

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

November 14, 2014
Vol. 35 No. 11

Mshka'odin Giizis
Frozen Moon



Photo by Rick Smith

A meet and greet fundraising reception for U.S. Senate candidate Gary Peters took place at the Kewadin Shores Casino in St. Ignace on Oct. 20. Pictured with a presentation check of \$2,600, from left, Rod Nelson, president and CEO of Mackinac Straits Health System and event co-sponsor; Keven McAlister, Peters campaign staff member; Peters; Aaron Payment, chairman of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors and event co-sponsor; and Elisa Malile, Peters campaign staff member.

U.P. electric rates expected to rise 30 percent by Dec. 1

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Presque Isle Power Plant (PIPP) near Marquette, Mich., is at the center of a contentious federal legal battle about power and the costs associated with it — who benefits from it, who should be paying for it and what can the Upper Peninsula do to decrease reliability on energy transmission and increase energy generation, instead of relying on a 1950s era coal fired power plant that soon won't meet EPA regulations.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recently handed down a proposed increase to the U.P.'s cost of electricity. The increase is to cover the \$52 million annual

cost of running the Presque Isle Power Plant, plus \$64 million in needed upgrades to meet current EPA standards for a total of \$116 million, of which the U.P. would have to pay 99 percent if the hike goes through. It could take effect as soon as Dec. 1 and would mean an increase of about 30 percent, which for residential customers means they could see their bills jump up to an extra \$30 a month beginning with their January 2015 bill. Commercial accounts could pay an additional \$500 a month or more, forcing large industrial accounts to potentially close.

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), one

of the regulatory bodies overseeing electricity transmission in the U.P., determined the percentage (99 percent) by using the geographic boundaries of what is called a Load Balancing Authority (LBA). By using the LBA, MISO designated the U.P. as a 99 percent beneficiary of the continued running of the plant.

Some history:

October 2008, Public Act 286 passes, allowing iron ore mining or processing facilities to choose their electricity supplier. The same law limits choice for other consumers to only 10 percent of their utility's electric sales.

Summer of 2013, Cliffs, the largest electric consumer in the U.P., switches electric supplies from WE Energies to Integrys Energy Group. In August 2013, WE Energies notifies the MISO of the intended closure of PIPP, as continual operation was no longer profitable with Cliff's switch of suppliers representing an 85 percent loss of Michigan load.

October 2013, the MISO determines PIPP must be forced to stay open to maintain grid reliability in the area.

February 2014, the MISO agrees to pay WE Energies over \$52 million annually to keep PIPP open, with costs distributed based on a previous agreement that is being called a "historical accident."

March 2014, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission sues MISO at FERC for a more equitable distribution of costs associated with the continued operation of the plant.

See, "FERC," Page 19

WAN available by request only

ELDERS 60+ GET AUTOMATIC SUBSCRIPTION

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON,
EDITOR

Now in its 35th year, our tribal newspaper has been through many changes. In 1993, it went from a circulation of 800 to 13,000; now it's 20,000. It's been by paid subscription only, free to everyone, and in boxes for 25¢. It has even changed names.

Now is the time for our newspaper to make another big leap, due to ever rising postage and printing costs that have become cost-prohibitive. This average cost of printing and mailing has risen to \$11,000. To make matters more frustrating, we know there is waste but we don't know exactly where it is. To save thousands of dollars, prevent waste, and keep up with the times, we are changing to request-only.

Sault Tribe members who want print copies sent to their

homes must request it by filling out a form for a free subscription. That way, we are only sending it to members who want it. The exception is tribal elders 60 and over will still automatically receive it in their homes. All others will access the paper online or get it via the new Mobile App, which will be available soon.

This new distribution method becomes effective next month. There is no deadline for getting on the list. Each fall, all tribal members requesting a print copy will have to "renew" by sending in a request, along with their current address, to keep getting a print copy.

To continue receiving your print copy of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, please email or mail the form on page 2, which can also be found at www.saulttribe.com.

Get guidance on ACA

Now that the Affordable Care Act is here, a lot of confusion still exists about how to receive our exemptions, how to file taxes and for what to sign up. Here are some rules of thumb to get started:

If you are a tribal member or eligible for IHS services you have two options:

1. Apply for exemption through a marketplace application, OR
2. Do the exemption on your tax form. You do not need to have an exemption number to put in your taxes.

Members with coverage through their employer don't need to apply for an exemption.

Members with no insurance are encouraged to go to the Marketplace to see if they qualify for no-cost or low-cost insurance coverage or possibly Medicaid.

Although members can apply through the Marketplace or the tax filing process, individuals who are not members of federally recognized tribes but eligible to receive services from an Indian health care provider MUST apply for an exemption through the Marketplace.

Members receiving the exemption are encouraged to enroll in Medicaid, CHIP or QHP offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace if deemed eligible. By enrolling in Medicaid and CHIP, members are saving our tribe's health services precious resources.

Help is available in the Health Insurance Marketplace, **toll-free call center 24/7** at (800) 318-2596, **website chat 24/7** at healthcare.gov and **in-person assistance** with navigators at the Sault Tribe Health Center.

ATTENTION: Tribal Membership Ordinance amended

On Nov. 4, 2014, the Tribal Membership Ordinance was amended to allow the biological children of full bona fide members under the age of 21 to apply for membership. Applicants that are over 18 and under the age of 21 must fill out the enrollment application (www.saulttribe.com/images/enrollment%20form.pdf).

These applicants are subject to the \$25 non-refundable application fee. Applicants in this category will be required to furnish the documentation proving their Native ancestry. An enrolled relative can sign a release form to allow the applicant access to the documentation in their file to

complete the applicant's application.

Please contact the Enrollment Department for more information or to have an application sent to you.

Please remember, the biological children of full bona fide members under the age of 18 are free to enroll. Only an application filled out by the tribal parent and copy of the child's courthouse birth certificate is required.

Contact Information: Sault Tribe Enrollment Department, 2428 Shunk Rd., PO Box 1628, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, (906) 632-8552, (800) 251-6597, mmorehouse@saulttribe.net.

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NOTICES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO OUR TRIBE'S ELDERS —

Elders' dividend forms mailed Oct. 21

The Enrollment Department would like to notify all elders, age 60 and older as of Dec. 31, 2014, that the annual elder dividend forms were mailed on Oct. 21, 2014. If you did not receive a form and you are at least 60 years of age this year, please contact the Enrollment office at (800) 251-6597 or 632-8552. Checks will be mailed in January 2015. The amount of the checks is yet to be determined, but is based on the amount of interest the land claims account has accumulated over the year and how many elders are eligible to receive the check.

Sault Christmas lunch

The elders' Christmas luncheon for Units I, II and III is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Dec. 9, 2014, at the DreamMakers Theater at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

Sault Tribe job openings

Employment opportunities with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Apply online at www.saulttribe.myexacthire.com/searchjobs.php. Questions? Call (866) 635-7032 or email stemployment@saulttribe.net.

GOVERNMENTAL OPENINGS

Sault Ste. Marie and Kincheloe

- Diabetes program manager – regular, full time, open until filled.
- Family nurse practitioner/physician assistant – on-call, part time, open until filled.
- Family nurse practitioner/physician assistant – regular, full time/regular, open until filled.
- Gaming systems administrator (MIS) – regular, full time, open until filled.

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

- Physician supervisor (Manistique), regular, full time, open until filled.
- Community health nurse (St. Ignace), regular, part time, open until filled.
- Family nurse practitioner/physician (St. Ignace), regular, full time, open until filled.
- Child placement supervisor (Manistique), regular, full time, open until filled.
- Clinical social worker (St. Ignace), regular, full time, open until filled.

KEWADIN CASINO OPENINGS

- Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie
 - Electrician – regular, part time, open until filled.
 - Marketing director – regular, full time, open until filled.
- Kewadin Shores, St. Ignace
 - Restaurant assistant manager I – regular, full time, open until filled.
- Kewadin Manistique
 - Food and beverage manager II, regular, open until filled.
- Kewadin Christmas
 - Restaurant manager III – regular, full time, open until filled.
 - Casino manager III – regular, full time, open until filled.

Unit IV holiday meals

Marquette, Nov. 13, 6 p.m., at the Holiday Inn; Manistique, Dec. 4, at the Manistique Tribal Center; Escanaba, Dec. 11, 6 p.m., at Chip-In Casino.

To sign up for Manistique or Escanaba dinners, please call 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137.

Senior Employment Program job openings

A part-time clerk position with Community Health in Escanaba and a part-time maintenance worker position in Gwinn are open for Sault Tribe members 60 years of age or older who live in the tribe's service area. The closing date to apply for both positions is Dec. 5.

For more information about the clerical position, please reply to the Escanaba Tribal Community Health Center, 1401 N. 26th Street, Suite 105, Escanaba, MI 49829, 786-2636 or Nicole Krzyzanski at 341-8469 or (866) 401-0043.

For more information about the maintenance position, please reply to Sawyer Village, Attn: Joy

Page, 250 Voodoo, Gwinn, MI 49841 or call 346-3919.

Unit I pie sale Nov. 26

Reminder: Unit I elders' annual pie sale is on Tuesday, Nov. 26, at the Sault Tribe Health Center from 8 a.m. to noon.

Elders' trip canceled, rescheduled for April

The annual Unit I elders' trip this December is canceled. A new trip, to Nashville, is set for the end of April. Thirty-five people MUST sign up for the trip. Unit I

elders aged 60 and over and their spouses can sign up at the elders' building or call Annette King at 635-0718.

The general telephone numbers to reach Sault Tribe Elders Services are 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

To receive a FREE tribal newspaper subscription in the mail, tribal members under 60 are asked to complete the form below and send it to: Win Awenen Nisitotung, 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783, or email it to saulttribenews@saulttribe.net. Those 60 and over do not have to fill out this form. Those who prefer to get their newspaper online or by mobile app do not have to complete this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State and Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ (optional)

Email: _____ (optional)

Form 2014 - 2015



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT HEALTHY MICHIGAN ENROLLMENT EVENT COMING TO YOUR COMMUNITY

SATURDAY – NOVEMBER 15, 2014

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The **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)** – Also known as **Health Care Reform**, the **Affordable Care Act (ACA)** or **“Obamacare”** – is changing health care for **EVERYONE**. You can now find a quality health insurance plan that fits your needs and your budget, if no affordable employer-sponsored plan is available to you. Under this law:

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- No one can be denied coverage because they have a pre-existing condition.
- There is no sales pitch or fine print, just side-by-side comparisons of each plan.

Committee vacancies

The following committees have vacant seats. Interested Sault Tribe members should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation to Tara McKelvie, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Email tmckelvie@saulttribe.net or call (906) 635-6050 for any questions.

Sault Tribe Housing Authority, one vacancy for Unit IV member.
Special Needs/Enrollment Committee, one vacancy in Units II, III and IV.

Child Welfare Committee, five vacancies (must be able to pass a background check).

Election Committee, four vacancies.

Vacancies on elders committees:

- Unit I (Sault)**, one alternate seat.
- Unit II (Newberry)**, five regular seats and one alternate seat.
- Unit III (St. Ignace)**, one regular seat.
- Unit IV (Escanaba)**, one regular seat and one alternate seat.
- Unit V (Munising)**, one regular seat and two alternate seats.
- Unit V (Marquette)**, one regular seat.

Draft court rules posted for public comment

In accordance with Tribal Code, the court may establish court rules for practice, procedure and evidence in Tribal Court.

The judiciary is interested in seeking comment from interested members of the tribe and the legal profession on the proposed court rules set forth here www.saulttribe.com/government/tribal-court/recreation-download-files.

Written comments can be submitted until Nov. 30, 2014, via email at tribalcourt@saulttribe.net or by correspondence sent to the court at 2175 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Thank you.

Children's Christmas parties scheduled

Sault Christmas party "holiday family fun day," Dec. 13, at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center. Crafts, lunch and a visit from Santa from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call, Jill Lawson at 440-4494.

Munising children's Christmas party is set for Dec. 13 and the **Marquette** children's Christmas party is planned for Dec. 20, more information will become available as plans for these two parties are finalized.

The **Hessel** area Christmas

Family expresses thanks for help

We would like to sincerely thank Mulder's Funeral Home, the Sault Women's Softball League and all the girls for their donations and help, Sault Tribe Cultural Department (Cecil and Les, there are no words to express our gratitude and the other people who helped with the traditional ceremony), Kewadin Casino, Aaron Payment and so many, many more people who donated their time and prepared food. Melody Fish, Annie Thibert, Regina Rolstone, Sue Menard-Young, Christa Rennells, Dan Erickson, Bob VanDyke and Cathie Menard, you took on the job of feeding us all after we laid Dakota to rest and I can't thank you enough.

We would also like to thank so many out there who blessed us with your love and prayers. May God bless you and your families.

God bless –

Veronica L. Beaumont

Traditional healers' hours

Keith Smith's hours: Dec. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 17, 22, 29, 30, 31, Sault Ste. Marie, 632-5210 or (877) 256-0009.
 Dec. 9, Munising, 387-4721 or (866) 401-0043.
 Dec. 16, Manistique, 341-8469 or (866) 401-0043.
 Dec. 19, Hessel, 484-2727.

Harlan Downwind hours: Dec. 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, Sault Ste. Marie, 632-5210 or (877) 256-0009.
 Dec. 17, St. Ignace, 643-8689 or (877) 256-0135.
 For more information, please call Peggy Holappa or Anthony Abramson Jr. at 632-5268.

Board of directors meet Oct. 7 and 21 and adopt 12 new resolutions

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors convened for a meeting on Oct. 7, all board members were present.

The board authorized Chairman Aaron Payment to represent the tribe for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Self-Governance Program and Tribal Transportation Plan.

A cooperative agreement between the tribe and the Mackinac County Road Commission was renewed and authorized and expenditures up to \$39,657.51 from the Transportation Maintenance Fund for winter maintenance on sections of Mackinac Trail and 3 Mile Road near St. Ignace.

An Indian housing plan for 2015 was accepted and funding requested from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

A lease of 600 square feet of the Midtown Office Center in Marquette, Mich., was authorized to operate the Tribe Community Health Center at \$9,600 for the first three years. Unless extended, the lease expires on Oct. 31, 2017.

The board authorized delegates for the 2014 annual convention of the National Congress of American Indians and payment of 2015 dues to the organization in the amount of \$550. Chairman Payment was appointed as delegate with all other board members appointed as alternates. Gaming

Commission Director Ken Ermatinger was also appointed as an alternate.

A resolution was passed in official support of Senate bill 2830, which would permanently reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

A fiscal year 2014 budget modification was approved for the Tax Agreement Administration for an increase in tribal support of \$1,971.48. A fiscal year 2015 budget for \$110,000 in federal funding was established for the Environmental Protection Agency General Assistance Program with no effect on tribal support.

A multi-year funding agreement between the tribe and the Indian Health Service was renewed for delivery of comprehensive health care services from Oct. 1, 2014, to Sept. 30, 2017.

The board approved fiscal year budget document 002 for a total of \$44,696,816, of which \$683,036 comes from tribal support.

An amendment to Tribal Code Chapter 36: Juvenile Code was adopted to streamline procedures in dealing with truancy.

The board met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 21 in St. Ignace. All board members were present with the exception of Keith Massaway.

The board passed two resolutions, both by unanimous vote.

Resolution 2014-191: Anishinaabemowin Michigan State Certification – This approved resolution allows the board to determine who is qualified to teach the Anishinaabemowin language using the policy and procedures developed by the tribe's Language Department. On Sept. 30, 2010, the State of Michigan passed an Act that enables federally recognized tribes to use teachers who do not possess a valid Michigan teaching certificate to teach a Native American tribal language and circumvents the need to adhere to the standards and permits required to teach in Michigan public schools.

Resolution 2014-192: Amending Tribal Code Chapter 21: Hunting and Inland Fishing (Hunting Blinds) – The board authorized administration to begin negotiations with all parties involved in the 2007 Consent Decree at Section 20.3(i) to amend that by deleting "November 6" and inserting "September 1" as the date allowing deer hunting ground blinds to be placed on state land. The state of Michigan currently allows deer hunting ground blinds to be placed on state land Sept. 1, while the tribe's regulations state deer hunting ground blinds cannot be placed on state land prior to Nov. 6.

To view the resolutions in their entirety visit www.saulttribe.com.

Support groups meet in Sault Ste. Marie

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

Next meeting dates are Nov. 19 and Dec. 17. FAN — your connection for information, resources, and support. It is our mission to raise awareness of the prescription opiate drug abuse epidemic, reduce the stigma, change the face of addiction, educate about the dangers of prescription drug abuse and its potential to lead some to illegal narcotic use and to support those affected by drug abuse or addiction.

Also look into the Prescription Drug Abuse Support Group. Have you experienced loss, heartbreak or diminished relationships due to someone else's use of prescription drugs? The Prescription Drug Abuse Support Group meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 6 p.m. at the Huntington Bank in Sault Ste. Marie. Coming meetings take place on Nov. 17, Dec. 1 and Dec. 15. Please call Linda at (906) 440-7252 or Suzy at 248-3545 for more information.

Benefit dinner to help defray transplant travel

A spaghetti benefit dinner for Odin Eitrem is set for Thursday, Dec. 4 from 4-8 p.m. at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building adjacent to the pow-wow grounds. Menu features are spaghetti, meatballs, bread and

dessert for \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

Odin is receiving a kidney transplant after the new year and the funds will go toward travel expenses and their extended stay in Ann Arbor.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act enacted, eliminates taxes on need-based tribal services

BY RICK SMITH

Without any advanced notice or fanfare, President Barack Obama signed the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act into law on Sept. 26. The new law officially and permanently excludes as taxable assets welfare benefits American Indian tribes provide to members, as long as tribes have specified guidance and standards in place. Those benefits include health care, housing, education, child and elder care, cultural affairs and other programs for those without other means. Further, the law establishes the Tribal Advisory Committee to advise the U.S. Department of the Treasury on matters relating to the taxation of Indians.

Little is mentioned by the White House about the enactment of the measure except for a brief statement documenting that the president did indeed sign the act into law along with 15 other bills.

Passage of the act should have an end to an old, confusing sore spot in the government-to-government relationships between American Indian tribes and the United States, specifically, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The act amends the IRS Code to make clear that welfare benefits and services provided by American Indian tribes to their people are not subject to federal income tax if tribes meet administrative requirements as stipulated in the amendments.

According to the National Indian Health Board, legislation for the law was in the works since 2005 after the IRS Office of Tribal Governments began a campaign against tribes, deeming tribal programs and services provided to tribal citizens as taxable income for recipients. The IRS began imposing penalties against tribes for not issuing associated tax forms while those rules didn't apply to federal, state and local government aid provided to mainstream citizens across the nation. The situation was seen as an infringement of tribal sovereignty and unified tribes in opposition as the IRS stepped-up efforts tried to pursue the taxation.

Earlier this year, the IRS started a new initiative ending taxation on tribal welfare benefits and the enactment of the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act makes those measures permanent. According to an item in the July 2014 edition of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, the guidance created tax exclusions called "safe harbors" on specified tribal services and programs the IRS considers as meeting requirements for general welfare tax exclusion. Such programs and services must have written guidance and applicant qualification standards. Benefits must be available to any individual or group of tribal members or qualified non-members, who satisfy all written guidance and procedures. Programs offering exempted benefits cannot discriminate in favor of members of governing bodies and, further, the benefits cannot compensate for any services nor be deemed as

lavish or extravagant.

More flexibility in the rules allow for exclusion to other programs that otherwise meet all other requirements, but are not specified in the guidance. Furthermore, the statute of limitations on refunds remains open, generally covering three years from the time returns were filed or two years from the time taxes were paid.

The new regulations apply to all federally recognized American Indian tribes in general, but not all tribes offer all of the exempt benefits. For example, the new guidance deleted the restriction that, in order to qualify for tribal aid, homes must be on or near reservations, but Sault Tribe housing assistance programs are limited to homes in the tribe's service area. Another example, the guidance extends safe harbor coverage to unmarried domestic partners, but Sault Tribe has no programs that extend to people in those situations.



HOUSING EXEMPTIONS—

Benefits apply to primary residences and supporting structures as long as they are not used in any trade, business or investment concerns. Basic "safe harbors" cover need-based help with mortgage payments and down payments, household repairs and enhancements plus help in paying for utilities, including Internet service, phone and cable.

The main changes in tax exemptions on housing services include removing the restriction that housing must be on or near reservations, inclusion of residential supporting structures and safety concerns such as mold remediation and expand utilities to include Internet, phone and cable.



EDUCATION EXEMPTIONS

— Safe harbors cover need-based necessary transportation for students to and from school, tutors, supplies, tuition payments, on or off campus living expenses, child care and training or other help for people seeking employment.

Key changes made in education tax exemptions are the inclusion of supplies for extracurricular activities, broadened eligible tuition expenses to include preschool or online courses, added a new section covering child care and changed the term "necessary"

for "appropriate" clothing to help with job placement.



ELDERLY AND DISABLED EXEMPTIONS — Applies to disabled people aged 55 or older. Programs having safe harbor status offer need-based meals, home care or day care outside of homes, local transportation expenses for medical care and certain tribal functions plus improvements to adapt housing for special needs.

Key changes for elderly and disabled benefits allow for consideration of tribal codes in defining disabilities and meal programs include community meals at designated facilities.

OTHER NEED-BASED EXEMPTIONS — Transportation costs between the reservation or service area to public services such as medical facilities and grocery stores, expenses for people receiving medical care away from their homes, expenses for people in exigent or emergency circumstances such as victims of abuse or other situations, temporary

shelter expenses for people involuntarily displaced from their homes, expenses for non-prescription drugs including traditional Indian medicines,

Key changes made in this area broaden safe harbor for trips to essential public facilities to cover mileage reimbursements and the cost of rental cars, in addition to public transportation fares, and including transportation to and from service areas as well as reservations. The guidance also broadens exemptions for transportation emergencies beyond stranding off Indian reservations and the non-prescription drug exemption includes traditional Indian medicines.



CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS —

Expenses include but are not limited to need-based admission fees, transportation, food and lodging to attend community activities or

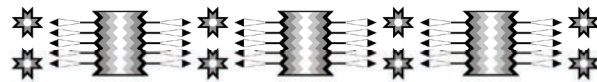


visit sites of cultural or historic significance, honoraria, support for cultural programs, funerals and bereavement.

Changes to these exemptions were clarifying qualification of religious activities as well as cultural and social functions, adds admission fees to such events, adds honoring ceremonies to funeral and burial exemption, extends exemptions for educational and social and cultural expenses to all members and qualified non-members.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the general welfare exclusion bill on Sept. 16 and the U.S. Senate followed suit two days later on Sept. 18. The president signed the legislation into law on Sept. 26.

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Tribal programs present semi-annual reports

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The tribe's semi-annual program updates to the board of directors began Jan. 22 in an open workshop and will continue on a scheduled basis until completed. The updates include 32 departments, membership and internal services and programs.

The latest round of reports includes Sault Tribe Accounting Services, Payroll Department, Fixed Assets, Accounts Receivable and Payable, and Facilities Management and Chippewa Service and Supply.

Sault Tribe Accounting Services

STATISTICS

The Accounting Department is staffed by seven team members; Accounts Payable and Receivable is staffed by five team members; Payroll has four staff members; hours of operation for all areas are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other hours are available as needed to accomplish department and organizational objectives.

ACCOUNTING DELIVERABLES

Accounting is responsible for

processing of account payables and receivables, fuel and tobacco quota management, Medicare Cost Report, wire transfers, recording of cash activities, monitoring grant contracts to ensure compliance, process and file enterprise income tax, management consulting and analysis, internal audit function and controls, assist in budget preparation and modification, coordinate external audit activities, assist with development of indirect cost proposals, debt financing and placement for major purchases, and tax preparation for tribal elders.

PAYROLL DELIVERABLES:

Generating and distribution of payroll checks and automatic deposits for all team members, processing and distribution of W-2s, tax reports, systems maintenance, inputting disbursement voucher information for vendor payments, daily deposits for checks and cash received and the filing of checks.

ACCOUNTING HIGHLIGHTS

A few of the highlights presented by Accounting included the successful completion of the

2013 annual audit with auditor Anderson Tackman and a Homeland security desk audit; EPA site visit audit of the EPA water grant; a total of 970 1099s were prepared, 557 for Sault Tribe, three for Mid Jim, 328 for Sawyer Village and eight for Northern Hospitality; and 4,771 fixed assets were tracked as of Dec. 31, 2013.

PAYROLL HIGHLIGHTS

Processed and distributed 2,255 W2s with a payroll over \$55 million, successful completion of JD Edwards upgrade, completion of one time overrides for employee deductions, successful completion of payroll audit and year end testing of 401K.

Facilities Management

Facilities Management has 13 team members, a supervisor, west-end coordinator, administrative assistant, two janitors, four housekeeping/maintenance positions, and four maintenance techs.

Housekeeping and Maintenance Supervisor and onsite Manager Chip MacArthur multi-tasks running the Facilities Management Department while acting supervisor of other departments such as Sault Tribe Construction, Sault Tribe Health Center and Chi Mukwa Recreation Center when needed.

The west-end coordinator is based out of Munising and oversees the daily janitorial and maintenance needs of the Munising and Manistique Health Centers. The administrative assistant performs all clerical and office work, scheduling, communications between staff and building, and performs as acting supervisor when MacArthur is unavailable.

JANITORS

Daily duties consist of taking out trash, sweeping, mopping, thorough cleaning of bathrooms, and vacuuming. The daily routines of housekeeping/maintenance include janitorial services and maintenance as needed. Maintenance techs are responsible for the daily maintenance of buildings as well as maintenance when needed.

Facilities Management oversees the upkeep of more than 42 Sault Tribe owned buildings and properties. Facilities Management pays utilities, taxes, performs daily janitorial duties and is available for 24/7 maintenance. They do seasonal lawn, sidewalk, driveway care, snow removal, salting, grass cutting, flower planting, computer monitoring of HVAC systems, and temperature and schedule control of many buildings from a laptop.

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Administration building painted inside and new copier purchased; IHS cooling tower

repairs and pipes replaced, north side parking lot replaced, new doors installed; Munising health center replaced camera system and upgraded fire alarm system; Northern Hospitality replaced boiler; Mary Murray Day Care interior renovations to bring up to code and maintain code; Newberry installed new doors; responsible for Grimes property; JKL school replaced and oversaw two new boilers; Elderly building new drywall and paint; Manistique health center sidewalk repair; Sugar Island Cultural Camp repainting of exterior and outside seal work completed; all buildings – energy audits performed, receiving cash back going towards making all buildings energy efficient.

Chippewa Service and Supply

Chippewa Service and Supply is a carpet and furniture cleaning company that also provides stripping and waxing of tile floors. The company provides external and internal revenues with the lowest prices in town for carpet and furniture cleaning and the best carpet truck and customer service available.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After hours work is available, including weekends and for emergencies.

Black accepts ACFS case aid position

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Jessica Black was searching for a fulfilling job when she applied with Sault Tribe's Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) as a case aid worker with their child placement services component. She interviewed and was hired for the position, which she started in mid October.

Black is located within ACFS' Kinross office, and said her main job duties will be supervising child visitations, providing transportation when needed and office work.

Black, who is a member of the Sault Tribe, graduated from Baraga High School and attended Central Michigan University before moving to Kinross seven years ago. She holds a certificate in health and science from Bay Mills Community College.

She was previously employed as a dealer at the Bay Mills Casino.

Black is engaged to Mike McKerchie and they are planning a September 2015 wedding ceremony. She has three children, Ethan, 7, Ella, 5, and Kenzey, five months old.

Her parents are Tony and Debra LaPlante of Kinross.



Jessica Black

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 - No additional charge to dial "0" for operator assistance to complete a call

Lifeline is a government assistance program, the service is nontransferable, only eligible consumers may enroll in the program, and the program is limited to one discount per household consisting of either wireline or wireless service. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program. Forms of documentation necessary for enrollment: All subscribers will be required to demonstrate eligibility based at least on (1) household income at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Level guidelines for a household of that size; OR (2) the household's participation in one of the federal assistance programs. 1: Current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state, federal, or Tribal program. 2: A notice letter of participation in a qualifying state, federal, or Tribal program. 3: Program participation documents (e.g., consumer SNAP card, Medicaid card, or copy thereof). 4: Other official document evidencing the consumer's participation in a qualifying state, federal, or Tribal program. Income eligibility: Prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return, current income statement from an employer or paycheck. Social Security statement of benefits. Veterans Administration statement of benefits. Retirement/pension statement of benefits. Unemployment/Workers' Compensation statement of benefits. Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance. Divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three (3) months' time. AT&T Mobility will NOT retain a copy of this documentation. Pricing is for a basic or message on AT&T Mobile Share® Value 300 MB plan. Additional monthly charges for extra devices and data. Other charges and restrictions apply. Visit a store or att.com/mobileshare for details. **Gen. Wireless Svc. Terms: Subject to Wireless Customer Agmt or applicable Business Agmt.** Activation fee \$36/line & add'l deposits may apply. Credit approval req'd. Coverage & svc. not avail everywhere. Other restr's apply & may result in svc. termination. **Other Monthly Charges/Line:** May include applicable taxes & federal/state universal svc. charges, Reg. Cost Recovery Charge (up to \$1.25), gross receipts surcharge, Admin. Fee & other gov't assessments which are not taxes or gov't req'd charges. Pricing subject to change. **Visit a store or att.com/mobilesharevalue for more info.** Screen images simulated. ©2014 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. All other marks used herein are the property of their respective owners.

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Sault Tribe continues to pave way for non-motorized transportation

By RICK SMITH

Since its formation in October of 2008, the Sault Tribe Strategic Alliance for Health has been growing and working in some Upper Peninsula communities to bring facilities to accommodate people who walk, ride bicycles or use wheelchairs as their personal modes of transportation. Federal funding allowed the start of Sault Tribe Community Transformation Grant projects in October of 2011.

For one example, according to projects coordinator Donna Norkoli, the alliance brought Dan Burden, a nationally recognized authority on bicycle and pedestrian facilities and other roadway elements to review street layouts in Manistique, Munising, Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace and to conduct workshops on improvements. The efforts engaged local government, planners, engineers, and tribal transportation planning in efforts to create more accommodating communities. Presentations were developed and provided by alliance staff and community coalition members to educate decision-makers about the benefits of the Complete Streets program.

The alliance for Health project administered a survey to a random sample of residents in Manistique, Munising, Sault Ste. Marie, and St. Ignace between September and November of 2010 to gather information about local awareness and perceptions of the community as a place for walking and biking and habits related to physical activity in order to help planning and evaluate long term outcomes. Burden was brought back for a workshop on *Building Healthy Prosperous Communities Through Walkability*, which included Kinross and Newberry along with a review of the Newberry streets.

The four towns officially adopted Complete Streets resolutions from August of 2010 to February of 2011. Later in the year, similar resolutions were passed in Newberry and Kinross

Township. St. Ignace also adopted a Complete Streets ordinance. The towns also later adopted transportation plans funded under the Community Transformation Grant.

In Sault Ste. Marie, Norkoli indicated the alliance provided funding for the city to develop a non-motorized transportation plan. The city matched the tribal funding and contracted with EUP Regional Planning and Development to complete this plan, which was adopted by the city in August of 2012. The city established a Non-motorized Transportation Advisory Committee to move this plan forward and the tribe's transportation planner and Community Health educators sit on this committee.

Back in December of 2010, the JKL Bahweting School was awarded a Safe Routes to School grant. Working in partnership with the City of Sault Ste. Marie, safety improvements surrounding the school include safety and education programs, installing sidewalks and crosswalks on a nearby intersection, improving crosswalks at two other intersections, installing pedestrian-activated flashing crosswalk sign. The project budget is \$147,893.

In October of 2011, Manistique Area Schools was awarded a Safe Routes to School grant. Emerald Elementary School and Manistique Middle School, in partnership with the City of Manistique, will install sidewalks and crosswalks on nearby avenues and streets, implement pedestrian safety education and *Walking School Bus* programs. The project budget is \$266,251.

The City of Manistique adopted a non-motorized transportation plan developed by Coleman Engineering and paid for by the alliance in February of 2012 as part of the city's master plan.

Munising Public Schools Awarded a Safe Routes to School grant in October of 2012.

Clark Township adopted a Complete Streets resolution in

March of 2013 and development of Safe Routes to School and a non-motorized transportation plan.

In September of 2013, Opus International Consultants completed a non-motorized transportation plan for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Again, funding came through the Sault Tribe Community Transformation Grant.

"This plan was designed to document the tribe's non-motorized transportation needs and to guide the tribe's investment decisions related to non-motorized facilities," Norkoli noted. She said the plan encompasses tribal housing developments, schools, offices, casinos and other facilities and

was developed in consultation with the tribal council, members of the tribe and other stakeholders. "This plan has been shared with communities across our service area so that community non-motorized transportation plans can incorporate some of the priorities included in the Sault Tribe plan to increase connectivity of tribal lands with community destinations."

And Norkoli announced the latest news in the efforts, "On Oct. 1, 2014, Sault Tribe was awarded a Partnerships to Improve Community Health grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This grant will provide continued opportunities for the tribe to partner with local

governments, schools and local health departments to increase infrastructure for walking and biking and to promote use of this infrastructure for active transportation. Sault Tribe Community Health Education staff will be implementing this grant project as a means to increase physical activity of tribal members and community residents across our service area," she said.

"It is our hope that increased physical activity will result in reduced rates of chronic disease such as heart disease, diabetes and hypertension. Walking and biking is critical for health and serves as an important way for people to meet their minimum daily requirements for physical activity," Norkoli added.

Michigan Transportation Odyssey visits Sault Ste. Marie to look at road works



Photo by Rick Smith

Wayne Berry, chairman of a group affiliated with the Sault Tribe Community Transformation Grant project, speaks during the recent presentations at Lake Superior State University for the Sault visit of the Michigan Transportation Odyssey.

By RICK SMITH

A statewide coalition working to enhance municipal vitality through reforms in transportation policies recently toured six locales to review designs and plans for street improvements to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The coalition, called Transportation for Michigan (Trans4M) embarked on the Michigan Transportation Odyssey during Oct. 7-8, which took them to see successful highlights in Sault Ste. Marie, Lansing, Detroit, Midland, Brighton and Ferndale.

Wendy Hoffman of the Sault Tribe Transportation Program, Dave Rusch of the Michigan Department of Transportation Newberry Transportation Service Center and Wayne Berry, chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Area Recreational Trails (SsMART) group, gave presentations on Oct. 8 at Lake Superior State University focusing on local transportation issues, plans and designs.

The SsMART group is a committee of the Building a Healthier Community Coalition led by the Sault Tribe Community Transformation Grant project, which is promoting U.S. Bicycle Route 35 currently extending from the international border at the Sault to the Indiana border, but the corridor is planned to extend to Mississippi or Louisiana.

Others officials in attendance were Donna Norkoli, coordinator of the tribe's Community Transformation Grant project, Julie Trotter from the Chippewa County Health Department, Sault Mayor Tony Bosbous and city engineer Linda Basista.

"I am pleased that the city of Sault Ste. Marie has been recognized by the State of Michigan for good street design that promotes accessible, safe and economically vibrant communities," said Norkoli. "The Sault Tribe Strategic Alliance for Health and Community Transformation Grant projects, implemented by Sault Tribe Community Health Education, have worked with the Building a Healthier Community Coalition and local city officials to assist with creating a more walkable, bikeable community."

Norkoli added, "In 2012 the Strategic Alliance for Health Project provided funding for the City of Sault Ste. Marie to develop a non-motorized transportation plan which has been used to improve transportation of all users, bicyclists, pedestrians and those with disabilities."

Hoffman gave an overview of our tribal community before focusing on the tribe's Transportation Program and Transportation Committee, their functions and collaborations in conducting traffic counts, various

studies, analyses, developing transit implementation plans and acquiring funding.

Her presentation also mentioned efforts on regional non-motorized water trails, which would be part of a larger network of water trails throughout the Great Lakes designed to create educational opportunities, attract tourism and provide safe passageways. Also mentioned was the Great Lakes Circle Tour set for the summer of 2017 to encourage public exploration of water trails around the Great Lakes, including the St. Marys River and its islands.

"This was a transportation program overview for individuals visiting to learn about how we collaborate with communities," said Hoffman, describing her presentation. "The agency primary focus is transit, but they wanted to hear about how we work together on transportation."

The Sault Tribe Transportation Program is a component of the tribe's Planning and Development Department. The program operates in concert with the tribe's Transportation Committee, which is composed of the leaders from a dozen elements of the tribe concerned with different facets of transportation planning and construction. The team further works with mainstream community agencies in developing different types of transportation improvements.

White House schedules 2014 tribal nations conference for Dec. 3

By RICK SMITH

The sixth annual White House Tribal Nations Conference is scheduled to take place at the Capitol Hilton in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 3. According to the White House, the conference provides leaders of federally recognized tribes to meet with the president and members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs.

The conferences were established by the Obama administration as a method to "build upon the president's commitment to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with Indian Country and to improve the lives of American Indians."

Indeed, since then, many improvements have been instituted in the working relationship between the federal government and Indian Country, more continue to evolve while much remains to be done.

Obama signed an executive

order last year establishing the White House Council on Native American Affairs, tasked with helping to continue strengthening the federal relationship with Indian Country.

According to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, the council regularly brings together federal departments and offices in support of tribes as they grapple with issues such as high unemployment and poverty, low academic achievement, poor health and other urgent matters.

Throughout the year, the council works on five areas deemed priorities by tribal leaders in earlier conferences. The priorities are sustainable economic development, greater access to and control over healthcare, effective and efficient tribal justice systems, expansion and improvement of educational opportunities and sustainable management of tribal lands, environments and natural resources.

Michigan Workforce Development Agency reaching out to veterans

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

The State of Michigan Workforce Development Agency (WDA), Veteran's Services Division, is actively seeking American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) veterans who would like help in finding new or better employment.

Project Management Specialist Stephen Gillotte is a Sault Tribe member who has been with the Veterans Services Division as a veteran's vocational counselor since 1999 and more recently as a project management specialist working to inform the American Indian veteran community of these no additional cost services. He said some examples of available services include: assistance in writing effective resumes; job search skills assistance; interviewing skills training; job leads for local, state, civil service, and federal positions; possible assistance by a disabled veteran outreach program specialist; and referrals to other available veteran resources.

Employment services are just a phone call away, or a short drive to your nearest Michigan Works! one-stop service center or satellite branch.

Gillotte said, "The Department of Labor has found that AI/AN Veterans are an underserved population of our programs and we are seeking to change that through outreach and education to make sure they know our services are available."

States such as California and

Arizona where there are higher populations of AI/AN veterans have the same situation of having underserved Native veterans – "...it's not unique to Michigan at all," he said.

"I see it over and over again, AI/AN veterans having a difficult time seeking help," Gillotte said. "And it may be because those two cultures combined, the veteran culture and the Native culture, are coming together to make it more difficult for them to seek assistance."

He said there are currently 154,000 AI/AN veterans in the United States.

Michigan Works! offers priority of service to veteran job-seekers and assists in all matters related to obtaining and retaining employment. Additionally the Veteran's Services Division employs disabled veteran outreach workers who provide case management services to veterans with multiple barriers. These services are available in every county of the State. More information can be found at <http://www.mitalent.org/veteran/> and <http://www.michigan.gov/wda> (click on Veterans Services).

"As far as assistance in a job search there is no better place," Gillotte said. "Anything that you need in your job search is here, whether that is Internet access, resume writing assistance and even down to resume paper and postage, it is all available to the

job seeker at no additional cost."

If you are a veteran looking for information about education, healthcare, benefits and quality of life programs, you can also visit the Michigan Veterans

Affairs Agency for more information or call the Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center at 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838).

Gillotte said he is willing to

travel to agencies providing supportive services to veterans, tribal entities, and area businesses for a presentation of veteran services, or would be happy to meet with an interested AI/AN veteran.

Tribe to establish Tribal Members Jobs Bank; register on paper or online

SAULT STE. MARIE — Sault Tribe is establishing a Tribal Members Jobs Bank. If you would like to register with the tribe's jobs bank, please complete the form below and send it to Tribal Chairperson's Office, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste.

Marie, MI 49783. There is also a form at www.saulttribe.com that can be downloaded and printed, or downloaded, completed and emailed to: chairpersonpayment@saulttribe.net. As the Lansing and Romulus projects move forward, the tribe will be looking to hire at some point.

Sault Tribe Member Jobs Bank Application

To be registered with the tribe's jobs bank for its members, please complete this form and send to: Tribal Chairperson's Office, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783, or email to chairpersonpayment@saulttribe.net if using the electronic form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Experience _____

Skills: _____

Education: _____

Certifications? _____

Can we share this information with interested employers? Yes _____ No _____



She has a gambling problem.
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When you or someone you love has a gambling problem, the whole family suffers. For free, confidential help, call **1-800-270-7117.**

Toms takes health center management position

By RICK SMITH

Sault Tribe member Chris Toms was honorably discharged last July as a technical sergeant in the U.S. Air Force after 14 years of active duty service and is currently in the Air Force Reserve. Last month, he accepted the facility manager position for the Sault Tribe Health Center.

As the facility manager, Toms said he oversees the day-to-day maintenance and housekeeping of the Sault facility in addition

to having responsibilities of the safety officer for all of the tribal clinics. "Moving forward in the health care arena for the tribe I see a bright and promising future," said Toms. "Short term, I will be evaluating our current processes in place to find ways to streamline and improve them to ensure we are providing the best possible services to our customers. Long term the skies are the limit."

Toms originally hailed from the lower peninsula of Michigan but came to Brimley in his mid-teens. He met the girl who would eventually become his future wife while attending Brimley High School. "I fell head over heels in love."

He joined the Air Force after graduating from high school and became a staff member of security operations. "I was stationed all over the world with my last assignment being Alaska for three years as superintendent of combat arms training and maintenance," he noted. "I ended my career with the Air Force after 14 years of service

with deployments to hostile fire areas, six assignments, four Good Conduct Medals, a NATO service medal, Expeditionary Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal and two commendations. The first seven years of my Air Force life, I was as a federal police officer, and the last seven years as a combat arms instructor and gunsmith." A couple years into his military service, he married his high-school sweetheart and they've now been married for 12 years.

Reflecting on his military career and how it applies to his new post, Toms said, "The Air Force gave me great opportunities as a manager that I bring with me. I was a facilities manager for the Air Force at various times throughout my 14 years, that directly correlates to my new position with the tribe."

In his spare time, Toms enjoys fly-fishing and tying his own flies. He likes to enjoy all aspects of outdoor living from hunting and fishing to just sitting on the beach with his wife, Sarah, and 4-year-old son, Luke.



Chris Toms, pictured above, is the new facility manager at Sault Tribal Health and Human Services.

USDA providing \$4 million for honeybees

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that more than \$4 million in technical and financial assistance will be provided to help farmers and ranchers in the Midwest improve the health of honeybees, which play an important role in crop production.

"The future of America's food supply depends on honeybees, and this effort is one way the USDA is helping improve the health of honeybee populations," Vilsack said. "Significant progress has been made in understanding the factors that are associated with colony collapse disorder and the overall health of honey bees, and this funding will allow us to work with farmers and ranchers to apply that knowledge over a broader area."

An estimated \$15 billion worth of crops is pollinated by honeybees, including more than 130 fruits and vegetables. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is focusing the effort on five Midwestern states: Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. This announcement renews and expands a successful \$3 million pilot investment that was announced earlier this year and continues to have high levels of interest. This effort also contributes to the June 2014 presidential memorandum – *Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honeybees and Other Pollinators*, which directs USDA to expand the acreage and forage value in its conservation programs.

Funding will be provided to producers through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Applications are due Friday, Nov. 21.

From June to September, the Midwest is home to more than 65 percent of the commercially managed honeybees in the country. It is a critical time when bees require abundant and diverse forage across broad landscapes to build up hive strength for the winter.

The assistance announced today will provide guidance and support to farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices that will provide safe and diverse food sources for honeybees.

For example, appropriate cover crops or pastures management may provide a benefit to producers by reducing erosion and providing quality forage and habitat for honey bees and other pollinators.



Health Insurance Enrollment Event Enrollment Event for the Whole Community

Saturday, November 15, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – *St. Ignace Tribal Health & Human Services/MSHS*

1140 N. State Street – St. Ignace, MI

Tuesday, December 9 & Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Village Inn, Mackinac Island, MI

Call 906-643-8689 to schedule an appointment

Walk-ins welcome

New Health Coverage Exchange called the Health Insurance Marketplace

If you are uninsured, purchase individual coverage or believe your employer provided coverage is inadequate or unaffordable, you may be able to shop for coverage directly in the federal Health Insurance Marketplace -- a new marketplace where you can shop for and compare health benefit plans. Open enrollment for coverage in 2015 is November 15, 2014, through February 15, 2015.

Healthy Michigan Plan:

Some Michigan residents may be eligible for the Healthy Michigan Plan, a new health coverage program that began on April 1, 2014. To be eligible for the Healthy Michigan plan, you must be:

- Ages 19-64
- Not currently eligible for Medicaid
- Not eligible for or enrolled in Medicare
- Not pregnant when applying for the Healthy Michigan Plan
- Earning up to 133% of the federal poverty level (The federal poverty level is adjusted annually. In 2013, 133% of the poverty level for an individual was \$14,856 or \$30,657 for a family of four)
- A resident of Michigan

We have qualified staff ready and eager to assist you with education and the enrollment process. You will need: Your Social Security Number (all members applying), Date of Birth, Tribal card (if Tribal member) and Income Verification (2013 taxes or W-2, pay stubs, etc.).

If you signed up last year and your household income has changed, you must notify either the Marketplace or MIbridges. If you signed up through the marketplace, go into your account to notify them of your income change and if you signed up through the MIbridges, contact your assigned worker or go into your MIbridges account to notify them of your change. (you should do this within days of your income change).

Goblins, ghosts and ghouls at JKL Bahweting



Fourth grader Joy Kerfoot and her dad Brandon stop to get a bite to eat.



Students, faculty and staff of JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy enjoyed the annual family Halloween party on Oct. 28. Over 600 folks enjoyed dinner, face painting, family photos, crafts, and classroom trick-or-treating. Above, an elephant may never forget, but they do get tired. All the fun wore Cain Chaput, 6 months old, right out. Left, second grader Braelyn Duhoski makes sure her sister Jenna stays close as they navigate this activities at this great event.

Photos from JKL PSA



The skeleton crew, made up of first grader Kamryn Corbiere, her sister Kacie Drew, her mom Kristen (School Social Worker) enjoyed the last big school event before the new baby is born in November.



Wings was the theme for Halloween this year for the Quinn sisters Tiffany - Kdg. and Isabella- 2nd grade.



Ari Blue Stevens - 2nd grade and his mom Cheryl

Get Your Flu Shot

CALL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CLINICS TO SCHEDULE A FLU SHOT!

- Escanaba Health Center at 786-2636
- Hessel Tribal Health Center at 484-2727
- Manistique Tribal Health Center at 341-8469
- Munising Tribal Health Center at 387-4614
- Newberry Tribal Health Center at 293-8181
- Sault Community Health Program at 632-5210
- St. Ignace Tribal Health & Human Services at 643-8689

Sault Tribe Members and other Natives from a federally recognized tribe: FREE.

Non Native Employees with or without insurance will be billed a co-pay of up to \$10.

Non Native spouses will be billed \$10 co-pay.

CLIP & SAVE

Amerian Indians at increased risk of diabetic eye disease

Today, diabetes affects more than 29 million people in the United States, or over nine percent of the population. In addition, another 86 million American adults, more than one out of three individuals, have pre-diabetes, a condition that puts people at increased risk for diabetes. In fact, these statistics include many groups of American Indians and Alaska Natives. According to the Indian Health Service, almost 16 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have diabetes. Among them, diabetes varies considerably in various regions, from six percent among Alaska Natives, to 24 percent among American Indians in southern Arizona. All people with diabetes, both type 1 and type 2, are at risk for diabetic eye disease, a leading cause of vision loss and blindness.

Diabetic eye disease refers to a group of eye problems that people with diabetes may face as a complication of the disease and includes cataract, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. Diabetic retinopathy, the most common diabetic eye disease, is the leading cause of blindness in adults 20-74 years of age.

"The longer a person has diabetes, the greater is his or her risk of developing diabetic eye disease," said Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D., director of the National Eye Institute (NEI). "If you have diabetes, be sure to have a comprehensive dilated eye exam at least once a year.

Don't wait until you notice an eye problem to have an exam, because vision that is lost often cannot be restored."

Diabetic eye disease often has no early warning signs, but it can be detected early and treated before vision loss occurs. If you have diabetes in your family, you can leave a legacy of healthy vision by taking steps to prevent vision loss — get a comprehensive dilated eye exam.

"In fact, with early detection, timely treatment, and appropriate follow-up care, people with

advanced diabetic retinopathy can reduce their risk of blindness by 95 percent," adds Suber Huang, M.D., M.B.A., chair of the Diabetic Eye Disease Subcommittee for NEI's National Eye Health Education Program.

Research has shown that when people with diabetes maintain good control of blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol, they can slow the development and progression of diabetic eye disease. In addition to having a comprehensive dilated eye exam

at least once a year, people with diabetes should do the following to keep their health on track:

- Take your medications.
- Reach and maintain a healthy weight.
- Add physical activity to your daily routine.
- Control your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol.
- Kick the smoking habit.

If you have diabetes, set your sight on healthy vision. Schedule a comprehensive dilated eye exam. For more information on diabetic eye disease and tips on

finding an eye care professional or financial assistance for eye care, visit www.nei.nih.gov/diabetes or call NEI at (301) 496-5248.

In the Sault Tribe seven-county service area, please contact your tribal health center for an eye exam. See www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/health for contact numbers.

The NEI, part of the National Institutes of Health, leads the federal government's research on the visual system and eye diseases.

Synettes celebrate diamond anniversary



1954 ~ 2014

Edith and Gerald Synett celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this year. They were married at St. Mary's Church Aug. 14, 1954. Maid of honor was Muriel Lane and best man was Dwayne Synett. Edith's mother was Delia Wright nee Mastaw.

Happy Anniversary
60
Years together



TOURNAMENTS

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from Gaylord Walmart Parking Lot

Thursday-Saturday pickups

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Departs Kewadin St. Ignace

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• 40 Random Slot Draws for Credits throughout the day for active American gamers*

*Must register at Northern Rewards. NRC hours vary by site.

Language film project gets some help with Sault fundraiser

By Rick Smith

An independent film project promoting indigenous languages received some help by way of a fundraiser at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie on Oct. 23. Proceeds were for production costs of a short film aimed to inspire more youth to be proud of their heritages and take up their ancestral languages and cultures.

The tribe's cultural staff and others prepared frybread, soup, chili and cookies in addition to setting up a silent auction featuring items donated by the tribal and mainstream communities. Items available for bid included a pedicure, painting supplies, pet supplies, Kewadin event tickets, free hotel stay and many more.

All proceeds will be used for production costs of a short film that aims to inspire more youth to be proud of their heritage and take up their ancestral languages and cultures. Direct donations are also welcome and are tax

deductible.

As reported in the March edition *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, a few Sault Tribe members are among nearly 30 people involved in an independent short film project planned to premiere before the United Nations Permanent Forum before possible worldwide distribution. Sault Tribe member Calvin Hartwig, co-producer and script editor for the project, described the work as a "short, artsy narrative" that follows a young, modern Anishinaabe woman who comes to rely on her ancestral ways of living a good life while living in New York City.

Anyone interested in helping the project may contribute through the crowd sourcing website elalliance.org/2014/07/this-is-who-i-am/ and writing "Youth Film" in the Project Specific Donation section or by writing a check Endangered Language Alliance, 3 West 18th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10011.



Photo by Rick Smith

Preparing the fare for the film project fundraiser in Sault Ste. Marie at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building on Oct. 23 are, from left, Becky Parish, Theresa Lewis, Calvin Hartwig and Colleen St. Onge. One of the aims of the film project is to use the work to promote the common adoption of the Anishinaabe language and ways into everyday life.

Newberry's Christmas ornament contest deadline is November 26

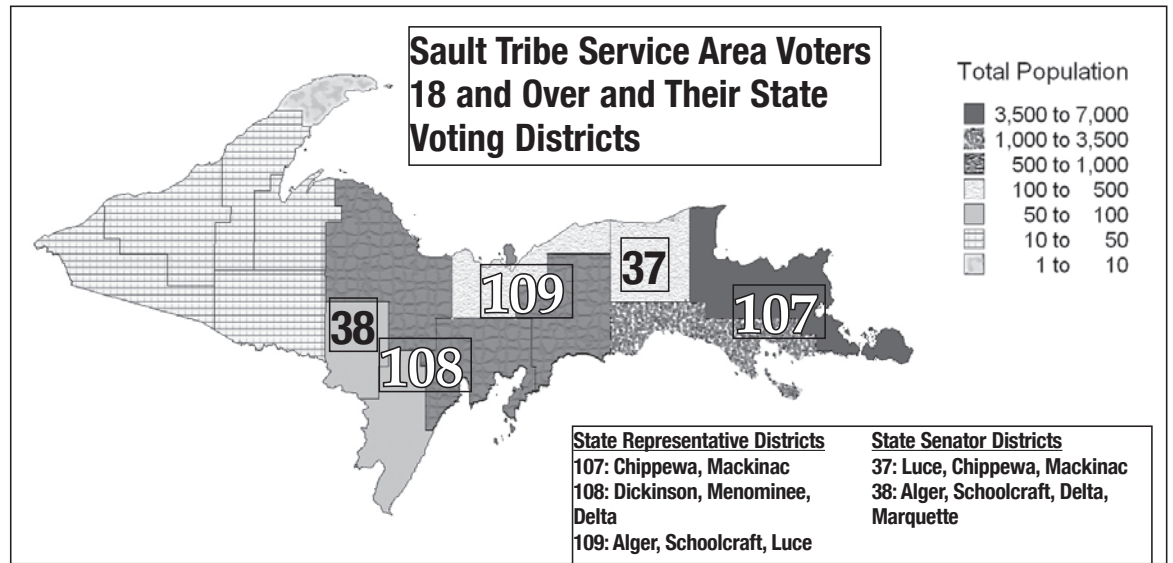
Young and old may compete for cash prizes in the Tahquamenon Area Library Christmas Ornament Contest. Deadline for judging is Nov. 26.

The UP North Laundry is sponsoring the contest in which youngsters can vie for a cash prize of \$25 and Eagle Radio offers the \$50 prize for adults.

Ornament blanks are available at the Newberry Chamber of Commerce (corner of M-28 and M-123), Foster's Hardware or the

LINK. Contestants must decorate the unfinished side in weather resistant paint as well as sign and date the white side before entering the finished ornaments at the Tahquamenon Area Library by Tuesday, Nov. 26, for judging.

The top five winning ornaments will go on display at the Newberry Christmas dinner on Dec. 3 at the American Legion. All other ornaments will be hung on the community Christmas tree.



Election results in the tribe's seven-county service area

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Nov. 4 general election held no surprises, still Republican held State House and Senate, maybe a more conservative. Come January, Michigan will have a new Majority Leader and a new Speaker. New committee assignments will be made. So, it's too early to understand exactly how the election results will affect our tribe's issues.

Election results in our seven-county service area are:

Federal

US Senator: Gary Peters won the seat being vacated by retiring Carl Levin. He joins Senator Debbie Stabenow. Congressman Dan Benishek was reelected.

State of Michigan

Governor Rick Snyder was reelected.

State Senate: Wayne Schmidt took State Senate 37th District vacated by State Senator Howard Walker. State Senator Tom Casperson kept his seat in the 38th District. Senator Jim Ananich of Flint was voted in as Senate Minority Leader and Senator Morris Hood Jr. Minority Leader. Senator Arlan Meekhof was voted in as Senate Majority Leader.

State House of

Representatives: State Rep. Ed McBroom kept his seat in the 108th State Representative District. State Rep. John Kivela kept his seat in the 109th State Representative District. Lee

Chatfield took the 107th State Representative District.

At press time, Speaker of the House was yet to be selected.

Wolf Hunting Proposals

Statewide Proposals 1 and 2 went down to defeat, Proposal 1 with 55 percent of the vote and Proposals 2 with 64 percent of the vote. What this means exactly has yet to unfold. Neither proposal will stop a wolf hunt after a third law takes effect next season, but it clearly shows voters disapprove of the hunts and the tactics used to secure the hunts - across party lines.

Jill Fritz, director of Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, said in a statement Nov. 5, "The NRC should honor the judgment rendered by voters come 2015, regardless of the outcome of the lawsuit to nullify the third wolf-hunting bill enacted by the legislature."

Proposal 1 would have established a trophy hunting and trapping season on wolves in Michigan. Proposal 2 would have granted the state's Natural Resources Commission the authority to designate wolves and other animals as game species without oversight by legislators or voters. Proposal 2 had already been passed by the legislature. This is the first time Michigan citizens have had the opportunity to vote on wolf hunting.

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Halloween fun at the Sault Child Care Center



Photos by Rick Smith



All manner of scary, strange and charming figures from angels to zombies haunted the chambers of the Sault Tribe Child Care Center in Sault Ste. Marie on the afternoon of Oct. 31. Above left, what appears to be a lovely fairy queen with two beginner underlings. Above middle, a wee, sleepy flower child and the cutest kitty cat to ever beam a smile. Above right, the Amazing Spider-man springs into action as Batman coolly surveys the scene.



Left, a little angel with a guardian of her own. Above, Mr. Izzy hands out tributes to a princess as others wait their turn. Below left, a zombie Goldilocks! And below, a young princess with her favorite knight.



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- Extreme fatigue.
- Blurry vision.
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- Weight loss — even though you are eating more (Type 1).
- Tingling, pain, or numbness in the hands/feet (Type 2).

— From the American Diabetes Association

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America Gets Cooking to Stop Diabetes is presented by



**AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH®
NOVEMBER 2014**

Budget Friendly Cabbage Soup

INGREDIENTS

- Cooking spray
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 1/2 cabbage, roughly chopped
- 1/2 pound lean turkey breakfast sausage, crumbled
- 40 ounces fat-free, low-sodium chicken broth
- 14.5 ounce can diced tomatoes
- 15.5 ounce can Great Northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano

INSTRUCTIONS

Spray a large soup pot with cooking spray. Add celery, onion and carrots and sauté over medium-high heat for 3 minutes or until



onions are clear. Remove from pan and set aside.

Add turkey sausage and cook until brown, about 6-7 minutes.

Add celery, onions and carrots back to pan and mix.

Add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes.

Cost of Recipe: \$10. Serves 9.

NUTRITION FACTS

- Serving Size: 1 cup
- Calories: 120
- Carbohydrate: 15g
- Protein: 10g
- Sugar: 5g
- Dietary Fiber: 5g
- Cholesterol: 20mg

— From the American Diabetes Association

To make an appointment call your local Sault Tribe Community Health Center:

**Sault Ste. Marie
632-5210**

**St. Ignace
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**Hessel
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**Munising
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**Escanaba
786-2636**

**Manistique
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Tribal community members walk on ...



DAKOTA L. HICKMAN

Dakota Lynn Hickman, 21, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 13, 2014 in Sault Ste. Marie. She was born on Oct. 13, 1993, in Sault Ste. Marie.

A beautiful angel returned home to heaven too soon. She has a special place in all of our hearts. She was so full of life her light made an everlasting impression on all of our hearts.

She received her GED from Sault area schools and was attending Bay Mills Community College with plans to continue her education at Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in OB nursing. She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Dakota enjoyed all sports but was especially fond of playing softball in the Sault women's softball league with team Best Wireless. She also enjoyed swimming, camping, decorating, listening and dancing to music, taking pictures of all her family and friends and, of course, selfies! She loved all animals, especially her cat Keekers. Dakota's humor and spontaneous nature allowed her to connect and make lifelong friendships with anyone and everyone she met. She found a way to make everything in life fun and joyful. She was an inspiration to us all with a smile and personality that could light up a room. Her generous and selfless spirit shown through to each and everyone she knew. She will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered always as our Koda Butt and her mother Linda's Little Bunny.

Dakota is survived by her mother, Linda Railsback of Sault Ste. Marie; two sisters, Samie Railsback of Sault Ste. Marie, and Nichelle Franklin of Springfield, Mo.; aunts, Sis, Sherrie, and many, many more; nieces and nephews, Joselynn, Ashlen, Carlyon, Cruz, Chanell, Jasmine, Elaina, and Terry James; and many loving uncles, cousins and friends.

She is also survived by her beloved adopted family, step-father and mother, Gary and Veronica Beaumont; sisters, Mya, Isabella and Sonya Hickman; grandparents, David and Leona Menard and Pauline Hickman; great-grandparents, Al and Pearl Menard; uncle, Dave Menard; aunts, Cathie Menard and Sue Menard-Young; many other aunts and uncles; nieces and nephew, Jazz, Elaina and Terry; cousins, Bill and Sue Tobias, Amanda Tobias, Christa Rennells and

many more. Other very special people to Dakota are an aunt, Theresa Germain, and special friends, Danyelle McCluskey and Malorie McKechnie.

Dakota is preceded in Heaven by her adoptive father, Terry Hickman, and uncle, Jackie Germain.

Vistiatiion and traditional services took place at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building on Oct. 17-18 with Pastor Elouise Kreml officiating. Burial followed at Wilwalk Cemetery on Sugar Island.

Arrangements were handled by C.S. Mulder Funeral Home. Condolences may be left online at www.csmulder.com.



JENNYLEE C. OLESEK

Jennylee Church Olesek passed away peacefully at 108 years of age on Oct. 10, 2014, at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was born on May 20, 1906, on Harbor Island off of Drummond Island, Mich., at the home of her grandparents Dr./Captain J. Wells and Rosalee (nee LeSage) Church. Her parents were Captain Hector Hall and Margaret (LeRoy/Hamilton) Church.

Her early years were spent on Drummond and in the DeTour area. She graduated from Sault High School in 1923 and married John Olesek (deceased) in 1926. Of their four children, Margaret Ann (Russell) McPherson of the Sault, and Fredric Wells (Pamela) Olesek of Reno, Nev., survive. She was predeceased by sons John, and Dr. Gerald Church Olesek. As with most centenarians she was also predeceased by her siblings, Gordon "Bud" (Alice) Church, Eleanor (George) Duffy, and Gloria (John) Faris.

Jennylee is survived by seven grandchildren, Debra McPherson (Michael Doyle), Michael (Christine) McPherson, Cynthia (Gordon) Brazil, and Denise McPherson of the Sault, Christy Olesek of Prescott, Ariz., Rick (Susan) Olesek of Los Gatos, Calif., and Gordon (Megan) Olesek of Los Altos, Calif. She was also blessed with 10 great-grandchildren (Jason Brommenschenkel, Kris (Lisa) Brommenschenkel, Nicole Hobbs, Michael John (Trisha) McPherson, Kara McPherson, Brooks Olesek, Quinn Olesek, Gavin Olesek, Samuel Olesek and Cecelia Olesek; and seven great-great-grandchildren, Christina, Brett, Avery Grace, Katie, Brianna, Rebecca, and Shayla.

Her many nieces and nephews

held a very special place in her heart and they continued to visit and remain a part of their "Auntie Jen's" life. She maintained strong ties with her cousins, Rosalie LeSage of Drummond Island, and Iva Harrington of the Sault. Jennylee was very thankful and fortunate to have Dr. Thilak Chander as her personal physician and loved him as a family member and great friend.

For most of her early adult life she worked at the Ojibway Hotel. She then discovered a passion for the game of bridge and played in the Elks and Country Club bridge clubs for over 60 years; her last games were actually in May of this year. She was most proud of winning the grand championship (in her late 90s) in the prestigious Ontario Tournament in Sault, Canada.

Jennylee found great friends and camaraderie as the "oldest" Red Hat member and a Sault Tribe member. She also was an avid traveler most of her life, driving Route 66 numerous times as well as tours to Central America and Europe. She loved to write notes of wisdom to her many family members and friends, and took pride in their educational and personal accomplishments. She was an avid reader keeping up with research and world events. Jennylee hosted university students in her home to talk about factors contributing to her longevity and she very much enjoyed the younger generations. Jennylee loved parties and social events. Her secret to a long life (besides good genes) was no housework, no stress, and a glass of Chardonnay!

At 107, Jennylee agreed to pose for the Hospice of the Eastern Upper Peninsula calendar as "Miss May." Jennylee passed before moving to the new Hospice House but her wishes were to continue to support Hospice of the EUP and a memorial fund is established in her name.

Many thanks also to the wonderful nurses and aides who cared for her over the last few months at Hearthside, War Memorial Hospital and Long Term Care.

Jennylee was buried next to her loving husband, John, in Oaklawn Chapel Gardens on Oct.

18 with Father Pawel Mecwel officiating. As per her wishes, a celebration of her life followed for family and friends at the Elks Lodge in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

ALMA I. RAND

Alma Ione Rand, aged 93, of Niles, formerly of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away at Brentwood Assisted Living, on Oct. 21, 2014, following an illness. She was born on May 28, 1921, to Clifford and Flora (nee Lemeux) LaJoyce in DeTour, Mich.

Alma was married to Col. Richard S. Rand USA (Ret.), for 49 years.

She is survived by two of her four children, Patricia Gardner (Richard) of Wesley Chapel, Fla., and Claudia Prout (Gerald)



of Fairfax Station, Va.; her sister, Rose Gerrish of LaPorte, Ind.; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Alma was preceded in death by her husband, Richard; her daughter, Geraldine Sturgeon of Stevensville, Mich.; and son, Richard S. Rand, Jr. of Barbeau, Mich.

Alma enjoyed seeing the world with her husband and family during their many years in the military. She also loved fishing, bowling, playing golf and quilting. She was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

A private family committal will take place at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery where her husband is buried.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Niles.

MARTHA SNYDER

Martha "Marty" (nee Tracy) Snyder, 75, of Manistique, passed away peacefully on Oct. 23, 2014, at her home. She was born July 9, 1939 in Newberry, Mich., the daughter of Charles and Jenny (nee Winters) Tracy.

She was united in marriage to James A. Snyder on Feb. 11, 1956. Their union lasted more than 58 years. She received a bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University and actively worked with American Indian families and children for 36 years with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Indian agencies.

Marty is survived by eight children, Angela (Leon) Sovey, Darrell (Cindy) Snyder, Tammy (Mike) Rivers, James Snyder Jr. (Cindy), Michael (Sue) Snyder, Dawn (Dennis) Harrison, Loretta (Steve) Flanders and Gloria (Ralph) Snyder; 19 grandchildren, Victoria (Newhoffer), Ronald (Kathy) Bricker, Tyler, Jacob, Maddy and Jeshua Snyder, Michael and Rachel (Chris) Rivers, James III, Mandy, Christopher, Nicholas and Chelsey Snyder, Todd, Crystal, Michelle, Patricia, David and Tamrah Owens; 17 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; two brothers, Randy (Penny) Tracy and William "Bill" (Judy) Tracy; five sisters, Paulette (Jonathan) Biffert, Carla (Randy) Smith, Francine (John) Baker, Betty Tracy and Susan Thomas and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her son, David; daughter, Lynda; parents; grandson, Donald; and granddaughter, Heather.

The family received friends on Oct. 30 at the Tribal Center in Manistique. A prayer service followed.

The Skradski Family Funeral Homes of Delta County assisted the family. For additional information or to leave the family a message of condolence, go to www.skradskifuneralhomes.com.



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Jeremy Ripley donates hand woven loom art to Northern Michigan Cancer Center art project

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

McLaren Northern Michigan Cancer Center in Petoskey celebrated the completion of renovations in late August and is sporting new signage identifying the center as an accredited outreach arm of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. As part of the renovation process, a Healing Arts installation was designed for the cancer center to positively influence patient wellness.

One of the artists to donate his work to the project is Jeremy Ripley, a Sault Tribe member, tribal employee and Sault Ste. Marie resident. Ripley creates hand woven fiber art and clothing articles using a loom he purchased from an acquaintance in Mackinac City. He became

involved with the cancer center's art project through his work with a downstate gallery – Three Pines Studio – who he sells loom woven clothing items to such as vests and scarves.

After the owner of the Three Pines Studio approached him about the project, the art consultant hired by the cancer center contacted him and it was agreed he would create a hand woven pink shawl for breast cancer awareness. The shawl measures about eight feet in length and is now proudly framed and on display in one of the hallways within the center. Ripley said he doesn't remember the number of hours it took to complete the weaving process, but said something that size is generally a two or three day project.

Ripley's shawl is one of about 60 pieces of unique artwork donated by area artisans that now brightens the cancer center.

Ripley said the Pink Shawl Project originated in Wisconsin, but took hold in Michigan in 2003 in an effort to raise breast cancer awareness among Native American women – for whom breast cancer is a leading cause of death.

According to a press release from the cancer center, the renovations used design elements to help create a positive physiological, mental and emotional impact on patients. Soothing colors cover the walls, the waiting room sports a tropical fish tank, clinical fixtures were replaced with wood grain cabinetry and wood grain flooring was installed. Numerous other improvements were also made to benefit both patients and medical teams.

Ripley became interested in weaving during his last semester at Central Michigan University, from which he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts emphasizing sculpture. He said he is self-taught in the art of hand weaving and it gives him a creative outlet he can work on within his own home.

"I like to create things and designing and weaving is a challenge – you have to figure out what the end product is going to be and how to make it all come together," he said. "The owner of Three Pines Studio in Cross Village has a local flock of sheep she gets her wool from, and there is a local place that spins it, and she dyes it. So she gave me her pink yarn and that's what I used to make the shawl with."

He has also experimented with cotton, linen and alpaca, but prefers to work with wool.

Ripley works for the Sault Tribe Management Information Systems Department as a network technician I.



Jeremy Ripley and his hand woven pink scarf for breast cancer awareness that he donated to Northern Michigan Cancer Center.

Correction: flu shot photo



This photo ran on page 11 of the last issue (Oct. 2014). His name was incorrect, and should have read: Russell Payment Jr. gets a flu shot.

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Christmas nostalgia brings warm memories

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Christmas is a nostalgic time of year when the smell of warm out-of-the-oven cookies, the twinkling of colored lights, and warmth of spirit in the atmosphere remind us of our own special memories — from picking out a Christmas tree to sharing a special photo with our troops or hearing sounds of festivity while out shopping.

With November now upon us, the days are shorter and the cold is setting in. Some have even had their first snowfall of the season already.

As each Christmas comes and goes, our lives grow and change, and as we make new memories, we reflect back on past ones. Sault Tribe elder Clyde Bonno, 80, said his earliest memories of Christmas were when he was about 4 years old. His family lived off of Shunk Road on 9th Avenue on what today is the Sault Tribe's reservation.

It was the end of the depression and a hard time for families

trying to put food on the table for their children. He remembers his father working for Roosevelt's Work Progress Administration and getting paid to dig ditches with a shovel on Shunk Road. Although often food was a scarce commodity for him and his six siblings, he said during the holidays they always had a big turkey to carve and plenty of food for everyone.

Presents for the children were things they needed, he remembers receiving socks and clothing — toys were few and far between. He remembers neighbors borrowing things from each other, such as sugar, flour and coffee during those hard times. "There were days we had to boil water to make Galette because we had nothing else to eat," he said. Galette is a simple pan or oven-baked bread made from flour, water, salt, baking powder and animal lard or shortening.

Bono married his late wife Arla and became a father at the age of 22. At the time he was



Sault Tribe elder Clyde Bonno in front of the tribe's elder building.

living and working downstate and making enough money to put good food on the table and buy his family nice Christmas gifts in addition to the traditional items of clothing. His family grew to include three boys and two girls.

Now during the holidays he

spends time rotating between his grown children's homes. For Thanksgiving he will be visiting his daughter and her family in Marine City and for Christmas he will be in Chicago at his other daughter's home.

Things have also changed on

the reservation, as each Christmas becomes a memory. "We didn't have a car so we walked everywhere. Cars would park on Spruce Street and people would walk down Shunk Road because it wasn't paved and the mud had come up in the spring. In the winter when it froze and in the summer when it dried up they could drive their cars in and out," he said. "I remember only one or two houses with running water and we used kerosene lamps for light. There was one house on Shunk that I remember had an indoor bathroom in their basement — that was something to see when I was a kid."

So, as you work to make Christmas special in every way, our children and grandchildren are listening, watching and making memories of their own of tinsel on the tree, stockings hung where Santa can fill them, colorful packages that tempt a good shaking, church services and traditional celebrations with friends and family.

Effort helps foster care children

According to the 2013 Kids Count data, confirmed child neglect and abuse cases for children aged newborn to eight years are increasing at a rate higher than the state average in Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac counties. Depending on the severity of the situation, it is sometimes necessary for children to be removed from their households until the environments are safe for their return.

The EUP Great Start Parent Coalition learned in 2012 that, when children are removed, they often do not have basic necessities to take with them. This prompted their effort of providing foster care necessity bags in their local communities.

The St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce invited the group to operate a Gi-Taku painting booth at their annual Fish Fest, which raises enough money to support the current supply and demand of the bags.

Each bag offers an age appropriate book, stuffed animal, new outfit, underwear or diapers, wipes and a bottle. The bags are labeled by age groups so foster



Jessica Gillotte (right), parent educator for Anishnaabek Community and Family Services receives 15 foster care necessity bags generously donated by the Great Start Collaborative and Parent Coalition. Also pictured are, left, Heather Bird, collaborative director, and, center, Becky Freitas, coalition parent liaison.

care workers can quickly grab the appropriate bags needed. The bags have been distributed to the Department of Human Services in Mackinac and Luce County.

This year, the group was able to expand to include Anishnaabek Community and Family Services, which covers Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac counties.

Five generation's photos



Above, grandfather, John Hill; mother, Megan Hill; great-grandmother, Marsha Hill; tribal member, Jean Lenk with great-great-granddaughter, Skyla Leah Hill.

Right, grandmother, JoAnn Hill; great-grandmother, Marsha Hill; great-great-grandmother, Jean Lenk holding first great-great-grandson, Bentley Ross Woodhall; mother, Madison Tarrant, and another son expected in January of 2015.



Information on tribe's low-income renter's assistance process

FROM SAULT TRIBE HOUSING AUTHORITY

First, it is very important to complete a housing application in its entirety and submit all required paperwork in order to be considered for selection when vacant units become available. The required paperwork that must be attached to the application is listed on the front page of the application in a checklist format.

In many cases, applicants do not understand the importance of completing applications and keeping them up to date. Any missing paperwork disqualifies applications as they are considered incomplete applications and overlooked during selection of vacant units. Remember, applications will not be considered for selection until

they are 100 percent complete with all required paperwork.

All applicants are responsible to update their applications every three months. Applicants are also responsible to update the Occupancy Department if there are any changes such as income, family composition, living conditions and change of address or telephone (contact) number. Not updating applications will result in those applications removal from the waiting list and filed as inactive. Once an application is placed in inactive status, a new application must be completed for consideration as an active applicant.

When a home is ready for occupancy, all the completed and active applications for that home are reviewed. Selection

criteria are based on a point system approved by the Sault Tribe Housing Board of Commissioners. Examples of areas that would receive points would be employment status, veterans, Sault Tribe members, elderly, etc. These are determined once an application is completed and required documentation is submitted. This is how the waiting list is established, as is one's position on the waiting list. The higher the application points, the higher the application is placed on the waiting list.

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority does not have an emergency housing program. Moving to the tribe's seven-county service area does not guarantee a family the availability of a rental unit. Families

should plan ahead and submit completed applications prior to moving. There is a large need for subsidized rental units and the wait for rental units can be lengthy. The low-income rental program is only a stepping-stone to self-sufficiency.

The number of available vacant units declined over the past several years. With only core working crews available to complete vacant units and the poor condition vacated units are sometimes left in, both situations have a direct impact and delay homes from suitability to rent in a timely manner. Coordinating schedules with staff and contractor's to bring the units to the authority's standards can also increase the time units are vacant

for repairs. The authority does the utmost to turnover units within 30 days but sometimes that is not always possible.

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority strives to get units available quickly, and does its best at getting tribal families in the homes. However, the need for low-income subsidized rental housing exceeds more than it can accommodate.

In an effort to improve customer service, the Housing Authority now has applications available online at www.saulttribe.com. If you would like an application mailed or have questions, please call Sarah Schmalz, occupancy specialist, at (906) 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072.

Everything a beginner needs to know about a ghost feast

FROM CULTURAL STAFF

Every season brings special ceremonies and activities we, as Anishinaabe, have traditionally followed. During dagwaging (autumn) we have a special ceremony called jibay wiikongewin, the ghost feast. Here are some reminders and pointers given to us to help you when attending these feasts.

What is a ghost feast? Jibay wiikongewin is when we remember and honor our ancestors, our

relatives who came before us. These may be our grandmothers, grandfathers, mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and cousins by blood or clan. We would also honor tribal chiefs, spiritual leaders, medicine people and all others who had roles of leadership or contributed to our communities in any way.

Do you have to be a spiritual leader or pipe carrier to have a ghost feast? No. Families and communities often have ghost

feasts. There is no wrong way when your intentions are good. The manidoos (spirits) will recognize your intentions and accept your offerings. There are many different ways to conduct this ceremony and it varies depending on families and communities.

How do you prepare for a ghost feast? A fire is lit so that asemaa (tobacco) and food offerings can be made. This would be done at the beginning before any food is eaten. Those who carry our dewe'iganak (drums) and nagamawinan (songs) can also be invited to share what they carry. The spirits enjoy the sound of our drums and the songs that go with them. The area, building and participants are smudged when beginning as is the food after it is cooked. We ask medicines, which can be one or all of the sacred medicines — giizihik (cedar), weengashk (sweetgrass), mshkadewashk (sage) and asemaa (tobacco) — for help. Anyone can do the smudging as long as it is

not a woman on her moon time. It doesn't matter who is doing the smudging because we ask those medicines for their help through the special ceremony.

What are you supposed to cook? We cook what our deceased ancestors and relatives enjoyed. This is a time to bring out all those dishes your grandmothers, grandfathers, mothers, fathers and other relatives liked. It could be corn soup, macaroni and cheese, whatever they enjoyed. You are offering the foods to their spirits and eating for their spirits. We are giving thanks for all the goodness they brought into our lives and giving thanks for all we received and will receive in the future.

Who is supposed to do the cooking? Anyone can cook and we are reminded to think of those good memories and happy times we had with our past. Even if you did not get to spend time with your grandmother or great-grandfather, think of the stories and

good things your mom or dad told you while they cooked the food your relatives enjoyed.

The only people who must not cook are women on their moon time. If they do come to the ceremony, someone should get their plate for them and serve them so they do not touch any of the sacred food. It isn't that the women are shunned, they are at their time of strength and have the ability to overcome the spirits in the food and at the ceremony.

What is done after the food is cooked and bringing a dish to the ceremony? After all the food is cooked, several different things will happen depending on family customs. Some may go feed the fire themselves with some of what they have prepared for their relatives, a chair may be left empty with everything placed in front of it as though someone would sit and eat, so there is a place for spirits to sit. Some may designate a family member to eat

See "Ghost feast," page 18

Interested in Fasting?

The Traditional Medicine Program's annual fall fasting camp took place Oct. 2-7 at the Mary Murray Culture Camp on Sugar Island.

Fasting is one of the many ceremonies that Anishinaabe and other tribes have practiced for thousands of years. In the past, elders of a community would take the young people out to fast in order to help them find their direction in life.

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

There are many reasons to go on a fast, but when you choose to go on a fast, it is with a purpose in mind. Many seek direction in their lives, go out to learn more about our ways and about creation, or fast for their spirit name and colors. You may fast for many other reasons, it is a very personal, often healing experience.

My teachings about fasting in the bush or in Mother Nature are that everything in nature, the trees, creatures, birds, insects, the winds, the ground itself, leaves, and all the pools of water are all significant in our fasts. We fast with our eyes wide open, taking all that Mother Nature has to offer, and giving thanks for all of creation. We are among our first family, Mother Nature.

The things we see on a fast we put our tobacco (semaa) down and give thanks (miigwech). We ask for guidance, we pray for those who are sick and we pray for our families, we pray for many things.

It is said that when you fast, you are sacrificing yourself for all, for your family and for your community, by denying yourself the basic comforts of shelter, water, nourishment and companionship.

I personally have fasted for my family and for guidance to be the best father and husband I can be. Fasting is a lifelong experience you will never forget and for which you will be forever grateful.

I encourage anyone who is interested to contact the Traditional Medicine Program to learn more about fasting and how to properly participate in the fasting ceremony. Fasting is a personal choice and our fasting camps are not for everyone to simply show up and go out and fast.

We take very good care of our people by meeting with them via appointment with one of our traditional healers first (bring your semaa) and make sure it is a

safe and viable way to help each individual who is interested in fasting.

Contact the Traditional Medicine Program at the Sault Tribe Health Center for more information about fasting or other questions you may have.

Tony Abramson Jr: (906) 632-0236

Peggy Holappa: (906) 632-0220



SCHOOLCRAFT
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



Committed To Giving You Our Very Best

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Looking for health care coverage that works for your health and your budget? There's new options to help working people like you get healthy-at a cost that works in your budget. It's the Healthy Michigan Plans.

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Graymont proposal still on tribe's radar

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe's Inland Fish and Wildlife Department (IFWD) have made some new recommendations to the Inland Conservation Committee (ICC) concerning the Graymont mining proposals in Mackinac and Luce counties.

Graymont has a new proposal on the table and with the tribe continuing to oppose the operation, the IFWD has asked ICC to pass a motion supporting Sault Tribe opposition to the newest Graymont proposal and also ask the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to carry out a review of the cumulative impacts of the resulting mining operation. An additional motion was also requested by IFWD to the ICC recommending opposing the exchange of mineral rights on

lands where the surface is owned by the U.S. Forest Service.

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors met with the U.S. Forest Service on Oct. 22 regarding a proposed mineral rights exchange between Graymont and the State of Michigan. Graymont proposes to exchange about 2,000 acres of mineral rights they own in the Hendricks Quarry area for about 2,000 acres of mineral rights on the Hiawatha National Forest near Rexton, which is owned by the State. The U.S. Forest Service owns the surface of State owned lands.

The IFWD says the outcome of the suggested transfer would be a large open pit mine on surface lands owned by the USFS because mineral right ownership supersedes surface rights ownership.

This proposed land exchange is separate from the previous proposal that was submitted to the Michigan DNR regarding the sale of about 1,000 acres and the lease of 7,500 acres of subsurface mineral rights to Graymont.

The IFWD also says it's worth noting, "...this is still the single largest land sale by the state of Michigan in modern history."

Graymont's original proposal to purchase 11,000 acres of state land to mine limestone is still under consideration by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The land in Graymont's proposals contain significant amounts of high quality hardwood forest and the headwaters of the South Branch of the Carp River, the Black River and other streams that flow into Lakes

Huron, Michigan and Superior. Both Native and non-Native peoples use this area for hunting and fishing; there are 1,200 tribally licensed hunters living within a 20-mile radius of this land.

The tribe has several concerns about the sale of land to Graymont:

— Sale of 11,000 acres is unprecedented: the land has to be considered surplus to be sold, and it is not;

— Much of our treaty ceded territory where many hunt and fish would be going into private hands;

— Environmental impacts that have not even been examined yet; Identified cultural and archeological sites; and

— Accurate complete information from the state on what's going on, partly because Graymonts proposals keeps changing.

Since these proposals are still on the DNR director's desk, it is important for all for us to email DNR-GraymontProposalComments@michigan.gov to tell them how you feel about this land sale and mineral rights exchange.

Commission garners water trail planning grant for shoreline



The Water Trails Project provides the opportunity to share our knowledge of our natural resources, and our unique history and culture. It provides a sense of place to draw tourism, boost economic growth and creating a safe way to locate and travel our waterways.

FROM EUPRP&DC SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The EUP Regional Planning and Development Commission (EUPRP&DC) has been awarded a MDEQ Coastal Zone Management Grant in the amount of \$33,250 to be matched with local support for a project total of \$66,500 in the development of water trail planning along the Lake Superior and St. Mary's River shoreline from Grand Marais to DeTour Village. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Transportation Program is a primary project partner who will contribute cash support, as well as, staff resources and knowledge in the development of history and cultural information of our waterways.

This project will be similar to the recreational inventory of the northern shore of Lake Huron from the City of St. Ignace to Drummond Island that EUPRP&DC completed in 2011 and the Lake Michigan shoreline from St. Ignace to Menominee

completed in 2014. The commission plans to incorporate creative aspects of previously completed projects around the state to create a well-rounded cap-stone project that will provide a direct link for regional water trails information.

With the cooperation of local communities, stakeholders, public and private land owners, EUPRP&DC hopes to complete the mapping and inventorying of our region's coastal resources, open doors and communication on waterfront issues and develop best practices for sustainability.

The commission would also like to take this project to the next level by gathering local historical facts about the waterway and people to eventually establish it as Michigan Heritage Water Trail. This designation would include a more detailed presentation of historic material in addition to acting as a more conventional water trail guide with maps, put-in points, take-out points, rest stop locations, paddling conditions, etc. An inter-

pretive program and exhibit at a local museum on or nearby the water trail could also be part of the experience. It is a great way for a community to promote tourism, physical fitness, and bring the local history to life.

An interactive website will be created and maintained by EUPRP&DC, giving this region a presence on the world wide web with local community links, water trail information, historical facts, etc. Standard language will be developed that could be used in local recreation plans for the water trails, develop site assessments, list enhancements and maps for promotion. Kick-off meetings are being planned throughout the project area for the first week in December. Find out more information by visiting www.eup-planning.org or contacting Ellen Benoit at (906) 635-1581 or ellen@eup-planning.org, or Wendy Hoffman at (906) 635-6050 or whoffman@saulttribe.net.

EPA names tribal eco-ambassadors

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Oct. 27, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy announced the agency's 2015 tribal eco-ambassadors, tribal college and university professors who work in partnership with EPA scientists to improve environmental conditions and public health in tribal communities, at the National Congress of American Indians' annual convention in Atlanta, Ga.

The ecoAmbassadors program funds research at tribal colleges and universities, bringing environmental improvements to schools and neighborhoods.

"Through the Tribal EcoAmbassadors Program, we are strengthening an important partnership between EPA and tribal communities in addition to supporting research to combat climate change and improve public health," said McCarthy. "This program allows EPA scientists and tribal professors to work side-by-side to improve public health and the environment in tribal communities."

EPA's tribal ecoAmbassadors, along with their students, will participate in training, conduct research and share proposed solutions with tribal partners.

At the end of this academic year, EPA's Tribal EcoAmbassadors Program will have invested over \$1.4 million in tribal communities, and provided 20 tribal college and university professors and 150 students, the opportunity to work with EPA scientists.

In addition, the program has produced several transferable online courses, a viable construction business opportunity

From "Ghost feast," page 17 —

for the spirit. But a spirit plate is usually always made to feed the fire before anyone actually eats. If you are bringing a dish, just ask the family having the feast what they would like for you to do or, if you have special instructions, discuss it with the family first so they understand you have a special way to do this.

Should I be afraid to go to a ghost feast? If you have not had the opportunity or have stood back from attending this special

and forged dozens of new partnerships to sustain the program's work.

The EPA is committed to supporting the implementation of federal environmental laws consistent with the federal trust responsibility, the government-to-government relationship, and EPA's 1984 Indian policy of federally recognized tribes.

This year's recipients:

• Fond Du Lac College, Cloquet, Minn. — Dr. Courtney Kowalczak, to conduct research on using dragonfly larvae to monitor mercury bioaccumulation in tribal waters.

• Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, N.M. — Dr. Annie McDonnell, to create a living, GIS map of sustainability projects on campus and educate the community on major environmental issues, including climate adaptation and climate mitigation.

• Northwest Indian College, Bellingham, Wash. — Ane Berrett, in partnership with AmeriCorps, to conduct several projects, including model garden and landscaping plan creation, to help build a model of food sovereignty for the Northwest Indian College and Lummi communities.

• Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, Mont. — Dr. Robert Kenning, to enhance the effectiveness of local camas restoration efforts on the Flathead Indian reservation by enhancing knowledge of soil moisture and competition from invasive species.

For more information on tribal eco-ambassadors or to apply, visit www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/tribal/index.html.

ceremony, do as you would in any new situation or meeting someone for the first time. Be respectful. If you have questions, take some tobacco to someone who is knowledgeable or who is having the feast and ask for guidance. That tobacco will lead the way and you will be welcomed and comforted in your uncertainty. These are lessons we have been taught and may vary from what others have been taught. Miigwech.

A timeline of events

1955: The Presque Isle Power Plant (PIPP) is built by the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company to support their mining operations.

1980: PIPP is sold to Wisconsin Electric (WE).

2000: American Transmission Company (ATC) is formed as an independent organization that plans, builds and maintains transmission facilities in Wisconsin and the U.P.

2001: The Midcontinent Independent System Operator is formed – an independent agency to maintain energy markets in the Midwest and Manitoba, Canada.

2003: ATC applies to become the region's Load Balancing Authority (LBA).

March 2004: MISO and ATC agree on Systems Support Resource (SSR) cost allocation tariffs, stating the costs of forcing a generation plant to run to ensure grid reliability in the region would be assigned to utilities in that area. This is called the ATC carve-out. Future SSR costs were allocated in the amounts of 92 percent to ratepayers in Wisconsin and eight percent to U.P. ratepayers.

April 2004: FERC rejects ATCs bid to become an LBA, but language pertaining to ATC carve-out is never removed.

October 2008: PA 286 passes, allowing iron ore mining or processing facilities to choose their electricity supplier. The same law limits choice for other consumers to only 10 percent of their utility's electric sales.

Summer 2013: Cliffs, the U.P.'s largest electric consumer, switches electric suppliers from WE Energies to Integrys.

August 2013: WE notifies MISO of PIPP closure, as continual operation was not profitable with Cliff's switch of supplies representing a 85 percent loss of Michigan load.

October 2013: MISO decides PIPP must be forced to stay open to maintain grid reliability in the area.

February 2014: MISO agrees to pay WE about \$52,230,000 annually to keep PIPP open, with costs distributed based on the ATC carve-out SSR agreements.

March 2014: The Wisconsin Public Service Commission (WPSC) sues MISO at FERC, stating that the ATC carve-out agreement was an "historical accident." WPSC calls the 92 percent to eight percent ratio of SSR cost allocation between Wisconsin and the U.P. "unjust and unreasonable," calling for a "non-discriminatory" allocation of 42 percent to Wisconsin and 58 percent to the U.P. based on an earlier study.

July 2014: FERC agrees with WPSC, and orders MISO to redo the load-shedding study.

August 2014: MISO completes the study and responds to FERC with a revised allocation of costs between LBAs, and an example for cost allocation by region.

(Based on Upper Peninsula's Business Newsletter Oct. 2014, Vol. 17, Issue 10)

From "FERC," Page 1

Who does it affect? There is no doubt the hike would be felt by everyone who lives and works in the U.P. — about 166,000 electric customers.

Sault Tribe opposes the energy increase. According to Sault Tribe Attorney Aaron Schlehuber, who recently attended a public panel discussion of U.P.'s energy future in Marquette, the system implemented by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is "very stringent" and Michigan's elected officials are focusing their efforts to convince FERC the solution is either new power generation or improved transmission capabilities.

He said, "The state is framing this as an issue of D.C. not knowing what is best for Michigan — rather than letting Michigan decide for itself." Schlehuber added the state is focusing a lot of effort on stalling the implementation of the already imposed liabilities.

A letter sent to tribal households on Oct. 30 by Chairperson Aaron Payment and the Sault Tribe Board of Directors, said the rate hike would see the Sault Tribe paying an additional \$718,000 a year for electricity to its tribal buildings.

The tribe has filed legal papers joining various parties working to stop FERC from issuing an order allowing the rate increases to take effect. Payment said tribal lawyers and leaders are continuing to pressure FERC, the Michigan Public Service Commission and Michigan's elected leaders in Lansing and Washington to stop the rate increases and reach a more equitable solution.

Sault Tribe Planning and Development Specialist Jeff Holt, said, "Any rate increase would be difficult, but the 30 percent increase for residential and commercial customers would be devastating. With seasonal unemployment at a high mark, and a struggling economy, the Dec. 1 date comes at a terrible time. Northern Michigan has historically enjoyed utility rates that were manageable, but this issue negates that. As chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Commission, I fear this will hinder our efforts to continue to bring new jobs into the area, and will place a tremendous burden on the existing businesses."

Cloverland Electric Cooperative shares the tribe's view: Communications Manager for Cloverland Electric Cooperative, Todd Chapman, said, "Cloverland Electric does not get any benefit from PIPP. So as Wisconsin took the argument to FERC that they don't benefit from it since the two ore mines left to purchase their electricity elsewhere, and FERC agreed, Cloverland is taking the exact same argument to FERC — we don't benefit from that plant, therefore, Cloverland Electric members, our 42,000 meters, should not be paying any portion of the \$116 million dollars."

Chapman said if nothing changes before Dec. 1, Cloverland Electric members

would be paying about 22 percent of the \$116 million to keep the plant operational. The new charge, he said, is called a Power Supply Recovery Cost (PSRC) and is a line item on each electric bill. The typical PSRC cost in 2013 was anywhere from zero to .004, he said. If this goes through, that amount will increase to .034. "That is the maximum PSRC factor that can be charged," he said. "Typically what happens is that PSRC factor has to be filed with the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) each year and they look at it and decide if its high or low, and in this case we don't think they can do much with it other than approve it because this \$22 million is a straight pass through for Cloverland Electric Company; we do not see a penny of that money — it passes straight through and goes to the MISO and WE Energies, owner of the plant."

He said PIPP is valuable and that the mid- and western-U.P. benefit from the electricity it generates. "If they benefit from it, they should pay for it," Chapman said.

Wisconsin Electric Energies agrees: Brian Manthey, spokesperson for Wisconsin Electric Energies (We Energies), which owns and operates the power generation plant, said it's an energy reliability issue. Wisconsin has enough reliable energy generation available that they don't need the Presque Isle Power Plant and would like to close it. That's not the case in the U.P. Without Presque Isle, a great portion of the U.P. would be without power.

Manthey said the Presque Isle Power Plant and others have requested a study on energy use by the MISO. The study would determine who benefits from the power generated by the Presque Isle Power Plant to find a more equitable way to cost-share the millions associated with keeping it operational. He said those who benefit from it should share more of the costs associated with it. It's the MISO that has the authority and made the determination that the plant must be kept open for the near future until another plan is put into place to ensure the reliability of the electric grid in the U.P.

According to Manthey, if the Presque Isle Power Plant were to close, it would probably not have any impact on Edison Sault Electric customers as far as availability of energy generation and usage. It would however impact a great many other residents of the U.P.

"It's not only Wisconsin that has an adequate power supply. Lower Michigan is also in a good position to meet power needs," Manthey said. "That is why the proximity of Cloverland Electric to power from lower Michigan through transmission lines makes them much less dependent on the running of Presque Isle Power Plant. I did some checking regarding the transmission options for Cloverland, and found that they still need to have any power from the Lower Peninsula routed through Wisconsin. That doesn't change the fact that

Cloverland seems to be outside of the area that benefits from the continued running of the Presque Isle Power Plant, which is the main reason we feel FERC should direct MISO to reconsider the cost allocation to more accurately identify the entities that benefit the most from the continued running of the plant."

What happens now? The bottom line is that a large part of the U.P. does not have enough energy infrastructure in place to be able to live without the Presque Isle Power Plant. Wisconsin does. So until the U.P. can generate more of its own power and not have to rely as heavily on transmission, it seems a large part of the U.P. is reliant on a plant that its owners, We Energies, would like to close.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission sided with Wisconsin earlier this year when the Wisconsin Public Service Commission made its case to them, so the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) is fighting their decision. The Regulatory Commission will ultimately determine whether to overturn their decision to increase rates.

Federal regulators could grant a one-time exemption until local replacement energy sources become available. Michigan and Wisconsin can still come together and compromise by keeping the Marquette plant open until an alternative plant is built within the next few years at a greatly reduced cost to consumers.

According to an online search, there are a few energy companies interested in helping fill the energy gap. Keweenaw Renewable Energy Coalition recently announced it has a plan to provide two U.P. counties with electricity using renewable energy — burning biomass for baseline energy and using solar and wind for peaking power.

At the request of the Michigan Public Service Commission, the MISO conducted a study explaining how much power must be produced to replace the output of the plant — how much electricity should be produced and where, to have a reliable grid in the U.P.

View the study at: (<https://www.misoenergy.org/Library/Repository/Meeting%20Material/Stakeholder/SPM/20140811%20WTSTF/20140811%20WTSTF%20Presque%20Isle%20Power%20Plant%20Generator%20Replacement%20Screening%20Study.pdf>).

Crisis mode — FERC needs to act: With U.P. residents in crisis mode, the energy debate is generating lots of attention from state and federal lawmakers and other players in the energy realm. U.S. Rep. Dan Benishek (R-Crystal Falls) announced he will be introducing legislation that will work to address the pending electric rate increases, while also protecting ratepayers in the future from extreme changes in their energy bills that are the result of government mandates. (<http://benishek.house.gov/press-release/dr-benishek-announces-legislation-protect-pending-rate-increases>). U.S. Sens. Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing) and Carl Levin (D-Detroit) also

weighed in and urged the FERC to delay electric rate increases and act on the complaint filed by the Michigan Public Service Commission. (http://www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=1532).

A press release from Lake Superior State University stated that, "If the hike goes through, LSSU's power bill could jump \$400,000 annually. Students could see \$200 in additional charges or a corresponding reduction in services." LSSU President Tom Pleger said that many area businesses and municipalities have gone on record opposing the proposed increases. He said that a dramatic increase in power costs in the U.P. would stifle economic development and increase the cost of doing business.

Pleger said this crisis demonstrates that the U.P. needs to develop a long-term sustainable energy plan that allows for growth while preserving environmental resources and natural landscapes.

In their letter to FERC Chairwoman Cheryl A. LaFleur, Senators Stabenow and Levin wrote, "Residents and businesses in the region already pay extremely high energy costs because of the region's significant power transmission and supply challenges. When coupled with the Upper Peninsula's high unemployment, growing number of retirees, and an average median household income of only \$39,400 — more than \$13,000 lower than the national median — we are deeply concerned about the negative impact that these dramatic rate increases will have on seniors, the unemployed, small businesses and others."

Added Levin, "Federal law requires that rate increases be reasonable and justifiable, and this proposed increase is neither. FERC should act promptly on Michigan's request to protect Upper Peninsula consumers and businesses from the damage this unjustified rate hike would cause."

How this will affect ratepayers will remain unclear until FERC finalizes their decision this month. However, keeping PIPP open for grid reliability will likely contribute to an increase in U.P. electric rates.

Acronym list

PIPP - Presque Isle Power Plant
FERC - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
WE Energies - Wisconsin Electric Energies
MISO - Midcontinent Independent System Operator
MPSC - Michigan Public Service Commission
WPSC - Wisconsin Public Service Commission
ATC - American Transmission Company
SSR - Systems Support Resource (costs)
LBA - Load Balancing Authority
PSRC - Power Supply Recovery Cost

Director Hollowell updates Unit II members



CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Anni, kwey gakina awiy-agog (Hello, my friends), just a reminder that our language classes are streamed live on the Internet at new.livestream.com/saulttribelanguage. Please support the work of our dedicated staff who work so hard to keep our fragile language alive. We're always one generation away from losing it all together. I know that, at my age, I will never be a fluent speaker. Even so, a responsibility exists for all of us to encourage and support our community teachers by participat-

ing and introducing our language to our children and grandchildren. And, "There's an app for that!" Just Google "Ojibwe" or "Anishinaabemowin," and you will discover free podcasts and apps for your computer or smart phones. I realize we don't all have access to these types of devices. And there is nothing better than coming together for language, so I am grateful for the many people who do bring language teachings to our people face to face.

It's ghost feast season and it is so great to see our extended families and communities come together to remember and honor our loved ones who have walked on, so much pride, love and laughter. Hessel community called for a Gathering of the Pipes and I was truly humbled and grateful for the gift and teachings that were shared.

Newberry community held a Family Fun Day at the Newberry Community Center. Thank you to our dedicated health staff who made it all possible. Wow. What a turn out! The Newberry com-

munity needs a larger facility to accommodate all the families who want to participate in tribal functions and activities. Newberry is in the heart of our territory. It's where the elders from all units gather once a month. The time has come to recognize the unmet need in this community and find a way to pool resources from housing, health, education, culture, conservation, etc., and provide an adequate facility to accommodate the need.

It has been a very busy month with many issues on many fronts. As you may know, the situation at the Presque Isle Energy plant in Marquette, Mich., has dire implications for all Upper Peninsula residents as well as for Sault Tribe as rate hikes are under consideration. It's a complicated multi-jurisdictional issue. We are actively engaged and will join coalitions to prevent Upper Peninsula residents from unjustly shouldering the burden of regulatory decisions made by those who don't even live here. This is a moment when all leadership should come together and turn

what could be a disastrous situation for our region, into a long-term opportunity towards sustainable energy delivery to the Upper Peninsula. *The Mining Journal* newspaper ran a five-part series on the issues at stake. We have a legal and staff support team involved and will be working to ensure an equitable resolution is found.

I briefed in my last report internal situations we are dealing with in regards to budgets and casino operations. It's ongoing and being watched very carefully. We don't need anyone punching holes in the bottom of the boat as we navigate the current we find ourselves in. We have an obligation to remain steady and true. I want to recognize our employees on both the governmental and enterprise side for their continued dedication and efforts. From front line workers to our executive team — I very much appreciate your professionalism.

United Tribes, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes and the National Congress of American Indians have all recent-

ly convened. It's encouraging to see policy being formed that affects all tribes — and particularly Great Lake tribes taking an active role in economic, social and environmental issues that impact all of us.

The Lake Superior Environmental Monitoring Collaborative will be meeting later this month in Duluth, Minn. This is a significant opportunity for tribes to ensure a voice at the table in order to protect the natural resources, headwaters and watersheds of Lake Superior. The continued existence of tribal people and tribal communities depends on healthy quality waters. As tribal nations of the Great Lakes, we need to stand united and strong and take a seat at the table.

As always, call or email me anytime with your questions and concerns.

Apich mina (Until next time).
Catherine Hollowell,
Unit II Director
(906) 484 -6821 home
(906) 430-5551
Unit2tribal@gmail.com

We can't keep doing "what we've always done"



DJ HOFFMAN
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Over the course of the last month, the workshops and meetings of the tribe have been "eye opening." The tribe is not as fiscally sound as many portrayed, and yet continue to portray. We have issues, and many deficiencies that need correction to ensure financial stability and long-term health and viability.

Our continued emphasis on doing things a certain way because "this is how we have always done them" needs to cease. We need to step outside the proverbial box and find more

effective and efficient methods to accomplish the tribe's goals and objectives in both Governmental and Enterprise arenas.

INSURANCE

One such area that the tribe needs to address is its handling of insurance. At a recent workshop, the board was informed that our Self Insurance was \$2.3 million short for the current fiscal year. This is not the first time. The tribe has repeatedly offset the shortfalls of self-insurance over the past several years to the tune of several million dollars. This is "what we have always done."

To attempt to prevent future shortfalls, the tribal board is considering increasing the employee contribution to the tribe's Self-Insurance Plan by 10 percent, as well as the employer contribution by 10 percent.

This proposed "solution" is to continue our self-insurance plan, the "Cadillac" plan, and increase the expense to both the tribe and the employees. Once again, continue to do "what we have always done," and increasing the

costs to employees that haven't received raises since 2007.

The tribal employer contribution is \$1,420 per month for each employee under a family insurance plan, over \$17,000 per year. Would it not make sense to look into alternatives in which the tribe used some the funds earmarked for employer contribution to give employees an actual COLA (cost of living increase) and provide insurance alternatives for them to select from other than the existing option.

The tribe needs to step outside the box and look at other options instead of continuing to "do what we have always done."

CASINOS

Currently we do not have an individual running all five of our casino operations. The board has discussed different options from firms to a temporary CEO/COO to help right the ship. Quite honestly, as a tribal member, and a member of the board, I am extremely concerned that this hasn't been a priority. It needs to be addressed immediately, and I

would encourage anyone reading this to let your board members know your views on the lack of urgency.

The casinos will not meet the bank covenants this quarter. As I have previously stated, it is my firm belief that we need to restructure and extend out our existing debt from the 3.6 years to a more realistic 5-7 years. This will relax the covenants, increase cash flow, and increase cap ex funds available to make sure our casino facilities can be fixed and maintained.

We have issues and we need to stop continuing to "do what we have always done."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

When a tribe has literally done essentially nothing in the past 10 years to diversify its business or economic base it is very east to state that we need to stop continuing to "do what we have always done."

The key to our tribe's financial successes is diversification of our business enterprises. I

have said this each and every time I have reported to the membership and will continue while I am a member of the board of directors. We need to take the time to look at options to diversify.

As a board we are often consumed by the personal squabbles between individuals that often overshadow the tasks at hand. Many times productive dialogue is cast aside when it differs from the norm, or it does not fit inside the box in which many have become comfortable with over the years. One thing is definitely apparent, "doing what we have always done" isn't working and it's time for the tribe to step out of the box.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,
DJ Hoffman
Unit 1 Board of Directors
Home (906) 635-6945
Cell (906) 203-0510
djwhoffman@hotmail.com
djwhoffman@saulttribe.net

Tribe to establish business directory for its members

SAULT STE. MARIE — Sault Tribe is establishing a Tribal Member Business Directory to be comprised of business owned in whole or part by Sault Tribe members.

Do you have a tribal member owned business you would like to register with your tribe for its business directory? If so, please complete the form below and send it to: Tribal Chairperson's

Office, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. There is also a form at www.saulttribe.com that can be downloaded and printed to mail in, or downloaded and completed for emailing to: chairpersonpayment@saulttribe.net.

Any questions, please contact the Chairperson's office at 906-635-6050.

Sault Tribe Member Business Directory Application

To be registered with the tribe's business directory for its members, please complete this form and send to: Tribal Chairperson's Office, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783, or email to chairpersonpayment@saulttribe.net if using the electronic form.

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Services Provided: _____

Percentage Native Owned: _____

Tribal Members Name: _____

8(a) Certified? Yes ___ No ___ Minority Business Certified? Yes ___ No ___

Other certification? _____

Marquette Community Health now at new site



RITA GLYPTIS
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

As of Nov. 4, the Marquette tribal Community Health office transferred to a new site at the Midtown Office Center at 1229 W. Washington St. (across from Shopko and Office Max). Services currently provided are weekly medication pick-up, community health nursing office and home visits, registered dietician counseling, monthly diabetes foot care clinics and flu shot clinics. For more information or questions, please call the Munising Tribal Health Center at (906) 387-4721.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) opened for applicants on Nov. 1, 2014. The program is designed to prevent a hardship paying for high-energy bills during the cold winter months. Eligibility: Reside within Chippewa, Alger, Mackinac, Luce, Delta, Schoolcraft or Marquette counties, head of household being a Sault Tribe member or minor Sault Tribe children in the home. If you have questions regarding LIHEAP eligibility or to request an application call Heidi Cotey, ACFS at the Munising Tribal Health Center (906) 387-3906. Applications may also be found at our Sault Tribe website www.saulttribe.com.

We have recently received 2 percent distribution amounts and requests. As expected the need far exceeds the dollars available. All the requests are worth funding but with the revenue of one small casino funding Unit V 2 percent requests, many have to be denied. This week I will make my decisions and will list them in my next unit report. If you would like to know sooner please get a hold

of me.

On Oct. 24, I attended the Health Ad Hoc meeting in the Sault. Others in attendance were Bonnie Culfa, Marlene Glaesmann, Tony Abramson, Susan Henderlite, Denise Chase and Darcy Morrow. Ten members of the board of directors are committee members. Agenda items discussed included ways to reestablish and expand clinic services to the outlying areas, a clinic provider staffing update and a purchased and referred care update (formerly Contract Health). When this committee was formed by resolution in 2012 its purpose was to find a way to increase access to health services. The objective was to explore the feasibility of expanding and restoring services to the areas that were closed in 2008, to reduce contract health dollars and to come back to the board with an estimate of costs. With the use of this committee we were able to reestablish office space and services to members in Marquette and Escanaba and to provide services to Drummond Island. This group will re-focus its efforts, set priorities and continue to meet

monthly.

The Gaming Authority interviewed several professional management companies interested in providing an objective analysis and the temporary management of our gaming businesses. We have now selected one and are committed to getting them here as soon as possible. They will focus on increasing revenue, improving customer service and improving team member morale. They will also handle the process of interviewing, selecting and filling vacant positions. We continue to meet with the casino managers on a weekly basis. The managers have been working on improvement plans for their respective casinos and report on progress made, current issues and ongoing plans. I would like to say thank you to John Villemure who is filling in at the Christmas casino. The casino staff appreciates your hard work and commitment.

There are vacancies on various committees including the Child Welfare (five seats), Election (four seats), Munising Elder Sub-Committee (one regular, two alternate seats), Marquette Elder Sub-Committee (one reg-

ular seat). For more information please call Tara McKelvie at the admin office, (906) 635-6050.

It's holiday time already. The kid's Christmas parties are planned for Munising on Dec. 13 and Marquette on Dec. 20. More information will be available as plans are finalized. There will be an elder's holiday dinner in Marquette on Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn and an elder's Christmas dinner in Munising on Dec. 10 at the Munising Community Center. For more information, contact your Elder's Committee chairperson.

As the weather takes a seasonal turn remember to use the walking track on the third floor of the Munising Tribal Health Center. Hours are M-F 4:30 – 8 p.m. There is a monitor on site during hours of operation. It is a great place to walk.

Happy Thanksgiving! Please help to feed a hungry neighbor during the coming holiday season. Feel free to contact me at (906) 202-3224 or rglyptis@saulttribe.net.

Rita Glyptis
Unit V

Tribe hiring casino experts - major changes coming



DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

During my first two years on the board, one challenge that has been consistent is that any changes that need to happen either happen at a snail's pace or you are met with resistance, especially if

it is not certain board members' ideas. This is not how we should be operating our businesses or our services to the membership.

An example would be the major changes that are needed in the management of our casinos. One reason I ran for the board was to help fix the casinos, to bring back the friendly atmosphere our workers and customers once had not too long ago. Myself, Director Chase and a few other board members have been met with opposition by certain board members. I guess for some the less they know or act like they don't know the better.

Two years ago, casino team member surveys were done at all five of our casinos. From these team member surveys, immediate changes should have been initiated but the majority of the board

didn't want to make any changes to management at that time. At the end of last year our casinos didn't meet our bank covenants, which ended up costing the tribe money; once again no changes were made to management. Again the casinos have told us we might not meet our covenants this year at the bank because business continues to be down.

Over two years later and now changes are finally starting to take place. If a majority of the board would have listened to the team member surveys, we could have had changes happening two years ago and already had a turnaround team in here fixing the major issues at each of our facilities. Currently we are in the process of hiring professional casino experts to make major changes

to our five casinos. The board needs to allow these individuals to come in and do the job we are paying them to do. No longer can board members worry about their family and friends, which is why our casinos have gotten to the state they are in today. We need to keep politics out of our businesses and let the professionals do their jobs, so they can in turn provide more revenue to provide more services for our members.

Sault Tribe member Martha "Marty" Snyder passed away on Oct. 23, 2014, in Manistique, Mich. Many throughout our tribe knew Marty for her work in the tribe's ACFS program. She was the very first caseworker the tribe had on the western end. She dedicated 36 years to the children and families of our tribe. Marty held a

bachelor's degree from NMU and earned the title of "expert witness" for the many child welfare cases she worked on throughout the years. Everyone who came into contact with Marty always walked away with a smile, she was such an advocate for our tribal children and she will be missed by all.

Elders holiday dinners: Marquette, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m., at the Holiday Inn; Manistique, Dec. 4, at the Manistique Tribal Center; and Escanaba, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m., at Chip-In Casino.

To sign up for the Manistique or Escanaba dinners, please call 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137.

Thank you,
Darcy Morrow
(906) 298-1888
dmorrow@saulttribe.net

Changes to employee insurance coming soon



JENNIFER MCLEOD,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, Anishnabek, as I sit to write this article, I am uncertain about what I should report. I generally try to find a way to include something of our culture, a brief update on goings-on in the tribe and a positive message of hope that we are moving forward, even if slowly. Today, however, it is

very difficult to do so.

As I mentioned last month, our tribe has received some significant grants. I am confident you will read about them elsewhere in this newspaper. We have wonderful, hard-working staff who are doing their best to make certain our tribe is successful. We can all be very proud. I do not wish to sound ungrateful, however, this windfall of money is in the form of grants and, by their very nature, are temporary. Grants are WONDERFUL, they are basically "free money," but they all have an end date, whether it is one or five years, they will end. Our tribe will benefit from these grants and it is all good, except that when the grant ends, the service disappears and the good people who worked hard for our tribe under a grant, find themselves unemployed. This is not acceptable.

This past month, we strug-

gled with ANOTHER shortfall in insurance — again — in the millions of dollars! The board of directors had been warned repeatedly by staff that this would happen and we finally got to the point where a decision was going to be made! It was hotly debated among the board members. Insurance staff presented different options. In the end, the choice was to change the benefits of the plan (resulting in less coverage to the employees) or keep the benefits the same and increase the rates to employees. I did not like either of the choices, however, we had to make a decision. Two issues were brought forward that affected my vote. First, we previously identified money that was going to be given to employees in some manner (yet to be determined). Perhaps it would be as a COLA or a bonus. It was unknown at this point. Secondly, an employee survey showed that

our employees wanted to keep their insurance benefits the same, even if it meant an increase in what they had to pay for it. I reluctantly voted "yes" to an increase in cost to employees, believing they were going to receive an increase in their pay somehow, and I was honoring their desire to maintain coverage "as is." Six board members voted "yes," and six board members voted "no." Under our rules, it then goes to the chairperson to break the tie — except he didn't. He abstained. This created quite a bit of chaos, and his decision to not vote was challenged, and debated among the board. In the end, there was no decision made — the whole matter just "dropped." Nothing in all of my years serving on boards and committees had prepared me for this, I was virtually speechless. In my early months as a board member, I cast an "abstain" vote and was

chastised by this very chairman as well as several tribal members for "abstaining." They expected me to be a leader, make an informed decision and VOTE! But now, for some unknown reason, it is OK? This is NOT acceptable.

The insurance matter is not over yet. Perhaps by the date of this publication it will be. But, as I write this article it is not. I do know this, how could we in good conscience raise insurance rates on people who have not had a raise in pay for YEARS?

I know I am repeating myself by saying "WE NEED TO PRIORITIZE!" "WE NEED TO MAKE A PLAN!" One board member can't do it. One chairman can't do it. It takes a commitment from the 13 people elected to the governing board of this tribe to decide that we can no longer continue doing things as we always have and expect different results.

See "Changes," page 22

Director Causley updates Unit II membership



LANA CAUSLEY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Halloween day and I woke up to snow on the ground, knew it was coming but I'm not ready. Hope this article finds all of you ready for the winter.

I had a busy month with membership issues, meetings and attending a United Tribes meeting in Watersmeet this past month. At the United Tribes conference we meet and discuss items that are of mutual concern with the other recognized tribes in Michigan (gaming is off limits to discuss) this session focused on an update about the Michigan Indian Child Welfare Act, we receive statistics and information on items of concern. I've always had the basic understanding of the act and to date we are attempting to educate agencies and court systems about the importance of the law. I have many calls about the concerns on and off trust land and it gets frustrating with some of the circumstances that we find our families in when it comes to jurisdiction. Our tribe has many cases throughout the service area as well as off trust land. If you or a family member has a particular situation that needs our attention, please call our Anishinabek Community and Family Services, as they will offer the procedure you can go through to have us assist. While attending, we did receive updates on the wolf hunt campaign our tribe has been very active in as well as legal updates in Indian Country. By the time you read this, I hope the hunt on the very sacred animals and our brother is out behind us.

I attended the Naubinway and Hessel elders' meetings this month and it was so nice to update and visit with everyone. Naubinway is meeting at the new snowmobile museum on a regular basis now and has a very

active and good turnout with our elders in the area. I'm sorry we didn't make the Newberry elders' meeting this month, we were on travel to the United Tribes conference that week and I didn't return home in time. I really enjoy watching the elders at the meeting visit, ask questions and advise me toward a positive future for our tribe. It's always a good feeling when I leave and know that I've been able to spend some time with them and they are full from all the good cooking we get at the meetings. Miigwech for having us.

I've spent some time with our Youth Education and Activities coordinator this past month to go over the cultural and education activities in our unit. As I spoke about priority and funding in my last report I want our members to see the activities and cultural outreach to our youth we provide. One of my most important priorities for distribution of our tribal support dollars are these programs listed below. This list does not include the activities that Dawn Griffin coordinates in our Rudyard area but the list is long for her as well and if you would like your children to participate in any of these activities, please contact either Lisa or Dawn to inquire. You can call our (800) 793-0660 number for our Education Department as well, they can get you to all our tribe's coordinators. I'm listing this to update you on what we have to offer as well as a reminder. You can see that we have many activities for the benefit of our youth and I would encourage you to send your children in your area. We have many parent volunteers as well so if you have any suggestions for activities or would like to get involved, both the coordinators are always welcoming to that. The programs are in collaboration, it's our Community Health staff and other tribal programs. I would also like to say that while I was attending the Naubinway elders' meeting, the same evening Director Hollowell was attending a public meeting at the Pickford area school to discuss an Indian Education program to be discussed there. Please keep in mind we need parent volunteers for the committee and participation from the school. Look for updates in future.

JANUARY

- Tribal youth council meet-

ings.

- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- Winter Wonder Land sleep over in Hessel for students in grades 2-5.
- Cedarville School After School Program.
- Building Circles of Support, Drummond Island students in grades 3-6.
- Building Circles of Support, DeTour Fine Arts Academy, grades 3-6.

FEBRUARY

- Tribal youth council elders' appreciation dinner.
- Winter survival games.
- Building Circles of Support DeTour and Drummond Island, grades 3-6.
- Grand tribal youth council meeting.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- Cedarville School After School Program.

MARCH

- Tribal youth council.
- Teen leadership conference, all areas.
- Drummond Island and DeTour, Building Circles of Support.
- Drum social in Newberry.
- Spring feast.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum practice.

- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum, Head Start graduation.
- Cedarville After School Program

APRIL

- Drummond Island and DeTour, Building Circles of Support.
- Cedarville School After School Program.
- Women's Health Fair in Newberry.
- Environmental Day in Hessel with MSU Extension, Cloverland Electric, Conservation District, Sault Tribe Environmental Department, Community Health Program, USDA Program, Traditional Medicine.
- Talking circles.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- Tribal youth council.

MAY

- Women's health fair in Hessel, Traditional Foods Program, USDA, Contract Health, Community Health.
- Tribal youth council meeting.
- Grand Tribal Youth Council meeting.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum, captured spirits Fort De Buade.

- Ojibwa Museum Anishinabe fest.

- Cedarville School After School Program – Environmental Department, USDA Healthy Foods.

- Gardening with Community Health Traditional Foods and MSU Extension.

JUNE

- Circle of Life Summer Program Camp, DeTour.
- Circle of Life Summer Program.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- GTYC Bike the Sites Project.

JULY

- Circle of Life Summer Program, all youth in unit.

AUGUST

- Youth Empowerment Powwow, all youth in unit.
- Hessel powwow.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- Jump Start Program.

SEPTEMBER

- Cedarville After School Program.
- Cultural Enrichment in Engadine School.
- Fall feast.
- Tribal youth council.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.

OCTOBER

- Cedarville After School Program – Mackinac County Sheriff, Halloween safety, computer games, physical activities and crafts.
- Building Circles of Support, Newberry.
- Family celebrations in Newberry.
- Cultural enrichment at Engadine School.
- Talking circle.
- Fall sleepover, students in grades 2-5.
- Fall harvest feast, MSU Extension, Community Health, Traditional Foods, USDA.
- Tribal youth council.
- Junior tribal youth council.
- Cedarville alternative school, cooking Indian tacos.

- Building Circles of Support, Newberry.

- Family celebrations in Newberry.

- Cultural enrichment at Engadine School.
- Talking circle.
- Fall sleepover, students in grades 2-5.
- Fall harvest feast, MSU Extension, Community Health, Traditional Foods, USDA.
- Tribal youth council.
- Junior tribal youth council.
- Cedarville alternative school, cooking Indian tacos.

- Building Circles of Support, Newberry.
- Family celebrations in Newberry.
- Cultural enrichment at Engadine School.
- Talking circle.
- Fall sleepover, students in grades 2-5.
- Fall harvest feast, MSU Extension, Community Health, Traditional Foods, USDA.
- Tribal youth council.
- Junior tribal youth council.
- Cedarville alternative school, cooking Indian tacos.

- Building Circles of Support, Newberry.
- Family celebrations in Newberry.
- Cultural enrichment at Engadine School.
- Talking circle.
- Fall sleepover, students in grades 2-5.
- Fall harvest feast, MSU Extension, Community Health, Traditional Foods, USDA.
- Tribal youth council.
- Junior tribal youth council.
- Cedarville alternative school, cooking Indian tacos.

- Building Circles of Support, Newberry.
- Family celebrations in Newberry.
- Cultural enrichment at Engadine School.
- Talking circle.
- Fall sleepover, students in grades 2-5.
- Fall harvest feast, MSU Extension, Community Health, Traditional Foods, USDA.
- Tribal youth council.
- Junior tribal youth council.
- Cedarville alternative school, cooking Indian tacos.

NOVEMBER

- Annual ghost feast and pipe gathering.
- Cedarville After School Program, vegetable pizza with Marlene Pacoro from USDA, tribal police K-9 unit.
- Cooking vegetable pizza with Marlene Paccoro of USDA.
- Tribal youth council.
- Junior tribal youth council.
- Building Circles of Support, Newberry.

- Building Circles of Support, Newberry.
- Family celebrations in Newberry.
- Cultural enrichment at Engadine School.
- Talking circle.
- Fall sleepover, students in grades 2-5.
- Fall harvest feast, MSU Extension, Community Health, Traditional Foods, USDA.
- Tribal youth council.
- Junior tribal youth council.
- Cedarville alternative school, cooking Indian tacos.

- Cedarville Alternative School environmental lessons with AJ Mclarahmore and Tesha Zimmerman, Environmental Department.
- Engadine and Newberry cultural activities.

DECEMBER

- Christmas Family Fun Day, all areas.
- Tribal youth council.
- Junior tribal youth council.
- Grand Tribal Youth Council.
- Mukkwa Giizhik Drum.
- Cedarville After School Program.

- Cedarville After School Program.

I would like to assure tribal members that we as a tribe are activity participating and very vocal about the action on our proposed raise on electric bills. This is the threat that the Upper Peninsula residents will be charged extra on electric bills due increase costs for local electric companies to upgrade a power plant planned to shut down (please see front page story). We are proactive and will be sending letters to all members about this issue and ask that you contact our state and federal reps to assist in their effort and support. We have a very hard time in this area with heating and electric bills as well as serving members with our programs, if this increase happens we will be in hard times in households as well as our own business operations. Please look for the letter in the mail soon. We are on this battle and will continue.

I wrote a lengthy update on our casinos last report and to update you this month (lots more discussion and debate) we have voted to begin to negotiate and attempt to retain a selected management firm to assist in our casino operations. This is in the final stage and hopefully next month we can report a name and forward plan for our casino operations. It's a priority.

In closing, I want to ask that we all say a prayer for our veterans for the holiday season. I remember asking this last year at the same time but again, it's a very hard road for them especially the holidays and if you can do one small thing for anyone on any day do it! If you would like to meet with me or discuss anything please contact me, (906) 484-2954, 322-3818 or lcausley@saulttribe.net.

Baamaapii,
Lana Causley

McLeod: changes to employee insurance coming

From "Changes," page 21

In my opinion, there needs to be a significant shift in how we do business. From the budget process, to the hiring process; from the organizational chart, to the pay scale chart; from service delivery, to all of the other components necessary to serve our people, we need to change.

The world has changed since we opened our first casino, the federal economy has changed (remember sequestration?), the local economy is about to make a HUGE change (a devastatingly HUGE electric rate increase

is looming), but our tribal operation has not changed much.

I am tired of hearing, "This is how we've always done it." Let me ask, "How's that working for you?"

Change can be a scary thing for many people but, for me, the failure to change is much scarier. As I said last month, "I'm not pointing fingers at anyone or trying to assign blame anywhere." I am looking for solutions, and I am asking for your help.

We need to go back to find our future. As a young girl, I

recall tribal meetings that were so well attended, people had to stand. I recall listening to my relatives making phone calls and writing letters to the tribal leaders of that time. Back in the day, people sounded their voice. I believe we need to do that again.

Call, write, email, text, FB post or meet face to face, let your elected leaders know what is important to you. Let them know that things have to change. We have to go back to putting people first! We HAVE to work better, smarter

and more efficient. We have to honor the people who work for us. We have to do a better job of honoring our old ways. We have to focus on protecting our way of life and providing for the welfare and prosperity of our people.

Lately, when I've been trying to get help for our members, I've been told, "There's nothing we (the tribe) can do"... I don't believe that! As a people, there is MUCH we can do.

Our tribal government can be too complex, too big and too unresponsive. Granted, there are

lots of reasons for that. But it doesn't mean it has to stay that way. Let us work together to care for each other. I am working on some grassroots ideas that are not ready for publication yet, but I hope they will take root.

I am changing what I do, and how I do it. Please join me. I'm going "back to our future."

Miigwech!

Jen, (906) 440-9151

Email: jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com

Website: http://jmcleodsault-tribe.com

Sorenson: Here are the facts about elders trips



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

There has been some undercurrent going on in the Unit III Elders' Subcommittee and its membership. I would like to present the facts: The St. Ignace elders did take a trip to Chicago at the end of September. The only non-Natives who attended the trip were spouses of the tribal elders. All the money in their bank account is money they have raised by putting on fish fries, having garage sales, pop can collections, cookie sales, 50/50s and other raffles. The tribe has not contributed money towards the elder's recreation fund since 2008.

This same group planned a lunch at the Grand Hotel and carriage ride on Mackinac Island. I believe someone started chaos with this, thinking the tribe was paying for elders to have lunch on the island and some people felt left out. Those who contacted me, I told them the group that has met at the center raised funds to take these types of trips. The group of elders who raised the money should be the ones deciding where and what they want to do. To make things easier, there could be a point system assigned to those who do donate or volunteer and trips would require a certain point value.

For some reason, members from other units who were not even elders decided to come to the St. Ignace board of director's meeting to get involved. From what I can see, these people are being led astray by a faction led by the chairman. I guess if you want to let the chairman humiliate you by using you to carry his

dirty laundry, that is up to you. Unit III and its elders find your behavior offensive and do not support your divide and conquer games.

There has been unrest by many with the last vote on the elder subcommittee. There was a seat that expired last September (2013), one expired in January (2014), two expired in April (2014). Letters of intent and support were submitted by four of the committee members according to them at the St. Ignace meeting on April 11. At the April 15 meeting in Kinross, one of the April expired seats was voted on and, at the April 29 meeting in Munising, the other April expired seat was voted on. At this April 29 meeting, the elder division presented new procedures that committee vacancies would be posted in the tribal paper for two months prior to being filled so all elders would be aware of the vacancy and would be voted on as a group and not as a first come, first served basis. What I am confused about and so are many of the others is the two committee members whose seats expired in September of 2013 and January of 2014 did not even come for a vote to the board until the August 19 meeting in Marquette. During this vote, I was not aware nor do I believe any board members that these seats had expired so long ago or we could have asked questions then. We had three elders pursuing two seats. All three names were put into a mug and were drawn out of a coffee mug by our board executive secretary. The two names pulled were approved by the board to be on the Unit III Elders Subcommittee.

This resulted in the chair of the committee losing her seat. Many of the others on the subcommittee and the membership are not happy with this decision. The committee no longer can choose who sits on their committee like they used to be able to do. Many of them did not know they did not have a say or a recommendation. The change in the bylaws took place before I came on the board. I have been told the reason for the decision is that the committees were not allowing new members to get on their committees. I can agree with that

for some committees that may not have many members that attend meeting to vote on these decisions such as the child welfare committee or inland hunting and fishing committee. At the monthly elder meeting we have about 40-50 elders in attendance who could vote on who they wanted to represent them.

At the elder advisory meeting in Newberry on Oct. 27, the committee was not happy with the board's decision in Unit III. I explained to them the chain of events as I listed them above. They also did not seem to know they did not have a vote on who sits on their committee. They want to be able to have a say in who represents them. They said the board does not know the elders in other units to vote on them representing their unit. They took a couple of votes for change on these items. I cannot quote them because I have not seen their minutes yet. I am not sure the board of directors will consider these votes as requests or not. The elder advisory committee is on break until March of 2015 weather permitting. To those committee members, please enjoy your holidays and stay warm this winter!

As I write this report, we have still not finished our 2015 governmental budgets or even looked at our 2015 casino budgets. Normally the casino COO had reviewed the budgets and then had made recommendations of changes to the casino managers. The Gaming Authority (board of directors) will need to possibly have the CFO review these for recommendations to the authority. It is already November and nothing has been decided. It is really frustrating to work under these conditions for board members and employees alike. Everyone needs to know what the direction for 2015 will be.

In October, we had presentations from five companies to help us turn around our casinos. The board along with our executive staff decided on the top three and we are moving forward with the number one pick. The number one pick will be contacted for further negotiations. I was very impressed with this company and feel like this could be the answer

to our prayers. As more information becomes available I will keep you informed. They seemed very motivated and big on training.

In the last two and a half years, the chairman has threatened to sue me, remove me and recently to bar me from a tribal building. I guess he feels I am a threat to him. We have seen the same behavior in the past year against two other female board members. What bothers me the most is that we have way more important issues facing the tribe and he wants to start fires and wars with people so they have to spend their time defending themselves to those who don't know them because the ones who do know them, know the truth. I despise lies and used to spend my time arguing in emails with the chairman to correct his lies but I will no longer waste my time or energy on this negativity. I have too many more important things and people to give my time to. The people who are in your community and surrounding areas know you the best. They know whether you are reliable, trustworthy, a team player, can be trusted not by your words only but also by your actions. Look back at the data following the 2012 election and see what the closest people such as units I, II and III knew. People can make up any ol' lies and try and make them stick but the truth always prevails.

I was also accused of holding a closed unit meeting. The facts are that I did not, remember until 5 p.m. that day that we had a 6 p.m. unit meeting and my kids had an appointment at 5:30 p.m. Keith was out of town and he has a key, I don't have a key to the building. I contacted one of the people who does and I never received a response. The group was waiting for me as I was 15 minutes late and they were communicating with me via cell phone and were outside the building cold. I asked if they minded if we met at the Big Boy since I could not get a key. I then met them at the Big Boy. If anyone was planning on attending the meeting I would assume they would have been at the meeting site by 6:15 and the others could have relayed the message. I apologize if anyone

who wanted to attend did not know of the change in location.

The St. Ignace Midjim has undergone some cold patching and a culvert was dug to keep the water from pooling as a temporary fix. This will not cure the problem of the puddles at the pump with the unevenness in the concrete. Hopefully in the near future the board will agree to at least a study to ease the concerns of the no votes on the board.

My son participated in the raptor camp at the Mary Murray Culture Camp on Sugar Island last month. It was his first time going. He had a great time and met many new kids from different areas. He is excited to be able to attend more in the future like the winter survival camp. Thank you to Jackie and Justin and all the other volunteers who inspired our youth that weekend. If your child has never taken advantage of a free camp on Sugar Island, you should consider contacting the Cultural Department at the administration building at 635-6050 for a list of coming camps.

In the next month or so, the Sault Tribe St. Ignace clinic will be collaborating with Mackinac Straits Health Systems to offer more services to our members. More information as it becomes available will be published. This is great news and has been a long time coming!

Don't forget to fill out your heating credit applications through your local ACFS office and also there is help from empower (True North Services). They can be reached at (855) 300-8013 or www.truenorthservices.org.

Any tribal member looking for insurance options, try contacting Heather Lester or Teresa Jedele at the St. Ignace or Hessel clinics for help with Medicaid enrollment or other insurance providers. There are some great deals out there and it may be worth your time to check it out.

As fall comes to an end and winter storms in please enjoy your family for Thanksgiving and I hope you fill your freezer with lots of wild game!

Any concerns or questions please contact me at (906) 430-0536, bsorenson@saulttribe.net, or bridgett91@yahoo.com.

Making progress on budgets but more to come



**KEITH MASSAWAY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

The board has been making some progress on the budgets, but the toughest part, schedule C, has yet to be passed. The end

of the year is coming up quickly and I hope we can keep up the momentum and finish up a balanced budget by then.

Some of the major concerns that figure into the budget are our consistent losses in the self-insurance department.

Reoccurring multi-million dollar losses need to be reconciled now and in the future if we don't act now. Our Big Bear Ice center continues to be a major discussion because it also costs in excess of three quarters of a million dollars to keep open. I do not advocate for the center to be closed but some solution to the problem needs to be found.

We have many such areas we have looked over including ACFS, law enforcement,

information technologies, government services and board budgets, just to name a few. Some need more support and some could do with less. It is just that the board needs to set priorities and goals that we have to stick to and make the tough decisions.

The tribal board reviewed and accepted next year's housing and transportation plans. These plans are extremely detailed and complex. They have to be approved by the board and then sent to the federal government and must meet all the federal guidelines. Both departments did an excellent job.

We had reports this month on many other divisions, some of them are health, special diabe-

tes, casinos, elders, education, budgets, legal, accounting, buildings and others.

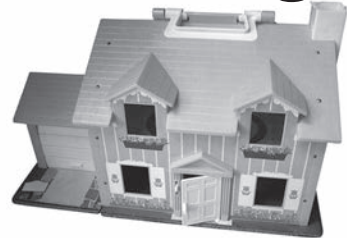
The board was informed at a meeting that the rates on electricity are going to go up on demand from Wisconsin Energy to increase them just on the Upper Peninsula. This was very alarming to the board, which immediately directed legal to do whatever it had to do to show our objection to this outrageous increase. We have begun the processes of objecting to the federal government that gave the okay to charge the increase and we are hoping to stall the implementation of it until we can be heard. The board was very concerned about how our members would be affected and thought it would be detrimental

to the entire Upper Peninsula population and businesses.

Thank you for all the e-mails and phone calls.

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