



Win Awenen Nisitotung

February 17, 2017 • Vol. 38 No. 2

Bear Moon
Mukwa Giizis



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

Gordon gets state's first Ojibwe language instructor endorsement

By Rick Smith

It took a lifetime of dedication coupled with recognition of his accomplishments and qualifications from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) for Dr. Chris Gordon to recently become the first teacher in the state to earn a K-12 Foreign language-Native (FN) endorsement. The endorsement means he is officially authorized to teach Anishinaabemowin, the Ojibwe language, to grades K-12 in schools anywhere throughout the state.

But Gordon aims to stay in his current post as the Anishinaabe language and cultural program coordinator as well as a teacher at JKL Bahweting Public School Academy (PSA) in Sault Ste. Marie and take advantage of his unique situation to continue helping to pave the way to make acquisition of FN endorsements more efficient.

"Chris has worked tirelessly with the MDE for years to make this happen, and continues to seek the same acknowledgement for others like him," said Carolyn Dale, JKL director of curriculum and instruction. "This was a huge personal victory for Chris and, perhaps, an even bigger victory for the Anishnabe people, for which we have Chris to thank."

JKL Bahweting PSA School Superintendent Theresa Kallstrom said the endorsement came after a special waiver was granted to Gordon based on everything he has done related to the field, "the culmination of his life's work," she said. Kallstrom added, "We are completely proud of him." The school sought the waiver of the teacher certification code based on Gordon's expertise, credentials and teaching experience, the waiver allowed for the endorsement.



Photo by Rick Smith

These third grade students of JKL Bahweting Public School Academy in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., opened an impromptu celebration with surprise group cheers of congratulations to Dr. Chris Gordon, seen in the center, as he entered the school's library on Feb 6. The celebration was in honor of Gordon acquiring the first ever Anishinaabemowin Language and Culture teaching endorsement in the state of Michigan. While the endorsement authorizes Gordon to teach Anishinaabemowin in any school in the state, he intends to remain at his post at JKL Bahweting along with continuing to contribute to making the process more efficient for other teachers to gain the endorsement. The feat is a historic milestone in forming the foundation for advancing education about the Anishinaabe people as well as expanding opportunities for folks across the state to learn the Ojibwe language. More photos on page 11.

Gordon said prior to receiving the endorsement and in spite of all his other credentials, under state regulations he could only teach Anishinaabemowin if he had a substitute teacher permit. The state dropped the requirement after recognizing Gordon was more than qualified to teach Anishinaabemowin and issued the waiver.

The FN endorsement is equal to state endorsements for other languages currently taught in schools throughout the state, such as French, Spanish and Japanese. Gordon noted with a grin the irony of Anishinaabemowin endorsed as a foreign language

when it was one of the original languages widely spoken on the North American continent.

Dr. Sean Kottke oversees specialty programs for the MDE Office of Professional Preparation Services. "It was truly a high point of my service to the state to be able to help make this happen," he said. "Dr. Gordon is uniquely qualified among

teachers of Anishinaabemowin in Michigan schools, possessing a Michigan Professional Education Certificate and having earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with a focus on Anishinaabemowin pedagogy [teaching methods and practices], to speak nothing of his work with the Nishnaabemowin Language Instructors Institute at Bay Mills

Community College. It would not be an exaggeration to suggest that Dr. Gordon may be better prepared to teach Anishinaabemowin than the majority of certified Michigan teachers are to teach their specialty areas."

Gordon explained the struggle to bring Anishinaabemowin to be deemed suitable for endorsement has taken decades and involved folks in official capacities of academia and the state. He said the passage of the 1990 Native American Languages Act was key to progression as was the 2007 process for endorsement developed by Dr. Margaret Noodin, associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

However, according to Kottke, more work is needed. "Unfortunately, despite his valuable leadership and advocacy in helping the Michigan Department of Education develop standards for an Anishinaabemowin Language and Culture (FN) endorsement, there do not currently exist any formal pathways for Dr. Gordon – or any prospective teacher of Anishinaabemowin – to earn the endorsement at any of Michigan's educator preparation institutions," he said.

Kottke added he is collaborating with Northern Michigan University to develop a program, but hasn't reached a formal approval stage. He hopes the first ever FN endorsement brings more attention to the importance and value of Native language studies in Michigan schools.

DOI agrees tribe's downstate trust land applications are mandatory

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) agreed Sault Tribe's trust land applications for the City of Lansing and Huron Township are mandatory under the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act but has asked the tribe for more evidence to show the proposed parcels qualify under the act.

In a Jan. 19 letter to Sault Tribe Board of Directors Chairperson Aaron Payment, the DOI said it "will keep the tribe's applications open so that the tribe may present evidence" to support that the parcels of land meet federal legal requirements. Payment said the tribe "remains absolutely confident in our legal theory and committed to pursuing the success of these projects." He said the tribe will decide how to respond to the Jan. 19 letter "in the very near future."

In June 2014, the tribe filed applications to take land into trust in downtown Lansing and in southeast Michigan's Huron

Township. The land in Lansing will become the site of a new gaming resort first proposed by the tribe and Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero in January 2012. The land includes two parcels totaling about 2.7 acres at Michigan Avenue and North Cedar Street adjacent to and near the Lansing Center, the city's convention and events facility.

The tribe anticipates the land in Huron Township, totaling 71 acres at 36181 Sibley Road and I-275 southwest of Metro Airport, will also serve as a gaming location. The scope of the gaming project in Huron Township will be determined by an economic impact study.

A 1997 law passed by Congress called the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act (MILCSA) requires the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to approve the trust land applications. The tribe used revenues from its "Self Sufficiency Fund" to purchase the lands. The MILCSA states that "[a]ny lands

acquired using amounts from interest or other income of the Self-Sufficiency Fund shall be held in trust by the Secretary for the benefit of the [Sault] Tribe."

Payment said, "The law is clear: the Secretary is required to accept these parcels in trust. It is a clear, plain-language legal argument. Our tribe is within federal law and our legal rights to pursue these opportunities to create thousands of new jobs and generate millions of dollars in new revenues that will benefit our members, the people of Lansing, public school students in Lansing, the people of Huron Township, and the entire state."

Three federal court developments cleared the way for the tribe to file the applications:

On Dec. 18, 2013, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled Sault Tribe had the right to pursue approval of its Lansing casino.

On May 27, 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a somewhat similar case that the state

See "Trust land," page 8

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Sault Family

Celebration, March 27

Sault Tribe's 19th annual Family Celebration exposition takes place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, March 27, at the Chi Mukwa Recreation Center. It's a free exhibition celebrating Parenting Awareness Month with free pizza and snacks, interactive activities for children, free ice rink time and skate use, bounce house and games! Prizes awarded throughout the night. Plus, local organizations and businesses exhibit information on programs and services for parents.

Sault Tribe

committee vacancies

The following committees have vacant seats as of Feb. 7. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Joanne Carr or Linda Grossett, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783. Call 635-6050 for any questions.

- Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Two vacancies (men, four-year term);
- Cultural Screening Committee - Two vacancies (four-year term);
- Great Lakes Conservation Committee - One vacancy - small vessel (four-year term);
- Great Lakes Conservation Committee - Four vacancies - large vessel (four-year term);
- Inland Conservation Committee - Three vacancies (four year term);
- Health Board - Two vacancies (four-year term);
- Higher Education Committee - One vacancy (four-year term);

Sault Ste. Marie support groups meetings

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) meets on the third Thursdays of every month, 6:30 p.m., at the Huntington Bank meeting room in Sault Ste. Marie.

For more information, email chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org or visit www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/chippewa-county or www.facebook.com/fanchipp.

Substance Abuse Support Group for Family and Friends meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, 6 p.m., at the Huntington Bank in Sault Ste. Marie. Call Linda at (906) 440-7252 for more information.

This group is for those who have experienced loss, heartbreak or diminished relationships due to someone else's substance abuse.

- Election Committee - Six vacancies (four-year term);
- Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - Six vacancies (two-year term);
- Child Welfare Committee - Five vacancies (four-year term);
- Sault Elders Subcommittee - Two Regular, one alternate (four-year term);
- Newberry Elders Subcommittee - One regular seat vacancy, one alternate (four-year term);
- Hessel Elders Subcommittee - Three regular seat vacancies (four-year term), two alternates (four year term);
- Munising Elders Subcommittee - two alternates (four-year term);
- Marquette Elders Subcommittee - One vacancy (four-year term);
- Michigan Indian Elders Association - One vacant delegate seat, one alternate seat.
- Housing Committee - Three vacancies, Unit I (four-year term), Unit II (four-year term) Unit V (four-year term)

Help bring change

Join United Way of the EUP for its Citizen's Review Panel agency presentations. This year's panels take place on Thursday, March 23, at Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie. Residents from across Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac counties gather to help decide how the United Way of the EUP will award allocations from its 2016 fundraising campaign.

Local non-profit agencies seeking United Way funds will be given the opportunity to present to the Citizen's Review Panel and address what services their programs provide, how they will

use the funds to further their missions and goals and measurable outcomes. Members of the review panel will then have the chance to ask questions. After each presentation, panel participants use score sheets to compare the agencies requests using a variety of benchmarks.

The United Way Community Investment Committee uses scores from Citizen's Review Panel, along with the Finance Committee's scores to make the final determination of how much

funding requesting agencies receive. For more information on how to sign up to participate, please call the United Way at 632-3700, extension 2. Participants must live in the EUP.

Training opportunities for eligible applicants

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program has funding available for short-term occupational training opportunities.

WIOA may be able to provide tuition assistance for skills training if it leads to an industry-recognized certification.

Candidates must meet certain eligibility requirements and be a resident of the seven-county service area.

Please apply at WIOA, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Those who wish to learn more information may call Brenda Cadreau in Sault Ste. Marie at (906) 635-4767.

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2017 Sault Tribe Inland Application

Please fill out the following application indicating all harvest tags that you would like in addition to your 2017 Harvest card. The Harvest card authorizes you to participate in activities pursuant to Chapters 21 and 23 of the Tribal Code only. Great Lakes activities require separate permits pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Tribal Code.

In 2017, the cost for each member will be \$5. You must pay with a check or a money order (DO NOT SEND CASH) payable to Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. A \$36 NSF charge will be applied to all checks returned by a financial institution. Credit and debit cards can be used but ONLY in person at the Law Enforcement office. If you have questions, please contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (906-635-6065). Youth (16 and under) and Elders (60 and over) are not required to pay fees. New applicants must provide a copy of their Tribal card and if born after 1960, proof of hunter safety. **All members who held a 2016 harvest license MUST complete a harvest report or a license will NOT be issued.**

First name Middle Last
 Address City State Zip County
 File Number (Red# on Tribal ID) STS # (Red #on harvest card) Date of birth Sex
 Phone number Email address

Hunting harvest card (please select which tags you are applying for)
 Includes Inland fishing, general gathering, small game, waterfowl, migratory birds and general furbearer.

Application Harvest Tags

Deer

Spring Turkey

Fall Turkey

Pine Marten, Bobcat, River Otter, and Fisher Harvest Tags

Non-hunting harvest card
 Includes Inland fishing and general gathering.

Bear and Elk Applications will be available on the Sault Tribe website and the newspaper in April 2017

Walleye and steelhead permits for the specially regulated seasons will be available by contacting the Inland Fish and Wildlife Department, 906-632-6132 or see website for details (www.saulttribe.com).

For all other permits pursuant to chapter 21 and 23 of the Tribal Code, you must contact the Conservation Department @ 906-635-6065 (i.e. State Firewood and State Maple Sap).

Please mail completed applications to:

**P.O. Box 925
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

Harvest reports for Inland Fish and Wildlife Department due

Understanding the tribe's harvest activities over time helps the Inland Fish and Wildlife Department (IFWD) comprehend our impact on the fish and wildlife populations. Accurate harvest statistics are important for several reasons. First, we need to ensure the sustainability of our harvest for future generations. Second, we need to ensure our members have the opportunity and ability to harvest fish and wildlife to sustain their families and their way of life. Lastly, but certainly not least, accurate harvest statistics are vital to protect the tribe's treaty right in the face of constant opposition. Harvest reports are mandatory and the earlier IFWD receives

them, the more accurate our annual harvest statistics are. Accurate harvest data is the cornerstone of protecting the tribe's treaty rights and the resources they depend on.

Harvest reports should be filled out for the 2016 season. Some seasons, small game and trapping do not end with the calendar year. In these cases, please report harvest that takes place on a 2016 permit. Here is an example: snowshoe hares harvested in January 2017 should be reported on the 2016 harvest report. We ask that you report your fishing activity using the calendar year. Harvest reported on the Inland Harvest Report is for inland lakes and streams only.

Fish caught in the Great Lakes, including the St. Mary's River, Munoscong Bay, or Bay de Noc, should not be included on this report.

Harvest reports can be obtained by contacting the IFWD or online. To acquire it online

go to the Sault Tribe web site at saulttribe.com. Under membership services click on Natural Resources, from this page click on "For application please click here." It can be printed out and mailed in to the address below. The harvest report is due by

Feb. 1 and can be turned in or mailed to 2428 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783. Harvest reports are mandatory. The IFWD thanks you for your cooperation and we hope you have had a safe and successful 2017 hunting season.

Sault DAV seeks volunteer drivers

Help transport veterans from the EUP area to Iron Mountain

The Sault Ste. Marie chapter for Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is seeking volunteer drivers to transport veterans to and from the Iron Mountain VA Medical Center.

The DAV van system is part of the VA's Veterans Transportation Network and assists in transporting veterans to their medical appointments in Iron Mountain. Each year, the medical center's volunteer drivers transport well over 2,000 patients from throughout the Upper Peninsula and northern Wisconsin.

Right now, there is a critical shortage of volunteer drivers for

transporting veterans from Sault Ste. Marie and the eastern Upper Peninsula and volunteers are sought.

"The motivation for our volunteers is simply helping veterans in need," said Greg Weiss, chief of voluntary service at the VA medical center.

Area coordinators schedule the drivers and passengers. Anyone interested in joining this volunteer force to help our veterans get to their medical appointments can find more information for this program by calling the Sault Ste. Marie area coordinator at 635-6370.



Above, one of the DAV vehicles used in transporting veterans to the Iron Mountain VA Medical Center.

Inland Fish and Wildlife Department coffee hour, March 3

The Inland Fish and Wildlife Department (IFWD) invites the Sault Tribe community to join us for a coffee hour on Friday, March 3, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Stop in to chat about natural resources and IFWD's current work. The IFWD is at 2428 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie and shares a parking lot with the Enrollment Department. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Willette is new director of tribe's Elder Services

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Latisha Willette, 37, has accepted the position as the Elder Services Division Director for the Sault Tribe and begins her duties there February 13.

Willette began working for Kewadin Casino hotel in 2002 while in college, and from there went to work for Anishnaabek Community and Family Services and then as administration assistant at Facilities Management before accepting a position with Sault Tribe Law Enforcement in 2011 as project coordinator of the Sex Offender Registration Notification Act. Additional work experience also includes social services work at a local group home for mentally handicapped clients.

Willette has a bachelor degree in political science from Lake Superior State University and in 2008 began a masters program in public administration through Strayer University that she is



working to complete. She is a 1997 graduate of Sault Area High School.

Willette said she is looking forward to beginning the next step in her career, and plans to review elder programs and services and future funding requirements.

Her parents are Sheila Berger and Brian Willette, and her grandmother is Peggy Clement.

ACFS operates Child Care & Development Program

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) operates the Child Care and Development (CCDF) Program with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Care. The CCDF Program supports lower-income families through child care financial assistance and promotes children's learning by improving the quality of and access to early care, education and after-school programs.

The CCDF Program can subsidize a portion of child care costs for eligible parents or guardians so that a parent can work or attend an approved educational program.

The CCDF Program is also responsible for developing and regulating quality child day care homes on trust lands. Some financial assistance may be available

to start up a licensed child day care home on trust land.

Please call (906) 632-5250 with any questions about the CCDF Program. Applications can be obtained at any ACFS Office (Sault, Kincheloe, St. Ignace, Munising and Manistique) or online by visiting www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/acfs.

ACFS – Sault Office, 2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783; (800) 726-0093 or (906) 632-5250

ACFS – Manistique Office, 5698 W. Highway US 2, Manistique, MI 49783; (906) 341-6993

ACFS – Munising Office, 622 W. Superior Street, Munising, MI 49862; (906) 387-3906

ACFS – St. Ignace Office, 1140 N. State Street, Suite 2805, St. Ignace, MI 49781; (906) 643-8689

Teen Dating Violence: Tips for teens about maintaining healthy relationships

Young love — a picture usually painted so perfectly, every teen wanting to experience that first connection with someone. What often isn't talked about is violence in teen relationships.

According to loveisrespect.org, one in 10 high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend. We need to teach our children and teens about the dangers of dating violence and how to maintain healthy, non-violent relationships.

Some tips for teens on maintaining healthy relationships from loveisrespect.org:

— Speak up if something is bothering you.

— Respect each others wishes, feelings and values.

— Disagreements are natural; compromise.

— Be supportive and encouraging toward one another.

— Respect each other's privacy; healthy relationships require space.

— Create healthy boundaries, an expression of what you want out of the relation-



ship.

Having a healthy relationship with someone should not restrict these abilities:

— Going out with friends and spending time with family without your partner.

— Participating in hobbies or activities you enjoy.

— Not having to share

passwords to your cellphone, email or other technology.

— Respect individual likes and needs.

If you or someone you know is a victim of teen dating violence, help is available. Call the Advocacy Resource Center at 632-1808 or (877) 639-7820.

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Medicine.uiowa.edu/shpep

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So far, human trafficking counter measures growing

BY RICK SMITH

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) created the Blue Campaign in 2010 as a coordinator for federal inter-agency action against human trafficking. Since then, federal measures continue to grow to counter the crime, at least it did up through 2016.

In a nutshell, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery “often hidden in plain sight,” according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). While some may think it happens only in big cities or foreign lands, it also happens in U.S. suburbs, small towns and rural areas. Usually, victims are manipulated into some type of labor or commercial sex activities either by some kind of force or fraudulence. The work may involve legitimate or illegitimate concerns such as factories, sweatshops, restaurants and hotels, households, farms, commercial fisheries, strip clubs, massage parlors, prostitution and others.

DHS reports human trafficking victims tend to be vulnerable because of poverty and bleak prospects for finding sufficient income. Victims may be of any age, race, gender or nationality. American Indians are among the groups counted as especially

vulnerable to human trafficking. Vulnerable groups usually consist of folks in some sort of dire circumstances, such as abused or neglected individuals, children in foster care or juvenile justice systems, runaway or homeless youth, victims of violence, substance abusers, folks with disabilities or low incomes and other situations.

Further, DHS reports thousands of human trafficking cases are reported every year in the United States, but many more go unnoticed because it is a “hidden crime” and victims might be afraid to come forward or people may unknowingly witness human trafficking without recognizing the signs of the crime.

The Blue Campaign evolved into overseeing anti-trafficking training and awareness measures for law enforcement, federal employees, task forces, private commercial concerns, civilian communities and even other countries. Thousands of people have been trained through the program, many partnerships formed with state and local governments as well as private businesses to counter the crime and spread the word on how to recognize and report human trafficking.

During 2016, DHS work continued on several fronts including measures dealing with trafficking

Indicators of human trafficking, from the DHS Blue Campaign

Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life. Here are some common indicators to help recognize human trafficking:

- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends or general community?
- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Is the person disoriented, confused or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?

- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person fearful, timid or submissive?
- Is the person showing signs of lacking food, water, sleep or medical care?
- Is the person often accompanied by someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems in control of situations such as where they go or with whom they talk?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear

not to have a stable living situation?

- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?

Not all indicators listed are present in every human trafficking situation, and the presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

To report suspected human trafficking, call (866) 347-2423, to get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, call (888) 373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

cases found among immigrants and developing more formal partnerships across the country. The Blue Campaign awareness training became an official part of training courses at federal law enforcement training centers for over 90 law enforcement agencies. Working in concert with other federal agencies, DHS initiated 1,025 human trafficking cases resulting in 1,943 criminal arrests.

Those who wish to learn more about DHS counter measures against human trafficking may

visit the Blue Campaign online at www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign.

Of regional note, a group of American Indian grandmothers and others from the United States and Canada staged a protest walk last October across the International Bridge between the twin cities of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Ontario to protest and draw attention to the hushed scourge of human trafficking around the Great Lakes. The walk was organized by the Ottawa, Ont., based Persons Against the Crime of Trafficking (PACT).

Win Awenen Nisitotung cited a report last October from the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking that “acknowledged ‘a serious and growing problem with human trafficking’ exists in the state as evidenced by periodic enforcement sweeps by the Federal Bureau of Investigation catching perpetrators and liberating victims in a variety of situations such as private homes in Romulus and Flint along with hotels in Madison Heights, Farmington Hills, Southfield and Detroit.”

State offers quieter camping options for veterans, others over Fourth of July

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency collaborate to offer Fireworks-Free Fourth of July alternative camping options for veterans and other visitors seeking a quieter holiday this season. Several Michigan state parks and recreation areas will participate July 1-4.

For the third year in a row, the DNR and the MVAA have worked together to offer alternative camping options for those veterans and other visitors, including pet owners, looking for a calmer Fourth of July. These participating campgrounds are located farther away from traditional community firework displays.

“We are pleased to help honor our veterans by offering alternative camping options for veterans, or anyone, who wants a quieter experience in Michigan’s great outdoors,” said DNR Parks and Recreation Division Chief Ron Olson. “It’s early enough that campsite reservations are still available in all of these parks.”

Camping reservations can be made up to six months in advance, which means that the window to reserve these campsites is already here. To check camping availability and make a reservation, visit www.midn-reservations.com or call (800) 44PARKS (800 447-2757).

“We are proud to partner with the DNR to offer those veterans seeking quieter Fourth of July alternative options,” Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director James Robert Redford said. “Post-traumatic stress injury, also known as post-traumatic stress disorder, can occur after a person has been through a traumatic event. For some, fireworks and

other loud, unexpected noises can trigger intense feelings of stress, fear or anger, and Fireworks-Free Fourth provides an alternative when celebrating our nation’s freedom.”

The following parks host Fireworks-Free Fourth of July, July 1-4:

- Bewabic State Park
- Brighton Recreation Area-Bishop Lake Campground
- Cheboygan State Park
- Craig Lake State Park
- Hayes State Park
- Lake Hudson Recreation Area
- Leelanau State Park
- Rifle River Recreation Area
- Sleepy Hollow State Park
- Tippy Dam Recreation Area

Wells State Park

Fireworks-Free Fourth of July parks are far from community displays; however, the DNR cannot guarantee that fireworks will not be set off near the state parks. Aerial fireworks such as Roman candles and bottle rockets are not allowed in Michigan state parks at any time, but small, low-impact fireworks such as fountain fireworks, sparklers and ground spinners are allowed.

To learn more, visit www.michigan.gov/FireworksFreeFourth. Learn more about services for Michigan veterans at MichiganVeterans.com or call (800) MICH-VET (800 642-4838).

ST. PETER MONUMENTS

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- Invited Drums - Sturgeon Bay, Mukwaa Gizik
- Emcees - Joe Medicine and Mitch Bolo
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Anishinaabemowin 2017 *Mkwa Giizis - February*

Our language is a gift from our ancestors. Enjoy it one step, one word, one phrase at a time!

By Susan Askwith

Abbreviated pronunciation guide

The full guide will be published every other month. You can see it in January's paper, which you either saved or can find on line at www.saulttribe.com and click the tab for the newspaper.

a sounds like U in cup	i sounds like I in fit
aa sounds like A in fall	ii sounds like EE in feed
o sounds like OO in book	e sounds like E in fed
oo sounds like O in grow	g sounds only like g in go
nh has no sound at all*	

* It only signals the the vowel in front of it is said in a nasal way.

TAKE IT SLOW AND EASY! When you pronounce words, let them roll around in your mouth carefully, using the guide patiently - and you'll get it!

A tip from Shirley Recollet, who teaches our preschoolers Anishinaabemowin:

A natural and helpful way to learn new words and phrases is to visualize them. If there is a motion that goes with an action, use it! Use all your senses like our children do.

Here are the words for the month.

Mkwa Giizis	Bear Moon
Zaagidwin	Love
Zaagidwin Giizhigat	Love (Valentine's) Day
G'zaagin	I love you
De (De'an)	Heart (Hearts)
Giniwaande	Rose colored (pink)
Mskwaande	Blood colored (red)
Noos	My father
N'gashi	My mother
Nwiijkewenh	My friend
Waawaaskwane	Flower
Waawaaskwane'an	Flowers
N'bishigendaan	I like .. (name something)
N'bishigendmaa	I like .. (name someone)
Waaskwanebijigen	Turn on the light
Aatebijigen	Turn off the light

Our teacher Leonard Kimewon offered some sayings to charm your sweethearts for Zaagidwin Giizhigat!

Use these to write in the Zaagidwin Giizhigat de'an

Ka dibenmin na?

G'wiiskobizi.

G'zaagin.

G'minwenmin.

Gda samendaagwaas!

Kiinaajizaagin sa!

Aapiji gwa k'minwendaagwas!

N'gchinendam sa wiijkewenhmiyin.

Would you be mine?

You are sweet.

I love you.

I like you.

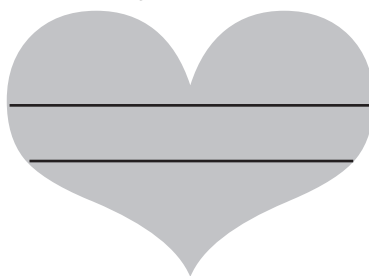
You are awesome!

I'm crazy about you!

You are so much fun!

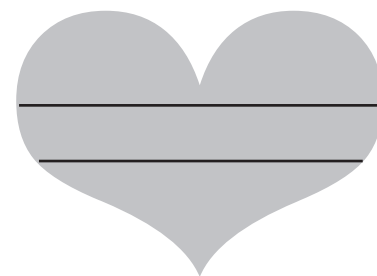
I'm glad you're my friend.

Would you be mine?

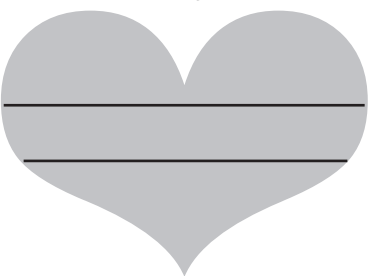


Write the Ojibwe words for the English words over the hearts.

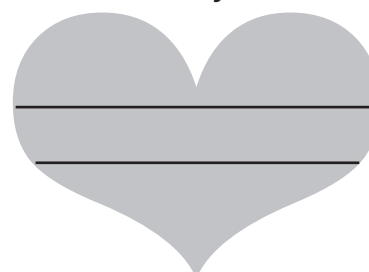
You are sweet.



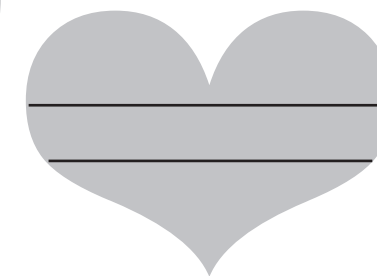
I like you.



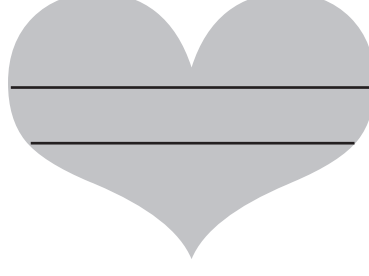
I love you.



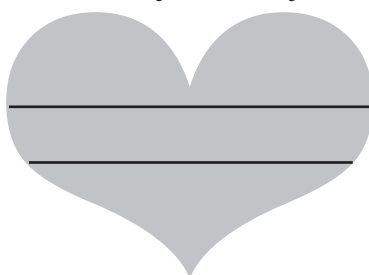
You are awesome!



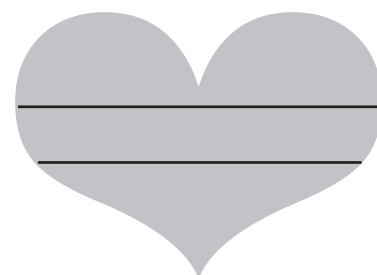
I'm glad you're my friend!



I'm crazy about you!



You are so much fun!



Numbers!! (We need them for time, money, measurement, scores, etc.)

Last month you learned to count to 5: bezhik, niizh, nswe, niiwin, naanan. For 6 we say ngodwaaswi. "Ngod" is a piece of word that says 1 again, and "waaswi is a handful, 5. So, ngodwaaswi is 1+5 = 6. Niizhwaaswi is 2+5=7. And 3+5 = 8, which is nshwaaswi (not QUITE nswe for 3), and 9 goofs up the pattern: zhaangswi. Finally 10 is midwaaswi. The bright side is that once you know 1-10, all the other numbers fit a VERY nice pattern. So get your tongue warmed up on these cold Mkwa Giizis days and get hot at counting to 10:

Write the Anishinaabemowin word for each number, on the line. *Writing helps stick things in our brains.*

1 _____	2 _____
3 _____	4 _____
5 _____	6 _____
7 _____	8 _____
9 _____	10. _____

Fun Fact: However you write out the number 4, it always looks like a little stick person, and it's little leg is always bent at the knee. It this way you can remember we say "niiwin" for 4.

Weather comments of the month

Nchiiwat

It is stormy.

Niiskaadat

It is miserable weather.

Health comments of the month

N'mino zhi yaa

I am fine.

N'maanaa ji zhi yaa.

I'm not feeling so good.

Going further

This month we suggest you might like to hear from Helen Roy, who has taught our language at Michigan State University. Go to YouTube and look up "*Helen in the Kitchen Making Frybread.*"

In this video she uses mostly English and some Anishinaabemowin. She is a lot of fun and you'll find learning new words to be pretty easy!

Don't forget you can go to www.saulttribe.com and follow links to Culture, and under that, Language, and find out when you can come to classes. Or call a teacher! Don't give up!

Please save this page! Each month this year we will have another. Bit by bit we will learn together.

Dakota pipeline advocate appointed to chair of U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

By Rick Smith

U.S. senators John Hoeven (R-N.D.) and Tom Udall (D-N.M.) were respectively named chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) on Jan. 5.

Hoeven is a former governor of North Dakota and favors completion of both the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines. Udall favors using diverse sources for power and has expressed the belief global warming is a real concern and favors a transition to clean energy sources.

"I am honored to serve as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and look forward to working with Vice Chairman Udall and members of the committee to pass legislation that helps improve the lives of people across Indian

Country," said Hoeven in a prepared statement. "In our roles, we will address the issues of job creation, natural resource management, health care, education, public safety and housing in Indian communities. We will also make it a priority to promote economic growth. Jobs and economic growth are the priorities that will help Indian families, communities and businesses succeed."

Hoeven replaces Sen. John Barrasso as committee chairman and Udall relieves Sen. Jon Tester of the vice chairman's duties. Both Barrasso and Tester wished their successors well and said they looked forward to working with them and the rest of Congress.

"I am enormously honored to become the vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian



U.S. Senator John Hoeven (R-N.D.)

Affairs," said Udall, "a role that will strengthen my ability to fight for and defend the sovereignty of New Mexico's 23 tribes and all Native American communities. With the Indian Affairs Committee's proud tradition of

bipartisan cooperation in mind, I am very much looking forward to working with Chairman Hoeven and all our committee members to help secure progress for Indian Country.

On his web site, Hoeven states he is pushing to implement policies for federal energy development where states "lead the way." He said the "right kind of energy plan" would reduce regulations and build infrastructure such as pipelines, transmission lines, roads and rail.

Last Jan. 24, Hoeven issued statements in which he expressed support for both the Keystone XL Pipeline and the Dakota Access Pipeline. He said he had proposed legislation to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline that was vetoed by President Barack Obama. He praised President

Donald Trump's recent actions, "getting the Keystone XL Pipeline back on track signals that our nation will begin to build the kind of energy infrastructure we need, now and into the future. The project is not only about energy, but also about jobs, economic growth and making America stronger and safer by reducing our dependence on Middle Eastern oil."

Regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline, Hoeven described Trump's executive order restoring the project as a "step closer to a time when life can return to normal for the people who live and work in the pipeline area. To further that end, we have also asked for additional federal law enforcement resources and personnel to maintain peace and protect people and property."

Standing Rock Sioux vow court battles, march on Washington

After the Trump administration circumvented safety precautions requiring environmental impact statements and granted an easement for construction to continue on the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), the lead opponent to the pipeline, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, said they remain undaunted in their commitment against the easement and in protecting the water source for their reservation.

"We are a sovereign nation

and we will fight to protect our water and sacred places from the brazen private interests trying to push this pipeline through to benefit a few wealthy Americans with financial ties to the Trump administration," said Dave Archambault II, chairman of the tribe's board of directors, in an announcement.

The tribe plans to challenge any easements and demand a fair, accurate and lawful assessments of risks to its treaty rights, water

supply and sacred places as well as full disclosure of oil spill and risk assessment records for full transparency and public review.

The tribe also warned that should DAPL successfully build and operate the pipeline, they will endeavor to "shut the pipeline operations down," though by what means wasn't mentioned.

The tribe simultaneously invited allies from across the United States and around the world to join them in a Native Nations

march on Washington scheduled for March 10.

"We ask that our allies join us in demanding that Congress demand a fair and accurate process," said Archambault. "Our fight is no longer at the North Dakota site itself. Our fight is with Congress and the Trump administration. Meet us in Washington on March 10."

At the heart of the conflict is a 1,094-foot tract of land owned by the U.S. government that would

allow the Dakota Access Pipeline to run 100 feet beneath Lake Oahe, a reservoir that supplies water for the nearby Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Reservation just down river from the construction site.

DAPL proponents claim the pipeline would be safe. But an earlier proposal to cross the river north of Bismarck, N.D., was rejected because of its potential threat to the water supply, according to *The Bismarck Tribune*.



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Sault Tribe general counsel: referendum petition moot

The following legal opinion was written for the Sault Tribe's Board of Directors by General Counsel John Wernet regarding the validity of the pending referendum challenging the board's action in rescinding its limited delegation of day-to-day management authority to the tribal chairperson.

On March 20, 2010, the Sault Tribe held a Secretarial election amending its original Constitution and Bylaws by deleting language that had previously directed the chairperson to "perform all duties consistent with the office as chief executive officer of the tribe." This amendment made it clear that the authority to direct the operations of tribal government was no longer vested in the chairperson directly by the Constitution but, rather, in the board of directors as provided in Article VII of the Constitution.

On July 20, 2012, the board of directors adopted Resolution 2012-146 delegating limited authority to the chairperson to manage the day-to-day operations of the tribe. Unlike the earlier delegation made by the Constitution, this new delegation was limited and was subject to the authority of the board to review, approve, modify or rescind actions taken by the chairperson under that delegation. The resolution also provided, in its final paragraph, that "[t]he authority delegated to the chairperson by this resolution shall continue until modified, rescinded or extended by a subsequent resolution of the board of directors.

At a duly noticed meeting of the board of directors held on Dec. 13, 2016, a motion was made and duly seconded "to rescind Resolution 2012-146, Limited Delegation of Authority to the Chairperson. That motion was approved by a vote of 10 in support, with two opposing.

At the same meeting, immediately following the vote on the motion to rescind the delegated

authority of the chairperson, the board proceeded to discuss a proposed resolution delegating day-to-day management authority to the tribe's executive director. That resolution was likewise approved by a vote of 10 in support, with two opposing, and was assigned Resolution No. 2016-290. That resolution expressly delegated the authority to "manage and direct the day-to-day operations of the tribe" to the tribe's executive director. It further provided that "All organizational charts shall be amended to reflect the reassignment of duties herein. ..." It specified that "this resolution amends any previously adopted resolution regarding this matter." And, finally, it specified that "the tribe's governmental personnel policies shall be amended replacing chairman/CEO with executive director."

Following these actions on Dec. 13, 2016, a petition was circulated calling for a referendum. The petition forms read as follows:

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, ARE ELIGIBLE VOTERS OF THE SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS AND ARE REQUESTING A REFERENDUM ON:

Rescind Resolution 2012-146 "Limited Delegation of Authority of Chairperson"

(Proposed 12-13-16)

That petition was duly filed at the tribe's administrative offices within the 30 days allowed by Tribal Code. It was reviewed by the Enrollment Office, pursuant to section 12.106(4) of the Referendum Ordinance which determined that it did appear to contain the signatures of "at least one hundred (100) eligible voters of the tribe" as required by the ordinance. The petition was therefore referred to the tribal board of directors for a determination as to its validity pursuant to section 12.106(5).

The board has now asked for my written opinion regarding the

validity of the referendum petitions.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, it is my opinion that regardless of whether the board's Dec. 13, 2016, motion was legally effective to rescind the delegation of authority to the chairperson, the subsequent adoption of Resolution 2016-290 did effectively accomplish that rescission of authority and instead delegated that authority to the executive director. Resolution 2016-290, therefore, rendered the earlier vote moot.

It is my further opinion that, because the referendum petitions sought to challenge only the earlier motion and not the subsequent resolution, the petitions are also moot and thus invalid.

I start with an examination of the action by the board expressed by its vote to rescind the prior delegation of authority to the chairperson. As I noted above, that action was taken a mere motion and vote. No resolution was proposed or adopted. No resolution number was assigned. This fact means that there is a serious question both as to (1) whether the vote was effective to actually rescind the earlier delegation to the chairperson and (2) as to whether that vote can even be subject to a referendum.

As to the legal sufficiency of the action, there are at least two concerns. First, Chapter 14 of the Tribal Code, Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, § 14.111, specifies what actions the Board must take by resolution, and which may be taken by a simple motion. Section 14.111(2) provides that:

(2) The board of directors will act by resolution as follows: ...

(d) If the matter regulates the management of the tribe or a subdivision of the tribe and is meant to be permanent until changed ...

Emphasis added. By its very nature, the board's intended action here, i.e., the rescinding of the delegated powers to the chairperson, clearly was intended

to "regulate the management of the tribe" and was also clearly "meant to be permanent until changed." Under the Tribal Code, therefore, this action seems to be exactly the sort of action that the code requires be taken by resolution. (But cf § 14.103 which provides that "... Any deviation from or waiver of these Rules of Parliamentary Procedure or Roberts's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall not affect or void any action taken by the board of directors or any subordinate board. Furthermore, such deviation or waiver does not convey any right or cause of action to third parties.")

More importantly, Resolution 2012-246 — the resolution that the board was trying to rescind — itself contained specific language requiring that any rescission must be done by resolution. It provided: "3. The authority delegated to the chairperson by this resolution shall continue until modified, rescinded or extended by a subsequent resolution of the board of directors." (Emphasis added.)

Taken together, these two provisions raise a serious question about the nature and validity of the vote taken by the board. If the board's action is viewed merely as a motion, rather than a resolution, it was arguably ineffective and would have failed to accomplish the purpose for which it was intended. On the other hand, if it is to be considered to have had legal force and effect, then it must be considered to be — and must be treated as — a resolution, subject to referendum.

In my view, however, these difficult questions are effectively rendered moot by the board's subsequent adoption of Resolution 2016-290 as its next order of business at the Dec. 13 meeting. Resolution 2016-290, by its express terms, delegated the day-to-day administration of the tribe to its executive director. It provided that "[a]ll organizational charts shall be amended to reflect the reassignment of duties

herein. ..." It specified that "this resolution amends any previously adopted resolution regarding this matter." And, finally, it specified that "the tribe's governmental personnel policies shall be amended replacing chairman/CEO with executive director." The effect of Resolution 2016-290 was plainly to rescind the prior delegation to the chairperson and to instead vest that authority in the executive director. It did so independently of the prior vote on the motion — and irrespective of whether that prior vote is considered to be a resolution or a mere motion.

That brings me, finally, to the referendum petitions at issue here. As is noted above, those petitions challenge only the board action taken to "Rescind Resolution 2012-146 'Limited Delegation of Authority of Chairperson'." This clearly appears to refer to the board's vote on the initial motion to rescind that authority. The petitions make no reference of any kind to Resolution 2016-290. And I see no way that the petitions could be construed as challenging the latter resolution since the code is quite clear that referendum petitions must clearly identify the specific resolution being challenged and must provide the number of the challenged resolution. See section 12.106(2) of the Election Code.

It is my opinion, therefore, that regardless of whether the board's Dec. 13, 2016, motion was legally effective to rescind the delegation of authority to the chairperson, the subsequent adoption of Resolution 2016-290 did effectively accomplish that rescission of authority and instead delegated that authority to the executive director. Resolution 2016-290, therefore, rendered the earlier vote moot. Because the referendum petitions sought to challenge only the earlier motion and not the subsequent resolution, the petitions are also moot and thus invalid.

Board resolutions passed in December 2016 and January 2017

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors convened on Dec. 13, 2016, passing nine resolutions and met again on Jan. 3, passing nine resolutions and also on Jan. 17, passing four resolutions. All

Lansing, Huron Twp trust land apps mandatory

From "Trust land," page 1 of Michigan could not block the Bay Mills Tribe from opening a casino on land not part of its gaming compact with the state. Also in 2014, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette withdrew from the U.S. Supreme Court a lawsuit that effectively blocked the filing of the applications.

Payment said the Huron Township land is a "perfect casino location," with easy access to I-275, I-75 and Metro Airport. The land already includes a large, unfinished building that could easily be converted to gaming use and tribal offices. The casino would create jobs and generate revenues to provide services to tribal members who live in Metro Detroit.

The 125,000-square-foot

three meetings were held in Sault Ste. Marie.

Dec. 13, 2016 meeting

Resolution No. 2016-283: Amending Tribal Code Chapter 70 Criminal Procedure to Expand Protection of Tribal Women —

Lansing casino would create 1,500 permanent jobs and 700 construction jobs. It would also generate revenues the City of Lansing would use to fund the Lansing Promise Scholarships, a program to fund four-year college scholarships for graduates of the city's high schools.

The tribe said both casinos could feature either Class 2 or Class 3 gaming. Class 3 gaming includes electronic and table games normally associated with most large casinos (slot machines, poker, blackjack, craps and roulette). Class 2 gaming is typically defined as games of chance such as bingo, pull tabs and others. To casino customers, many electronic Class 2 games look and play just like traditional slot machines, even though they are not.

Tribal Code Chapter 70 was amended in order to adopt provisions consistent with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

Res. No. 2016-284: Amending Tribal Code Chapter 42: Gaming Ordinance Subject to NIGC Review and Approval — The NIGC had recommended one minor amendment to a previous resolution (2016-247), to clarify the right of licensees to a hearing in cases involving potential revocation of gaming licenses under that Code.

Res. No. 2016-285: Authorization to Purchase a Real Estate Vacant Lot Parcel Across From the JKL School — The purchase of a vacant lot across from JKL Bahweting Anishnabe PSA in Sault Ste. Marie was approved, with funds coming from the Building Fund.

Res. No. 2016-286: COPS TRGP 2014 FY 2017 Budget Modification — The board approved a budget modification to COPS TRGP 2014, for an increase in Federal DOJ monies of \$26,071.

Res. No. 2016-287: Sugar Island Roads Establishment of FY 2016 Budget — The board approved a FY 2016 budget for Sugar Island roads with Federal monies of \$27,801.

Res. No. 2016-288: Cultural — Ojibwe Language FY 2016 Budget Modification — A budget modification to reallocate expenses was approved.

Res. No. 2016-289: Selection of Outside Counsel for 2020 Great Lakes Treaty Rights Negotiations — The law firm of Morisset, Schlosser, Jozwiak & Somerville of Seattle, Washington was selected to serve as outside legal counsel to the tribe for purposes of negotiation a successor compact to the 2000 Consent Decree.

Res. No. 2016-290: Executive Director — The duties of the tribe's executive director were outlined and approved.

Res. No. 2016-291: To Develop and Implement a Tribal Action Plan for a Comprehensive Prevention and Treatment Program for Alcoholism and Other Substance Abuse — The

board adopted the Tribal Action Plan as submitted.

Jan. 3, 2017 meeting

Res. No. 2017-01: 2017 BIA Tribal Youth Initiative Program Natural Resources Outreach — Signature authority was granted for the 2017 Tribal Youth Initiative Program Grant administered by the BIA.

Res. No. 2017-02: 2017 BIA Endangered Species — Wolf Management — Signature authority was granted for the 2017 Endangered Species Grant administered by the BIA.

Res. No. 2017-03: 2017 BIA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Ruffed Grouse and Adaptive Management — Signature authority was granted for the 2017 Great Lake Restoration Initiative Grant administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Res. No. 2017-04: Environmental — GLRI Tribal Initiative FY 2017 Budget Modification — A budget modification to GLRI tribal initiative for a decrease in Federal EPA

See "Resolutions," page 16

Udall introduced amendment to preserve IHS funding

By RICK SMITH

In an effort to head off possible funding cuts to the Indian Health Service (IHS) stemming from the Republican move to repeal the Affordable Care Act, Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.) introduced an amendment to exempt the IHS from such cuts. The act, *S. Amendment 109, Protecting Access to Care at Federal, Tribal and Urban Indian Health Facilities*, would protect funding provided through Medicaid expansion mandated in the Affordable Care Act.

The preamble to the amendment reads, "This amendment creates a point of order to protect health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives from any cuts made to the Medicaid program. Most healthcare facilities serving Native Americans



U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.)

are already underfunded. Under Medicaid expansion, the Indian Health Service, tribes, tribal organizations and urban Indian organizations have received desperately needed revenue that has

allowed them to offer expanded access to care. Reducing federal Medicaid funding to these organizations jeopardizes the health and wellbeing of Indian Country."

The amendment further points out consistent access to preventative and emergency medical care has long been, and continues to be, unavailable in many Indian communities, leading to some of the worst health conditions in the nation, including the lowest life expectancy among all groups.

The amendment explains how American Indians are provided federally funded health care at IHS facilities much like veterans are eligible to receive no-cost medical care through the Veterans Health Administration. However, the budget for IHS only covers 59 percent of current medical care needs and many facilities

are forced to deny medical services to American Indians except patients in dire situations known as "life or limb" cases.

Further, according to the amendment, IHS patients eligible for Medicare increased by an estimated 28 percent under the 2014 eligibility rules. Hence, IHS received approximately \$1 billion in needed funding from covering the increased number of covered patients.

"The Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act has helped to fulfill our federal government's trust responsibility to provide health care to tribes," Udall said in an announcement. "Any reduction in federal payments to the Indian health system would jeopardize the lives and well-being of American Indians and Alaska Natives, as most

health care facilities that serve Native Americans are already woefully underfunded. The Medicaid expansion has enabled IHS to provide critical, life-saving services like surgeries and preventative care, and attempts to strip away these services from tribal communities by repealing the Affordable Care Act are unconscionable. My amendment is essential for protecting the health care of American Indians and Alaska Natives against reckless repeal efforts."

According to the amendment, both the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Health Board support the measure.

Udall is vice chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

American Indian legislative update as of January 2017

FROM FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

A new era is definitely underway in Washington. There's more bluster from the White House and some hurried activity in Congress (but that part is not new).

One dawning realization is that things really can't change overnight — not for the better, and not for the worse.

New health care laws cannot be written in a day, and so there will be conversations and debates about how any new plan will work (or not).

Decisions to cut "trillions" over 10 years have been made before and, when they turn out to be completely unworkable, those decisions are delayed into a vague undefined future. Some changes — like turning a hostile eye to refugees — can be made with the stroke of a pen. But many are not wholly within the power of the president — they're going to take work, on all sides.

Here are some stories for the beginning of the 115th Congress: updating the federal response to Standing Rock, counting the ways that health care reform may (or will) affect Indian Country, checking in on a very complex "budget and reconciliation" process and cataloguing some of the bills that have already been introduced.

Tribal consultation — and not: Three federal agencies that interact with Indian tribes and Alaskan Natives on infrastructure matters were directed by the

Obama administration to create a government-wide guidance on appropriate consultation with Indian tribes.

They have issued their report [Search online for *Improving Tribal Consultation and Tribal Involvement in Federal Infrastructure Decisions* to see entire 71-page report].

Meanwhile, President Trump has directed the Army Corps of Engineers to "review and approve" the permits sought by Energy Partners to continue the work on the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Tribal consultation: The Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Interior and the Justice Department collaborated on documenting an improved consultation process between the federal government and Indian governments, especially with respect to infrastructure projects that affect tribes and tribal lands and waters. The report itself was based on a broad consultation with tribes and includes a range of observations and recommendations from the people most affected. It was released just before the Inauguration.

And on the other hand, President Trump issued an executive order on January 24 directing the Army Corps of Engineers to "review and approve" the permit needed to allow the Dakota Access Pipeline to go forward, under the Missouri River and down through the Ogallala

Aquifer, the largest underground "sea" of water on this continent. Even this order, contrary as it is to ongoing government efforts to maintain respectful and consultative relationships with Native governments, is not a simple "go ahead."

Property ownership, the status of treaties and other legal issues will have to be debated and settled before the way is clear for DAPL.

BUDGETING IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

On Jan. 23, the Senate gave final approval to S. Con. Res. 3, the budget resolution for fiscal year 2017. It was due last April. Why now? Why bother, when the fiscal year is already underway since last Oct. 1? Inside the beltway, this is all fascinating news, the subject of much discussion, many rumors and maybe even some bets. But it's an action that will have consequences for us all, so we need to pay attention.

What's going on? What's the point? What does the budget resolution do? The budget is anote from Congress to itself; it isn't law and it doesn't have to be signed by the president. It does two things: (1) It sets totals. It outlines overall spending for discretionary programs (which are supposed to receive appropriations each year) and for mandatory programs (which are already laid out in laws, such as veterans' benefits and Medicaid.) It also names an amount of revenue (mostly taxes) expected for that

fiscal year. (2) It gives instructions to certain committees to find ways to cut spending (or sometimes, to raise taxes) by a certain amount. These are "reconciliation instructions" — they pin down which committees are responsible for reconciling spending with income.

When the named committees report back the results of their work under the reconciliation instructions, the recommendations are rolled into a single "reconciliation bill." That bill does become law and does have to be signed by the president, but needs only a simple majority to pass in the Senate (instead of the 60-vote majority that has become the general rule).

This year, the reconciliation instructions are particularly important for two reasons: (1) They are focused on just two committees in each chamber: Senate Finance and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) committees, and House Ways and Means and House Energy and Commerce committees. Each of these committees is charged with reducing spending by \$1 trillion over ten years. (2) These committees have jurisdictions over the Affordable Care Act

and some other programs that are critically important to the lives of many low income people, families, and communities.

Keeping in mind that the Affordable Care Act actually saves money over the long run, and that these committees are instructed to come up with something that saves \$1 trillion more over the next 10 years, they face a daunting challenge.

If history is any kind of predictor, the reconciliation bills will assume large savings in the "out years" (i.e. many years from now) and won't really meet the goals in the current Congress. Nevertheless, there's opportunity and incentive to cut deeply into other programs overseen by those committees — programs that are critical to many lives.

Between them, the Senate HELP Committee and the Senate Finance Committee oversee most of the major health care programs and most of the assistance available to unemployed and elderly people and low-income families. On the House side, the Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee cover this same set of critically important programs.

See "Legislative update," pg. 10

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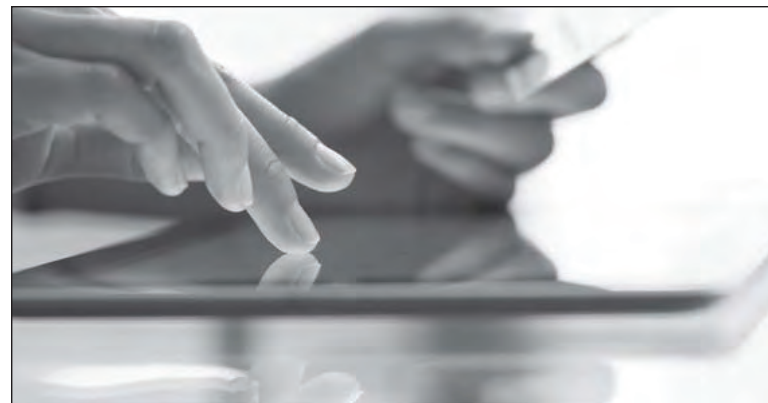
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Legislation update: New congress, new bills, big changes

From "Legislative update," pg.9
They will be writing reconciliation bills that are very likely to include a repeal of the Affordable Care Act and may include a replacement, and that may assign devastating cuts to programs that have nothing extra to spare.

BIG CHANGES TO HEALTH CARE MEAN BIG CHANGES IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Tribal members rely on a broad network of health care services and financing mechanisms, not just the Indian Health Service or tribal programs. How will this complex network be affected by proposals to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act?

The widespread impact of big changes will reach Indian Country.

Most Americans Indians and Alaska Natives qualify for health care services through the tribal programs and the Indian Health Service, including Urban Indian Health Services. But these services cannot reach everyone, either because of distance or because of limited facilities or staff.

Many Indians also qualify for Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Health Care or another public health plan or employer-provided plan, and can access services through other channels. Because of the widespread reliance on this broad network of health care services, most American Indians and Alaska Natives will be deeply affected by whatever happens to health care programs under the move to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

There are also specific issues affecting American Indians in this season of health care reform. Indian Health Services could be affected directly by a repeal of the ACA.

First, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), which sets up the entire structure for the Indian Health Service and Urban Indian Health Services, is included (by reference) in the ACA. If the ACA is repealed, those few lines that authorize the IHCIA must be preserved.

How did the Indian Health Care Improvement Act end up in the ACA? Before 2009, the IHCIA had not been updated and reauthorized for fourteen years. A new and improved version of the IHCIA had been negotiated for many years and was ready to go to the floor of the House and Senate in the fall of 2009.

The ACA was also heading to the floor in the fall of 2009 and was likely to occupy all available

floor time. Rather than delay action on the IHCIA once again, leaders of both parties decided to incorporate the IHCIA by reference into the ACA. The reference said simply: S. 1790 entitled 'A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act' to revise and extend that act, and for other purposes,' as reported by the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate in December 2009 is enacted into law. (Section 10222 (PL 111-148) Those few lines carry a huge amount of weight. They must be preserved.

Access to Medicare and Medicaid-funded services could be affected by repeal. Secondly, two specific provisions in the ACA ensure that Medicare and Medicaid programs will continue to operate in Indian Country and support the work of the Indian health centers. These must also be carried over into any new structures.

Current law requires the federal government will reimburse states for 100 percent of the cost of providing Medicaid services to American Indians and Alaska Natives, ensuring that the federal government continues to carry its trust responsibility to American Indians, and that the additional cost will not fall on states.

Two sections in the ACA coordinate coverage under Indian Health Service and tribal programs with Medicare (Section 2902) and confirm that the Indian Health Service, tribal health services and Urban Indian Health Services are "payers of last resort" for services provided (Section 2901).

Finally, current law also specifies that health care benefits provided by a tribe to its members shall not be counted as taxable income, bringing these benefits on a par with employer-provided benefits or benefits from public programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid.

A state-based structure could leave Americans Indians with few options. Senators Collins and Cassidy have introduced a replacement bill that puts states in charge of the structure of health care systems within their boundaries. So far, this legislation does not mention tribal governments, Indian Health Services or Indians. While legislation like this will go through many amendments and iterations before it — or anything else — becomes law, it is important for legislators who are considering legal structures for health

care keep in mind all the levels of government on this continent: federal, tribal, state and local.

Congress can ensure that the Indian Health Care Improvement Act is preserved as a separate piece of legislation, and that the provisions that directly affect American Indians are carried over in to any replacement legislation. Find out how you can help make these things happen.

NEW CONGRESS, NEW BILLS

Less than a month old, the 115th Congress is already awash with bills. As of Jan. 21, some 18 bills specific to American Indians had been introduced, and 22 others included mention of tribal governments in bills that provide general programs and grants for states and local governments.

We'll keep track of these bills on a new list for the 115th Congress. Here are a few of the specifics, introduced in the first few days of the year:

Budget and tax provisions: Representative Young reintroduced the Honor Our Trust Relationships Act as H.R. 292. The bill would exempt Alaska Native and American Indian programs from sequestration that could be required under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Sequestration is an automatic across-the-board spending reduction that permanently cancels spending authority according to a formula in order to enforce deficit reduction goals.

Taking lands into trust: Representative Cole introduced H.R. 130 and H.R. 131 to counter the Supreme Court's 2009 decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar*. That decision held that the federal government did not have authority to take Indian lands into trust for any tribes that were not recognized before 1934, the effective date of the Indian Reorganization Act. The impact of the decision has clouded the status of a lot of Indian land, effectively hobbling economic development in Indian country. H.R. 130 affirms the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take lands into trust for the benefit of Indian tribes. H.R. 131 reaffirms the trust status of lands that have already been taken into trust for the benefit of tribes that were federally recognized at the time when the trust was established, even if that date fell after the 1934 act.

Do your senators and your representatives understand how Indians are affected by the changes in the Affordable Care Act?

TAKE ACTION — TELL THEM NOW.

Employment and training: Senator Murkowski and Representative Young have reintroduced two versions of a bill to reauthorize the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act, S. 91 and H.R. 228, respectively. This program, enacted in 1992, provides grants to tribes to support tribal jobs and job training programs.

Health care: Representative Young introduced H.R. 235 to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service. This would allow the Indian Health Service to have reasonable notice of available funds, so that they can staff their health centers and hospitals on a timely and orderly basis.

Senator Heller introduced S. 43, the Native American Health Savings Improvement Act, which would allow Native Americans who are eligible for Indian Health

Services to participate in health savings plans.

Water: Representative Valadao and several California co-sponsors introduced H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act. The bill establishes a structure of collaboration and consultation among federal, state, local and tribal governments to deal with scarcity of water in the Central Valley and Southern California. The language of the bill affirms that "nothing in this title limits or expands any water right or treaty right of any federally recognized Indian tribe." However, some of the state permits required of tribes that hold water rights protected by treaties with the federal government may be seen as infringements on sovereignty.

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Photos by Rick Smith

JKL Anishinaabe language and culture program coordinator and teacher, Dr. Chris Gordon, gets a surprise celebration for his state Ojibwe language endorsement (See story on front page). Above left, Gordon, center, props his cake with Carolyn Dale, JKL director of curriculum and instruction, on left, and Theresa Kallstrom, school superintendent, on right. Above right, third graders surprise Gordon as he walks into the library to an impromptu celebration on Feb. 6.

Drum socials celebrate Joseph K Lumsden school



Above, JKL school holds a drum social in its new gym Jan. 25 led by the school's drum. According to school staffer, Lori Jodoin, the students and staff celebrate all their hard work and accomplishments each quarter by joining together for an afternoon of drumming, dancing and friendship. Family and community members are always invited and encouraged to participate in these celebrations.



Above, young ladies learn the shawl dance. Last fall, JKL student Molly Escherich (middle, blue jingle dress) was the only Sault Tribe member to dance on the steps of the state capital at the Michigan Stands With Standing Rock rally in East Lansing, Mich. According to her mother, Tiffany Escherich, a special jingle dress dance took place and Molly was one of only two young girls who participated.

Photos submitted by Tiffany Escherich



from left, Molly Escherich and JKL drummer Scott Garcia.

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JKL introduces "makerspace" to students

SAULT STE. MARIE — After school on Jan. 23, Joseph K. Lumsden Anishnaabe School held a dinner and presentation in its cafeteria for the community to learn about its new "makerspace" in the school library.

According to the presentation, the idea behind a makerspace is to learn through creating. A makerspace is like a mash up of shop, art, science, home economics and computer lab. It is designed to increase students' creativity, persistence, problem-solving capabilities and self-confidence. The students experience hands on learning and collaboration.

Examples of resources in makerspaces are Legos, robotics, 3D printing, computers, jewelry makings, clay, circuitry, paper-crafts, movie making, animations, graphic design and industrial arts, according to the presentation.

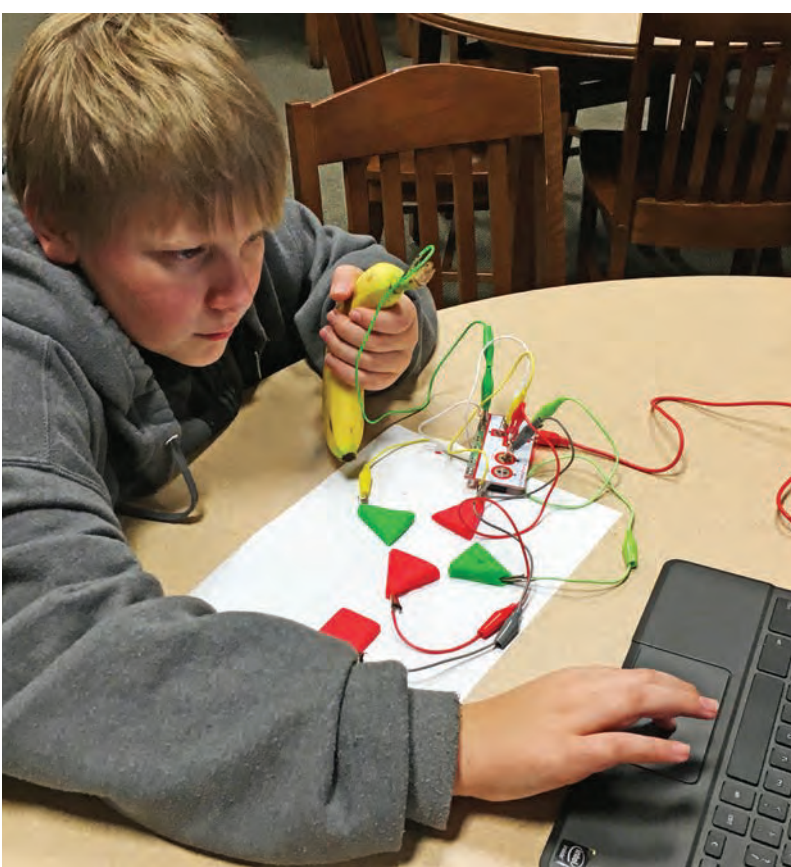
During the presentation, Gifted and Talented Teacher Susan Solomon said the JKL makerspace came about following a workshop on the subject at Pickford Public Library. The school formed a committee and garnered a library grant, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning grant and used UP SMILE resources. UP SMILE is "Upper Peninsula Science and Mathematics Integrated through Literacy and Engineering" for middle and high school mathematics and science teachers.

The back of the library is dedicated to "making." A huge work table, sewing station, computer station and bin after bin of stuff await delighted students. The students in gifted and talented program will be in charge of the space and all the schoolchildren will use it.

Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton



Director of Curriculum and Instruction Carolyn Dale shows off the makerspace, with sewing machine, components of all types, big worktable, 3-D printer, computer stations, plus more.



Student Cody Cox uses a banana as his game controller.



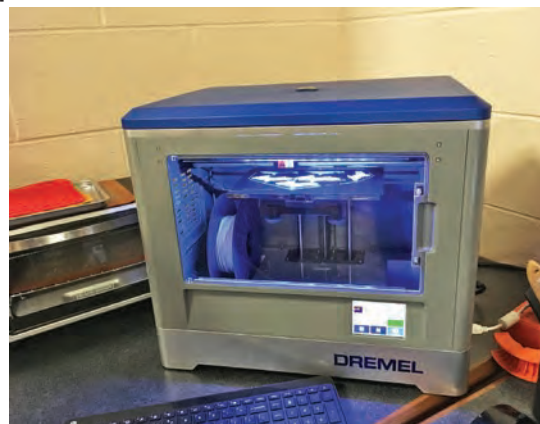
Student Eleanor Kachur plays Beethoven's Fifth using bananas as piano keys as she and fellow student Cody Cox get the makerspace ready for the community presentation Jan. 23.



Students had some makerspace projects on display at the community meeting. Above, Nate Thompson oversees his display.



Literally walls of materials beckon to students' imaginations.



The space even has a 3D printer.



A wide table provides plenty of space for making.



Eleanor Kachur takes UP maps from the 3D printer.

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement vs. School

Photos by Brenda Austin

JKL staff against Sault Tribe Law Enforcement — On Jan. 19, JKL staff members got into their athletic wear and laced up for a friendly game of basketball against Sault Tribe Law Enforcement officers. Concessions were available for those who came out to support the teams. The event was a fundraiser to benefit the Sault Tribe Jr. Police Academy and the annual eighth grade class trip to Washington, D.C. in May. It was a close game, with JKL Bahweting Anishnabe PSA winning 54-43.



Officers Eric Rye and Ryan Wilson (in the blue, L-R) with Aaron Litzner, language arts teacher (in the red, right).



Another point for STLE with #24 Eric Rye and STLE Chief Marchand under the basket (in blue). JKL School staff Aaron Litzner (back), Phys Ed teacher Greg Chromy (center, red) and Phys Ed teacher Jordan Duncan (back center).



JKL School's Andrew Stiling, Technology Support, and STLE's Chris Stempky and Mike Pins (L-R).



Students and their families showing support for their favorite team — STLE or JKL!



JKL's Dean of Students Mike Goetz, MS paraprofessional Maureen Fitzpatrick and STLE Officer Levi Cron (L-R) in play.



Chromy, Marchand, Rye, and Middle School math teacher Chris Paquin (L-R) lined up for a play.

Tribes find new ways to keep pipelines, oil out of Great Lakes and assert rights



BY WINONA LADUKE

Tribal nations across Turtle Island have been emboldened by the resistance movement at Standing Rock, and are taking unprecedented actions to protect our lands, waters, sacred places and treaty rights. In the Great Lakes, Native communities have been fighting for years to shut down old oil pipelines that threaten our territories and to resist Canadian energy company Enbridge's plans to expand a massive network of pipelines through the region.

The pipelines would cross a large area of lakes and forests in northern Minnesota where

treaties give tribes, including my people, the White Earth Ojibwe, the right to hunt, fish, and gather wild rice, our sacred food. Every potential pipeline that would move tar sands or fracked oil to Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes would run through Ojibwe reservations or treaty land.

Over the past month, tribal governments have shown a surge of formal opposition and are asserting their rights to self-determination.

1. As the state of Minnesota prepares its Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Line 3 oil pipeline, a massive tar sands pipeline proposed through the heart of Anishinaabe treaty territory and some of the biggest wild rice beds in the world, the Minnesota Chippewa tribe is preparing its own Cumulative Impact Assessment. The MCT is the federally recognized tribal government made up of six Ojibwe/Chippewa bands (Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth). A tribal assessment of this scale is a very rare thing in the context of big infra-

structure projects. The study is an effort to address profound shortcomings in the range and depth of content in the state's EIS, especially in its assessment of environmental and cultural impacts specific to tribal communities and repeated denial of requests for formal tribal consultation.

2. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs are challenging Prime Minister Trudeau's approval of Enbridge's Line 3 "replacement" pipeline and pushing for a review of the regulatory process in Canada's Federal Court of Appeal. Grand Chief Derek Nepinak says the Enbridge Line 3 decision is "founded upon a process that marginalized indigenous voices and legal orders ... It is a fundamental step backwards in the renewal of a nation-to-nation relationship ... Instead, it stands as an example of another string of broken promises by the Canadian government that damages its relationship with Indigenous Nations and the original peoples."

3. Also in Minnesota, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe divested from Wells Fargo due to the bank's financial support for the Dakota Access pipeline, which band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin called "unacceptable corporate behavior." In divesting, Mille Lacs joins an international, Indigenous-led campaign targeting the 17 banks directly invested in the Dakota Access pipeline,

in efforts to cut off the project's funding. Individuals, businesses, philanthropists, and local jurisdictions have pulled out tens of millions from these banks, and direct actions are shutting down operations. The cities of Seattle and Minneapolis and the state of California's pension funds are all considering divestment from Wells Fargo and other DAPL banks.

4. To the east in Wisconsin, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa formally terminated Enbridge's easements for the 64-year-old Line 5 pipeline. Bad River tribal staff have been directed to initiate the process of decommissioning and removing Line 5 from their territory. Enbridge was reportedly taken by surprise by the decision. The Lac Courtes Oreilles Band, also in Wisconsin, have easements for two different pipelines crossing their land up for renewal in 2018 and may follow Bad River's example.

5. And in Michigan, where the old, crumbling Line 5 runs under the Straits of Mackinac, in between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, the Sault St. Marie Tribe of Chippewa and the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odjawa have been fighting for years to demand the immediate shutdown of the pipeline in order to avoid catastrophe in the world's largest freshwater lake system. Line 5

also violates the treaty rights of the 11-member tribes of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, a natural resources management agency that protects Ojibwe hunting, fishing, and gathering rights.

Standing Rock was by no means the first tribal nation to stand up and fight back against Big Oil. Much of the groundwork for the movement to stop Dakota Access was laid in the years of intertribal resistance to the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, which was stopped in 2015. And in September, more than 50 tribes formed a historic alliance against tar sands expansion that directly targets Enbridge's Line 3 and Northern Gateway pipelines, TransCanada's Energy East pipeline, Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain expansion. The Trump administration has now reopened the Keystone XL battle and is trying to push DAPL forward, but the upcoming months promise intense new fronts of conflict as tribal nations are united as never before and taking action.

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Winona LaDuke wrote this article for YES! Magazine (www.yesmagazine.org). LaDuke is an internationally renowned author, activist, and executive director of Honor the Earth, a national Native environmental organization based on the White Earth Reservation in Northern Minnesota.

Why the bear has a short, stubby tail

As retold from the WAN archives

It was late winter in the Northwoods as the animals gathered near the melting lake. They talked of the bitter cold and how wonderful their dreams had been during their winter rest. But Bear had not yet shown himself.

"Why is Bear not here bragging about his beautiful tail?" scoffed the fox. No sooner had he said those words than Bear appeared, stroking his beautiful long tail.

"Good morning, Bear, how was your rest?" ask Rabbit.

"My rest was very much needed for my tail to grow more beautiful," said the bear. He talked on, often referring to his tail throughout the whole conversation.

The animals did not appreciate the bear's boastful ways and decided to play a trick on him. Many suggestions were given but the best one was made by the fox. "Hey, Bear," he said, "I believe my tail is better than yours and so do the other animals."

"That's not true, Fox!" said the bear. "Everyone knows I have the most beautiful tail in all the Northwoods."

"Maybe you have the most beautiful tail but it is certainly not the most useful," answered the fox. "I bet you can't fish with it."

The bear said, "The fish would be attracted to the beauty of my tail and I would be sure to catch a few if I wanted."

"I don't know," said the fox. "They seem to enjoy my tail and I always catch quite a few fish. I just don't think your tail could do it."

The bear fell for the fox's

trickery. "I'll show you, Fox, that my tail is the best ever."

The fox smiled. "Okay, go stick your tail in that hole in the ice."

The bear sat with his tail in the hole for over an hour but could not catch any fish. He finally decided to get up but his tail was frozen in the ice!

"Someone please help me. My tail is frozen!" cried the bear. The animals heard him but just laughed. After a while, the great leader, Nanaboozho, came along. He heard a cry for help and followed it to the lakeshore.

"My friend, what has happened?" said Nanaboozho.

"The animals tricked me into sticking my tail into this hole and now it is frozen there," said the bear.

Nanaboozho looked down at the bear. "Could there be a reason for this, Bear?" he asked.

"Well ... the animals have always been jealous of my beautiful tail," said Bear. "Every time I bring up my tail they get upset."

Nanaboozho helped the bear release his tail from the hole. The bear reached around to grab his long beautiful tail but it was no longer there!

"Nanaboozho, my beautiful tail is gone!" cried the bear.

The great leader told the bear that the Creator decided he was better off without his tail. "Although your tail was very beautiful, it was given to you by the Creator for other people to praise and admire, not for you to boast about," he said.

"Your tail will remain short and stubby as a reminder to everyone never to brag when they have something better than others," Nanaboozho said to the bear.

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JKL School making strides and changing lives

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

Michelle Ribant, State of Michigan's Director for 21st Century Learning, presented what she called "remarkable" data to Joseph K. Lumsden Anishinaabe School teachers and paraprofessionals on Jan. 16. She compared JKL socio-economic status data with the state of Michigan's. Ribant found that, overall, JKL economically disadvantaged students are 50 percent better prepared than state students. The data shows that JKL's economically disadvantaged students are not academically disadvantaged at JKL.

Ribant used Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) scores in English, math and social sciences. M-STEP is a test designed to gauge how well students are mastering state standards. In every subject and every grade, JKL's economically disadvantaged students were better prepared, with more students in the advanced level of the subject.

Michigan is facing a difficult problem. The state's economical-

ly disadvantaged students are on a different trajectory than those who are *not* economically disadvantaged. They are at the lowest levels of academic achievement without the proficiency to move on, and the state doesn't know-

“You are making getting out of poverty possible for these students. Congratulations. This data is really good, the reversing trend quite remarkable.”

— Michelle Ribant,
21st Century Learning Director

how to change that. At the same time, JKL is “making strides and changing lives,” said Ribant.

Ribant started with third grade English language arts. At JKL, 15 of percent non-economically disadvantaged students

and 18 percent of economically disadvantaged students were at the lowest end of achievement — pretty even. In the state, 15 percent non-economically disadvantaged students and over 40 percent — almost three times as many — of the economically disadvantaged students are at the lowest end of achievement. Also at JKL, twice as many economically disadvantaged students are in the advanced level as opposed to the state.

As Ribant compared more classes and more subjects, the same pattern kept emerging, with similar good results for JKL and similar not-so-good results for the state. Somehow, said Ribant, JKL programming supports economically disadvantaged students to steer away from the trajectory set in the state.

People want to know what are you doing to elicit this kind of response, Ribant told the group. She asked them why they thought JKL was doing so much better.

JKL staff across the room brought up a number of factors:

- Teachers take the time to

work closely with students. The students are making great strides with these academic services.

- Relationship building is practiced all day, every day.

- Teachers use a multilevel approach to teaching that covers different learning styles.

- The Anishinaabe culture of respect and traditional teachings is woven into the school's daily routines.

- They will use a full education remedial team with the teacher, paraprofessional and support services.

- JKL has created a sense of belonging, community and team.

- Community services are also emphasized: “If they don't have shoes, books, crayons at home we make sure they get them.”

“Community support, a culture of learning and inclusion,” summed up Ribant, and a strong culture of academic achievement, she added.

Ribant acknowledged that JKL's results were not perfect, but, she stressed, they are manageable. Overall, 40 percent of state's economically disadvan-

tagged students are at the lowest level of academic achievement, compared to less than 20 percent at JKL. That's a manageable number, said Ribant. Whereas at the state, there are so many, it is not manageable.

“You are making getting out of poverty possible for these students,” said Ribant. “Congratulations. This data is really good, the reversing trend quite remarkable.”

Michigan's director for 21st Century Learning, Michelle Ribant, oversees the Office of Educational Technology and Data Coordination and is responsible for implementing the state's online learning graduation requirement, the Michigan Educational Technology Standards (METS) and accomplishing the eight goals set forth in the state board's Educational Technology Plan. The office also serves in the vital role of encouraging and coordinating the use of data to drive decision making in schools and at Michigan's Department of Education.

Regalia project brings three months of family fun, lessons *MARCH 3 MEETING*

From March through May, Sault Tribe Cultural Department is running a bimaadiziwin circle regalia project to bring tribal families into the dance circle with three months of lessons, regalia camps and a feast.

“Anishinaabe bimaadiziwin” means “Native way of life.” The regalia project is meant to foster a greater understanding of our rich cultural heritage through dancing and singing, and promotes and enhances children's positive self-images through the use of traditional Anishinaabe arts. It is offered as a family event including the immediate family but grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, cousins — anyone who is supportive — is included.

The introductory meeting starts at 6 p.m. on March 3 at the Hessel Community Center. Participants must attend every session and at least one of the three camps in order to complete their regalia, although more camps are encouraged.

Teachers will provide in depth explanations about each kind of dance, including the origin and significance of each, its regalia and songs. The project will culminate in a feast and “coming out” for all participants, giving them the chance to ease into their



Join the regalia project to learn dancing, making regalia and all about the history and meaning behind Anishinaabe dances, regalia and songs. A fun-filled and meaningful activity for the whole family.

new roles as young tribal ambassadors at area powwows.

Throughout March, participants will learn about dance styles, patterns and materials, powwow etiquette, vocabulay, song recognition and regalia care and respect. A regalia workshop and sugarbush is scheduled March 28-30 at the Mary Murray Culture Camp on Sugar Island.



In April, participants learn about specialty dances, like crow hop, sneak-up, side step and two-step, and get in shape with “dancercise.” Regalia workshops are scheduled for the Mary Murray Culture Camp on April 7-9 and April 28-30.

May sees sewing, more dancercise, and the project wraps up with a feast and exhibition, just in time for powwow season.

Leadership workshop for youth in April

On April 20-21, the Native American and Hispanic Business Students of MSU once again present a youth leadership workshop to students in grades 8 through 12 at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie.

On the evening of April 20, the community is invited to a potluck dinner beginning at 5:30 and an evening of cultural sharing. On April 21, students from across the U.P. are invited to participate in the youth leadership conference, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for a day of developmental workshops on *Developing Your Resume*, *Public Speaking and Presentation Skills* and *Becoming a Leader*.

For more information, contact Lisa Burnside at (906) 484-2298 or email lburnside@saulttribe.net, or Kevin Leonard at (571) 353-3524 or leonard1@broad.msu.edu.

2016-17 GED programs in progress

Consolidated Community School Services (CCSS) and the Sault Tribe Adult Learning Center once again offer free GED preparation classes and testing to members of the tribal and general communities.

Free classes convene at several places in the eastern Upper Peninsula. In Sault Ste. Marie, classes meet at the MI Works! agency every Monday through Wednesday, 12:30-4 p.m., and at the JKL Bahweting Middle School every Monday through Thursday, 6-8:45 p.m. Contact Tanya Pages at (906)632-6098 or tpages@eupschools.org for more information.

For information on other area programs, please call the CCSS main office at (906)495-7305 or visit our website at ccss.eupschools.org or log on to our Facebook page.

Check out Sault Tribe's Education Services online at www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/education

Free learning opps for Native students coming up spring, summer

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. (GLITC) Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH) Program is offering several learning opportunities for Native students from Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. Students must complete an application process. See www.glitc.org.

Indigenous Health and Wellness Days, April 20-21, 2017, Madison, Wis. Geared to students in grades 6-12 from Wisconsin, Michigan and

Minnesota. FREE.

Purpose: The event serves to both welcome and attract American Indian students into health sciences professions. American Indian students are invited to the UW-Madison and Madison College campuses to learn about science and health professions through hands-on activities, tours and cultural activities. They will be introduced to American Indian professionals in the health sciences and can interact with UW-Madison American

Indian students who have successfully navigated pre-college and college programs.

American Indian Science Scholars Week, July 23-Aug. 2, 2017, Milwaukee, Wis. Geared to high school students (freshman year completed) with 2.5 or higher GPA from Wisconsin, Michigan, or Minnesota. FREE.

Purpose: This is a 10-day on campus experience giving American Indian students an introduction to college life, which involves interactive scientific and

cultural experiences. A wide array of science topics is explored; some past ones have included forensics, DNA evidence, field station work, management of water resources, microbiology and hematology. Exploration takes place through tours, hands-on activities, and interactive visits at various Milwaukee area colleges and universities.

College Summer 2017 Internship — Geared to Native American college students from Wisconsin, Michigan, and

Minnesota entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year. The internship is a time of academic mentoring and summer research experiences during the undergraduate years. Students approved for this program will work with identified research mentors in PAID research internships at selected universities and colleges. Students will have the opportunity to work closely with mentors on research projects that are directly addressing health issues in American Indian communities.

Show Me the Money Days brought monetary know how and fun

Sponsoring agencies plan return engagements next year

By Rick Smith

Federal, state, regional and local agencies and organizations were on hand to give introductions about resources and other matters at the Show Me the Money Day exposition in Sault Ste. Marie on Jan. 23 at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center.

Most of the information and workshops centered around programs to help folks with home acquisition and repairs, home energy efficiency, health care, higher education, assorted financial aid and beyond.

The Sault Ste. Marie expo followed an earlier exhibition conducted in St. Ignace at Little Bear East on Jan. 20.

It wasn't just an all-business affair either, attendees had opportunities to participate in four grand prize drawings along with receiving giveaway goods and literature, free pizza and beverages, free skating and free use of house ice skates.

"It's tough to get people interested in things like financial literacy sometimes, so we've done what we could to make this an attractive event," said Suzanne Prell, executive director of the United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula, one of several sponsors.

Lori S. Pieri is the executive director of another sponsoring agency, Housing Opportunities

Made Equal (HOME) of Mackinac County. She added, "We know folks might be hesitant to explore something like this, so we also make it fun, enjoyable and a little bit exciting."

The Sault and St. Ignace are two of 33 expositions across the state designed to help folks become aware of resources available in their areas that can render services to improve their standards of living.

Folks who came to the expos were given sheets of paper with a schedule of features on one side and a roster of exhibitors on the other side. Exhibitors would initial prepared spaces on the back of the sheets confirming visits.

In the course of gathering information from the exhibitors, attendees could partake in an assortment of freebies, drawings and prizes.

Grand prizes were four gift cards, one for \$100, one for \$75 and two for \$50. Many of the exhibitors also had drawings for prizes such as additional gift cards from Wal-Mart, gas cards and other valuables.

According to Pieri, the Sault expo had 48 attendees who turned in the sheets and completed exit surveys. The number does not include children or other adults who accompanied the respondents.

A total of 69 surveys were turned in at the St. Ignace expo.



Photo by Rick Smith

Key figures behind the Show Me the Money expositions in St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie, from left, Suzanne Prell, executive director of the United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula; Rachel Diskin, director of the National Service Programs for the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan; and Lori S. Pieri, executive director of Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Mackinac County.

"It was year two for the Mackinac County Event and we do plan to write grants for both counties to host events again next year," said Pieri.

The exposition was hosted by the United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula, Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency and HOME of Mackinac County through a grant from the Community Economic

Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) and sponsorship of Consumers Energy, Chase, DTE Energy, PNC Bank, State Farm, Central Savings Bank, Federal Employees Credit Union, Sault Tribe Housing Authority and Soo Co-op Credit Union.

Pieri express gratitude for coordination support to volunteers Kristi Hart of AmeriCorps and

Raulaniesa Aranda with United Way of the EUP.

On another note, Pieri said, "Rachel Diskin, the representative from CEDAM who came up to the event from Lansing told us she was really pleased with the event. She thought it was a great turnout for a first time event and was impressed with the number of vendors and workshops available."

Board resolutions passed in December 2016 and January 2017

From "Resolutions," page 8 monies of \$8,747.55 was approved.

Res. No. 2017-05: Amending Tribal Code Chapter 34: Personal Protection Orders and Injunctions – Tribal Code Chapter 34 was amended by deleting current language at Sections 34.113 and 34.118 and replacing both sections with new language.

Res. No. 2017-06: Review of Tribal Code: Chapter 40: Tribal Assistance Programs – Administration was directed to review proposed legislation and report back to the board for implementing Chapter 40: Tribal Assistance Programs.

Res. No. 2017-07: Authorization to Purchase Real Estate Parcels Adjacent to JKL School – The board approved the purchase of eight real estate parcels adjacent to the school with funds from the Building Fund.

Res. No. 2017-08: Amending Resolution 2016-265, Reinstating 401(k) Matching Contribution – The board approved the reinstatement of a 1% match to the Tribe's 401(k) plan effective January 1, 2017.

Res. No. 2017-09: Economic Development Establishment of FY 2017 Budget – The establishment of an FY 2017 budget for Economic Development was approved with tribal support monies of \$215,171.

Jan. 17, 2017 meeting

Res. No. 2017-10: Application for State of

Michigan – Department of Health and Human Services – Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board – Culturally Specific Underserved (CSU) Grant – The board authorized the application to the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and granted Chairperson Payment authorization to submit the proposal and negotiate, execute and amend any documents resulting from it on the tribe's behalf.

Res. No. 2017-11: Application for the OVW Fiscal Year 2017 Legal Assistance For Victims (LAV) Grant Program – The board approved the application for the grant program and authorized Chairperson Payment to submit the proposal on the tribe's behalf.

Res. No. 2017-12: Feasibility Study – The Economic Development Director was authorized to "...let a request for proposals to secure a feasibility study for energy development outside the existing purchasing policies and authorizes the Purchasing Department to assist the Economic Development Director as he may request."

Res. No. 2017-13: Authorizing the Sale of Property, Eagle Ridge Apartments, Marquette, Michigan, Real Property – The board authorized the sale of Eagle Ridge Apartments located

in Marquette, Michigan, with proceeds from the transaction earmarked for economic development.

To see these resolutions and

the voting matrix in their entirety, visit the Sault Tribe Website at, www.saulttribe.com. Click on the "Government" link on top of the page, and then click

on "Board of Directors." On the left under "Menu," click on "Downloads," and look for "Board meeting votes and approved resolutions."

Kewadin Casino Winter Ice Festival chainsaw carving downtown Sault



Photo by Brenda Austin

Kewadin ice sculpture created during Downtown Winter Ice Festival — Sault Events hosted the festival on Jan. 27 and 28. During the event, over 50 ice sculptures were created downtown, including the one shown above for Kewadin Casinos. Shown in photo are Michael and Christina McKerchie, with Samantha Grossett, 9, (left), and Ella McKerchie, 10, and Lucas McKerchie, 8.

Member releases bilingual children's books inspired by daughter Donna Sophia and dog Chief

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Husband, father and business executive Robert Filer was inspired by his now 2-year-old daughter, Donna Sophia, to create original bedtime stories to tell her involving her dog Chief and their fictitious adventures together. What began as a form of bonding between father and daughter soon took the form of children's books.

The first book is titled *The Adventures of Donna Sophia and ...My Family*, and introduces the characters in the short series, Donna Sophia and her dog Chief. The second book in the series is *The Adventures of Donna Sophia and ...Where is Squeaky?*

The third book, *The Adventures of Donna Sophia and ...Time to Clean My Room*, was an Amazon #1 New Release in August 2016, reaching #10 on the genre's bestseller's list for Amazon.

The bilingual books are written in English with a Spanish translation on each page. Filer's wife is of Colombian descent and speaks Spanish. "My vocabulary was limited and what I found most helpful was being able to read sentences in English and then read the Spanish translation," said Filer. "Because



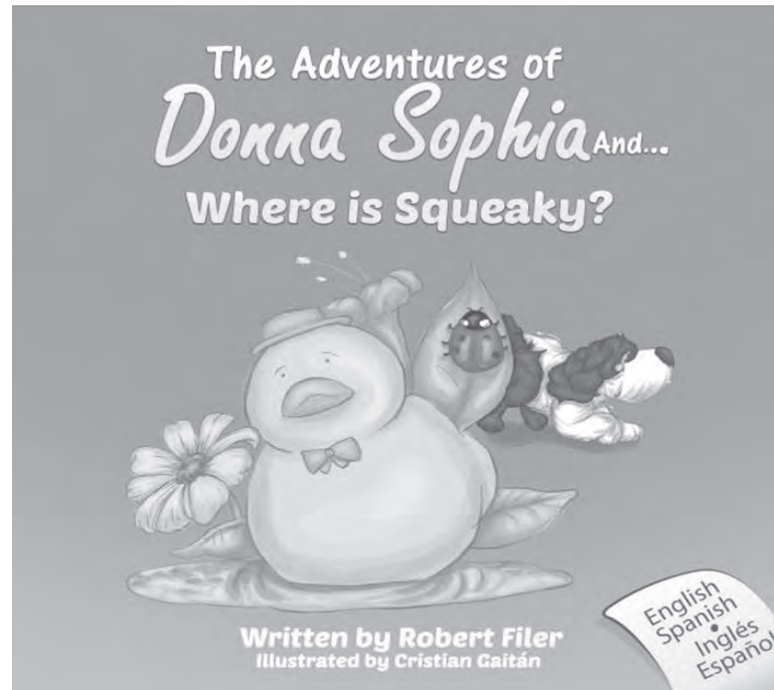
Robert Filer was inspired by his now 2-year-old daughter, Donna Sophia, to create original bedtime stories to tell her involving her dog Chief and their fictitious adventures together.

of our multicultural family, I knew I wanted to provide an opportunity for the books to be entertaining and educational, providing a bilingual experience for kids and parents."

Filer credits his success to networking through social media, including Facebook and Twitter, and the support of his family and friends. He also had

help from an organization that specializes in diversity with books to help increase exposure, Diversifymybooks.org. "They provided a lot of mentoring and help with the third book on editing and formatting. They also taught me how to market the books," he said.

Filer is planning on at least four more books in the series,



and said success from the books has created demand for products such as clothing, bags, and book signings and readings at local schools.

Filer is the CEO of Fibre Publishing, and has 20 years experience in politics, foreign policy, international trade, business, management, finance and risk management. He has conducted business on six continents and has experience working with governments at local, state, federal and foreign levels.

To commemorate the success

of his latest book release, Fibre Publishing LLC is offering package deals that include all three books from "The Adventures of Donna Sophia" series, a t-shirt, a tote bag and a signed toy from the author at a discounted price. The books and merchandise can be purchased at www.donnasophiabooks.com. Books can also be purchased through www.amazon.com.

A native of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, he currently resides with his family in Crossroads, Texas.

Tribal elder writes story about the first dreamcatcher

FOR SAULT TRIBE CHILDREN, FROM LISA DIETZ, SAULT TRIBE ELDER

This is an imaginative version of how this beloved artwork came about. It is not meant to replace the sacred teachings on the dreamcatcher, which are part of our oral teachings and not meant to be published and read without an elder there to answer questions. — Elizabeth Dietz

Red-Earth-Woman lifted her infant son into the light streaming in through the open flap of the wigwam. It was cold for late fall, past the blackberry moon, and her fat little boy wiggled to show his discomfort at being removed from his warm cozy nest in the cradleboard.

Hugging the chubby baby close, Red Earth removed the dampened fluff from the board and repacked it with fresh cattail fluff that she had picked at the end of the summer. Then she laid her son on the soft fur-lined backboard and tucked more fluff around him in with more soft fawn skins and rabbit fur. Then she aligned his arms and legs so that his little body was straight and laced him up.

Red Earth was proud of the fine leather she was lacing her son in. She had spent many hours stitching the papoose carrier with dyed quills in beautiful floral patterns. She had included all the woodland flowers and leaves, and also berries. She laughed at that.

Red Earth called her son "little bird" or "chubby bear" or other pet names. Anishinaabe children were not named right at birth because how could one



name a child until one knew it? Later, an elder or older relative would come up with just the right name.

They went to meet Two Bears. He was the second born son in his family, so his color was red. (The first son's color was blue.) This hunt, all the "reds" had participated; next hunt all the "blues" would go out. This was a fair way to choose up sides for the boy's games or, later on in life, for the men's work.

It would be a hard winter. The wind threw knives of cold through Red Earth's clothing as she quickly gathered firewood. She wanted many days supply because she felt snow coming. Two Bears and his uncle were still out hunting when the storm hit.

"At least we're warm," said the Auntie, "because you are a good worker, my girl."

Auntie was digging into her bag of medicines for teas that would help them endure the famine. After she found the teas, she searched around her work bag for pieces of smoked elk hide. These she gave to Red Earth to boil with the last handful of the wild rice.

"Red Earth," said the elder woman. "We have no food and little tea. So let's fast and pray for ourselves and our men. I'll make a light tea for the baby so he can sleep."

"I don't know, Auntie," Red Earth replied. "He has been having such bad dreams that scare him and he wakes up crying. But he's too little to tell me what they are."

Dreams are very important, thought Auntie. It was through dreams that the Creator often sent messages. She worried that the little one might be having dreams of his father.

The next afternoon, Red Earth's little son woke up crying from his sleep. She rocked him and sang to him. As she did so, she noticed a spider's web in the corner of the wigwam. She rested the sleeping baby's cradleboard against her and looked at the empty web glistening in the firelight. She looked around at the circle of the wigwam. In here, she thought, is all of my life: my child, my relative, the Mother Earth I sit on, the furs we cuddle in.

"And" she laughed, "even our brother, the Spider, is protected by this circle." The circular snowshoes she wove for her husband on bent wood frames protect him now, she thought, and will bring him home safe over the snow.

The baby dozed off and his mother snuggled deeper in the furs with him so she could resume her prayers while fasting for the hunters' safe return.

And she dreamed. She dreamt that the hunger

spirit was chasing her and she ran. She saw what looked like a huge web, but close up she saw the web was like the sinew from the snowshoes. It had a hole in the middle.

She took the hawk feather she had and leapt through the hole. The hunger-spirit wasn't small enough to do that and got tangled in the web. She was safe. Around her were the deer, the birds, the trees and the water glistening with sunlight.

Red Earth woke up. Still in a sleepy daze, she reached for some willow twigs from the bundle of kindling wood. They were still pliable. She twisted one into a little circle, the size of her small palm. Deftly she netted sinew around the willow circle, to form a web, with a small opening in the center.

The fire sputtered, and throwing some pine cones on it, she built it up. The willow, she thought, grows by water. It is also a tree. The little charm should have leather, from the four-leggeds, and little beads on it for the stone people, the earth. Then, she thought, if I hang a little feather on the bottom for the winged ones, the whole of my child's world will hang before him and when he sleeps, that world will protect him and guard his dreams.

Auntie woke up. "Listen," she said to Red Earth.

"I hear nothing, Auntie," said Red Earth.

"That's right," said Auntie. "The wind has stopped; the storm is over! Now our men can come home."

"Yes," said Red Earth. "And

the new snow will make tracking easier and the animals won't be as swift in the deep snow as our men on their snowshoes."

Then Auntie saw the curious little webbed circle. "How pretty," she said.

Red Earth described what her dream and visions had led her to create, to protect her son.

"A dream-catcher!" said Auntie. "What a good idea for our little man."

So they fastened the first dream-catcher on the hoop of his cradleboard. He loved to look at it, and seemed to sleep better.

"When he understands our language better," said his mother, "I will tell him he need not fear any bad dreams because the web will catch them. They will melt in the sun's first rays and slide right down the feather and be gone."

The next morning, Red Earth stood by the poplar tree, wrapped in her blanket. She listened and watched over the lake, over the shores, for signs of the hunter returning.

Then she saw them. She alerted Auntie to start heating the cooking rocks to put in the birch bowl so the water would boil. Then she ran to Two Bears.

They had brought fresh game — two fine rabbits and a bundle of fine meat wrapped in the skin of a deer.

But this important food was ignored as Red Earth hugged her child's father. It was good just to see him, to feel his breath on her face as he laughed. He was glad that she missed him, glad to have brought food for his family so the circle of life could continue.

Anderson-Kent wed in Ann Arbor



Mr. and Mrs. Roy (Paula) Anderson of Dexter, Mich., are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Dr. Chelsea Anderson, to Jeffrey Kent.

Jeff is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Randy (Judy) Kent and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis (Janet) Wedell, all of Troy, Mich.

Chelsea, her mother and grandmother, Mrs. Stanley (Helen) Wickman of Livonia, Mich., are members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and Chelsea's godparents are Mr. and Mrs. Carl (Sally) Frazier of Naubinway, Mich.

Chelsea is from Battle Creek,

Mich. She received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan, doctorate of veterinary medicine from Michigan State University, and currently serves as an associate veterinarian at the Georgia Aquarium.

Jeff is from Troy and graduated from Michigan State University with degrees in biology and supply chain management. He is an analyst with the Home Depot Corporation of Atlanta, Ga.

Jeff and Chelsea were married in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Sept. 24, 2016, at Misty Farm with the Rev. Erick Johnson officiating.

Happy birthday Chris Thibert!



Happy 40th birthday, Chris! Love you bunches!
— Nikki and all your U.P. family.

Soo Lakers Riverside Medical Squirt AA team are the District 7 Champions



PHOTO BY LISA CORBIERE MORAN

CHAMPIONS — The Soo Lakers Riverside Medical Squirt AA team are the District 7 Champions. They defeated Traverse City 2-1 and 4-0 in the best of three games. This advances them to play in the state tournament, which will be held in Muskegon the first weekend of March. The team's overall record 35-4-5. Shown left to right, coaches in the back row, Head Coach Alf Hognlund, Jason TenEyck, Rich Roche, Andre Jacques, James McLeod and Chuck Fabry; team back row, Gale Bell, Ethan Chambers, Cayd Escherich, Treyce Moran, Dominic Cicco, Drew Fabry and Evan Kennedy; middle row, Avery Wilson, Gage Greeley, Randen Blair, Ryan TenEyck, Evan Hognlund, Jarret Crimin and Korsen Pace; front row, goalies Sawyer Graham and Casey Engle.

Kuemin graduates from police academy

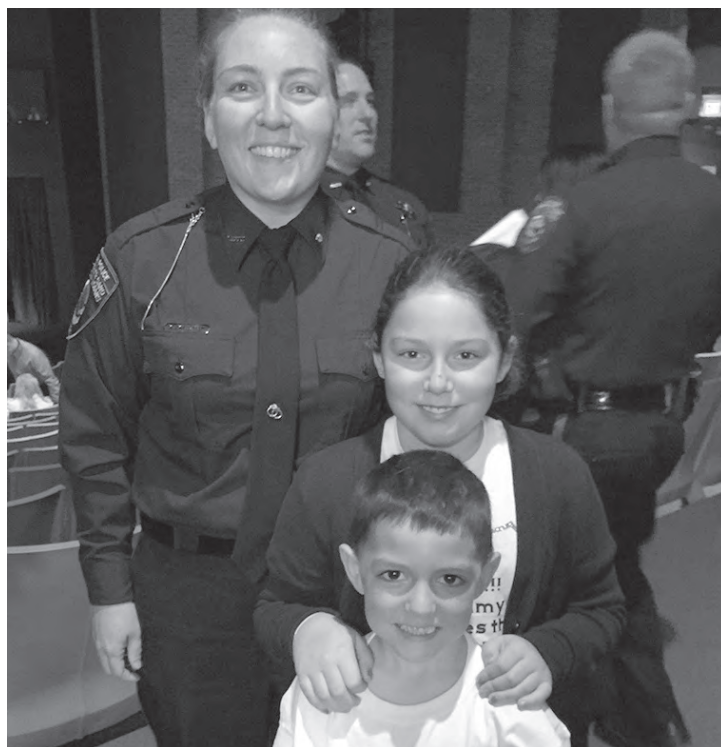
Sault Tribe member Cassandra Kuemin graduated from Kirtland Regional Police Academy on Dec. 2, 2016.

She is a law enforcement officer with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Department of Public Safety in Manistee, Mich.

Kuemin, 32, is a graduate of the LSSU Criminal Justice Program. She started working with the Little River Band Department of Public Safety in November of 2015. Little River Band officers also enforce conservation laws.

Born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Kuemin is the daughter of Kerri Sams and John W. Kuemin. She has two children, 9-year-old Ava Povey and 5-year-old Elliott Povey.

At left, Cassandra Kuemin with daughter, Ava, and son, Elliot.



2017 Special Olympics Winter Games



2017 WINTER GAMES SKIERS, CHRISTINA PAQUIN, LARRY KOVACK AND JOAN AIKENS — Local Special Olympian cross country skiers attended the State Winter Games in Traverse City, Mich., on Jan. 31-Feb. 2. Athletes stayed at the Grand Traverse Resort and were bussed to Schuss Mountain for competitions. Sault Tribe member Christina Paquin of St. Ignace, daughter of Bernard and Viola Paquin, received a silver in the 500m and a bronze in the 1K. Kewadin Casino employee Larry Kovack, son of Shirley Kovack, received a gold in the 500k and a bronze in the 1K. Sault Tribe member Joan Aikens, daughter of Ted and Laura Aikens, received a gold in the 500m and a silver in the 1K. Read more at somi.org.

Sault Tribe community members walk on . . .

MARGARET DODSON

Margaret “Muggs” Dodson passed away peacefully at her St. Ignace home on Nov. 6, 2016. She was 75. She was born to John and Marge (nee Rapin) Robinson on Sept. 24, 1941, and was a member of the St. Ignatius Loyola Church and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.



She retired from Whiteside Abstract in 2003 after 41 years. Margaret loved sewing and performing crossword and jigsaw puzzles. She was also known for dropping a quarter or two in the poker machines at the casino. During the summer months she took a great deal of pride in her garden and the appearance of her beautiful yard. She loved to decorate her home for the holidays, especially Christmas. Her home was the gathering place for the entire family for most all holidays and other special occasions.

She experienced the greatest amount of joy treating the entire family to her cooking and baking when all of her children were home.

Margaret is survived by her husband Jim Dodson; siblings, Rita and Dave Holtham of Lansing, Bucky and Theresa Robinson of St. Ignace, and Phil and Bambi Robinson of St. Ignace; her children, Barbara and Steve DuFresne of St. Ignace, Diane and Bill Mossbarger of Tucson, Ariz., Brian and Carolyn Cahill of Anchorage, Alaska, and Kellie Thompson and Mike Robach of Grand Rapids; grandchildren, Carlie and Maggie Levi, Lindsey and Tyler Hopkins, Andrew Reynolds, and Christopher, Joel and Jordan Thompson; and four great-grandchildren.

Visitation and services took place on Nov. 10 with Father Frank Ricca, Father Norbert Landreville, and Father Corey Litzner officiating. Burial will be in St. Ignatius Loyola Cemetery in St. Ignace.

Dodson Funeral Home of St. Ignace assisted the family with arrangements.

HARLAN L. DOWNWIND

Harlan Louis Downwind, “Neeogaboo,” of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Feb. 4, 2017, at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich. He was born on Aug. 19, 1953, in Red Lake, Minn., the son of Rupert and Alberta Downwind.



Harlan loved music, playing the guitar, art, his culture and traditions and served the Anishinaabe nation throughout his entire lifetime.

He is survived by his wife,

Laura Collins-Downwind, whom he married July 17, 2014, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; daughters, Jessica Monroe, Rene Downwind, Candy Lynn Downwind, Mycal Hadley, Skye Downwind, Eva Collins, Anna Collins, Juanita Pacheco, Jocelyn Payment and Mika Pacheco; sisters, Beverly (Terry) Thomas and Jeanine (Chris) Jubera; brothers, Bradley Downwind, Byron Downwind, David (Jessie) Downwind and Ross (Shelly) Downwind; grandchildren, Samaria (Preston), Wendell, Isaiah, Arien, Elena, Rianna and Anissa; great grandchildren, Jaden, Larayna, Preston Jr., Leila, Auriella and Yur’Donni; no sons, but many special boys who were like his sons, including Dino, Randy, Mikey, and the late Donovan; aunts Phyllis Gurno and Marcia Gurno; nephews and nieces; his clan family and family built over the years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rupert and Alberta Downwind; a daughter, Dawn Monroe; sister, Delora Downwind; brothers, Rupert Downwind Jr., Kevin (Julie) Downwind and Mitchell Downwind.

Visitation took place on Feb. 7 at the Niigaanaagizhik Ceremonial Building, where traditional services were led by Skip Churchill and Amik Smallwood on Feb. 8. Burial will be in Wilwalk Cemetery, Sugar Island, Mich.

Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

DONALD F. HARPER

Donald “Donny” Francis Harper of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich., on Jan. 24, 2017, from complications of pneumonia. Don was born Feb. 15, 1958, in Woodbury, N.J. Don attended Rudyard High School and worked construction and roofing.



Donny was a state wrestling champion. He was a practical joker with his wit and quick comebacks. Don absolutely loved the outdoors; he enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting and beer. Don was an avid Detroit Lions Fan — he never missed watching them play. He had a ball watching the Kansas Jayhawks while his sister Missy watched the game in a different city, rooting for the team. Afternoon drives with his fiancé, Gail, was always an adventure he loved.

Surviving Don are his fiancé, Gail Kott, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; father, Joseph Harper of Sault Ste. Marie; sister, Donelda (Gerard) Lehman of Minneapolis, Minn.; two brothers, Joseph Harper Jr. of Sault Ste. Marie and Lawrence (Lyn) Harper of Valley Cottage, N.Y.;

and daughters, Jana Johnson of Dickinson, N.D., Melissa (Ritchie) Harris of Colorado Springs, Colo., Misty Harper of Long Beach, Calif. He is also survived by grandchildren McKenna Johnson, Ritchie, Bryson and Gavin; nieces include Danielle (Todd) Shade-Theel, Larisa (TJ), Christa (Eden), Angela and Cecilia; nephews are Joe (Becky) Harper of Fargo, N.D., Joe Harper of Kinross, Mich., Jared Harper and Caleb Captain. His best friends also survive: Vicki Neal, Uncle Mike Garcia, Ronald “Roach” Clement and Dave Soper.

Don was preceded in death by his mother Donelda Harper, Uncle Lawrence Bood, identical twin brother Ronald, Grandma Suzanne, grandfather Joseph Harper, Aunt Frances Smith, sister-in-law Kim Harper and best friend Kent Christie.

Visitation was at the Niigaanaagizhik Ceremonial Building on Jan. 26 until the time of service on Jan. 27. Serving as pallbearers were Joe Harper Sr., Joe Harper Jr., Todd Theel, Lawrence Harper, Caleb Captain, Paul VanWagner and Joey Harper.

Donny’s family wishes to thank Henry Ford Hospital, ICU Pod 1, for taking such good care of Don. Arrangements were in the care of Hovie Funeral Home.

CLARENCE J. PAGE

Clarence “Jim” James Page passed away peacefully on Jan. 22, 2017.

“Jim” was born on Nov. 7, 1939, in St. Ignace, Mich., and lived in northern Michigan until he enlisted into the Navy in 1961.

He served 10 years on numerous military ships, which brought him to southern California, where he met his wife, Judy, and they started their family. Jim served another 12 years in the U.S. Coast Guard along the West Coast ending in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., where he decided to put down roots and retire from the military. In 1982, he moved his family to Denver, Colo., to start another career at Rocky Flats and to be closer to his wife’s extended family. Even in retirement, Jim drove a school bus in the Buena Vista school district mostly because he loved the kids.



He is survived by his wife, Judy Karen Page; two brothers, Donald Jessie Page and Jessie James Page Jr.; two children, Jeffery Bryon Page and Michelle Marie Page; and two grandchildren, Zachery J. Page and Timothy Scott Page.

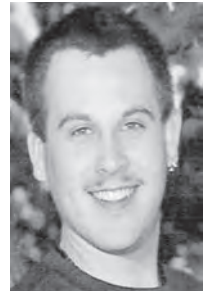
He is preceded in death by his parents, Jessie James Page Sr. and Josephine May (nee Bodwin) Page; and siblings, Francis L. Page, Doris M. Ward (Page) and Wilbert “Bill” Page.

Jim enjoyed family time,

being in the outdoors camping, hunting and fishing and watching a good western. He will always be known for helping anyone in need. He was a husband, father, mentor, hero and great man.

AARON S. REYNOLDS

Aaron Scott Reynolds, 33, of Ishpeming, walked on Jan. 5, 2017, at his home.



Born on Feb. 5, 1983, in Ishpeming, the son of Charles and Debra (nee Moses) Reynolds, Aaron was raised in Ishpeming and graduated from the Ishpeming High School in 2001. He attended Northern Michigan University off and on for three years, studying computer science. Always interested in how things worked, he enjoyed building computers and made several of his own computer systems. He was creative, liked computer gaming, enjoyed snowboarding and considered himself an “aggressive skater” when rollerblading. He was courteous and kind, and an instigator when it came to being mischievous with his buddies. He loved his sister and was very protective of her even through she believed him misguided as he was a New England Patriots fan.

Aaron had been in ill health since 2008, battling the effects of Hodgkins Lymphoma and chemotherapy. Aaron was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Survivors include his parents, Charles and Debra Reynolds of Marquette; his sister, Brittany (Ryan) Carlson of Sands; maternal grandmother, Ilene Moses of St. Ignace; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Aaron was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Frank Moses; and paternal grandparents, William and Shirley Reynolds.

The family greeted relatives and friends at a memorial gathering at the Fassbender Funeral Home on Jan. 12.

MARGARET ROBINSON

Margaret “Marge” Robinson, 97, of St. Ignace, passed away on Nov. 5, 2016, at Evergreen Living Center in St. Ignace. She was born on Oct. 12, 1919, to Alton and Mary (nee Gill) Rapin in Onaway.



Mrs. Robinson graduated from Loretto High School in Sault Ste. Marie. She and her husband lived in Sault Ste. Marie for several years.

Mrs. Robinson was employed as a telephone operator with Michigan Bell Telephone Company. She worked as the night operator on the St. Ignace switchboard, one of the last

three manual switchboards in the country at the time of its closing in 1974. She retired when the office closed.

She was active at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church and St. Anne’s Altar Society. She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Mrs. Robinson loved her family. She loved to mow and rake her very large lawn, until she was in her 90s.

Mrs. Robinson is survived by four children and their families, Rita and David Holtham of Lansing, Bucky and Theresa Robinson, Margaret and Jim Dodson, and Phil and Bambi Robinson, all of St. Ignace; 12 grandchildren and their families, Bob and Ronda Holtham, Chris and Kris Holtham, Matt and Lynn Holtham, Damon and Angie Holtham, Leanne and Jeff Cason, Beth and Ray Amacher, Barbara and Steve DuFresne, Diane and Bill Mossbarger, Brian and Carolyn Cahill, Kellie Thompson and Mike Robach, Josh and Sherry Robinson, and Nick Robinson; 19 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Robinson was preceded in death by her husband, John Robinson Sr.; two brothers, Bud Rapin and Phil Rapin; her mother-in-law, Irene Robinson; and two great-grandchildren, Lawrence Robinson and Rachel Robinson. Her daughter, Margaret Dodson, died one day after Mrs. Robinson.

Visitation and services took place on Nov. 10 at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace with Father Frank Ricca, Father Norbert Landreville, and Father Corey Litzner officiating. Burial will be in St. Ignatius Loyola Cemetery in St. Ignace.

Dodson Funeral Home of St. Ignace assisted the family with arrangements.

The Family of Donald “Donny” Harper would like to thank everyone for the love and support shown to us during the loss of our loved one. Our family appreciated the flowers and wonderful food provided by so many. A special thank you to Ronda Mastaw, Diane Boutilier, Shelly Mastaw, Annette King, Amber Dotson and Shelia Lynn for making such a delicious luncheon for us. We also want to thank Kewadin staff for the delectable Deli food. David Kucharczyk, thank you so much, we appreciated your help and assistance with everything. We also want to thank and acknowledge our two traditional Leaders, Les Ailing and Cecil Pavlat for a beautiful ceremony. Thank you for your dedication, fire keepers, Caleb Captain and Neil McCoy. Tracy Ailing, we thank you for your loving and caring support. Donny will be missed forever, but know that he will live in the hearts of all who knew him and laughed with him.

Warm Regards,
The Harper Family

Sober Indianz inaugural sobriety conference coming

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The first Sober Indianz Indigenous Sobriety Conference and All Nations International Vendors, “Walking the Red Road,” will be held June 16-18 at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The conference will feature nationally acclaimed speakers and artists, traditional medicine and comedy as part of an action-packed agenda.

The conference is sponsored by the Sober Indianz Facebook Group, which has 47,000 members. Sober Indianz founder Pat McCoy said the page connects all indigenous people who really want to stay sober and promotes recovery in their communities.

“This is a very active group,” McCoy said. He started the Facebook page about six years ago, adding people he knew with long-term sobriety and it grew from there, and keeps growing with new members every day. McCoy said there are hundreds of Sault Tribe members involved, along with people from all over the world.

“While attending my master’s program at Hazelden Graduate School of Addiction Studies part of our schooling was to work in Hazelden’s treatment center. As graduate students, we were placed in different treatment units and while I was being



Sault Tribe member Patrick McCoy

trained by the very highly skilled clinicians I realized that many of them were recovering addicts and alcoholics themselves, providing insights that many so-called normal people don’t.”

McCoy worked for the state of Minnesota in the Four Winds Treatment Center in Brainerd, Minn., as the spiritual care specialist running all the ceremonies for the treatment program and having his own caseload of clients. After returning home for his sister’s funeral, he realized he wanted to come home and

be in his own community and his wife supported his decision. “Six years ago, I knew being back home that substance abuse levels were at epidemic levels from legal to illegal substances. I decided to use Facebook to start a Sober Indianz group and inviting the many Sober Indianz that I already knew, and ones I met online and my vision was to create online support to the addicts that are in recovery addicts that are trying to find recovery,” McCoy said.

People join for different rea-

sons, said McCoy. There are those who are actively struggling with substance abuse, while others have been sober for 50 years. Others join to support a loved one. Members could be from anywhere, from the Americas to Australia to Japan. “This support group is inclusive to all members no matter what tribe, what faith based they practiced from traditional people to Christians, or from sundancers to midewewin,” he added. “If you have an alcoholic or an addict in your life that maybe you need support in helping to understand the disease of addiction or are a struggling addict I strongly recommend joining us on Facebook Sober Indianz.”

With 47,000 people on the page and a mission to help those struggling with substance abuse, McCoy has developed a core group of 25 members called the “Peacekeepers,” who keep the page monitored 24/7. They have also worked on organizing the conference to ensure its success — and, hopefully, an annual event.

Most of the conference takes place in the DreamMakers Theatre, a state-of-the-art 1,500-seat venue in the Kewadin Convention Center. On the evening of June 16, conference goers will be treated to an opening dinner and welcome ceremo-

ny in DreamMakers followed by comedian Don Burnstick.

Burnstick, a Cree from the Alexander First Nation, has established himself as one of Canada’s best comedians of all times. His show, *You Might be a Redskin — Healing Through Native Humour*, is highly acclaimed. Saturday, June 17, begins with a sunrise ceremony at the Sault Tribe powwow grounds.

After a breakfast in DreamMakers, the conference goes into elder panels followed by a traditional medicine presentation. In the afternoon, a sober chiefs panel, water warrior Isaac Murdock and nowa cumig Dennis J. Banks are scheduled. In the evening, Don Coyhis presents the Four Seasons of Healing and White Bison Wellbriety Movement. NAMA flutist Calixto “Silverfox” Lopez II will perform followed by Native Grammy and NAMA artist, youth/teen music mentor Star Nayeia. The evening will wrap up with a sobriety dance.

Sunday morning, the conference ends with a closing ceremony.

The registration fee does not include rooms, but the conference group rate is only \$59. Keep up to date with conference and registration information at www.soberindianz.org.

IHS planning expansion in availability of health aides

BY RICK SMITH

The principal deputy director of the Indian Health Service (IHS), Mary Smith, gave an update to tribal leaders in a Jan. 4 letter on consultations the agency conducted with them beginning in June of 2016. The consultations regarded policies on creating a nationwide Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) to increase access to health care among residents of American Indian communities.

“After careful review of all comments received,” she wrote, “I am pleased to announce that the IHS will begin the process of developing a formal policy

and implementation plan to create a national CHAP under the provisions outlined in the Indian Health Service Care Improvement Act ...”

Smith noted several themes emerged from the consultations which is providing the framework for developing the CHAP policies and plan. She said all comments favored the establishment of a national CHAP or provided suggestions for IHS for consideration.

She listed six principles to serve as guiding standards in the development of the program:

1) The CHAP improves access to quality care for American

Indians. 2) Any program needs to be based community and area. 3) Some baseline standards with sufficient flexibility will be needed to ensure each area can establish its own program. 4) Each area would establish its own certification board. 5) The policy will not disrupt currently established programs. And 6) Legislative changes will be needed to fully implement the use of dental health aide therapists in CHAPs.

A national workgroup made up of tribal leaders and IHS representatives will be formed to develop a draft CHAP expansion policy and implementation plan,

according to the letter. Once the workgroup develops a draft, IHS plans to conduct another tribal consultation process for further input.

“Increased access to health care is a top priority for IHS,” Smith said in an announcement, “and community health aides expand much-needed health services for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.”

Currently, according to managers of our tribe’s clinics, Sault Tribe employs over a dozen community health technicians throughout the service area who perform different functions, but no community health aides.

“Health technicians have helped our programs immensely,” said Tony Abramson Sr., manager of the Sault Ste. Marie clinic.

According to the IHS, community health aides work in a variety of fields such as health promotion, communicable disease control, maternal and child health, dental health, family planning, environmental health and others. The Alaska Native Health Service currently has 489 certified health aides or practitioners. The Dental Health Aide Program also functions under the Alaska Native Health Service in 81 communities serving over 40,000 Alaska Natives since 2004.

CDC: Diabetes related kidney failures drop among Indians

BY RICK SMITH

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) recently reported kidney failure caused by diabetes dropped by 54 percent among American Indians in the 17 years between 1996 and 2013. Further, citing the figures as a tremendously successful achievement by the Indian Health Service (IHS), the CDCP said the feat may lead to establishing preventive measures and lower health costs in the United States.

Kidney failure requires regular dialysis treatments or transplants in order for an afflicted individual to survive.

“The 54 percent decline in kidney failure from diabetes followed implementation of public health and population approaches to diabetes as well as improvements in clinical care by the HIS,” said HIS Principal Deputy Director Mary L. Smith said in an announcement. “We

believe these strategies can be effective in any population. The patient, family and community are all key partners in managing chronic diseases, including diabetes.”

The CDC noted the federal government is helping to curb kidney failure in American Indian and other communities through funding diabetes treatment and prevention services, developing a nationwide system to keep track of kidney disease cases and aiding community health centers nationwide to provide comprehensive diabetes care.

American Indians have a higher chance of acquiring diabetes than other races in the U.S. and the disease is a leading cause of kidney failure, according to the CDC. However, kidney failure can be delayed or even prevented by controlling blood pressure and blood sugar along with taking appropriate

medications. Proper diabetes care should include regular kidney testing, education and treatment. The CDC says it appears the decline in the number of diabetic related kidney failures was accelerated after HIS began new approaches that may serve as a model for other populations.

Among the approaches, the CDC specified health care organizations could employ long-term assessments to promote wellness in entire communities and guide patients in choosing healthful diets, and securing transportation, housing and mental health care. Medical services could also develop coordinated team approaches to care for diabetic patients and provide education, outreach and tracking along with access to a variety of appropriate medical professionals. Another facet would be to integrate prevention and education measures as part of routine care for diabetic patients.

Recently, an anecdote posted on the U.S. Health and Human Services blog illustrates the fact that individual effort also has a critical role in one’s health: *The tribal elder at Fort Berthold Reservation in western North Dakota had struggled with his diabetes for years. His blood glucose level was about twice what’s considered normal, his blood pressure was dangerously high and he was overweight.*

His health care provider talked to him about the need to address his diabetes and he was included in the tribal clinic’s diabetes registry, so they wouldn’t lose track of him. But he just didn’t take the steps necessary to manage his condition. Until one day, it apparently clicked.

Jared Eagle, director of the Indian Health Service’s Special Diabetes Program for Indians at the reservation in New Town, said the man finally started taking advantage of the resources

and care provided through the clinic. He started walking more, lost 20 to 30 pounds and reduced his blood glucose and blood pressure levels.

“You can see him walking every day. He’s walking his dog every day, even in the winter,” Eagle said.

The story of this elder of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation (also known as the Three Affiliated Tribes) reflects the significant progress being made in Indian Country where Native Americans have a greater chance of having diabetes and kidney failure resulting from diabetes than any other U.S. racial or ethnic group, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nonetheless, the CDC also reported recently that kidney failure among Native Americans dropped by 54 percent between 1996 and 2013, the fastest rate for any racial or ethnic group in the U.S.

TOO MANY CHIEFS & NOT ENOUGH INDIANS: INSTABILITY THREATENS OUR FUTURE



Aaron A. Payment, MPA, M.Ed.
Tribal Chairperson

Representing All Members Everywhere

Ahneen Boozho, Negee:

Let me begin by reaffirming that I represent you the Membership and not a group of friends or colleagues on the Board. I have said many times that I doubt many of the Board Members put me in office so while I have to work with them and respect their position as part of the tribal governing board, I am not subordinate to them. To the contrary, I report to you - the Members - first and foremost. I have also said that while they may not like me as your Chair, they should respect the will of our Tribal voters for returning me to office just last year. Rather than spend so much time trying to undermine the elective choice of the majority of our voters, they should allow me to do my job.

I appreciate that a majority of the Board recently took a closer look at their actions in December to rescind all delegated authority to the Chair and instead reinstate some functions. I appreciate that a majority saw the wisdom of this. Conversely, you should take note of those Board Members who refused to try to find any compromise and remember this during the next election cycle. It puzzles me that in Units 4 and 5, I would garner over 70% of the votes and those Tribal Board Members in those units abandon the will of their voters and refuse to support the authority of the person you elected.

RIGHT OF REFERNDUM ABSOLUTE

Immediately after the Board voted in December to rescind ALL authority of the

Chair, Tribal Members initiated a referendum to overturn this decision. I supported this effort. The right of referendum is not a sole endeavor. In fact, over 500 Members signed the petition! This is 10X the number of signatures it takes to get on the ballot to run for the Board. While I appreciate the Board altering the limited delegation and reinstating some authority, it is my fundamental belief that those Members who signed the referendum petition have a Constitutional right to see their referendum come to fruition though a vote.

Whether I concede or not to a limited delegation is inconsequential to rights of the Members. Unfortunately, we do not have a separation of powers to challenge Constitutional violations. This underscores the need to hold a Secretarial vote to evolve our Constitution to transcend the current corporate Board structure with a Chair and Board of Directors to an Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branch which cannot overstep their bounds.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF 2010: TRIBAL MEMBERS DECIEVED

I was out of office in 2010, when the Tribal Board voted to request a Secretarial election to eliminate Chief Executive Office title from the Chairperson. Director McKelvie insists that what was voted on was not discussed prior to showing up with a changed resolution. Consequentially, the Board voted on the resolution sight unseen. The draft language was confusing and some argue, designed to deceive the Membership. Most Members agree that they never expected this would result in the Chair being subordinated to the Tribal Board or simply having no authority unless the Board said so. Had the Members knew then that the Chair could be left powerless, they never would have voted on this. Had they known why this was being done, they would have opposed it even more.

1ST ORG CHART APPROVED BY BOARD OUT OF RETRIBUTION?

It might surprise some to know that the very first organization chart the Tribal Board voted on in December 2007, was to reinstate the Tribal Detention center underneath Law Enforcement so the former Chief of Police could execute on his threat to fire an alleged

victim's father from his job. Knowing or unknowingly, this action of the Board led to the alleged victim's father being terminated. This was witnessed by Tribal Legal and Human Resources in an audio tape recorded of a wire tape by the Michigan State Police of the former Tribal Chief of Police threatening an alleged victim that if she cooperated with the Michigan State Police, she would find out, "who is in charge of the tribe" and that she and her family members would lose their jobs. The Tribal Chief of Police was subsequently fired but the Board simply voted to put their fellow Board Member back to work.

RETRIBUTIONAL FIRING FACILITATED BY TRIBAL BOARD?

After the termination for cause did not stick, as Chairperson, I exercised my authority to shield the alleged victim and her father from being terminated by changing the organizational chart to move the detention center out from underneath law enforcement. For the first time in our Tribe's history, the Board then voted on an organizational charge drafted by Director Hoffman to put the Detention center back underneath Law Enforcement and to have the Executive Directors for Internal Services and Membership services report directly to the Tribal Board. Sound familiar? Subsequently, the alleged victim's father was fired.

PRESS RELEASE APPROVED OUTSIDE OF AN OFFICIAL MEETING

Another stark coincidence is that immediately after the Board voted on the org chart in 2007 to place the victim's father underneath law enforcement and have the Executive Directors report to the Board, a select group of Board Members met to write and approve a media release to put a spin on their actions. This happened outside of a duly called meeting which is required by the Tribal Constitution. In December 2016, following the action to rescind all delegated authority to the Chair, yet another convening happened of the Board whereby they wrote and approved a press release. If we had a separation of powers with an independent Court system, Tribal Members could challenge the actions of the Board to take legislative action outside of a duly called meeting which is REQUIRED by the Tribal Constitution. I can attest that as a

Member of the Tribal Board of Directors, I was not consulted on this Press Release which purported to have been approved by the Tribal Board.

BOARD COLLUSION IN FBI INVESTIGATIONS?

While the alleged assault in 2007 led to a plea deal, the former Chief of Police was subsequently investigated, indicted and convicted of embezzling from the Tribe. He did one year in federal prison and is making restitution. Federal documents show he misappropriated over \$800,000 in Department of Justice grant funds and converted over \$200,000 of these funds for personal gain, as well as, paid his daughter for up to nine months for a job she never performed.

During this investigation, it is my belief that at least a few Board Members knew what was transpiring and acted to cover for the former Chief of Police and their fellow Board Member including forcing a vote to put him back to work before he was eventually indicted. The Board also voted to payout an amount of \$19,000 to the former Chief of Police the day before he was incarcerated on a felony which would invalidate his employment contract rendering the Tribe free of any legal obligation to pay him anything. While the Tribal Members voted by Referendum to NOT pay out this criminal, the payout happened hastily before the referendum vote said NO.

Again, it is my opinion that at least a few Board Members knew of the illegal activity as it was happening. If they didn't, they certainly weakened the integrity of our Tribal government by shield a political ally out of loyalty rather than common sense. This embezzlement ring was allowed to happen under a structure which had the Executive Directors report directly to the Tribal Board. Sadly, history repeated itself after I left office, when the Executive paid over \$300,000 in legal fees to an attorney who has never shown any legal work product for this pay. Without a separation of powers, and having an Executive serve as an "At Will" employee will undoubtedly lead to similar outcomes.

MANDATORY TRUST AT RISK FROM INSTABILITY

Our mandatory trust application was submitted in 2014. In 2015, a Congressional hearing called into question the

authority of the Department of Interior to take land into trust. This issue affects tribes across the country including our tribe. As an Officer of the National Congress of American Indians, I called a special meeting to deal with this issue and I believe quelled the calls for stripping the Department of Interior of the authority to taken land into trust. I take my responsibility to all tribes and Indians seriously.

I have no doubt this challenge to the very authority to take land into trust delayed our Mandatory Trust application for taking land into trust in Lansing and in Huron Township. When asked why those locations, I answer that we have more than twice as many Sault Tribe Members in those locations than all other tribes in that areas combined. Recall, the referendum that Tribal Members approved in 2012 to seek out Lansing project.

In December, just before I was stripped of all authority, I had a conference call with Department of Interior officials who laid out what our application should contain to secure approval. I documented this conversation with a memo to the Board and to our Legal Team. Unfortunately, I believe the act of stripping the Chair of all delegated authority sent a message of powerlessness such this detailed memo was ignored and the elements to gain approval for our Mandatory trust were ignored.

On the last full day of the Obama Administration (1/19/17), I received a call from the Department of Interior to ask why the elements were not included and to report that while we would not gain final approval prior to the end of the Obama Administration, the findings were that the request was in fact "mandatory" if we meet the elements previously prescribed. This is monumental in that even if the Trump Administration freezes land in trust applications, our request moves forward but must contain those elements referenced from December before I was stripped of all authority.

Now is a time for stability and unity rather than politics as usual. If our right of referendum is honored, I urge you to vote to DISAPPROVE of the Board rescinding the Chair's authority. As always, thank you for your support.

Chi McGwitch, Negee!

Chi

McLeod to walk the hill educating legislators



**JENNIFER MCLEOD,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aanii Anishinaabek, this past month has been very unsettling as a new presidential administration takes control of the nation. The potential impact of this new administration on Indian Country will be the focus of a meeting I am attending at the National Congress of the American Indians (NCAI) in D.C. Feb. 12-16. I feel this is a very important meeting, and I look forward to sharing with you what I learn.

Also, while I am there, I

intend to “walk the hill” and speak with various congressional leaders to help “educate” them on treaty rights, and specifically the needs of our tribe. I am going to remind them that **tribal treaties don't expire**, and we expect the federal government to honor them. They need to understand that federal dollars received by tribes for their people are not “entitlements” or hand-outs, or social welfare, they are goods and services that have been “pre-paid” and secured by the transfer of land when we signed treaties. This former teacher has made buttons, and will be bringing her own instructional materials with her, to teach the newcomers their history and their financial obligations. **Tribal treaties DON'T EXPIRE!**

In the meantime, while we wait, I don't think that we should be idle. I have been pushing for years, the need for our tribe to plan for reductions in federal dollars to our programs. I have written about it here in my articles. I believe that we need to prioritize where we will direct tribal dollars

should there be a decrease in the federal money. The profit from the casinos and other enterprises of the tribe creates support dollars of roughly \$16-\$18 million per year. At least \$5 million goes to debt payment and the rest is distributed for services and governmental operations. While it sounds like a lot of money, it won't provide services at the levels we have now, and we **KNOW that there is a lot more need out there**. We have been working on getting the downstate gaming approved so that we could generate enough money to address our members' needs, and I'm not talking about just the seven-county service area, either! I receive calls from tribal members everywhere and am so disappointed by how little I can help. We must do more, but it takes more money to do that.

With all the uncertainty and political gamesmanship going on, I want to spread the word that there are good things happening, too!

Did you know that:

- Over 700 families were

served with LIHEAP (Low Income Heating Assistance Program) funding since November?

- There were seven events held at Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building during the month of December, including a coat giveaway, children's Christmas party, storytelling, family dinner and New Year's powwow feast?

- Elder services provided over 1,100 meals at community centers and over 700 home delivered meals to our tribal elders?

- More than 68,135 individuals visited the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center?

- More than 1,100 people received USDA services in the seven-county service area?

- More than 70 people received USDA services in EIGHT other counties?

- Over 350 people participated in the Early Childhood Education Program language classes in December?

- Youth Education and Activities had more than 17 events in December?

- The JKL Fiduciary Committee is working with the charter school on possible classroom expansion?

These and many, many more “good things” are happening in our tribe! Despite the negativity of politics and the uncertainty of a new administration, we are continuing to take care of our people thanks to the hardworking staff, employees, team members and volunteers that make our tribe great. Miigwech to ALL!

Anishinaabe gagige (Anishinaabe for always), Jen, (906) 440-9151, jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com, website <http://jmcleodsaulttribe.com>, Facebook: Jennifer McLeod – Sault Tribe, 2 Ice Circle Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

P.S. On a sad note, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Harlan Downwind. Our tribe lost a good man, healer, husband, father and friend. Travel well to the spirit realm, Harlan, you helped many, many people. Chi miigwech, miniwaa bamapii.

Invalid referendum a waste of time, resources



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Since the Dec. 13 meeting there has been much discussion on the referendum petition the chair had circulated to overturn the 10-2 vote of the board. The petition has enough signatures to be valid but that is the only thing that is right about it.

First of all, according to Tribal Code, there needs to be a referendum number and there wasn't one. When we voted to rescind the resolution, Director Hoffman asked the chair multiple times if he wanted to assign a number to it and he declined.

Secondly, the petition is to rescind the board's rescission of the delegated authority. So if the board just voted to overturn that resolution, the next resolution passed on that evening was the authority was then vested in the executive director. So the executive director is in charge of day-to-day operations regardless if we overturn the rescinded authority.

So the board can say the petitions are valid and send it out to the vote of the people (as their right to petition their government) BUT even if the majority voted to overturn the vote of the board, the executive director resolution still stands.

Referendums are very expensive and, in this case, a waste of thousands of dollars since the outcome will not change. The chair, in my opinion, knew what he was

doing since he has petitioned the government before and it was a big game to him, once again toying with members' emotions. Prior to the petition submission, he tried to bargain with the board to give him certain authorities and he would drop the petitions. This is blackmail and not working for me.

At this point in time he now wants the board to work with him and give him authority of the membership liaisons, the legislative director, his office staff and treaty rights. If the board does this, he is willing to ask the members to accept this.

This has been another waste of time and resources. The board voted to honor the referendum vote of 2010 separating the chair and CEO. The chair's recent petition will not change the outcome of the Dec. 13 vote. It is time to move on, work together and let the executive director run the day-to-day operations.

I know I have written about this before and perhaps many times, the hiring practices of our tribe. Apparently there is not enough support to want the best people working for the tribe. We have a tribal preference in hiring but through policy, departments are not allowed to even see any applicants unless they are tribal. If no tribal apply or are not qualified then they can see tribal household (must be either married to a tribal member or have a dependent Sault Tribe child), then natives from other tribes and finally all other applicants.

Preference to me is that you interview all qualified applicants and if all things are equal you give the preference and hire the Sault Tribe member, household or other native. So when HR screens the applications, as long as that person meets the minimum qualifications, they have to be interviewed and most likely hired without ever seeing all applicants that could be better qualified or suited for a position. I really have

a hard time seeing how this is in the best interest of the tribe?

I absolutely want to see our members gainfully employed. Was the intent of our ancestors when starting casinos and other operations to employ everyone? Was it to make money to provide programs and services? Was it to employ everyone's relatives? I would really like to know because the way we do it now could be the reason our businesses are floundering. I would think if you asked any business owner which applicant you would choose it would be the best qualified. What we typically end up with is a revolving door.

Which leads to the next solution. We need to educate, train and mentor our members to be the best applicant. We need to start surveying the membership and establishing priorities. With those priorities we set a strategic plan. We focus on our shortcomings and expand on our strengths.

Putting resources and money into our youth and working members to allow them to be self-sufficient. It is not going to be easy or short term but we must start somewhere to prepare the next seven generations to not just survive but prosper.

The HR audit should be completed at the end of the month. The Health Division RFP (request for proposals) has been sent out for bids, which hopefully will lead to a selection of a firm by the end of the month also. I know the chair has referred to these as investigations, which is not true. All areas should be audited externally every few years to find the strengths and weaknesses. The board will need to use these assessments as tools for improving services, programs and the way we do things.

The next board meeting will be held in St. Ignace at the event center on Tuesday, Feb. 21, with open session around 1 p.m.,

member concerns from 4 to 6 p.m. and business meeting at 6 p.m.

The annual Shirley Goudreau Family Fun Day will have a new location this year. It will be held at the Kewadin Casino Event Center in St. Ignace on March 4 from 12 to 2 p.m. Anyone interested in donating or volunteering, please contact Angie Gilmore at (906) 643-8676.

There will be a powwow and round dance in the Kewadin Casino Event Center on March 11-12 to honor our waters and her protectors. The grand entry will be March 11 at noon, dinner break at 5 p.m. and round dance at 7 p.m. Sunday the grand entry will be 1 p.m. and giveaway at 4 p.m. Any questions, please contact Jackie Minton or Colleen Medicine at (906) 635-6050.

Please contact me with your concerns at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, Bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.

Tribal happenings in Unit V



**ANITA NELSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT V**

January — busiest month thus far, who would think January, a cold snowy month, would be so busy? Many things came before the board that required more meetings, more research and more traveling. Gradually, I have branched out by getting involved

with some of the other key areas of our tribal organization and their concerns. I have to admit that I have not got a chance to meet with our local tribal health department and casino staff during a regular meeting. I will be making another attempt to contact them. I was waiting for an invite. That didn't happen.

Looks as if the M-28 building options are on hold at this time. I'm hoping the committee will meet again in the spring. I have mentioned to Joel Schultz, our new economic development director, that maybe he would have time to give our M-28 Building Committee some help with that. Mr. Schultz is working out well and bringing some good ideas to the table. I'm always anxious to hear his reports.

I have been in close contact with a veteran's representative. He updates me on a regular basis.

As soon as possible, our health centers will be servicing our Native Americans and Alaskan Natives. We were first informed that we would also be servicing non-Native veterans as well. As we get funding for increased staff, it may be possible to take care of all veterans. This is my sincere hope. Its very difficult for our elderly veterans to travel for services at the far away veteran's facilities. I use to make these trips with my father, a WWI veteran, so I know.

A new Elder Services director has been hired. Her name is Latisha Willette. She starts Feb. 13. I have not met her as yet so will probably meet her when she visits our elders' meetings. I have visited with our transportation planner, Wendy Hoffman, in the Sault and will be meeting her again when she comes to

See “Nelson,” page 23

Gravelle reports



KIMBERLE GRAVELLE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello, along with the meetings I attend on a regular basis in January, I attended a meeting with the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA), which is comprised of the 12 federally recognized tribes and two state historic tribes in Michigan.

At this meeting, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) did a presentation and consultation with the group. MDOT is working with the tribes when they discover evidence of a tribal settlement or burial site while doing construction on any Michigan roads. They are now aware of the sensitivity of the items and remains they may find.

Coming repatriations were discussed and Sault Tribe will be doing repatriations from the University of Michigan, Lake County Discovery Museum and from the City of Traverse City. I would like to congratulate Colleen Medicine, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe repatriation specialist, who was voted as vice chairperson of the MACPRA in 2016. If you would like more information, you can contact Colleen Medicine at (906) 635-6050.

Another meeting I attended is the "Regalia Project 2017." This

project is in the planning stage of bringing our children and their families into the dance circle. This will be a family event and anyone who is supportive will be welcome.

The project will serve an integral role in sustaining our culture, language and traditional value system. It will also give our children the teachings of each category of dance and how they came to be along with the significance of the songs that go with the dances. The participants will learn to dance in their own way and the responsibility that goes along with all of our songs.

To quote Jackie Minton of our Cultural Department, "Whenever we teach our children and bring them to the dance circle it brings the entire family together."

Further, over the last few months, references have been made that only some Sault Tribe board members donate to the community. I know personally that all board members assist tribal members with housing, clothing, furniture, paying bills, buying food, gas, giving tribal members rides, shoveling, waiting at hospitals with members during emergencies and donating money to fundraisers. I am sure there are other things they do that I may have missed, but I do know that when asked, they never hesitate to help out. These board members don't ask for recognition and will continue to do these things without ever expecting it. So, thank you, fellow board members.

Please keep the men and women in our armed forces in your prayers and thoughts for a safe return to their families.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me at (906) 203-6083 or e-mail me at kkgavelle@saulttribe.net.

Thank you,
Kim Gravelle

From "Nelson," page 22

Munising for a meeting with our local EDC. We may be getting help with H-58 for road repairs. As soon as I get more information on this project, I will inform everyone.

The board has been working on budgets, screening for a new casino CEO and working towards securing a legal firm for the Great Lakes Consent Decree. I would like you to know that we have monthly meetings via videoconference at the Grand Island Center with the Great Lakes Conservation Committee. You are welcome to call me for the date and time, as it varies. I encourage more members to get involved.

This past week I met with the Title VII Native coordinator from our local area and the YEA person in the Sault. It has been many years since I was familiar with these programs so very much appreciated the updates. Policies and procedures have changed quite a bit but the main topic of discussion was funding. I will be doing more research on these programs and make an effort to keep in touch with these key people.

The Munising elders held their regular meeting on Feb. 2, 2017, and at this meeting they elected officers: Tom Derwin, chair; Deb McNeill, vice chair; Kim Swanberg, secretary; and Kathy

Syers, treasurer. We have openings for two alternate positions. Please contact any officer if interested. The Elders Committee also held a workshop on Feb. 3, 2017, to go over any procedure changes, collect input from committee members, make suggestions for the coming year and share ideas.

I will be attending the Marquette elders meeting on Feb. 9, 2017. Their committee meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. The meals are delicious and they welcome any new Native elders in the area.

I feel guilty that there is a certain age group I never get to meet with but it's quite hard to do that when I'm traveling to the Sault Monday through Wednesday, plus attending elders' meetings on Thursdays. However, this is a day of electronics so please call my cell at (906) 379-7825 or email me at anelson@saulttribe.net if you have concerns. I will also meet with you privately.

I understand that I made some enemies out there in my service area. Well, like Winston Churchill says, "If you made enemies, this is good because it means you have stood up for something in your life."
Anita L. Nelson, Unit V Representative

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