



WĪN AWEĒNĒN NISITOTUNG

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

January 18, 2008 • Vol. 29 No. 1



Team members get bonus, 2008 raise

Sault Tribe Board of Directors approved a 2007 employee incentive to be paid out early January. Those who worked at least 1,560 hours last year will receive \$500. Even better, a 3-5 percent team member raise has also been approved. At its Dec. 11 meeting, the board reaffirmed the incentive while it approved the 2008 annual payroll raise.

Chairperson Payment said that although he was pleased about the team member bonus, he was not fully satisfied it would not be distributed before Christmas. He added that he was satisfied with his proposal to increase wages based on income, especially since "41 percent of team members earn less than \$20,000 per year."

INCENTIVE

During a special meeting held on Nov. 27 in Sault Ste. Marie, the board approved a plan that rewards all team members (including elder team members) based on the following scale:

Hours worked: 1,560 hours and greater – 100 percent (\$500)
Hours worked: 1,000 to 1559 hours – 75 percent (\$375)
Hours worked: 500 to 999 hours – 50 percent (\$250)
Hours worked: 250 to 499 hours – 25 percent (\$125)

The Team Member Incentive Program from this time forward will be included in all annual budgets. The incentive was originally planned to be paid out to all employees just before

Tribe's team members come through for United Way

BY HEATHER SMITH,
UNITED WAY WORKPLACE
COORDINATOR

Even though the Michigan economy is at an all time low, Sault Tribe team members have come through again by pledging \$19,654. This is \$3,600 more than we collected for last year's campaign and \$2,000 more than the 2001 campaign which was our previous high, mostly due to the generosity and American spirit shown after Sept. 11, 2001.

We only need to raise \$346 to reach our \$20,000 projected goal for the current campaign. Pledges are always accepted by contacting hsmith@saulttribe.net or (906) 635-6510.

The Chippewa County United Way campaign is currently at 62 percent of its \$365,000 goal.

Losing the Tendercare corporate offices is one example of donations lost and the need for other organizations to pledge more. According to United Way of Chippewa County Director

Christmas. The proposed distribution date was changed to early January and is to be paid out of the 2008 fiscal year budget under "Funds for Distribution."

2008 RAISES

The 2008 annual payroll raises will be distributed under the following plan:

SALARY RANGE	% INCREASE
Under \$15,000	4.5 percent
\$15,000-\$19,999	4 percent
\$20,000-\$69,999	3.5 percent
\$70,000 and Over	3 percent

Depending on wage level, team members will have an opportunity for a maximum wage increase of 4.5 percent next year. The raise process will apply to introductory team members, promotions and transfers that occurred this past year. Again, this year performance appraisals will not play a part in the raise process. Listed above is the wage distribution and the percent increase as it applies to that base wage (this does not include tips, overtime, premium pay, and so forth.) Increases will be effective in the pay period which includes Jan. 1, 2008. The minimum raise percentage for a team member increased from 1 percent to 3 percent compared to last year.

Current construction field workers will receive a 3.5 percent raise added to their base salary. The raise process does not apply to temporary team members and elder/student work programs.

Molly Paquin, the Upper Peninsula campaign contributions are where they were last year or slightly better.

Kewadin Shores and Hessel Casino were first-time participants this year. Their contributions along with Sault Kewadin meant 58 pledges for \$5,605 which accounts for 29 percent of our total pledges.

For the past 10 years, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has been the top contributor to the Chippewa County United Way.

It appears most employees pledge through Sault Tribe rather than other avenues because of the annual corporate match approved by the tribal board. For example, a person contributing \$50 sees it as actually being worth a \$100 contribution because of the employer match.

Ninety-eight percent of all funds stay local with 2 percent going to United Way of America for dues.

New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow a thundering good time



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

All ages had good times at the Sault Tribe's Gathering of the Winter Thunders New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow Dec. 31 at the Big Bear arena in Sault Ste. Marie. Dancers were greeted by three drums. Vendors lined the walls and the concession stand offered snacks. Little ones were treated to a coloring contest. At 5 p.m. the crowd moved over to Niigaanigiishik for a feast, then went back for more drumming, dancing and visiting to bring in the new year. Pictured above is JC Jewett finishing up his jeweltone thunderbird entry for the kid's coloring contest. More photos on page 17.

First elk hunt successful

CHEBOYGAN, Mich.—The 2007 Sault Tribe Elk Hunt has ended with both permits successfully filled by hunters fortunate enough to be drawn during the tribe's historic first permit lottery held on Dec 5, 2007.

Robert Fay III of Petoskey, Mich., harvested a nice cow at 11 a.m. on Dec. 14 while hunting with his father, Robert Fay Jr. They enlisted the assistance of the Canada Creek Ranch near

See "Elk hunt," page 2



Tribal member Kenneth Martin sent in this photo posing with the elk bull he brought down Dec. 24.

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MEMBERSHIP Q&A

Q: I am a tribal member and I am wondering if the tribe could assist me with adopting a child or becoming a foster parent.

A: All questions that relate to a child placement should be directed to the Binogii Placement Agency which is located within Tribe's A.C.F.S. Department. The agency contracts with the State of Michigan, which allows the program to provide services to tribal families and children in the seven-county service area. The Sault Tribe is the only tribe in the State of Michigan that has a child placing agency licensed by the State. Call (906) 632-5250 or toll-free at 1-800-726-0093.

Q: I thought the tribe gave students \$500 per semester for Higher Ed costs. I attend school year round and I only got two checks this year and was informed that this is all I will receive.

A: The Higher Ed Program provides for a total of

\$1,000 a year in educational assistance to those who meet the guidelines. If you attend college year round, you can only receive the benefit of \$1,000 in any one year. Students must keep in mind that they will receive a 1099 form from the tribe. This is a statement of income, and must be reported when you are filing your taxes. Contact Janice Lewton in the Education Department for more information. She can be reached at 1-800-793-0660.

Q: I have been waiting for a tribal house for a long time. I applied way back in 2006 and I still have not heard anything from Housing. What is taking so long?

A: Tribal Housing is a much sought after service and openings for tribal housing do not happen often. The Housing Department reviews applications each time there is a vacancy. However, applications for tribal housing must be updated every six months. Therefore, if you have not updated your original application, then you are not being considered for any openings. To update your application and get back on the list of interested applicants please contact the Housing Department in your area for instructions.

If you are interested in home ownership opportunities, you may want to check out the new Federal loan programs for tribal members. For more information about loans, call Carolyn O'Neil at (906) 495-5555.



Tribal member Robert Fay III sent in this photo posing with his his elk cow, brought down Dec. 14.

From "Elk Hunt," Page 1
More Elk Atlanta who helped with guiding and processing of the animal for which they are very thankful. The cow was one of the biggest taken for the season and weighed 360 pounds dressed. Fay had to coordinate his hunting time with his hectic schedule while in college at Grand Valley State. In fact, the season fell during his exam week so he had to travel back and forth between the field and the classroom in order to take his tests and fill his permit. He effectively accomplished both.

Kenneth Martin from

Cheboygan, Mich., chose to not hire a guide and instead spent endless hours in the field during his pursuit to fill the either-sex permit. All of this time and effort finally resulted in a beautiful 5x5 bull taken at 10 a.m. on Dec. 24. The bull was downed by a single shot from a 30-06 rifle and it had a field dressed weight of 530 pounds. Semaa (Tobacco) was laid down as an offering of thankfulness to the Creator and Martin was assisted with getting the majestic animal out of the Mackinaw State Forest by Sault Tribe members Dale, Chris and Clarence

Hudak from Cheboygan, Jason Grondin from Topinabee and Dustin McLeod from Onaway.

The indigenous elk (wapiti) population in Michigan disappeared around 1875 as a result of over-hunting and loss of habitat. Reintroduction of a sustainable herd started in 1918 with seven western animals released near the town of Wolverine in Cheboygan County. Today, under the newly signed Inland Consent Decree, Sault Tribe members are guaranteed to receive a small percentage of the available state issued permits on an annual basis.

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- DO contact your local KINOOWNAKWE "Navigator Woman" if you have any questions or need assistance.

Please Contact:

Amanda Leonard
(906)632-5237

Win Awenen Nisitotung THE SAULT TRIBE NEWS

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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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Our name: Win Awenen Nisitotung, in our native language, means, "One who well or fully understands."

Visit us online: This issue can be viewed online at www.saulttribe.com beginning on its publishing date.

Subscriptions: The regular rate is \$13 per year, \$10 for senior citizens, \$25 to Canada, and \$35 to other foreign countries. Subscribe by sending your name and mailing address to the address below with your check or money order made out to the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

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Secretarial election appeals dismissed Dec. 13

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — According to a final judicial order received on Dec. 13, the Interior Board of Indian Appeals determined all three election complaints filed pertaining to the secretarial election have been dismissed and the results of the secretarial election regarding the Sault Tribe's Constitutional amendment on restrictions to hold elected office will remain valid.

The three election challenges were originally dismissed by the regional director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs on June 11. Following the ruling, the secretarial election results were certified by the U.S. Department of Interior. All of the challengers filed appeals regarding their election complaints to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals.

The secretarial election was conducted by the Sault Tribe and Bureau of Indian Affairs in May to gain a vote of the tribal membership regarding proposed changes to the tribe's Constitution regarding candidate eligibility for elected officials and whether or not board members can serve as an elected official while also hired as a tribal employee.

Approximately 86 percent of the tribe's members who cast votes in the secretarial election approved the elimination of a board members' right to serve as both an elected official and tribal employee at the same time.

The tribe requested and was granted "expedited consideration" of the appeals on grounds that uncertainty over the validity of the secretarial election

could affect the upcoming 2008 tribal election.

The Interior Board of Indian Affairs stated, "We conclude that the regional director correctly dismissed the contests of appellants William K. Bouschor and Mary Locke on the ground that they lacked standing to contest the secretarial election because neither had registered to vote in the election. We also conclude that the regional director correctly rejected appellant Betty Freiheit's challenge to the election on the ground that she had failed to exhaust administrative remedies by first submitting her challenge to the election board. Although, the regional director rejected appellant Joanne Carr's contest on the merits, we need not reach the merits of her appeal because we conclude that she too lacked

standing to bring her contest, either because she did not register to vote in the election or because she failed to exhaust administrative remedies by first submitting her challenge to the election board."

The regulations expressly provide that only a qualified voter who has specifically registered for the secretarial election has the right to file an election challenge. The appeals report further stated, "The regional director found, among other things, that the tribe's Constitution expressly made all adult members of the tribe eligible to register to vote, regardless of residence, and that neither the IRA nor the regulations required otherwise for the secretarial election."

The following Constitutional amendment was added to the

Sault Tribe Constitution and will be in effect during the 2008 election cycle and all subsequent elections:

"Any person elected or appointed to a position on the board, who is either an employee or independent contractor of the tribe shall voluntarily resign his or her employment position and/or surrender any rights under any contract with the tribe prior to assuming the duties of office or taking the oath of office. Failure to voluntarily resign and/or terminate the contractual relationship with the tribe shall bar the elected or appointed individual from assuming the duties of office or taking the oath of office."

The report, "Rulings on Appeals of 2007 Secretarial Election," can be viewed at www.saulttribe.com.

2 percent funds help start up EMT pilot program

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

ENGADINE — Thanks to \$5,500 in Sault Tribe 2 percent funding, Engadine Consolidated Schools will be able to offer a pilot program to provide juniors and seniors with emergency medical training to certify the students as Michigan first responders. They will take the course via interactive television from Marquette General Hospital EMT Instructor Dennis Karuza.

Stu Hobbs, high school principal and school superintendent, said they were all very excited about the innovative program that combines vocational training with science. One component of the class is certification in first responder training via ITV. The other component is a health course taught on-site by Rae Klobucher, who will also proctor the ITV sessions.

According to Hobbs, there is

real need in the Engadine area for qualified EMTs. "We are made up of small towns in a huge area," he said. Combined with community need is the need to make a living wage that could lead to higher education. "Engadine does not have a lot of employment opportunities," Hobbs added.

According to the 2-percent request, the program operates on the premise that if students participate in a certificate program in high school, they will graduate with an interest in a career field, increasing the chances of graduating high school and attending college or a better paying job if they choose not to attend college.

Laura Frisch, Native American coordinator under Title VII, pushed for the program and collaborated on its development. "She put in a lot of time to make sure the pro-

gram is realized," said Hobbs.

Frisch said that the 2 percent funding made the program possible. More than half of the 14 students enrolled are tribal, she added. The project took a year to organize since it is the first one of its kind in Michigan. It took help from Sault Tribe's DJ Malloy who helped Frisch get through the 2 percent approval process, UPEMS Director Bob Struct to help with all the rules and regulations and approval of the pilot program from EMS Administrator Tony Sorenson in East Lansing.

Engadine School lacked funds to implement the program. With 2 percent funds, the school could commit enough resources to get the ball rolling for a pilot program that started Jan. 7 and will last to the middle of May. "We are very excited to be integrating the training out of Marquette,

blended with health, for secondary students. Even after all the cuts to education, we can still offer this," said Hobbs.

A lot of agencies and schools are interested in this first-time pilot program, added Frisch.

The students will receive science credits for the course and be ready for a licensing test.

Tribe's health center gets new phone system

When calling the Tribal Health Center and the main line is open, it will ring until answered by a receptionist. If the line is in use, your call will be placed into queue and you will hear our greeting until the receptionist takes your call.

The old voice-mail system that served the tribal telephone network crashed and could not be repaired. A new voice-mail system was integrated into the existing telephone network. Over 1,200 mailboxes were manually created to restore voicemail operations.

"We spent the first few weeks integrating the new voice mail system into the old network," said Telecommunications Manager Isaac McKechnie.

The integration issues have been resolved. The new system

After the students are trained in the EMT "first responder" course, they may wish to go on to higher levels such as EMT basic, paramedic training or college courses. Even if they choose not to continue in the field, they can still volunteer, thus establishing important community ties.

required different programming than the old system, causing transitional problems. Most of these problems have been resolved and any new issues will be dealt with as they become apparent.

The telecommunications crew members appreciate the patience of their clients during the transition between the systems. It may be a few weeks before the system's features are fully functional and available. The MIS staff is working to give you the very best service available and apologizes for any inconvenience you may have experienced.

New inland fishing, hunting and gathering regulations still pending

This is a notice to all Sault Tribe members that the Sault Tribe is continuing to work on implementing the Inland Consent Decree signed on Nov. 5, 2007.

Until new regulations are adopted, Sault Tribe members are required to follow the existing regulations for inland fishing and hunting as outlined in Chapter 21 of the Tribal Code,

which can be viewed online at the Sault Tribe's official Web site www.saulttribe.com under the "government documents" menu and "tribal code" sub-menu. Chapter 21 of the Tribal Code is also available at the Bayliss Public Library located at 541 Library Drive in Sault Ste. Marie or you can obtain a copy by calling the Sault Tribe Administration Office at (906)

635-6050. When the implementation plan is complete, Sault Tribe members will be notified of the date they will be required to follow the new regulations.

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A battle begins for Mother Earth near Marquette

By RICK SMITH

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approved permits last Dec. 14 to the Utah-based Kennecott Mining Company, allowing them to begin environmentally risky metallic sulfide mining near Marquette, Mich., in an unspoiled wilderness area known as the Yellow Dog Plains.

Organizations and individuals in Michigan concerned with protecting the environment are acting to stop the mining before it starts. At least one congressman, Bart Stupak (D-Menominee), has voiced opposition to the approval of the permits and vowed to push for a thorough review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"I am disappointed DEQ has decided to approve permits for Kennecott's sulfide mine in northwest Marquette County along the Yellow Dog River. Having had time to thoroughly review the information, there are a number of concerns I have which still need to be addressed," Stupak noted in a

statement on Dec. 19. "I am not opposed to mining. I remain very supportive of mining in the U.P. However, these permits represent the first time the state is allowing sulfide mining. State officials must take their time and make sure sulfide mining is safe. It is critical that comprehensive independent studies be completed before additional permits are issued. Once permitted, I am fearful as many as six additional sulfide mines will be allowed to operate on the shores of the Great Lakes, jeopardizing the world's largest body of fresh water."

In fact, Rio Tinto, Kennecott's parent company based in London, England, claims the mining project, called Eagle, is indeed likely the first of several mines to be opened in the pristine area.

"Eagle is just one of many projects that will add to Rio Tinto's growth and value," a company release read. "Our exploration team discovered Eagle in 2002 and we are now reviewing over 450,000 acres of mineral title we have in the area. Our focus is on six further adjacent prospects that may have the potential to extend sig-



Photo by Steve Garske / www.savethewildup.org

Salmon Trout River near proposed sulfide mine.

nificantly the mine life at current planned production rates."

About 41 professors, mostly in fields such as natural sciences and chemistry, from a dozen universities across Michigan were a bit more vivid in expressing their opposition to sulfide mining in a letter to Governor Jennifer Granholm urging her to reject the company's proposals. The letter weighed the environmental costs and economic benefits of sulfide mining and concluded, "The benefits are fleeting, distracting and of too little benefit

to too few Michiganders. At best, the mining proposal is a 'fix' to our current economic problems in the same way that another hit of heroine fixes an addict's shakes. The mining proposal is far from a harmless fix; its (environmental) costs are real and under-appreciated. Rather than a 'fix,' Michiganders need solutions that will carry us into the new economy. For these reasons, we urge you to reject the mining proposal."

And, of course, no battle of this sort would be complete

without at least one lawsuit. A week after the DEQ approval, a contested case petition and lawsuit was filed against the agency by the Huron Mountain Club, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, National Wildlife Federation and the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve to halt the mine.

Rio Tinto was successfully sued in a long, landmark case filed in 2000 on behalf of victims of mining operations on the Pacific island of Bougainville. According to the law firm representing the victims, Rio Tinto committed crimes against humanity contributing to the deaths of thousands of people who lived there. In addition, healthy rivers were extensively polluted and pristine areas were turned into poisonous wastelands in the wake of commencing mining operations.

Last April, plaintiffs in the case won in a second appeal by Rio Tinto in the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

The Sault Tribe voiced official opposition to the Eagle mining project last Oct. 16 in a resolution approved by its board of directors.

New slot machines coming to Kewadin Casinos

SAULT STE. MARIE— Gaming customers will see a new look and feel on the Kewadin Casinos gaming floor in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace in January with the addition of Atronic Harmony™ Slant Top slot machines. A total of 26 machines will be added starting in January.

"These new games are very stylish, have state of the art technology and innovative game play," said Dave Kucharczyk, slot director. "It will be great to have these new games here. Being the first in the state to have these new machines available to our customers is just another way that Kewadin is bringing the best of gaming to our guests."

The new cabinets feature a 17-inch TFT (Thin Film Transistors) screen to support brilliant graphics and also have an attractive LED illuminated arch on top of the cabinet. The game supports the comprehensive Harmony™ game library and has a user friendly service menu. The cabinets support the new ticket-in-ticket-out systems, which Kewadin offers on most of its machines. It also has an ergonomic screen allowing for a long playing experience, soft edged arm rests for optimum player comfort, footrest for relaxed player position and easy accessibility of card readers.

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First American Indian U.S. attorney confirmed



Diane Humetewa

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Diane J. Humetewa was confirmed Dec. 13 by the U.S. Senate as Arizona's next U.S. attorney. A member of the Hopi tribe, she is the first American Indian appointed to the position.

Humetewa was the senior litigation counsel and tribal liaison in the Arizona U.S. Attorney's Office and serves as an appellate court judge for the

Hopi Tribal Court.

Humetewa, who served as a counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs from 1993 to 1996, when Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., was chairman, was an assistant U.S. attorney for six U.S. attorneys.

She was recommended for the nomination by Sens. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., and McCain to fill the position vacated by

Paul Charlton, one of eight U.S. attorneys ousted in a controversial purge of the Justice Department. Charlton told *The Arizona Republic* earlier this year that he and Humetewa had discussed the job, and he feels she is a "perfect fit."

"I tried a case with Diane about 10 years ago, and it was there that I saw this extraordinary combination of outstand-

ing prosecutor and an individual with a clear moral compass who understood what was right and demonstrated good judgment consistently," Charlton told *The Arizona Republic*. "One of the qualities you need to be a U.S. attorney in Arizona is to have a great deal of sensitivity to issues in Indian country, and no one has been better able to exemplify that than Diane."

Want to go for a long walk?

BY RICK SMITH

Part commemoration, part promotion of Mother Earth and a whole lot of exercise. That's how one could describe the purposes of a 4,400-mile, five-month walk across the U.S. scheduled to begin in February.

Dubbed The Longest Walk 2, the action will begin Feb. 8 in the San Francisco area with a welcoming dinner followed by a concert on the next day. A benefit show is planned on the day before departure. A sunrise gathering is scheduled on Alcatraz Island prior to the beginning of walkers treading off to Washington, D.C.

Walkers are invited to participate in either the whole trek or any portion.

According to a media release by the Longest Walk 2008 organization, the sojourn is to be led by American Indian Movement co-founder Dennis Banks to commemorate The Longest Walk of 1978 to draw attention to legislation concerning Indian Country.

Like The Longest Walk then, The Longest Walk 2 is described as a peaceful, spiritual effort and, this time, will be drawing attention to the importance of taking care of the natural environment by picking up and packing away roadside trash for disposal or recycling and visiting sacred sites along the way.

The organizational mission statement reads, "We take up this task to walk in a manner befitting our nations. We walk with the message that all life is sacred; save Mother Earth.

"We shall walk for the seventh generation, for our youth, for peace, for justice, for healing of Mother Earth, for the healing of our people suffering from diabetes, heart conditions, alcoholism, drug addiction and other diseases.

"Through the elements of the seasons, we shall walk through the rain, snow, over mountains, high winds, through the heat and cold, nothing shall deter us from completing our mission, all life is sacred, protect sacred sites.

"Let those who doubt, hear our pledge. Let those who believe, join our ranks. As we walk the final miles, by our side will be elders, families, children and people of all races from many walks of life, the old and the new America. All life is sacred, clean-up Mother Earth."

The 1978 walk was almost a comparative direct line across the country from the San Francisco area to Washington, D.C. going across the Great Plains states and through Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia before arriving in Washington.

This time the trek will begin on a similar path as the

original but will turn south near Sacramento and arc through the desert southwest before crossing into Oklahoma then heading south again to the Gulf Coast area of Louisiana. From there, the planned route turns northerly into Tennessee where it continues easterly to Washington.

Teams from other states, including southeast Michigan, are scheduled to link with the walkers along the way. It appears folks from Michigan will connect with the main body in Tennessee.

A spokeswoman for the The Longest Walk 2 organization said about 200 people have registered to walk the entire journey and many more are expected to participate along different portions along the way.

A list of guidelines, suggestions and other information about the walk is online at www.longestwalk.org.

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Legislators pass 2008 Omnibus bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The fiscal year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which includes 11 of the 12 appropriations measures, was released on Dec. 17, 2007, and includes the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and the Department of Interior budget requests. The FY08 Omnibus Appropriations bill passed in the House and the Senate Dec. 21, and has been sent to the President for signature.

According to the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), programs benefiting Native education fared well considering the President's request to decrease the previously passed appropriations bills by \$22 billion. The Omnibus package largely

adheres to President Bush's overall \$933 billion target for fiscal 2008 discretionary spending.

According to the NIEA, education funding highlights include:

- \$14 million for Johnson O'Malley Programs,
- \$2 million for the Esther Martinez Native American Language programs,
- Restored funding for Education for Native Hawaiians (\$33.3 million) and Alaska Native Education Equity (\$33.3 million),
- \$1 million increase for Indian Education programs,
- \$12 million increase for Impact Aid, and,
- \$114 million increase for Head Start.

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The Children's Christmas Party An Old Tradition

This year's total budget for all parties was \$55,000. Parties are now held in 11 locations throughout seven counties, Sault Ste. Marie, Detour/Drummond Island, Hessel, Engadine, Manistique, Escanaba, Marquette, Munising, Newberry, St. Ignace and Mackinac Island.

This year's Santa and Mrs. Santa were George and Mary Snider.

The Sault Tribe members, staff, board of directors and chairman would like to say thank you to the following sponsors for making this a successful event for all the children to enjoy. Without your support we would not be able to reach as many children as we do.

May all those who contributed receive a blessing

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Browne Marketing & Business
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John E. Green Company

LSSU prototype center open for business

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – Lake Superior State University now offers its engineering resources and expertise to any small to mid-sized manufacturer that wants to develop and bring new products to market. LSSU's Prototype Development Center (PDC) puts manufacturing methods, mechanical services, materials testing, electronics, computers and robotics at a company's disposal so it can create functional prototypes of any product.

Manufacturers can then use

the prototypes as "proof of concept" or for demonstrations that can aid in securing start-up capital investment.

The center will operate under the auspices of LSSU's School of Engineering and Technology.

"Many small businesses have excellent product ideas but lack resources or expertise to convert those ideas into reality," said Eric Becks, the center's engineering projects manager. "The PDC will provide an economical means to create proto-

types that bridge the gap."

One of the center's tools is a three-dimensional printer, or rapid prototyper, that generates parts designed in a CAD program. The final product verifies that all design elements mesh into a functioning whole. Businesses can go directly from a drawing to an ABS-plastic model without the extra time and risk of creating molds or manufacturing parts, only to discover that components do not fit properly or function as intended.

The center also offers LSSU engineers with years of design and entrepreneurial experience who can help shepherd projects from initial concept to final prototype. Small-business clients can take advantage of component testing services, manufacturing process analyses, and product feasibility studies.

The center brings educational opportunities to Lake State's campus community as well. Students gain hands-on experience while faculty apply technical expertise to benefit Michigan companies.

"The center is especially eager to assist companies with the development of leading-edge products," said Becks, who came on board in late October with an electrical engineering background. He plans to build upon successful collaborations between LSSU and companies like Applied Manufacturing Technologies,

Delphi, DURA and Continental Automotive. The center plans to hire a second engineering projects manager with a mechanical engineering background.

Becks' experience includes working with two other engineers to launch a diagnostic equipment manufacturing company, which involved developing a private stock offering to raise capital, working with state and regional economic agencies for grants and guaranteed loans, as well as developing hardware and software for new products.

Lake Superior State's Prototype Development Center was seeded by a \$321,000 Michigan 21st-Century grant, and runs in cooperation with the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center.

The PDC can be reached by contacting Becks at (906) 635-2738 or ebecks@lssu.edu.

Resident tribal members entitled to tax benefits

By CORY J. WILSON

Sault Tribe members living in and around the tribe's service area have been enjoying tax benefits since April 2003. The state of Michigan signed a tax agreement that benefits many members whose principal residence is within specific agreement areas which is often on or near tribal reservations. The complete tax agreement along with agreement area maps is available on the tribe's Web site at www.saulttribe.com.

Those members living in the agreement area receive state tax discounts on many purchases. The agreement applies to the Michigan sales tax (6 percent of a retail price), use tax (6 percent of a purchase price), motor fuel tax, cigarette tax, and the single business tax.

Members are also entitled to an annual income tax refund check, which is 4 percent of adjusted gross income, and must be filed when filing your income taxes. Those members who do not live in the agreement area are not eligible to receive sales tax discounts, tax exemptions, or income tax refund, however, they are able to receive gas, diesel, and

cigarette tax discounts at certain retail stores located in the agreement area. Fuel and cigarette tax discounts are realized at the time of purchase.

If you are age 16 or over and want to receive these tax benefits, you are required to sign a Sault Tribe tax agreement registration card to verify your residency in an agreement area.

Before you can request an annual tax refund or tax exemption, you must first sign and return a registration card to the Sault Tribe tax office to verify your residency in a tax agreement area. This is mandatory for all tribal members.

If you are unsure if you have registered, please call the tax office and Candace Blocher at (906) 632-6281 or toll free, (866) 632-62811, to verify your card is on file. Once registered, members are then required to fill out a certain tax forms and submit it to the state and/or tribe's tax office.

It is the member's responsibility to notify the tribal tax office when they change addresses, even if the address change is still in the agreement area. Please note, if you have

move out of the tax agreement area and are still receiving certain tax benefits, or exemptions through this agreement, it may be considered tax fraud. Please consult your personal accountant or call the tribal tax office for questions. Members are responsible for complying with the agreement and are encouraged to contact the Sault Tribe Tax Office with any questions about any of its provisions.

Effective Sept. 1, 2007, all enrolled Sault Tribe members residing in the tax agreement area, and thus eligible to receive tax refunds under the state-tribe tax agreement, must now request a "tax exemption certificate" prior to initiating a significant transaction or purchase that would entitle a tribal member to a Michigan sales tax exemption.

All other provisions of the current tax agreement will remain in effect. Tribal members are still required to submit the 4013 tax form when filing their income taxes if they wish to obtain the annual sales and use tax refund. The new tax exemption policy should not affect your income tax return filing.



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Correspondence: Letters from the community

Thanks to Vic Matson, Sr., former tribal board member

Dear Vic,

You probably know by now that last month we had a signing ceremony in Petoskey to celebrate completion of the 2007 Consent Decree.

We had a formal photo shoot after the ceremony and as I looked around the room when the pictures were being taken, I felt like the group wasn't complete. That was because you weren't there.

I know how important your participation was to the process. Your long experience with these matters and the personal relationships we've developed over the many years you've been working with your tribe, the state and the amici groups certainly played a large role in the successful completion of negotiations.

Experience counts for a lot in these matters, and so does the trust that folks develop with each other over time. Words are important, but relationships put the weight behind the words.

I wish you had been in that room in Petoskey so I could have thanked you personally for your contribution to this process.

You have always been a man of honor whose words could be counted on, and those of us in the state side always were grateful that you were there, even

when our positions were not the same.

I hope the many years of effort that you devoted to this cause are returned to you as additional years you are allotted to enjoy your retirement.

Even though you are now living in Florida, your shadow will remain in the landscape of Michigan for many years to come. Thanks for all you have done.

Your old debating partner,
Jim Ekdahl
U.P. Field Deputy, MDNR

Thanks for the opportunities

To the Sault Tribe community,

I write to you with great appreciation of the opportunities you have given me. Words cannot describe my gratitude for the wonderful things I have experienced.

I was recently attending the MACUL Showcase in Lansing and I was able to "teach" some people about some of the many educational programs we use on our laptops.

I was able to meet Gary McDowell and the head of AT&T. Not only that, but I was able to attend the middle level honors band clinic in early November.

It was an experience I shall never forget. I was able to play my instrument along with a fellow student and with 160 other

students from all over Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula.

I can't even begin to thank you for the wonderful doors you have opened for me. These experiences will definitely help me have more opportunities for my future.

Sincerely,
Robyn Waybrant
Eighth grade
Brimley, Mich.

Grateful for gift

Happy holidays to you all!

Thank you for the general Christmas gift. I used the money to buy extra ingredients for cookies, candy and breads and gave to the children and elderly in our immediate neighborhood.

It went a long way to spread love and cheer. We have been so blessed this year, we like to share with those folks who may not have as much.

Marlene Lawrence Sherman
Mountain Home, Texas

2 percent thanks

Thanks for the two percent funding.

The Escanaba Area Public Schools Title VII Indian Education program would like to thank the Sault Tribe Unit IV for its continuing support for the students.

The two percent grant funds are used to support the fall and spring feasts, Native American cultural programs and tutoring

services for the Escanaba students.

Gchi miigwech!
Gail Rice
Coordinator/tutor
Escanaba

Kindness shared

To the membership,

I would like to share an act of kindness with the membership and to publicly thank Chris Marshall of St. Ignace, Mich., and all of the 10-6 staff at the Chippewa Correctional Facility, who so generously donated money to help needy families in the tri-county area this past

Christmas.

I would also like to thank Jenny Marshall for taking the time out of her busy schedule for shopping and wrapping all the gifts for the family selected in Sault area.

Not only did the 10-6 Chippewa Correctional Facility staff make the family in the Sault have a wonderful Christmas, you made mine as well, by allowing me to choose this family!

Thank you for caring and sharing,

Betty F. Freiheit
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Native American writers presented in live webcasts

WASHINGTON, DC — Victor Montejo (Jakaltek Maya), author of *Testimony: Death of a Guatemalan Village* (Curbstone Press, 1987), is the latest author to be presented by the the Vine Deloria Jr. Native Writers Series. He will appear on Wednesday, Jan. 30, for a reading and discussion at noon and 6:30 p.m. There will be a simultaneous, one-time-only webcast at <http://www.nmai.si.edu/nw07/webcast.html>. Webcasts are live and available for viewing only during the times they occur, but are available archived. All events are scheduled EST at 6:30 p.m.

ARCHIVED WEBCASTS
Nora Naranjo-Morse, Wed., Sept. 19, 2007

Frances Washburn, Wed., Oct. 17

N. Scott Momaday, Wed., Nov. 28

Greg Sarris, Wed., Dec. 12

UPCOMING LIVE WEBCASTS

Ron Welburn, Wed., Feb. 13

Buffy Sainte-Marie, Wed., March 19

Lance Henson, Sat., April 12, time TBA

Sherwin Bitsui, Sat., April 26, time TBA

Noenoe Silva, Sat., May 17, time TBA

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Part II – Do the “people of the rapids” need a new flag?

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

In the last issue of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, I questioned readers about the possibility of updating the tribe’s current flag to reflect our success as a tribe and possibly updating the clan dodems as well.

In this article, I am including a photo of our current tribal flag, an idea for a new flag as mentioned in the last article, and in answer to some questions, a brief description of the thunderbird symbol and what it means to us as Anishinaabe.

In the previous article it was established that what makes our flag unique among other tribal flags is its black background. Many members agreed it would be nice to have our tribe’s name on our flag, some liked the thunderbird symbol and others thought we should keep the original design.

The clans represented on our current flag are a strong symbol and can be improved by updating clan dodems to reflect over all the clans within our tribe today. Maybe instead of five clans the design could be made larger and display seven clans; six around the outside and one in the center; seven clans representing our tribe in a place of honor for the next seven generations.

Then there is the thunderbird. The thunderbird logo displayed in the previous issue has been part of our tribe’s history since the ’70s and was created by a local Anishinaabe who recently walked on. The Anishinabek First Nations in Canada use a similar thunderbird logo to represent the Ojibwa, Ojibwe, Pottawatomi, Delaware, Algonquin and Mississauga Nations. This would include representing Garden River, who is one of the original six bands of the Sault Tribe. See page 10 for a copy of the Anishinabek First Nations logo or visit www.anishinabek.ca to view it online.

The thunderbird symbol represented a cultural revitalization during the ’70s representing unity, peace and brotherhood of all Anishinaabe.

Of course many tribes offer different teachings. For the

purpose of this article, I will refer the following information from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe’s Web site: “Ojibwe custom states that there were originally six beings that arose from the sea to live among the Anishinaabeg: Wawaazisii (Bullhead), Ajejauk (Crane), Makwa (Bear), Moosance (Little Moose), Waabizheshi (Marten), and Bineshii (Thunderbird). These beings created the original clans. One of the original six beings, the thunderbird, always kept his eyes covered because when he looked at the Anishinaabeg, they died. Because of this, the other five beings urged bineshii to return to the sea. And that is why the Anishinaabeg do not have a thunderbird clan today.” (Although some of our own tribal members are of this dodem).

According to some of our teachings, the thunderbird is said to be a protector of the Anishinaabe. You may have seen its symbol on mide medicine bags. To view the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe’s Web site visit www.millelacsobjibwe.org.

This is all just food for thought; your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Some comments we have received include:

A tribal elder — She called to say keep the flag the same but add tribe’s name to it.

Tom Clark from Kalamazoo, Mich. — He likes the design but would like to see the tribe’s name in big bold font and in all capital letters. He said we should offer both versions of the flag, a classic version and a new one.

Fred Jack Miles — He thinks the new flag design looks too southwest. “Also, the eagle reminds me too much of the thunderbirds we used to see on Hong Kong beaded belts,” he said. “Our art has traditionally been animals, plants and symbols. We never traditionally adopted the “war” shield of the Plains. The art is nice; I just don’t see it as Chippewa.”

(Note: The eagle Mr. Miles is referring to was actually the thunderbird symbol.)



Pictured above left is today’s tribal flag as it is displayed at administration offices. At right, late former Sault Tribe Chairman Joe Lumsden (1935-1987) stands in front of an unofficial tribal flag with an earlier version of the thunderbird logo during the 1970s. The logo was also use in the *Nishinawbe News* (a regional Native American newspaper) published by Northern Michigan University back in the early ’70s.

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It's all about YOU

Tune in to Sault Tribe radio shows

“Sault Tribe This Week Saturday Morning Show” with host George Snider airs every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. Snider’s faithful listeners from both sides of the border are tuned in to WSOO 1230 AM. Snider interviews guests from the Sault Tribe organization or membership who want to promote upcoming events, new programming or services.

To contact Snider, call Sault Tribe Communications Department at 632-9368, extension 26098 or by emailing him at geosnider@yahoo.com.

“Sault Tribe This Week Radio Show” with host Tom Ewing airs on Tuesday on



WSOO-AM at 9:35 a.m., WNBY-FM at 12:37 a.m. and 5:38 p.m., and WIDG-AM at 9:04 a.m.; Wednesday: WNBY-FM at 12:37 p.m. and 5:38 p.m.; Thursday: WSUE-FM at 10:25 a.m. and 4:25 p.m.

Archives of the Sault Tribe this Week broadcast can be found at www.saulttribe.com.

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The next deadline for submissions to **Win Awenen Nisitotung** is **Feb. 5 at 9 a.m.** For questions about submissions call (906) 632-6398.

Flag reflects our rich culture

Our flag is a very important part of who we are as a nation and making changes to that flag should be taken very seriously. The flag of one's nation should be looked upon as a visual voice of who we are; past and present. As Native people it's important that visual voice be accurate and clearly states who we are as an individual nation. It would be vital to include the elders of our tribe, the culturalists/traditionalists, artists and language experts in each and every decision made about any possible changes. We are Anishinaabeg; we are woodland Indians with a beautiful and colorful culture that clearly identifies us as a people.

The article in the December tribal paper was interesting and offered some good ideas. I wholeheartedly agree our flag should bear the name of our tribe and the suggested quote, "Bahweting Anishinaabe, People of the Rapids," is clearly a statement of who we are and where we come from and it's in the language of our people; it would be a good

addition to our flag.

There are also some parts of the article that are disturbing.

It is not completely clear in the article if updating the clan animals because some are dying out is actually meant to say we should remove them from the flag. My interpretation is, it is meant to say remove them from the flag.

The clan system is the very basis of who we are; whether or not we personally follow the practice or are knowledgeable of our own clans, it doesn't justify considering updating/removing the clans. Isn't that a little like chopping off another piece of who we are? Hasn't that happened enough already?

I think it would be important for us to move into the future with our history and our traditions intact rather than to leave anything behind. We have lost enough without consciously making decisions that contribute to that loss. Maybe we should be considering updating the flag in a different manner, like including more clans instead of removal and especially keeping the ones that

are "dying out," if we remove them, they are gone forever. We should remember the road we travel to and through the future should be wide enough to take our ancestors with us.

The example shown of what a new flag could look like is very nice, but it's wrong for us as Anishinaabe people, the graphics are clearly southwestern Indian!

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, we have our own beautiful and colorful culture, rich with animals, wildflowers of the woodlands, the heart of Mother Earth; the strawberry, as a few examples. These are the things that identify us as Anishinaabe. So many people think all Indians are the same and it seems this will only contribute to that inaccurate assumption. This is why it is important to include people who are truly knowledgeable in our culture and traditions in any of the decisions made about something as important as our nation's flag.

**Miigwech,
Laura Carson,
Rapid City, Mich.**

Tribal member turns adversity into successful business venture

PONTIAC — American Heritage Employment Services, (AHES) LLC is owned and operated by tribal member Diana Knowles. She has worked in many facets of the employment services industry since 1986.

American Heritage was established to assist individuals in finding employment and serve as a conduit to resources, to help diminish barriers to employment. AHES networks with tribal, federal, state and local agencies to provide top quality employment services.

Knowles has personally faced physical challenges due to injuries suffered in an automobile accident. During her recovery, she returned to school and earned a diploma in paralegal studies. In the process of re-entering the workforce, she found that many people with disabilities face significant challenges when seeking employment. Her experience has given her a strong desire to help others find employment opportunities and assist them in becoming self-sufficient.

American Heritage is a state vendor, providing services to Michigan Rehabilitation Service offices and their customers.

Such services include:

- Assisting customers with resume writing
- Job search assistance, interviews and placement
- Job coaching
- Job shadowing
- Work experience
- Retentions
- Overcoming transportation barriers.

The company also provides administrative services to employers, such as payroll and worker's comp, along with covering unemployment insurance and all payroll taxes. Additional services include pre-employment screening, drug testing, interviews and assessments, job-specific orientation, safety guidelines and training, and on-site job coaching upon request.

American Heritage also offers GED prep classes, helping job applicants to gain a high school graduation equivalent, which is so necessary in today's competitive job market. It also offers job-specific orientation classes for occupations such as hospitality, custodial, clerical and more.

The company currently operates branches in Pontiac and White Lake, Mich.

For further information, please contact American Heritage Employment Services at (248) 666-2800 or e-mail dianaknowles@sbcglobal.net.



Diana Knowles



Anishinabek First Nations uses the thunderbird logo above at www.anishinabek.ca

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Mar. 1 - Manistique



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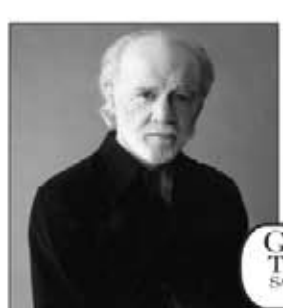
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Weekly Events

Rapids Lounge Entertainment - Sault Ste. Marie -
Thursday Comedy Shows start at 8 p.m.
Jan. 24 - Mike Merryfield & Christina Lopez
Jan. 31 - Lawrence Thomas & Darrin Meyer
Live Music starts at 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
Jan. 18 & 19 - Jager 4.0
Jan. 25 & 26 - 2nd Hand Band

Northern Pines Entertainment - St. Ignace -
Wing Nuts Party -
Whitetail Sports Bar beginning Jan. 30th
Call for schedule!
Wednesday Comedy Shows start at 9 p.m.
Jan. 18 - Wes Zaharuk & Mikey Mason
Jan. 23 - Mike Merryfield & Christina Lopez
Live Music starts at 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
Jan. 18 & 19 - Touch of Class
Jan. 25 & 26 - Steel Wheels

- Manistique Entertainment - Comedy Night Every Friday Night
Jan. 18 - Wes Zaharuk & Mikey Mason
Jan. 25 - Mike Merryfield & Christina Lopez
Live Band
Friday & Saturday, Jan. 25 & 26
Uncle Ugly

Greektown, unions ratify four-year labor contract

Greektown Casino reaches new labor agreement with Detroit Casino Council

DETROIT — Greektown Casino and the group of unions representing 1,500 casino team members have agreed to a new 4-year contract effective through October 2011. The agreement was ratified by 85 percent of team members.

“This new agreement with the Detroit Casino Council (DCC) solidifies the labor environment at Greektown Casino for the next four years and helps protect the Sault Tribe’s greatest asset,” said Greektown Casino CEO Craig Ghelfi. “These next four years are crucial to Greektown Casino’s continued financial success and attempt to gain market share in Detroit.”

The contract is similar to

those approved in the fourth quarter of 2007 by DCC members employed by the other two Detroit casinos, MGM Grand and MotorCity.

The new agreement with Greektown Casino team members includes:

- A 4 percent general wage increase. The increase is spread over two years, with the full amount not being effective until 2009.

- A one-time ratification bonus of \$1,200. Payments will be deferred and paid in three installments in 2008.

- Access to new health care benefits with the addition of Blue Care Network as an option. New team members will

also be required to participate at a higher health care cost sharing level than existing team members.

- Increased investment in 401k retirement options by 10 cents per hour, strictly adhering to IRS regulations.

- Greater opportunities for education through a \$300 per-semester increase in the casino’s Tuition Reimbursement program.

Greektown Casino management representatives will soon begin meeting with DCC officials to discuss terms and conditions for a hotel employee labor agreement, which will be necessary when the casino opens its new 400-room hotel in the fall.

DeTour and Sault receive funding for recreation projects

LANSING — State Representative Gary McDowell (D-Rudyard) announced in December that the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board has allocated over \$600,000 in grant funding that will enhance recreational and tourism opportunities in two eastern Upper Peninsula communities.

DeTour was awarded \$495,000 to be used toward purchasing 800 feet of waterfront property that will be developed for public use. Sault Ste. Marie was awarded \$136,000 for two improvement projects at Ashmum Bay Park.

“These projects will give our residents more opportunities to enjoy our great

outdoors, and will make the U.P. a bigger draw for tourists and an even better place to live, work and raise a family,” McDowell said.

Sault Ste. Marie will use its funding to develop the entrance to the Ashmum Bay Park and to expand the park to an area that will eventually feature a waterfront trail system.

DeTour will use its funding to develop waterfront property into a recreational area for kayaking, a boardwalk with hand access fishing, a dock and a picnic area. The property will also be an endpoint on the North Huron Pathway, a planned eight-municipality hiking and biking pathway from DeTour to St. Ignace.

Local food can help rebuild Michigan’s economy

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan’s economy is struggling as the state loses manufacturing jobs to other states and countries. At the same time, increasing interest in locally grown food is a trend that small farmers can use to generate economic activity across the state.

“The Local Food Revolution and How It Can Rebuild Michigan” will be the keynote address during the ninth annual Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference, Jan. 26 at Grayling High School. Speaker Chris Bedford will talk about his work in establishing Sweetwater Local Foods Market near Muskegon.

Sweetwater was Michigan’s first market to offer only locally grown organic products. In addition to his work there,

Bedford is also a filmmaker and advocate for organic agriculture, small farm production and avoidance of biotechnology.

Other speakers include Michigan State University faculty members and Extension educators and specialists, farmers and other entrepreneurs.

The registration fee is \$45 for the first person from a farm and \$30 for each additional participant before Jan. 18. After that date, both fees increase by \$15 and lunch cannot be guaranteed. The fee includes lunch (vegetarian option available) and any handouts.

To register, call the Antrim County Michigan State University Extension office at (231) 533-8818 or visit www.msue.msu.edu/antrim.

Project Orange Thumb inspires creative expression, offers 10 gardening grants

SAUK CITY, Wis. — Since 2003, Fiskars has inspired and encouraged creative expression through gardening with Project Orange Thumb.

To promote sustainable agriculture, horticultural education, community involvement as well as neighborhood beautification, 10 grants will be offered in 2008.

Community organizations, schools, gardening clubs, senior centers or other groups interested in fostering gardening within their community are invited to

apply for Fiskars’ 2008 Project Orange Thumb Grant.

Awardees will receive up to \$1,500 in Fiskars garden tools and \$800 for plant materials to cultivate their garden vision.

Deadline for grant applications is Feb. 15, 2008, and winners will be announced March 15, 2008.

For grant application materials or additional information about Project Orange Thumb or Fiskars Garden & Outdoor Living visit www.fiskars.com or call (800) 500-4849.

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Environmental scientists "rise to the future"

LANSING—The Huron-Manistee National Forest Team, a group of Michigan conservationists, has been selected to receive the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Region's Rise to the Future—Collaborative Aquatic Resource Stewardship Award, according to a press release.

The award honors the team for its accomplishments and work on the Manistee River Watershed in Michigan. This ongoing project began several years ago and has included efforts for habitat restoration, access improvement and general enhancement of the watershed.

The Manistee River is an important resource for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, which co-exists with the 1,780-mile watershed in the northwestern corner of lower Michigan. The tribe uses the stream for many purposes including recreation, sustenance and cultural purposes. Much of the project's funding came from grants the tribe pursued and received, according to the release.

The tribe worked closely

with the other members of the Huron-Manistee National Forest Team to turn a vision of improved stream habitat and access into reality.

The project has resulted in improvements for over 10 miles of stream, as well as upgrades to a boat ramp and trail. A stairway has also been added along with interpretive signage explaining the project. Furthermore, over 200 larval sturgeon have been released into the Manistee River and habitat-inhibiting sedimentation has been significantly reduced in the watershed.

The team was honored at the Eastern Region Honor Awards Ceremony in Milwaukee on Dec. 6. Team members are Marty Holtgren and Stephanie Ogren of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Aaron Paquet of Northern Environmental, Mark Johnson of the Conservation Resource Alliance, Gerald Peterson of the Manistee County Road Commission, Paul Thomas of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Eric Snyder of Grand Valley State



Photo courtesy USFS

The Huron-Manistee National Forest Team, a group of Michigan conservationists, has been selected to receive the U.S. Forest Service Eastern Region's Rise to the Future—Collaborative Aquatic Resource Stewardship Award. Members of the team, above, as they work on the Manistee River. The project has resulted in improvements for over 10 miles of stream.

University, Mike Joyce and Bob Stuber of the Huron-Manistee National Forest.

"This project is the result of many hours of hard work and

dedication from the tribe and all of the other team members," Paquet said in the release.

"We have put years into these improvements and it has

been rewarding to see each step completed. These improvements are crucial for restoring the watershed and developing a stable river system."

Cell phone recycling is easy

Recycling a cell phone offers an opportunity for everyone to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, and conserve natural resources. An estimated 100 to 130 million cell phones are no longer being used, many languishing in storage. If Americans recycled 100 million phones, we could save enough upstream energy to power more than 194,000 U.S. households for a year. If consumers were able to reuse those 100 million cell phones, the environmental savings would be even greater, saving enough energy to power more than



370,000 U.S. homes each year.

To learn more about recycling cell phones, visit www.epa.gov/cellphone and learn more about recycling other electronic equipment at www.epa.gov/plug-in.

Save money with these simple tips to conserve power

Most of us in the north know about weather stripping, window sealing, heating duct maintenance, and so forth, to save heat during the winter. Save money and energy this winter with these additional practices:

- Lighting is one of the easiest places to start saving energy. Replacing your five most frequently used light fixtures or the bulbs in them with Energy Star qualified lights can

save more than \$65 a year in energy costs. The porch light is certainly one of these! Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) provide high-quality light output, use 75 percent less energy, and last six to 10 times longer than standard incandescent light bulbs, saving money on energy bills and replacement costs.

Remember to always turn off your lights when leaving a room. Turning off just one 60-watt incandescent bulb that would otherwise burn eight hours a day can save about \$15 per year.

- During cold weather, take advantage of the sun's warmth by keeping drapes open during daylight hours.

- Make sure all air registers are clear of furniture so that air can circulate freely. If your home has radiators, place heat-resistant reflectors between radiators and walls. In the winter, this will help heat the room instead of the wall.

- Consumer electronics account for 15 percent of household electricity use. Many consumer electronics products use energy even when switched off. Electronics equipment that has earned the Energy Star helps save energy when off, while



maintaining features like clock displays, channel settings, and remote-control functions.

- Unplug any battery chargers or power adapters when not in use (like your cell phone charger).

- Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when you are done using equipment. Even when turned off, electronic and IT equipment often use a small amount of electricity. For home office equipment, this stand-by or "phantom" power load can range from a few watts to as much as 20 or even 40 watts for each piece of equipment. Using a power strip for your computer and all peripheral equipment allows you to completely disconnect the power supply from the power source, eliminating standby power consumption.

- Use low flow showerheads to save 20-40 percent water. It will also save energy — up to \$145 each year on electricity.

(Sources: EPA, David Suzuki Foundation)



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Elderly Advisory briefs

BY ROBERT S. MENARD, ELDERLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At the call of the committee chairperson and by invitation of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors, the Elderly Advisory Committee met in special session in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., at the Kewadin Casino.

This meeting was held in conjunction with a board of directors workshop. The sole purpose of the special meeting was to address concerns that various members of the board had with amendments that the committee had proposed to their bylaws.

The essence of the proposed amendments is to facilitate the reestablishment of the elder community to its traditional role

in the tribe. Correspondingly, it is to cause the bylaws to be consistent with the approved and adopted committee goals for 2007 and to expand them to make them as comprehensive as the previously amended bylaws of the area subcommittees.

The Elderly Advisory Committee is the parent organization of the tribal elderly subcommittees.

Seven of the nine area subcommittees were represented at the meeting with only Unit IV (Manistique) and Unit V (Munising) not having representatives in attendance.

The Elderly Advisory Committee provided several relevant documents to the board of directors outlining a history of events leading up to

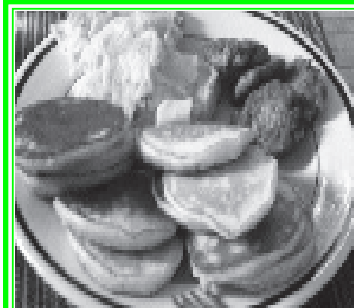
their request for the proposed amendments to the bylaws and justifying their request for change.

A rather lengthy discussion ensued with members of the board and the committee expressing their concerns and sentiments on the matter.

A consensus of those involved in the discussion was that the changing of one word in the proposed language would make the bylaws a viable document.

Tribal attorney Courtney Kachur was directed to make the change in wording and return the document to the board of directors for their action.

The Elderly Advisory Committee then adjourned their portion of the meeting.



Sault Tribe Unit I Elders Annual Pancake Dinner

Nokomis/Mishomis Place, 2076 Shunk Rd.
Feb. 5 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee will be served.

Mmmmm...

Adults are \$4, children 6-12 are \$2, and under 5 are free. Thank you for supporting our fund-raisers. All profits go toward our yearly trips.

Tribal elder Frances Hank manager of DreamCatchers Restaurant

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Frances Hank accepted the position of restaurant manager of Kewadin Casino's DreamCatcher's Restaurant in the Sault early last summer.

Hank began her career with the tribe about 17 years ago as the supervisor of the elder meal program. She made the menus for all the meal sites, helped the elders with their fundraising efforts and planned their trips to Branson and Nashville, which she attended with them.

"It was a very rewarding job," she said, "but I was ready for a change. I started working for the elder meal program when the Nokomis/Mishomis building was new, the same building the meals for the Sault elders are held in today."

From the Sault elder meal site she went to the Northwood's Christian Camp where she worked for three years before applying for and accepting her current position with the casino.

Hank manages about 25 of the 85 restaurant team members and says she has a special bond with each of them. "I don't think there is one person here who hasn't come to me and hugged me and talked with me. I have a lot of young employees and some who have been here for 18 years. I have a different way of managing than most. Some employees think that I am too easy going, but



Frances Hank

I'm not. I want them to be able to talk to me, and if I have a problem with them, I take them aside somewhere private and have a talk with them. I don't embarrass them," she said.

Hank said she also enjoys

getting to know her customers and has been known to sit down for a cup of coffee with some of the elders. Hank said, "I like people and really love our elders."

Hank said Assistant Executive Chef Doug Hartley told her he was happy to have her on board, adding that she works hand in hand with Chef Doug and Chef DeCuisine Jason Munford.

Hank lives in Goetzville and has three daughters and two granddaughters. Her daughters are Jenny O'Dell who is a nurse with Sault Tribe Community Health, Marci Gyle who is a teacher in Pickford and Vicki Puidokas who works for Sault Tribe administration and is on the election committee. Her two granddaughters are Madison and Kennedy.

Hank said, "The DreamCatchers Restaurant is an award winning restaurant having been voted as having the best buffet by readers of *The Evening News*."

Here comes tax time

BY ED DWYER, SOCIAL SECURITY MANAGER IN ESCANABA

Tax time is right around the corner. Soon you will be receiving your W-2s from your employer(s) and tax information from the IRS.

Carefully check your name, Social Security number and all of the data on your W-2s and on your Social Security card. A mismatch could delay your tax refund and cause problems with your Social Security benefits in the future. Such errors are easy to fix now.

This information includes name changes. If you've legally changed your name due to marriage, divorce, court order or for any other reason, make sure you change your name with Social Security by applying for a new Social Security card. Make sure you change your name with your employer as well.

If you change with one source but not the other, it could cause your earnings to

be improperly recorded.

If you are the parent of a newborn, you want to make sure that the newest family member has a Social Security number too. Most people apply for their babies Social Security card while still in the hospital at the same time they apply for the birth certificate. But if you didn't, you'll need to apply for your child's Social Security number in order to claim the child as a dependent on your tax return.

To apply for a Social Security card, all you need to do is complete a one-page application and provide proof of identity, age and citizenship. In the case of a child's first card, you'd also need to prove that you are the parent. For a name change, you'd need to provide documentation with your old and new names.

For more information about getting a Social Security card, visit Social Security's Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.



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Kewadin Casino's manager auction raises \$2,100 for holiday giving program and ACFS

SAULT STE. MARIE—Kewadin Casinos management in Sault Ste. Marie helped to raise \$800 for a special adopt a family program and management in St. Ignace raised \$1,200 for tribal ACFS by auctioning themselves to various departments in the casino at a special event held in early December. Casino team members from all departments were able to "bid" on their favorite management members. The winning team member will have the manager's help in their department for four hours. Winners will shadow the manager to offer assistance if needed and they will both go to lunch after their shift.

"It was really a lot of fun for a great cause," said Steve Sprecker, casino general manager. The management team and the winning bidders are:

Sault management:

Tony Goetz, Chief Operating Officer, bought by Kitchen/Dish Room Staff for \$90.

Rick McDowell, Chief Financial Officer, bought by Count Team for \$40.

Steve Sprecker, Sault Casino Manager, bought by Hotel Staff for \$51.

Janice Frye, Food and Beverage Director, bought by Housemen for \$90.

Carol Eavou, VP of Hotel Operations, bought by Hotel Staff for \$75.

Alan Bouschor, VP of Marketing and Sales, bought by Upperdeck for \$35.

Tammy Schroeder, Retail and Support Services Director, bought by Guest Room Attendants (Hotel) for \$50.

Dave Kucharczyk,

Slot Director, bought by Housekeeping Porter Staff for \$85.



Tammy Schroeder, with the supervision of Pam Gervais who "bought" her at auction, assisted in the laundry area with the casino's guest room attendants.



Kent Artley pulls slot machine coin in the Superior Room with supervision from Mary Stewart (who "bought" Kent at the auction), Glenda Guerra and Sam Roe.

Prinny Mckechnie, Sault Gaming Manager, bought by Katrina Goetz (Dealer) for \$40.

John Cleary, Executive Housekeeper, bought by Upperdeck for \$100.

Kent Artley, Cage Director, bought by Count Team for \$40.

Brad Pringle, Purchasing Director, bought by Shipping & Receiving for \$110.

St. Ignace management:

Darcy Chase, St. Ignace General Manager, bought by Housekeeping for \$95

Gary Knutsen, St. Ignace Maintenance bought by Safety for \$110

Mary Wood, Bar Manager bought by Slots for \$15

Peggy Benoit, Gaming Manager bought by Maintenance for \$20

Terry Burfield, Gift Shop Manager bought by Shipping & Receiving for \$20

Sharon Dolph, Northern Rewards Club bought by Slots for \$25

Roberta Louzon, Housekeeping Manager bought by Maintenance for \$210

Sheryl McKerchie, Assistant General Manager, bought by Security for \$300

Linda Marshall, Restaurant Manager bought by Maintenance for \$40

Dave Paquin, Motorpool, bought by the restaurant for \$55

Betty Sorrels, Keno Manager, bought by Northern Rewards for \$35

Jamie McKerchie, Security Manager bought by Housekeeping for \$180

Barb Sherman, Cage Manager bought by the Cage for \$75

Dean Auguer, Slot Manager

bought by Maintenance for \$90

Nearly every department at the Sault casino adopted a family this year through the Department of Social Services with 15 families being sponsored. Kewadin's Manistique casino sponsored a can-a-thon and toys for tots drive in conjunction with WLUC-TV6

in Marquette for team members and patrons. Kewadin Christmas sponsored a food drive for St. Vincent dePaul food pantry and has adopted a local family and Kewadin St. Ignace hosted a toys for tots drive to collect new toys and a non-perishable food drive for the local food pantry.



Housekeepers Denise Osterhaut and Dordene Clark manage Dave Kucharczyk as he assists them in cleaning the casino restrooms.



Kewadin shores managers present a check to ACFS to purchase food baskets for local families this past Christmas season. The funds were raised through a managers auction.

Carlos Mencia, George Carlin headline Kewadin's 2008 entertainment line up

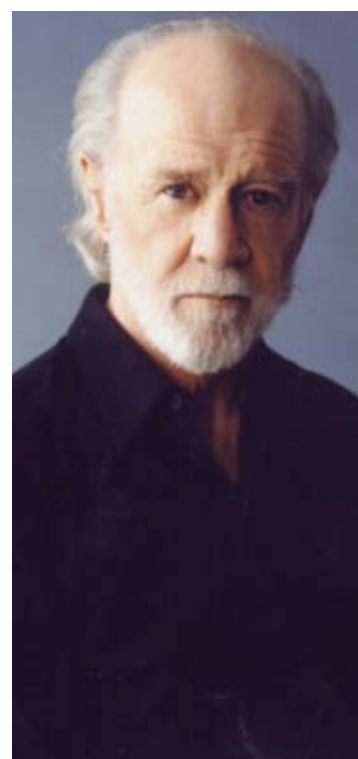


Photo by Jerold Hamza
Award winning comedian George Carlin appears at the DreamMakers Theater for one night only on Feb. 7! Carlin is refreshingly forthright, cogently making points that few in his audience would ever dare to think much less express.

A host of energetic entertainers are featured on the 2008 entertainment schedule for Kewadin Casino's Dream Maker Theater. The schedule, which is continually updated, will feature the following:

Jan. 25: America performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$25.50.

February 7: George Carlin performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$38.50.

Feb. 13: Kenny Rogers performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$48.50.

March 5: Irish Comedy Tour performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$15.

March 15: Bret Michaels / Firehouse performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$38.50.

April 4: John Berry, Wilkinsons & Bryan White performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$25.50.

April 18: Carlos Mencia performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$38.50.

May 23: Styx performing

in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$38.50.

June 27: Honky Tonk Tailgate Party performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$25.50 and on-sale January 2, 2008.

July 18: Loretta Lynn performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$38.50.

Aug. 1: LeAnn Rimes performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$48.50.

Oct. 22: Jeff Dunham performing in the DreamMakers Theater. Ticket price is \$42.50 and on-sale Jan. 8, 2008.

"We have been firming up our 2008 line up since late 2007," said Russ McKerchie, entertainment director for Kewadin Casinos. "We are currently working on bringing in one of our largest name acts of the year and hope to make that announcement early in 2008."

For a complete listing of Kewadin's entertainment schedule, visit www.kewadin.com/calendar or call 1-800-KEWADIN.



Stories and photos by Michelle Bouschor

X-treme Snow-X racing coming back to the Upper Peninsula

Race action heats up this year in the Upper Peninsula as the Michigan Snow X Series race into Kewadin Casinos St. Ignace, Christmas Manistique. "We are very glad to again sponsor these races so they can come to our area," said Tony Goetz, chief operating officer.

The Kewadin Casinos Munising Snowcross Race is coming to Munising on January 12-13. This is a new race and the second stop for the Michigan Snow X Racing Association's 2008 Michigan Snow X Series. The race will be located on M-58 just east of Neenah Paper Co.

Then, on February 16-17, the action will be found at Kewadin St. Ignace for the fifth stop on the racing series circuit. This race will be located on-site at

Kewadin Casinos new facility.

Finally, on March 1-2, Kewadin is proud to host the Series Finals for the association at Kewadin Manistique! This race will be located on-site at Kewadin Casinos facility.

All races feature Michigan's best snowcross racers with 26 classes for racers; kids 4-7 beginner, sport, semi-pro and PRO classes. The one-quarter mile course will be built of snow and formed into jumps and obstacles.

Racing action begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes between 3-4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per day or \$15 for a weekend pass, children under 6 are free.

For more information, visit www.kewadin.com or www.funpromotions.com.

Births

THEODORE LAWRANCE KELLEY

We are proud to announce the arrival of the newest member of our clan, Theodore Lawrance Kelley. He was born at home on Oct. 19, 2007, then admitted to Southern Hills Hospital, Las Vegas, Nev., for 10 days for a platelet problem. He weighed 4 pounds, 14 ounces and was 17.5 inches in length. He was greeted at home by his Papa Cowell and 11-month-old siblings Alyndria and Lester. A few days later, his gran, Dianne Cowell, was able to get there. The whole family is living in Las Vegas while daddy, SRAN Alex Kelley, is stationed at Nellis AFB. Mommy is a stay-at-home



mom with three babies less than a year between them. All are doing great.

TY DORIAN THOMAS

Ty Dorian Thomas was born on May 23, 2007, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich. Proud parents are Daniel and Karma Thomas. Ty weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 20 inches in length. Ty joins big brother Zane. Grandparents are (tribal member) Pierre and Cindy Odum, and Jimmy and Shirley Thomas, all of Lake Ann, Mich.



Dustin Bacon hired as videographer in tribe's Communications Department

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Dustin Bacon began working as a videographer in the tribe's Communications Department in October.

Bacon, 26, graduated from Ferris State University with a degree in television digital media production. As part of his coursework at Ferris he completed a six-month internship with Comcast Spotlight in Grand Rapids writing, producing, filming and editing commercials on a daily basis.

From Comcast he went to 9&10 News out of Cadillac as a photojournalist. Eight months later he transferred to the Traverse City office where he was a crew of one working with one reporter.

"Photojournalists shoot all the video you see in a news story. Most of the time the reporter does the interviewing while the photojournalist operates the camera, audio and does the editing. There are some times when the photojournalist becomes the journalist interviewing people while also recording the interview," Bacon said.

Then, in October 2006, he switched gears and took a job in the 9&10 advertising department working on commercial production.



Dustin Bacon

A year later an advisor from Ferris State called him about an opening in the tribe's Communications Department for a videographer. "I wanted a change. I enjoyed 9&10 News but it's a starters market and they were in the process of buying out Fox 33 and making some changes. I saw an opportunity to try something else and stay within the video realm," he said.

Today Bacon's main job is to record the tribe's board meetings and make copies for Charter Communications and anyone requesting a copy.

"I will also be recording public service announcements for different tribal departments, including one coming up about

ALEXANDRIA LEIGH TOBIAS



Photo courtesy Jude McConkey, The Evening News

Lisa Marie McClusky and Travis Tobias welcomed 2008's first baby in Sault Ste. Marie at 2:11 a.m. Jan. 1, 2008, with a 6 pound 5 ounce baby girl measuring 18 inches in length. Alexandria Leigh Tobias was born at War Memorial Hospital.

Grandparents are George Roy Tobias Sr. of Kinross and Shari Tobias of Big Rapids, and Robert Dale McClusky of Kinross and Deborah and Drew Anderson of Traverse City.

elder abuse," he said. "At some point there may also be talk about redoing the video series that was shot in the mid-90s with Sault Tribe elders. We would use a different approach — the times and technology have changed since the original series was shot."

In his spare time, Bacon indulges himself in his passion, writing screenplays. He is currently working on a screenplay he hopes to produce soon and submit to the Sundance Film Festival. "I went to college wanting to be a movie producer. When I graduated from college the harsh reality set in; in order to be a movie producer you have to move where the industry is which is California or New York. When I did my internship with Comcast Spotlight I was making commercials which I thought of as mini movies and I thought, "Well, I can do this and still do movie stuff on the side."

His parents, Helen and Donald Bacon, reside in Paris, Mich., which is located between Reed City and Big Rapids in the Lower Peninsula. Dustin resides in Sault Ste. Marie with his girlfriend Dawnyale, and they are both very much enjoying life in the Upper Peninsula.

Ryan Peterson attains Eagle Scout rank



Photo courtesy of Portraits Plus

MANISTIQUE, Mich. — At a Court of Honor ceremony last summer, 17-year-old Ryan Peterson of Manistique attained

the rank of Eagle Scout.

Peterson, who is a senior at Manistique High School this year, is a member of Manistique Boy Scout Troop 400 under the leadership of Scoutmaster Jim Barr.

His Eagle Scout project involved clearing brush, improving trout habitat and enhancing visitor access at the Thompson State Fish Hatchery. Over 100 hours of labor was tallied by Peterson and those assisting with the project.

As a Boy Scout, Peterson has earned 32 badges. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow.

He attended Camp Hiawatha for five years and took part in the service camp on Mackinac Island.

Peterson was a junior division champion in the NRA Rifle Marksmanship Award competition, coming in sixth in the nation, and also earned the award as a senior division champion.

The son of Randy and Janet Peterson, he is an honor student at MHS, where he participates in wrestling and golf. He is also an avid hunter and angler.

(Reprinted with permission from the Pioneer Tribune.)

Preseau's celebrate 50th anniversary



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY - The children and grandchildren of Merle and Carol (Wheelock) Preseau are proud to announce their 50th wedding anniversary. They were united in marriage Jan. 31, 1958. Their children and spouses are Kelly (Dexter) Fossitt, Todd Preseau, Christi McKillip, Heidi (Greg) Anson, and Tracy (Steve) Lester. Merle and Carol have nine grandchildren: Dexter, Natassia, Amanda, Michael, Todd, Hunter, Tucker, Lillian and Lucy. Merle is an Army veteran, having served during the Korean Conflict. He retired from the Michigan Department of Transportation and Carol retired from KMart, both in 1984.

Addie Wilde celebrates her 90th birthday

Addie Savard Wilde, a Sault Chippewa Tribe elder of St. Ignace, celebrated her 90th birthday on Jan. 9, 2008.

Born in St. Ignace in 1918 to Albert and Cecilia (Chenier) Savard, Addie was one of 10 children. Her siblings were Clarence Savard, Marie (Earnest LaDuke), Myrtle (Winfred Greeson), James, Florence (Paul LaLonde), Loren (Clyde Georgiann of St. Ignace), and Donald (Frances). Her brother, Lloyd and his wife, Beth, reside in Bridgeport, Mich.

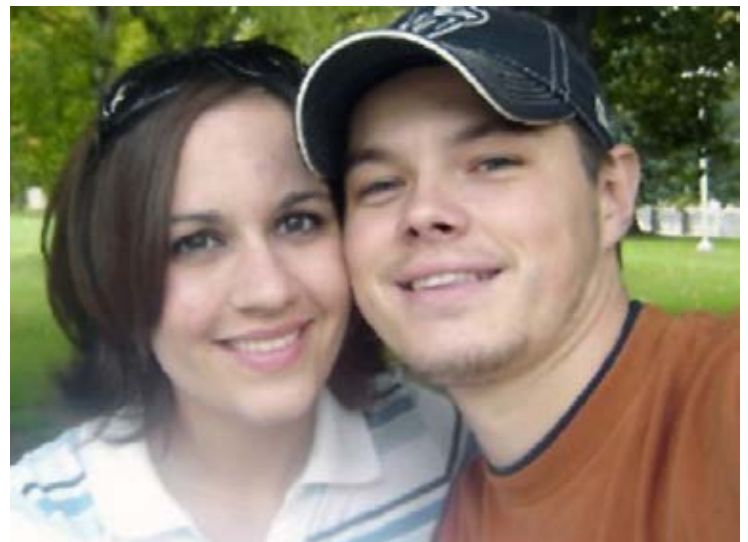
Addie has five children: Carol Bentley of Midland, Mich., Diane Scofield of Scottsdale, Arizona, Ivan (Mary) Wilde of St. Ignace, Dolores (Walt) Dusendang of Rockford, Mich., and Debbie Mull of Hart, Mich. She has 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Addie grew up in St. Ignace but moved to Hart where she



raised her children. She made frequent visits home and now resides at the Mackinac Straits Hospital, 200 Burdette Street, St. Ignace 49781, to be near her son, Ivan Wilde, who owns the Straits View Motel and manages the area Coldwell Banker agency. A family dinner is planned to celebrate her birthday and she welcomes visitors and cards.

Tremblay, McKechnie engaged to be married



Lori Murphy of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., is pleased to announce the engagement of her daughter, Nicole Marie Tremblay, to Philip Edward McKechnie. The groom-to-be is the son of Robert and Peggy McKechnie, also of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. A June 7, 2008, wedding is planned.

Photos by Edward Furton

The Newberry area's first Sault Tribe powwow, "Honoring the Waters," was held at the Newberry Tribal Community Center on Sept. 15, 2007. According to Head Female Dancer Lana Causley over 300 attended the first-time event.



Pipecarriers Adrian and Graz Shipman (middle and right), with friend.



Newberry Elders Committee Co-Chair Louise Eddy is covered in flour from making fry bread.



Lisa Burnside, traditional dancer, left, participates in an intertribal.



Quite a crowd — over 300 attended the Newberry powwow.



Head Dancer Lana Causley (middle).



Flag bearers ready to lead the way in Grand Entry.



Welcome to my powwow!

Youth council holds smashing health fair

Photos by Rick Smith

Young ones had fun while learning tips on healthful ways at a fair put on by the Sault tribal youth council. Santa Claus was on hand to greet the young arrivals at the Niigaanagiizhik Building last December. The youth won loads of cool prizes.





Photo Courtesy Sharon Hutchinson



Photo Courtesy Sharon Hutchinson



Photo by Rick Smith

Manistique's Christmas party was a success as one can see from the myriad of kids opening their gifts (upper left), while Santa holds one of the littlest petitioners (above). At left elders are served a fine Christmas dinner while listening to entertainment by Jennifer Villarreal, Stephanie Sabatine and Mary Ann Stott. Below, wary wild turkeys dine between holidays at a Sault residence.



Photo by Rick Smith

Gathering of Winter Thunders Powwow



A group of girls from Bay Mills Indian Community hang out at the festive event.



The Sault Tribe's New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow, the Gathering of Winter Thunders (Biboon Nimkiig Maawnjiwaad), was held Dec. 31 at Big Bear Arena in Sault Ste. Marie. Above, Janey Homminga and Theresa DeLorme have a good laugh.

Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton



Head Dancers Michele Wellman and Bucko Teeple lead the way.



Friends Jasline Williams, Shelby McDonald and Brandi Lee (L-R) help out at the powwow.



Dancing comes natural to this toddler.



Richard Lewis and Maggie Maracle (L-R) show off their wares from Mahdezewin Art Gallery in downtown Sault.



Traditional Male Dancer makes a circuit.

GAYLORD L. MORSE SR.

Gaylord L. Morse Sr., 82, of Fond du Lac, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, at St. Agnes Hospital.

He was born Nov. 8, 1925, in Hilbert, Mich., a son to the late Burton and Mary Martin Morse. On June 2, 1947, he married Kathryn M. Mero in Chicago.

Gaylord was a merchant mariner in Michigan. He was a machinist by trade, an avid Packers and Cubs fan. He loved boating and fishing and was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Survivors include six daughters, Theresa Keyser of Fond du Lac, Gail (Gary) Waters of Motley, Minn., Frances Morse of Oshkosh, Mary (David) Engebretsen of Fond du Lac, Kathleen Morse of Fond du Lac and Barbara Morse of Mishawaka, Ind.; four sons, Gaylord Jr., Phillip (Dorothy), Randall and James (Marie) all of Fond du Lac; many grandchildren; and great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; other relatives; and friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife Kathryn on April 6, 1988; his daughter Sandra Nava on Nov. 27, 2007; three brothers, his identical twin Maynard (Doris), Peter (Gladys), and Melvin; and two sisters, Mary Lou (Al) Darwin and Justine.

Private family services were held. Zacherl Funeral Home served the family.

JEFFREY HUGH WILSON

Jeffrey Hugh Wilson of Wagoner, Okla., died Sat., Oct. 27, 2007, at St. Johns Hospital in Tulsa, Okla., at the age of 49 years.

Jeffrey was born June 22, 1958, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to

Terry Buck Wilson Jr. and Judith Ann (Green) Wilson while his father served in the U.S. Coast Guard.

He was an ironworker in the construction business in various states for many years and also served in the U.S. Army. He enjoyed fishing very much and various sports, especially football.

Jeffrey is survived by his longtime partner Mary Nanson of Wagoner, Okla.; his mother, Judith Wilson of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; his father, Terry Wilson of Wagoner; brothers, Craig Wilson of Las Vegas, Nev., and Curtis Wilson of Broken Arrow, Okla.; his maternal grandmother, Margaret Fitzsimmons of Sault Ste. Marie; several uncles and aunts, many nieces and nephews, cousins and also many friends.

Jeff was a member of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and was so proud of his Indian heritage.

A memorial service was held on Nov. 24, 2007, in the Hersman-Nichols Funeral Home Chapel in Wagoner,



Okla.

Jeff will be greatly missed by his mother, Judith, and his brothers, Craig and Curtis, and his sister-in-law, Sharon.

JESSE SMART

Jesse J. Smart, 49, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away at his home on Dec. 24, 2007. Jesse was born in Illinois on Oct. 25, 1958, a son of Jesse Sr. and Theresa Willis Smart.

Jesse was employed as a carpenter for the Sault Tribe since 1985. He was a part of many commercial buildings and was a proud member of the Sault Tribe. He loved all sports and, more importantly, NASCAR. He enjoyed being around his grandchildren, nieces and nephews. His family was always the most important thing in his life. He loved to camp and hang out at the property on Sugar Island.

Jesse is survived by his children, David J. and Karen C. Smart, at home; his brother, Richard (Kelly) Smart of Sault Ste. Marie; Dennis Smart and his sister, Theresa (Tim) Flanderick, of Seattle, Wash.; grandchildren, Kyle, Devon, Trevor and a new grandchild on the way. He is also survived by his life-long friend Sherrie Smart.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Theresa; his brother, Robert and a favorite uncle, Russell Shannon.

Funeral services were held at the Niigaanagiiizhik Ceremonial Building with burial services following at Wilwalk Cemetery on Sugar Island. Hovie Funeral Home assisted the family.

JAMES MARTIN ANDREWS

James Martin "Slab" Andrews, 74, of Hessel, Mich., died Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008, at Northern Michigan Regional Hospital in Petoskey, Mich. He was born Feb. 21, 1933, in Hessel to John Joseph and Laura Cecilia (Wabaganese) Andrews.

Jim grew up in Hessel and graduated from Cedarville High School where he was remembered for his basketball skills. He served as a paratrooper in the United States Army during the Korean War. From 1967 to 1981, Jim worked as a crane operator in Barberton, Ohio, at Babcock & Wilcox, a military contractor who built Nuclear Trident Missiles for the United States Navy. In 1999, he retired to Hessel where he lived at the family homestead. Until he became ill, Jim kept busy by working for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians cutting grass, shoveling snow and delivering meals. He was a member to the Sault Tribe and a former member of the Law-White VFW Post #7958 in Hessel.

Jim is survived by his son, Terry Allen (Denise) Andrews of Virginia; one granddaugh-



ter, Sara Odamin Andrews; his sister, Mary "Gullie" Willis of Cedarville; three brothers, John (Bev) Andrews of Cedarville, Joseph Andrews of Wadsworth, Ohio, and George (Gail) Andrews of Fairfax, Va.; and his former wife, Louisa Seda of Barberton. Among his many nieces and nephews surviving are Twila Andrews, Cecilia "Punkin" Willis, Wanda "Skeeter" Willis, Gilberta "Cricket" Willis, John "Mr. Bub" Andrews, Denver "Beebs" Thomas, and Jack Andrews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation was held Jan. 10 at Reamer Galer Funeral Home in Pickford, Mich.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held May 9, 2008, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church in Hessel with Brother John Hascall celebrant. Burial will be in Old Mission Indian Cemetery next to the church.

ROBERT "BOB" POMEROY

Mr. Robert "Bob" Pomeroy, 74, passed away peacefully at War Memorial Hospital Long Term Care on Dec. 5, 2007.

Robert was born on Sept. 17, 1932, in St. Ignace to the late Manley Pomeroy and Blanche Irene (Belonga) Pomeroy Thompson. A 1950 graduate of La Salle High School in St. Ignace, he also attended the one-room school house in Paradise as a child.

From 1950-1956, he was a ferry boat cook on the Straits of Mackinac. He was a veteran of the Korean War having served as a corporal in the U.S. Army. He was a retired detective sergeant with the Michigan State Police (1956-1980) having been stationed at posts in Battle Creek, Stephenson, Calumet, Mt. Pleasant and the Sault. He received many commendations and citations for outstanding service. He was the criminal investigator for the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 1981 to 1986 covering Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. He was a lifetime member of the Elks and a two-time president of the Hiawatha Land Law Enforcement Officers Association. He was also a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He was an avid fisherman and hunter, especially in the Stephenson area.

He is preceded in death by his brother, Earl "Pepe" Pomeroy.

Above all else he loved his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Jeanne Hawley Pomeroy of the home; sons, Earl Pomeroy of Rudyard, Kevin Pomeroy and wife Pam of the Sault, and Rob Pomeroy and wife Vicki of Brimley; and daughter, Lisa Pomeroy Saari and husband John of Greensboro, N.C.



He was a devoted grandfather to Kevin and Marc Pomeroy, Joshua and Sean Saari, and Michael, Connor, Renne and Brandon Pomeroy.

Those left to cherish his memory are aunts Gladys Pomeroy and Yvonne Belonga, both of St. Ignace; brothers and sisters JoAnn Vreden, Joseph Thompson, Leonard Thompson, Michael Thompson, Gladys Bybee all of Niles, Mich., and Minnie Shreve of Rochester, Minn.; numerous cousins residing mostly in the eastern Upper Peninsula; and many friends throughout Michigan.

The family would like to thank the staff of Riverside Medical office and War Memorial Hospital for their compassionate care. Special thanks to Devine Driedric, Bob's home health nurse.

Visitation was held at Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home on Dec. 8, and a memorial service was held on Dec. 10 at The Elks Lodge 552 Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., with State Police Chaplain Chris Laursen officiating. The committal of his ashes was a private family service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to War Memorial Hospital, 500 Osborne Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or to Connor Pomeroy for future medical expenses.

SUSAN SCHACHER PH.D.

Susan Schacher Ph.D., founding director of the Sault's River of History Museum, walked on Nov. 13, 2007, in Marquette at the age of 48. A memorial service was held Jan. 12, 2008, at St. Mary's Pro Cathedral in Sault Ste. Marie, followed by a reception at the Sault Tribe's Niigaanagiiizhik Ceremonial Building.

Memorials may be left in Schacher's name to the River of History Museum, in care of the Sault Foundation for Culture and History. A plaque citing her dedication and work to making the museum a reality will be displayed in the future.

Schacher was the driving force behind the establishment and growth of the River of History Museum on East Portage Avenue. She came to Sault Ste. Marie in September 1990, serving as a Lake Superior State assistant professor with the College of Arts and Letters and Social Sciences and the School of Education until last June.

Schacher dedicated herself to working with the museum, speaking to many community and service groups to promote the facility, and held summer history camps for area children, hoping to pique their interest in the history of the St. Marys River valley and the surrounding area. She was especially proud of the strong accent on



Native American history and culture displayed at the museum. Family members said that her work with the museum was her favorite accomplishment.

Schacher also directed archaeological digs at the site of the museum, and at other eastern Upper Peninsula sites, including Lime Island, always involving LSSU students and others in all such projects. In recent years, she served as LSSU liaison with the contingent of Japanese students that visited campus each summer. She planned and directed the visit, set up housing, meals, and extracurricular activities and built strong relationships with both the visiting Japanese instructors and their students.

Schacher also performed duties for the city of Sault Ste. Marie, and was working on restoration of the Maple Ridge Cemetery on Ashmun Hill, signage for various buildings of historical significance and archival work on the history of the Sault, at the time of her death.

Schacher earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at Michigan State University. For her doctoral thesis, she excavated and studied the remains of a Huron village near St. Ignace. She was featured as "Personality of the Week" in *The Sault Evening News* in March 1991, when she said, "My work in this area developed my love for the eastern U.P. and its people, as well as its unique history."

In the same interview, she advised young people to explore every opportunity available in their education and career: "Anything's possible, and you should go after whatever goal you set for yourself."

Schacher was a fun-loving, adventurous person. She enjoyed spending time with her husband, Matthew Gendzwill, and daughter, Svetlana, a college freshman, at their home west of Brimley on Lake Superior. Even Schacher's house held historical significance, being on the site of a former commercial fishery site and part of the house formerly serving as a cannery.

She enjoyed reading and was an animal lover. Most of all, though, Schacher thoroughly enjoyed conducting tours of the River of History Museum, especially with younger students, trying to stimulate their understanding of the history of their home area. She always was willing to come in from home to conduct such tours, and spent much of her time writing grants and trying to raise funds to support the museum.

Schacher was born May 19, 1959, in Columbus, Ohio, to Thomas and Linda (Cole) Schacher. Her father preceded her in death in October of this year.

She is survived by Matt and Svetlana, her mother, brother Thomas (Kathy) Schacher of Otsego, her niece Bethany, and her nephew Nathan.



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

JKL Bahweting's Middle School Principal and School Curriculum Director Carolyn Dale and Liaison Officer Bert Menominee delivered 22 Christmas dinner baskets to school families in need. The funds were raised by the school's students and Parent Action Committee.

County Animal Shelter bursting but still bustling

After a flurry of holiday adoptions, personnel and volunteers at the Chippewa County Animal Control Shelter are optimistic about the future of the many cats and dogs still needing homes. "We are hopeful that the public will take advantage of our cat adoption special and that more pets will find homes, now that the busy holiday season is over," said Holly Henderson, shelter manager.

"The week before Christmas, we had more than 80 adoptable cats, including eight that had been at the shelter for over a year. Peoples' hearts were in the right place, and four of the cats that had been there the longest were adopted, along with several others," Henderson noted.

A Jan. 1 count of pets online at Petfinder.com showed 66 cats and 27 dogs needing homes. "Petfinder is a wonderful tool for promoting pets," said Henderson.

Shelter employee, Debbie Cox, agreed. "Petfinder gives people the opportunity to see photos and to read about all our adoptable pets, so that they can decide which cats or dogs may fit in well with their family. Then when they come to the shelter, potential adopters can have a "short list" of several pets that they would consider adopting and then can easily identify and interact with those pets to find the one that is right for them."

Marilyn Carter, a retired teacher from Brimley and regular shelter volunteer, noted that sometimes adoptions happen in a much different way. "I remember one young man who came to the shelter and said that his grandmother had told him to go in and ask for the female cat that had been at the shelter the longest."

"The grandson explained that it was just too difficult for his grandma to see all of the cats needing homes, but that she wanted to give one a home. So when her grandson brought the cat to the office, she completed the paperwork and took the cat home, where they are still living happily ever after."

Cats at the shelter always

outnumber the dogs. However, the number of dogs at the shelter is higher than normal for this time of year, and shelter personnel have had to retrofit some older outside kennels to house the pets indoors. Three dogs, Anna, Arielle and K.C., have been at the shelter since early summer.

All three dogs are considered to be very adoptable by shelter personnel, as they are gentle, respond well to all ages, walk well on a leash and know several commands. "But, they are larger dogs," noted Cox, "And, given the choice of big or small, most people want a small dog."

Cox added that shelter personnel are often at a loss to explain why seemingly great pets are often passed over for months, but, "eventually, someone will come along and connect with a dog, and then we all celebrate."

Several E.U.P. animal welfare groups have been working to solve the pet overpopulation problem by sponsoring spay and neuter programs for cats and dogs. FOCAS (Friends of Caring Animal Shelters) and GAA (Guardian Angels for Animals) in Chippewa County and FOTA (Friends of the Animals) in Mackinac County, have hosted "Spay and Neuter Days," using the services of an Indiana veterinarian who operates a MASH unit (Mobile Animal Sterilization Hospital).

As a result of several visits by the MASH unit this summer, most of the adult cats at the county shelter already have been spayed or neutered.

Shelter pets will also have had routine vaccinations before being adopted.

For further information on adopting a homeless pet, phone the Chippewa County Animal Control Shelter at 906- 632-2519 or visit www.chippewa.petfinder.com. The shelter is located at 3660 South Mackinac Trail, and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New Hospice program helps families with loss of babies

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Silent Hearts program is a new support group offered through Hospice of Chippewa County, a United Way agency, helping families who have suffered the loss of an unborn child or who have experienced a still-birth.

Bereavement Assistant Wanda Erickson, said, "A couple of local women, one of them a Hospice volunteer, had both experienced miscarriages and brought it to our attention that there was a need in our community for a support group for people who have experienced these types of loss. They were interested in putting together a program to help support parents, grandparents and family members going through a devastating time."

Hospice agreed to financially back and support the Silent Hearts program by providing them with the materials it needed.

"The ladies organizing the program spoke with other communities which have similar programs to find out what they had to offer and to learn from them. The program is also set up to reach out to parents through their physicians office, the emergency room and local obstetrics departments so the providers can give out packets of information as they are needed," Erickson said.

In addition, the Silent Hearts program was presented to Sault Tribe Health Center staff along



Photo by Brenda Austin

Bereavement Assistant Wanda Erickson at the Hospice of Chippewa County works the Hospice's extensive, free bereavement programs.

with packets to hand out to parents who have suffered an early infant loss, stillbirth or miscarriage.

The Silent Hearts support group meets the second Monday of every month at Hospice of Chippewa County in the Avery Square building on Ashmun Street in the Sault. Meeting times are from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The support group is open to anyone in the community and is free of charge.

"It's a place for people to come and share their concerns and grief and learn from and support each other," Erickson said. "The group is also a good way for parents to realize that they are not alone in what they are going through."

Hospice of Chippewa County also offers an extensive bereavement program, which is not specific to Hospice

patients and their families, and is open to the community free of charge. "We welcome and encourage anyone who is going through the grief process to call us if they need help or support. The bereavement support group meets once a week for a six-week period for an hour and a half. The group is for anyone who is grieving any person in their life they have lost, and it doesn't have to be a recent loss," Erickson said.

According to Erickson, some people have the misconception that Hospice only serves people with cancer. "That is not the case," she said. "Anybody with a terminal illness is a candidate for Hospice."

For more information, contact Wanda Erickson, bereavement assistant for Hospice of Chippewa County, at (906) 253-3151.

Tanya Serota is waiting to help you at Mazzali Insurance in the Sault

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Tanya Serota is a tribal member and past Sault Tribe employee now working for Mazzali Insurance in Sault Ste. Marie.

Serota worked for Sault Tribe Housing for 10 years before accepting a position that allowed her to work from home with the National American Indian Housing Council.

"That position allowed me the opportunity to work with potential homebuyers across the country rather than just locally. In February, funding was drastically reduced and 12 of us were laid off," she said. "I wanted a career where I could continue to work with a lot of people and still interact with homebuyers. Then a position opened up at Mazzali Insurance Agency."

Serota said everyone at Mazzali is very knowledgeable and has been patient with her as she learns about the business. She attended training in East Lansing and wrote an exam to earn her state insurance license. Mazzali has recently relocated its office to 3175 I-75 Business Spur next to Gordon's Food Service. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Dec. 4 with the Chamber of Commerce.

Mazzali Insurance Agency also has an office in Munising



Photo by Brenda Austin

Mazzali Insurance in the Sault, where tribal member Tanya Serota is an insurance agent, cut the ribbon on its new offices Dec. 4.

and offers homeowners insurance, renters insurance, auto, life and health insurance. They also offer commercial coverage.

"It's fun to see people you used to work with walk through the door. I am just working with them in a different capacity now," she said. "A lot of people have insurance policies, which automatically renew, but that doesn't mean they shouldn't be asking for price quotes to see

if they can get a better price. Independent agents have multiple companies to choose from so its not like you walk in the door and only have one choice." Serota is 12 credits shy of a Bachelor's degree in human services with a minor in Native studies from LSSU.

Mazzali Insurance can be contacted by calling (906) 632-3337. "I look forward to hearing from you," Serota said.

INVOLVING MEMBERSHIP IN DECISION MAKING

AARON A. PAYMENT, MPA
Tribal Chairperson
Representing All Units &
At Large

The most significant challenge for any elected official in a representative democracy is deciphering what the voting constituency wants versus what people need. As elected officials, we are ultimately judged by the voters based on our ability to represent a divergence of interests. Our current electoral process is broken down into five election units. Tribal members who reside outside of the seven county service area (or 62 percent of the Membership) have the constitutional right to vote in the unit of their choice. While it is the responsibility of the unit representatives, or tribal board members to represent their respective units, the Chairperson/CEO is elected to represent all interests. This is very challenging; especially when unsophisticated or inexperienced politicians tend to represent only those they see in their immediate environment and in some cases, only those who are part of their collective families or friends.

The job of knowing what people need and want is the public policy challenge in government. At all levels of government, not many do this well. Those who do have learned to be responsive to the electorate in an progressive policy approach rather than laissez faire approach. Those who meet regularly with the people obviously have a better idea of what their constituents want because they ask them directly. As your Chairperson/CEO, I have attempted to meet with you at your convenience rather than expect that if you have issues, you'll bring them to us.

Since becoming chairperson/CEO, I have held tribal town meetings with members in cities like Sault Ste. Marie, Brimley, Kincheloe, Sugar Island, Newberry, Naubinway, Hessel, Escanaba, Manistique, Marquette, Munising, St. Ignace, Mackinac Island, Mackinaw City, Petoskey, Pellston, Gaylord, Cheboygan, Detroit, East Lansing and Grand Rapids.

BOARD INSTABILITY DEMANDS MORE MEMBERS MEETINGS

In 2008, I will continue this democratic approach to representing you by meeting with members 84 times in 14 locations over the next six months. With the current instability of the tribe brought on by select board members' desires to amass power and discretionary authority over the lives of members, it is critical that I bring these issues to you directly. If in this process you determine the actions of the tribal board should be challenged, then I will gladly represent you and assist you in challenging such action via our tribal constitutional right of referendum. This is one of our only mechanisms in our Constitution that permits us to compel a balance of power in that it takes just 100 signatures of tribal members to chal-



PETOSKEY, Mich. — Chairperson Payment, signing the 2007 Inland Consent decree after ratified by 84 percent of the voting members. Also pictured is Bay Mills President Jeff Parker, Little Traverse Chairperson Frank Ettawageshick, Department of Natural Resource Director Rebecca Humphries, Interim U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan Charles Gross, Grand Traverse Chairperson Bob Kewaygoshgum and Little River Ogema Larry Romanelli.



lenge tribal board decisions and make these decisions directly.

BOARD ACTION BY MOTION RATHER THAN RESOLUTION VIOLATES YOUR RIGHTS

One of the dangers we are currently facing as a government is the wayward approach of individual board members who are drunk with power. Select board members have taken the approach that they are not only the branch of government that writes the laws, but also the branch that interprets the laws. There is no true due process for grievances or ability to challenge the actions of a corrupt government. The worse example of how this is executed by a corrupt government, is the practice of enacting tribal legislation by passing motions to purposely avoid the members' constitutional right of referendum. This is artificial as our Constitution clearly requires certain items like management structure changes to be enacted via resolution or ordinance and not by motion. Those board members who would willfully act in this manner to circumvent your Constitutional rights should be removed from office. If the Board acts to make legal their illegal practices with the smug notion that you have no recourse, then the Members should rise up and make the conscious choice to replace such Board members with others who will not only preserve their right to referendum, but will also invite involvement of the people in decision making.

Since I have been your Chairperson, we have made a few decisions via tribal referendum. These decisions were made by the voting members with decisive victories supporting the outcomes. These examples include:

REFERENDUM TO DECIDE ELIGIBILITY OF THOSE WHO STOLE \$2.66 MILLION

In December 2005, on the eve of the 2006 tribal board election, members from across the country expressed concern that they did not want either Bernard Bouschor or Paul Shagen to be able to run for re-election during the penance of our lawsuit to recover the over-\$2.66 million they and others stole when Bouschor lost

his re-election bid in 2004. The solution was to put this to a vote of the people via tribal referendum. The board members who were adamant you should have nothing to say over this issue and voted 'NO' to hold a referendum are Abramson, Paquin, McKelvie, and Causley. However, 70 percent of you disagreed with these board members and voted to disallow Bouschor and Shagen's eligibility.

PERMANENT TREATY RIGHTS REFERENDUM

Given we were about to permanently sign off and settle our treaty rights, I introduced at least four resolutions over the course of several months to have the members of the tribe decide this weighty issue rather than by a simple majority of seven people of the tribal board. I cannot imagine anyone on our board not understanding the importance of inviting all members to make this decision. As you'll recall, 84 percent of the voting members ratified the Inland Consent Decree. This fall we held our first Elk Hunt Lottery and both of our hunters bagged their elk. Those board members who were adamant and voted against you having any say via tribal right of referendum were Abramson, Hoffman, Paquin, and Eitrem. Director Causley was absent from this critical meeting.

TRIBAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: PROHIBITING DOUBLE DIPPING

Though 86 percent of us voted to end this practice, the sole subordinate employee of tribal board, the tribal board administrative assistant, tried to undermine this outcome by filing a frivolous complaint claiming that those who live outside of the service area should not have been permitted to vote on the amendment. What is striking is that this same person was on the Secretarial Election Board, but did not object until the decision was made by 86 percent of tribal voters that Fred Paquin, chief of police, would not be permitted to continue to serve in both positions simultaneously. In his case in particular, this single individual is paid nearly \$200,000 a year making him the highest paid

employee of the tribe. Those board members who voted against you being able to make this decision include Abramson and Massaway. Lana Causley skipped this meeting.

YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE THREATENED!

The Election Committee recently proposed that tribal members who live outside of the service area will have to travel to the U.P. to vote.

For northern Lower Michigan residents, it would be a 3-4 hour round trip to vote. For Detroiters: 10 hours round trip. For those who live on the East Coast: 40 hour round trip. For those on the West Coast: 4 days round trip. Our current absentee ballot system works well enough that we receive a 70 percent voter turn-out.

OTHER ALARMING CHANGES

The tribal board also discussed dropping the prohibition against Bouschor and Shagen running for office during our lawsuit to recover the \$2.66 million they and others stole. Recall that 70 percent of you voted to prohibit this. Also, there is no mention in the draft election code to include the recent Constitutional amendment prohibiting employees from serving on the tribal board. Again, 86 percent voted to amend our Constitution to prohibit "double-dipping" so why would they not include this?!

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please contact me by E-mail at apayment@saulttribe.net or call (906) 632-6578 or toll free at (888) 94-AARON.

TRIBAL TOWN MEETINGS FOR 2008

Unit 1	LOCATION	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Sault Ste. Marie, MI	6pm - Kewadin Casino	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07
Sugar Island, MI	Sugar Island Township Hall	Feb-08	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07
Kincheloe, MI	Kinross Recreation Center	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08

Unit 2	LOCATION	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Newberry, MI	Newberry Tribal Center	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07
Naubinway, MI	Naubinway Pavilion	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07
Hessel, MI	Hessel Tribal Center	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07

Unit 3	LOCATION	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
St. Ignace, MI	Kewadin Shores Casino	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07
Mackinac Island, MI	Mackinac Island Town Hall			Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07

Unit 4	LOCATION	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Manistique, MI	Manistique Tribal Center	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08
Escanaba	Location: TBA	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08

Unit 5	LOCATION	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Marquette, MI	Northern Michigan University Center	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08
Munising, MI	Munising Tribal Center	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08

At Large	LOCATION	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Detroit, MI	Greektown Academy 1001 Brush St (corner of Brush & Lafayette)	Feb-07	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08
East Lansing, MI	E.L. Hannah Center, 819 Abbott Rd.	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08
Grand Rapids, MI	Ramada Inn Plaza, 3333 28th St SE	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08
Cheboygan, MI	Inverness Township Hall, 734 VFW Rd	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08
Mackinac City, MI	Mackinac City High	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08

If you have any questions regarding the schedule, please call toll free at:

1-888-94-AARON

How do you catch a cloud and pin it down?



CATHY ABRAMSON, DIRECTOR,
UNIT I

"We are governed not by armies and police, but by ideas."

Happy New Year to you and your families! I hope that you all had a peaceful and hopeful holiday season and I hope that your celebration of Christ's birthday was merry and joyous.

Looking back at 2007, it was a very trying and frustrating year for everyone. It is my hope that you, as a tribal citizen, look at both sides to the story as you see and hear all the political rhetoric that has and will be going around.

In my unit reports, I have tried to report to you the important issues that I have been working on for our membership. I have tried to stay away

from complaining about the infighting that is apparent to the membership. However, it is time that I address a major concern that is affecting our entire tribe and keeping us from moving forward. That is our chairperson's inability to work with or answer to this board.

For too long now we have seen and heard our chairperson complain that our board of directors is not working with him and trying to undermine his authority. He acts like the board is a single entity that is working against him when in fact we are 12 individuals who were elected by the membership to represent their voices. He, alone, does not represent all the people. When the majority of our board makes a decision, it means at least seven individuals have said that we think this is what is best for the tribe. It's not always the same seven people, so it is not always the same board that is supposedly against the chairperson.

While we are far from a perfect board, our tribal Constitution makes it clear that our board holds ultimate authority with regard to the employees of the tribe. In our Bylaws, Article II, entitled, "Duties of Officers," it states in Section 1:

"The chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the board of directors, perform all duties consistent with the office as chief executive officer of the tribe, and exercise any other lawful authority **delegated the chairperson by the board of directors.**"

Several times during the past year, the board has voted to go in one direction on issues only to have the chairperson undermine our decisions. For example:

- In 2006, we voted for our chairperson to send a spending report on a monthly basis. **To date, we have received only two reports.**

- Several months ago, the board voted for our chairperson as CEO to send monthly written reports to the board of directors. **To date, we have not received one written report.**

- On Nov. 7, 2007, the board voted in a new organizational chart in order to insulate our employees from the political fodder. Our chair voiced his concerns at the meeting but the majority of the board ultimately decided that this was the best course of action to take at this time. **On Dec. 20, 2007, Chairperson Payment announced that the previous organizational chart approved by the board of**

directors was in violation of the Constitution and presented a new organizational chart to the employees. Once again, this is confusing to employees and it is not fair to them to have to endure this behavior.

- Our board passed a resolution so that no elected official could use our tribal organization's employee Groupwise to E-mail our employees with any political issues.

To date, our chairperson continues to send out political E-mails to our employees. Most recently, he groupwised tribal and non-tribal employees and asked them to send a letter to the BIA (one that he drafted) to come and intervene in our governmental affairs.

- In 2007, the board voted to give team members Christmas Eve day off with pay with the understanding that the employee's picnic would be held on a Saturday instead of during the workday. The decision was made from the results of a team member survey showing that they would rather have the two days off at Christmas time.

During the summer, the chairperson/CEO changed the date from the Saturday to a workday.

We, the board, are not always going to make the most popular decisions but we do try

to make decisions that are fair and balanced.

Again, it's the chairperson/CEO's constitutional duty to carry out the directives that we passed. And rather than bringing it to the employee and membership level, he should bring his concerns in a professional manner and present facts to the board that will demonstrate that there may possibly be another alternative.

If we want better for 2008, we have to learn from what didn't work in 2007.

The real solution is that the chairperson and the board of directors have to work out how we will work together. This is why we have workshops. We have to come to the understanding that if the majority makes a decision, we all must support that. If we do that, I believe we could actually move forward.

Now that the holidays are over, I will be getting back to my office hours on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Administration Building. You may also reach me at my home phone number which is (906) 635-3054 or my cell phone number which is (906) 322-3823. My e-mail address is: cabramson@sault-tribe.net. I look forward to hearing from you!

Truth revealed



FRED PAQUIN, DIRECTOR,
UNIT III

I have always believed that when you make a mistake, you should take responsibility and learn from the experience. I never imagined, however, that it would be necessary to discuss publicly an embarrassing indiscretion in my personal life. In fact, I hesitated to write this unit report because the content is highly personal and may be distasteful to some.

Unfortunately, the chairman has made every effort to broadcast a twisted, one-sided version of the incident, including in several newspapers, in an attempt to convict me in the court of public opinion regardless of the facts. Therefore, I have no choice but to respond and set the record straight.

Many tribal members recognize the chairman's "win at all costs" tactics and are tired of the purely political motives; and constant attacks on anyone who poses a political threat. Thankfully, they also recognize the attempted political distort-

tion and do not turn a blind eye to the facts.

Several years ago, I became friends with a married woman who works for the tribe. I am not married. A short time after becoming friends, the woman and I made an immense error in judgment when we became romantically involved. I understood that the relationship was wrong and thought of ending it several times, but it was difficult because I cared for her.

The affair continued until the summer of 2007, when the woman and I got into an argument in her car after she picked me up to drive to her home. She became angry and struck me. I grabbed her, pushed her away, and jumped out of her car. Prior to this, I had never been involved in this type of situation.

Following the incident, the woman sought advice from others in the tribe and apparently was encouraged to file a police report. For some time after the report was filed, the woman continued to call me. Ultimately, the incident was investigated by an officer, who later was told to be a friend of the woman and her husband. I was charged with simple assault, a misdemeanor.

In the police report, and even today, the woman has been far from honest about our extended affair. However, there are countless witnesses, including a tribal member who stopped by my home to pick up fishing nets. Unknown to the woman and myself, he peeked in my home to see if I was there and saw

the woman and me being intimate. In addition, a handwriting expert has confirmed that numerous cards and love notes in my possession were written by the woman, and she refused to cooperate and provide additional writing samples when requested.

Given her decision to unsuccessfully try to cover up our relationship, the woman has gone down the dangerous path of compounding lies and now is unable to turn back. At this point, if she were to tell the truth she could be subject to charges for false statements to the police. Regardless, eventually she will have no choice but to face the truth.

On Dec. 13, 2007, I volunteered to take a lie detector test, while the woman did not. My test was conducted by a well respected, retired Michigan State Police lieutenant commander, who served for over 25 years and still conducts polygraphs for law enforcement agencies. The test confirmed that I am telling the truth about the incident; was not the aggressor; was acting in self-defense; and had an extended affair with the woman.

Prior to the incident, the woman was extremely critical of the chairman, but now has developed a close alliance with him. Sadly, she fails to recognize that like countless others, she is being used for perceived political gain. If this were not the case, why did the chairman ensure that a distorted, one-sided version of the incident is widely publicized?

Ask yourself, if you were in the woman's shoes, would you want the matter publicized nationally so that all can judge you? Someone please explain to me how this woman benefits from countless people discussing this embarrassing indiscretion and speculating behind her back.

On the other hand, given her new alliance, maybe the woman now supports the chairman's main goal of political self-preservation at any cost. Regardless, I am confident that either the simple assault charge will be dropped; or if not, a jury will rightly proclaim my innocence.

The sad thing is that damage has already been done. The woman will be left with a damaged marriage and a worse reputation, and my status will be tarnished in the eyes of some. The chairman is the only real benefactor from the widespread lies. And, he will smile at one

of his late night meetings planning the next attack regardless of the cost to others and our community.

Nonetheless, I have been underestimated. It has been said, "If you have made mistakes, even serious ones, there is always another chance for you. What we call failure is not the falling down, but the staying down."

Anyone who knows me understands that I am willing to admit when I am wrong. It was poor judgment and an enormous mistake to get involved with a married woman. However, I have been wrongly accused of an act beyond the inappropriate relationship; and therefore, have no choice but to stand up to those who seek to distort the truth.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (906) 643-8878.

Moving ?



Tribal members!
Before you move to your new address, call tribal enrollment to let them know where you are headed! That way you won't miss one issue of your tribal paper.

Call
(800) 251-6597.

Discussing matters important to our tribe



**TOM MILLER, DIRECTOR,
UNIT IV**

I would like to apologize for my report not being in the December 2007 newspaper issue. But, I E-mailed it on the day before it was due and had a mistake in the E-mail address, which should have kicked right back to me. Somehow, it hung around in cyberspace and returned to my E-mail box five days later. No one can figure that one out. Not exactly the dog eating it, but close. Hopefully, this one will get in all right. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and is healthy. Some of this may seem dated, but I wanted you to see my take on items I consider important.

The board of directors

(BOD) has been busy with budgetary oversight and some decisions that significantly affect the fiscal situation of the tribe. Three major items were discussed, including one passed at the Nov. 26, 2007, BOD special meeting held in the Sault. One, the team member incentive that will ultimately cost about \$1,150,000 to implement for 2007, but will technically take place in January 2008. We did pass it, but, financially, it was not a sound move. In 2008, it will be a vastly more difficult item to do as this will be our tight year and budgets will be very restricted as we attempt to provide services with limited funds. In 2009, money moving northward from Greektown will increase significantly, thereby lessening the budget crunch.

There was also talk about using the elders' fund to finance this distribution with a guaranteed interest return of 10 percent on the funds used. This would be an extremely sound "loan" with the tribe guaranteeing the interest, but as of now it will not happen. We are working on finding alternative sources of funding from within the 2008 budgets to help cover the cost of the incentive. This plan will end with the incentives going out after the new

year because of the fiscal year funding used to fund the incentive. But this possible scenario will not require us to borrow monies.

The second item discussed was the elders' dividend checks and the possibility of increases. D.J. Hoffman presented a very good plan on the distribution and tax exemption possibilities of these funds. The BOD will be reviewing it for consideration and the feasibility of an increase. The best bet for this year is the amount will stay at \$1,600.

In the final major item, we began the discussion on employee raises for 2008 and the percentage scale to be used in the calculation of those raises. I do believe that a scale using higher percentage increases for the employees at the lower ends of the earnings, with a lesser percentage as you go higher up the pay scale, is the way to go. I also believe we need a true bonus and evaluation system in place to handle our administration level employees to ensure that they are rewarded for their performance. We need to keep good people in those positions to ensure that the system operates the best that it can. A quality work force benefits the entire

tribe.

We have been doing house-keeping items of budget review and approval, license renewal application, and so forth. There have been comments on recent financial movements regarding the Greektown Casino. I can assure you that these moves have been made to strengthen the overall financial soundness and productivity of Greektown. There are other moves in motion that will put Greektown on even better financial footing and this will allow the increased flow of monies northward in the future. Nothing can be guaranteed, but the financial moves to this point have been well thought out and will benefit us greatly in the future. The tribe's CFO has and is doing a very good job in his oversight of this process.

The Constitutional Committee continues its work on getting the new constitution ready for the approval process.

Unit IV tribal members in the Escanaba area, please bear with us, but we are just about there with a meeting place for members. I know you have heard this for a while, but Denise and I keep plugging away in our attempts to secure a regular meeting place.

On a cultural/educational note, the board passed a resolution that gave the JKL fiduciary board the authorization to proceed with a language preservation project that will be funded with education monies and as many other sources as can be secured. Hopefully, this will prove to be a valuable tool in our attempts to preserve and revive the Ojibwe language.

Also, please try to be patient with us as we enter the campaign cycle, you may grow tired of politics by July. I will be declaring to run for re-election in 2008. We are making efforts to control our meetings and our actions. There have been some recent unsettling actions that raise questions about the stability of the board. We will and must work these differences out. Hopefully, all of our meetings will become professional, well conducted and not an embarrassment to our members. Denise and I are trying to get our schedules back to where we can interact and listen to the concerns of our Unit IV tribal members on a regular basis and attend many of the functions.

I hope that everyone has a great 2008. If you want to contact me please call (906) 322-3827 or (906) 644-3334.

Remember there are two sides to every story



**DENNIS MCKELVIE, DIRECTOR,
UNIT I**

I am sure that most of you have received your letters or E-mails regarding the "rogue" board members within the tribal government. Please remember, **THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO EVERY STORY!**

People use fear in many ways. When individuals are fearful of losing their jobs they blame others for their mistakes. They use the shortcomings or perceived and promoted issues of others to prop themselves up, and set them above all others.

Regarding the workshop that the chairman has been referring to as a meeting. The board did hold a **WORKSHOP!** At no time was it a meeting of the board of directors. Workshops are held to discuss the problems and issues we face as a tribe. In fact, if we had more workshops – **WE MAY NOT HAVE THE ISSUES WE HAVE TODAY!** There is nothing illegal about having a workshop, to allege that it is unconstitutional, or illegal, is a flat out lie. We have held membership input sessions

where a majority of the board was in attendance – are these official meetings depicted in our constitution? The facts are simple, the board held a workshop – which occurs during the normal course of tribal governance.

The workshop items discussed related to the improper actions of the chairperson. The board discussed, in open session, what to do when people don't follow through on what the board passes. Do you as a member want checks and balances? Or would you prefer the one-man show? I am tired of the one-man show. For years the board was bashed for not being able to control the actions of the chairman. Now, those same people want a "yes" board. That will never happen with me! The tribe is more important than one person!

The elections are just around the corner. Decisions are being made, and promises are being cast, just to get the attention of the voters. Are we just taking care of ourselves and individual aspirations, or are we working for the members?

The CEO/chairman should not be the same person. The CEO should report to the board on a weekly basis, and to the chairman daily. We need to take the politics out of business. Governments spend money. Business earns it. The government should not spend what it does not have. Are we spending our children's and grandchildren's future? What will they have left to them?

For years I have been talking about the financial problems we were going to face. I have been ridiculed for this doom

and gloom "approach" on E-mails, in articles and in public. I must reiterate that when this administration began, there was a budget surplus. The surplus is gone! We have sold most of our properties and businesses to facilitate this growing monster of debt. The hotel in Grand Rapids – GONE! The Glens Building – GONE. Kewadin Inn Manistique – GONE, Kewadin Inn Oreilla – GONE ... and many more...

The biggest concern we face as a tribe, aside from internal strife, is our budget deficit. The tribe cannot tax like the federal government. We cannot just print more money.

We are facing a \$9-12 million deficit next year. We are in the service business both as a tribe and our enterprises. The economy of Michigan is a telling tale. Everywhere things are being cut or re-structured. We have many issues facing us in the upcoming months and years. I have preached about the upcoming requirements for passports. This will be facing us soon...What impact will it have? We have a large Canadian clientele.

How will the new casino in Standish affect our business? All are questions we should be very concerned about, as well as has the administration looked at new ways to raise funds, other than selling the assets of the tribe? Instead of worrying about the threats looming from the outside, we are stuck fending off the threats from within.

We have problems in Detroit. Some board members want to sell it and spend all the money at once. Anything for re-elec-

tion! How are we going to leave our tribe in better shape for our children and future generations if we spend it all and leave them with the debt and false promises and expectations?

We have all heard the talk of expansion and promised pay raises. The increased costs associated from these promises get set aside. The questions that need to be asked are:

(1) How are we going to pay for it?

(2) Where are we going to get money from?

(3) Are we leaving anything for the future generations of this tribe?

(4) Are your leaders leaving the tribe in better shape then when they got there?

Eventually, we are going to have to decide on what to do with the 7+2 (4+2) litigation. We have paid nearly \$1 million to an attorney to yield \$45,000 in payment plans for three of the individuals. I have never voted to settle with anyone. If it is worth it, you go through with it. We met as a board with our lawyers to discuss settlement negotiations over a year ago.

One option discussed was to pay Bernard out of Greektown and have him pay back the tribe. This is just taking out of one pocket and placing it in the other. However it would have allowed the chairman to save face. Remember when this all started, Aaron pitched an offer to Paul Shagen in a closed board discussion to settle with him if he would testify against Bouschor. I voted 'no,' and left. I know that the discussion of these secrets will rile feathers but it is important to know who

is negotiating in certain ways...

We have issues with communicating to our membership in a timely and impartial manner. For nearly three years the membership has asked to receive their news in a timely manner. Nearly 1.5 years ago we started a campaign to get members to sign up for the paper so we could get a better, faster rate. We still don't know how many have been sent back in. We could've gone door to door in that time period inside the units to ensure the percentage needed to send to everyone, everywhere. Why haven't we done this? What is taking so long? In addition, unit reports are not being published, and select items are being placed into the paper after the deadlines have passed. I know you will read from some that the board members reports did not make it in on time. Please read the contents of each that were supposed to be printed in December's paper and you may realize why...I have no problem following deadlines and rules. However, they should apply equally to everyone!

This report might sound doom and gloom but we have some good people working on it. We need to concentrate on fixing the problems, instead of creating new or imagined ones.

WE, the board and chairman, need to solve the problems of the tribe and set the personal aside. I hope this can happen, but there are no guarantees.

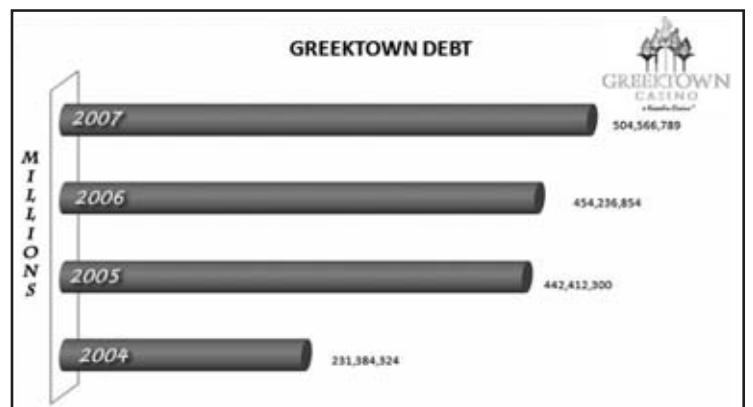
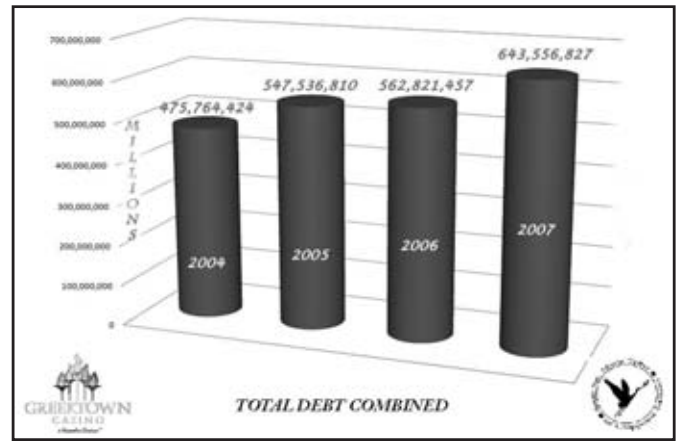
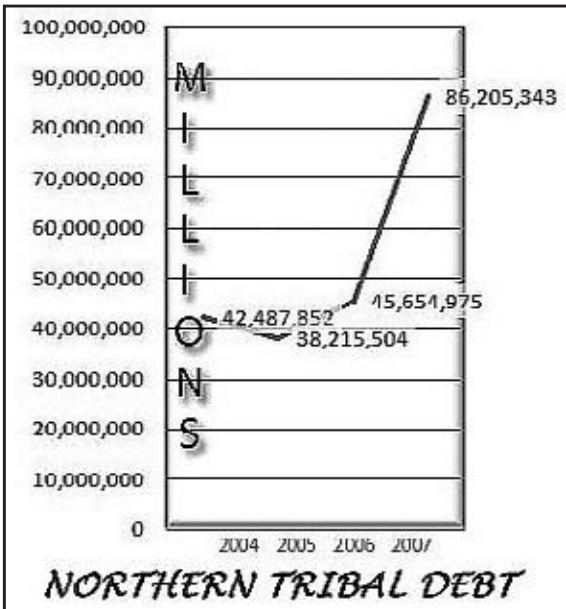
If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,
Dennis McKelvie
(906) 632-7267

Editor's Notice: The following article was submitted by Unit I Representative DJ Hoffman. Because the following submission does not conform to the normal style and layout of the newspaper as it pertains to unit reports, this notice was deemed necessary in an effort to identify the following article as a unit report for the benefit our readers.



HO! HO!
HO-LD IT !!!!!



Dear Tribal Members:

As you look around this Unit Report you will see various charts. These Charts represent the Tribes debt over the past 3.5 years and its present status. The Total Debt Chart is all inclusive. I would ask that you keep these charts in mind while you read through this Report.

GREEKTOWN CASINO

Many of you have probably been informed that the Tribe borrowed 70 million dollars for it Greek town Casino operation. This information is incorrect. The Tribe Borrowed 35 million dollars for the construction of the new Greek town Hotel/Casino, and to prevent a future violation of the Casino Operations covenant agreements with the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan.

The remaining 35 million dollars within the loan consisted of a pre-existing Tribal Debt of 30 million dollars (related to the St. Ignace Casino). Five million dollars was retained for reserves at the Tribal level. These funds were completely spent out, along with an additional 5 million dollar internal loan from our enterprises, to **balance** FY2007's annual budget. **THE TRIBE BORROWED \$10 MILLION DOLLARS TO BALANCE FY 2007's budget.**

For nearly 1.5 years we have known that we would need to influx capital into Greek town to maintain our covenants. Last November, I and Director Mckelvie attended the (MGCB) Michigan Gaming Control Board meeting pertaining to the adjustments of our current, which is the most restrictive of all 3 casinos, agreement. In short, they said put in 23 million into project. They declined moving the covenants. We did nothing! We will never know what the outcome would have been if we were proactive.

On October 31st, 2007 Greek town broke its financial covenants on the new construction loan - directly as a result of a reduction in casino business for the past 2 months. This reduction of business is attributed to the extensive construction that blocked roads and exits to our Greek town Casino. Financial Covenants are obviously not a good thing to break, but they are not equivalent to the Covenants in the Development agreements. If you break those, you have 120 days to cure - or its forced sale time. However, if you break financial covenants, you can no longer draw funds for construction purposes. Had we not acted, the end result may very well have been a breach of the Covenants in our Development agreements. In addition, construction would've ceased, and the end result would have cost millions.

The influx of 35 million dollars from the Tribe has rectified the financial covenants and prevented any concerns of breaching the development covenants

The Tribe's options were simple: Influx capital so that financial covenants are no longer an issue and that construction drawdown can be once again accessed to complete casino, OR Maintain the financial covenant breach, fall behind in construction, then break development agreement covenants in December - which would lead to a forced "fire sale."

A forced sale of the Greek town Casino would result in a **net loss of value of between \$100-\$150 MILLION DOLLARS** for the property. (2007 TRIBAL FINANCIAL PLAN)

The Tribal Board did the responsible thing and voted to infuse capital into Greek town.

70 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN

There have been inferences that the funds sent to Greek town were utilized for employment raises and bonuses. This is also incorrect. Greek town employees will receive a bonus, as a result of their union contract, in 4 installments over the course of the 2008 fiscal year. **THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE BONUS IN 2007!** The actual breakdown of the 35 million dollars that was invested in the Tribes Greek town property is as follows:

- \$29,191,855.60 was applied to the Term Loan,
- \$5,808,114.40 was applied to the Incremental Term Loan

EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE

"On November 27, the Tribal Board of Directors voted to approve 'Bringing Back the Incentive.' The vote was 9 in favor and 1 against (Director Hoffman)."

~Aaron Payment~

The e-mail was a direct result of my "no" vote regarding approving the Team Member incentive on November 27, 2007. While I was the last person to vote in front of a room with several hindered employees packed in tightly, I remain confident in my decision. My one vote did not hinder the nine prior yes votes, nor did it change the resulting outcome of the resolution. However, my vote was made with the best interests of the TRIBE in mind. It surely would've been a whole lot easier to tell people what they wanted to hear, and to spend funding that the Tribe does not have.... But it would not have been right!!

I informed the audience that even though they were promised the Incentive as a Christmas Bonus, since it was passed by a resolution, it would be 30 days before the Tribe could deliver the bonus - without taking into consideration of where the funds were to come from. The membership has a right to referendum on any legislation passed by the Tribal Board of Directors by Resolution. Thirty days from November 27th is December 27th. It has been alleged that I have been circulating this petition. Ironically the dates the accusations were made I was in California visiting my sister. Let me make it perfectly clear;

- I HAVE NOT SEEN THE PETITION!
- I HAVE NOT SIGNED A PETITION!
- I AM NOT CIRCULATING A PETITION!

It has also been asserted that I have made comments to the effect of: "Having three years left, so what do I care!" **THIS IS A LIE!** I have never said that. I was elected to do a job. The job is for 4 years. **THE PROBLEM IS THAT PEOPLE ARE SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME CAMPAIGNING AND NOT ENOUGH DOING THE JOB!** I will continue to do the job that you have entrusted me with, for however long that may be.

The Board is now having meetings to "figure out" where the funds are going to come from to pay for the incentive. The following quotes are from the Tribe's CFO regarding the Incentive:

"Considering the time line the Tribe will have no other choice but to utilize the Land Claim Fund for either a direct loan or as collateral with the an outside bank."

"The only reserve we have is the Land Claims Fund and no time to strategize for a bank discussion."

Does this sound like a promise that should be made, or campaigned upon, at the last minute? The Tribe has just utilized all of its internal revenues and spent the "reserves" from the 70 million dollar re-financing. How sound of a decision is it to tell people we have excess funding

In fact the Tribal Chairman himself agreed that it was not fiscally possible to pay the incentive after FY 2006. Here is the exact quote:

"We simply do not have enough Tribal funding to payout all adult members of the Tribe similarly to just those Tribal members who are employees"

And yet now we as a Tribe have passed a Resolution to give out nearly \$1.2 million dollars to ALL TRIBAL EMPLOYEES. Take the 1.2 million dollars and add it to the projected deficit of FY 2008, then add \$1.2 million for next year and voila - \$11.4 million dollars in deficit. The only questions should be:

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO CUT?

Finally, some have amused themselves by equating me to the Grinch because I took the road less traveled and chose to protect the financial assets of this Tribe by telling the truth and standing up for our future: Pushing the monetary value during the holiday time frame is deplorable, for as you will read... that is not what it is all about.

"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

Dr. Seuss

I would like to personally wish all of you a happy holiday and ask that if you have any issues or concerns to please feel free to contact me anytime.



Sincerely,
DJ Hoffman
Home (906) 635-6945
Cell (906) 322-3801
Toll free (866) 598-5804
E-mail: djwhoffman@hotmail.com



Let's learn from the past to secure our future



**SHIRLEY PETOSKY, DIRECTOR,
UNIT V**

I have received E-mails saying I don't get into the meat of things — I only talk about mundane things — So...here goes:

The employee bonus: When this was discussed last year it was spelled out that there wasn't the money to do this in 2007 and information was sent out stating this. When the subject came forward earlier last year, I was all for it going forward as was the chairman. But more level heads persevered and we were reminded — NO MONEY!

Then, not too many weeks ago, it was brought forward again — and thus began a cruel hoax. We were told that money was there to do this for our very deserving employees. The board certainly wanted everyone to have extra money to put Christmas presents under the tree. Well, no matter what avenues were pursued, we still had

not come up with the where-with-all before the holidays.

The incentive bonus is supposed to be in the mail this week. I hope it all works out — I would tell you that I'm sure praying that you get this money. But I've been accused of only pretending to be spiritual — so we'll all say our prayers in private and when you say yours — please remember me — and all of us on the board.

As for the proposed Constitution, there are some things I still want to see changed, namely, that all people living outside of Michigan would have to register to vote in one of the three proposed districts downstate.

Why would people who historically identify with an

area in the Upper Peninsula now have to choose people to vote for who they don't identify with? Also it won't be a majority rule board — at least one of the proposed districts would have to be counted among the majority or nothing will be passed.

We are accused now of playing politics to get something passed — WOW, think of the back door dealings this can play into.

At this point in time, people keep asking me why are we getting rid of Aaron on Jan 15.

This has never come up, to my knowledge, as a proposal to get on the agenda.

I was asked at a Unit V meeting tonight (Jan. 10) if I would support the chairman if

the issue does come up. Yes, of course I will — we all need to back down — we need to get a mediator to sit with all of us. Let us all have our say one by one.

We have to stop attacking things from the distant past that can't be changed anyway. If we can learn from the past — do things in the present — and secure our future as a people we will be doing great.

Aaron was at our Unit V meeting tonight (Jan. 10) — we had a nice turn out and good discussions.

Fight nice — stay dry and and give someone a hand today.

Shirl
Unit V Rep.
(906) 387-2101
shirleypetosky@yahoo.com

Tribe must approve internal loan to balance budget for 2007!



**LANA CAUSLEY, DIRECTOR,
UNIT II**

The following unit report was intended for the December 2007 newspaper.

In the last edition of the tribal newspaper there was a typing error in the heading of my unit report "2007 budget a balancing act without borrowing." The statement should have been WITH borrowing, as I explained in the contents of my last report last month. During the Dec. 4, 2007, board of directors meeting it was determined that we, in fact, must borrow funding from our existing reserves just to balance the budget for this last year.

It has been reported by the chairman that we had an operations saving of \$3.4 million, but this is not actual funds that we have to spend and he should agree. The division directors, program managers and all staff did their best in underspending in operations and that is good managing on their part, but it does not give us a windfall of money. After the presentation from our chief financial officer, we have determined that we were in deficit spending and needed an additional \$5 million in internal loans from our existing reserves. The following is the reserved funding that we used to balance the 2007 budget.

Self Insurance	\$2,600,000
(Health Reserves)	
Midjim Stores	\$600,000
Northern Hospitality	\$300,000
DeMawating	\$600,000
Sawyer Village	\$300,000

Telecommunications \$200,000
Unemployment \$400,000

The total from the above amounts is \$5 million that we needed to influx into this year's budget. The amounts taken out of the reserves have nearly depleted our reserves. The facts are above and can be verified from our CFO, his quote to the board of directors is that any other spending we do will result in loans from the elders' land claims funds or, if time permits, outside financial institutions.

As reported last month there is also a projected deficit of \$9.4 million or more for 2008!

With all the above being said, everyone has seen or heard about the chairman's proposals to bring back the chairman's incentive to employees, increase the elders' payments and propose a different wage increase for team members. The employee bonus was approved by the board of directors and now we must find the funding to support it. We were told from the start that if we did it before Christmas this year we had only one option and that was to use the elders' fund, I have that in writing from the CFO. Last year in late August, we discussed the issue of the chairman's bonus and upon a recommendation from the Legal Department due to the bonuses being questioned as a per capita payment to just a limited group of tribal members, and also the fact we had budget restraints for 2007, we did away with the bonuses for 2007. The board of directors along with the chairman agreed to discontinue the bonuses and did not budget the bonuses for 2007. We notified the employees in writing last year that there was a legal issue with the money only going to tribal members and also a budget deficit. We did a responsible thing and paid the employees the bonus for 2006 and told them it would not be budgeted or given out for 2007.

This all changed one month ago! The chairman/CEO did not talk to the board about bringing it back; there were many

opportunities to discuss in financials and we did not discuss it. The chair/CEO in turn held employee meetings, signed petitions and campaigned on the issue in tribal enterprises. The responsible thing would have been to discuss with the board and chief financial officer during our discussion on the budget but that did not happen, we had financial reviews two days prior to the proposal being introduced and it was never brought up to us. There was a resolution brought forward to bring the incentive back. Of course, all the team members do deserve this bonus but to be used in this way is unacceptable, we cannot spend money that we do not have. We discontinued it for two reasons and then it came back with only a very limited time to plan for it. How do we do business this way? Why were we not given the opportunity to discuss the legal issues or the financial issues? To remedy the legal issues, the proposal was to include all employees, tribal member and non-tribal members, which brought the amount that is needed to fund the incentive to \$1.2 million. It's very sad that the employees are in this position, to promise them something we cannot afford and did not plan or budget was completely a politically motivated move to garner votes! The chairman also commented that the incentive was only implemented at first, years ago, "to garner votes for the chairman." He has simply done the same thing. Team members deserve this bonus and the board is meeting on Dec. 11 to figure out how we will fund this. By the time you read this report, we will have done that. This report is due five days before the next meeting, but I will inform you what we have done. One option is to borrow from next year's capital outlay funding for the casinos! How do you do business this way? I have experience in managing a very small businesses compared to our tribe and this is not how you plan for the future,

robbing Peter to pay Paul. Again, in our own personal finances we know better.

Another item that has been proposed is the increase to the elders' yearly distribution amounts. Again no discussion with the board or the CFO, just a resolution to increase. The chairman started at \$100 then went to \$200, now the proposal is to increase the amount by \$400. In the 2007 budget we planned for the \$1,600, that's it. This is another gross political move on the chairman's/CEO part. We did not discuss or even know the impact it will have on our financial picture. We have been told this past week that the increase to the elders' payments will cost an additional \$1 million! Our CFO and entire budget department attempts to work off a plan implemented but it is very hard to do with all the changes brought by a whim or political move.

How do we plan for anything, including expanding services to the outside areas or increasing those in the units that are still in need? Our government has enormous debt and the members who live outside the units have been promised services since I have been on the board but now again the chairman/CEO has placed them and the services to our members in the units on the back burner by implementing this budget crisis at the end of the year. I'm sorry to sound so negative, but it's clearly what it is! A desperate, irresponsible move and the employees and elders are the ones being used. We are all taught not to handle our own finances in this way let alone our entire tribe's. We could have discussed and planned for all these changes to the budget MONTHS ago. It did not happen. In the end, the board is attempting to find a way to fund the bonuses. We all know that the successes of our tribe are due to the employees of this tribe and we are grateful, but all of you had to hear the truth about how it was implemented.

As for the increase to the elders' yearly checks, many of you that I have spoken with see through the politics and have been notified and are expecting that you would receive the \$1,600, you have planned for that amount and expect it. This is what the board planned for at the start of the 2007 budget cycle, again to bring up an increase at the end of the year, one month before the checks go out, is clear and we all see it, especially the elders. It is what it is, it happens to the elders every campaign cycle but I will hold my position on the \$1,600 we responsibly budgeted for 12 months ago. I'm sorry that you are used in this way!

As reported in the past, the board of directors passed a resolution to complete a human resource compliance audit due to the increased complaints, which includes layoffs, promotions, sexual harassment, retaliation in the workplace, appeals, etc. The committee has formed and Dennis McKelvie, Tom Miller, Todd Gravelle and I have been approved by the board to implement the committee and begin the process. We held our first meeting this past week. We will be hiring a firm to come in and evaluate a percentage of all complaints filed within the past two years. We will send out a request for proposal providing a scope of work for the firm, they will be responsible to go through the limited percentage of complaints and report if all policies and procedures have been followed throughout the process of the complaints. This will ensure that the department is treating everyone fair and policies and procedures are being followed.

In closing, I would like to wish all of your families a blessed Christmas. Please contact me if you would like to meet or have items that you want to discuss.

Baamaapii,
Lana Causley
(906) 484-2954



DJ Hoffman



Fred Paquin



Lana Causley



Joseph Eitrem



Keith Massaway



Cathy Abramson



Shirley Petosky



Dennis McKelvie

Board members respond to accusations

I am submitting the following in the place of my unit report. It is essential that the membership has the correct information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Joe Eitrem

TRIBAL MEMBERS

As a result of the recent media/press release issued by Aaron Payment, tribal chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, a majority of the tribal governing body felt it was necessary to respond to the allegations and misrepresentations of fact by Chairman Aaron Payment.

Elected tribal officials should be respectful of the points of view of fellow board members that differ from their own, as well as those belonging to the tribal membership.

On Nov. 7, 2007, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors adopted a new organizational chart to insulate employees from the "political" nature of working within the tribal government and enterprises. Chairman Payment continually

took actions to circumvent the changes adopted by the tribal board of directors.

On Dec. 20, 2007, Chairman Payment issued a media release:

"In order for the previous action of Nov. 7, 2007, to take effect, the tribal board of directors is required by tribal law to have passed a resolution which is then subject to challenge by the tribal membership pursuant to the Sault Tribe Constitution (Article IX, Right of Referendum). Tribal law was not followed; therefore, until the board of directors passes a resolution to change the organizational chart, the attached organization chart shall remain in effect."

As a result of the media/press release issued by Chairman Payment, a majority of the tribal governing body felt it was necessary to discuss the non-sanctioned actions of Chairman Aaron Payment. **All board members were notified of the requested workshop.**

The workshop has been portrayed as a violation of the

tribe's Constitution. Its content has been blatantly misrepresented publicly in media releases and improperly reported in newspaper articles.

The truth is:

- This was a WORKSHOP not a meeting
- WORKSHOPS are conducted regularly and have no Constitutional requirements
- The workshop was OPEN to the membership
- No resolutions were drafted to remove the Chairman
- STAFF WERE DIRECTED NOT TO ATTEND BY THE CHAIRMAN

Tribal board members requested a joint opinion from two firms that represent the tribe. Collectively, with the established opinions of the tribe's legal staff, the opinions confirm that the chairman does not have the authority to take any action regarding the board adopted organizational chart. Chairman Payment does not have the authority to veto any action of the tribal board. His actions are contrary to estab-

lished tribal law.

"The cases and citations make it clear that the board of directors is the ultimate governing body and authority of the tribe. Agents, employees, and officers take their direction and in a sense are controlled by the board and its actions. The chairperson is a member of the board, and in his executive capacity of CEO he is also an agent and officer of the tribe. As the tribe's CEO, he has authority to implement board action, since the chairperson is subject to the board's direction and control."

Board members issuing this statement are attempting to minimize the negative actions of Chairman Payment and his agenda to proliferate misinformation to discredit the entire board.

The chairman wants people to believe that the tribe has a rogue board. We have a majority of board members that believe in working together for the betterment of the tribe. We want to work with the tribes

Chairman to move our tribe forward collectively.

(Please note that this release is not an official release of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Under tribal law, no individual member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, including its chairperson, may issue a personal press/media release utilizing the tribal logo. **No individual elected official of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians speaks on behalf of the tribe without authorization.** All "official" releases are sent through the tribe's Communication Department. This release represents the opinion of eight members of its board of directors.)

Sincerely,

DJ HOFFMAN
FRED PAQUIN
LANA CAUSLEY
JOE EITREM
KEITH MASSAWAY
CATHY ABRAMSON
SHIRLEY PETOSKY
DENNIS MCKELVIE

Gravelle's previous unit reports confirmed



TODD GRAVELLE, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Back in May 2007, my unit report was titled, "Independent investigation of chief of police sought," which further read: "I also want to report that I have submitted a resolution asking the board of directors to hire an outside independent investigator to investigate allegations of sexual harassment and criminal sexual assault on a tribal member employee by chief of police, Fred Paquin." Many board members accused me of a personal attack against the chief of police. This was not a personal attack since the chief of police is a key employee who the board decides whether or not to retain as an employee of the tribe. The board failed to do its job back then and there is yet again another victim.

Many members are also aware of the fact that I was charged with several crimes, to include three felonies, involving possession of controlled substances as well as two misdemeanors. All of the felony charges against me were dismissed as well as one of the misdemeanor charges. I ultimately took full and complete responsibility for my actions by pleading guilty to one misdemeanor charge of using a controlled substance that was later dismissed, and of operating while intoxicated (OWI) which remains on my record. I issued an apology to the entire membership in the tribal newspaper for the immense shame that I had brought to myself, my family and to the entire tribe by my personal actions. Ultimately, I will be held accountable for my actions by the membership in the upcoming election and will be judged by them as to whether or not I should be reelected based upon my personal actions and my official actions as a board member to follow-through on the governmental reforms that I promised in my campaign.

However, as a sitting board member and elected official, I have a present and ongoing responsibility to ensure that all key employees of the tribe follow our policies and proce-

dures. In the case of the chief of police, there is more than ample evidence to warrant termination due to his official misconduct as the chief law enforcement officer of our tribe. Many board members believe you must wait for the results of a trial to determine guilt or innocence. That is a criminal matter—what these board members apparently do not understand is that every day our employees are found to violate our policies and procedures by their supervisors and are written-up and ultimately terminated for these violations. There is no criminal trial; there is no proof beyond a reasonable doubt as supervisors make these decisions on a daily basis based on the facts in front of them to determine if violations warrant appropriate discipline. Many employees will be shocked to know that the board now takes the position that no one, most specifically, the chief of police, can be disciplined or fired until he is convicted of a crime! Is that the standard that the board is using now? Can anyone truly say with a straight face that there is not a double standard here? Why don't you ask them?

The chief of police is an employee of the tribe and this matter has nothing to do with his position as a member of the

board of directors. The members of his unit will make the decision as to whether or not he will be retained as a member of the board in much the same way as I will be judged by the members in my unit. As I stated in my previous unit reports, the official misconduct of the chief of police is now well documented in the following article in the Detroit Free Press, "Assault case topples Greektown Casino chairman," which can be read at www.freep.com.

On the agenda for the Jan. 15, 2007, board meeting, an alarming change to the Election Code will be considered to require tribal members who live outside of the service area to travel to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to vote. For Detroiters, that would be a five-hour drive. For those who live on the East Coast and who do not fly to one of these polling sites, it's a 20-hour drive one way. For those on the West Coast, it's two days one way. The Election Committee's proposal is offensive and discriminatory to the 62 percent of our members who live outside of the U.P. of Michigan. This proposal also puts those who live in the rural areas of the U.P. at a disadvantage. For example, if you live in Escanaba, you'd have to travel to Manistique (60 miles) to vote.

We currently have an absentee system that works well enough and if election fraud was a major concern, an absentee ballot system with signature cards should have been considered—just like the recent secretarial election to change the constitution run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They had no concern with election fraud under this system. Perhaps it would even be better if an outside accounting firm handled and counted the absentee ballots. This proposal, if adopted, will basically disenfranchise over half of our members from voting, something that I vigorously oppose. Once again, as I reported in one of my previous unit reports, "It seems that this board has declared war on the membership and they intend to get their way." This latest last minute revision to the election code, if adopted, is a tactical nuclear weapon launched against our membership that will basically wipeout over half of our membership from voting!

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at: Todd K. Gravelle, Attorney at Law, 713 Maple Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. My phone number is: (906) 322-3822, or you can E-mail me at: tgravelle@saulttribe.net.

Board calls workshop, not official meeting



KEITH MASSAWAY, DIRECTOR, UNIT III

We are now going into a new election cycle. The misinformation mill has been

working overtime. I am not up for re-election. I do feel that I must defend myself against accusations leveled at me. Many members have received e-mails and mailings stating that the board of directors had an illegal meeting last month. This meeting was a workshop and it was not illegal, not closed, not in violation of our Constitution and all board and staff were notified in advance of the workshop.

The workshop was held to discuss why our chairman had changed the organizational chart (the chart that shows who reports to whom). The board of directors, in full compliance of the constitution, had previously

voted to revise the organizational chart. The chairman then refused to implement the new chart and then made a chart of his own and implemented that chart. The chart that he implemented takes the board of directors completely out of the organizational chart and delegates them to only receiving information. This chart puts the chairman in charge of everything. Not only is that unacceptable but he does not have the power in the constitution to make such a change. He also implemented this change immediately after the last board meeting of the month of December knowing the next board meeting was not to be

held until Jan. 15. The board of directors does not have the power to call a special meeting of the board, only the chairman does. This is why we called a workshop on this matter so we could discuss what had happened. NO action can be taken at a workshop and none was.

When the chairman was informed that a workshop was scheduled he sent out an order to all employees and directors of divisions that if anyone attended the workshop they could be terminated. No one showed from the staff, and none could be reached by phone. To keep all personnel from the board is a very serious act. It of all things troubled

me the most.

I apologize for being confrontational but I will not stand for personal attacks on me and I will stand up for our tribe. Please contact me or the other board members to get a better understanding of the current political picture. We do not have access or resources to call, write or e-mail you. According to our laws we must first hear from you to obtain your information before we can contact you. Please keep an open mind and try to get more than one side of the story.

kmassaway@msn.com
906 643-6981
702 Hazelton St.
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Holiday season events joyous fun

SAULT STE. MARIE — Assistant Executive Chef of Dream-Catcher's Restaurant inside Kewadin Casino in the Sault, Doug Hartley (right) said he thought making gingerbread houses to display at the restaurant would be a good project to keep employees interested and give them something different to do.

"The houses are all made of ginger bread, there is nothing on them that you can't eat. I didn't let them use paper, cardboard, wood, anything that isn't edible. It took about two weeks in our spare time to make them. After the gingerbread is baked

it has to dry for a day or two before we can do anything with it. Then after it is put together it has to dry again, it takes about six days for the drying process. The royal icing that we use to frost the houses is made from egg whites, powdered sugar and cream of tartar and sets up as hard as plaster. You could almost sand it. The houses can be shellacked and used next Christmas and would last forever. I don't know if we are going to do that, some of the employees wanted to take the ones they made home to their families," he said.

The Emergency Assistance Fund Raffle

drawing was held on the afternoon of Dec. 19 at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in the Sault. Chairperson Aaron Payment drew the winning tickets. Top prize winners were Tom Sauro with a trip to Greektown (2 night stay, 4 dinner tickets, 4 Red Wing tickets), Ann Suggitt with \$1,500 spending money at Northern Hospitality and Wanda Paquin won a \$1,500 shopping spree at select local businesses.

The Dress Down Committee coordinated the annual raffle which was open to employees of the Sault Tribe's governmental, enterprises, and casino operations.



Assistant Executive Chef of DreamCatcher's Restaurant inside Kewadin Casino in the Sault, Doug Hartley (R) shows off gingerbread houses. Standing next to Doug is Bakers Helper Brandon Lietzke (L) and Lead Baker Tina Cory (center).



Chairperson Aaron Payment, with Dress Down Fund Committee members standing behind him, drew winning tickets for the Emergency Assistance Fund Raffle.

2008 Board of Directors Meetings

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors has set its 2008 Calendar. General meetings of the Board of Directors are held the first and third Tuesday of the month. All general meetings start at 6 p.m. All Sault meetings will be held at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center, other locations to be announced. For further information please call Joanne at 635-6050, ext. 26337 or Tara at ext. 26338.

DATE	LOCATION
Jan. 15	Kincheloe
Feb. 5	Sault Ste. Marie
Feb. 19	St. Ignace
March 4	Sault Ste. Marie
March 18	Hessel
April 1	Sugar Island
April 15	Sault Ste. Marie
May 6	Sault Ste. Marie
May 20	Manistique
June 3	Escanaba
June 17	Marquette
July 1	Mackinac Island
Aug. 5	Munising
Aug. 19	Newberry
Sept. 2	Sault Ste. Marie
Sept. 16	Manistique
Oct. 7	Munising
Oct. 21	St. Ignace
Nov. 4	Sault Ste. Marie
Nov. 18	Hessel
Dec. 2	Sault Ste. Marie

How do you get an Indian name and clan?

How do you get an Indian Name and a Clan? Can a Medicine Man give it to you? How do they find it and why do you need a name in the first place?

Boozhoo.

Happy New Year! The Aunties ushered in 2008 by dancing in the circle at the Sault Tribe Sobriety Powwow. They had a great time and they said the food was exceptional this year. They are also very excited because this year they were chosen to be featured in a special calendar called, "Aunties With Attitude," but that's another story. Let's get to that question, okay?

The Aunties tell me that according to their understanding of the Anishinaabe way of living, a name gives you direction. It helps to direct you in accordance with your special gifts and abilities. It can aid in showing you who you are, as well as help you to be more effective in the world around you.

Ask the Aunties



There are several ways in which you can receive a name. The most common now-

a-days is to bring Asemaa (tobacco) to a healer, medicine person, or someone that you know has that gift, and ask them if they can find that name for you. Regardless of who you ask, it should be someone that you respect and trust. You can also ask them for your clan as well. Your clan is very important, but the Aunties said they would need more time to talk to you about that.

Medicine people (or the one you have given Asemaa to) have dedicated their lives to seeking answers from the ancestors and all of Creation. They have developed a relationship with the spirits through prayer, fasting, sweating, ceremony, and meditation. That's why it might be a bit easier for them to "hear" the answers to their questions. There might be some responsibilities on the part of the person asking for a name, but it is best to talk about those with the person you have given Asemaa to. There are other ways to acquire your name

as well. Some have gotten it while on their Fast, in a sweat lodge, or through a dream. All of these methods are valid and should be regarded as having been acquired divinely. Each individual has the same potential to be able to have a relationship with the spirits as anyone else. The Creator speaks to everyone, whether you are listening or not is another matter.

The Aunties wanted me to pass on that if you want to know more about getting your name or clan you can call Community Health (located in the Health Center) and set up an appointment with Harlan Downwind, or you can bring Asemaa to an elder or spiritual leader in your community. You can also call the Cultural Department at (906) 632-7494 and they can help you as well.

Until we speak again, the Aunties wish everyone good health and happiness in the upcoming year.

Baamaa Pii Miinwaa Kiwaabmin

Anishinaabe Bimaadizwin

Photos and stories by the Cultural Division

The Cultural Department has moved!

The Cultural Division, which is a resource to tribal members and surrounding communities, has moved its location from Greenough Street to 531 Ashmun Street, which is located downtown next door to the Administration Department. The department primarily offers traditional cultural teachings, history, and knowledge that helps to preserve and perpetuate our Anishinaabe bimaadziwin (good life of the people).

The Cultural Division is comprised of six departments: Language (Anishinaabemowin), History (Gaa Bi-Zhiwebag), Training (Kinoomaagewin Maagwid), Mary Murray Cultural Camp (Anishinaabek Edinokiiwad), Repatriation (Naadin Eshpendaagwak) and Administration (Naadamaageng Tek). In addition, the Cultural Division provides the cultural leave program for team members, and serves as a positive role model in the community.

The Cultural Division is very excited to be working together with the tribal newspaper in presenting cultural information to the membership. Every month we will be featuring one or more of the departments in the Cultural Division in order to keep the membership aware of what the division has to offer. We look forward to sharing with the Sault Tribe membership all of the efforts and hard work on behalf of the Cultural Division.

At this time we would like to present the Cultural Division staff to you, the membership.

Bud Biron has worked for the tribe for 16 years, and has been cultural camp coordinator since 1996 and drum keeper of the Bahweting Singers. Bud comes from Sugar Island and the Sault area. He is married and has five children.

"I was taught by my elders to learn our language, culture and traditional beliefs and to pass that on to the people. As the culture camp coordinator I am walking that vision," said Biron.

Josh Homminga works with Biron as the outreach coordinator for the Mary Murray Culture Camp. He is 29 and has lived in Bahweting for his entire life. Homminga is married and has two children, and is a member of the Bahweting Singers.

"I enjoy working for the camp because it is a place for



Cultural Division staff (Back, L-R) Leonard Kimowin, Josh Homminga, Bud Biron, Cecil Pavlat, Art Leighton, (Front, L-R) Laura Porterfield, and Nancy Debassige. Not in picture: Elaine Young (see below).

our people to learn about our way of life," said Homminga.

Laura Porterfield also works with Biron and Homminga as the assistant camp coordinator for the Mary Murray Cultural Camp. Laura is 23 and has lived in the U.P. all of her life. She graduated with an associates degree from LSSU, and transferred from Youth Education and Activities to her current position.

"It has been an exciting start thanks to Bud, Josh and all of the Cultural Department staff," Porterfield said.



Elaine Young also works for the Cultural Department as the cultural training specialist. She has been employed

with the tribe for 15 years, and has a bachelor's degree in business administration from LSSU. Her family is originally from Sugar Island and Manitoulin Island, Ontario. She is the mother of three children, Alicia, Alex and Autumn, and is a life-long resident of the Sault.

"I enjoy golfing and spending time with my family," Young said.

Cecil Pavlat is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe

Cultural Division Mission Statement

To be a resource for tribal members, communities, traditional cultural teachings, and knowledge that preserves and perpetuates our Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin.

of Chippewa Indians. He has been married to Karol Weaver for 36 years and is the father of two children and proud grandfather of a grandson and granddaughter. Pavlat is the tribe's cultural repatriation specialist, and he has been instrumental in returning several of our ancestral remains to their appropriate homelands.

"I believe that strong cultural ties to our heritage are necessary to help rekindle and preserve our tribal beliefs and traditions for future generations," said Pavlat.

Nancy Debassige's first language is Anishinaabemowin. She was born on Manitoulin Island, Canada, and is the mother of two children and grandmother of five. Nancy has been working for the tribe as a language instructor since 2002.

"I believe that it is essential to transmit language and cultural knowledge to the future generations if we are to maintain our unique sovereignty

and identity as Anishinaabe people," said Debassige.

Leonard Kimewon was born Wikwemikong on Manitoulin Island, Ontario. He has been working with Debassige and the Language Department for nine months. Kimewon's first language is Anishinaabemowin. He is married to Elizabeth and they have five children and 10 grandchildren. Kimewon co-teaches language classes with Debassige, throughout the seven-county service area.

"Talking the language with other people, for me, is always a lot of fun," Kimewon said.

Art Leighton Ph.D. is the tribal historian for the Sault Tribe. Leighton is a graduate of Purdue University, where he earned his Ph.D. Leighton has over 10 years of teaching experience, and has served as a cultural and historical consultant for several projects, including being the Ojibwe Interpretive Center planner for the Sault Tribe.

Leighton is the recipient of many awards and fellowships, including the 1999 Purdue University Research Foundation Dissertation Fellowship. Art resides on Sugar Island, is married and has two children.

"Knowing your history is knowing yourself," he said.

Upcoming Cultural Events for February

For more information please call the Cultural Department at (906) 632-7494.

Mary Murray Culture Camp

Jan. 18-19 Winter Survival Camp

Feb. 8- 9, Flute Camp

Feb. 15-16, Rattle Camp

March 1, Story-telling at Niigaanagiizhik, starts at 12 p.m.

Drum Practice—Mondays, 7-9 p.m. at Niigaanagiizhik

Language Classes

Monday 6-8 p.m., Hessel

Wednesdays 12-1 p.m.,

Lunch Bunch at Cultural Dept.

Wednesday 6-8 p.m.,

Manistique

Thursdays 6-8 p.m.,

Niigaanagiizhik

Historical Presentations

February through April, Art Leighton will present Native American art and its historical relevance in Native and non-Native societies.

Training Events and Presentations

Elaine Young will present "What Was Never Told Series" January through June at the Cultural Dept. training room. She will also present this series in St. Ignace. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to experience a moving and powerful series of Anishinaabe history from creation to contemporary times.

Repatriation

On Jan. 23, the Sault Tribe will be hosting the first quarterly meeting of 2008 MACPRA (Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance) at Niigaanagiizhik from 9-4 p.m.

MACPRA is an alliance of the 12 federally recognized tribes and two state historic tribes of Michigan. This alliance deals with issues regarding grave protection or any issues regarding traditional cultural properties. Cultural preservation is a vast field that encompasses a variety of concerns.

Cultural Events by American Indian Substance Abuse Sault Tribe Health Division

Jan. 24-27, Women's Gathering. AISA (American Indian Substance Abuse), has several cultural events through out the upcoming year.

For more information, please call Selina at (906) 635-6075.

Anishi

nabemowin Corner

A prayer and translation. Use the pronunciation guide at right to sound it out.

Gchi Miigwech

Gichi Miigwech Gzhemnido
Kina gegoo gii miizhiyann
Miinwaa ngoding gii giizigak,
Giiziz gii binaabid.
Gichi Miigwech gii miizhiyaang
Wisa Bimaadziwin.
Wiidookwishnaang ji namaayaang
Gwe'ek ji bimooseyaang.

Great Thanks

Great thanks Creator for all things that you have given to all of us, and for one more day of the sun looking down on us. Great thanks for giving all of us our way of life. Help all of us in our prayers that we walk a straight path.

by Nancy Debassige



a	i	o	
aa	ii	oo	e

Long Vowels:	Short Vowels:
'a' sounds like the u in but.	'aa' sounds like saw.
'i' sounds like the English word bit.	'ii' sounds like knee
	'oo' sounds like hole.
'o' sounds like the 'o' in wolf.	'e' sounds like led.

Housing Authority saves money building ramps

BY DANIELLE MONGENE,
SAULT TRIBE HOUSING

A priority of the Sault Tribe Housing Authority is to provide safe, decent, sanitary housing that is affordable for both residents and management.

We serve more than 500 families in our program, so every dollar is carefully managed. Housing tries to meet all the families' needs and remain in compliance with HUD's eligibility requirements when using our federal grant dollars. In accomplishing that goal, Housing management is always looking for resources to supplement those funds and allows us to use the expertise of our own carpenters to construct whatever is needed.

Joni Talentino, president of United Way of Chippewa County and deputy director for the Sault Tribe Housing Authority, recently recognized



Sault Tribe Housing Authority is getting needed ramps for elderly and handicapped residents in place and saving money doing it by training themselves to build ramps that meet accessibility codes.

that both agencies are trying to address a need of many families in our community. Providing ramps on an existing home can be quite costly — as much as \$7,000 for a pre-made steel ramp designed specifically for a house. Talentino, with the

help of Molly Paquin, executive director of United Way of Chippewa County, provided Arlon Goforth, field superintendent for Sault Tribe Housing, with a manual and video explaining how a ramp can be built that meets all accessibility



Photos courtesy Housing Authority

codes and will ensure the safety of the user.

Sault Tribe Housing Authority is starting to implement this new procedure and is currently building ramps. We are saving \$2,000 to \$3,000 per ramp, allowing us to use

those funds for other housing projects. The men building these ramps for our elderly and handicapped residents are Dan Maleport and Fred Albon.

Thanks go to our experienced and talented carpenters and United Way for sharing.

Patricia Allard is ACFS team member of the year



The 2007 ACFS team member of the year is Patricia Allard (pictured at left with ACFS interim director Juanita Bye (L-R), a victim advocate at the Advocacy Resource Center and Women's Lodge of Bravery. She was nominated by her ACFS colleagues.

"Pat has taught me a lot about helping domestic violence victims," said one colleague.

Another colleague wrote, "Pat has always made a connection with all the clients I have referred for victims services. She has excellent contacts to help clients with legal aid using both local and Native legal affairs."

Allard participates on several tribal committees and task groups, fund-raising and pow-wow dancing.

As a traditional Anishinaabe woman she is able to add a cultural component to all the help and support she offers her clients.

"Pat is always positive with the referring person and the client will identify the strengths and has no problem addressing the issues at hand," summed up one colleague.



USDA Food Distribution news

The Department of Agriculture has discontinued the distribution of butter, vegetable oil and corn syrup because of fat and sugar content. Pineapple has also been discontinued because it is not an American product, according to USDA Program Director Tony Nertoli.

But new food products are on their way. Slated for distribution beginning March 2008 are ham, one percent milk and beef club roast, according to Nertoli.

The USDA program director

is proud of his staff who will be presenters and demonstrators at the Midwest Region National Conference for the Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations. These are the same staff members who provide services locally to tribal members.

On another note, Nertoli would like to assure tribal members that there is no favoritism in giving out food items. "It is important to emphasize that all items in our warehouse are distributed to all eligible

tribal members. We do not hold back items in the warehouse from our tailgate distribution," he said. "Our orders are done on a computerized system with set delivery dates. We can only order food based on our participation and availability of food that the USDA has purchased for the program."

The Sault Tribe USDA Food Distribution Program has 10 delivery locations and services in 15 counties. For more details, call (906) 635-6076 or toll free at (888) 448-8732.

Holiday reflections from Human Resources

BY BARB SMUTEK, RECRUITER

It is time once again to take the bulbs off of the Christmas tree. As we put away our Christmas decorations, let's remember all of the good cheer that we felt throughout the holiday season and hold onto it all year. Whether you gave money to your favorite charity, bought a present for a needy child, vis-

ited an elderly family member or neighbor, adopted an animal, allowed a stranger to cut in line at the super market or simply appreciated the time that you spent with your family, you made a difference. Your kindness was noticed and appreciated.

The new year is upon us and as it is every year, it gives us

pause to reflect upon last year. As we think about our greatest accomplishments it quickly becomes evident that they involve helping people. That is of course what human resource management is all about. We truly appreciate all of the people that we were able to assist throughout the year and are looking forward to being able to help even more people.



Sault Tribe members Brianna Leask and her father, Noah Leask, are members of the Mount Pleasant, S.C., Spirit United Soccer Team that won Gold at the Low Country Special Olympics Tournament held on Oct. 13, 2007, in Charleston, S.C. The Spirit United Team played two very intense games against the City of Charleston and Dorchester Soccer Teams.

New Year's resolutions and tobacco cessation

BY KIM SAKIS, CERTIFIED TOBACCO CESSATION SPECIALIST

It's time once again to resolve old habits. If you are trying to decide which one to change, maybe you should think about which one will give you the biggest bang for your buck. Even better, pick the one with the biggest bang that's free! In that category, there is no question that quitting smoking or chewing tobacco will give you the most benefit.

The Sault Tribe Health Center and community centers,

throughout the seven-county service area, offer tobacco cessation (quitting smoking or chewing tobacco) free of charge for eligible patients and clients. Those eligible are Sault Tribe members, spouses and dependents, other federally recognized Native Americans, and Sault Tribe employees who carry NGS insurance or other insurance that covers tobacco cessation medications. There is no co-charge or other fees involved with the program.

What is the Tobacco Cessation Program? What do I

need to do to enroll? What medications are offered? Below are the answers to these frequent questions.

The Tobacco Cessation Program includes one-on-one consultation to discuss a plan that will increase your confidence and motivation to be successful. Many believe that just getting medication like Chantix or the nicotine patch is all that is needed to quit. Many do quit with just medication, but STAYING quit is another story. It is proven that counseling prepares you to quit for good,

along with medication, increases your chances for long-term success. In fact, the more contact you have with one of our tobacco consultants, the better that increased chance will be. We want your plan to be individualized to meet your needs; therefore, we do not offer a group program. You must meet with one of our consultants to enroll in the program.

To enroll, you need to be established with a Sault Tribe healthcare provider or doctor, and have seen him or her within the past several months. If you have, you can make an appointment with your provider to get you started, or you may call Community Health Services for an appointment with a tobacco consultant. If you have not recently seen your provider, you will need to see him or her before cessation medications can be received.

At Sault Tribe, we have many cessation medications to choose from. This choice is between you and your provider or your tobacco consultant. Which one is decided on will be based on each individual. What you have used in the past, whether you have any contraindications (for example, allergies to the patch), and your lifestyle



will help determine your choice. Available at Sault Tribe pharmacies are Chantix, Bupropion, and the nicotine patch, gum, and lozenge.

Medications are helpful to ease withdrawal from nicotine, but it really takes much more than just medications. They are a temporary part of quitting, designed only to help with withdrawal and cravings. You will need a good plan to overcome some of the difficulties on your journey to staying quit. We want to help you become successful in quitting for good. Start your new year off by taking a huge leap in becoming healthy. Please call (906) 632-5210 or your local Sault Tribe Health Center for more information or to enroll in the program.

Youth Council fair celebrates Native health

Families enjoyed a visit with Santa at the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Youth Council "Celebrate Native Health Project" Health Fair. This event was sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Celebrate Native Health Project. The aim of the health fair was to promote healthy lifestyles for families and children. (See more photos on page 16.)



Photo by Community Health

Enough sleep is as important as what you eat

BY CHARLA GORDON, NUTRITIONIST, HEALTHY HEART PROJECT

Did you wake up this morning well rested and ready to greet the day's activities with renewed energy? Many of us did not – we may have kept the lights on late to craft, read, play, study, work, exercise, talk, do housework, worry or watch TV. We often treat sleep as if it is a luxury not a necessity.

Research is now showing us that getting enough sleep is as important as what we eat and how much we move our bodies to keep healthy. Lack of sleep has now been related to the development of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and more. Our bodies may treat lack of sleep like an infection or injury and cause changes (inflammation) that contribute to those diseases. Lack of sleep also affects hormones that control our appetites. Have you ever noticed that when you are over-tired you eat more or eat foods you normally would not eat?

Where do good sleep habits

start?

- Take a look at your bedroom and kick out the TV, computer, stereo, craft table, clutter and food snacks – make your bedroom a restful place and use it for sleeping.

- Stick with a regular time to go to bed and to wake up – even on weekends and days off.

- Go to bed when you are drowsy – if you cannot fall asleep within 20 minutes get out of bed, go do a quiet activity until you feel drowsy, go back to bed – repeat this as often as you need to throughout the night. You are trying to retrain your body to sleep in bed – not to lie there, worry, plan or toss and turn.

- Try turning down the temperature in your bedroom – keep it cooler for restful sleep.

- Stay away from caffeine, nicotine and alcohol late in the day.

- If you nap during the day, keep it short. Experts recommend naps be 30 minutes to one hour long, no more.

- Plan your exercise for

earlier in the day – at least six hours before bedtime for strenuous exercise and four hours for mild exercise.

- Light snacks before sleep may help you sleep, but large meals may interfere with snooze time.

- Regular patterns throughout the day will help you sleep at night – keep to a schedule for meals, medicines, chores, exercise, and other tasks that will help your internal clock run smoothly.

If you find you are waking up from your own snoring, or have the feeling that you cannot breathe, have a pounding or racing heart, or headaches, you may need to talk with your doctor about sleep apnea. Sleep apnea is a sleep disorder where the throat muscles relax and block breathing – the brain senses this and causes you to wake up so that you can breathe. You might not even be aware of how many times you are waking up at night – therefore not getting the restful sleep you need. Snoring can be a sign of something serious, get it checked out.



Photo by Community Health

HOLIDAY STRESS BREAK STATION – Betty Noland and Julie Trestrail assist Karen Kucharczyk and Jan Pittman with assembling holiday birdfeeders. Sault Tribe Community Health sponsored a "holiday stress break" on Dec. 19. The annual event shows appreciation for the hard work done by employees of the Sault Tribe Health Center and Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, who could enjoy massages, dance to the Dance Dance Revolution, work sudokus and other holiday puzzles, sample aromatherapy, make crafts and sip cider tea.

Harwood Properties implements smoke-free policy

The Chippewa County Substance Abuse Coalition recently recognized the owner of Harwood Properties, Inc., Deb Harwood, and manager Alicia Cottle, for implementing a smoke-free policy in three of their apartment buildings. Harwood is the first private owner of a larger apartment complex in the Sault Ste. Marie area to provide smoke-free apartment options for tenants.

The policy went into effect for two of six Woodfield Terrace Apartment buildings on Dec. 1. The Bingham Avenue Apartments will be smoke-free beginning Jan. 1.

The smoke-free policy requires that the apartments be a non-smoking environment in addition to the common areas and hallways that are already regulated by the Chippewa County Clean Indoor Air

Regulation. Sidewalks, patios and any area within 25 feet of the building are also designated as smoke-free. Harwood chose to grandfather in three tenants who smoke.

"We are making an effort to provide smoke-free apartment options to people that are looking for housing in our area," said Harwood. "We have been learning about the smoke-free apartment initiative for over a

year now, receiving information from the Health Department and their smoke-free air partners. We also started to receive requests for smoke-free apartments. All of this helped us make our decision to offer smoke-free apartment options."

"A key piece of information that also helped us with our decision were the results of the tenant survey," added Cottle. "We thought it would be inter-

esting to find out how many of our tenants would prefer to live in a smoke-free building. The survey results were very supportive with 75 percent of the tenants that replied preferring to live in a smoke-free building and 69 percent indicating that they did not allow guests to smoke in their apartments."

For more information call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

Young Scholars Program offered to fall 2007 - 2008 high achievers *Submit your application by February 29*

Sault Tribe's Youth Education and Activities Program (YEA) will be accepting applications for the Young Scholars Program for the fall semester/trimester of the 2007-08 school year. Students may apply twice a year, once in January and once again in June.

The purpose of this program is to recognize the hard work and dedication of our tribe's students in grades six through 12 who have received all A grades or perfect attendance for at least one marking period through the school year. Students may receive an award up to \$50 in a semester and \$33 in a trimester in which all A grades or perfect attendance was achieved with a maximum award of \$100 per school year.

To be eligible, a student must be an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and be in grades six through 12 at a public or private school.

To qualify for all A grades, students must receive some form of an A grade (A+, A, A-) in all courses for a marking

period. Students in schools that grade on a numerical basis must receive the equivalent of these A grades to qualify. In such cases, please attach a letter stating the school's grade equivalency with the application.

To qualify for perfect attendance, students must have been in school or at a school function each full day of the marking period with the report card stating zero absences. If the school does not mark attendance on the report card, then please send a letter from the school attendance officer, principal or assistant principal stating that the student had perfect attendance and for what marking period. Excused absences do not constitute perfect attendance.

To qualify for the program, the following information must be received by Feb. 29: A completed application, a copy of the student's report card signed by a parent or a letter from an administrator at the school stating the marking periods for which the student earned all A grades or perfect attendance and a copy of the student's Sault Tribe

membership card. The information can be mailed to the Young Scholars

Program, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. All information must be received by Feb.

29, 2008. *(Please see the Young Scholars Program application below.)*

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Young Scholars Program Application Form (6th through 12th grade)

Student's Name:		Age:	Grade:
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Home Phone:		Email:	
School Name:		School Phone:	
All A's - number of marking periods	Perfect Attendance - number of marking periods	Social Security Number - Mandatory	

Please attach the following:

1. A copy of the student's report card signed by his/her parent and/or a letter from an administrator in his/her school stating the marking periods for which he/she have had all A's and/or perfect attendance;
2. A copy of the student's Sault Tribe membership card; (If the student does not have a card please call Enrollment to request one)

I certify that all the information given is true and correct. I understand that this information is being given for the receipt of funds and the Sault Tribe Education's Department officials may verify the information on the application with my child's school.

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____

Please mail the preceding information to:

**The Young Scholars Program
2 Ice Circle
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

All information must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 29, 2008 to be eligible for the program. If you have any questions, please call (906) 635-7010 and ask for Sylvia Shannon or Angeline Matson.

Bay Mills Community College invites public input

Bay Mills Community College (BMCC) in Brimley, Mich., is scheduled for a re-accreditation visit on March 3-5, 2008.

BMCC (www.bmcc.edu) is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Public comment is welcome as part of the re-accreditation

process.

Any public comments should be directed to Dr. Stephen Yanni, Bay Mills Community College, 12214 W. Lakeshore Drive, Brimley, MI 49715, or by e-mail, syanni@bmcc.edu.

All public comments received will be forwarded to the accrediting agency.

Totzones getting under way at Chi Mukwa!

The Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center has several totzones scheduled for this winter. Totzones are designed for little ones age 5 and under.

The facility organizes children's activities in the basketball court related to the weekly theme. In addition, there is disco lighting and children's music playing. Participants are encouraged to bring their ride on toys, push toys, trikes, strollers, and so forth. Adult supervision is required, so this is a great opportunity for parents to meet other parents and for the little ones to interact with other little ones.

The upcoming totzone is scheduled for Jan. 26. The theme is "Start Your Engines." Some of the ways children can participate in the theme is by dressing in Disney Pixar's Car's



apparel or other racing apparel, bring in race cars, trucks, or airplanes, and participate in our transportation games and activities.

The totzones are like large play dates for the children. They get the chance to get out of the cold and meet new friends. The upcoming dates for the totzones are Feb. 9 and 23, March 8, and April 5 and 19. For more information, please contact Chi Mukwa at (906) 635-7465.



Photo Courtesy Recreation

Totzone at Chi Mukwa is for children 5 and under.



Photo Courtesy Recreation

WINNERS — The Merch Team is the winner of Chi Mukwa's Adult Hockey League.

Winter Recreation Opportunities

For more information call Jessica at (906) 635-7770.

LEARN TO SWIM AT LSSU

Begins Jan. 21. Call Jessica to register.



OPEN SWIM AT LSSU

Fridays, 5-7 p.m.
Sundays, 7-9 p.m.

OPEN SKATE AT LITTLE BEAR EAST

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.



Tribal members!

Before you move to your new address, call tribal enrollment to let them know where you are headed! That way you won't miss one issue of your tribal paper.

Call (800) 251-6597.

CLASSES**Anishinaabemowin**

Language Class, Jan. 2-Dec. 17, Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m., 531 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. No sign up necessary. Please bring your brown bag lunch. Call Language Instructor Nancy Debassige for information, (906) 632-6050.

Dewege (to drum), Jan. 7-Dec. 29, 7-9 p.m. every Monday at the Niigaanagiiizhik building. The Dewegan (drum) is the heartbeat of our people the Anishinaabe. Come down and participate by singing, dancing, or just to listen to the Bahweting Singers. For more information, call Bud at (906) 632-7494.

Enrichment Classes for Elders: Sign up now. Spaces are limited, call (906) 635-7010. Classes are open to anyone 55 and older, offered by Community Consolidated School Services through a 2 percent grant from the Sault Tribe: Scrapbook/photo album class; Watercolor Sketchbook Journaling for Beginners; Singing and Playing the Guitar Class; Stained Glass for Beginners.

GED Classes: Sault Tribe Adult Learning Center free GED classes at the JKL Bahweting School, 1301 Marquette Ave., Sault Ste. Marie (middle school building in back). You do not need to be a tribal member or employee to attend. Classes meet Monday through Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. For additional information, contact George H. Snider Consolidated Community Schools Services at (906) 632-6098.

Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe Language class), 6-8 p.m. held Thursdays at the Niigaanagiiizhik building, in Sault Ste. Marie. Classes are taught through immersion in the Ojibwe language. Call the Cultural Division at (906) 632-7494 for more information.

Start your Engines, Totzone: Jan. 26 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. For tots 5 and under at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center.

Sweethearts, Totzone, Feb. 9 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. For tots 5 and under at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center. For more information call (906) 635-RINK (see *Totzone story on page 26*.)

ELDER MEETINGS

Jan. 21: The Unit II Hessel Elderly Committee will hold their monthly meeting the third Monday of every month after the noon meal at the Hessel Tribal Center. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Jan. 21, Feb. 4, Feb. 18: The Unit V Munising Elderly Committee will hold its monthly meetings at the Munising Tribal Center (Lincoln School), 4:30 p.m., the first Monday of the month. On the third Monday of the month the dinner is at 6 p.m. Entrance to the building is off Munising Ave. (M 28) across from the Legion. Please use the west entrance. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Jan. 25: The Unit II

Newberry Elderly Committee will hold their monthly meeting the fourth Friday of every month at 11 a.m. at Zellars Village Inn in Newberry. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Jan. 28: The Elderly Advisory Board meeting at 12:30 p.m. at the Newberry Tribal Center. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Jan. 30: The Unit II Naubinway Elderly Committee will hold its monthly meeting the last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Monthly location to be announced. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Feb. 6: The Unit I Sault Ste. Marie Elderly Committee will hold their monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of every month after the noon meal at the Nokomis/Mishomis Center 2076 Shunk Rd. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Feb. 7: The Unit V Marquette Elderly Committee will hold their monthly meetings the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at Walstroms Restaurant. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Feb. 8: The Unit III St. Ignace Elderly Committee will hold their monthly meeting the second Friday of every month after the noon meal at the McCann Building. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Feb. 13: Unit IV Manistique Elderly Committee will be holding monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of every month after the noon meal at the Manistique Tribal Center. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Feb. 14: The Unit IV Escanaba Elderly Committee will hold the monthly meeting the second Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Terrace Motor Inn. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

MEETINGS

Jan. 23: Unit III Board of Directors Fred Paquin and Keith Massaway are pleased to invite you to attend a Unit III meeting at 6 p.m. at the McCann Center, 399 McCann Street, St. Ignace. Please come share your ideas, questions and concerns with your tribal board representatives. For questions, please call Lona Stewart at (906) 635-6050.

Jan. 29: Special Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting, Sault Ste. Marie, 4 p.m., Kewadin Casino Convention Center. For more information, call Joanne or Tara at 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660.

Feb. 5: Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting, Sault Ste. Marie, 6 p.m. at the Kewadin Casino Convention Center. Open community hour is from 5 to 6 p.m. For further information, please call Joanne or Tara

at the administration office, (906) 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660, ext. 26337 or 26338.

Feb. 6: Culture Committee meeting at 6 p.m. at the Niigaanagiiizhik building in Sault Ste. Marie. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. For more information, call Jackie Minton at (906) 322-4975 cell or 495-5165.

Feb. 14: Unit V membership meeting at 6 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Center. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month. Please use the M-28 entrance of the building. For more information, call Shirley Petosky at (906) 387-2101.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Big Brothers/Big Sisters Texas Hold'em Tournament, Jan. 26 at Elk's Lodge, 1111 E. Portage. The entry fee is \$50. Registration is 12 p.m., Jan. 26. The tournament begins at 1 p.m., Jan. 26. For registration information, call Nick Oshelski at (906) 632-2856 or Big Brothers/Big Sisters at (906) 635-5188.

Sault Tribe Elders Unit I Annual Pancake Supper, Feb. 6, 4:30-7 p.m. at Nokomis/Mishomis Place 2076 Shunk Road. Pancakes, sausage, eggs and beverage \$4 adults, \$2 for children 5-12 and children under 5 are free. For questions call, Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Sault Tribe Artisans exhibit and sales, on the second Thursday and Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., located in the Bawating Art Gallery at Kewadin Casinos. Artisans requesting reservation of a table can do so by contacting the Artisan Advocate Sharon Downs at (906) 632-8368.

Artisans must be a Sault Tribe members.

George Carlin, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Dream Makers Theater, Sault Ste. Marie. For more information call 1-800-KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

Kenny Rogers performing Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Dream Makers Theater, Sault Ste. Marie. On-sale date and ticket price is TBA. For more information call 1-800-KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Success with Weight Loss Talking Circle, Jan. 23 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Community Center, 622 W. Superior St. Celebrate the achievements and learn how one tribal member Vicki Walden lost over 100 pounds without medications or surgery. For more information, call Cassie Britton RD (906) 387-4721.

The Caregiver Support Group, Jan. 30, at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room at the Avery Square Center, 510 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. For more information, call (906) 632-3363.

Success with Weight Loss Talking Circle, Jan. 30, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Marquette Tribal Community Center, 706 Chippewa Square, Suite 709. This will be a chance for those who are looking for support to

get some. For more information, call Cassie Britton RD at (906) 387-4721.

Recovery Meetings: The Sault Tribe's American Indian Substance Abuse program (AISA) offers space for a variety of new recovery meetings at the Shedawin Building at 2154 Shunk Road. Days and times that meetings are held include:

Sunday: Alcoholics Anonymous at 12 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous at 7 p.m. Tuesday: Alateen at 7 p.m. Coming soon.

Wednesday: Sewing/craft night at 7 p.m.

Thursday: Alanon at 7 p.m. Friday: Gamblers Anonymous at 7 p.m. Coming soon.

If you are interested in helping out the recovering community by chairing a meeting, please contact Karen Howell or Cindy Thomas at American Indian Substance Abuse at 1022 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call (906) 635-6075 or toll free at (800) 726-9105. Your help is needed to support these meetings. All recovery meetings are open and non-smoking.

Heart Support Group: educational support group that meets on the second Thursday of the month from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Sault Tribal Health Center. Watch for flyers, we have different topics each month. Come to the sessions of most interest to you. For more information, contact Betty Noland at (906) 632-5210.

Sault Tribe Diabetes Support Group: meets on the second Monday of the month from 6-8 p.m. at the Nokomis Mishomis Place (Eldercare/HeadStart Building - Shunk Road). New members always welcome. For more information, call Charla Gordon or Mary Ann Stott at (906) 632-5210.

Women's Cancer Support Group: meets on the second Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. at the Nokomis Mishomis Place (Eldercare/HeadStart Building - Shunk Road). Contact Mary Ann Stott for more information at (906) 632-5210.

TRACKS - 10-week program for weight management focusing on choosing and making lifestyle changes for improved health. Program offered in Sault Ste. Marie and Kincheloe areas throughout the year. Call Betty Noland or Charla Gordon at (906) 632-5210 for schedule and more information.

Weight Loss Clinic: Moving Toward Better Health: Program focuses on healthy weight loss. Two-year program beginning with eight weeks of classes and monthly support group. Provider referral required to attend this program. Call Sarah Willey or Kim Sakis at (906) 632-5210 for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tribal Foster Homes - There is a need for tribal foster homes. Make a difference in the life of a child, consider being a foster parent. Call ACFS at (906) 495-1232 or call (800) 347-7137.

Child Care Center Open

Enrollment: Open enrollment for 3- and 4-year-old children for the new pre-school classroom at the Sault Tribe Child Care Center in Sault Ste. Marie. Open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Accepting state and tribal child care assistance payments. Call (906) 632 5258 for more information or visit us at 2218 Shunk Road.

New Schedule for Television Broadcast of Board Meetings and Workshops

This is a public notice that the schedule for the televised broadcast of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors meetings and workshops on Charter Cable has changed.

Please note the Marquette broadcast has changed from Friday to Tuesday. The St. Ignace broadcast has moved from Monday to Friday and is now on Channel 2. Broadcast times have also been adjusted. The new scheduled is as follows:

Sault Ste. Marie: Thursday & Monday, Ch. 2, 3 p.m., 5 p.m.

St. Ignace, Friday, Ch. 2, starts at 9 a.m.

Escanaba: Wednesday, Ch. 8 2 p.m., 6 p.m.

Marquette: Tuesday, Ch. 8 7 p.m., 11 p.m.

A Bear Necessity After School Program: Space is still available at the A Bear Necessity After School Program at Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center. The program runs Monday to Friday; 3-5:30 p.m. Transportation is provided from Lincoln, Washington, JKL Bahweting and Soo Township schools. Activities include: sports, arts and crafts, ice skating, and organized games. For more information, please contact Christina Wilkins at (906) 635-4777.

Book your party at the Bear: Book your birthday party at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center! Skating parties and team parties are also welcome. Rent the ice rink, hospitality room, basketball or volleyball court for your special event. Call (906) 635 RINK for scheduling.

Tribal License Plates: The Munising Elders Unit V subcommittee will be selling the elder or member tribal license plates. Price is \$6 per plate. For more information please contact Shirley at (906) 387-2101 or Katherine at (906) 387-3299.

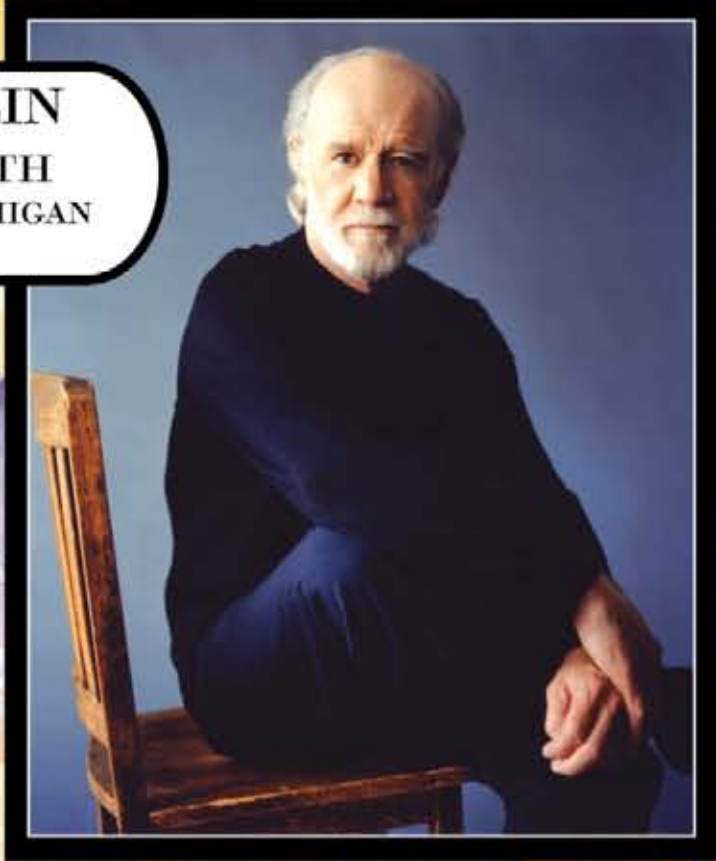
Nishnaabe Nanawndawichigewin (Traditional Medicine Program): Traditional healers are available for appointments at the Sault, Kinross, St. Ignace, Hessel, Manistique, Marquette, and Munising Health Centers. People visit a healer for physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and/or cultural reasons. At your appointment with a healer bring an offering of semaa (tobacco). All traditional healing is holistic. The root cause of the condition is addressed while the whole person is worked on. Reminder: women on their moon cycle should make an appointment before or after the cycle. For information please contact Ted Holappa (906) 632-5204 or Laura Collins (906) 632-0236 and Peggy Hemenway (906) 632-0220.

Don't Miss the Upcoming Entertainment Excitement at Kewadin Casinos!



AMERICA
FRIDAY, JANUARY 25TH
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
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KENNY ROGERS
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13TH
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
TICKETS ON SALE NOW



Promotions cannot be changed without prior approval by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Gaming Commission. Promotions can be cancelled at Management's discretion.

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