

# Win Awenen Nisitotung

"One Who Understands" • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Waabagaa Giizis  
Leaves-Turning-Color Moon

## Payment on list of White House nominees

**BY RICK SMITH**  
SAULT STE. MARIE — President Barack Obama recently announced the selection of seven nominees for key administration posts. The chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors, Aaron Payment, is among them.

"I am confident that these experienced and hardworking individuals will help us tackle the important challenges facing America, and I am grateful for their service," said Obama in an Aug. 26 announcement. "I look forward to working with them."

Payment is appointed to membership on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the council consists



Photo courtesy the White House  
**Tribal Chairperson Aaron Payment  
U.S. President Obama at the White House.**

of 15 American Indians appointed by the president from lists of nominees furnished by Indian tribes and organizations. Council members serve as special govern-

ment employees to provide advice and recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Education. The council receives travel expenses to attend two meetings each year, but an appointed designated federal official for the council may call other meetings and at least eight members must attend to constitute a quorum.

Payment indicated an appointment would not have expiration and the council meets once a year in person in Washington, D.C., along with a few other times in conference calls and hearings are conducted from time to time throughout the country. He noted his nomination came after his involvement in sessions with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian

Education (BIE) on reforming the BIE.

When the vacancy came up, the National Congress of Indian Affairs made the nomination as Payment serves on the NCAI Human Resources Committee and Education Subcommittee.

Reflecting on the task of the council and responsibility of council members, Payment said, "The position directly advises the Secretary of Education on issues affecting Indian Education like Title VII Indian education funding, Johnson O'Malley and Impact Aid. While 8 percent of Indian education is managed through the BIE, 92 percent of Indian children attend public schools. Real systemic change needs to focus not only on those programs and initiatives under the

auspices of the BIE, but also for the mass majority of Indian children in the public schools.

Payment, 50, also serves as National Congress of American Indians Executive Board Secretary and Midwest Vice President, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes Vice President, on the Health and Human Services Secretary's Tribal Advisory Board and the Levin Center Advisory Board at Wayne State University, as well as, involvement with the President's My Brothers Keeper Initiative and Generations Indigenous.

Along with serving as the chairperson of the tribe's board of directors since 2012, Payment served on the Sault Tribe Board of Directors From 1996 to 2004  
*See, "Payment," Page 3*

## Tribal elder Fannie Aslin going strong at 93

**BY BRENDA AUSTIN**  
Petite and soft-spoken, Fannie Aslin is 93 and still taking care of herself and her two small dogs, living in tribal housing in Newberry. Sitting at her kitchen table with her dogs around her, she reminisced about her life and how the tribe has been there offering help and support throughout the years.

Although she is very independent, she recently decided to give up driving due to nerve damage in one of her feet. Since then, her daughter, Roberta Chippewa, who lives nearby, takes her shopping and to any appointments she might have.

Fannie was born in a logging camp and is the oldest of six children (four boys and two girls) born to parents Frank Maddix and Caroline DeRusha. Because she wasn't born in a hospital, her mother had to testify that Fannie was her daughter in order to get her a birth certificate.

Of the six siblings, four are

still alive today. Every Sunday, when she was a child, the family visited her grandmother's house where a scoop or two of ice cream was always waiting for them. "My grandma made the best donuts and my aunt made cookies. So we

always had something sweet to eat," she said. Her grandmother lived on a farm, and when they stayed overnight for a visit she remembers her sisters and brother and herself sharing one bedroom with four beds. Her grandfather passed away when she was about

3, and she remembers her grandmother once setting the grass on fire to make it go green and accidentally catching the barn on fire. With no fire trucks, she said, the barn just burned down.

The family didn't have indoor plumbing until the late '40s,

when Fannie was about 17. Other memories that came to mind included pumping water for washing, using an icehouse at the farm for food storage, and making their own dandelion wine and beer. She said they also used

*See "Fannie," page 13*



Photo by Brenda Austin  
**Fannie Aslin with her dog Ladybug**

### Assistant Executive Director Sought

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians seeks qualified applicants to fill the position of Assistant Membership and Internal Services Executive Director.

The Assistant Membership and Internal Services Executive Director assists with overall administration of governmental services activities to ensure tribal staff and resources are aligned with the mission and goals of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The position is responsible for providing oversight and guidance on special projects as directed. The position is responsible for building and maintaining mutually

supportive relationships with internal and external stakeholders.

A qualified candidate will possess a Bachelor's Degree in Public or Business Administration. Minimum of 5 years of experience in fiscal and program management and working with federal grants and contracts is required. Minimum of 5 years of supervisory experience is required.

Direct Inquiries to:  
Sault Tribe Human Resource Department  
2186 Shunk Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 635-7032  
Or apply online: [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com)

### Economic Development Director Sought

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians seeks to fill the position of Economic Development Director.

The Economic Development Director performs advanced professional work leading and promoting the business and economic development interest for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. This position will include supervision of all enterprises excluding casino operations.

The position will be responsible for developing strategies to enhance, create and build the Tribe's economic development and revenue diversification activities, including the complex analysis of data related to planning, financing, tax incentive packaging, marketing and business assistance programming. The position would be responsible for developing long- and

short-term economic and community development goals.

Qualified applicants must possess at minimum: Bachelor's Degree required, preferably with specialization in economic and community development or a related field. A Master's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Public Policy, or Economics is desirable; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience is acceptable. Minimum of 5 years of business, economic or community development, experience is required.

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# Secretary of Commerce highlights diversifying tribal economies in Indian country

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker visited the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) and met with Native American leaders and students the end of July to discuss how the government can help tribes further empower themselves to create a stronger more diverse economic future.

Pritzker said the Department actively seeks to partner with Indian country by offering programs aimed at expanding trade and investment, promoting tourism, growing Native-owned businesses, diversifying tribal economies and preparing the next generation for leadership and success through education and training.

The Secretary's trip included a meeting with officials from four tribes, including the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians chairperson Aaron Payment, Unit II Representative Catherine Hollowell and Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan Inc. representative and Unit I board member DJ Hoffman.

Pritzker also toured the Great

Lakes Composites Institute owned by the Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) and constructed with funding from the Commerce Department and Bay Mills Community College where an investment by the Commerce Department in broadband technology has allowed the college to reach students beyond its local community.

She also took time to speak with Sault Tribe and BMIC high school and college students about their aspirations and how they felt the federal government could help them reach their goals.

"It was great to talk with the students about their aspirations and the vision they have for themselves; whether it's to be a veterinarian or a Marine, a photographer for National Geographic, or an animator or lawyer, artist or baker," she said. "We are very focused on skilled workforce training and making sure the skills that young people are getting match the needs of their communities. So it was a really robust conversation with a wide range of folks."



Pritzker said there was quite a bit of interest in the census and making sure that the census is getting an accurate count of the population of Native communities. "One of the things in our trust responsibility as the federal government certainly begins with making sure that we get the census right, because that is so much of the foundation of funding and support for these communities," she said.

Pritzker said they talked about economic development

grants and planning, and she was impressed with the businesslike nature of the leadership of the tribes that she met with, and their focus on wanting to diversify their economy and thinking of places where the federal government could help bridge a gap. One of the concerns she heard in the U.P. from tribal and business leaders is that too much of their economics is dependent on the tourism industry.

According to Pritzker, tribes were also very interested in the Commerce Department's U.S. Export Assistance Centers, which are entities located in the U.S. and Pritzker said she believes there are four in Michigan. Their job is to help companies that have products they want to export figure out where in the world those products are competitive. The Commerce Department also has foreign commercial service officers in about 75 countries around the world that help companies navigate their local economies.

"One of the examples of the work we have done with Native stakeholders includes a long-standing memorandum of understanding with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to attract tourism and sales from abroad," she said. "That would

be an example of the kind of role we could play. We could also help companies if they have products they want to export by giving them assistance as to what markets to approach and how to navigate once they are in those markets."

Some of the services available through the Department of Commerce include: the Minority Business Development Agency, which has six business development centers in high Native population areas to spur growth and job creation; the Economic Development Administration, which has provided nearly \$48 million in assistance to tribes for infrastructure projects and planning; and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which has delivered about \$1 billion in broadband grants to tribes.

The Secretary said the Commerce Department has made a strong commitment to partnering with Native American leaders to help create jobs and opportunities that will promote strong and sustainable economies in Indian country and elsewhere.

For more information, visit the Commerce Department's Native American Affairs website at: <http://www.commerce.gov/os/olia/native-american-affairs>.

## Melanie O'Brien new NAGPRA manager

BY RICK SMITH

The U.S. National Park Service (NPS) announced the selection of Melanie O'Brien as the new manager of the National American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Program. Since 1990, the NAGPRA Program helps return ancestral remains and artifacts held by federally funded agencies and institutions to American Indian tribes. The law is administered by the NPS as a component of the U.S. Department of the Interior, which is vested with the responsibilities in implementing the law.

O'Brien joined NPS as a NAGPRA Program officer in January of 2012. Among a roster of other duties, she served as a technical advisor and primary contact for tribes, museums and federal agencies. She also wrote, edited, collaborated and prepared about 200 items for publication in the Federal Register every year. Further, she presented complex regulations into plain language for brochures and other documents and materials.

She coordinated and presented NAGPRA outreach and training to NAGPRA programs to over 600 people every year in addition to developing presentations for webinars, teleconferences and conferences.

Before joining the NPS, O'Brien was an adjunct professor of humanities at Strayer University at the Washington, D.C., campus for nearly seven years. She worked for about four

years as docent, curator, archivist, author and manager for museum programs in Illinois and Washington, D.C.

"I'm excited to lead the National NAGPRA Program and hope to raise the level of productive discourse about NAGPRA and to support the many people who are working so diligently to implement the letter and the spirit of the law," O'Brien said in an announcement. "I look forward to continuing to build productive and supportive relationships with all NAGPRA constituents."

According to the NPS, O'Brien has experience in American Indian public policy through nine years of conducting research for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice and has a master's degree from Loyola University Chicago and a bachelor's from Carleton College in Minnesota.

## LSSU seeks Upward Bound services coordinator

Lake Superior State University seeks qualified applicants for the position of services coordinator to work in the Upward Bound office.

For a complete job posting and application, visit us online at <https://jobs.lssu.edu>.

The position is open until filled. LSSU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages a diverse work force.

## BREASTFEEDING | THE GOAL

By 2025, increase to at least 50% the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months

WHY IT MATTERS

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

BENEFITS OF BREASTFEEDING

1 2  
3 4  
5 6

Babies who are fed **nothing but breastmilk** from birth through their first 6 months of life get the **best start**

Exclusive breastfeeding provides babies: **the perfect nutrition** & everything they need for healthy growth and brain development

**Protection** from respiratory infections, diarrhoeal disease, and other **life-threatening ailments**

Protection against **obesity & non-communicable diseases** such as asthma and diabetes

LIMIT FORMULA MARKETING

**WHAT?** Significantly limit the marketing of breastmilk substitutes

**HOW?** Strengthen the monitoring, enforcement and legislation related to the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

SUPPORT PAID LEAVE

**WHAT?** Empower women to exclusively breastfeed

**HOW?** Enact six-months mandatory paid maternity leave and policies that encourage women to breastfeed in the workplace and in public

STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS

**WHAT?** Provide hospital and health facilities-based capacity to support exclusive breastfeeding

**HOW?** Expand and institutionalize the baby-friendly hospital initiative in health systems

SUPPORT MOTHERS

**WHAT?** Provide community-based strategies to support exclusive breastfeeding counselling for pregnant and lactating women

**HOW?** Peer-to-peer and group counselling to improve exclusive breastfeeding rates, including the implementation of communication campaigns tailored to the local context

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Globally, only **38%** of infants are exclusively breastfed

Suboptimal breastfeeding contributes to **800,000** infant deaths

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To learn more about breastfeeding, call Sault Tribe Community Health at the locations below!

Sault Ste. Marie (906) 632-5210	Munising 906 387-4614	Newberry 906-293-8181	Escanaba (906) 786-2636
Manistique 906 341-8469	St. Ignace 906 643-8689	Hessel (906) 484-2727	Marquette (906) 225-1616



# Fasting camp set for Oct. 1-6

The staff of the Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program hosts the annual fall fasting camp on Oct. 1-6 at the Mary Murray Culture Camp on Sugar Island.

Fasting is one of the many ceremonies tribes have practiced for thousands of years and it continues today.

In the past, community elders would take young people out to fast in order to help them find their direction in life.

Today, as revival continues with our cultural traditions and ways of healing in our communities, more Native people are seeking answers through the fasting ceremony.

Fasting is for everyone. Some

go on their first fast for guidance, help with direction in their lives or when becoming a young adult, and others do it during times of change, such as becoming parents, venturing into new careers or other life opportunities and changes, some fast for regular maintenance or with a focus on their spiritual health.

Reasons to fast are as many and personal as those who fast.

The Traditional Medicine Program hosts fasting camps every spring and fall. To learn more about the camps, please call Tony Abramson Jr. at (906) 632-0236, Kim Vallier at 632-5268 or Peggy Holappa at 632-0220.

# Sault Tribe jobs

For Sault Tribe employment opportunities call (866) 635-7032, email [stemployment@saulttribe.net](mailto:stemployment@saulttribe.net) or apply online at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

## Governmental openings Sault Ste. Marie and Kincheloe

Diabetes program manager, full time/regular, open until filled.

Staff pharmacist, full time/regular, open until filled.

Project coordinator, full time/regular, open until filled.

Telecommunications-network technician I, full-time/regular, open until filled.

Cook (Elder Services), part time/regular, open until filled.

Inland fish and wildlife assessment biologist, full time/regular, open until filled.

Data analyst, full time/regular, open until filled.

Economic development director, full time/regular, open until filled.

Assistant membership and internal services executive director, open until filled.

Executive assistant/membership liaison, full time/regular, open until filled.

## Other communities

Community Health nurse (St. Ignace), part time/regular, open until filled.

Chief solo dentist (Manistique), full time/regular, open until filled.

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

Physician supervisor (Munising), full time/regular, open until filled.

## Kewadin Casinos opening

Marketing director, full time/regular, open until filled.

Linda at (906) 440-7252 or Suzy at 248-3545 for more information.

## Third Annual Hogs for Hope

— Families Against Narcotics (FAN) is sponsoring a fundraising pig roast on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 1-7 p.m. at the Sault Armory in Sault Ste. Marie.

Tickets are \$10 at the door. There will be pulled pork, live bands, silent auction, bake sale, pie contest and a 50/50 draw.

Kids six and under eat free. All proceeds go to FAN of Chippewa County.

E-mail [chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org](mailto:chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org) or visit [www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org](http://www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org).

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

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

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

# Recovery Walk Sept. 24

The 2015 Recovery Walk is set for Thursday, Sept. 24, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Sault Ste. Marie from St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church to the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center.

This is the fifth annual walk sponsored by the Tribal Court and Sault Tribe Behavioral Health to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders as well as to spread the message that behavioral health is essential to overall wellness.

Prevention works, treatment is effective and people do recover from mental health and substance use disorders.

Everyone is invited! The family event features the walk, craft tables for kids, games and prizes, motivational recovery speakers and a cookout.

All participants in the walk meet in the parking lot at St. Issac Jogues, 1529 Marquette Avenue, at 4 p.m. for registration. Walk begins at 5 p.m. First 150 registrants receive



Participants in the 2013 Recovery Walk.

a free T-shirt.

Anyone unable to participate in the walk is welcome to go directly to the recreation center at 5 p.m.

Questions? Please Call Sault Tribe Behavioral Health at 635-6075 or Pat McKelvie at 635-7741.

This event is supported by the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, SAMHSA, Access to Recovery, Tribal Court,

Sault Tribe Behavioral Health, and people in and supportive of recovery. It is supported by award number 2010-AC-BX-0024 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs. The opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed at this event are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice.

# Environmental offers buckets for safe mercury collection

The Sault Tribe Environmental Department received mercury collection buckets from the US Ecology and Great Lakes Restoration partnership for Mercury Free Michigan. These free buckets provide safe containers to drop off items containing mercury. At the end of September, these buckets will be sent for proper recycling of this dangerous element.

Mercury is a toxic gas that can cause serious health risks if exposed to its fumes or high levels are ingested. It is highly recommended for the safety of your family and pets that you

properly dispose of devices containing mercury. It is commonly found in thermometers, old non-electric thermostats and gauges, such as those on dated medical devices. Look for the silver liquid inside the aforementioned items to determine if they contain mercury or call the Environmental Department for help.

If you have any items that contain mercury and would like to recycle them, these buckets have been provided at the following places across the tribe's service area:

- Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Center

- St. Ignace Health Center
- Manistique Tribal Community Health Center
- Munising Rural Health Center
- Newberry Tribal Community Health Center
- Hessel Tribal Community Health Center
- Escanaba Community Center
- Environmental Department building in Sault Ste. Marie

If you have any questions about this program or what to recycle, please don't hesitate to call the Environmental Department at 632-5575. This program ends on Sept. 30.

# Obama appoints tribal chairperson to national council —

*From, "Payment," Page 1* and was deputy executive director/judicial branch division director in 2001-03. Earlier in his career, he taught political science and Native American studies courses and performed grant administration at Lake Superior State University. He also worked as a federal-state policy administrator and assistant to the tribe's executive director in the early 1990s. At Northern Michigan University, Payment was a dean's

assistant in the Dean of Students Office and a minority retention coordinator in 1989-90.

Payment received a Bachelor's of Science and a Master's in Public Administration from Northern Michigan University and is currently a doctoral candidate.

Other council membership nominees: Doreen E. Brown, National Advisory Council on Indian Education; Jay C. Shambaugh, Council

of Economic Advisers; Joan McDonald, National Infrastructure Advisory Council; Lisa Funderburke Hoffman, National Museum and Library Services Board; Carmen Amalia Corrales, Presidents Commission on White House Fellowships and M. Tia Johnson is nominated for assistant secretary for legislative affairs with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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

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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](http://www.saulttribe.com).

**Subscriptions:** The regular rate is \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. Please

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

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# Bill ensures fairness for erroneously discharged vets

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Gary Peters recently announced he introduced a bipartisan bill with Senators Steve Daines and Thom Tillis that would help veterans who may have been erroneously given an administrative discharge from the military, rather than an honorable discharge, due to behavior resulting from mental traumas such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI). Peters, who is a former lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, previously introduced the Fairness for Veterans Act as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act in June.

“Service members suffering from mental health trauma should not lose access to benefits they’ve earned through their service, and they should receive fair due process when petitioning for an upgrade of their discharge status,” said Senator Peters. “I am proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation that supports the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much in defense of our nation.”

An administrative discharge is often given for minor misconduct, including being late to

formation and missing appointments, behavior often seen in those suffering from PTSD, TBI, and other mental traumas. An administrative discharge means service members are ineligible for certain benefits, including G.I. benefits and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home loans.

Senator Peters’ bill will create a presumption in favor of the veteran when petitioning the Secretary of Defense for an upgrade in discharge status based on medical evidence certified by the VA.

“Veterans who received less than honorable discharges while suffering from undiagnosed PTSD or TBI must be granted the opportunity to have their discharges reviewed in a way that gives full consideration to their mental health wounds as mitigating factors. The VFW fully supports this legislation, and we thank Senator Peters for its introduction,” said Raymond Kelley, VFW National Legislative Director.

“DAV is pleased to offer our support for the intent of this legislation that would provide wounded, ill and injured former service members with less than honorable discharges a more

humane process toward discharge reviews, affording them a better opportunity to correct any administrative determinations in instances in which PTSD and TBI may have generated behavioral abnormality,” said Disabled American Veterans (DAV) National Commander Ron Hope.

Peters has been a strong voice in Congress for Michigan’s veterans and service members. Earlier this year, he introduced legislation with Senator Joni Ernst that would extend for five years a tax credit for small businesses that provide differential pay to military reservists and

National Guard members called to serve on active duty. Peters also cosponsored the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, bipartisan legislation signed into the law by the President to improve mental health care and suicide prevention programs for veterans.

## Upper Peninsula county office hours for veterans seeking services (DAV transportation, burial, benefits, trust fund applications)

Service officers’ offices are in county buildings.

County	Service officer	Start hour	End hour	Days of week
Chippewa	Service officer	8:30 a.m.	4:30 p.m.	(5) M-F
Mackinac	Service officer	9:00 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	(1) W
Luce	Service officer	8:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	(2) T & Thu
Schoolcraft	Service officer	9:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	(3)T - Thu
Alger	Service officer	8:30 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	(1) T
Delta	Counselor	1:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	(4) M - Thu
Marquette	Service officer	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	(5) M-F
Dickinson	Service officer	8:00 a.m.	4:30 p.m.	(5) M-F
Menominee	Service officer	8:30 a.m.	4:30 p.m.	(5) M-F
Iron	Service officer	9:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	(2) W & Thu
Houghton	Service officer	9:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	(5) M-F
Ontonagon	Service officer	9:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	(1) W
Goebic	Service officer	8:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	(5) M-F

In Sault Tribe's service area, two offices remain open Monday through Friday: Chippewa County and Marquette County, leaving five counties with limited access to veterans’ services. To offset the access to service officers, Sault Tribe and other tribes in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan are working with the American Legion to provide two additional service officers in Indian Health Service facilities.

## Tribe collaborating for better access to veterans service officers

BY NICHOLE CAUSLEY

Sault Tribe health centers now have veterans service officers.

The tribe partnered with the American Legion to provide service officers for outreach and help for veterans, widows and family members of veterans who may qualify for services.

Application processes can be difficult and lengthy for people to navigate and service officers are there to help. All veterans and widowed spouses of veterans are encouraged to make appointments to meet with representatives to learn if they are eligible for benefits.

To help connect veterans, tribal veterans, widows and family members of veterans, the Sault Tribe Health Department provides spaces and resources for accredited service officers in each of the tribe’s six clinics across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. These services are free to all veterans.

The American Legion hired two service officers, Josh Brewster and Theresa Castile. Josh Brewster is an Air Force veteran who previously worked as the Schoolcraft County veterans service officer. Theresa Castile is also an Air Force veteran who currently works for Northwoods Home Nursing.

Ron Munro, volunteer tribal veteran liaison, continues to provide veterans outreach activities at community events.

The clinics expanded data collection efforts aimed at getting a more accurate count of tribal veterans using the tribe’s health services across the U.P. and Michigan. Baseline data collected so far identifies 87 tribal veterans

currently using one of the clinics.

Receptionists at the clinics now ask clients about their veterans status (thank you, receptionists!), allowing for self-identification of our tribal veterans.

A growing concern among northern Michigan tribes is that tribal veterans, living in rural areas of the U.P. are hours from the nearest VA facility, neither identified nor receiving VA benefits. This health concern is in addition to the growing concern about health access for tribal veterans, particularly those close to health facilities but have to travel three hours to be seen at a VA center for treatment.

Currently, the estimated number of tribal veterans in the U.P. is estimated at 1.5 percent (2006) of Michigan’s veteran population, totaling an estimate of 9,877 throughout Michigan. Michigan’s veteran population, according to the Veteran Administration website, is 658,469 (2014), with 9,877 of these veterans as tribal veterans.

Sault Tribe health data sets indicates the percentage of veterans is higher, however it is also early in the data collection process. From January to June 2015, 84 tribal veterans in the CHSDA area have been identified.

For more information on veterans services available, please contact Josh Brewster at (906) 202-3196 or Theresa Castile at (906) 286-3776.

*Nicole Causley is a planning specialist with the Sault Tribe Planning and Development Department reporting for the Sault Tribe Health Department.*

## U.P. Veterans Services



- ✓ Expanded Hours
- ✓ New Veteran Service Officer

Working with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation has secured space in tribal clinics in the eastern and central Upper Peninsula.

Contact Veterans’ Service Officers Josh Brewster (906-202-3196 or 341-8469) or Theresa Castile: (906-286-3776) for more information.

EFFECTIVE MAY 14:

**2nd Thursday of the Month**

Starts May 14

Escanaba Health Center  
1401 N. 26th St., Suite105, Escanaba  
(906) 786-2636

**2nd Friday of the Month**

Starts May 15

Sault Tribal Health Center  
2864 Ashmun, Sault Ste. Marie  
(906) 632-5200

**3rd Thursday of the Month**

Starts May 21

Newberry Tribal Health Center  
4935 Zeez-ba-tik Lane, Newberry  
(906) 293-8181

**3rd Friday of the Month**

Starts May 22

Sault Outpatient Clinic  
509 Osborn Blvd, Sault Ste. Marie  
(906) 253-9383

**Fourth Thursday of the Month,**

Starts May 28

Munising Tribal Health Center  
622 W Superior, Munising  
(906) 387-4721

**4th Friday of the Month**

Starts May 29

St. Ignace Tribal Health Center  
1140 N State, Suite 2805, St. Ignace  
(906) 643-8689

EFFECTIVE JUNE 4:

**1st Thursday of the Month**

Starts June 4

Manistique Tribal Health Center  
5698 W Hwy US-2, Manistique  
(906) 341-8469

**1st Friday of the Month**

Starts June 5

Sault Outpatient Clinic  
509 Osborn Blvd, Sault Ste. Marie  
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# Supporting the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

There is a bill waiting to be taken up by the full Senate (S. 248) that would promote tribal sovereignty by affirming the rights of tribal governmental employers to determine labor practices on their lands.

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs reported on S. 248 favorably (June 10) out of committee, but they have yet to file their report. Soon after, the Native American Enterprise Initiative (NAEI) transmitted a coalition letter in favor of the bill to the full Senate requesting their quick action that was signed by the Chamber and more than 70 other organizations. Leaders and organizations from across Indian Country are also voicing their support in the form of letters of support and by adopting resolutions.

The companion bill in the house – H.R. 511, can now also be taken up by the full House at any point in time because it was marked up and approved recently in the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. An amendment, or substitute to H.R. 511, has been offered to more clearly define “employer” and adopt a short title for the Act, cited as “Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015.”

The two bills differ slightly and it is not yet known when one of the bills might be taken up by either of the chambers.

S. 248 builds upon the principle that when tribal sovereignty is respected and acknowledged, economic success will follow. S. 248 would also prevent overreach by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) into the sovereign jurisdiction of tribal governments. The bill would ensure that tribal ordinances relating to labor practices would be respected by amending the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to treat tribal government employers and their enterprises and institutions the same as local, state and government employers.

Sault Tribe Chairman Aaron Payment on June 10, wrote an email in support of S. 248. He said, “I just spoke to this issue on a White House council call with Secretary Jewell and Assistant Secretary Washburn. I explained that it is not a matter of being anti labor, as our benefits are competitive. I shared that my tribe’s health insurance is equal to the premium plan under the affordable care act, and that our benefits across Indian country demonstrate we don’t need a third party to pierce our sovereignty. I echoed NCAI President Claadoosby’s comment that if the administration can’t verbalize support, then please remain neutral.

“But I also indicated that everything we have seen in the administration in modernizing the trust responsibility suggests they should support the Tribal Labor and Sovereignty Act,” Payment said.

The coalition letter written by the NAEI states that, “In 1935, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) was enacted to ensure fair labor practices, but excluded federal, state, and local govern-

mental employers from its reach. Though the Act did not expressly treat Indian tribes as governmental employers, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)

respected the sovereign status of tribal governmental employers for close to seventy years before reversing course in 2004. “Since its decision in San

Manuel Indian Bingo (341 NLRB No. 138, 2004), the NLRB has been aggressively asserting jurisdiction over tribal labor practices when it determines tribal govern-

ment employers are acting in a “commercial” rather than a “governmental” capacity – an analysis it does not apply to state or local government employers.”



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### ESCANABA AREA

Escanaba Tribal Health Center  
(Adult Only)  
Friday, Oct. 2 ..... 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 9 ..... 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### HESEL, DETOUR, DRUMMOND AREA

Hessel Tribal Health Center  
Thursday, Sept. 24 ..... 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
(Diabetes Day)  
Monday, Oct. 12 ..... 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-4 p.m.  
DeTour Municipal Hall  
Thursday, Oct. 15 ..... 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Drummond Island Twp Hall  
Thursday, Oct. 22 ..... 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Hessel Tribal Health Center  
Monday, Oct. 26 ..... 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-4 p.m.  
Hessel Casino  
(Employees Only)  
Thursday, Oct. 29 ..... 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Hessel Tribal Health Center  
Tuesday, Nov. 3 ..... 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-4 p.m.

### MARQUETTE AREA

Marquette Tribal Health Center  
Tuesday, Oct. 6 ..... 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 13 ..... 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 20 ..... 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 27 ..... 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### MUNISING AREA

Munising Tribal Health Center  
Wednesday, Oct. 7 ..... 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 21 ..... 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### NEWBERRY AREA

Newberry Tribal Health Center  
Tuesday, Sept. 29 ..... 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-4 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 15 ..... 2 – 4:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Nov. 3 ..... 2 – 4:30 p.m.

### SAULT STE. MARIE AREA

Sault Tribe Health Center  
(Diabetes Day)  
Tuesday, Sept. 29 ..... 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Sault Elder Care Meal Site  
(Adult Only)  
Monday, Oct. 5 ..... 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Sault Tribal Health Center  
Friday, Oct. 9 ..... 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 16 ..... 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Sault Kewadin Casino  
(Employees Only)  
Wednesday, Oct. 21 ..... 8:30 – 4  
Sault Tribe Health Center  
Thursday, Oct. 29 ..... 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Wednesday, Nov. 4 ..... 1 – 4 p.m.  
Thursday, Nov. 12 ..... 1 – 4 p.m.  
Tuesday, Nov. 24 ..... 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### ST. IGNACE AREA

McCann School  
(Elders Only)  
Thursday, Sept. 24 ..... 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Shores Casino Tent  
(Diabetes Day)  
Thursday, Sept. 30 ..... 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
St. Ignace Tribal Health Center  
Wednesday, Oct. 7 ..... 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 14 ..... 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 21 ..... 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Kewadin Shores Casino  
(Employees Only)  
Thursday, Oct. 28 ..... 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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Munising Tribal Health Center at ..... 387-4614  
Newberry Tribal Health Center at ..... 293-8181  
Sault Community Health Program at ..... 632-5210  
St. Ignace Tribal Health & Human Services at ..... 643-8689



# Bills would reform *No Child Left Behind Act*

BY RICK SMITH

The No Child Left Behind Act passed in 2001 with the intent of boosting learning among elementary and secondary school students, including disadvantaged students, as well as increasing academic accountability in schools. Some have become dissatisfied with the law, calling it unfair and ineffective.

Congressman recently introduced legislation in the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate to make significant changes in the No Child Left Behind Act.

Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education,

Labor and Pensions, introduced S.1177, the *Every Child Achieves Act*, while Representative John Kline of the House Education and the Workforce Committee introduced H.R.5, the *Student Success Act*.

The Senate measure passed on July 16 with an amendment by a ye-a-nay vote of 81 to 17. According to official sources, the *Every Child Achieves Act* addresses accountability and testing requirements, distribution and requirements for grants, fiscal accountability requirements, teacher evaluations along with grants for language instruction and American Indian students

among other matters. Moreover, according to an announcement from Sen. Alexander, the bill would strengthen state and local control of accountability systems, address student maintain achievement information for all concerned, end federal test-based accountability, protect federal taxpayer funding, help states fix lowest-performing schools and support teachers along with reaffirming the states' role in setting education standards.

The *Student Success Act* addresses similar issues in protecting state and local authority and passed the House on July 8.

Alexander said the entire

Senate education committee came to a consensus that they must, "continue the law's important measurements of academic progress of students but restore to states, school districts, classroom teachers and parents the responsibility for deciding what to do about improving student achievement."

For his part, Kline noted priorities in Washington, D.C., have outweighed what those concerned with the local schools know is best for their children. He called the Congressional bills important steps in a "bold, new direction. I'm pleased the House has advanced respon-

sible reforms that would give the American people what they deserve: a commonsense law that will help every child in every school receive an excellent education."

He further indicated passage of the *Student Success Act* moves closer to replacing a flawed law that doesn't deliver on its promise. He added, "I look forward to continuing this important effort and I am confident – as we have shown in the past – we can find common ground and send a bill to the president's desk that will have a lasting, positive impact on America's families."

# Fed launching center to help tribal prosperity

BY RICK SMITH

The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis recently unveiled the new Center for Indian Country Development. Its purpose is to help self-governing tribes and individual members of self-governing tribes in its district to reach economic goals. The bank's district covers Montana, the Dakotas, Minnesota, northwest Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In all, the district covers 45 Indian reservations.

One of 12 regional banks of the Federal Reserve System, commonly called the Fed, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis is an active participant in setting national monetary policies, supervising banking organizations and providing an array of services to financial institutions and the federal government. The new center is, essentially, a prototype organization, which is hoped to expand nationwide.

The center is in a fledgling stage. It appears co-directors, Sue Woodrow and Patrice Kunesh, are sorting out priorities and are working on building organizational bridges with Indian Country and others involved in the economic development of tribal

nations.

"We are so excited about our new center and what we hope to do," said Woodrow in a webinar on Aug. 17. "It's been a long time that we've been building toward this." She explained the Minneapolis Fed has slowly been increasing its involvement in Indian Country community development since the early 1990s. In that time most of their efforts revolved around outreach and trying to understand the issues and barriers involved.

Kunesh said, "I'd like to see the center be a catalyst for economic development, thinking and problem solving, to be a premier provider of information and data and a new voice at the table, to foster relationships, to explore new and innovative ways of promoting economic financial success."

According to Richard Todd, a bank vice president, the center is likely to address all concerns in Indian Country including issues with land, personal loans for private businesses, education, housing and many other challenges.

Kunesh, a descendent of the Standing Rock Lakota, has over 20 years experience in federal



Patrice Kunesh (left), Richard Todd and Sue Woodrow.

government positions working closely with Indian Country, according to Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President Narayana Kocherlakota. "I am confident that her experience and her leadership will further enhance our efforts to help self-governing communities of American Indians attain their economic development goals," he noted in an announcement. She previously served as deputy director of rural development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Woodrow has 25 years of experience with the Federal



Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and has background in studying law and education. Further, she an assistant vice president and executive of the Minneapolis Fed branch office in Helena, Mont.

The center is working in concert with a leadership council, which consists of 10 eminent



figures in finance and Indian Country organizations, including National Congress of American Indians Executive Director Jacqueline Johnson Pata.

Todd has served with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis for 35 years and will act as advisor to the center.

# Court denies second restraint try on DNR land sale

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The U.S. District Court for western Michigan denied a second motion for a temporary restraining order to prevent representatives of the State of Michigan to approve the sale of land in the Upper Peninsula that plaintiffs assert treaty rights recognized in a decree.

In the case of plaintiffs Phillip C. Bellfy, et. al. vs. defendant Keith Creagh, Bellfy and other

members of Sault Tribe sought a temporary halt to stop Creagh, as director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, from selling surface and mineral rights to 2,614 acres of land in the eastern Upper Peninsula to Graymont LLC for limestone mining and processing.

According to the court order, plaintiffs are concerned the sale of the land would adversely impact their rights to use the land

if placed in private ownership. The order indicates the plaintiffs did not describe in detail if or how they use the land involved in the transaction. It appears at the very least, however, plaintiffs may be concerned with hunting, inland fishing and gathering rights as established in the Treaty of 1836.

The court denied an earlier petition in the case to temporarily stop the sale on April 16.

# Member starts treaty awareness movement

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

David Gaskin, 32, Sault Tribe member and grandson of Native rights activist Rosemary Gaskin, has started a new movement called "Treaty Awareness," he wants all tribes in the nation to join. He starts for Washington, D.C. on Sept. 19 to walk to there from Rexton, Mich. — the site of the hotly opposed Graymont limestone mine.

He is also involved in "Occupy Rexton" with Bay Mills

Indian Community member Wayne Carrick.

His movement is about more than Graymont and Enbridge's Line 5 under the Mackinac Straits, both of which are environmental dangers in our 1836 Treaty ceded territory. His movement is about uniting the tribes. He is traveling, talking and blogging to all Native Americans. On Aug. 28 he was in Kentucky.

His goal — treaty awareness.

Gaskin says the tribal nations can unite under one common goal. "After 150 years, we need to bring our treaty rights to everybody's attention and try to achieve unity between all tribes," he said.

He is trying to load up all the tribes' treaty issues on his website, [www.treatyawariness.com](http://www.treatyawariness.com).

The site includes a donation link to Gofundme, a link to his Facebook.

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# Pushing entrepreneurship in Indian Country

By Rick Smith

From an inaugural "Demo Day" hosted by the White House to federal officials visiting individual tribes, the U.S. government recently highlighted existing programs and announced new commitments backing Indian Country entrepreneurial and innovation efforts by tribes and individual members. Successful private and tribal business operations in Indian Country have proven to be the surest paths to long-sought individual prosperity and strong tribal self-sufficiency as demonstrated by tribes such as the Seminole of Florida and the Winnebago of Nebraska.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker visited officials and youth from tribes of the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan on July 31 to convey the message that fostering thriving entrepreneurship and innovation in Indian Country is a high priority for President Barack Obama and top federal officials. A few days later, on Aug. 4, Obama hosted the first-ever White House Demo Day focusing on diversity in entrepreneurship. The administration unveiled an array of new commitments in support of "inclusive entrepreneurship" and announced over 140 winners of multiple competitions fostering new businesses.

Further, the event featured program updates and new opportunities available through private companies, universities, non-profits and other organizations.

Anyone in Indian Country harboring interest in embarking in self-employment or creating an



Photo by Rick Smith

**ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT** — These two youngsters worked on a classic American small business model for children over the summer. A casual observation indicated they demonstrated some keen business savvy by setting up shop in a high traffic location on the edge of the Sault reservation, giving their operation high visibility and a large pool of potential clients. Their marketing strategy incorporated nearby stop signs allowing motorists time to read their eye-catching main sign, a secondary sign providing amplifying information, ample parking and big, friendly smiles. From left, Mason Krull, 11, and Makenna Corbiere, 13, offered two varieties of cool, refreshing lemonade along with popsicles. A cup of the pink lemonade bought for research purposes proved to be most enjoyable, demonstrating finesse on another critical business issue — that of having a quality product. Along with whatever revenue was generated, the duo gained some first hand experiences in starting and operating a small business.

economic conglomeration should go online and seek the array of opportunities available through the federal agencies and other entities. The possibilities are too numerous to list here. Good place to start? Go to [www.usa.gov/start-business#item-37087](http://www.usa.gov/start-business#item-37087) and learn how to launch a business or non-profit.

According to the White House,

the Demo Day is part of the president's Startup America initiative to boost high-growth entrepreneurship throughout the nation. Traditionally, a demo day is closely associated with golf and it is an event where golfers may learn about and try different golf clubs. At the White House Demo Day, aspiring and active entrepreneurs

were invited to show their stuff as well as learn about aged and new funding sources and other support options available to them through the federal government.

Among the many new measures announced, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office announced the expansion to all 50 states of the Patent Pro Bono Program, which provides free legal services to help disadvantaged inventors in securing patent protection for their inventions. The program is part of a growing range of initiatives by the office to render aid to a broader range of entrepreneurs, initiatives such as discounted fees for small and micro concerns, a program to help inventors who file patent applications without employing a patent attorney and the opening of regional Patent and Trademark offices.

Pritzker also convened a Commerce Department "Open for Innovation" event where over "80 startups met with large firms to discuss how to solve their business challenges with innovations from new companies. The Commerce Department will catalyze additional actions and activities around this theme throughout the remainder of the Obama administration," according to the White House.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) introduced the Business Smart Toolkit, described as a ready-to-use workshop toolkit to help aspiring entrepreneurs in building "credit-ready" business. The SBA developed the kit with the National Association

for Government Guaranteed Lenders and it includes over 10 national organizations helping to use the modules through local workshops across the country.

Expansions were announced for the Innovation Corps (I-Corps) program started in 2011 by the National Science Foundation. The program provides entrepreneurship training for scientists and engineers who receive funding from the foundation. Expansions include programs supporting entrepreneurship in the fields of health, national defense, agriculture and training.

The Department of Energy announced a commitment of training 100 undergraduate and graduate science, technology, engineering and math students in its Minority Energy Internship Summer Partnership Program in technology transfer and entrepreneurship with the goal of introducing at least 1,000 students from all backgrounds to careers in their respective fields.

Among the interesting competitions for aspiring entrepreneurs is the SBA Startup in a Day competition. It aims to help those who want to start businesses by reducing the time and trouble it takes in getting through local red tape to one day or less. Competition is done in two categories: the Start Small Model awards 25 prizes of \$50,000 each to cities or American Indian tribes, and the Dream Big Model awards \$250,000 to towns and tribes that can develop solutions that could be freely replicated in other communities.

## TOURNAMENTS

**Video Poker - SAULT STE. MARIE**  
September 18-20

**\$22,500 Mega Bingo**  
KEWADIN SAULT STE. MARIE  
September 19

**Blackjack - SAULT STE. MARIE**  
September 25-27  
Seeded \$200 per registered player

**Pinktastic Spin to Win - ST. IGNACE**  
October 2 & 3  
Portion of proceeds goes directly to Breast Cancer Awareness

**Keno - SAULT STE. MARIE**  
October 2-4

**\$22,500 Mega Bingo**  
KEWADIN ST. IGNACE EVENT CENTER  
October 17

**Pinktastic Spin to Win - SAULT STE. MARIE**  
October 16-18  
Portion of proceeds goes directly to Breast Cancer Awareness

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# Notes of gratitude for help and kindness

## Thanks for Sault Ste.

### Marie powwow help

The Sault Tribe Summer Powwow Committee thanks the following individuals for or all their hard work: Clyde Bonno, Joe Nolan, Marcie Smith, Wendy Belleau, Mik Frechette, Joey Ailing, Judy King, Kevin Willis, Michelle Nalett, Samantha Grossett, Ashley Hackworth, Ruth Hackworth, Maggie Lane, Brandi Fish, Dillon Aikins, Makenzi LaVictor, Anthony Cress, Marie Richards, Max Boyer, Troy Boyer, Daniel Boyer, Les Ailing, Joe Ailing, Justice Ailing, Brendan Shipman, Owen Nolan, Lance Sylvester, Mikena Sylvester, Bill Bouschor, Barb Willis, Sault Tribe Construction; Sault Tribe purchasing, maintenance, entertainment and bar/beverage departments; YEA Program, DJ Hoffman, Kim Gravelle, Denny McKelvie and family.

Chi miigwech to Neil McCoy for all his volunteer work done during powwow time, not only this year but over the past three years.

## Thanks for help with Sugar Island powwow

The Sugar Island Powwow Committee thanks everyone who helped during the 19th annual powwow.

We want to extend a heart-felt

thank you for your commitment to making this event so successful.

Gchi miigwech to Joe and Becky Parish, Mick Frechette and family, Denny McKelvie and family, Cecil E. Pavlat Sr. and family, Joe and Colleen Medicine, Sam and Dan Gardner, Leonard Kimewon, Neil McCoy, Leslie Ailing and family, James McKerchie, Jamie McKelvie and family, Jim "Frisky" Young, Shannon Larson, Tessa Keshick, Brendan Shipman, Mckenna Sylvester, Tyler Bouschor, Owen Nolan, Anthony Cress, Justice Ailing, Joe Ailing, Joey Ailing, Deb Pine, head staff and flag carriers, vendors, drums and dancers.

Gchi miigwech to all of our sponsors, including, but not limited to, Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and all the individuals who continually provide support throughout the year. Please know that partnerships with our sponsors are vital to the success of our annual powwow.

We apologize if we have forgotten to include anyone on this list.

We appreciate all the help given leading up to, and over powwow weekend.

It is truly an honor for the committee to plan and work the annual Sugar Island Powwow.

Baamaa miinwa niibing ka waaminim!



## Thanks for cemetery project help

The Wequayoc Planning Project, funded through an Administration for Native Americans grant, is set for completion on the grant end date of Sept. 29. A group of tribal members worked hard to complete the last two objectives of the grant. In July, a tribal board resolution for the Wequayoc Cemetery policy was approved and, in August, a resolution for

the ordinances was approved. The ordinance allows for the establishment of committees with their own policies and procedures for current and future Sault Tribe-owned cemeteries.

We would like to thank each member who helped to complete the project. Thanks to the Wequayoc Committee for providing guidance during the project, 330-plus Sault Tribe members who provided input and thinking, 190 members who took the pre-survey, all elder

sub-committees for allowing us to gather data during their meetings, board of directors for allowing us to engage the broader tribal community as part of this project, the Grand Tribal Youth Council and the Cultural Committee for reviewing the information and supporting our efforts and consultants Alan Barr, Bill Brown and Larry Jacques.

Without community support and participation, this project would not have been a success.

— Tribal Administration staff

## Thanks for kindness

Words alone cannot express our gratitude to our family and friends during our father Larry's illness and death.

Thank you all for the support, love, and sharing of memories at the celebration of his life. Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

— The McKechnie family, Prinny, Michelle, Nikki, Chris and Tyler

## Peters cosponsors voting rights legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Gary Peters recently announced that he is cosponsoring the Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore and expand voting rights protections to prevent discrimination of voters.

The Voting Rights Advancement Act establishes a new nationwide preclearance

formula that applies to all states, and examines repeated voting rights violations over a period of 25 years. This 25-year review period continuously rolls so that only states with a recent history of discrimination are required to submit changes to election laws for preclearance.

Preclearance would apply to states that have a history of vio-

lations within the review period. States with 15 violations at any level of jurisdiction, states with 10 violations including one statewide violation, or any political subdivision with three or more violations are subject to preclearance.

The state of Michigan would not be immediately subject to statewide preclearance.



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# EUP students join others at the first White House Tribal Youth Gathering

BY RICK SMITH

Students from the eastern Upper Peninsula attended the inaugural White House Tribal Youth Gathering in Washington, D.C., on July 9, joining over 1,000 young American Indians representing over 230 tribes from 42 states. The conferences are part of the president's Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) initiative to help improve the lives of Indian Country youth through their own leadership.

The youngsters were audience to first lady Michelle Obama and top administration officials who encouraged them in taking the lead to bring positive changes in their communities. Further, speakers asked the assembled to have faith and confidence in the abilities of the federal government to help them. "Everyone in this room has your back," Obama told them.

Brimley Area Schools instructor Sonja Killips escorted one group of students to the gathering. She indicated the idea for the gathering formed after the president and Ms. Obama saw the dire daily conditions people, especially young people, must cope with on an Indian reservation in South Dakota. "The Gen-I Challenge was established to empower tribal youth, for them to take the initiative to make the changes they see that need to be done around their communities," she said. Students were required to accept and meet the challenge in order to be invited to the gathering.

While the challenge and becoming involved seemed intimidating at first, Killips said she and the students went to work brainstorming on projects and how to get the wherewithal for a trip to the White House. "Not only was this the first tribal youth gathering hosted by the White House, it was the first time I escorted students to anything of this magnitude," she said. "The fundraising efforts were comparable to a marathon," she added.

After a week of considering the community and where positive changes might help, the students reached a consensus. "Chemical dependency is a big problem in our community, like it is in so many others," said Killips. "My students thought if there was a youth group that would be supportive, educational and fun, they could work together as well as mentor younger children. Making good choices as a group effort."

She said they also envisioned health fairs and career expos to expose young people to potential

goals and positive choices. The students saw such possibilities as ways to influence decisions in youngsters "that will affect their future, so we think they are very important."

Killips indicated the students are working to establish both of these ideas for the coming school year with Dan Reattoir, school principal and superintendent of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District. "The ladies of Bright Futures are already a very active group in their school and social groups," she noted, "so I am excited to see what they will be able to accomplish."

Brianna Mae Lyons, was one of two Sault Tribe members who attended the conference with the group, the other was Morgan Osborn. "Going to Washington, D.C., has been a life changing experience," said Lyons. "Meeting other Native American youth from around the country, even the world, was really incredible. I got the chance to learn about their struggles in their communities, and realized that our community deals with the same types of issues. With this first annual White House Tribal Youth Gathering, we all had the chance to come together and to, hopefully, change the lives of all Native youth around the world." Other students in the group were Delaney Walden, Autumn Aikens, Logan Carrick, Adele Healy and Mallorie Kronemeyer.

Other Sault Tribe members from the area who attended the gathering were Derek Bouschor Jr., Erick McKerchie Jr. and Holli Carrick, sponsored by Malcolm High School in Sault Ste. Marie. "As with all of the things they do with their involvement in the community, they'll bring back what they've learned to share with the other students," said Sandy Sawyer, the school's principal.

Matt Wyers and Olivia Wyers of St. Ignace attended the gathering with Sault Tribe Community Health educators Heather Hemming and Colin Welker, sponsored by the Sault Tribe Partnerships to Improve Community Health Project with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Their student project tied in with the Community Health efforts to curb and prevent tobacco use. "Seeing Michelle Obama speak and address tribal youth was a once in a lifetime time experience," said Welker. "We're



**Brimley delegation to the White House Tribal Youth Gathering in Washington, D.C. on July 9.**

very grateful to have had this opportunity and we're excited to see our youth develop into leaders and address the dangers of commercial tobacco in our community."

Killips expressed gratitude to those who supported the adventure for the students from Brimley High. "For without them, we would not have been able to attend," she said. The sponsors and supporters of the Brimley entourage were Bay Mills Community College, Bay Mills Indian Community, Brimley Area Schools PTO and Booster Club, Bay Mills Resort and Casino, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Wilcox Fisheries, Mel's Fireworks, Mark's Tire, Picture This Photography, Soo Co-op Credit Union, Four Season's Market, Bay Mills Indian Community Maintenance Department, Lupine Fest, Bay Mills veterans powwow, Sandra Waukazoo, Shelly Deuman-LeBlanc's Gadget Repair, Center for Native American Youth, UNITY, Hannahville powwow, Nicole Miller, James Burns, Elaine Schuster, Erica and Bryan Newland, Fletcher Law, all the hard behind-the-scenes work from Beverly Carrick and Kris LaPine, as well as Sault Tribe powwow for allowing a blanket dance to repair some vehicle vandalism.

"If I forgot any of our sponsors, I am truly sorry," she noted.



**Delegation from Sault Ste. Marie.**



**St. Ignace delegation.**

# AAIA names new executive director

BY RICK SMITH

The oldest national American Indian non-profit advocacy organization recently named a new executive director. The Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA) announced Kimberly Dutcher accepted the post. Dutcher is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and a graduate of the Sandra Day O'Conner College of Law at Arizona State University.

A former AAIA scholarship recipient, Dutcher served the Gila River Indian Community in legal and managerial positions for nine years before taking the position with the association.

Dutcher replaces Jack Thorpe, the long-time executive director who took a post with Casey Family Programs in Denver, Colo., according to the association.

Frank Ettawageshik, a

renowned and respected member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians of Harbor Springs, is an officer on the association's 10-member board of directors, who hail from across the United States.

The association started in New York in 1922 as the Eastern Association on Indian Affairs to help a group out west to protect their lands. It grew and incorporated other organiza-

tions with similar goals and, in 1946, adopted the current name.

The organization played important roles in developing laws such as the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and the Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act. It has also fostered organizations to protect American Indian interests and is a source of scholarships for American

Indian students.

The stated mission of the association is to promote the well-being of American Indians by promoting youth health, education and welfare; sustaining tribal languages and cultures; protecting tribal sovereignty, religions and natural resources; and advocating for tribal rights.

These days, the association has offices in Maryland, North Carolina and South Dakota.



# Sault Tribe members who have *walked on*...

## HELEN J. FISH

Helen Jean Fish (Datsy) of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Aug. 11, 2015, at her home, surrounded by her loving family. Helen was born July 13, 1944, in Sault Ste. Marie, the daughter of Alvin and Helen Fish. She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, enjoyed gaming at the casino, doing jigsaw puzzles, puzzle books, cribbage and bingo, loved sports with Detroit Tigers being her favorite team and her favorite quarterback was Payton Manning of the Denver Broncos.

Helen is survived by her daughters, Yvonne Marie (Craig, Jr.) Scholle of Sparta, Wisc., Georgette Michelle (Michael) Johnson of Maple Grove, Minn.; sisters, Sandra Hall of N. Fort Myers, Fla., Deanna Ryder of Hancock, N.Y., Sherri Brussveen of Endeavor, Wisc., Betty Gravelle, Tina Fish, Marjorie Kavo, Ethel LaBranche, Nancy Cook, Geraldine Bourne, all of Sault Ste. Marie; brothers, Richard Fish and Rodney Fish; grandchildren, Erika Ann Scholle, Elena Marie Scholle of Sparta, Wisc., Christina Helen Johnson, Alex Michael (Elianna) Johnson, Joseph George Johnson, all from Maple Grove, Minn.; and great granddaughter, Charlotte Elizabeth Johnson.

She was preceded in death by her parents Alvin and Helen Fish; sister, Virginia Brommerich; and brothers, Wayne Fish, William Fish and Larry Fish.

Traditional services took place on Aug. 17 at the Niigaa-naagiiizhik Ceremonial Building. Interred at Mission Hill Cemetery.

Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at [www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com](http://www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com).

## JERRY L. LAKE



Jerry Lee "Lako" Lake, aged 50, of Escanaba passed away on June 22, 2015 at his home, due to natural causes.

He was born June 20, 1965 in Manistique, the son of Frank and Mary (Roussain) Lake.

He was a longtime resident of the Escanaba area and worked at Robinson Furniture and Delta Disposal. Jerry was very social and enjoyed being around people. He loved deer hunting, going to the casino and enjoyed working on cars. He was the proud owner of a red 1970 Chevy Nova for many years. He loved his dogs, TyTy and Max. Jerry was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Jerry is survived by two brothers, Larry and Gary Lake, both of Escanaba; niece, Mary Nickerson; nephew, Marty "Ozzie" Novak, both of Beulah, Mich.; and his good friends, Kerry and Ron.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Sarah



Lugg.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the family.

## LARRY O. MCKECHNIE

Larry Owen McKechnie, 71, passed away on Aug. 13, 2015, with his family by his side in Kincheloe, Mich. He was born on Feb. 21, 1944, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Blanche Belanger and Leo (Hoppy) Germain.

Larry was a wonderful musician who enjoyed playing fiddle and guitar with his brothers and sisters. His most cherished moments are memories he made with his children and grandchildren.

Larry is survived by his children, Michelle (Dave) McKechnie, Nicole McKechnie, Christopher (Krystle) McKechnie, Tyler McKechnie, Melissa Matthews and Emily Miller; seven grandchildren, Malorie, Melanie, Christopher Jr., Jaycee, Malina, Jessa and Karleigh; siblings, Robert (Peggy) McKechnie, Barbara Willis, Patty (Gary) Bosley, Sharon Oliver, Bernard Germain, Linda (Dan) Germain, Sandy (Dwayne) Graham, Susie (Terry) Neimi, Janice (Steve) Whitten, Janet (Frank) Germain, John Germain, Edward Germain, Ronald Germain and Luigi Bonno; and very special friend, Prinny McKechnie, with whom he enjoyed spending time.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Blanche Belanger and Leo (Eleanor) Germain; brothers, Jackie Germain, Richard Germain and Kenneth Mongene; and one sister, Cathy Neal.

A celebration of Larry's life took place on Aug. 21, 2015, at the Niigaa-naagiiizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie. Family and friends shared stories, listened to music and held a feast in honor of Larry.

## ROBERT G. MENARD

Robert Gerald Menard, aged 85, passed away on July 24, 2015. He was born on Christmas Day in 1929 and grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

He had great faith and was an active member of his church. He served in the U.S. Navy during July 13, 1948 to Feb.

1, 1951. He and his wife, Joan, raised their children in Appleton, Wisc., and spent many wonderful summers with his family and friends in Sandy Bay, Wisc.

After a long career with the Sherwin Williams company, he and Joan retired in Fort Myers, Fla., spending over 20 fun-filled years in the Horizon Village community.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; children Barbara Joan Dorand, Anne Degrave, John Menard and Janet Menard; brother, Joe Menard; sister, Marlene McDermott; several grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Rose



Menard; brothers, Hector Menard, John "Chum" Menard and other family and friends.

Services celebrating his life took place in North Fort Myers, Fla., on Aug. 3 and in Sault Ste. Marie on Sept. 5 at the St. Mary's Pro-cathedral.

## LESLIE R. MICHALSKI

Leslie Rachele Michalski of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on July 29, 2015, at War Memorial Hospital. Rachele was born on Dec. 8, 1964, in Detroit, Mich.

She enjoyed camping, cooking, gardening, biking and her dogs Gizmo and Ruby.

Rachele is survived by her husband, Dan Michalski; children, Paxton Alexander, Triston Nolan, Donald Alexander, Michael Cootware and Anne Cootware; father, Richard Leroy Holland; siblings, Regina Schumaker, Sandra Smith, Candace Hughes, Richard Holland, Carol Holland and Wendy Holland; grandchildren, Trenton, Wiingush, Myingan, Andrea, Aundrea and Kylor; in-laws, Frank Michalski, Ronald (Linda) Michalski, Darlene (Mike) Krzycki, Eva Wilson and Don (Beth) Michalski.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Delphine Rose Holland, and brother-in-law, Joe Michalski.

Visitation and services took place on Aug. 1-3 at the Niigaa-naagiiizhik Ceremonial Building with interment in Riverside Cemetery.

Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at [www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com](http://www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com)

## ROBERT J. NEELY

Robert "Rob" Joseph Neely, 62, of Marquette, died unexpectedly on July 25, 2015, at his home. He was born on May 7, 1953, to Zane Kroupa and Ann Lockwood and was adopted by Milton and Dorothy Neely of Marquette.

He was raised in Marquette and Gladstone. He was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

He graduated from Gladstone High School in 1972 and attended the University of Wisconsin, Parkside, where he studied landscaping and horticulture.

During his working years, Rob was self-employed in his own landscaping business in Marquette where he created beautiful and colorful gardens. For many years he was a bus driver for the Marquette Head Start program where many of the local Head Start alumni may remember those famous sing-a-longs. Later he worked for the Tecumseh Engine Company in New Holstein, Wisc. He was an adventurer and



had taken cross-country bicycle trips in his youth as well as after his retirement. He built his own houseboat and traveled by water to and from Florida for several winters. He was a dedicated volunteer using his skills to participate in projects including reintroducing native plant species to Grand Island.

Rob was a kind and friendly man with a diverse group of friends. He had many lifelong friends as well as new ones he made during his travels. Rob is thought of by his nephews as the "fun uncle" who always had some kind of adventure in the works for them. Rob was a lover of music, art and science. He was an accomplished artist with a recent focus on copper jewelry making and crafts of his Native culture.

He is survived by his two children, Keif Robert Neely of Escanaba and Amber Rachel Neely of Marquette; former wife, Deborah Lark and the Lark family of Escanaba which includes two of his closest nephews, Sahl Metivier and Obie Metivier who reside in Marquette; sister, Linda Sinnaeve of Escanaba; nephews, Christopher and Jamie Sinnaeve, both of Gladstone.

He is also survived by his biological family who he was reunited with later in life. After his retirement, Rob moved back to Marquette and was able to spend time with the Kroupa and LeVeque families of Munising, meeting and building relationships. They inspired Rob, called him "Neely," and guided him as he embraced his Native culture and his family heritage and traditions. Survivors include aunts, Doloris LeVeque and Juanita (Charles) Marble of Munising; sisters, Julie and Dorothy Kroupa; brothers, Zane and Stephen Kroupa, Timothy James (Pam) Lockwood and Mike Jokipii; and cousins, Mari Beth, Nita Lynn and Kristine LeVeque.

Rob was preceded in death by his grandfather, Harry S. Kroupa, and grandmother, Isabelle Dorothy Carr Kroupa; and an uncle, Art LeVeque of Munising.

A memorial and a celebration

of Rob's life took place on Aug. 15 at his daughter's home in Marquette.

The Canale-Tonella Funeral Home assisted the family where memories may be shared at [canalefuneral.com](http://canalefuneral.com)

## GREGORY A. SLIGER

Gregory Allan Sliger, 50, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died July 31, 2015, in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born May 27, 1965, in Hancock, Mich.

After Greg's birth in Hancock, the family moved around living in Mystic, Conn., Detroit, Ionia and other Michigan cities, due to his father's occupation as a Michigan State Trooper. Greg graduated from Ewen Trout Creek high school and received an associate's degree in commercial arts from Gogebic Community College in Ironwood, Mich. Greg spent nine years working at Grandma Gruder's Restaurant in Bruce Crossing. Settling in Sault Ste. Marie, Greg resided at Edge of the Woods apartments where he was a caregiver for many of his neighbors. Greg had a huge heart and dedicated his time to assisting others in need.

Greg was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and attended the Central United Methodist Church in Sault Ste. Marie.

Greg enjoyed collecting antiques and also restoring them. He tended to a beautiful garden at his apartment complex. Greg also loved listening to music and singing. He was a physical fitness enthusiast who took pride in his physical health and well-being. He spent many hours swimming and working out at the Cisler Center at Lake Superior State University.

Greg is survived by his father, Frederick (Priscilla) Sliger of Trout Creek, Mich.; mother, Marie (Dan Perttula) Sliger of New London, Wis.; twin brother, Scott (Concetta Pipoli) Sliger of Sault Ste. Marie; brothers, Steven (Mary) Sliger of Watton, Mich., and Patrick (Diane) Sliger of Kinross, Mich.; and sister-in-law

See "Walking on," page 11



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# Birth celebrated

OLIVIA C. WAGNER

Kenny and Jenny Wagner of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Christina Wagner, on July 20, 2015, at War Memorial Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20.25 inches in length.

Her grandparents are Dennis and Carmen Wagner, Bob and Roberta Oliver, and Christina Sams and Tom Farnquist, all of Sault Ste. Marie. Her great grandparents are Bill and Dorothy Wagner, Les and Mary Jo Hill and Bill Sams, all of Sault Ste. Marie, Carol and Elmo Smith of

Sugar Island and Dick Remillard of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Olivia is also welcomed by many aunts, uncles and cousins.



# Walking on...

From "Walking on," page 10 Susan Sliger of Sault Ste. Marie.

Greg was preceded in death by his grandparents, Peter and Martha Besonen and Fred "Casey" and Lauretta Sliger.

Services took place on Aug. 7 at the Central United Methodist Church with Reverend Larry Osweiler conducting the service. Interment was at Bruce Crossing Hillside Cemetery in Stannard Township, Ontonagon County, Mich.

R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford, Mich., assisted the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com).

WAYNE F. WACHTER

Wayne Francis Wachter, aged 87, of Marquette, passed away on Aug. 6, 2015, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on July 1, 1928, in Naubinway, to Isadore "Dutch" and Ruth (nee St. Andre) Wachter, and was a graduate of Engadine High School.

A third generation commercial fisherman at both Naubinway and Marquette, Wayne captained his boats, *Mari-Way*, *Gloria* and *Comet*. He also sailed on the steamship *Ashley* in his early years.

Wayne was a member of St. Peter Cathedral, president of the Michigan Fish Producers Association, a member of the Knights of Columbus, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and an active member of the Marquette elders.

Wayne was a family man who enjoyed family get-togethers and attending all their activities. In retirement, he and Mary enjoyed traveling and vacationing in Texas and Lake Wales, Fla., where they looked forward to spring break visits with family members. Wayne thoroughly loved and enjoyed his family and will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Wayne is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary; his daughter, Cynthia Hanson; and son, Michael (Patti) Wachter; five grandchildren, Kevin (Tabitha) Crowley, Jessica (Bryan) Durnion, Meghan (John) Sehl, Toni (Eric) Kucharczyk and Ryan Hanson; and five

great-grandchildren.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation and services took place on Aug. 12 at St. Peter Cathedral with Rev. Msgr. Michael Steber, pastor, as celebrant.

The family expresses their appreciation to U.P. Home Health and Hospice for their extraordinary care of Wayne and the many kindnesses extended to his family. Thanks also to the Munising Tribal Health Center and especially nurse Karen.

The Fassbender Funeral Home served the family and condolences may be expressed online at [www.fassbenderfuneralhome.com](http://www.fassbenderfuneralhome.com).

SHIRLEY A. YOUNG

Shirley Ann (nee McKerchie) Young of Birch Run, aged 77, died on August 6, 2015. Funeral service took place on Aug. 11, 2015, at Martin Funeral, Cremation and Tribute Services in Genesee Township.

Pastor Ron Lucas officiated and interment followed at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, 2312 Lapeer Rd, Flint MI, 48503.

Shirley was born on Nov. 24, 1937, to the late Albert and Louise (nee Talentino) McKerchie, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She has two brothers, William McKerchie (Marilyn) and Doug McKerchie; and a sister, Darlene (Barry) Graham.

Shirley and Richard Young were united in marriage on Jan. 27, 1957, in Sault Ste. Marie. Together they had three children, Greg Young, Mark Young and Heather Hall. Over the years, the family would expand to include three grandchildren, Monte (Kimberlee), Cassandra and Mark Cameron, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Shirley was the owner and operator of O'Tooles Restaurant in Swartz Creek for 37 years. She enjoyed and was well known for cooking, she loved spending time with family and friends, vacationing in Sault Ste. Marie and listening to country music.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents.

# Sault Tribe represented at events in Sault Ste. Marie

BY RICK SMITH

Staff of Sault Tribe services represented the tribe while conducting outreach to members in the community during the annual Downtown Days and Senior Day on Aug. 7 in Sault Ste. Marie.

Tribal veterans service officer, Ron Munro, and Elder Services intern, Emily Higbee, fielded questions and provided information at Avery Square for the Senior Day activities put on by the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency. The event is an avenue for seniors in the eastern Upper Peninsula to learn about area agencies that provide services to help keep them safe and sound.

In the meantime, parent educator Jessica Gillotte of Anishnabe Community and Family Services offered information on becoming foster parents while posted on the asphalt of Ashmun Street while it was sealed off from vehicular traffic for Downtown Days. The annual summer extravaganza featured downtown retailers bringing wares outside in front of their shops, usually with special sales prices. Also on hand was live music, dancing, demonstrations, buskers, bounce houses, a classic car show and a fashion show.



Above: ACFS Parent Educator Jessica Gillotte offered information about fosterparenting. Below: Tribal Veteran Service Officer Ron Munro (left).



## THANK YOU!

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians would like to thank our generous sponsors, our many volunteers and our dedicated committee members who helped make our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic a tremendous success!

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In addition, a special thank you to Rob Lussenhop and his fantastic staff at Wild Bluff Golf Course for their great hospitality!

Classic hosted by Kewadin Casinos & the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.





# Tribal elders treated to annual special luncheons



Photos by Rick Smith

Tribal elders in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Marquette, Manistique and Hessel enjoyed annual special luncheons in August. Above left, Kewadin Casino cook Scott Jady grills steaks for folks to enjoy at the Sault luncheon on Aug. 5, above right. The steaks came accompanied with baked potatoes, sour cream, beans, cole slaw, dinner rolls, watermelon and ice cream sundaes. Beverages served were choice of tea, lemonade or water. Afterwards, a meeting took place followed by some social time. The Marquette luncheon took place on Aug. 8 followed by Manistique on Aug. 19, Hessel on Aug. 26 and St. Ignace on Aug. 28. The Sault elders also announced the winners of the powwow raffle. Earl Rittenhouse won the first place prize, a one-night stay and dinner for two from Kewadin Casinos. The second place prize, a massage from Shelly Kucharczyk of Northern Wholistic Massage, went to Bill Marsh. DJ Hoffman won the third place prize, a Native necklace and music box, which he donated back to the elders. In fourth place, Sylvia Wastesicoot won a massage from Gene Gravelle. Linda Behlmer took fifth and Barbara Snider took sixth, each winning a Midjim gas card and Sault Tribe T-shirt. Dennis McKelvie won the 50/50 draw, which he donated back to the elders.

## Tribal elders invited to elders' meals and meetings

Aaniin, elders (aged 60 years and older),

The elder committees personally invite you to join us for our elders' meals and meetings. It is a great time to meet and socialize with other elders. We gather for different activities throughout the year, activities such as summer picnics, holiday dinners, powwows, playing cards and evening concerts in the Sault.

Besides having a good meal, gathering and socializing, the elders play a very important role in our communities. Attending the meetings keeps us informed about tribal matters. We occasionally have members of the board of directors attend and provide an update on board issues. We also

have the Elder Service Division director attend meetings and provide a report as well as current resources available in our communities. Other Sault Tribe representatives come to inform us about programs offered for elders and cultural activities. We also have very informative non-tribal speakers who give presentations on interesting topics.

Stop by and visit your local elder committee and speak to one of the committee members for more details or to answer any questions you may have.

Elder subcommittees and meeting schedule:

**Unit I in Sault Ste. Marie,** Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 — Monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of every

month after the 11:30 a.m. meal at the Nokomis/Mishomis Center, 2076 Shunk Road.

**Unit II in Hessel,** Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21 — Monthly meeting on the third Monday of every month after the noon meal at the Hessel Tribal Center.

**Unit II in Newberry,** Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18 — Monthly meeting on the third Friday of every month at 11 a.m. before the meal at the Zellars Village Inn, Newberry.

**Unit II in Naubinway,** Oct. 28, Nov. 25, Dec. 30 — Monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Snowmobile Museum.

**Unit III in St. Ignace,** Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11 — Monthly meeting the second Friday of every

month after the noon meal at the McCann building.

**Unit IV in Manistique,** Oct. 14, Nov. 18, Dec. 9 — Monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of every month after the noon meal at the Manistique Tribal Center

**Unit IV in Escanaba,** Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17 — Monthly meeting on the third Thursday of every month at the Willow Creek Professional Building, second floor meeting room, 3500 Ludington Street. Catered meal at 5:30 p.m. followed by the meeting.

**Unit V in Munising,** Oct. 5 and 19, Nov. 2 and 16, Dec. 7 and 21 — Monthly meeting at the

Munising Tribal Center (Lincoln School) on the first Monday of the month, dinner is at 5 p.m. Monthly meeting on the third Monday of the month at 4 p.m., entrance to building is off Munising Avenue (M 28) across from the Legion. Please use the west entrance.

**Unit V in Marquette,** Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3 — Monthly meeting on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn

We look forward to you, as an elder, being involved in your community. You can make a difference!

— Elders of the Sault Tribe service area

## Naubinway elders



**NAUBINWAY ELDERS COMMITTEE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS** — Celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization at a recent meeting in Naubinway on Aug. 26 were, in no order, Kathleen Vogl, Frank Keller, Vern Johnson, Ruth Johnson, Iona M. Shoemaker, Genevieve Wachter, Carl Frazier, Sally Frazier, Arnold Frazier, Lorraine Frazier, Lee Terridge, Karen Frazier, Charles Valle, Marilyn Vallier and guests Lana Causley, Catherine Hollowell and Sheryl Hammock.

## Elder Center dream catcher



Photo courtesy of Elder Service

Sault Tribe Elder Service and elders extend special thanks to Josh Homminga on finishing our dream catcher on the front of the Nokomis/Mishomis Center in Sault Ste. Marie. It has been a long project, it is very handsome and we all are grateful. Chi miig-wetch!

## Hessel Elders picnic



**HESSEL ELDERS ENJOY PICNIC** — Cliff Bruce (above) donated his time and barbeque gear for the enjoyment of the elders. Below, it was a small group with good food.



## Sault elders help school children with supplies



Photos courtesy of Sheryl Hammock

**SAULT ELDERS HELP SCHOOL CHILDREN** — Some of the tribe's elders in Sault Ste. Marie learned of about 17 school-aged youngsters who, for one reason or another, are essentially homeless. Thanks to a generous donation of school supplies from Sault Tribe Board of Directors Unit I Representative Dennis McKelvie, the group has started collecting donations of school supplies, personal hygiene products and snacks and filling backpacks for disadvantaged school children still in need of the items. The elders continue to seek donations, which can be dropped off at Elder Service, 2076 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie. Above, behind a pile of backpacks, are Mary Ruth Gamelin, Christine Armstrong, Betsy Gravelle, Annette King, Theresa Little and Rose Armstrong.

### Munising elders meeting rescheduled

The Munising Elder Committee meeting and meal scheduled for Sept. 7, 2015, is changed to Sept. 14, 2015, due to the holiday.



Submitted by Lana Causley-Smith

**HESSEL SUMMER** — Scenes from this year's Hessel powwow grand entry. Below, a tribal elder smudges some youth.



From "Fannie," Page 1  
to snowshoe to her uncle's house, who lived across a field from them.

Growing up in a small town there wasn't much to do, she said. "We used to go ice skating on a small pond and roller-skating at the local rink. Then an airplane landed in a field close by and everyone was talking about that for a long time. You can still see where it went down. I don't know if it crashed or just had a rough landing."

Fannie and her siblings grew up in Rexton, where she graduated from Rexton schools in the 10th grade. She then took a bus to Newberry High School and grad-

uated in 1940.

She said because she always had hand-me-down clothes, she remembers her 15th birthday especially well. "We had a taffy pull and I got three new dresses that my grandmother made me."

She began working for the state of Michigan as a nurse for the Newberry State Hospital in 1942, where she remained for 33 years. The former state hospital has since been put to use by the Newberry Correctional Facility, which opened in 1996. Many of the original buildings have been renovated and are maintained by the Correctional Facility.

During her time at the state hospital, she said she worked



with mentally challenged patients. "We managed 108 mentally disabled patients with two employees," she said. "We had one patient that I took a liking to and I used to take her to my in-laws with me for lunch. They ended up transferring her and she used to write to me. When she died they called me. I thought that was really nice."

Fannie said she attended meetings in Kincheloe in 1975, when tribal members were working to adopt the tribe's Constitution, which happened that fall. Newberry was granted their first tribal office about the same time (mid-70s), according to Fannie, and she remembers the tribe pay-

ing for utilities at the new center. Certified Health Technician's (CHTs) also started making door-to-door visits to tribal elders in Newberry to check on their health care needs, and Tom Sauro, who was one of the original technicians, is still an employee of Sault Tribe Community Health.

Fannie said she met her first husband, Robert Fitzgerald, when they both worked for the state. He worked in the hospital's kitchen and she worked on the nursing wards. They were married for 25 years and were parents to three daughters and one son, before he passed away in the mid-1960s.

She remarried in 1969. Her second husband was an uncle

to one of her daughter's husbands — John Aslin, to whom she remained married for 25 years until his death.

Fannie stays active and still enjoys knitting smaller items like socks and dishrags. She also likes to read suspense stories.

Community Health technicians from Sault Tribe Elder Care visit her once a month to check on her, and the Sault Tribe Elder Program delivers her Meals on Wheels. She enjoys attending powwows, including the Newberry kids powwow earlier this summer.

"I appreciate everything the tribe has done for my family and I," she said. "Thank you."

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# Walkers for water awareness pass through Upper Peninsula of Michigan on 1,400-mile trek



Water walkers arrive at the International Bridge in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., for the "touchdown" of the water bucket carried on their journey. A veteran of many similar walks, Josephine Mandamin, stands in the front row, third from left. Her son, Gabriel Peltier, an eagle staff carrier on the walk, stands in the front row on the far left.

By Rick Smith

Renowned water advocate Josephine Mandamin and her son, Gabriel Peltier, recently guided the many folks who joined them along their 1,400 mile 2015 Sacred Water Walk from Mantau, Quebec, to Madeline Island, Wisc., to call attention to the importance of protecting the Great Lakes waters, a key necessity for sustaining life in the region. Ms. Mandamin and Peltier are Anishinaabe from the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve of Manitoulin Island, Ont. "The water is sick," Ms. Mandamin is quoted on a poster promoting the walk, "people need to really fight for that water, to speak for that water, to love that water."

Called Nokomis Josephine, Grandma Mandamin or sometimes referenced as the Mother Earth Water Walker, Ms. Mandamin supervised the walk as participants took turns carrying a dimpled copper bucket of water and an eagle staff over segments on each day-long leg of the trek. A core group took turns walking the water and staff the entire length of the journey while others joined the rotation as the group passed through their home areas. The walk began on June 23.

According to coordinator Sandi Boucher in Thunder Bay, Ont., the route of the walk has historical significance. "It is believed to be one of the routes the ancient Anishinaabe took when moving east," she said.

When the walkers arrived in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., the bucket of water and staff were passed to a group of students from Algoma University who carried them across town to the north end of the International Bridge. The core group was waiting at the bridge at about 10:30 a.m. on Aug. 18,

when the students arrived to "touch down" the water and return the items to the core group.

The walkers rode to the Roberta Bondar Pavillion for a welcoming celebration where they enjoyed the company of supporting staff, friends and fans, healthful food, the Big River Drum of the Sault Friendship Center and observed ceremonies.

Early in the pre-dawn hours of the following morning, the walkers crossed the bridge into Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. There they were met by Sault Tribe cultural coordinator Jackie Minton who gave them directions through the half-dozen mostly rural turns the walkers needed to navigate as they left town en route to M-28 and their next stop in Strong's, Mich., about 38 miles west of Sault Ste. Marie.

Later in the evening, the walkers returned to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., in vehicles where they were guests of honor at a feast hosted by the tribe's cultural staff at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building on the reservation.

According to a map on the water walk website, [www.waterwalkersunited.com](http://www.waterwalkersunited.com), the walkers follow M-28 west until they reach the U.S. Route 2 intersection near Wakefield, Mich., which they travel along into Wisconsin.

Ms. Mandamin started walks around each of the Great Lakes and other bodies of water in the region in 2003. A copper bucket containing water was carried on all of the journeys and support surrounding the walks grew as time went on.

Asked if a walk similar to the 2015 may take place next year, Ms. Mandamin said, "No, once is enough."

The estimated time of arrival for the water walk entourage at Madeline Island was Sept. 7.



Arriving at the intersection of M-221 and M-28, about two miles south of Brimley, water walkers Daniela Marine Platero, an American Indian (Nahua-Pipil) from El Salvador now living and working in Canada, and Gabriel Peltier approach the final turn on the road leading to Strong's and most of the remaining miles across the Upper Peninsula.



Above, Big River Drum of the Indian Friendship Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., welcomes the walkers at the Roberta Bondar Pavilion along the shore of the St. Marys River. Below, the water bucket and eagle staff in repose at the Bondar Pavilion.



Photos by Rick Smith



One of the students of Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., who carried the water bucket and staff through town arrives at the north terminal of the International Bridge with the water and bucket in hand for the "touchdown" amid the waiting corps of walkers. Note the global positioning satellite tracking device affixed to the bucket handle, which allowed for the progress of the walk to be observed in real time online on the website [www.waterwalkersunited.com](http://www.waterwalkersunited.com).



With the food-laden tables ready, local elders and the guests of honor are first to take nourishment from a delectable spread laid out for a feast in support of the walkers at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building on the reservation. Members of the community and walk en tourage attending had an opportunity to meet each other and enjoy the comforts of the facility and the provisions.



# Youngsters enjoy annual environmental camp

BY JORDAN JOHNSTON

The Sault Tribe Environmental Department hosted 19 young members at an annual camp on July 28-29 at the Mary Murray Culture Camp on Sugar Island, Mich. Eligible campers chosen to participate focused on environmental science and ecologically friendly practices.

The camp started early on Tuesday morning with a falconry lesson from local falconer Kenn

Filkins. The youngsters and counselors from the Environmental Department were presented with information on the history and current practices of this ancient art of hunting.

Following the presentation, everyone had the opportunity to hold his falcon, Izzy, and be photographed with her.

It was a unique experience for everyone involved and something that will not easily be forgotten.

After the presentation, the campers were each assigned a clan for the duration of the camp. The eagle, loon, turtle and wolf clans all had the opportunity to create a clan flag and decorate backpacks and T-shirts to take home as souvenirs at the end of camp. The rest of the morning was spent hiking through the woods that surround the camp and learning to identify plants native to our area. They were then

able to test out their green thumbs by creating milk jug greenhouses with seeds provided by the department.

Following lunch, the campers split off into their clans to visit education stations manned by members of the Environmental Department. The stations featured Invasive Plants: Education and Identification, Tap and Pond Water: Education and Testing, Emergency Response: Planning and Survival, and Composting: Education and Practice. Each clan had 20 minutes at each station and they were tested on their knowledge in order to earn Clan Cup points, a competition for each group to win a prize and bragging rights at the end of camp.

After dinner, a presentation was conducted on common animal tracks and campers got to use animal track stamps and sand to create prints to study. Later, they were tested on their knowledge for points again, this time in an animal tracks quiz. Many of the campers worked together to get the answers in spite of the fact that they were competing against each other. It was a wonderful example of teamwork and camp bonding.

To cap off the night and all the learning that had taken place earlier in the day, the clans competed in a game of Jeopardy, testing their accrued knowledge from the day. The night was finished with snacks of edible bugs and laughter.

Wednesday morning kicked off with a traditional medicine talk where they were able to create kinnickinnic. After that, everyone was ready to get back outside and

enjoy the beauty of the camp and perfect weather Mother Nature provided for us. The campers split into clans again to participate in a scavenger hunt for points towards the Clan Cup. Clans were challenged to identify and photograph various native plants, trees, animals and various items at the camp. This allowed the campers to refresh the knowledge they had learned the day before, explore nature and learn new information about various aspects of the ecosystem surrounding the camp.

The rest of the day included lunch and a final Clan Cup showdown. The final showdown was a heated trivia battle that saw the turtle clan come out as camp victors for 2015. In the early afternoon the campers packed up and headed home with new knowledge of environmental sciences, ecologically friendly practices and camp memories.

It was a rewarding experience for all involved and the Environmental Department extends gratitude to the members of the Cultural Department as well as all the young members who attended this year's camp. Cultural staff was the definition of amazing hosts and the food provided was incredible.

The campers were perfectly pleasant, well-behaved and smart kids with whom the counselors enjoyed working.

The department also conveys sincerest thanks to Kenn Filkins and Izzy for taking the time to educate everyone on falconry. The entire camp was a rewarding experience for all involved and the Environmental Department is already looking forward to next year's camp.

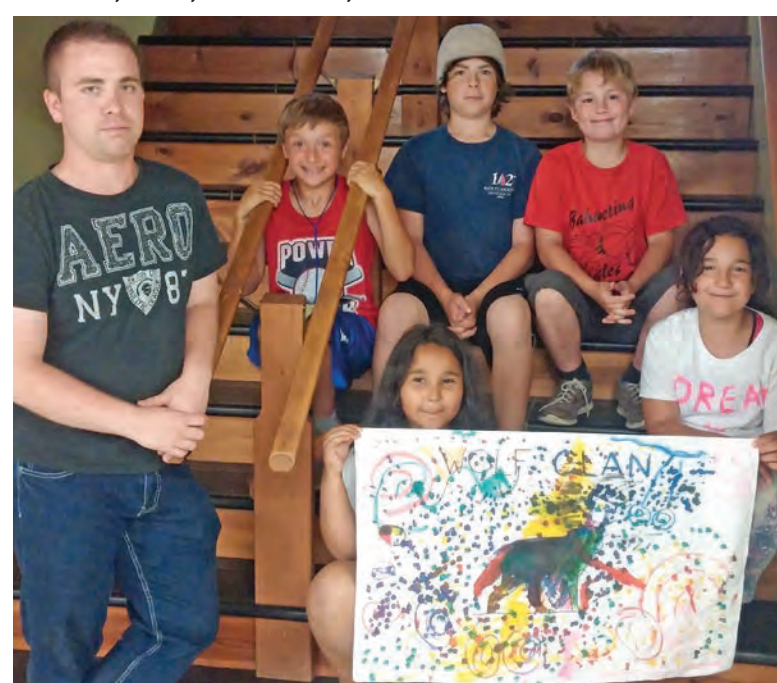


Photos courtesy of Tiffany Escherich

Above, eagle clan on the left and turtle clan on the right at the 2015 Environmental Camp on Sugar Island.



Loon clan, above, and wolf clan, below.



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# Tribal biologists work with state and federal agencies to control sea lamprey in Great Lakes

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Many of us have probably never heard of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, or GLFC, but it plays an important role in the health of the Great Lakes. The Commission was created when the U.S. and Canada signed a treaty in 1955 to cooperate and control sea lamprey populations in the Great Lakes. The Commission also helps coordinate fisheries management and publish scientific findings related to managing inter-jurisdictional fisheries within the Great Lakes basin.

Assessment Biologist Mark Ebener works for the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority's Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program. He says tribal biologists work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Canada, both of which contract with the GLFC to provide sea lamprey control within the Great Lakes basin.

Ebener said, "Our relationship with the FWS and DFO has developed over the past 26 years. We have contracted with the FWS to trap sea lampreys in streams within the ceded territory so they could get population estimates of adult sea lampreys and we have assisted with dye treatments in the St. Marys River that were being used to evaluate the effectiveness of controlling lamprey in the river with chemicals. We regularly use house chemical here that is used in killing larval sea lamprey in the St. Marys River. We have a pretty intimate relationship with the FWS and DFO in terms of lamprey control in the Great Lakes Basin," he said.

According to Ebener, without effective sea lamprey control there wouldn't be the fisheries in the Great Lakes basin that exist today. "The current state of the fisheries in the Great Lakes basin is primarily a function of sea lamprey control. Lamprey populations in the past essentially decimated fish populations in all the upper Great Lakes, particularly species that are important to tribal fishers, such as whitefish and lake trout."

Shawn Nowicki, supervisory fish biologist for the Larval Control Unit of the FWS, said "I know Mark Ebener quite well as a part of the CORA team. We work with CORA often; they are on many of the technical committee meetings for the GLFC representing the tribes and the fishing communities throughout the Great Lakes."

Nowicki said the lampricide treatments are the cornerstone of the sea lamprey control program. "No one really wants to see pesticides applied in the water, but according to the EPA and Health Canada, lampricides pose no unreasonable risk to the general population and the environment when applied at concentrations necessary to control sea lampreys," she said. "The Great Lakes commercial, recreational and sport fishery has an estimated value of about 7 billion dollars annually. If we didn't have sea lamprey control, many of these



Photo by Mark Ebener, ITFAP assessment biologist  
Great Lakes chub with a sea lamprey attached.

communities dependent on fishing and tourism would become ghost towns. We saw that back in the 1950s when the lake trout population plummeted."

Ebener said that people can be naive and many have forgotten or do not understand what things used to be like without sea lamprey control. "There are currently pretty abundant populations of fish, and very large sport and commercial fisheries because of sea lamprey control. Things would be rather bleak if there wasn't sea lamprey control on an ongoing basis."

Ebener said estimates indicate that an individual sea lamprey, from the time it moves into the lakes from the streams and then comes back into the streams to spawn, kills anywhere from 10 to 40 pounds of fish. He said the ability of a fish to survive a sea lamprey attack declines as the fish gets smaller. "The probability of a small fish such as a whitefish under two pounds surviving a sea lamprey attack is only about 25 percent. Roughly 75 percent of attacks by sea lamprey on small whitefish result in the death of the fish. As the fish grows, their ability to withstand lamprey attacks increases," he said.

An example of the work it takes to keep the sea lamprey population from increasing within the Great Lakes basin can be seen in 2014's Annual Report to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. According to that report, lampricide treatments were conducted by the FWS and DFO on 71 tributaries and 13 lentic areas (still waters such as small lakes within riverine systems and offshore river mouths where they enter a Great Lake). Larval assessment crews surveyed 549 Great Lakes tributaries and 66 lentic areas to assess control effectiveness, plan future treatments, and establish production capacity of streams. Assessment traps were operated in 69 tributaries across the Great Lakes to estimate the adult sea lamprey population in each Great Lake.

A local example is the St. Marys River, a 112 km connecting channel between Lakes Superior and Huron that separates Sault, Ontario Canada and Sault Ste. Marie Michigan and over which the International Bridge spans. Ebener said there are probably consistently more sea lampreys in the St. Marys River than in most other Great Lakes tributaries on an annual basis. Consequently, the St. Marys River gets treated every year by

the control programs. "Chemical control is one of the better alternatives," he said. "There just isn't anything else more effective right now."

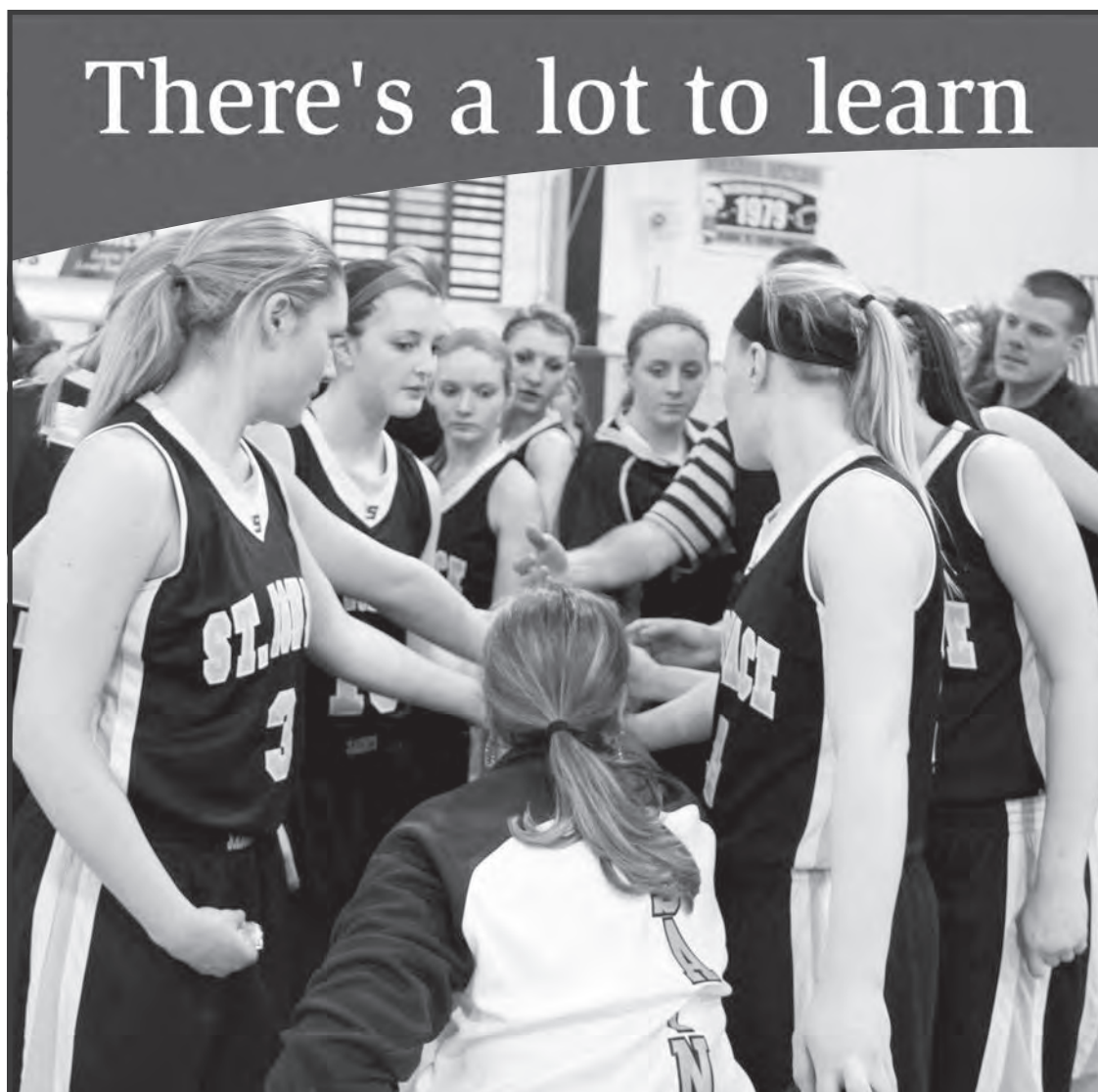
Ebener said it costs the federal governments somewhere in the neighborhood of \$16 million a year for sea lamprey control programs. "The fisheries are worth billions of dollars between sport,

commercial and tribal fisheries. Our tribal commercial fisheries harvest anywhere between 4 to 8 million pounds of fish a year. Just the dockside value to our fisherman is between \$4 and \$8 million a year," he said. "Much of those fish end up downtown in the Sault being consumed by the tourists in restaurants. For the most part, every place in town

sells fish that were caught by tribal fishermen. The tribal fisherman may be getting a \$1.50 a pound, but those fish are being sold for \$10 to \$25 a meal."

Fisheries are a huge business that has a tremendous impact on our local economy. "If our dockside value is \$4 million, I would imagine the total value to society is four to five times that," Ebener said. "Restaurants like the Lock View, Maloneys, VFW, and Karl's Cuisine in the Sault and other restaurants in St. Ignace, Mackinaw City, Petosky, Charlevoix, and Traverse City together sell tens of thousands of pounds of whitefish fillets a week during the peak of the tourist season."

"That's what people need to realize when they take a small myopic negative view of sea lamprey control and putting chemicals in the streams, there is a much bigger picture to it," Ebener said.



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# JKL Bahweting released from state focus list

By RICK SMITH

The Michigan Board of Education notified the administrators of the Sault Tribe affiliated JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy School in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., of the termination of the school's designation as a "focus school" effective Aug. 11. The focus school term is a designation for schools that need to work on narrowing the student academic achievement gap between the top 30 percent and lowest 30 percent. The state designated JKL Bahweting as a focus school in 2012.

"We are actively working to address the school issues by thoroughly analyzing our data to determine which students are struggling with which learning targets," Carolyn S. Dale posted on the school's website after the state designation three years ago. "We are committed to providing the best individualized instructions for all students."

The school adheres to the Michigan Department of Education charter school lottery system for student admittance,

according to the posting. When there are openings for student enrollment, a waiting list is developed and used on a first come, first served basis.

The school revises improvement plans annually with the involvement of all teachers, administrators and others associated with the school. "We encourage parental involvement in the development of the school improvement plan," Dale noted.

The school subscribes to the State of Michigan academic curriculum in all subjects and incorporates Ojibwe language and culture as well.

JKL Bahweting School Superintendent Dr. Theresa Kallstrom indicated the news of the school's release from its status as a focus school was most welcome and elating, mostly because the change indicates the students are succeeding in academics and all concerned with the school have done an amazing job in reaching a dual objective of providing optimal learning in the school and closing the achievement gap.



Photo by Rick Smith

Northern Michigan University Charter Schools Officer Bill Pistulka stand behind JKL Bahweting Public School Academy Director of Curriculum Carolyn Dale and Principal Lynn Methner alongside, seated from right, JKL School Superintendent Theresa Kallstrom, JKL Bahweting School Board members Ginger Stratton and Nick VanAlstine, board President Isaac McKechnie, board members Norma Castro, Regina Rolstone and Brooke Rizzo at a school board meeting on Aug. 18. The school officers and board members are part of the team responsible for reducing an achievement gap between the school's students rated in the highest and lowest levels of academic performance. The school was on a state list of elementary academic institutions that needed to close the achievement gap and was notified on Aug. 11 that the school reached its goal.

## Elders announce 2015-16 scholarship availability

Applications are solicited for two one-time \$500 scholarships from the Sault Tribe elders for qualified freshmen enrolled in public colleges, universities or trade schools. The deadline for applications is Sept. 30, 2015. All applicants must be registered Sault Tribe members with the following qualifications:

- Successfully completed and passed all five General Education Development (GED) equivalency tests with a minimum score of 40 and an average score of 45 and possess a GED certificate or graduated from an accredited high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50;
- Accepted or enrolled in any

two or four year public college, university or trade school in any field of study as a fulltime student;

Applicants must submit application letters that include:

- Name, address, telephone number, proof of Sault Tribe enrollment and social security number;
- Transcript from applicant high school verifying cumulative grade point average or proof of achieving GED requirements stated above;
- Letter from college, university or trade school indicating acceptance for the 2015-16 school year;
- Academic major or course of

study to be pursued;

• Essay of 300-500 words describing how applicant believes a college education will be of benefit to applicant, applicant's career objective and why this scholarship will help applicant achieve goal.

All stated requirements must be packaged and received no later than Sept 30, 2015, no later than 5 p.m., by the Elder Service Division, 2076 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Questions should be directed to Sheryl Hammock at (906) 635-4971.

PLEASE NOTE — Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.



**STUDENTS EXPLORE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT LOCAL CULINARY SCHOOL** — The Tribal Food Sovereignty Collaborative sponsored a tour for youngsters on Aug. 27 at the Les Cheneaux Culinary School in Hessel, Mich. Executive Chef Zach Schroeder led Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities (YEA) students, coordinators and collaborative members to learn about the program and future career opportunities in the culinary field. Sault Tribe Health educator and collaborative member Heather Hemming said, "The tour was a great success! Several students expressed their interest in attending culinary school after the tour." The collaborative works on connecting, promoting and building community food systems through education, youth engagement, cultural traditions and modern sustainability. A Sault Tribe Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country grant funded the tour. For more information, visit [www.UP4health.org](http://www.UP4health.org). For more information on the Les Cheneaux Culinary School visit [www.lcculinary.org](http://www.lcculinary.org). Above, students observe an activity while touring the school. Below, a group photo the YEA staff, students and health educators who took the tour.

## Community invited to youth council 20th anniversary celebration in Sault

Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities Program invites all present and former tribal youth council members, youth, parents and community members to the council's 20th anniversary celebration on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Niigaanigiizhik Building from 5 to 8 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass and join us at a pot luck feast and drum social to honor 20 years of tribal youth leadership. It will be an evening of fond memories, good food and familiar faces. Please friend us on Facebook page "STtriballyouthcouncil" or "Celebrating 20 Years of TYC." For more information, contact Dee Eggert at (906) 635-7010. Below right, a 1998 file photo of youth council members taking part in a National Youth Service Day.





# Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic results

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Golfers from across the state and from as far away as New Jersey competed in the 15th annual Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic at the Wild Bluff Golf Course in Brimley, Mich., on July 25, raising over \$75,000 for the Sault Tribe's scholarship fund.

The two-day event began on the evening prior to the classic with a reception at Kewadin Casino and Convention Center. The reception was sponsored by PNC Bank and gave participants the opportunity to check in, mingle with other golfers and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Attendees had the opportunity to win a variety of prizes donated from vendors.

The classic, the main event of the weekend, began with a shot-gun start at 10 a.m. Winners of the mixed division were O'Connor's Chrysler Jeep Dodge with a score of 60, followed by Sault Printing Company with a score of 65 and in third was DTE Energy with a score of 66. In the men's division, Aggressive Manufacturing Innovations Incorporated took first place with a score of 61, followed by Michigan Economic Development Corporation, also with a score of 61 (scorecard playoff) and in third place was Helen Newberry Joy Hospital with a score of 63.

During the classic, golfers had the chance to win cash prizes



**MIXED DIVISION WINNERS — Team O'Connor's Chrysler Jeep Dodge — Barry O'Connor, Mary O'Connor, Madison Wilkie and Ken Wilkie.**

of up to \$25,000 and one of two vehicles sponsored by local dealerships during our hole-in-one contests. Golfers could also test their skills prior to the classic in a putting contest for a chance to win \$10,000.

While on the course, golfers

were treated to a delicious lunch of burgers, brats and all the fixings sponsored by Sault Printing Company.

Following the classic, golfers and sponsors attended a banquet at Kewadin Casino and Convention Center.



**MEN'S DIVISION WINNERS — Team Aggressive Manufacturing Innovations — Ty Jones, Jeff Evans, Cory Metro and Joe Micolo.**

Sponsors were recognized for their tremendous support and contributions towards the fund. In addition, those who attended the banquet had the opportunity to win door prizes and participate in the silent auction. Closing out the night, prizes were awarded to the top teams in each division, mixed and men's.

Funds generated by the classic are placed in an education fund, which provides Sault Tribe members with scholarships to

further their education. To date, over 240 scholarships have been awarded.

The Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic Committee includes Jake Sillers, Jeff Holt, Tamara Roche and Jessica Dumbuck.

The classic is presented by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Kewadin Casinos.

The 2016 Classic is scheduled for July 30, 2016.

# Tresedder winner of 2015 Menard scholarship

BY BOB MENARD

Marking the fifth year of a 10-year program in which June and Bob Menard provide a \$500 scholarship to a student at Negaunee School System in the name of their beloved grandson, Dillon Francis Menard, the 2015 recipient was named recently. Dillon walked on in August of 2010 while a student at Lake Superior State University.

The scholarship is unique in that a major requirement and primary basis for determining the winner is the student's interpretation of the tenets of the Seven Grandfathers and how those values influence the student's life.

The 2015 recipient of the scholarship is Miss Ashley Tresedder, a young lady enrolled at Central Michigan University, where she plans to major in biology in hopes of becoming a physical therapist.

Margie O'Keefe and Kevin O'Keefe, aunt and cousin to Dillon Menard, presented this year's Dillon Francis Menard Scholarship. "It's hard to believe that it's been four years since the passing of our Dillon. His spirit and accomplishments — which were many — remain bright within our hearts and minds," said Margie.

Kevin was last year's recipient. To be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must have a grade point average of at least 3.0, participated in a high school athletic program and accepted as a full-time student by an accredited college, university or trade school.

Tresedder participated in four consecutive years of high school track and basketball while maintaining a 3.85 grade point average. She seems to have truly embraced the values of the Seven

Grandfathers and is able to relate them to her parents and family and the positive influence they have on her.

Here is the essay on the Seven Grandfathers by Ashley Tresedder, Negaunee High School senior:

"I like to consider the seven teachings of the grandfathers my own seven values I would choose to live by: bravery, love, truth, honesty, humility, wisdom and respect. These are not always easy values to follow; sometimes it may be easier in life to tell lies, feel petty, jealousy, anger and to hate. As human beings, we are bound to make mistakes. It is however, our ability to overcome, to strive to be better and to follow these seven values that help make us better human beings. In this essay, I will touch on each of the seven teachings and explain their meaning to me, and how they help guide me in life goals.

"1. Bravery — what comes to mind first, soldiers fighting for their country, a mother protecting her child, a young boy standing up to a bully, a man facing chemotherapy with only a slight chance to live? Yes, all of these things and so much more. What does bravery mean to me? I feel bravery standing up for what you believe in, doing what is right, not following the crowd. I have been so fortunate to not have faced some of the trials life has given to others. This does not mean I do not understand or respect bravery. I feel my ability to see bravery in others, to understand what it must take to stand up and fight for what you believe in, is key to finding bravery when I need it. When there are times in my life where I must stand up for something I believe in, or fight

for what I know is right in my heart, the bravery I have seen in others will be my backbone and give me strength.

"2. Love — for family, friends, pets, sports, the list could go on and on. I have been blessed to be surrounded by love, to always know its warm embrace. The love and support of my family has given me a wonderful basis to start my college life. Love has enabled me to grow and become the best person I can be. Love does no judge; it understands mistakes and gives unending support.

"3. Truth — as I had mentioned in the opening paragraph, it is not always easy to follow the seven teachings. In fact, truth can be a hard thing to face. Telling a "white lie," as they are called, seems like such a simple thing to do, but what do you achieve? The basis of something that is false. How can you build anything with a false foundation? I have tried to be a truthful person. My parents instilled the idea that it is far better to tell the truth and face the consequences than to love with that false foundation.

"4. Honesty — truth and honesty, they seem to go hand in hand, but what is the difference? I feel that honesty implies a sense of dependability, a trait in someone you know you can rely on. It is something I value greatly in people. An honest person will not cheat you, or turn their back on you. This is something I value in myself. I have a strong sense of what is right and what is wrong. Sometimes simply listening to your conscience is the easiest thing to do.

"5. Humility — being proud of your achievements does not mean you have to be boastful or bragging. I have learned by watching

my parents how to be humble yet proud. I now my parents are very proud of me and my achievements. They have attended every basketball game, track meet, tennis match and volley game I have been in. They have cheered for my wins, groaned over my losses and done it all with humility and respect for the other team and for me. Participating in sports has truly shown me how to be humble, how to understand the difference between acting superior and having pride in your accomplishments.

"6. Wisdom — does wisdom come only with age? I do not believe so, however I think it is smart to learn from people who have experienced things before. I have such wonderful memories of listening to my grandmother tell stories of her childhood. How could I not learn from listening to her? Wisdom is the quality of having experience, knowledge and good judgment. I believe I have a good start on these qualities and know I will continue to have an open mind and remember that it is good to listen to others and appreciate them sharing their life experiences, their wisdom.

7. Respect — this is a very important value to me. It can have such an impact on people. It is really one of the things upon which our country is based, the belief that we all have the right to follow our own religion and personal beliefs is truly a basis for respect. We do not need to follow another person's beliefs to respect their right to believe the way they choose. Respecting what others feel, whether I feel the same or not, is important to me. Another key to respect is having it for oneself. When you respect your body and mind, you will take

good care of them. Respecting nature is also something I value. We need to be smart with our resources, recycling and not being wasteful are ways to be respectful to our environment. As you can see, respect is a big deal, when you give it, you should get it in return.

"While writing my thoughts on each of the teachings of the Seven Grandfathers, I realized how each of the values are linked. They go hand in hand to help make a complete person, someone who by striving to hold these values will make the world a much better place. I hope to always follow these values, to be someone who makes a difference."

## MIEA awards scholarships for nine students

The Michigan Indian Elders Association awarded three \$1,000 scholarships and six \$500 scholarships to qualifying students of American Indian ancestry. Winners were announced at the July MIEA meeting.

Winners of the \$1,000 scholarships are Marguerite Guter of Sault Tribe, Sonja Welch of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and Karlee Decet of Sault Tribe.

Winners of the \$500 scholarships are Chelsea Freele of the Sault Tribe, Jillian Mutchler of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Pottawatomi, Cody Clement of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Autumn Row of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Mchenna McGeshick and Zoe McGeshick, both the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.



# Silver Ships series an instant classic with positive message

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

The Silver Ships by new author S.H. Jucha is the story of two space colonies separated for over 700 years. While running an asteroid harvest tug, Alex Racine, a loner from “New Terra,” comes upon a derelict spaceship the likes of which he has never seen. He takes it as a personal challenge to formulate a plan to salvage it. Plausible speculative science meets up with humanist tale of the stars when Alex finds out there are survivors onboard from another far-flung earth colony called Meridien. The Meridiens have been in stasis for 70 years after an attack by a truly alien ship.

The story is refreshing without the formulaic power hungry politicians and evil military wreaking predictable havoc on the usual boneheaded yet easily swayed populace. By now, in Jucha’s future, to survive and flourish in space, humans have had to change for the better. That’s not to say there’s no mischief, misunderstandings or a degree of greed out there — people are still human — except for the artificial intelligence running the derelict ship.

Jucha’s first venture into self-publishing is a wild success. The Silver Ships was published on Feb. 7 and the purchases and

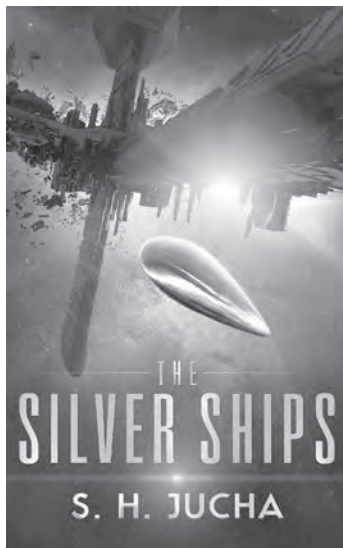


Author S.H. Jucha

downloads of the novel’s Kindle edition sent the book to No. 1 on Amazon’s science fiction first contact category by March 1. In June, his book came out on audio read by none other than Grover Gardener.

He has published the second book in the series, Libre. In this installment, Alex and the Meridien captain find a way to defend their peaceable colonies from the aggressive aliens swarming toward them. They head to the radical planet Libre to look for help.

The story’s protagonist Alex and his younger sister were raised by their parents aboard a small space vessel. His invention that slings ice asteroids to their pur-



chasers made the family enough money to settle down, but Alex preferred the solitude of space until rescuing the derelict and its survivors, his first immersion into society, and he comes to depend on them as much as they depend on him.

Jucha’s “common man,” Alex, and his future is much as Jucha would like the future to be and there is a warning here — there may be no future at all unless humans start cooperating the way New Terrans and Meridiens cooperate. “As a futurist, I try to envision how the human race will get in some point in time — 1,000 or 2,000 years from now,” said Jucha. But we can’t get there unless we do a better in working

together.

Technology made incredible leaps in the past 100 years, some good and some not, said Jucha. Add our population explosion, we won’t be able to continue the way we have, especially with massive arms available for local conflicts, he said.

“To get to the future I’d like to see, it’s going to take changing the way we are,” Jucha said. His favorite book is CJ Cherry’s Cyteen. It’s critical we make moral choices about our world every day especially when it comes to technology, genetics — experiments that affect other life, such as the Navy’s sonar experiments in the ocean. “Cyteen showed that to me in a way I never saw before.”

Raised in Anchorage and well traveled, Jucha has experienced a lot of things from differing perspectives. The full-time writer is a hopeful person. “I’ve visited a lot of countries my 60-plus years . . . Most humans are similar. They want a good life, health and happiness for their families, and they do care about one another.”

He added, “The more you have a world run by the common man, the better off it will be.”

Like Jucha’s protagonist, when faced with a choice like Alex’s, whether to help your fellow man, that choice defines who you are.

Jucha’s story came to life when

he was able to focus on writing. Being an optimist, he wanted to write a story as the antithesis to all doom and gloom news and messages out there right now. An avid reader, he had a lot of ideas and outlines for novels and stories but never had the time to go further until recently.

Looking back, two things were essential to his success as an indie author. In striving to develop professional quality work, he needed a solid cover. He contracted with Damon Za, which produced a sharp looking cover. Also essential was a good indie editor and Angela Polidoro did a wonderful job, he said.

Jucha had several conversations with young authors trying to break in to publishing. They want to know how he got his readership and he told them all the same thing, “First, write your own story, one you feel most passionate about. It has to come from your heart. Second — patience. If it’s for the money, try another profession. Third, get to know your public. It’s hard for some, letting them get to know you. Many readers want to feel that connection with you.”

The Silver Ships, Libre, Meridien, the forthcoming Hellebore, and next in the series (Sol — yes, that’s right — SOL!) is recommended reading. Good for Christmas, too.

## Tribal members could get a second chance with new laws

BY JOHN WERNET,  
GENERAL COUNSEL

At the Aug. 18 board meeting in Marquette, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors approved two significant changes to the Tribal Code that will make it possible for tribal members to get a second chance after a brush with the law.

Resolution 2015-191 created a new chapter of the Tribal Code. Chapter 77 establishes a process that can be used to set aside certain tribal criminal convictions. The new chapter applies to tribal members who have been convicted of only a single criminal offense in Tribal Court. To qualify, applicants wait at least five years after the completion any jail sentence, probation, or parole. They must show they have not been convicted of any subsequent criminal offense in any jurisdiction, have no current charges pending and have never previously had a conviction set aside. Persons convicted of homicide or certain criminal sexual offenses are not eligible. Set asides are also not available for traffic offenses.

Persons wishing to apply for a set aside must contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement to obtain an application form and must then submit that form, with two complete sets of fingerprints, to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement. After a review by Law Enforcement and the tribal prosecutor, the application goes to the Tribal Court. The court is authorized to determine whether the conviction should be set aside. If the court approves the request then, for purposes of tribal law, the person is treated as if the conviction had never occurred.

The new tribal set aside process is similar to one that has been available for many years to persons convicted in the state court system. It is intended to

provide a second chance and a clean record to defendants who have had only a single criminal conviction and who have demonstrated their ability to avoid further convictions.

A second resolution addressed a related issue that affects certain tribal members who were arrested and charged with a tribal criminal offense, but who reached an agreement with the tribal prosecutor to have the charges dismissed. Although this is not the current practice of the Prosecutor’s Office, some of these agreements in the past included a condition stating that the defendant would no longer be permitted to work for the tribe.

The board has concluded that such agreements should be limited to a specific period of time. That is why Resolution 2015-190 adds a new section 70.134 to Tribal Code, Chapter 70: Criminal Procedure. The new section applies to agreements between the tribal prosecutor and a defendant charged with a criminal offense under tribal law.

If the prosecutor dismisses the criminal charges in return for an agreement that the defendant will not be eligible for employment with the tribe — or any other similar limitation or condition — the limitation will be enforceable only for two years unless the agreement has been made a part of an actual court order approved by the judge.

This new law was made retroactive. That means that tribal members who made such agreements with the tribal prosecutor in the past are no longer barred from applying for tribal employment so long as at least two years have passed since the prosecutor dismissed the charges.

The new language is available at saulttribe.com under Tribal Code.

## FREE LAKER ATHLETIC TICKET APPLICATION FOR SAULT TRIBE MEMBERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER IN HOUSEHOLD \_\_\_\_\_ TRIBAL CARD FILE # \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the games you wish to attend and indicate the number of tickets needed for each game.  
**Please note: you may not receive tickets for all games requested.**

### LAKER HOCKEY (Taffy Abel Arena)

10/04/15 US National U-18  
10/17/15 Northern Michigan  
10/30/15 Alabama-Huntsville  
10/31/15 Alabama-Huntsville  
11/13/15 Arizona State  
11/14/15 Arizona State  
11/27/15 Ferris State  
11/28/15 Ferris State  
12/11/15 Michigan Tech  
12/12/15 Michigan Tech  
01/09/16 Bowling Green State  
01/16/16 Alaska Anchorage  
01/17/16 Alaska Anchorage  
02/12/16 Bemidji State  
02/13/16 Bemidji State  
02/26/16 Northern Michigan  
02/27/16 Northern Michigan

### LAKER BASKETBALL (Bud Cooper Gymnasium)

10/24/15 Lourdes (Men Only)  
10/24/15 Algoma (Women Only)  
11/07/15 Olivet  
11/21/15 Minot State (Women Only)  
11/22/15 Minnesota-Duluth (Women Only)  
11/24/15 Algoma (Men Only)  
12/03/15 Findlay  
12/05/15 Wayne State  
12/17/15 Algoma (Men Only)  
12/19/15 Silver Lake (Men Only)  
01/02/16 Lake Erie  
01/03/16 Ashland  
01/21/16 Grand Valley State  
01/23/16 Ferris State  
01/28/16 Northern Michigan  
01/30/16 Michigan Tech  
02/04/16 Saginaw Valley State  
02/06/16 Hillsdale  
02/25/16 Northwood

Mail application and copy of tribal card to: **Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center  
ATTN: Jessica Dumback  
2 Ice Circle Drive  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

## Free Laker athletics tickets for members

Sault Tribe members who submit completed applications for free Laker athletics tickets and indicate which listed games they wish to attend may be able to attend the games for free. Applications reviewed on first-come, first-served basis until all tickets are disbursed. Number of available tickets is limited.

Mail application along with copy of tribal identi-

fication card by Sept. 25, 2015, to the address indicated on the application (Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center, Attn: Jessica Dumback, 2 Ice Circle Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783).

Applications received after deadline serviced last with any remaining tickets.

Please call (906) 635-7770 for additional information or applications.



# REPRESENTING MEMBERS AT ALL LEVELS



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

## CAMPAIGNING RATHER THAN GOVERNING

Recently, a couple of board members approached me to inform me that they were solicited by Director Causley to urge them to run for chairperson against me in the 2016 election. Candidates are not permitted to declare and candidacy until January 2016. Nonetheless, the act of scheming to replace me at a time when I have been successful in: balancing our budgets; turning land into trust and saving tribal funds on taxes; securing a record level of federal funds though efforts for treaty rights (\$455,000); Contract Support Costs (\$1.2 million); BCBS settlement (\$1.2 million) and increased involvement in advocating for our people at the highest levels ~ now including the U.S. Secretary of Education and the President, it seems that while I am chair, my efforts should be supported and not sabotaged. Fortunately, these same tactics fell flat in 2012 as I received 57.5 percent of the vote. Elders told me that the candy bars they were giving away just didn't work to buy their vote.

## WHITE HOUSE INVITE

By the time this is published, I will have met yet again in the White House with the Obama Administration to discuss the Employer Mandate in the Affordable Care Act for requiring tribes to immediately insure team members. While I fully support health insurance for team members, I am guarded in terms of our sovereignty. I have given voice to this issue at the HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Council for which I serve and during numerous national meetings including at the National Congress of American Indians mid-year conference. I am advocating parity for tribes with states to decide the labor climate in their respective governments. Again, I strongly support health insurance but feel this should be our decision as a tribe for which members can ratify or overturn via right of referendum. We hope to secure concurrence with the Obama Administration for a "technical fix" but we also support legislative efforts working their way through Congress to resolve the matter.

## TEAM MEMBER RAISES

I am cognizant of the fact that while I have balanced our budget, team members have waited long enough for a raise. During my first administration, we gave raises every year including our lowest paid team members getting the highest percentage raises (up to 6 percent). We also gave annual Christmas bonuses and contributed up to 2 percent to team

members' 401K retirement plans if they matched our contribution. These were eliminated immediately after I left office in 2008. This was done without the board or chair sharing in these cuts. Upon returning to office, I proposed to cut our pay in half. Since then, we

have dealt with sequestration, government shut downs, and our declining casino revenues (our casinos are under the board NOT the chair). While our markets remain tenuous, I feel we are stable enough to budget for up to 3 percent raises next year and a

nominal return of our 401K match. Thus, I have directed all program managers to include raises and 401K and I am putting forward this proposal.

**Chi McGwitch, Negee!**



## TESTIMONY BY CHAIRPERSON AARON PAYMENT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health  
Oversight Field Hearing ~ September 1, 2015,

While 1.4% of the U.S. population is American Indian, the military population traditionally 1.7 percent have been Native. Proportionately, American Indians are represented at a much higher rate than any population to defend the United States. We are very proud of our warriors ~ both men and women.

The current VA health care system creates barriers to treatment for our Native veterans living in rural areas. In the UP of Michigan, my Tribe has partnered with the American Legion to provide two additional service officers in MI's 1<sup>st</sup> congressional district. This effort extends outreach activities to veterans who use our health facilities. We provide space to offset costs and are establishing baseline data to more accurately reflect the number of our Tribal veterans.

## VETERANS' SERVICES WITHIN THE SAULT TRIBE HEALTH DIVISION

In 2010, our Health Division worked with the Iron Mountain VA to establish an agreement with our optical department in Manistique where we are able to provide optical services to Tribal and non-tribal veterans alike.

### The Sault Tribe has also:

- Established a VA workgroup to access additional services for our veterans.
- Partnered with a veteran's service organization, American Legion, to provide benefits and Service officers at tribal clinic sites to assist with issues and questions about navigating the VA bureaucracy;
- Worked to identify tribal veterans as they visit our clinics in order to plan services;
- Worked to incorporate both behavioral health and traditional medicine programs to develop veteran specific services to include PTSD, emotional trauma, etc.;
- Planned awareness outreach to get out the word on tribal and VA services including tribal elders meetings, tribal newspaper, website and video tag line information;
- Worked with the Iron Mountain VA to establish a MOA with the tribe for full reimbursement for providing clinical services to tribal veterans eligible for VA services.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Freedom of choice:** Our veterans should be free to choose their care based on where they can secure the highest quality services. However, Veterans who choose to utilize tribal health centers and our providers as their primary care sites are not able to access their VA benefits. Currently, the VA Choice Card program does not list tribal clinics as reimbursable entities for providing the care as a referral from the VA. Memorandums of Agreement should be entered immediately. We recommend that Tribal health care programs be reimbursed for both direct service and referred care when Veterans find tribal health programs more accessible or more accommodating to their needs. I urge Congress to instruct the VA to set up a process that allows reimbursement for eligible services provided by Tribes.

**Improve public transportation:** My tribe has identified a lack of consistent and reliable transportation to access many services that directly impact quality of life, including health, education and employment. Available transportation across the Upper Peninsula is provided only at night (Midnight to 8:35 a.m.), which is of limited use for medical trips. We also found a lack of evening and weekend service, another barrier limiting members' ability to access critical health services. We recommend the VA reimburse tribal governments providing Native veterans transportation to primary and specialty clinics, and follow-up care. Most American Indian veterans live in remote areas of the United States and the cost for transportation to and from Veterans healthcare facilities causes substantial hardships on these veterans seeking service.

Throughout the history of the United States, Native Americans have fought bravely and sacrificed for our country. This proud tradition continues to this day with 24,000 active duty American Indians. The 2010 U.S. Census identified at least 152,000 Native men and women who have served this country in its Armed Forces. All veterans, including our Indian Warriors gave their best. All gave some, some gave all. In turn, they deserve our best ~ the best this country can offer. The Sault Tribe stands ready to be part of the solution..

**Chi McGwitch**



# Director Sorenson: August alive with culture



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

August was a busy month filled with weekends of powwows. Lana and I attended the youth powwow in Newberry where about a dozen children experienced their first regalia.

The youth then came into the circle to announce where they were from, their names and their Indian names. It was a very joyous day. The volunteers and all the youth education staff did an awesome job preparing the children to one day lead and organize powwows of the future.

The Hessel powwow is one of my favorites and it was sweltering hot. Their new bathrooms were finished and operational and their MC stand was repaired. There were many more food vendors than in past years. There is always so much community spirit at this powwow. Next year, they need to invest in a sprinkler or pool though (smile).

St. Ignace has had history week the third week in August for the last few years with events at both the Fort de Baude Museum and the Museum of Ojibwa Culture, and the Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow on the weekend. I was, unfortunately, not able to spend much time participating this year as I have in the past. I was able to make it to the grand entry on Friday at the museum grounds and was able to participate in the blessing of the clans the Friday prior. My hat goes off to all the groups of volunteers that it takes to make this week



**One of the Museum of Ojibwa Culture's new clan signs**

such a success and learning experience for everyone.

If anyone is in the St. Ignace area please stop at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture and see their new clan signs along the outside of the museum. They were a year in the making and were constructed in Pickford and are metal and the descriptions are all written by local Sault Tribe member Sue St. Onge. The building of a new longhouse is also underway on the museum grounds. Sault Tribe members Tony Grondin and Perry Neuman are working the project.

On Aug. 3, there was an honoring our veterans ceremony at the Wequayoc Cemetery. Tony Grondin led the ceremony as Russell Rickley was the fire keeper and Mukwa Giiziik was the host drum. An eagle circled during the ceremony. There were about a dozen veterans who were honored and their family members were presented with a gift.

Director Massaway and I grilled burgers, brats and barbeque chicken for our Unit III elders on Aug. 28. The elders provide salads and desserts and we provide the meat. We had a very nice turnout and enough leftover food so nobody had to cook dinner.

During the luncheon, staff from the detention center came and delivered fresh produce grown at the detention center by the youth. Elders were given brown paper bags and could choose fresh vegetables to take

home. Thank you to Officer Wallace and Maintenance St. Andrew for providing this to our elders. This is another great program that teaches kids how to plant and harvest a garden.

Our first meeting of the month was in Kinross and was mostly business as usual. There were only eight board members present so nothing could be added to the agenda because it requires nine votes. Some audience members came because they thought we would be voting on the removal petition but we could not add it to the agenda and the outside counsel's opinion did not arrive until after the five-day notice to be on the agenda.

Our second meeting took place in Marquette on Aug. 18. There was much hype around the removal petition that started with the membership portion of the meeting and was discussed for about another hour by the board during the actual meeting.

The board voted to send the decision for removal to a hearing board. We needed to set a date, time and place of the hearing. The board voted to have the hearing in Munising on Sept. 29 at 8 a.m. We also had to appoint someone to facilitate the process of the hearing board so we voted to appoint our general counsel, John Wernet.

The hearing board will consist of three outside attorneys who have no prior dealing with Sault Tribe. There will be preference given to attorneys who are Native American and have experience with tribes and Native American law backgrounds.

The board also approved a new bereavement policy. In the past, team members could take three days of paid leave for a death of a family member. In the event of a first cousin's death, they received one paid day and it was under the bereavement policy. A few years ago, the policy was changed and had two policies, bereavement and funeral leave. This allowed for up to three days of leave that could or could not be paid depending on your situation and your supervisor, which was titled,



**St. Ignace Elders Picnic was held Aug. 28**

*Funeral Leave.* The bereavement policy then covered your time off by using vacation, sick or personal time or a leave of absence. The changes were confusing and frustrating to the team members. Effective Sept. 1, the policy will be bereavement policy and allow for the three days leave. There will no longer be a funeral leave policy.

The policy review group has been working on these changes for months and it almost was tabled at the meeting. There are many other policies that hopefully get voted on in the near future.

Our tribe has many great programs and services for our people and many, many dedicated team members who help facilitate them. We tend to always hear or see the negative more than the positive. Our tribe is far from perfect but there are many great things that people do not always know that happen or are available to members. I look forward to the day when we can work together for the betterment of the entire tribe instead of all the backstabbing, bullying, vindictive behavior that clouds people's judgment.

It is that time of year again when we should be going over budgets for 2016. The budgets are due to the Budget Department in June and the board should be seeing them by Aug. 15. It is the same ol' song and dance; the chair will be calling special meet-

ings the last week of September to push the vote. I guess it is time the board puts forward resolutions stating when budgets need to come to the board because under the chair's administrative authority, he isn't facilitating the process, more like stopping it up. Another reason why he cannot be running the day-to-day business of the tribe and be on several national committees and be great at everything. He is great at the national level, so let someone manage the day-to-day operations of the tribe so we, too, can move forward when we need to.

He accuses the board of micro-managing but he will not allow us to have meetings without him, cannot see budgets until he wants us to, cancels meeting with staff we ask to meet with and "uses his authority" to stop up anything because he can.

The next St. Ignace board of directors meeting is scheduled for Oct. 20, unless it gets changed due to the NCAI conference in San Diego, Calif.

The Unit III meetings are always held on the third Monday of the month at the McCann school at 6 p.m. unless it falls on a holiday.

Thank you for all your support and questions or concerns. Please contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com, or (906) 430-0536. Have a great beginning to the fall season!

# The solution to toxic leadership is the truth



**JENNIFER MCLEOD,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aaniin Anishnaabek, As a result of my article last month, I have received numerous communications of support and for that I wish to say "miigwech." It was remarkable to me that many of you asked the same question, "What's going on up there?" The answer is simple: "Toxic leadership." Our people are being

manipulated, mistreated and undermined by those elected to serve. How do you recognize a "toxic leader?"

According to Jean Liman-Blumen, and her book, *The Allure of Toxic Leaders and How We can Survive Them*, here are a few things to look for:

- Consciously feeding their followers illusions that enhance the leader's power — persuading followers that they are the ONLY one who can save them, or the organization (aka TRIBE);
- Playing to the fears and needs of the followers;
- Stifling constructive criticism and issuing threats to those who question the leader's judgment and actions;
- Misleading through deliberate untruths and misdiagnoses of issues and problems;
- Failure to nurture other leaders — or otherwise improperly clinging to power;
- Maliciously setting constitu-

ents against one another.

So, what is the solution? The answer is simple — TRUTH. But speaking the truth takes courage, a willingness to take risks, integrity, sense of responsibility and service, and especially compassion.

The struggle that keeps our tribe from moving forward as it could, is clearly seen in the monthly unit reports, or in social media (Facebook). Over just the last three years, nearly every month you can see examples of this toxic leadership in our chairman's report. You will read how wonderful he is and what he has accomplished. You will read attacks against board members who disagree with him and warnings to tribal members about the terrible things that will happen to the tribe without his leadership. There have been deliberate untruths published (such as issuing statements that the tribal school was closing due to the lack

of a lease!). This toxic leadership has also prevented other board members from pursuing nominations to national committees (in one instance, the chairman refused to write a nomination letter because of a board member's "adversarial position" to his leadership).

We deserve better. The chairman can do better — I've seen it. In outside political arenas, he is an entirely different person. I wish we could have "THAT guy." I've stated before that he does a good job on the outside, however, back home is a different story. As brilliant as he may be, toxic brilliance is still toxic. I feel some compassion for him, but much more so for our tribe. I think about how much better our tribe would be if our board meetings were conducted in a professional, impartial and fair manner. We occasionally have workshops that are conducted by the vice-chair, the secretary or our treasurer and

they do such a good job. On those rare occasions, our meetings tend to be productive, on time and relevant! To me, it is clear evidence that the person conducting the meeting determines (and even creates) the level of conflict and dysfunction that occurs. It is always a refreshing change when our other officers conduct our workshops, and I am grateful to them.

I am confident there will be considerable backlash against me for speaking out (especially from the chairman's ardent followers), but that is a risk I am willing to take for calling it as I see it. For our members who are tired of the political games and the lack of significant progress for our tribe, there are practical ways to deal with the issue of "toxic leadership," but none are for the faint of heart. Confront the toxic leader, explain what you do not approve of and help them to change. If

— *Continued on page 23.*



# Director Glyptis speaks out on removal —



**RITA GLYPTIS**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

The Munising powwow was on Aug. 8 at the Bay Furnace Campground in Christmas. It was a beautiful day for a gathering of our people on the shore of Lake Superior. What a gift. Thank you to all the volunteers, young and old, who committed themselves and many hours of their time planning and putting this together. A special thank you to Christmas Kewadin Casino and staff for their donations and assistance year after year. They are an awesome group and always a pleasure to work with. A special thank you to Erica Segerstrom, administrative assistant who somehow always pulls it all together. The Munising Powwow Committee members are Katy Matson, Jennifer Meyer, Kris LeVeque, Dorothy Karr, Bill Perry, Tina Kleeman, Rose Storm, Deb McNeil, Julia Moulds and Shelly Staso. Miigwech!

What an amazing sight to see! The Sacred Water Walkers made their way through our community last week. They walk to call attention to the sacred gift of water, the source of all life. In order to raise awareness of the sacredness of all waters, they walk along these precious waterways as our ancestors did. Only women carry the water as it is women who carry life. As they walk, they sing and pray to the spirit of the water, assuring her that she has not been forgotten. Truly inspirational.

To better serve our veterans, Josh Brewster, an Air Force veteran and the new veteran service officer, is available at the Munising Tribal Health Center on the fourth Thursday of the month. Contact the center for an appointment or more information, (906) 387-4721.

Congratulations to the 2015-16 scholarship recipients from our

area. John P. Carr Scholarship was awarded to Casey Vadnais, freshman at MTU, Don Corp Scholarship to Kayla Baker, Grand Valley, Anita Nelson Honoree Tributary Scholarship to Karlee Decet, freshman at Central University and the Vic Matson Sr. Tributary Scholarship to Cody Jodoin, senior at LSSU.

The membership liaisons work with the chairperson's office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. The liaisons will 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: Units II and III, Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net, Units IV and V, Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, 341-8469, Munising Tribal Center, 387-4721 or 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net. The liaison position in Unit I is currently vacant and the position is posted at www.saulttribe.com.

Congratulations to our chairman! President Barack Obama recently announced the selection of seven nominees for key administration posts. The chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors, Aaron Payment, is among them. He has been appointed to membership on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

We have lost quite a few tribal members from our Unit V area this past year, some of them under tragic circumstances. Thoughts and prayers go out to all families dealing with the loss of family members or friends. It is a time to think about the people in our lives and what is truly important in our day-to-day lives.

As many of you know, a petition for my removal was submitted to the board of directors by a member in Unit I. On May 7, 2015, I pleaded guilty to misdemeanor possession of marijuana in Tribal Court. The marijuana was found during a search of my room at the Sault casino hotel in January. I voluntarily consented to the search unaware that this was in my room. After being away from the hotel that night for 4-5 hours eating dinner and shopping I was met by tribal police at the sixth floor

elevator. According to the police report and Facebook, I admitted to smoking in the room. At no time did I ever smoke in there or say that I did. As the sixth floor is the only smoking floor in the hotel, the smell of marijuana is often in the air even early in the morning. At midnight that night as I was waiting to leave the hotel, two gentlemen exited the elevator on the sixth floor and said to a third officer (whose name was not included in the report) "smells like marijuana up here." Obviously, it was not from me as I had been gone for several hours. I left the hotel at midnight and checked into another. I then took it upon myself to pay for my room for the nights I did stay that week and did not submit any expenses.

I attended the scheduled meeting the next day and headed home. While driving home I was contacted by the tribal prosecutor by phone, which I found highly unusual. During that conversation, the prosecutor stated, "I am calling to give you a heads up because you know how the rumor mill works. I am going to treat you just like everybody else. I don't know the political side of things but this is a removable offense." Do prosecutors call the accused the next day? Appears to be very political.

After my arraignment and discussion with the prosecuting attorney through my legal counsel, I explained that the medicinal cigarettes were not mine and offered to take a drug test. The offer was declined. Recognizing drugs are a problem in our reservation community, especially among our tribal youth with accidental overdoses of more serious narcotics, designer and synthetic drugs, I even offered to participate in the Sault Tribe year-long drug court program under a delayed sentence to prove my innocence but also to take responsibility and set an example for others to follow. The prosecutor's response on more than one occasion was to ask that I resign from my tribal board position. I also have been very involved in the current TAP initiative to combat drug and alcohol abuse affecting our young tribal members. I do not take any of this lightly and have continued to work toward treatment options, education and understanding for the members, families and all communities affected by drugs and alcohol abuse.

On the day I pled guilty, the tribal prosecutor continued to press for my resignation by holding the threat of jail time over my head. As part of an agreement offered by the prosecutor, he would dismiss all charges if I, in fact, resigned. I refused to agree to such an agreement and still feel that he was (behind the scenes) being pressured to secure my resignation from my board position at all costs. Leveraging my position against jail time was unethical to say the least.

In a statement written by my attorney he stated, "There was a meeting in chambers with the judge, the prosecutor and myself. During the meeting, I asked Mr. Durhammer (prosecutor) to name a person within the last year that he has prosecuted for possession of a small amount of marijuana who did get a deferral with the condition that they resign their employment. He could not name a person. I then reminded him that the day after your arrest he called you and told you that he would treat you the same as all other persons not withstanding your position as a board member. I then told him that he was not treating you the same based on the offers that he was making to us, and even the judge expressed that as a judge of the Odawa Tribe this case would qualify for a deferral. The prosecutor did not relent."

Recently, several members of the tribal board (including me) pushed for leniency for tribal housing residents to avoid eviction based on simple possession of marijuana. It seems hypocritical that some board members now appear to be conspiring to move for my removal from office. I believe this is due in large part to the fact that I am an independent member of the board of directors and have not joined any political side.

Believe me, I have decided many times to resign in the past seven months. I have refused to as I felt that I owed it to my constituents to continue to do my job and fulfill my campaign goals. I have consulted with several tribal members and my elders, who agree that I should not concede my position as they do not believe that any political faction outside of Unit V should undo their democratically elected choice.

During the months since this occurred in January, I have seen a lot of shady things happen and

a lot of untruths and lies have been told. The truth I can handle but the lies and personal attacks are not necessary or productive. I have witnessed breaches of confidentiality, behind the scenes deals, a registrar decision that changed five days later, an independent legal opinion given by an attorney that has been associated with the tribe for over 20 years, zero petition signatures from Unit V, interpretation of our laws changing continuously and rules made as we go along. A board member recently stated that I have never come to the board to tell my side. At no time in seven months did any member of the board in open or closed sessions ever ask me a question about it or request a discussion. Some did in fact work hard behind the scenes, assisting petitioners outside of tribal court, attending the court hearing for "gossip control," perpetuating lies not facts, meeting among themselves and only talking about it behind my back.

I have no prior criminal history of any kind. I completed the sentence given to me by a visiting judge (our tribal judge recused herself) including probation, fines and costs, weekly supervised drug testing, weekly alcohol testing and meeting with probation officials. I feel the punishment fit the crime and I do understand that this is not always the case when it comes to our tribal members who appear in our court. These are the things that need to be fixed. Removing me from my position on the board will not make those issues go away.

For the time that I am still in my seat, I will stay the course and focus on improving the tribe, expanding economic opportunities and providing greater levels of services to our people. Unit V and all Sault Tribe members deserve no less. I came to this position for the right reasons and recognize that it is time for change within our tribal community and workforce. I have taken responsibility for the incident that occurred and will move forward. In or out my life goes on. I do apologize to the members for causing a situation that has taken the focus off serious issues facing our tribe as there are many. Whether I am there or not it's time to get back to business.

Sincerely,  
Rita Glyptis, Unit 5  
(906) 202- 3224  
rglyptis@saulttribe.net

## McLeod to speak at Mackinaw Island Tribal Leadership Summit Sept. 15 —

*From McLeod, page 22 —* you choose to do something, please remember to be compassionate — kindness is the way of our people. But also remember our children are watching and the cost of doing nothing may be too great.

**The greatness of our youth** — Speaking of "great," I met recently with some truly GREAT young people! They came to my office at Big Bear and shared their thoughts about issues they face. Their opinions were straightforward, honest and without political agendas. We made plans for changes and I am helping guide their actions (just as I

did when I was still in the classroom!). I am so proud of them. I believe in "growing our leaders," and am committed to helping our young people dream BIG DREAMS and reach their goals.

**More good news** — The gymnasium at our tribal school continues to move forward! Ground is being cleared in preparation for the big equipment and construction to begin! Despite political tug-of-wars, eventually we get back to the goal of "doing what's best for kids." School resumes on Sept. 8 and snow won't be far behind, but hopefully the shell of the building will go up before the costs do!

Our casino operations are improving in profitability and in other areas as well. I have actually had customers contact me with POSITIVE feedback, as they are noticing the improvements. BIG shout out to every team member who is contributing to making the Kewadin experience a memorable one. Please know that all of your hard work and dedication is noticed and appreciated. We couldn't do it without you.

I also want to give an additional SHOUT OUT to all of the staff, employees and volunteers who make our tribe great. There is so much hard work done

providing health services, food, emergency needs, elder services, housing, substance abuse counseling, education of children, cultural activities, law enforcement, environmental protection, judicial work, plus all the support that is required just to keep the tribe operational! There are so many hardworking people and many unsung heroes working diligently with little to no recognition or thanks. Please accept my heartfelt "thank you" to each and every one of you.

I have been invited to speak at the Tribal Leadership Summit on Mackinaw Island on Sept. 15 and 16. I will provide a short

(5-10 minute) "welcome to the community" speech to the participants. I am honored by their request.

At the close of this summer season, I am grateful for all of the blessings I have received. I am looking forward to good things for our people in the coming months. As always, if there is something on your mind or if there is anything I can do for you, please contact me.

Anishinaabe gagige  
(Anishinaabe for always)

Ken  
(906) 440-9151, jmcLeod1@saulttribe.net, or jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com



# CDC tribal advisory committee met in August



**DARCY MORROW,**  
**DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Recently, I was selected as an at-large committee member to serve on the CDC Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC committee gives recommendations, priorities and testimony to key CDC officials as to what is really happening in Indian Country.

On Aug. 4 and 5, my first meeting was in Spokane, Wash., Director Abramson, Bemidji representative, and myself were in attendance; a lot of great ideas and issues came up at this meeting.

Director Abramson and I were able to have a lunch meeting with Dr. Lenaway, division director for the National Center for Environmental Health Division of Emergency Health Services, and informed him of the many water quality and environmental issues we face. After our discussion on Enbridge Line 5, invasive species, Graymont and proposed 10,000-acre potato farm, Dr. Lenaway was very interested in getting any information we have on these issues and then doing a site visit to our community.

I will continue to keep you updated on our progress with Dr. Lenaway and his staff.

Amending Tribal Code Chapter 70 Criminal Procedure by Adding Section 70.134 Limiting Certain Prosecution Agreements was passed on Aug. 18 in Marquette.

**AMENDING TRIBAL CODE  
CHAPTER 70 CRIMINAL  
PROCEDURE**

**BY ADDING SECTION  
70.134**

**LIMITING CERTAIN  
PROSECUTION AGREEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Article VII, Section 1(g) of the Constitution of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians assigns to the Board of Directors the power to establish a criminal justice system including the authority to promulgate and enforce ordinances governing the conduct of persons within the jurisdiction of the tribe and to establish a reservation court and define its duties and powers; and

WHEREAS, the Article VII, Section 1(n) of the Constitution of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians authorizes the Board of Directors to create and delegate authority to subordinate officers and reserves to the Board the right to review the authority delegated and actions taken by such officers; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors have determined that it is just and appropriate to impose certain limitations on the maximum duration of certain agreements between the

Tribal Prosecutor and defendants charged with a criminal offense under tribal law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Chapter 70 of the Tribal Code: Criminal Procedure is hereby amended by the addition of a new section 70.134 which shall read as follows:

70.134 Limitation on certain prosecution agreements to dismiss charges

*An agreement between the Tribal Prosecutor and a defendant charged with a criminal offense under tribal law, in which the Prosecutor has agreed to dismiss criminal charges in return for an agreement by the accused that he or she will not seek or be eligible for future employment with the Tribe or will adhere to other specific terms or limitations as a condition of the dismissal, shall be enforceable against the accused only for a period not to exceed two years unless the agreement has been expressly incorporated into a court order approved by the Tribal Judge.*

*This section shall apply retroactively to any such agreements entered into prior to the date of enactment of this provision. Nothing in this section will preclude the Tribe from considering the underlying facts and circumstances of the original offense when making any future hiring decision involving the individual.*

I have been pushing this issue for years and finally we corrected the many wrongs that were done against our own tribal members.

In the past, the prosecutor would tell team members they had something to charge them with, but if the team member agreed to sign an agreement giving up their job and any right to work for the tribe again they wouldn't be prosecuted.

I can see members not having any legal advice being intimidated by the prosecutor who might not have had a shred of evidence just sign the agreement.

We have asked for lists or files containing this information and none have ever turned up.

All these years, we have had tribal members afraid to apply for a job — this will never be able to happen to our members again!

Under this code change, this section shall apply retroactively to any such agreements entered into prior to the date of enactment of this provision. In the future any agreement written such as this will only be allowed for the maximum of two years.

**AMENDING TRIBAL CODE  
BY ADDING CHAPTER 77:  
SETTING ASIDE TRIBAL  
CONVICTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Article VII, Section 1(g) of the Constitution of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians assigns to the Board of Directors the power to establish a criminal justice system including the authority to promulgate and enforce ordinances governing the conduct of persons within the jurisdiction of the tribe and to establish a reservation court and define its duties and powers; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors have determined that it is just and equitable to establish a process by which persons who have been convicted of only a single criminal offense under trib-



**CDC Tribal Advisory Committee**

al law, and who have no subsequent convictions within the five years following their conviction, may apply to have their tribal court conviction set aside subject to appropriate limitations, standards, and procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Code is hereby amended by the addition of the attached new Chapter 77: Setting Aside Tribal Convictions.

**TRIBAL CODE  
CHAPTER 77:  
SETTING ASIDE TRIBAL  
CONVICTIONS**

77.101 Application to Set Aside Conviction.

(1) A person who has been convicted of not more than one (1) criminal offense under Chapter 71 of the Tribal Code may file an application for the entry of an order setting aside that criminal conviction provided that:

(a) At least five years have passed following imposition of the sentence for the tribal court conviction or following completion of any term of probation, imprisonment, and/or parole for that conviction, whichever occurs later;

(b) The person has not been convicted of and has no pending charges for any other criminal offense in tribal court or in the courts of any jurisdiction in the United States or in any other country;

(c) The conviction sought to be set aside is not homicide in violation of §71.708, abuse of office in violation of §71.1101, or any degree of criminal sexual conduct in violation of §71.1801-1804 or any sexual offense that requires registration as a sex offender under the provisions of Chapter 72 of the Tribal Code, entitled the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Code; and

(d) The conviction sought to be set aside is not for attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the crimes listed or described in subsection (c); and

(e) The conviction sought to be set aside is not a traffic offense.

(2) A person may have only one (1) conviction set aside under this section.

77.102 Contents of Application.

An application to set aside a conviction may be considered only if it contains the following information and is signed under oath by the person whose conviction is to be set aside:

(a) The full name and current address of the applicant.

(b) The case number of the

tribal court conviction that is to be set aside.

(c) A statement that, except for the tribal court conviction sought to be set aside, the applicant has not been convicted of any other criminal offense in tribal court or in the courts of any other jurisdiction in the United States or in any other country.

(d) A statement as to whether the applicant has previously filed an application to set aside this or any other conviction and, if so, the disposition of that application.

(e) A statement as to whether the applicant has any other criminal charge pending against him or her in any court in the United States or in any other country.

(f) Two complete sets of fingerprints.

77.103 Review and Consideration of Application.

(1) The applicant shall submit the completed application to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement ("STLE") together with a fee of \$50.00 payable to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to be used by STLE to defray the expenses incurred in processing the application. STLE shall review its own records, shall conduct a LEIN search for any records relating to the applicant, and shall forward a complete set of finger prints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a comparison with the records available to the agency.

Upon completion of this review process, STLE shall forward the application to the tribal court and to the tribal prosecutor together with a report describing any information STLE has discovered regarding any pending charges against the applicant, any record of conviction of the applicant, and the setting aside of any conviction of the applicant, including any similar information obtained by STLE from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(2) Upon receipt of a copy of the completed application and STLE report, the tribal prosecutor shall review any files and records maintained by the prosecutor regarding the applicant, shall attempt to identify the victim or victims of the crime and, if such persons are identified, shall attempt to notify the victim or victims of the application.

The notice shall be by first-class mail to the victim's last known address and the tribal prosecutor shall file a proof of service with the tribal court and/or a statement indicating that such persons were unable to be identified or located. The victim or victims shall have the right to appear

at any hearing held by the court concerning the application and to make a written or oral statement.

(3) After the application is complete, including the filing of the STLE report and the tribal prosecutor's proof of service on any victim or victims, the tribal court may require the filing of affidavits and the taking of such proofs as it considers proper.

The tribal prosecutor shall be given notice of any such proceedings and shall be provided the opportunity to contest the application.

(4) If the court determines that the circumstances and behavior of the applicant from the date of the applicant's conviction to the filing of the application warrant setting aside the conviction and that setting aside the conviction is consistent with the public welfare, the court may enter an order setting aside the conviction and any actual applicable trial court cost as determined by the tribal court. The setting aside of a conviction under this section is a privilege and conditional; it is not a right and the determination is vested in the sound discretion of the tribal court judge.

77.104 Implementation and Effect of Order

(1) If the court enters an order setting aside a conviction pursuant to Section 1, the applicant, for purpose of tribal law, shall be considered not to have been previously convicted, subject to the limitations and exceptions provided in this section.

(2) Upon the entry of an order pursuant to Section 1, the court shall send a copy of the order to the tribal prosecutor and to STLE. STLE and the tribal prosecutor shall each retain a nonpublic record of the order setting aside a conviction and of the record of the arrest, fingerprints, conviction, and sentence of the applicant in the case to which the order applies. This nonpublic record shall be kept strictly confidential and may be made available only to the extent and in the circumstances provided in this section.

(3) If an order to set aside a conviction under section 1 involves a conviction that has been previously reported to outside state or federal record services such as the LEIN system, STLE shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to remove the record from that record service, if such removal is permitted by the service, assuring that the record will no longer appear as part of the applicant's criminal history under that service. If removal of

*See Morrow, page 27*



# Getting our house in order is our first priority



**DJ HOFFMAN**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

In the past month there have been many challenges facing the Tribe. Unfortunately, making changes without proper planning in place can be lead to consequences more detrimental to the long-term success of the Tribe and its Enterprises.

## BUDGETS

Over the past few months, the tribal board should have been meeting in budget workshops to review the various new fiscal governmental budgets; they have not. It is not responsible to simply hurry up and adopt annual budgets without detailed plans and goals.

Our tribe needs to develop, and adopt, both a 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 Tribes needs, successes, failures, goals, and objectives.

"If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!"

## CASINOS

Our casinos are the driving force behind the majority of our non-grant tribal operations rev-

enues. Currently, the revenues generated from our casinos are in a state of decline. While these revenues have been drastically declining. To offset this, the current approach has been to cut direct costs drastically. However, eventually there will be nothing left to cut.

While the tribe has selected a temporary management structure, it is time for a more permanent solution that is free of the tribal political factions. In fact, our tribal policies require it!

It becomes quite concerning when individual board members cite concern for an individual as opposed to the overall welfare of the tribe and casino operations. I have never witnessed such a personal connection between certain board members and operations. It would be understandable if they expressed that same individual concern for all employees, however this is not the case. It truly makes one wonder why?

We need to show our appreciation to those front line employees who make it possible for our businesses and tribe to succeed.

If we truly want to show them appreciation, we need to ensure that they succeed. We need to provide opportunities for employment advancement, re-factoring of front line wages, educational and training opportunities. We need them to understand that they actually have a chance at jobs that are posted. We need to focus on changing our current atmosphere and structure and focus upon making Kewadin what it once was. We need to do something, while we still can.

## POLICY

I will continue to stress the importance of policy and adherence to our personnel policies and Tribal Code. As I have noted

in the past, these policies are being abused and policies are being selectively ignored; positions are being "hand picked" and ultimately the abuses that many have championed against are still being allowed to continue.

As I have stated, and will continue to reiterate until we as a tribe develop accountability measures to cease these abuses: regardless of who is involved, "friend or proverbial foe," all must be held accountable for actions or inactions.

Those who believe that they are immune from policy or accountability do not serve the tribe, they serve themselves.

## REMOVAL

Recently, it has been reported that I voted 'no' on sending forward a removal petition on a member of the board of directors. This statement is incorrect.

I abstained from the vote because it did not adhere to Tribal Code. Under Tribal Code Chapter 16 (16.106(2)): The Registrar shall review the petition and tribal voter registration records under standards and procedures utilized for the verification of signatures on nominating petitions for tribal elections conducted under Tribal Code Ch. 10.

The standards and procedures utilized for the verification of signatures on nominating petitions for tribal elections under Tribal Code: 10.111(5)(a-d) clearly state that a tribal I.D. number shall be required.

There are no tribal identification numbers provided on the removal petition.

I understand that there are those who are not pleased with an abstention. I also understand that the easiest "political" decision to make would've been to

vote 'yes' on this issue; however, breaking one rule to follow another is not an acceptable option.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development director position for the tribe has still yet to be filled. I am hopeful that the tribe will utilize some more effective recruitment tools to ensure that we find a viable qualified candidate to facilitate this much needed role for our tribe.

Part of the position summary is that:

"The Economic Development Director performs advanced professional work leading and promoting the business and economic development interest for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. This will include supervision of all enterprises with the exception of the casino operations. This position will be responsible to develop strategies to enhance, create and build the tribe's economic development and revenue diversification activities, including the complex analysis of data related to planning, financing, tax incentive packaging, marketing and business assistance programming. This position would be responsible to develop long and short term economic and community development goals."

It is my hope that the Economic Development director will be able to move our businesses in a more profitable manner, as well as lead the charge towards new business development and diversification.

I am also hopeful that our corporate charter, approved by the BIA, will one day be utilized. This would afford our tribe with the opportunity to develop and

maintain businesses free from the meddling of politics, thus ensuring that they have a chance to be successful and provide revenues to tribal services.

A tribe may incorporated under Section 17 of the IRA, 25 U.S.C. § 477, by which the Secretary of the Interior issues the tribe a federal charter. Through Section 17 incorporation, the tribe creates a separate legal entity to divide its governmental and business activities.

The Section 17 Corporation has articles of incorporation and bylaws that identify its purpose, much like a state-chartered corporation.

However, a federal charter assures the corporation the same benefits as the tribe, including enjoying the tax exemptions and sovereign immunity.

The Sault Tribe has an approved corporate charter.

The most successful tribes in America run their businesses through their corporate charter. Examples include Seminoles Inc., Ho Chunk Inc., and hopefully one day Sault Tribe will share in this success.

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

Cell: (906) 203-0510

Personal E-mail: djwhoffman@hotmail.com

Tribal E-mail: djhoffman@saulttribe.net

# On budgets, roads, health and national policy



**KEITH MASSAWAY,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Fall is in the air and so are the budgets for the coming year. The board will be getting to look at them for the first time this week and give their input. Many variables have to be anticipated and worked through so the budget follows a common sense course for next year. We do not want to pass a budget that has unrealistic figures and unnecessary spending in it. We will scrutinize and discuss all cost centers and budgets so we get the best balance and bang for our dollars. I will be writing more on this item as we get further into the process.

Several studies have been

completed and reviewed before the board. The road network safety analysis of the roads in and around the tribal properties and reservation was completed. It is an extensive accumulation of data that scores our road systems for the entire EUP and how they enhance or hinder our users. Things like road width and paved shoulders along with sidewalks, accident data, turning lanes, speeds and biking paths are given a value and compiled. This information is now being used to target what areas are in need of improvement and infrastructure. This study helps us plan our grants and works to show how the monies will best be spent. This will be a very useful tool for many years to come. Thank you for all who worked on this study.

A second presentation was done last month on our Spirit of Community Health study. This study delved into the public health system of the EUP. This study explains how our tribal health system works and interacts with other health systems and how it can improve those services or enhance them for the benefit of all. These types of studies typically are done in cities with many hospitals and clinics with many ancillary businesses sup-

porting a complete health care network. It is designed to meld them into a better functioning single system. In our case, we are a lot different because we are a sovereign nation that has many similar laws and rules but also some different ones and systems outside of the tribe have a hard time interacting with the tribe due to being unsure how to work with the tribe or being unfamiliar with the tribes policies and laws. This study helps identify the obstacles and the problem areas so we can better communicate and work out a better understanding of how we can bring the best coordinated care to everyone.

One nice outcome was many bubble graphs that show the interaction of all the different entities and where the tribal health system works with each. It really showed that we are very instrumental in many communities and work with so many organizations on a high level for our peoples. That was another great study and thanks to all whom worked on that.

I will be attending the National Congress of American Indians next month for the tribe. I have attended this conference since 2006. This conference is a meeting of all the tribal leaders of North America and working

on national policies and laws has always been a great interest of mine. I look forward to writing about that in coming unit reports.

Thank you for all the phone

calls and e-mails.

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

## Intern at Health



**KIMBERLE GRAVELLE**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello, during our last board meeting, one of the members of the board of directors, Bridgett Sorenson, brought up the Tribal Health Intern Program. We were informed if an individual is interested in working as an intern with the Sault Tribe

Health Department, they may call (906) 632-5200 for more information. To add to this, I think we should be developing more intern and apprentice programs in order to develop and promote tribal members.

Further, we need to keep moving forward. At almost every board meeting past mistakes keep being brought up and who made them. I was taught not to dwell on what you can't change but work on what you can.

And on a final note, the JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Academy gymnasium project is making the final steps in order to begin construction in the near future. The projected occupancy is by the first of the year.

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

Thank You,  
Kim Gravelle



# Causley discusses debt and payment structure



**LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

This past month, we held our 23rd annual Gathering of the Eagles Powwow in Hessel. The time spent getting the grounds together, planning for the community, visiting and watching friends and family gather is the best feeling, knowing that our traditions and teaching have all come together. I can't explain how it makes me feel to have all the people involved and working toward a good weekend of ceremony and time spent together.

Chi miigwech to all the people who attended and helped make this year so special and a special "thank you" to our Housing Department and construction workers for getting all the structures ready. I would like to send a sincere chi miigwech to Joann Umbrassas for taking it upon herself to write a grant for a permanent structure/restroom for our grounds. The commitment and dedication by all is so appreciated by our community.

Also, our annual Youth Empowerment Powwow took place in Newberry. The community there had many young ones in regalia and dancing for the first time. Our YEA coordinators did an excellent job for them and all introduced themselves with their Ojibwa names. The pride was felt by everyone in attendance and I'm thankful to live in communities where we uphold

our traditions and are inclusive to all involved. Newberry will be getting a new replacement arbor for the grounds as well for the coming annual powwow in that area, the ninth annual Honoring the Waters on Sept. 5.

At the board level, we have had weekly updates and status reports from our temporary CEO and CFO as to the level of revenue we are generating based on the changes we have made. As reported last time, we remain in a good position for increased EBIDA. But, we now will face changes that are a little more difficult. As explained, once we made moves in the direction of better management and structure we discussed the need for at least \$12 million in renovations and upgrades to our existing facilities and machines. We are now at the time where we will have to make decisions on our debt and payment structure. We are moving toward refinancing the approximate debt of \$14.6 million for an addition three more years for a total of five years; this will lower the payments to \$245,000 per month, and the banks will waive the default charges that occurred on March 2013 through December 2014 and June 2015. (This default was due to not making our expected numbers, which has been a trend for at least the last three years.) This will also free up the immediate \$2.5 million needed for the new slot system and related hardware cost.

As you all know, my priority is to pay down the debt for the future, we have come so far and it's time to refinance for improvements so that our direction is better business and increased revenue. These decisions do not come lightly for me as extending debt hasn't been an option but, at this time, to waive covenant violation fees, secure new slots and upgrades as well as lower our expected payments so that we can sustain our levels of tribal support we give to our governmental ser-

vices, it's a decision that has to be considered.

I'm confident our direction is still a good one for the repayment of debt as we have followed that mind set this far. In 2005, we had \$20 million in debt; 2006, we incurred the \$14 million for St. Ignace; and, then 2007, we refinanced all debt plus \$35 million for Greektown, for a total refinance of \$70 million back then. Today, we only owe the \$14 million and just will extend out three more years thus far. We still have to secure capitol for renovation. The alternative is to pay the fees, reduce tribal support by about \$3 million and continue to operate with outdated hazardous slot systems. The new machines will increase business and steer towards a competitive market that we MUST try to sustain.

As of today, we had a presentation from each and every manager about new systems in place for advanced management training, shadow programs, financial analysis in their own casinos and pride and accountability from them as managers and team members prideful in positions with the new implementations of better knowledgeable management training. I'm supportive and will continue to expect business changes for success on our properties.

We will be working on our 2016 budgets this next month and, as always, I've requested that we do membership-based budgeting to see how many members benefit from dollars spent in each area. We have not been effective in completing this kind of budgeting. I'm very sorry that we can't look at priorities like that; it's frustrating to support programs where only a limited amount of dollars go to the member or service. As always, I will continue to bring this forward and request as a way of measuring what is priority and what services are most needed. I've been the hound on this for many

years and the resistance is frustrating, after inquiring about this in the last week I was told that it always gets some steam then dies out for one reason or the other. I will continue to try and move toward this. One item that weighs heavy is our lack of an education director or manager in our tribe. We have rural areas lacking the attention needed to educate our youth through services and aiding against dropouts and low grades. I've advocated for this at all discussions for budget and needs for priorities in our departments.

Two items worth bringing up are two resolutions the board passed regarding team members. In the past, it seemed there was a "barred from employment list" floating around. We have put that to rest and no such list exists nor does anyone, including the court, have authority to lifetime bar any tribal member from employment for the tribe.

The second resolution gives tribal members the opportunity to seek a set aside from a one-time offense. There are processes in place that will have to be followed, but members who have one crime and go five years without any other offense, can seek set aside from the Tribal Court (this is only offenses within our tribal court system; the state court has similar expungement criteria.) Please contact our court for the process as well as the criteria you must meet (there are certain crimes that are not able to be set aside, abuse of office and any crime that would require a registration as a sex offender are not included for a set aside).

I was supportive of both resolutions as many people have an offense that can mark them for a lifetime and people change, circumstances change and mistakes are made but shouldn't carry with us for a lifetime.

We have recently passed a budget modification to hire a dentist for the Manistique Tribal Health Center. We have a very

hard time retaining professionals for this position, and it's been difficult, but the new dentist should be starting soon. We also have had the loss of service in the DeTour area for labs and prescription pick up. This was due to circumstances out of our control and our health director has assured me we are seeking any other avenue available for the future plan for this area. We have spoken to a couple individuals (resident members in the area) about potential places but they didn't seem to work out. I will be inquiring monthly for a status for this service.

Last night, I had the very pleasant opportunity to attend the Naubinway elders' meeting. It was announced that this was the 10-year anniversary for them becoming recognized as their own group. I remember when just a few of them had been getting together to try and establish an official elderly group recognized in this community. With some criteria set, they were asked to meet and document for at least a year unrecognized to show the community commitment, then the board would discuss making them an official group of the tribe. With many hours of commitment and dedication, they did meet for a year, had meetings, gathered input, worked on bylaws and it was then that the board supported them in becoming an official group.

I will always have special ties to them as we were both brand new at the time and they have watched me grow as I have learned and appreciated them for true, sincere guidance in my role. Those are traditions and times I cherish in my representation.

Chi miigwech to all of you. As always, call me with input, concerns or to meet:

lcausley@saulttribe.net  
(906) 484-2954  
(906) 322-3818  
Baamaapii,  
Lana Causley-Smith

# Abramson: the honor of one is the honor of all



**CATHY ABRAMSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

First of all, I would like to congratulate our chairperson for his recent presidential appointment to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education!

He's worked hard for this appointment and he deserves the accolades. Overall, the honor of one is the honor of all! Does this take him away from his job as chairperson? I say no! It only enhances our tribe's ability to give the much-needed input into

the educational goals of our people. I chair the HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee, a committee of which Aaron is an active member. He passionately speaks of our tribe, its successes and issues of concerns.

Because we are active at a national level, we have access to high administrative officials that can actually help us cut through the red tape. We are also very familiar with Senate and congressional legislators.

The opposition to these national committees, meetings or other invitations at such a high level is regrettably misguided and unacceptable. Many tribes would be honored to be in our position to be receiving such appointments to national committees, advisories and/or representatives, and our tribe needs to continue to be active at the national level. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has a voice or voices at the national level. We are helping to make a difference.

We must continue to secure, maintain and nurture this behav-

ior of elected officials, not tear each other down. Extremely hard work and dedication to our people is given to such efforts and I must ask that you continue to support your tribal board members who are making a difference at the national level.

Encourage others to fight for the good of the people! Change can happen, we can make a difference! We as Anishinaabe have many battles, whether it's:

- Suicide prevention
- Substance abuse
- Environmental dangers and concerns
- Preserving our culture and traditions
- Education
- Healthcare, or
- Treaty rights.

Ask yourself this: if you get an invitation to the White House or other national committees, would you accept or decline? Would you seize the opportunity or would you pass this up fully knowing that this would help our tribe? I thought so.

I am very happy that Director

Darcy Morrow has joined me on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Tribal Advisory Committee. I can see that she will be a very vocal addition to this committee. CDC administration has been learning more about tribes and how we would like to use our culture and traditions to help us become a healthy nation again. Grants have not been tribal friendly and because of that, tribes haven't been able to meet the qualifications to apply.

Director Morrow and I met with the head of the Environmental Department to discuss our concerns and issues with the Graymont mine and the Enbridge pipeline. They are interested in coming for a site visit to see how they might help us out.

Also, a special meeting was conducted by Dr. Ursula Bauer of CDC and traditional healers from across the nation were invited to give their input on how our ways can help our people. It went over so well, another

meeting is being planned. Their understanding of how we do things will help them develop tribal specific grants. I'm really excited about this. We have been working on this for years and it has actually made its way this far. We hope to host this very important follow up meeting in the spring.

All of our staff submitted their 2016 budgets in May. Our board has finally received them and we will be going over them and soon approve. I am very much supportive of reinstating our 401K program and giving our employees a cost of living increase. I am optimistic with the outcome.

For those of you who feel they need help in clearing their mind and mending their hearts, there will be a fall fasting camp on Oct. 1-6 at the culture camp on Sugar Island. Call 632-0236 or 632-0220 for more information.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you, as always. My cell phone is (906) 322-3823 and my e-mail is cabramson@saulttribe.net.



# Spread the word: newspaper available by request



CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

If you are reading this newspaper in hard copy form, chances are you're a tribal elder. Quite a few months ago we discontinued delivering the tribal newspaper through the mail to everyone but our elders. However, any tribal member is eligible to receive a newspaper in the mail. All members have to do to keep their papers coming is to request the paper and update your mailing

address. They can do that by calling toll free at (800) 251-6597\*.

Please help us get the word out by letting your children, grandchildren, tribal friends and family know how to re-establish newspaper delivery to their mailbox.

There was supposed to be a first class postcard mailed to every member informing them of this change. I have yet to find anyone who received this mailed announcement including my own family.

A hearty congratulations to our chairman, Aaron Payment, for his recent presidential appointment to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. This has been Aaron's desire—to serve and be a voice for all Indian Country at the highest levels of federal government—and his achievement is a testament to what hard work, ambition and tenacity

can accomplish. We can all take pride in the prestige his appointment brings to our tribe. Well done, Aaron.

I also want to acknowledge and express appreciation to all the individuals who work tirelessly on behalf of our tribal communities. It was pretty "touch and go" whether our ceremonial grounds would be ready in time for the 23rd annual Hessel powwow.

There was a very last minute flurry of activity, construction crews and heavy equipment on site in the week leading up to powwow. It looked like the set of an HGTV "Yard Crashers" episode. I admit I was getting nervous, but, amazingly, Friday morning revealed a newly constructed public restroom; a new Waabano lodge; a major renovation of the drum arbor and MC stand; refurbished concession stand and bleachers; and spruced up and freshly mowed grounds.

Thank you to all staff, including Housing and especially Sault Tribe Construction. A special miigwech to Chip MacArthur for his help with this project as well as securing resources for the Newberry powwow, too. A special miigwech to the elders in our community who always keep the faith and keep us strong and united. We are blessed.

Miigwech to Monica Cady in the Hessel area and Mary Archambeau at "The Link" in Newberry for their commitment to community gardens.

Monica was instrumental in establishing perennial gardens at the Hessel Housing site. Even though the grant project has expired, Monica has continued to care and nurture the gardens. I want to commend her for her passion and grassroots organization. Likewise, "The Link," a community resource center in Newberry, has a community garden. The kids are harvesting the produce and they have mini farmer's market in front of the center. Very exciting to see. It takes a village and these ladies rock!

Congratulations to all Sault Tribe scholarship recipients and

all our young people who are pursuing higher education or trades schools goals. Whatever path you choose, you are our ambassadors and our hope. A special "congratulations" to Carrie Gable, sophomore at CMU and recipient of the Nokomis Scholarship in honor of our grandmothers.

This has been an action-packed season with seven of our grandchildren making it home for the summer. Seems like many people made it home this summer for family reunions and celebrations.

Next month, I will do my best to update on more sobering issues that we are facing as a tribe. For now, I just want to wish everyone the best as we turn our attention to the fall season and winter preparations.

Contact me anytime with your questions, comments and concerns.

Catherine Hollowell,  
Unit II director  
(906) 484 -6821 home  
(906) 430-5551  
Unit2tribal@gmail.com

\* or email slucas@saulttribe.net to receive your paper and keep your address up to date.

## Treat removal actions with the seriousness they deserve

From "Morrow," Page 24

the record of conviction is not permitted by the outside record service or is otherwise not achievable, STLE shall instead post the set aside order to that outside system.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (3), the nonpublic record described in subsection (2) may be disclosed only for the following purposes:

(a) By STLE and the tribal prosecutor to show that a person who has filed an application to set aside a tribal court criminal conviction has previously had a conviction set aside pursuant to this act.

(b) For consideration by STLE if a person whose conviction has been set aside applies for employment with STLE.

(c) To the person whose conviction has been set aside by the order.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1):

(a) The applicant is not entitled to the remission of any fine, costs, or other money paid as a consequence of a conviction that is set aside.

(b) This act does not affect the right of the applicant to rely upon the conviction to bar subsequent proceedings for the same offense.

(c) This act does not affect the right of a victim of a crime to prosecute or defend a civil action for damages.

(d) This act does not create a right to commence an action for damages for incarceration under the sentence that the applicant served before the conviction is

set aside pursuant to this act.

Another resolution that was passed, Amending Tribal Code by Adding Chapter 77: Setting Aside Tribal Convictions, was done very quickly. There were a lot of unanswered questions. As an example, Director Chase asked, "Would someone who committed elder abuse under this code change be forgiven?" The answer was, well, if they kept their record clean, then they would be eligible per the code. With many unanswered questions, we pushed to workshop this, but the majority prevailed and pushed this vote through. When something this serious is pushed through we really should look at what the ulterior motive would be. Director Chase and I did not vote for this code change as it was written.

I would like to address some of last month's board articles about the removal of Director Glyptis and how she didn't come and tell them her story. What they failed to tell you is they did not make an effort to ask Director Glyptis the truth; that way they can continue to fuel the misinformation spread in their communities.

When the removal was presented in Marquette on Aug. 18, many legitimate questions were asked about the validity of the signatures, what standards are they following, etcetera ... When the removal was turned in to the board secretary at a Sault meeting, it then went to the tribal registrar. After review, the tribal registrar sent the board an official memo making an

official statement on the signatures. Then, several days later, she sent another memo changing her first official statement. The second statement from the registrar came after Director Glyptis posed several questions to John Wernet, general counsel, in writing on the removal and/or signatures. This is a very serious situation and should not be handled so wishy-washy. I could continue to write about this issue, but several board members voted to send this removal to a hearing board, so I will reserve any more comment.

Thank you. Please feel free to contact me.

Darcy Morrow  
(906) 298-1888  
dmorrow@saulttribe.net  
P.O. Box 441,  
Manistique, MI 49854

**Sault Tribe's Diabetes Day 2015**  
**ACTIVITY IS THE BEST MEDICINE!**

*Open to the Public!*

**Where & When:**

- ▶ **Sept. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** — Hessel Tribal Health Center
- ▶ **Sept. 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** — Sault Tribe Health Center, Auditorium, Sault Ste. Marie
- ▶ **Sept. 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** — Kewadin Shores Casino, Events Center

**What:**

- ▶ Healthy Snacks, Samples, & Freebies
- ▶ Flu Shots & Screenings
- ▶ Exercise & Food Demos or Samplings
- ▶ Health & Wellness Booths
- ▶ Grand Prize Drawing

**The More We Learn, the Better We Live!**

# Fall Fasting Camp

- When? October 1 – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- Where? Mary Murray Culture Camp – Sugar Island
- How? Call the Traditional Medicine Program

Tony Abramson Jr. 906-632-0236    Peggy Holappa 906-632-0220

MOVING?

email  
[enrollment@saulttribe.net](mailto:enrollment@saulttribe.net)





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Tickets \$12.50

**Saturday, Sept. 12**

Doors open at 7 p.m. - Show starts at 8 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 13**

Doors open at 3 p.m. - Show starts at 4 p.m.

# GRAND OLE OPRY TRIBUTE



FEATURING:

**MISSY ZENKER, PAUL PERRY, BOBBY RANDALL &  
THE MUSIC DOCTORS**



Tickets \$12.50

**Saturday, Sept. 26**

Show starts at 8 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 27**

Show starts at 4 p.m.

This show is a P & A Production.