from each other along the stem, with two to five pairs of opposite leaflets. The plant flowers in its second year from June until mid-July and sometimes even through late summer. Its flowers are small and yellow with five petals and there are hundreds per plant. The flowers are arranged in two to six-inch wide umbels at the tops of stems and branches, usually with no bracts and very small or non-existent sepals at

the base of the flowers.

What are your chances of encountering wild parsnip? While it originates from Eurasia, wild parsnip has become a common invasive plant in U.P. roadsides, ditches and other disturbed open areas. Believed introduced to North America by early European settlers who grew it as a taproot, the wild populations are thought to be a result of escaped cultivated plants. Wild parsnip is a plant that inhabits various growing conditions such as dry, moist and even wet-mesic prairies, oak-openings and calcareous fens.

Once it invades open ranges, it begins to take over in waves and spreads rapidly, especially in dis-

turbed areas. This invasive plant is spread through the distribution of its seeds carried by the wind, vehicles, equipment and water. The seeds themselves are typically large, slightly yellow, ribbed, flat and round. It is around September through November that the plant will produce its seed and being a monocarpic perennial, once the plant seeds, it will die. However, the seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to four years, thus adding to the difficulties of eradicating the plants existence.

For further information on wild parsnip, contact your local Forest Service botanist at (906) 387-2512, extension 20, or 643-7900.

Member practices midwifery at Sault Women's Healthcare

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe member Andrea (nee Jacques) Donmyer, RN, CNM, is passionate about her patients and providing them holistic healthcare from before conception to after the birth of their babies, offering midwife and other OB/GYN services through Sault Women's Healthcare. With a Post-Master's Certificate in women's health and a Master's in Nurse Midwifery from the University of Cincinnati, she can provide OB/GYN care to meet the needs of all her patients and is board certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board.

Donmyer did her clinical placements at the Women's OB/GYN of Saginaw and Mid-Michigan OB/GYN of Midland. She also holds a professional membership in the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Pregnant with her fourth child herself, Donmyer said her areas of interest within her specialty include, "...providing care for and assisting women during the labor and delivery process. I also provide my patients with a wide variety of postpartum contraception options, including both Mirena and Paragard IUD insertion."

Donmyer worked on the medical surgical unit at War Memorial Hospital (WMH) for about two years before getting

into labor and delivery nursing. After her first daughter was born, she went to work for Chippewa County Health Department. While there she worked with the WIC program and the maternal health in-home visiting program. She said she enjoyed the work but found that she really missed labor and delivery and seeing her patients all the way through their pregnancies. "So I went back to school so I could do both. As a midwife I can see women throughout their pregnancy and be there for the labor and delivery. My philosophy in general is more aligned with that type of care – the importance of providing labor support to woman and that birth is a natural process," she said.

"I approached WMH and asked them if I went back to school if they would hire me as a midwife. They said yes, so I got my degree and went to work for them right away." Donmyer practiced nursing for seven years before returning to school, and she has been a midwife now for almost eight years.

In addition to her career as a midwife and raising her own family, she also teaches a class at Lake Superior State University during the fall and spring semesters.

Donmyer recently delivered a third baby for the same patient. "The most I have delivered for

a patient is four babies over the past seven years. I like that you see them for their pregnancies and all those years in-between. I like that continuity to get to know my patients and talk with them. I think working in this community is nice compared to working in a larger city where you may only see patients once or twice during their pregnancies."

She said that she works to provide her patients the birth experience they want. "If they want an epidural they can have one. If they want IV pain meds, the Jacuzzi tub, or if they want to deliver in bed traditionally, or sit on a stool and deliver - I will sit on the floor with them. In general I support whatever they choose for birth. Some people have a misconception that midwives only want to do natural non-medicated births. My job is to educate and provide any interventions at a safe and appropriate time."

Donmyer said she's excited that the hospital has just purchased and started training staff on how to use nitrous oxide (laughing gas). "That is something I have been really pushing for the last year. Nitrous oxide is a less invasive intervention for pain management for delivery. I do plan to use it myself. It helps women in labor relax and cope with the contractions, they breathe it in when they are having a contraction and take it



Andrea Donmyer, RN, CNM, holds a baby boy she recently delivered at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

off when a contraction ends," she said.

She is due to give birth any day to her fourth child and only boy – Gunnr. She also has three daughters, Emma, 13, Ava, 11 and Lola, 4 and is married to husband Ron. Her oldest daughter Emma wants to follow in mom's footsteps and also become a mid-

wife and is planning to participate during her brother's delivery.

Donmyer can be contacted through Sault Women's Healthcare, located at 509 Osborn Blvd., Suite 120, by calling (906) 635-3002. You can also visit their webpage at: <http://www.war Memorialhospital.org/sault-womens-healthcare-135/>.

Joel Lumsden accepts assistant health director post with tribe

BY RICK SMITH

Joel Lumsden, long-time manager of operations for tribal medical services, accepted the position as the tribe's assistant health director. He assumed his new duties on Feb. 8.



Lumsden indicated he began employment with Sault Tribe in 1993 as a fisheries technician and worked for Anishnabek Community and Family Services in several positions before taking becoming the manager of operations for the tribe's health services.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Lake Superior State University and finished three years of master's level course work in public administration at Northern Michigan University.

"I have 15 years of working on health policy development and health care compliance and accreditation related to health care operations," Lumsden said. "The main role of the manager of operations is to ensure Sault Tribe health services meet national healthcare accreditation standards to ensure the services we deliver to our patients are of high quality."

Looking forward, Lumsden indicated he wants to continue working with the health services team to continue providing delivery of high quality health care, prevention and wellness programs to patients, which leads to long-term improved health and a healthier community.

A married man with two sons, Lumsden is a native of Sault Ste. Marie and currently lives in Dafter where he enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time as well as participating in youth sports activities with his sons.

Marquette Tribal Health has new staff

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Marquette Tribal Health Center is now open 40 hours a week and has a new staff member, Community Health program clerk Christine "Chris" Marinoff,

Located on the first floor of the Midtown Office Building, Marinoff will help patients schedule appointments for diabetic foot care, to see a nutritionist and answer questions about programs and services. She said that medication pick up

is still scheduled for Tuesdays.

A graduate of Munising High School, Marinoff attended Northern Michigan University earning an associate degree in office information. She was a secretary at the Munising Tribal Health Center for 10 years performing patient scheduling, data entry and patient referrals before moving to Marquette and beginning her current position the second week of June.



Free U.P. canning and preserving workshops

Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie — Aug 11, Sept. 30 and Oct. 12.

Elders center in St. Ignace — Oct. 10.

MSU Extension office in Newberry — Aug. 25, Sept. 29 and Oct. 13.

Naubinway Pavilion — Aug. 18.

Clark Township Hall, Cedarville — Sept. 22.

Munising Tribal Health Center LL — July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, Sept. 28

All classes run 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. From beginners to experienced, everyone can learn

something new with instructor Michelle Jarvie from MSU Extension. All participants entered in a drawing for a water bath canning set.

To register or for more information, please contact Heather Hemming at (906) 632-5210, extension 21372 or send email to her at hhemming@saulttribe.net. Registration is limited.

Supported by the Sault Tribe Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country Project and made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Marquette health center hours, services expanded

Marquette Tribal Community Health Center is open Monday through Friday. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed for lunch hour from noon to 1 p.m. except on Tuesdays.

Medication pick-up on Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Drop in any time for questions, concerns, information, program applications and so on. Our new programs clerk, Chris Marinoff, will be happy to help you. Appointments available for nutrition counseling and education as well as diabetic

education and support services by registered dietician Cassie Steinhoff, smoking cessation counseling and support services by registered nurse Karen Mills, flu shots in the fall and diabetic foot care.

In-home services available by appointments with Karen Mills and Brandy Delsenroth, certified health technician.

The Marquette Tribal Community Health Center mailing address 1229 W. Washington Street, Marquette, MI 49855 and the phone number is 225-1616.

Contact the Marquette Tribal Community Health Center by calling (906) 225-1616.

Sault Tribe financials and facilities for 2016

This section of the tribe's annual financial report presents the discussion and analysis of the tribe's financial performance during the fiscal year that ended on Dec. 31, 2015. The financial report is designed to provide Sault Tribe members, grantors, investors and creditors with a general overview of the tribe's finances and to demonstrate the tribe's accountability for the money it receives. Those who have questions about this report or need additional financial information may contact the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians administration office, 523 Ashmun, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call (906) 635-6050.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The tribe's total governmental assets increased to \$100.7 million, or 5.6 percent, over the course of this year's operations while total assets from business-type activities decreased to \$117 million. Total primary governmental assets were \$217.7 million at 2015 year end.

Total liabilities in governmental activities increased to \$53.8 million or 1.5 percent and total liabilities in business-type activities decreased to \$24.7 million. Total primary governmental liabilities were \$78.6 million at 2015 year end.

During the year, the tribe's expenses and transfers were \$5.4 million less than the revenues generated by grants, taxes and other sources for governmental activities.

In the tribe's business-type activities, total revenues were \$89.8 million while total expenses, taxes, loss on disposal of capital assets, and transfers were \$87.5 million.

Dollars spent on member services decreased \$.014 million, or .02 percent, while grant revenues increased \$1.6 million, or 3.8 percent.

The General Fund reported a decrease in expenditures of \$1.61 million for the year due to decreases in debt service and general government costs.

Tribal external debt reduction payments amounted to \$1,178,012.

Major capital projects included:

- Road improvement projects totaling just under \$487,700 were completed on reservation roads and sidewalks with funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

- Equipment purchased by Tribal Law Enforcement through a COPS Grant included a Henley police boat and 16 police vehicles of various service needs along with in-car technology in the amount of \$511,600.

- Fitness Center equipment purchased with Tribal Health Program Funds in the amount of \$75,900.

- Health Program also purchased Audio Care Software for \$48,000.

- The Telecommunications Department purchased a new voice mail system and server upgrades in the amount of \$51,300.

- Sault Tribe Construction purchased two dump trucks, one with snowplow equipment in the amount of \$65,450.

- Northern Hospitality purchased a new delivery vehicle for \$33,900.

- Binogii Placement Agency purchased database software and other computer equipment in the amount of \$25,674.

- Continued road enhancements at the Barbeau Fish Hatchery in the amount of \$45,600.

Facility improvements included:

- Began construction of the addition of a 12,000 square foot gymnasium at the JKL Bahweting School Academy. Total cost estimated to be \$1.2 million with \$933,745 spent so far in 2015.

- A number of land purchases were made near the JKL Academy during the year for a total of \$139,200. These were to enhance the footprint for the school along with possible future expansion.

- MidJim Convenience Store in St. Ignace replaced its fuel lines and did major cement work in the amount of \$297,600. The store also replaced its water and sewer lines for \$10,700.

- Replacement of 14 additional heat pumps in the Sault Health Center totaling just over \$42,000. This brings the total to 71 replaced over the last two years. Other improvements in the facility included a new roof for \$85,250 and interior improvements totaling \$48,400.

New grants included:

- Department of Justice grant \$447,700 over three years for crime victims, families and community healing services.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The annual financial report consists of four parts — management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, required supplementary information and other information that presents combining statements for non-major governmental, internal service, enterprise and fiduciary funds. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the tribe.

The first two statements are government-wide financial statements that provide both long-term and short-term information about the tribe's overall financial status.

The remaining statements are fund financial statements that focus on individual parts of the tribe's government, reporting the tribe's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements.

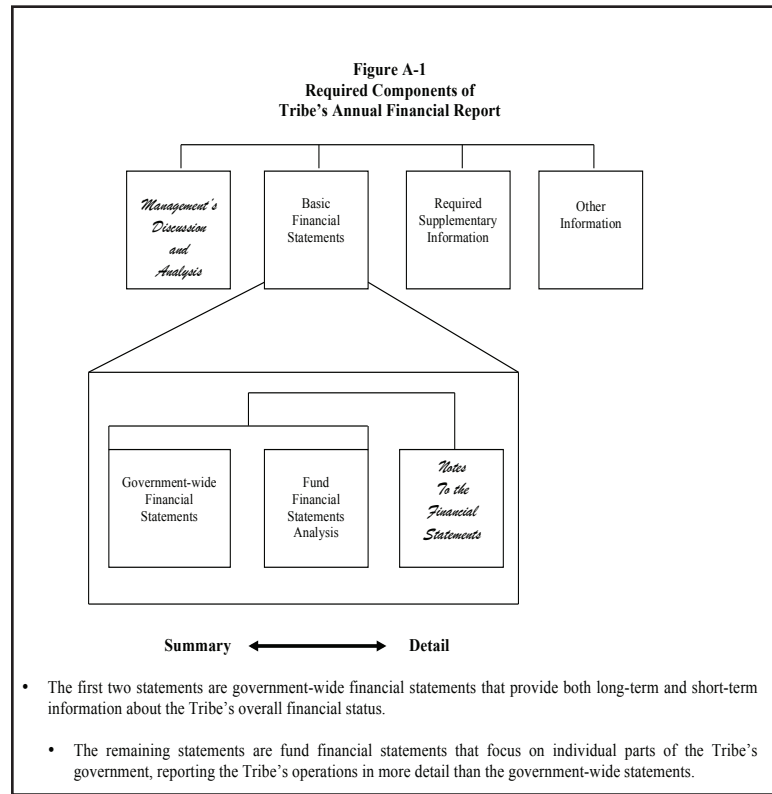
The governmental funds statements tell how government services like public safety and health and welfare were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.

Proprietary fund statements offer short and long-term financial information about the activities the government operates like businesses, such as the Midjim stores.

Fiduciary fund statements provide information about the financial relationships — such as the retirement plan of the tribe's employees — in which the tribe acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of others, to whom the resources belong.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the information in the financial statements. **Figure A-1** shows how the required parts of this annual report are arranged and relate to one another. In addition to these required elements, we have included a section with combining statements that provide details about our governmental funds and internal service funds each of which are added together and presented in single columns in the basic financial statements.

Figure A-2 summarizes the major features of the tribe's financial statements. The remainder of



		Fund Statements		
Scope	Government-wide Statements	Governmental Funds	Proprietary Funds	Fiduciary Funds
	Entire tribal government (except fiduciary funds) and the tribe's component units	The activities of the Tribe that are not proprietary or fiduciary, such as public safety, health & welfare, and public works	Activities the tribe operates similar to private businesses: Gaming Authority, Midjim, and Northern Hospitality, etc.	Instances in which the tribe is the trustee or agent for someone else's resources such as the retirement plan for tribal employees
Required Financial Information	— Statement of net position — Statement of activities	— Balance sheet — Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances	— Statement of net position — Statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position — Statement of cash flows	— Statement of fiduciary net position — Statement of changes in fiduciary net position
Accounting Basis and Measurement Focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus	Modified accrual accounting and current financial resources focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus
Type of Asset Liability Information	All assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, and short-term and long-term	Only assets expected to be used up and liabilities that come due during the year or soon thereafter; no capital assets included	All assets and liabilities, both short-term and long-term	All assets and liabilities, both short-term and long-term
Type of Inflow/Outflow Information	All revenues and expenses during year, regardless of when cash is received or paid	Revenues for which cash is received during or soon after the end of the year; expenditures when goods or services have been received and payment is due during the year or soon thereafter	All revenues and expenses during year regardless of when cash is received or paid	All revenues and expenses during year regardless of when cash is received or paid

this overview section of management's discussion and analysis explains the structure and contents of each of the statements.

Government-wide statements

The government-wide statements report information about the tribe as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private sector companies. The statement of net position includes all of the government's assets and liabilities. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the statement of activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The two government-wide statements report the tribe's net position and how they have changed. Net position — the difference between the tribe's assets and liabilities — is one way to measure the tribe's financial health, or position.

Over time, increases or

decreases in the tribe's net position are an indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating, respectively.

To assess the overall health of the tribe you need to consider additional non-financial factors such as changes in the gaming industry regulations and changes in federal law.

The government-wide financial statements of the tribe are:

Governmental activities — Most of the tribe's basic services are included here, such as health and welfare, public safety, education, and recreation and culture. Taxes, federal revenue, state revenue and charges for services finance most of these activities.

Business-type activities — The tribe charges fees to customers to help it cover the costs of certain services it provides. The tribe's Gaming Authority and businesses are included here.

Fund financial statements

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the tribe's most significant funds-not the tribe as a whole. Funds are accounting devices that the tribe uses to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending for particular purposes.

Some funds are required by federal law and by bond covenants.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors establishes other funds to control and manage grant money for particular purposes (Head Start, fisheries, sanitation, etc.)

The tribe has three kinds of funds:

Governmental funds — Most of the tribe's basic services are included in governmental funds,

— *Continued on page 21*

Continued from Page 20 — which focus on (1) how much cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out and (2) the balances left at year end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the tribe's programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the government-wide statements, we provide additional information at the bottom of the governmental funds statement, or on the subsequent page, that explains the relationship (or differences) between them.

Proprietary funds — Internal services for which the tribe charges internal customers a fee are generally reported in the general fund. Proprietary funds, like the government-wide statements, provide both long- and short-term financial information. In fact, the tribe's enterprise funds (one type of proprietary fund) are the same as its business-type activities, but provide more detail and additional information, such as cash flows. We use internal services for the tribe's other programs and activities — such as the Management Information Systems, Human Resources, Accounting, etc.

Fiduciary funds — The tribe is trustee, or fiduciary, for its employees' pension plans. It is also responsible for other assets because of a trust arrangement — can be used only for the trust beneficiaries. The tribe is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in the funds are used for their intended purposes. All of the tribe's fiduciary activities are reported in a separate statement of fiduciary net position and a statement of changes in fiduciary net position. We exclude these activities from the tribe's government-wide financial statements because the tribe cannot use these assets to finance its operations.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE TRIBE AS A WHOLE

Net position — The tribe's combined governmental and business-type net position was \$139,148,249 for 2015. (See Table A-1.)

\$42.2 million of governmental assets are invested in capital assets (land, buildings and equipment) with \$93.3 million of business assets invested in the same manner.

Change in net position — The tribe's total revenues from primary activities (excluding special items) was \$165.4 million. (See Table A-2.) The tribe's revenue comes mainly from gaming revenues, charges for services, taxes and federal sources.

The total cost of all primary activities was \$141.2 million and included both governmental and member services along with business-type operating costs excluding transfers and taxes.

The tribe was able to cover the current year's costs for programs and services of governmental operations through lower costs. Table A-2 and the narrative that follows consider the operations of governmental-type activities and business-type activities separately.

Governmental and business-type activities

Revenues for the tribe's governmental activities decreased 2.4 percent, while total expenses decreased 6.4 percent.

Revenues for the tribe's business-type activities decreased 17.6 percent, while total expenses decreased 21.0 percent.

Table A-2 presents the cost of each of the tribe's five largest programs — health and welfare, public safety, recreation and culture, education, and general government as well as its judicial services, public works and interest expense.

The cost of all governmental activities this year was \$70.1 million.

The cost of those services was paid from the following:

- Taxes of \$16.5 million
- Charges for services of \$15.5 million
- Operating and capital grants of \$43.6 million
- Interest, dividends and other revenues of \$108.4 thousand
- The increase in governmental net position for 2015 was \$5.4 million.

Business-type activities

Revenues of the tribe's business-type activities were \$89.8 million and expenses were \$71.1 million. (Refer to Table A-2). Business-type activities provide all of the governmental tax revenues and the increase in net position for the businesses was \$2.2 million for 2015 after taxes.

As the tribe completed the year, its governmental funds reported a combined deficit fund balance of \$23.3 million, an improvement in combined fund balance of \$2.3 million from 2014. The primary reason for the increase in fund balance is highlighted in the analysis of governmental activities. In addition, these other changes in fund balance should be noted:

- Debt service expenditures were \$4.5 million.
 - \$5.8 million was transferred out to other activities from the General Fund, a decrease of 16.7 percent from 2014.
- General Fund budgetary highlights**
- Over the course of the year, the tribe's board of directors made several changes to the tribe's budget. The budget process falls into three categories:
- Original budgets are approved by the board of directors prior to the beginning of the program's fiscal year.
 - Amendments and supplemental appropriations are approved as needed by the board of directors during the course of the fiscal year.
 - Year end modifications are made during the calendar year as needed for programs with non-December year ends.

Even with these adjustments, actual expenditures were \$1.55 million less than the final budgeted general fund amounts. The actual excess of revenues over expenses and other uses was \$1.19 million more than the final budget anticipated. This is due, in part, to less general government and debt service costs, and less operating fund transfers than the final budgeted amounts.

The most significant variances were as follows:

- General government costs were less.

— Debt service costs were less.

— Other financing uses of funds were less.

**Table A-1
Tribe's Net Position**

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Current and Other Assets	\$ 58,470,209	\$ 52,055,968	\$ 23,681,912	\$ 23,098,150	\$ 65,900,615	\$ 75,154,118
Capital Assets	\$ 42,218,703	43,304,132	93,341,593	97,102,929	135,560,296	140,407,061
Total Assets	\$ 100,688,912	\$ 95,360,100	\$ 117,023,505	\$ 120,201,079	\$ 217,712,417	\$ 215,561,179
Current Liabilities	\$ 16,309,174	\$ 15,987,560	\$ 4,140,597	\$ 12,780,971	\$ 20,449,771	\$ 28,768,531
Noncurrent Liabilities	37,524,138	37,067,036	20,590,259	17,349,076	58,114,397	54,416,112
Total Liabilities	53,833,312	53,054,596	24,730,856	30,130,047	78,564,168	83,184,643
Net Position						
Net Investment in						
Capital Assets	42,218,703	36,902,120	80,196,593	78,644,600	122,415,296	115,546,720
Unrestricted	4,636,897	5,403,384	12,096,056	11,426,432	16,732,953	16,829,816
Total Net Position	\$ 46,855,600	\$ 42,305,504	\$ 92,292,649	\$ 90,071,032	\$ 139,148,249	\$ 132,376,536

**Table A-2
Changes in Tribe's Net Position**

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Revenues				
Program Revenues:				
Charges for services	\$ 15,519,375	\$ 17,485,861	\$ 88,584,941	\$ 107,963,494
Operating grants and Contributions	42,429,998	40,784,240	-	-
Capital grants and Contributions	1,126,562	1,158,786	-	-
General Revenues:				
Taxes	16,475,899	17,631,879	-	-
Interest/Dividends	11,056	17,561	19,205	24,768
Other	97,334	448,936	1,164,001	955,571
Total Revenues	75,660,224	77,527,263	89,768,147	108,943,833
Expenses				
Gaming Authority	-	-	61,477,463	77,016,648
Other	-	-	9,594,875	12,843,535
Judicial	1,185,364	947,087	-	-
Education	7,979,043	7,189,462	-	-
Health and Welfare	41,017,035	39,256,558	-	-
Recreation and Culture	2,777,592	2,897,228	-	-
Public Safety	3,896,342	4,746,688	-	-
General Government	8,394,786	12,905,340	-	-
Public Works	1,059,319	2,863,395	-	-
Interest Expense	3,789,254	4,052,354	-	-
Total Expenses	70,098,735	74,858,112	71,072,338	89,860,183

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Excess (Deficiency)	5,561,489	2,669,151	18,695,809	19,083,650
Loss on Disposal of Capital Assets	(154,641)	-	(18,319)	(94,308)
Transfers	(20,026)	-	20,026	-
Taxes	-	-	(16,475,899)	(17,631,879)
Changes in Net Position	5,386,822	2,669,151	2,221,617	1,357,463
Net Position - Beginning (as restated)	41,468,778	39,636,353	90,071,032	88,713,569
Net Position - Ending	\$ 46,855,600	\$ 42,305,504	\$ 92,292,649	\$ 90,071,032

**Table A-3
Tribe's Capital Assets — at Cost**

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities
	2015	2015	2014	2014
Land and Improvements	\$ 16,951,600	\$ 7,048,058	\$ 14,968,410	\$ 6,952,754
Construction in Progress	1,018,885	664,732	2,374,648	46,185
Buildings and Equipment	<u>78,867,482</u>	<u>213,809,180</u>	<u>78,486,915</u>	<u>215,113,826</u>
	96,837,967	221,521,970	95,829,973	222,112,765
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(54,619,264)	(128,180,377)	(52,525,841)	(125,009,836)
Totals	\$ 42,218,703	\$ 93,341,593	\$ 43,304,132	\$ 97,102,929

— Debt service costs were less.

— Other financing uses of funds were less.

CAPITAL ASSETS

At the end of 2015, the tribe has invested \$135,560,296 in a broad range of capital assets, including land, machinery and equipment, buildings, roads, and vehicles. (See Table A-3.)

The principal change in capital assets consists mainly of land purchases, completion of construction in progress and equipment purchases. More detailed information about the tribe's capital assets is presented in Note E to the financial statements.

Long-term debt

At year end, the tribe had

\$25,814,259 in bonds, notes, and other obligations. General governmental debt decreased by \$1,000,012 to \$0 and internal service debt decreased by \$178,000. More detailed information about the tribe's long-term liabilities is presented in Note F to the financial statements.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND RATES

These indicators were taken into account when adopting the General Fund budget for fiscal 2016. The amount appropriated in the General Fund budget for operations is \$12.52 million, which is a 15.3 percent decrease from final fiscal 2015 budget. The tribe will use its revenues to finance current

and expected future programs, program expansions into outlying areas, and the expected impact of inflation on those programs.

The largest fiscal 2016 budgeted expenditures are for direct services, consulting and subcontracting, and expansion of member services. If these estimates are realized, the tribe's budgetary General Fund balance is expected to remain steady by the close of fiscal 2016.

As for the tribe's business-type activities, we expect that the 2016 results will also improve based on these items:

- Reduction in operating costs.
- Reduction in debt service.
- Increase in operating margins.

Sault Tribe 2016 Facility List

SAULT AREA BUILDINGS

Kewadin Casino Hotel and Convention Center

2186 Shunk Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
1-800-KEWADIN
632-0530
Sault Ste. Marie
Employment Office 635-4937 or (866) 635-7032

Min Wabab Dan (Pleased with It) — Sault Tribe Administration Bld.

523, 531 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
635-6050

(800) 793-0660
Board of Directors
Chairman's Office
Legal
Legislation
Budgets

Accounting
Efficiency analyst
Payroll

Cultural Division
Planning and Development
Transportation

Executive office of
Internal/ Membership
Services

Assistant executive office
Membership liaison
CFO office

MIS / IT Security
Telecommunications
Insurance

Tax Agreement
Facilities
Gaming Commission 635-7042

Communications 632-6398
Education 635-7010
WIA 635-4767

Adult Education 632-6098
Higher Education 635-7784
Youth Education and
Activities 635-7010

The Dawn M. Eavou Child Advocacy Center

2163 Migisa Ct.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
632-4001

Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center

2 Ice Circle
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
635-RINK (7465)

Summer Recreation
Program

Events management
All-in-One Fitness Club
Concessions

Pro Shop
Tribal recreation
Physical therapy

Youth Education and
Activities Program
253-1321

Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting School Public School Academy

1301 Marquette Ave.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 4978
635-5055

Fred Hatch Building

206 Greenough Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Environmental Department
632-5575

Miskeke Gamig (Medicine Lodge) — Sault Tribe Health and Human Services

2864 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
632-5200
(877) 256-0009

Laboratory
Medical
Medical Billing
Medical Records

Radiology
Administration

Dental 632-5260
Patient Registration
632-5200

Optical 632-5218
Pharmacy 632-5226
Behavioral Health
635-6075

Community Health
632-5210
Audiology, Traditional
Medicine, Nutrition, Home
Health Aid, HIV coordina-

tor, diabetes coordinator,
occupation health nurses
Preferred Health 632-5220
or (800) 922-0582

Urgent Care Walk-in
Clinic — Monday through
Friday, from 8 a.m. to 8
p.m. Closed weekends and
holidays.

Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Bld.

11 Ice Circle
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
632-0239

Mary Murray/Bonnie McKerchie Bld.

2218 Shunk Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Child Care Center 632-5258

ACFS 632-5250 or (800)
726-0093

Chippewa Service

916 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
632-6077

Northern Hospitality

827 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
635-4800

Mary Murray Culture Camp

266 Homestead Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
635-5604

Powwow grounds

10 Ice Circle
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Nokomis/Mishomis Bld.

2076 Shunk Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Elder Services 635-4971,
(888) 711-7356

Sault Tribe Head Start

635-7722
Early Head Start 635-7722

Enrollment Department

2428 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Mailing address:
PO Box 1628

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
635-3396 or 632-8552,
(800) 251-6597

Inland Fish and Wildlife Department

2428 Shunk Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
632-6132

George K. Nolan Judicial Building

2175 Shunk Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Sault Tribe Law
Enforcement/Conservation
635-6065

Tribal Court 635-4963
Prosecutor's office 635-4749

Big Abe Inter-Tribal Building

179 W. Three Mile Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Inter Tribal Fisheries and
Assessment Program 632-0072

MidJim Sault

2205 Shunk Road

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
635-4782

Sault Tribe Construction

3375 South M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
635-0556

USDA/Food Distribution
3601 Mackinaw Trail
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
635-6076

Advocacy Resource Center

2769 Ashmun Street
P.O. Box 1576
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
632-1808 or (877) 639-7820

Lodge of Bravery
Advocacy services
Legal aid

Shedawin Building

2158 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Behavioral Health uses

Bi-Bagi (Call, cry out or shout)

2151 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Storage

199 Three Mile Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

KINCHELOE AREA BUILDINGS

ACFS Kincheloe Office - Child Placement

60 Kincheloe
Kincheloe, MI 49752
495-1232

Sault Tribe Housing Authority

154 Parkside Drive
Kincheloe, MI 49788
495-1450
495-5598
(800) 794-4072

Administrative office
Home Improvement
Program

Modernization Program
Occupancy/applications
Department

Home Ownership
Resident Services
Department
Maintenance (855) 205-2840

DeMawating Development

Sault Tribe Real Estate
42 Woodlake
Kincheloe, MI 49788

DeMawating Development
495-2800
Sault Tribe Real Estate
495-1016

Youth Education and Activities

Rudyard/Kinross
Rudyard Schools
(Not owned by Sault Tribe)

11185 2nd Street
Rudyard, MI 49780
487-3471, ext. 228

ST. IGNACE AREA BUILDINGS

Kewadin St. Ignace

3015 Mackinac Trail
St. Ignace, MI 49781
643-7071
1-800-KEWADIN

St. Ignace Employment
Office 643-4176
Sault Ste. Marie
Employment Office 635-4937 or (866) 635-7032

St. Ignace Tribal Health Clinic and Human

Services Center
1140 N. State Street,
Suite 2805
St. Ignace, MI 49781
643-8689 or (877) 256-0135

Administration
Medical
Nurses
Dental
Hygienist
Traditional Medicine
Community Health
Nutrition
Behavioral Health
Optical
Medical billing
Medical records
Pharmacy
ACFS

Lambert Center

225 WaSeh Drive
St. Ignace, MI 49781
Head Start 643-9733
Membership liaison 643-2124

Enji Maawanji' Iding (Former McCann School)

399 McCann Street
St. Ignace, MI 49781
643-3189

Sault Tribe Youth Facility and Sault Tribe Law Enforcement

1130 N. State Street
St. Ignace, MI 49781
Sault Tribe Youth Facility
643-0941
Sault Tribe Law
Enforcement
635-6065

MidJim St. Ignace

3045 Mackinac Trail
St. Ignace, MI 49781
643-9906

Youth Education and Activities St. Ignace

Lasalle Middle School
(Not owned by Sault Tribe)

860 Portage Street
St. Ignace, MI 49781
643-7262

HESEL AREA BUILDINGS

Kewadin Hessel

3395 3 Mile Road
Hessel, MI 49745
484-2903
1-800-KEWADIN

Hessel Community Tribal Center

3355 N 3 Mile Road
Hessel, MI 49745
484-2727

Community Health
Eldercare services lunches
ACFS on occasion
Youth Education &
Activities
484-2298

Wequayoc Cemetery/Vacant Bldg

2354 E M-134
Hessel, MI
484-2727

MANISTIQUE AREA BUILDINGS

Kewadin Manistique

5630 W US 2
Manistique, MI 49854
341-5510
1-800-KEWADIN

Chigibig Ningabi
An (Near the Western
Shore) Manistique Tribal
Community Center
5698W US Highway 2

Manistique, MI 49854

341-8469
(866) 401-0043
Fax 341-1321
Administration
Sault Tribe Law
Enforcement
For emergencies, dial 911
635-6065
341-8317
Elderly meals
Health center: medical,
nursing, dental, hygien-
ist, optical, pharmacy,
Community Health, nutri-
tion, patient registration,
Behavioral Health and
Traditional Healing
maintenance
ACFS 341-6993 or (800)
347-7137
Membership liaison 341-8469

Housing Authority: Escanaba, Newberry, Manistique, Wetmore, Marquette

1176 North Chitoma Drive
Manistique, MI 49854
341-5145
(888) 353-9502
Maintenance-eastern and
western ends (855) 205-2840

Youth Education and Activities Manistique

174 Zhigag
Manistique, MI 49754
341-3362

ESCANABA AREA BUILDINGS

1226 Wigob
Escanaba, MI 49829
Youth Education &
Activities
789-0972

NEWBERRY AREA BUILDINGS

Newberry Health
Center and Community
Building
4935 Zeez-Ba-Tik Lane
Newberry, MI 49868
293-8181
Community Health
Satellite Direct Services

MUNISING AREA BUILDINGS

Kewadin Christmas
N7761 Candy Cane Lane
Christmas, MI 49862
387-5475
1-800-KEWADIN
Victor Matson Sr.
Community Ctr.; Grand
Island Chippewa Center
Gchi-Minis Ednakiiyaan
Gamig; Munising Tribal
Community Center
622 W. Superior Street
Munising, MI 49862
387-4721 or (800) 236-4705
Health clinic: adminis-
tration, medical, nursing,
medical records, reception
and Behavioral Health, data
entry, board of directors
office, elder office, ACFS,
Community Health, tradi-
tional healers office, health
educators, membership liai-
son 450-7011 or 450-7011

Youth Education and Activities

Manistique, MI 49854
341-8469
(866) 401-0043
Fax 341-1321
Administration
Sault Tribe Law
Enforcement
For emergencies, dial 911
635-6065
341-8317
Elderly meals
Health center: medical,
nursing, dental, hygien-
ist, optical, pharmacy,
Community Health, nutri-
tion, patient registration,
Behavioral Health and
Traditional Healing
maintenance
ACFS 341-6993 or (800)
347-7137
Membership liaison 341-8469

MARQUETTE AREA BUILDINGS

K.I. Sawyer
Sawyer Village/Eagle
Ridge
250 Voodoo Ave.
Gwinn, MI 49841
346-3919
Sault Tribe Real Estate
495-1016

LAW ENFORCEMENT

George K. Nolan
Judicial Building
Sault Tribe Law
Enforcement/
Conservation 635-6065
For emergencies, dial 911
2175 Shunk Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Law Enforcement Satellite
Offices
Kincheloe - There is an
officer for the tribe on duty
at this location.
For emergencies, dial 911
635-6065

Sault Tribe Youth Facility/Sault Tribe Law Enforcement

1130 N. State Street
St. Ignace, MI 49781
For emergencies, dial 911
635-6065 - STLE
643-0941 - STYF

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement

341-8317

SAULT TRIBE SATEL-LITE HEALTH CLINICS

Escanaba Tribal
Community Health
Center
(Not owned by Sault Tribe)
Penstar Office Building
1401 North 26th St.,
Suite 105
Escanaba, MI 49829
786-2636
Services: medical,
Community Health and
health education

Marquette Tribal Satellite Clinic

(Not owned by Sault Tribe)
1229 Washington Street
Marquette, MI 49855
Phone: 225-1616
Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday and Friday 8 a.m.
to 5 p.m. Closed for lunch.
Tuesdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Services: Medication
Pick up, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tuesdays only, nutritionist,
diabetic education, smoking
cessation, Flu shot clinics.

List provided by the Sault Tribe Communications Department.

To correct or update location information, please call (906) 632-6398 or e-mail your request to slucas@saulttribe.net

Welcome to the Sault Tribe Communications Dept. Facility Listing for 2016, printed annually for tribal members. Facilities are listed by town with address, available services and phones, including toll free numbers. It is a handy resource to clip and save, or consult on the website at www.saulttribe.com/about-us/facilities-listing.

(Not owned by Sault Tribe)
Mather Middle School
411 Elm Street
Munising, MI 49862
387-2251 Ext. 180

MARQUETTE AREA BUILDINGS

K.I. Sawyer
Sawyer Village/Eagle
Ridge

250 Voodoo Ave.
Gwinn, MI 49841
346-3919

Sault Tribe Real Estate
495-1016

LAW ENFORCEMENT

George K. Nolan
Judicial Building
Sault Tribe Law
Enforcement/
Conservation 635-6065

For emergencies, dial 911
2175 Shunk Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Law Enforcement Satellite
Offices
Kincheloe - There is an
officer for the tribe on duty
at this location.

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Sault Tribe Youth Facility/Sault Tribe Law Enforcement

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643-0941 - STYF

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement

341-8317

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Escanaba Tribal
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Penstar Office Building
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Phone: 225-1616

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Thursday and Friday 8 a.m.
to 5 p.m. Closed for lunch.
Tuesdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Services: Medication
Pick up, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tuesdays only, nutritionist,
diabetic education, smoking
cessation, Flu shot clinics.

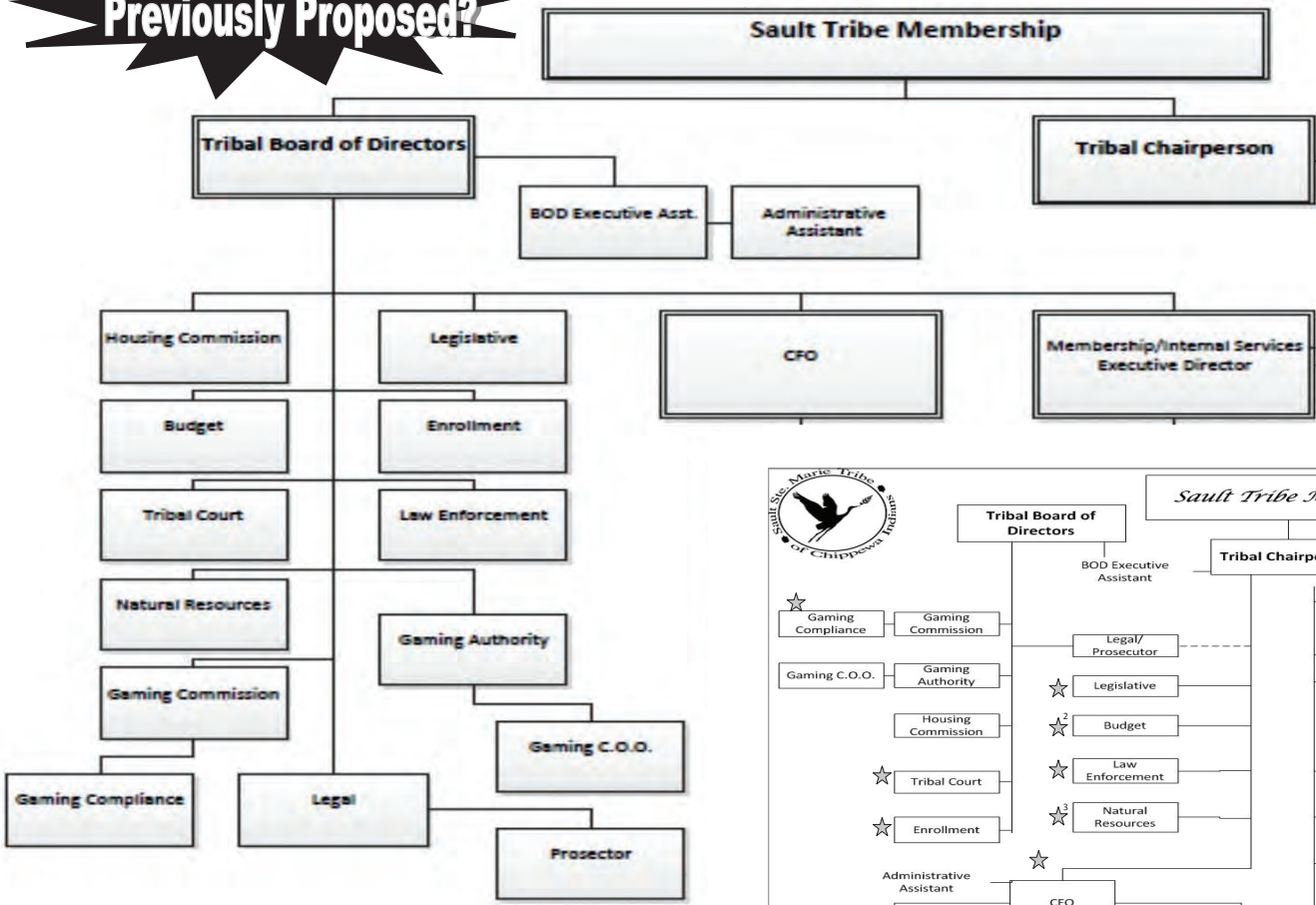
List provided by the Sault Tribe Communications Department.

To correct or update location information, please call (906) 632-6398 or e-mail your request to slucas@saulttribe.net

Clip & Save 

CHAIR'S AUTHORITY ALREADY IN QUESTION?!!

Previously Proposed?



1 2

Current Chart



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

First and foremost, thank you for re-electing me as your Chairperson. I am humbled and promise to do my best. The Chairperson position is a balancing act between advocating for our people at the highest levels while providing oversight over operations back home. We are a multi-million organization so it is no small task to ensure a smooth operation and balanced budget. Of course, we can always do better; but I think my administrative team and I do a great job.

Some Board Members insist we are top heavy in the executive level administration. These same individuals insist on hiring a Chief Executive Officer for Government operations that the Board would directly supervise. This position would cost over \$200,000 (\$160,000 in salary) to supervise existing executive level staff. Recently experiences with another Tribal Board “direct employee” proves this is a mistake as NO ONE monitored the executive’s time.

BAD LEGISLATION BAD RESULTS

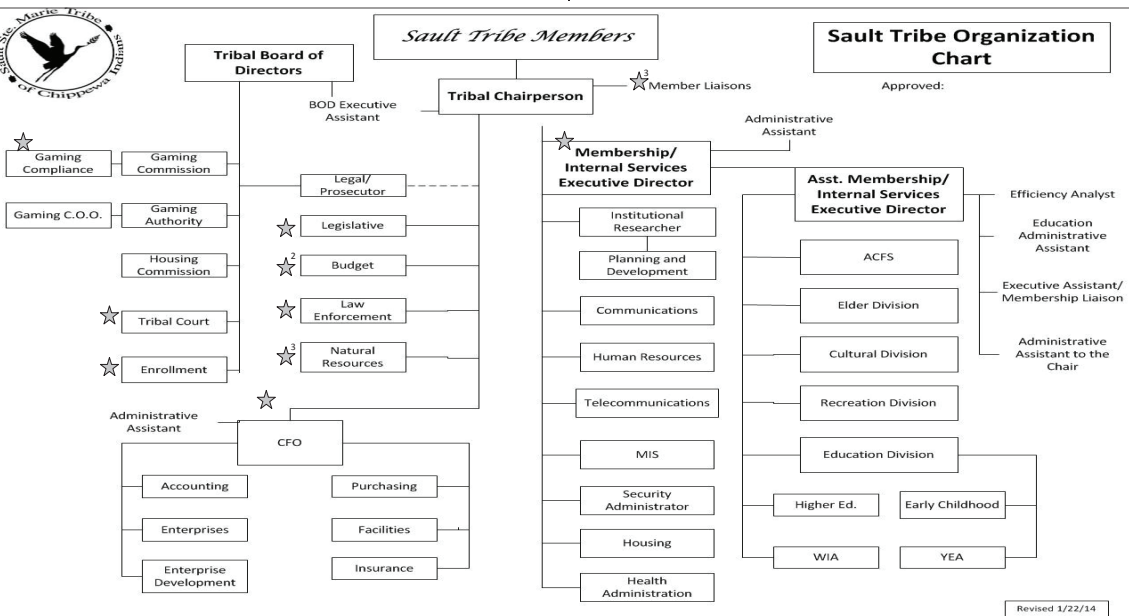
In 2010, the Board voted to put a vote to the people to “take the title CEO” out of the Chairperson position. Director McKelvie reports this was never intended and the resolution was changed at the last minute. When I returned to office, I explained that while others before me had no problem administering and spending unlawfully, I am a principled individual driven by ethics and my belief in “right and wrong” require that I always choose the path of right. Illegal expenditures by former Chairs and the majority of the Board’s willingness to look away proves ~ not everyone is hard wired with these core beliefs.

PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED ORG CHART DEFICIENT

A few hold outs of an arbitrary and capricious governmental oversight have proposed to create a lackadaisical environment were key staff can simply not come to work for weeks at a time or spend over \$300,000 in increments of less than \$50,000 to avoid detection. I will continue to assert my role though the delegated authority from the Board and the expectations of the Members ~ that the Chairperson serves in the lead administrative capacity.

REARING IT’S UGLY HEAD AGAIN?!!

During the General Election ballot count this year, a Board Member overheard a few other Board Members from an obstructionist faction of the Board discussing how



the above organizational chart can finally be approved though a tradeoff vote on officer elections. When the above org chart was introduced two years ago, I challenged the Board to go ahead and pass it so the Members could circulate a petition to overturn it. Our budgets are balanced; I am not taking personal privilege of office; I have not hired immediate family like my predecessors; and there certainly is no inappropriate or salacious activities coming from the Chair’s office anymore. So, stop and ask yourself: why the incessant focus on making the Chair a figurehead only? The org chart at the top would have the Chair only supervise two functions and no executive or administrative functions.

Providing direct oversight over key positions makes me intimately familiar with the needs of our operations and our people. Thus, when I testify in Congress, I am knowledgeable about tribal government operations such that I can handle any questions posed during Congressional hearings. It is one thing to read testimony from a script, but it is another to expertly respond with value added at critical moments. There have been extremely challenging technical questions. With direct oversight over key areas, I have never been at a loss for a com-

plete response. I firmly believe this is why I get asked back to testify ~ time and again ~ including responding to the President’s budget for all of Indian Country (twice). Most tribal leaders might testify in Congress once in their careers. I have been invited to testify over 14 times.

EFFICIENT & ECONOMIC

Contrary to some misinformation at the hands of some Board Members, I derive only one salary (\$100,000) which has not increased since 2004. I also do not receive vacation, sick, or social security benefits like my predecessor (\$245,000). I am happy to supervise 15 direct reports (we use this term as subordinates is demeaning). Both our Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer oversee a similar number. Again, we are a lean but highly economically efficient and effective team. Other organizations our size have much larger central administrations. If I did not have two (nearly three) graduate degrees in administration, I suppose we might need to hire another executive. But, why waste \$160,000 if I am willing to do it with no additional pay? Jealously? Spite? Whatever the reason, as long as the you believe I should lead the administration though the current adminis-

trative structure, I will. If an oppositional faction take this away via a Board vote, I will be asking you to sign a petition so you can overturn such a decision. Unit 3 Board Member Keith Massaway has consistently voted to retain the administrative authority with the Chairperson position. It will be interesting to see if his position now remains consistent with his position before the election.

ELECTION REFORMS

At the time I write this, the election contest is over. A number of necessary reforms became evident though this election cycle. While the complainant did not prevail, we should reform the process to ensure: all adult Members receive a ballot; that the ballot machine is secured under lock and key (this was not the case in this cycle); we cease to print hundreds of extra ballots when only a handful are replaced (meaning we print hundreds of extra ballots that are not entirely secured); we should cease mailing ballots to bad addresses (this results in thousand of ballots sitting at the post office which are not entirely secured); a signature requirement should be used to verify ballots and the security of the ballot machine; and poll sites should be used to supplement the mail in ballot system for those who wish to vote in person.

Chi McGwitch, again for your vote and support!

Aaron

Tribe's election process needs improvement



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

The tribe needs many changes in the near future — elections, communications, social media, policy reform, just to name a few.

There were many complaints during the election process. I do not fault the Election Committee for problems in our processes. We (the board) need to figure out a central address updating system that works. For years, the Election Committee has brought us suggestions to improve the process and they are not always taken seriously or vehemently opposed to the changes presented.

We all know there are sometimes several ballots sent to the same house that may or may not be voted on by the addressee. The

committee suggested poll voting as a solution to that and issues with not receiving the ballots in the mail. This then gets spun that we are not for at-large being able to vote. Absentee ballots were discussed as well as other code changes since I have been on the board and we (the board) did not make those changes.

I believe it is very unprofessional to say the very least to be on social media including election night accusing and making accusations about the Election Committee that is made up of employees and volunteers. I also believe it is important for incumbents and candidates to be at the count to talk to the members and other candidates and thank the committee. There were threats made about people's jobs and the committee may be cheating. No wonder the committee has so many vacancies. Would you take time out of your life to volunteer only to get beat up on social media that you were a crook?

If people have doubts about the process, they should volunteer to be on the committee, stuff envelopes, open ballots or come to the counts to see the process for yourself. Like the saying, "Don't always believe what you hear." Members also have a responsibility to make sure they change their address when they move; that

can be done by calling the 1-800 number on the back of your tribal card. I believe that some members do not want to be involved with the tribe and maybe disgusted with things that are going on and that choice is on them. I did have members contact me saying their relatives did not get ballots and they either did not have the correct address when I checked my list or they were not on it.

Communication needs to improve; we rarely know when the chair will be out of town, he used to give us a monthly calendar. Contrary to what you may have heard, I have no issue with the chair representing us in D.C. on federal committees. I just would appreciate that there was communication and that there continues to be business as usual when he is gone. The tribe should not be put on hold for one person. Sometimes one of the membership liaisons travel with the chair and we should also know that so we can refer members to another liaison or the chair's executive assistant.

We also need monthly reports from the chair's direct reports. We get them from all other areas and used to have at the very least semi-annual reviews with these departments. I hope this communication improves so the board is better informed in these areas when members ask questions.

We need to dedicate time to develop and approve a social media policy. Last time this subject was broached it was said

we were stopping "freedom of speech." Most businesses or workplaces have policies in place these days to protect the business. Employees should not be harassed or smeared on Facebook, nor should our businesses. Currently it is hard to discipline a team member if the leader of the tribe is doing it. Social media can be good for keeping people informed but it can also destroy lives.

The RFP (request for proposals) has finally been sent out to get an audit of human resources. Hopefully, we can start this process by September. Once this is complete, we should be working towards reforming our policy manual including the hiring process. The board has to consider changes to make the hiring process for efficient and effective.

Our new casinos CEO started on July 11. I hope he was not thinking twice after the first time he came in front of the board. As a member of the Oneida tribe he is familiar with tribal politics. He said he said his management style is very "boots on the ground" and that he will be working Tuesday-Saturday with him working Friday and Saturday evenings. He is going to be making his rounds to each property and mingling with staff and customers.

Over the weekend, my youngest son and I attended a dream-catcher making demonstration with Sue St. Onge and her daughter, Helena, at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture. I am not a very

crafty person but had fun and had a finished project at the end. I also attended my first Sugar Island powwow. It was very nice and peaceful over there. We were only able to spend a couple of hours due to a family wedding but were very glad to have made to trip. Denny McKelvie has a completely free booth of hot dogs, nachos, drinks, cotton candy, popcorn and snow cones. We also had great wood fire grilled pizza from Sharon Hovie's booth. I would like to thank all the volunteers that put on that powwow. I will definitely be back.

A reminder: We have unit meetings open to members on the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at the McCann school building. The elder meals are served there on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon and ask for a \$1 donation and \$3 for other guests. Elder meetings are on the second Friday of the month after the noon meal. We have our annual elder picnic on Sunday, Aug. 14, at 1 p.m. Keith and I will be grilling the meats and dishes to pass will be side dishes and desserts.

I promise to do my best to work with everyone on the board to move the tribe forward in a positive manner. I hope everyone commits to do the same. It is time for the chaos to end and the tribe to be put first.

Please feel free to contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com, (906) 430-0536 or (906) 984-2052.

Thank you for continued support



**DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I would like to thank you, the members of Unit IV, for your continued support. I am honored to continue to represent you and our community. I would like to congratulate the new and reelected chairman and board members. Welcome to the newly elected Anita Nelson and Michael McKerchie. Happy retirement to Director Cathy Abramson! I have had the honor of working alongside Cathy at the board table and at CDC/TAC committee meetings; she is such an advocate for the health of our people she is going to be missed. With the election now over, hopefully we can settle back into a schedule and move forward in a positive direction. I support changing our election process; we need to have an outside independent company performing our elections. I believe we owe it to all members to change a process they have lost faith in.

I would like to thank everyone

who attended the Gathering of the Clans powwow in Manistique. We had great weather with an excellent turn out of drums, dancers and participants. Thank you to all the volunteers who were there — without your help it wouldn't be possible. I would like to thank the committee members who pull this together behind the scenes — Viola Neadow, Director Denise Chase and member liaison Mary Jenerou.

Director Chase, community members and myself attended a Community Health input session at the Manistique Tribal Health Center on the evening of June 29. Health staff facilitated the session; they were able to get a lot of great input from all participants. This session took place to identify the resources we have in our area, the needs of our community and the barriers in our community. From this session, the staff can look for solutions in some of the grants they were awarded or, in the future when applying for grants, they will now have list of needs from each area. A community input session also took place on June 28 in Munising at the tribal health center. It is important that you try and attend any community sessions when they are in your area. This is vital to ensuring your voice is heard and, when funding is awarded, we see it spread equally throughout.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (906) 298-1888.

Thank you,
Darcy Morrow
Unit IV Representative
dmorrow@saulttribe.net

WALK-IN CLINIC

Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun, St. Sault Ste. Marie

**Open Monday through Friday
from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Sault Tribe Health Center 2nd Floor
2864 Ashmun, Sault Ste. Marie**

**Rae Ann Brand FNP
Andrew Rife PA**

*The Walk-In Clinic
Provides Routine Medical
Care, Such As:*

- Vaccinations
- Evaluation and Treatment of Cold and Flu Symptoms
- Minor Ailments or Illnesses
- Minor Cuts Requiring Stitches
- Minor Injuries
- Minor Burns
- Sore Throats, Earaches
- Insect Bites
- Simple Rashes
- Skin Infections
- Sprains and Strains



No Appointment Necessary!

ELIGIBILITY

All patients eligible to be seen at our medical clinic are eligible to come to our walk-in clinic.

WEEKEND CARE

Urgent care patients can still be seen at War Memorial Hospital's Community Care Clinic on weekends and holidays when the Tribal Walk-in clinic is closed.

AFTER HOURS CARE

After hours, call 906-632-5200 to speak to a nurse for guidance on your health issue.

Sault Tribe Health Services ... "Health for a Lifetime"



Gravelle thanks Abramson for years of service



**KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aaniin, the 2016 election is over and I congratulate Anita Nelson and Michael McKerchie as newly elected board members and the incumbents: Aaron Payment, Denny McKelvie, Jennifer McLeod, Darcy Morrow and Lana Causley.

"Miigwech" to Cathy Abramson for her many years of service to our tribe, I have known and worked with Cathy a long time before she was on the Sault Tribe Board of Directors. She was involved in JOM, Title VII, YEA and numerous volunteer committees. Cathy and her husband, Tony, are always involved in our tribal youth programs as volunteers and promoting young people to be the best they can be.

She's always been a strong advocate for the wellness and health of our tribal members as can be seen in the many programs our Sault Tribe Health Center has to offer. Thanks to her family for her 20 years of serving the tribe and having to give up time with her as she was away from home on tribal business, spent hours on the phone with members, personally assisting members with issues, attending meetings and many other issues that can pop up during the day. I know some think we only attend a meeting once a week but this is a 24/7 job and a lot of what board members do does not get advertised to the public. Enjoy your retirement — you deserve it!

Anyone who reads the papers and listens to the news knows we have an epidemic of addiction in our communities. I am going to make this one of my top priorities to assist our health care staff in finding ways to bring about our own treatment center so we can get our communities back on the path of healing. We are losing an entire generation to addiction and suicides. This addiction consumes people's lives and those around them. It destroys families! I know our local drug programs are trying their best but I don't see an improvement in our community. It seems like it is getting worse. We need to heal the individuals who are addicted and then hopefully, when there are no more

costumers, the dealers will go away. I know it sounds like a far reaching plan but the one in place right now isn't working.

I'm happy to report our new CEO has come on board. One of the comments he made when he introduced himself is that he plans on working weekends. Anyone who has ever wanted to make a business work knows if you want to make a company successful you need to work it yourself alongside your team members.

If you have any questions or comments you can contact me at (906) 203-6083 or at kkgavelle@saulttribe.net.

Thank you,
Kim Gravelle

Thank you for re-electing me as Unit I director



**JENNIFER MCLEOD,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

make our elections possible. Too often, theirs is a thankless job, and I want them to know their hard work was noticed AND APPRECIATED.

I especially want to thank my family, my two sons, Ian and Sean. Both of you helped your mother in ways beyond your knowing. My sweet granddaughter Alana, always the watchful one, and quick to give a hug and an "everything is going to be okay, grandma." Supportive calls from my mother, Carleen, and my brothers and sisters (Judy, Larry, Kathy, Dennis and Patty) made all the difference during the hectic election months. But my greatest debt of gratitude goes to my husband, Dennis Tyson. He tirelessly put up signs, peeled labels, stamped postcards, chauffeured me around while I worked the phone, watched me get attacked by a dog while going door to door, then took me to urgent care. He loved me through the days of not enough sleep, too much fast food, lack of clean laundry, character assassinations on Facebook and a contest to the election. He stood with me no matter what and fully supported every decision I made. His strength and stability are a blessing to ALL who know him, but especially to me. There is not a "thank you" big enough

for all he has done.

Now that the election is concluded, it is time to focus on the needs of our tribe. As you may know, I received the endorsements of six of the primary candidates: Chuck Cook, Angela DeClue, Helen Wilkins, Sam Gardner Jr., Janice Frye and Janet Liedel. I wish to honor their willingness to step up to leadership and will be meeting with all of them regularly to learn of their perspectives and visions for our tribe. Working together, we can do great things for our people.

I want to announce I have once more rented an office at Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center. It is a great place to work with easy access for parking and also allows me to hold after 5 p.m. appointments. I do not have set office hours, due to attending lots of out-of-office meetings, however, if you stop by and I am not in, I am very glad to set appointment so that we can meet. My office is on the second floor, in the Chi Mukwa administrative offices, 2 Ice Circle Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

As I begin my second term,

communication and greater transparency are the first areas I am focusing on. I have already begun locating meeting places throughout Michigan for quarterly gatherings. They will start with a culture and language activity for children, followed by a meeting for adults. I feel it is important for our members to have face-to-face access to their representatives and this will make it easier for that to happen, especially for those who are not living in the service area. These gatherings are not "official board meetings" nor are they "unit meetings." These are simply gatherings I am setting up on weekends, at my expense (not the tribe's), so I can speak with and listen to our citizens. My website and public Facebook page will also have more information posted to them for the benefit of our people.

There are many changes our tribe needs to make, but we must remember how far we have come and not lose sight of the good things that DO exist. The political circus that our entire country seems to be caught up in can make it difficult to see there

are many GOOD people doing GOOD things. I am proud of the people working for our tribe, doing their best to make the lives of others better. From attending to the basic needs of food, housing and medicine, to those of recreation and entertainment, our tribe is filled with hard-working individuals doing the best they can to improve our quality of life. For them, I am very grateful.

Moving forward as a tribe, let us always remember those who came before us and the sacrifices they made so we could remain Anishnaabe. Let us devote our time to doing good things for each other. May we not get swept up in the negativity of the world and instead live our lives in that good way given to us by our Creator.

Miigwech,
Anishnaabe gagige
(Anishnaabe for always),
Jen, (906) 440-9151
jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com
website: <http://jmcleodsaulttribe.com>
facebook: Jennifer McLeod – Sault Tribe

Thank you for donations for Sugar Island Powwow



**DENNIS MCKELVIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

team members at the casino too numerous to name, for the donations to buy all the lumber for the new drum arbor at the Sugar Island powwow, and the volunteers who built it — Skip, Jamie, Joey, Andrew, Nathan and Dan.

We're dedicating the arbor to Cecil Pavlat for 20 years of volunteer work doing every odd job over the years at the Sugar Island Powwow to help make it a success and upon his retirement from the powwows.

From great people like all of the above, Sugar Island has been a success and getting bigger every year.

This goes to show what teamwork and volunteerism can get done in and around our tribe.

I'd like to give a big "thank you" to the Bar and Beverage staff, Keno staff, and other

Anita Nelson says "thank you"



(Editor's note: At press time, Anita Nelson had been elected to represent Unit V, but had yet to be sworn in at the July 21 ceremony.)

I would like to express my appreciation to all the tribal eligible voters in the Alger and Marquette Unit V service areas for electing me to the office of director. I'm looking forward to serving you for the duration of this election term. I also would like to especially thank the

Sault Tribe Board of Directors and Chairman Payment for their decision to have a "special advisory election" to fill the vacancy rather than appointment someone the people may not have wanted. I thank the other candidates for running a clean respectable campaign. Hope to see all of you at our meetings and special events.

Anita L. Nelson
Unit V Director
anelson1@jamadots.com

Applications sought for 2016-17 Special Needs Scholarship

Sault Tribe offers one \$1,000 scholarship to a member with documented physical or emotional disability under the age of 18. The scholarship must be used for education purposes.

Eligibility requirements:

- Enrolled Sault Tribe member (copy of enrollment card required);
- Letter from individual or parent/guardian stating intended use of the scholarship.
- Itemized list of expected costs of education items and intended use of entire \$1,000.
- Letter from physician, mental health or special education professional documenting disability of applicant.
- Complete and submit higher education application, W-9 form and copy of applicant's tribal card.

Deadline to apply is Sept. 1, 2016. Late applications not accepted. Email or fax all documentation to bmacarthur@saulttribe.net to apply or call (906) 635-7785 or mail to Sault Tribe Higher Education, ATTN: Brandi MacArthur, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Use same contact information to get answers for questions.

It is recommended applicants save documentation of having sent items to our office.

Denise Chase updates Unit IV constituents



DENISE CHASE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Francis Hospital, Superior Walk In and Family Health Clinic in Marquette, Munising Memorial, War Memorial Hospital, Mackinac Straits Hospital and Helen Newberry Joy Hospital for acute and urgent medical conditions.

Health staff has already been meeting with elder committees across the service area and will be providing handouts and more advertising to inform members on how to access this service if needed. You will be informed on exactly what steps you need to do to use after hours urgent care.

I would like to thank the Ad Hoc Committee members and tribal board for approving this access to health care initiative for the rural and underserved areas.

Manistique: Chief solo dentist

It was reported to us by Rural Clinic Director Marlene Glaesmann that the chief solo dentist position is still vacant and they continue to advertise for and recruit dental candidates to fill the vacancy. We were informed there would be more interviews scheduled soon with dental candidates interested in the Manistique

position. Access to dental care services is critical for outlying areas and rural residents. Currently, we have a visiting locum dentist provider who can only provide dental services one week a month throughout the summer because of her prior commitments. This is a hardship on our rural families, elders and youth who are waiting to receive needed emergency and dental care. So I am hopeful that we get a candidate to accept the position out of the next round of interviews. If not, I have already voiced my concern that a dentist will need to come down from another clinic to fill in or suggested the tribe contract with a local dentist to catch up until a provider is in place.

Date change: Manistique board meeting

PLEASE NOTE: The board of directors meeting date was changed from July 19 to July 26, in order to allow board members to attend the BIAs Partners In Action 2016 Conference being over July 19-21. The conference is sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs – Midwest Region and

co-hosted by the Sault Tribe at the Sault Kewadin Casino.

Now that the election is over, the board will certify the election results on Thursday, July 21, and the incumbents and newly elected board members will take their oaths of office. Now we will move forward and get back to business. I would like to say congratulations to the new board members, Anita Nelson and Michael McKerchie, and to the returning chairman and board members!

To Cathy Abramson, I wish you a happy and healthy retirement!

Youth health survey

In the near future, parents will be receiving a letter from Sault Tribe Community Health informing them they will be asking tribal youth between the ages of 12 to 18 to take an online survey.

It's up to the parents if they want their child to participate in the survey or not.

The survey questions pertain to the youth's health, lifestyle and habits. The answers to the survey will be used for planning new programs in the community.

I would like to say megwetch

to everyone who attended the Manistique Gathering of the Clans Powwow. Everyone I talked to had a great time.

I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up, clean up and worked during the powwow. We couldn't do it without all of you volunteering and your help.

Viola and the powwow committee are going to be doing a thank you and she will name all the individuals who helped make the powwow such a success, so I won't mention those names here as I don't want to miss anyone, they will be listed in the thank you.

The powwow is organized by the committee who works for weeks in advance preparing for the powwow and throughout the weekend.

Thank you to Viola Newdow, Mary Jenerou and Darcy Marrow for the work they do on the committee, preparing for and working throughout the powwow.

Thank you – If you need to reach me, please call 203-2471.

Denise Chase, vice-chair

After hour urgent care
Marlene Glaesmann, rural clinic director and Bonnie Culfa, health director, were happy to report to the Ad Hoc Committee that they have signed service agreements with all seven of the hospitals/clinics in the seven-county service area. When the tribal health centers are closed (after hours and weekends) members will now be able to access clinics at either Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital, St.

Hoffman: We need to get our house in order



DJ HOFFMAN
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

It is amazing what one can find by reading old unit reports and articles in the tribal paper. It can provide a glimpse of the views of former and current elected officials in relation to their current opinions on those same matters. These reports are often filled with rhetoric on the bad board and the good chair (or the bad chair and the good board) and often times the written opinions of those individuals change. The irony is that, regardless of the time period, all are members of the board pursuant to the Constitution whether perceived "good or bad."

The board is the governing body of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. As such, they adopt laws, policies, regulations and budgets. One can hardly complain about items or authorizations that they themselves approved and, conversely, one individual cannot take sole credit for successful endeavors that take the support of the majority of the board's approval and support.

I am a member of the board and as such I am also responsible for the actions taken by the board of directors whether I am in favor of such actions or not. If one is fortunate enough to serve as a member of the board, they cannot take credit when times are good and cast blame when they are bad. We must "get our house in order." The board must work together to

restore a sense of respectability to our tribe. I would ask that you please encourage your elected officials to start focusing on proactive approaches to enhance the tribe, stop with the rhetoric, and start focusing on getting things done.

CEO

On July 11, 2016, Michael Olujic commenced operating as the Kewadin Casinos CEO. This hiring followed the tribe's employment process and the candidate was selected by an external independent selection panel and ratified by tribal board resolution.

Our casinos are the driving force behind the majority of our non-grant Tribal Operations revenues. Currently, the revenues generated from our casinos have been in a state of decline. I am hopeful that the new CEO will be able to structure our operation in a manner that increases revenues and overall profitability free of the constraints of Tribal politics.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The threat of substance abuse has been historically prevalent within Indian Country. As a tribe we need to do more, and focus more upon prevention and treatment of this affliction. Often times substance abuse issues result in criminal prosecution and incarceration. While this is one option, it does not provide treatment or prevention from this affliction.

When the tribe sends an individual to jail there are court costs, as well as the tribal financial obligation to hold these individuals within local jails (we do not have our own). We should be looking at developing our own inpatient treatment center to tackle this issue head on. The funds earmarked for incarceration could just as easily be utilized for treatment. Our former medical center in Wetmore sits vacant and unused and could provide an excellent possibility in the development of such facility.

In addition to treatment, we need to do more to prevent this threat to our communities. We need to provide more opportunities

for our children, more focused learning, cultural programming, fitness, and more. These things can be accomplished with our current funding by collaboration and proper planning. We have the tools to make a difference; it is time that we started using them.

TRIBAL LABOR LAW

The tribal board, over a year ago, authorized the administration (without objection) to bring forward a proposal regarding the implementation of tribal labor law. I strongly support implementing tribal labor laws to ensure that employees are protected from unfair practices that are occurring within our tribe. In addition, and tribal labor laws adopted should include the proper "teeth" to ensure tribal board adherence to policies and procedures of the tribe for the betterment of all involved.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In each and every report I write, I will continue to list economic development as a major emphasis. I have, and will continue to stress, the need to diversify economically. To ensure that we are able to diversify, we must adopt plans, and embrace opportunities outside of the realm of casinos. In addition, the tribe needs to ensure that its business approaches are separated from its tribal politics.

Resolution 2015-43, Developing and Economic Director position, and a subsequent budget modification, funded it for FY 2015 as well as FY2016. This step was a positive move towards our tribe actually diversifying and enhancing our current and future business enterprises. Unfortunately, the position has not been filled.

We are in dire need of structure within our enterprises and an individual to lead the charge into diversification. Currently, we do not have this type of structure. The tribe's existing businesses fall under the Chief Financial Officer.

The tribe has many opportunities for diversification. There are existing businesses with positive

cash flow that the tribe should consider targeting. The combination of the tribe's tax-exempt status and the businesses existing cash flows would enable the tribe to diversify exponentially. We do not need to re-create the wheel, nor do we have to swing for the fence on every type of business venture that we partake in.

WE NEED to move forward in finally filling this position so that a qualified Economic (Development) Director can move us forward. Too often the excuses made for our lack of attentiveness to economic development and diversification has been that, "We can't afford to do that." The tribe cannot continue to depend upon the funding of its casinos as its main revenue generator. We need diverse income streams to ensure our tribe's future. The tribe has many talented tribal members, as well as the resources to ensure that this diversification occurs. The governing body just needs to take the time to make this a priority. I will be placing this item once again on a tribal board agenda to expedite the matter.

HR AUDIT

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors approved a resolution to audit the performance of the tribe's Human Resource Department. Human Resources is the central hub for all employment-related actions: pre-employment, hiring, discipline, retention and termination. As a tribe, we need to ensure that these areas are performing in an optimal manner and in accordance with adopted policy to ensure that all employees are treated in an equitable manner. The audit will address the strengths and weaknesses within the department so that they may be assessed and addressed. The RFP for the audit is currently posted and closes July 27, 2016.

PLANNING

Our tribe needs to develop and adopt both short-term and long-term plans within our governmental structure, as well as our

enterprise structure. Without proper planning, there is no reasonable manner with which to gauge our tribe's needs, successes, failures, goals and objectives.

In the upcoming month, I will be proposing adopting legislation that will require that no budget may be approved without a detailed plan in place. Stability for our tribe can be found in long-term planning, economic diversification, and open communication with our membership, and "right-sizing" the tribe so that we operate efficiently in the present and future.

To do this your help is needed. Encourage your representatives to adopt both short-term and long-term plans for the tribe. Encourage your representatives to budget for more than one fiscal year at a time to ensure financial stability. Encourage your representatives to engage in economic development activities instead of merely talking about them. Hold representatives accountable for following adopted tribal policies, rules and regulations.

ELECTIONS

I congratulate all of the newly elected members of the tribal board of directors as well as to thank those that put forth tremendous efforts to serve our tribe.

I thank Director Abramson for her years of service to the tribe and all of the work she put in over the years representing our people.

In closing, I will continue to push forward with members of the board that wish to be progressive.

I will also continue to work with members of the board to ensure that we become innovative in our approach to economic diversification, membership services, and stepping out of the non-progressive box that we appear to be confined to.

Sincerely,

DJ Hoffman

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Tribal email: djhoffman@sault-tribe.net

Personal email: djwhoffman@hotmail.com

Photos of BIA Partners In Action conference



Above, Amber Ebarb, a program manager for the National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center speaks to some of the attendees of the fifth annual BIA Partners In Action conference as other officials look on. The conference took place at Kewadin Casino and Convention Center over July 18-21. Left, Shirley M. Gain, attorney, former tribal judge and administrator, and project director for the Minneapolis Native American Center since 2013, conducts a break-out workshop on the state of American Indian equality. Below, one of several other workshops simultaneously in progress. The 2017 BIA Partners In Action conference appears planned for Minnesota.

Photos by Rick Smith



A gentleman gets help gathering information from the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, a national organization that helps Indian nations and people to recover and control their rightful homelands.



Sault Tribe member Sharon Downs displaying a bounty of crafts she had available for sale at the conference. She was one of several vendors working the event.



From left, Dr. Kim Winton, director of the U.S. Geological Survey South Central Climate Science Center and Hailey Hehn of the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center readied to help others understand critical issues involving Mother Earth.

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