



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

*Miin Giizis*  
Blueberry Moon

July 10, 2015 • Vol. 36, No. 7

## Tribal elders recognized at birthday luncheon

BY RICK SMITH

Don Rose was one of the guests of honor at an elders' luncheon in Sault Ste. Marie on June 22. Rose received a

plaque and an eagle feather with carrying case by Louie Aikens and Rick Sprowl of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3676 for his service to the United States

during WWII.

The honor came as Rose simultaneously celebrated his 91st birthday. More about Mr. Rose and his WWII service can be

found in the March 2014 edition of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, online at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

Observing her 95th birthday, Alice Huhtala was recognized for her many years of continued support for elders and the tribe.

Cake and ice cream was served and enjoyed after the luncheon

and presentations were finished.

The ceremonies and luncheon were coordinated and sponsored by Ken and Sue Lively, who also donated a plaque for inscribing the names of all veterans, which is to be hung in the Sault elder's facility dining hall in Sault Ste. Marie.



Photos by Rick Smith

Above left, guest of honor Don Rose (seated) with family members on the observance of his 90th birthday. He was also recognized by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3676 for his service during World War II. Pictured in no particular order with Mr. Rose are Ruth and Vern Johnson, Virginia Delong and Clement Rose. Above right, honoree Alice Huhtala was recognized for continued support of elders and the tribe over many years.

## Spring 2 percent funding distribution announced

Sault Tribe announced the distribution of the 2015 spring 2 percent funding. Each unit distributed \$51,635.45.

**Unit I** — Kinross Charter Township, Fishing Day and summer activities, \$8,500.

Chippewa County Health Department, Hospice of the EUP, \$10,000.

City of Sault Ste. Marie, Pullar Community Building, \$8,135.45.

Lincoln Elementary School, playground equipment, \$25,000.

**Unit II** — Columbus Township, floating deck strainers, \$600.

Engadine Consolidated Schools, youth activities programs, \$4,000.

Les Cheneaux Community Schools, automated external defibrillator, \$1,195.

Mackinac County, Top of the Lake Museum, \$6,340.45.

McMillian Township, recreation center, \$10,000.

City of Newberry, fire department bunker gear, \$4,000.

Pickford Public Schools, SPEAKS, \$2,500.

Raber Township, playground project, \$10,250.

Tahquamenon Area Schools,

classroom mini-grants, \$2,500.

Tahquamenon Area Schools, Newberry elementary playground fund, \$10,250.

**Unit III** — Mackinac County, spay/neuter program, \$5,000.

Moran Township School District, science kits, \$3,500.

City of Mackinac Island, police bicycle purchase, \$2,307.99.

St. Ignace Township, sewer project, \$5,000.

St. Ignace area schools, classroom technology, \$2,827.46.

City of St. Ignace, LaSalle High School girls softball,

\$2,000.

City of St. Ignace, Museum of Ojibwe Culture, \$8,000.

City of St. Ignace, air packs for new engine, \$10,000.

City of St. Ignace, city visitors bureau, \$5,000.

City of St. Ignace, Fort De Baude Museum, \$8,000.

**Unit IV** — North Star Academy, cultural programs, \$2,000.

Na Tah Wahsh, Willow Creek meeting center, \$26,000.

Big Bay De Noc School District, CUP summer baseball, \$2,000.

Negaunee Area Schools, Ishpeming Public Schools, Gwinn Area Public Schools, Big Bay De Noc School District, Rapid River Public Schools, Gladstone Area Schools, Manistique Public Schools and Escanaba Area Public Schools Title VII each received \$2,704.43.

**Unit V** — Marquette County, YMCA, \$5,000.

Marquette Area Schools, Title VII, \$5,000.

North Star Academy, Native American program, \$1,200.

Munising Public Schools, summer reading program, \$1,200.

Munising Public Schools, Title VII, \$10,000.

City of Munising, Alger Arena, \$9,000.

City of Munising, Alger Food Pantry, \$10,000.

Mathias Township, VFD jaws of life, \$4,995.

County of Marquette, Meals on Wheels, \$5,000.

**Long-term distribution**

(Figures show long-term agreement total/amount due for spring cycle); totals were: \$858,016/\$382,704:

Alger County Sheriff's Office, lodging and law enforcement, \$16,000/\$6,400.

Au Train Township, general government services, \$5,000/\$1,500.

Chippewa County, government services, \$30,000/\$14,000.

Chippewa County, probate court-foster care, \$7,500/\$3,000.

Clark Township, general government services, \$7,000/\$2,000.

Delta County Sheriff's Office, lodging and law enforcement, \$16,000/\$8,000.

Bay De Noc Community College, YMCA, \$16,000/\$8,000.

City of Escanaba, law enforcement, \$10,000/\$4,000.

Kinross Charter Township, law enforcement, \$35,000/\$13,500.

Lake Superior State University, Gem of the North,

\$86,300/\$34,025.

Luce County Sheriff's Office, lodging and law enforcement, \$17,000/\$17,000.

Mackinac County Circuit Court, child care fund, \$17,500/\$7,000.

Mackinac County Sheriff's Office, lodging and law enforcement, \$22,500/\$11,250.

City of Munising, general government services, \$32,000/\$16,000.

City of Munising, recreation program, \$18,000/\$9,000.

Manistique Township, general services, \$7,000/\$2,000.

City of Manistique, lodging and law enforcement, \$5,000/\$2,500.

City of Marquette, lodging and law enforcement, \$10,000/\$4,000.

Munising Township, government services, \$5,000/\$1,500.

Sault area public schools, Title VII advocate, \$50,316/\$25,000.

Sault area public schools, payment in lieu of taxes, \$30,000/\$12,000.

City of Sault Ste. Marie, general government services, \$340,000/\$148,729.

Schoolcraft County Sheriff's Office, lodging and law enforcement, \$16,000/\$6,400.

St. Ignace area schools, student advocate, \$18,900/\$8,900.

St. Ignace Township, general government services, \$20,000/\$7,000.

City of St. Ignace, road improvements, \$13,000/\$6,500.

City of St. Ignace, lodging and law enforcement, \$7,000/\$3,500.

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

facebook

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 30  
Gaylord, MI  
49735

Win Awenen Nisitotung  
531 Ashmun St.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783



**Sault Tribe Child Care Currently has openings for Infants & Toddlers**  
**We offer an educational setting and the classrooms follow a daily schedule along with implementing the Creative Curriculum.**

**Open Monday—Friday from 7:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m.**  
**We are open to the Community!**

**Breakfast, Lunch & Snacks are provided!**

**We accept CCDF and DHS Child Care Assistance Payments!**  
**We recently received a 4 star rating through DHS and the amount that we get reimbursed for the care provided will increase effective 6-28-15.**

For more information,  
 please contact our office at  
 (906) 632-5258

## Tribal chairperson attends first Levin Center Advisory Board meeting



**Sault Tribe Board Chairperson Aaron Payment, former U.S. Senator Carl Levin and Dean of Wayne State Law School Jocelyn Benson (L-R) at the first meeting of the Levin Center Advisory Board.**

DETROIT — Four former U.S. senators, a former Detroit mayor, Sault Tribe Board Chairperson Aaron Payment and business, community, education and nonprofit leaders, will serve on a bipartisan, 18-member advisory board for the newly established Levin Center at Wayne State University Law School. The advisory board met for the first time on June 17.

The Levin Center at Wayne Law honors Carl Levin, Michigan's longest-serving U.S. senator, who recently retired after completing 36 years in the Senate. Levin serves as chair of the center and as distinguished legislator in residence. Through policy and legislative oversight training, academic programming, and scholarship, the center will seek to equip lawyers, legislators and leaders with an understanding of how effective oversight can lead to meaningful change in public policy and institutional behavior.

Payment expressed his excitement in being asked by Senator Levin to serve on such a distinguished panel. "I am humbled to follow Senator Levin's lead in promoting good governance and processes over partisan politics," he said. "Through my work for 22 years with the Michigan Political Leadership Program, I have trained each fellows class on tribal governance and sovereignty. I hope to bring a similar contribution to the Levin Center."

Levin will co-teach his first class, Tax Policy Seminar: Role and Impact of Congressional Oversight on Abusive Tax Strategies, at the law school this fall. The center also will hold a conference in October in Washington, D.C., honoring the 40th anniversary of the Church Committee and examining ongoing issues related to congressio-

nal oversight of the intelligence community and classified information. This summer, the Levin Center also is planning an oversight boot camp for congressional staff members in Washington, D.C., to promote more bipartisan, fact-based investigations.

Other members of the board are Eugene Driker, Wayne Law class of 1961, a founding member at the Detroit law firm of Barris Sott Denn and Driker and a former member of the WSU Board of Governors; Ismael Ahmed, senior advisor to the chancellor and associate provost for metropolitan impact at the University of Michigan-Dearborn; N. Peter Antone, founder and principal of the Antone Casagrande & Adwers PC immigration law firm; Dennis W. Archer, former mayor of Detroit; Louis Brown, an attorney and director of Christ Medicus Foundation CURO; former U.S. Sen. Dr. Tom A. Coburn; former U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D.; Cynthia Ford; Eleanor Hill, a law partner with King & Spaulding LLP; Paul Hillegonds, an attorney and CEO of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund; Daniel Levin, an attorney and chairman of The Habitat Co.; Cyril Moscow, a law partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP and a former attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice; Jim B. Nicholson, president and CEO of PVS Chemicals Inc.; former U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W. Va.; former U.S. Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine; Gary Torgow, chairman and founder of Talmer Bancorp Inc. and founder of the Sterling Group; and Reginald M. Turner, member of the Clark Hill PLC law firm.

For more information about the Levin Center and to read more about the members of the advisory board, visit [law.wayne.edu/levincenter](http://law.wayne.edu/levincenter).

# BUY HERE

# PAY HERE

**Bad Credit, Bankruptcies, Repos Okay.**  
*Bank financing available as low as 2.5%!*

**Easy Terms — Low Downpayments.**  
*Most monthly payments under \$200.*

**24-Month Warranties Available on All Vehicles!**  
*100s of Vehicles and 1000s of Happy Customers!*

## FREE GAS!

**Call Rich Foley, 989-306-3656**



# Minimum wage raised

Effective June 19, Sault Tribe's minimum wage was raised to \$8.15. Employees whose hourly wage was less than \$8.15 were raised up to the new minimum. No other wages were affected.

Sault Tribe Board of Directors' resolution 2015-111, approved May 19, ordered the increase. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 and the state minimum wage is \$8.15.

# Employment opportunities

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians employment opportunities, call (866) 635-7032, email [stemployment@saulttribe.net](mailto:stemployment@saulttribe.net) or visit [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) to apply online or sign up for email notifications.

### Governmental openings

- Sault Ste. Marie and Kincheloe
- Diabetes program manager-full time/regular-open until filled.
- Staff pharmacist-full time/regular-open until filled.
- Project coordinator-full time/regular-open until filled.
- Budget analyst-full time/regular-open until filled.
- Cook (Elder Services)-part time/regular-open until filled.
- Event coordinator-part time/regular-open until filled.
- Data analyst-full time/regular-open until filled.
- Economic development director-full time/regular-open until filled.
- Hessel, St. Ignace, Escanaba, Manistique, Munising, Newberry:
- Community Health nurse (St.

Ignace)-part time/regular-open until filled.

- Police officer (Manistique)-full time/regular-open until filled.

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

- Staff dentist (St. Ignace)-full time/regular-open until filled.

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

### Kewadin Casinos openings

Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie:

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

- Website administrator-full time/regular-open until filled.

Kewadin St. Ignace:

- Front desk clerk-(2) full time/regular-open until filled.

- Bartender-(2 graveyard shift)-full time/regular-open until filled.

- Deli cook-(2) full time/regular-open until filled.

Kewadin Manistique:

- Food and beverage manager II-full time/regular-open until filled.

# Committee vacancies —

The following committees have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Tara McKelvie, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. Email [tmckelvie@saulttribe.net](mailto:tmckelvie@saulttribe.net) or call 635-6050 for any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee-Two vacancies (men, four-year term).

Health Board-One vacancy (four-year term).

Inland Conservation Committee-One vacancy (four-year term).

Election Committee-Three vacancies (four-year term).

Special Needs/Enrollment Committee-Six vacancies (two-year term).

Wequayoc Cemetery

Committee-Five vacancies (two and four-year terms-varied; must have family member interred at Wequayoc Cemetery).

Unit I Sault Ste. Marie Elder Subcommittee-One regular seat vacancy (four-year term).

Unit II Newberry Elders Subcommittee-Two regular seat vacancies (four-year term).

Unit III Hessel Elders Subcommittee-Two alternate seat vacancies (four-year term).

Unit IV Escanaba Elders Subcommittee-One regular seat vacancy and two alternate seat vacancies (four-year term).

Unit V Munising Elders Subcommittee-One regular seat vacancy (four-year term) and alternate seat vacancies (four-year term).

Unit 5 Marquette Elders Subcommittee-One alternate seat vacancy (four-year term).

# Correction . . .

On page 6 of the May 2015 issue of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, *ACFS hires Mary Gilray* should have read:

“Starting out with an associate’s in social work, she went back to school in 2005 at the age of 36. In May of 2010, she earned her B.S. in human services with minors in sociology

and corrections. Gilray is grateful for the support of her two boys, Christopher, 18, and Joseph, 20, she said.

“Born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Gilray’s parents are John and Mary Noel Gilray. Her sons are Sault Tribe members. Their great grandmother was Mary Murray, the tribe’s first registrar.”

# Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

July 10, 2015  
Miin Giizis  
Blueberry Moon  
Vol. 36, No. 7

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

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

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

**Advertising:** \$8.50/column inch. **Submission and Subscriptions:** Win Awenen Nisitotung Attn: Communications Dept. 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 Telephone: (906) 632-6398 Fax: (906) 632-6556 E-mail: [saulttribenews@saulttribe.net](mailto:saulttribenews@saulttribe.net).

# Great Mosquito Dash coming in September

The EUP Great Start Collaborative and United Way of the EUP are thrilled to sponsor the second annual Mosquito Dash Challenge on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Mosquito Dash is a physical run where participants encounter several obstacles, including road running, mud pits, water, climbing, crawling, tire jumping and more. This family friendly event includes a separate obstacle course for our little runners who are aged 5 and under. Last year’s event boasted 122 participants, despite pouring rain and high winds, and many participants indicated this race stands out from other races because the

whole family can participate. Another benefit is the low cost of participation. “We are dedicated to making this a family event by keeping the cost of participation as low as possible,” said event organizer, Cara LaFaver. Prices for this event are children aged 5 years and under, \$5; children aged 6-12 years, \$10; aged 13 and older before Sept. 1, \$20; and aged 13 and older after Sept. 1, \$25.

This initiative supports programs in Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce counties through the United Way of the EUP, as well as the Becky Davis Early Learning Scholarship, provided by the EUP Great Start Collaborative. This scholarship

provides an early education opportunity for children who would otherwise go without.

Registration and the start/finish line for the event is at the Brevort Township playground in Moran. UP in Smoke on site and King’s Fish Market provides a lunch by donation to runners and spectators at their location in Moran.

Registration is available on race day, but T-shirts are guaranteed to pre-registrants only. To pre-order, contact Cara LaFaver at [clafaver@eup.k12.mi.us](mailto:clafaver@eup.k12.mi.us) or (906) 440-2410. Those interested can register at [Active.com](http://Active.com).

# Reminder: Tribal primary medical care providers needed to use tribal pharmacies

The tribal health service staff remind those presently served by pharmacies at Sault Tribe medical clinics are encouraged to read the following policy clarifications so staff can give the best service possible.

Effective Oct. 1, those who want prescriptions filled through the tribe’s pharmacies must receive their primary medical care at one of the tribe’s clinics with designated physicians, nurse practitioners or physician assistants, whose prescriptions can be filled at the one of the tribe’s pharmacies. Staff will also be able to fill prescriptions from specialists when referred by the designated physicians, nurse practitioners or physician assistants, as well as prescriptions for urgent and emergency care.

Pharmacy services are offered at three of the four clinics.

Those presently receiving

prescriptions from Sault Tribe pharmacies, who don’t have medical care through the tribe’s clinics, can transfer to one of the tribe’s clinics before Oct. 1 in order to remain eligible for pharmacy services. This involves scheduling a medical appointment and transferring medical records. Contact the appointment desk for the Medical Records Department at any of the four clinics for help in doing this: Sault clinic, 632-5200; St. Ignace clinic, 643-8689; Manistique clinic, 341-8469; and Munising clinic, 387-4721.

Sault Tribe’s medical clinics provide high quality patient-centered health care responsive to patients’ needs with an emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion for all Americans Indians from infancy through adulthood. The tribe employs a strong staff of talented profes-

sionals throughout the area to serve the membership’s primary medical care needs.

Services include medical, nursing, laboratory, radiology, dietary, community health, pharmacy, optical, dental, behavioral health and traditional healers.

For those who want to continue care with physicians other than Sault Tribe physicians after Oct. 1, the tribal pharmacies will help transfer prescriptions to the retail pharmacies of their choice. Purchased and Referred Care (formerly known as Contract Health Services) cannot pay for these prescriptions.

Please contact a tribal clinic manager with any questions or concerns: Cheryl LaPlaut, 643-8689 (St. Ignace); Tony Abramson Sr., 632-5282 (Sault Ste. Marie); Marlene Glaesmann, 341-8469 (Manistique); and 387-4721 (Munising).

# Sault Child Care Center openings

Sault Tribe Child Care has openings for infants and toddlers. We offer an educational setting and the classrooms follow a daily schedule along with implementing the Creative Curriculum.

Open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-

5:30 p.m. We are open to the community! Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided! We accept CCDF and DHS child care assistance payments!

We recently received a four star rating through DHS and the

amount we get reimbursed for the care provided will increase effective June 28, 2015.

For more information, please contact our office at 632-5258.

“For All Your Tire Needs”



**U.P. TIRE**

Complete Tire Sales & Service

**BRIDGESTONE Firestone**

**(906) 632-6661**

**1-800-635-6661**

1129 E. Easterday Ave., Sault, MI 49783



# Legislation introduced to foster tourism in Native communities

**NATIVE Act would empower Native communities and expand cultural tourism opportunities**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), co-chair of the Senate Tourism Caucus, and John Thune (R-S.D.), chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, recently introduced the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act, bipartisan legislation that would enhance and integrate native tourism, empower native communities and expand unique cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.

U.S. senators Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Tom Udall (D-N.M.), Dean Heller (R-Nev.), Al Franken (D-Minn.), and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) are original cosponsors of the NATIVE Act.

“When we grow our tourism industry in Hawaii and across the country, we create jobs and support thousands of small businesses,” said Senator Schatz. “Every state, every community is different. That is why our legislation aims to empower Native communities and give them the resources to share their history and culture with travelers from around the globe.”

“This legislation empowers our Native American tribes and tribal organizations to have inclusion in federal tourism ini-

tiatives,” said Senator Thune. “The unique and rich culture of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota nations are embedded within the state of South Dakota. It is my hope that this common-sense bill will help integrate tribally driven tourism plans nationally, and ultimately help grow local economies.”

The NATIVE Act would require federal agencies with tourism assets and responsibilities to include tribes and Native organizations in national tourism efforts and strategic planning. It would also provide Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native and American Indian communities with access to resources and technical assistance needed to build sustainable recreational and cultural travel and tourism infrastructure and capacity; spur economic development, and create good jobs.

“In Montana and all throughout the nation, Indian Country offers travelers a rich cultural experience,” said Senator Tester. “This bill will ensure tribes have a seat at the table as the administration drafts a strategy for increasing tourism, creating jobs, spurring economic growth and supporting tribal sovereignty.”

“Alaska Natives comprise over half of the number of tribes recognized nationwide; their great pride and wisdom can

be deeply instructive to 21st century visitors,” said Senator Murkowski.

“They know best what their cultural contributions are to the world, and how best to be portrayed to the general public – and they deserve the employment opportunities that come with Alaska’s ever-growing tourism industry.”

“New Mexico’s Native communities are rich with culture, history and breathtaking landscape,” said Senator Udall. “This bipartisan legislation will expand tourism opportunities for tribal communities — creating good jobs and opening up educational opportunities for travelers in New Mexico and across the country.”

“Tourism plays a tremendous role in Nevada’s economy, and I will continue supporting it. Unfortunately, the needed infrastructure simply does not exist to promote many tribal communities’ efforts,” said Senator Heller. “This legislation provides tribal communities in the Silver State with avenues to promote our state’s rich culture, heritage and history. I’d like to thank senators Thune and Schatz for their hard work on this bipartisan legislation.”

“Minnesota’s tribes offer unique cultures, great food and amazing experiences,” said Senator Franken. “This bill will

make sure that tribes are part of federal tourism activities. Including Native Americans in these efforts will help promote everything Indian Country has to offer, supporting jobs and economic opportunities.”

“The history of Native Americans is deeply woven into the fabric of America, particularly in South Dakota,” said Senator Rounds. “The NATIVE Act of 2015 seeks to expand cooperation between federal and Native American efforts to promote and preserve the rich history and culture of Native

Americans in the United States.”

The NATIVE Act is supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders including the U.S. Travel Association, American Indian and Alaska Native Tourism Association, and others such as the Southeast Tourism Society, Western States Tourism Policy Council, National Congress of American Indians, Alaska Federation of Natives, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Native American Contractors Association and the Native Enterprise Initiative of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

## Support groups meet in Sault Ste. Marie

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) meets on the third Wednesdays of the month, 5:30 p.m., at the Huntington Bank meeting room in Sault Ste. Marie.

FAN hosts Nic Nicolas Sheff, on July 15, at 6 p.m., at the Lake Superior State University Cisler Center Crow’s Nest. Refreshments served and door prizes featured. For more information, call (906) 203-8959, email [Chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org](mailto:Chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org) or visit [www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org](http://www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org).

The next meeting takes place on Aug. 19. FAN — your connection for information, resources, and support. FAN’s mission is saving lives by empowering individuals and communities to prevent and eradicate addiction. We envision a nation free of narcotic addiction and our purpose is to raise awareness of the dangers of prescription narcotics, support those affected by narcotic addiction and erase the stigma of addiction.

Also look into the Prescription Drug Abuse Support Group if you have experienced loss, heartbreak or diminished relationships due to someone else’s use of prescription drugs. The group meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, 6 p.m., at the Huntington Bank in Sault Ste. Marie. Coming meetings take place on July 6, July 20. Please call Linda at (906) 440-7252 or Suzy at 248-3545 for more information.



1-800-KEWADIN | [kewadin.com](http://kewadin.com)



## TOURNAMENTS

**SPIN TO WIN - MANISTIQUE**  
July 18

**Video Poker - SAULT STE. MARIE**  
July 17-19

**Poker Blast - SAULT STE. MARIE**  
July 31-August 2

**Video Poker - ST. IGNACE**  
August 7-9

**Exclusive VIP Slot Tournaments**  
KEWADIN SAULT STE. MARIE  
Sundays beginning July 5 at noon

**Can't Beat the Heat Spin to Win**  
KEWADIN HESSEL, MANISTIQUE,  
CHRISTMAS  
July through September

ALL SITES • EVERY SUNDAY DURING JULY 2015 • 1:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

**SUNDAY Pubday**

EARN UP TO **5X POINTS**

**Kewadin CASINOS**

ALL SITES • WEDNESDAYS IN JULY & AUGUST • 5:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

**WACKY WHEEL WEDNESDAYS**

We're giving away up to **\$140,000** in Kewadin Credits & Table Match Play!

Hot Seat Draws to spin our **PRIZE WHEEL!**

Register at the Northern Rewards Club

1-800-KEWADIN | [kewadin.com](http://kewadin.com)

ALL SITES • EVERY FRIDAY DURING JULY 2015 • 1:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

**TGI Fridays**

WE'RE GIVING AWAY UP TO **\$23,000 IN KEWADIN CREDITS!**

**HOT SEAT DRAWS**

THE MORE YOU PLAY  
THE MORE YOU CAN WIN IN KEWADIN CREDITS

REGISTER AT THE NORTHERN REWARDS CLUB

## 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY

ALL SITES

4x the points between 2-6 p.m.  
Hot seat draws between 2-10 p.m.  
4x the entries between 7-11 p.m.

for our  
**Star Spangled Blowout**  
Saturday, July 25!

## PATRIOTIC TUESDAYS

ALL SITES

Every Tuesday in July 2015  
from 1-8 p.m.  
Hot Seat Draws for Kewadin Credits!

## STAR SPANGLED BLOWOUT

ALL SITES

Saturday, July 25  
Hot seat draws 2-10 p.m.  
Grand prize draws 10-11 p.m.

We're giving away over  
**\$30,000 in Cash, Kewadin Credits & Prizes!**

Register at Northern Rewards Club to participate.  
Club hours vary by site.

MANISTIQUE-ST.IGNACE-HESSEL-SAULT STE. MARIE-CHRISTMAS



# Do our members need better access to voting polls?

BY RICK SMITH

A surprise move by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) would, by law, improve access to state and federal polling stations for American Indians across the country. And, in the meantime, a Michigan House representative introduced legislation to allow optional secure absentee balloting for all voters, no exceptions and no reasons for voting absentee needed.

The DOJ recently advanced an unusual proposal for an executive department of the United States — legislation intended to enhance state and federal voting access on American Indian reservations across the country as well as Alaska Native villages. The draft version of the Tribal Equal Access to Voting Act of 2015 appears to be geared to mainly help those Native voters on remote reservations or villages exceedingly far from official polling stations.

In some areas of the United States, Indian reservations and Native villages are hundreds of miles from voting facilities. Further, some Alaska villages are accessible only by airplanes and an Arizona reservation nestled in a deep canyon relies heavily on mules.

In a letter dated May 21 conveyed in mass to tribal officials, the DOJ explained the measures stipulated in the legislation would protect Native voting rights. One of the requirements is that state and local governments that include Indian reservations or Alaska Native villages in their territories shall provide at least one polling station put in places selected by tribal governments.

Other requirements:

- States must make voting machines, ballots and other voting material and equipment available at tribal polling stations equal to the availability at other polling places in the respective states. States must also provide equal compensation and other benefits to election officials and poll workers.

- States must use all of the same voting procedures at tribal polling stations as those used at all other facilities in their jurisdictions.

- States are allowed to meet polling obligations by either creating new polling places or transferring existing stations.

- Tribes with larger land populations or land bases are allowed to request more than one polling place.

- Obligations of states under

the proposed law would be contingent on tribes filing timely requests and certifications of appropriate arrangements for voter access and staffing of polling facilities.

- Tribes must ensure staff members of polling stations are properly trained.

- Tribes must ensure polling places are open and accessible to all eligible citizens who reside in their respective precincts, regardless of ancestry.

According to American Indian law specialists of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson and Perry of Washington, D.C., a member of Congress intends to reintroduce the Native Voting Rights Act of 2014, which amends the Voting Rights Act to protect American Indian and Alaska Native voters.

In the meantime, Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson and Michigan House Representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons introduced a new bill on June 16 that would allow all Michigan voters the option of casting secure absentee ballots if so desired. House bill 4724 is sponsored by Lyons.

“Thanks to our long-held commitment to protecting the security and integrity of elec-

tions, Michigan is now ready to offer this option to accommodate Michigan’s hardworking families’ busy schedules,” Johnson noted in an announcement. “I look forward to working with lawmakers to see this signed into law.”

Lyons, chair of the House Elections Committee, added, “We should give all voters a convenient way to have their voices heard on Election Day. My legislation offers that convenience while protecting the integrity of our elections. Too often we hear about friends or neighbors who fib about being out of town to cast an absentee ballot. We should be realistic about absentee voting and offer the convenience to everyone eligible to vote.”

If approved, according to the announcement, Michigan would join the 27 other states and the District of Columbia that offer no-reason absentee voting. Typically, about 20 percent of Michigan voters cast absentee ballots in elections.

According to an analysis of the legislation by the House Fiscal Agency, current law mandates one or more of six requirements

must be met by voters before they can cast absentee ballots. Those requirements include attainment of age 60 or older, physical disabilities requiring help when voting at a polling station, absence from home on Election Day and other circumstances.

The new bill would retain the current requirements and provide for a separate application form for eligible voters who wish to vote by absentee ballot. Application requirements would be the same as if voting in person.

While the proposed state legislation, if it ever passes, could render the proposed federal legislation useless for Sault Tribe members, the question remains: Do any of the tribe’s members in the service area need better voting access? It wouldn’t seem so, but we here at *Win Awenen Nisitotung* invite comments from voting members in remote areas of the tribe’s service area who experience difficulty getting to polling stations. Call and tell your story to Rick Smith at (906) 632-6398, extension 26220, or email [rsmith1@saulttribe.net](mailto:rsmith1@saulttribe.net).

## Volunteers build new Sault sign for tribal child and elders services



New sign seen on Shunk Road features a design by LSSU intern Sam Gardner Jr. along with the artistic skills of others on donated material and volunteers who replaced the old sign with the new one.

BY TAMMY PINKOSKI

Samuel Gardner, Jr., a Lake Superior State University student intern majoring in social work, is working with the Early Childhood Education programs this summer.

He is the father of four daughters, three of whom attended our programs. Gardner was chairperson for the Early Childhood Policy Council for three years and has been actively involved in the program for the past four years. He also volunteers time coaching soccer and is part of the Sugar Island Fire Department.

He designed the artwork on the new sign for the elders’ and Early Childhood Education programs. He had help painting the sign from Volunteers In Service To America worker, Emily Higbee, along with Wayne Somes, Karla McLeod and Shondra Jarvis.

“Being a part of this program for my internship has been an honor,” said Gardner. “I’ve been volunteering with the Early Childhood Education Program for a few years now and I’m glad I was able to be part of something where I could give back to our tribal community.”

The project received amazing support with donations of time and materials from people and

organizations. Further, it was a wonderful opportunity to connect with people and tap into their unused materials.

Staff members of the Early Childhood Education and Elder Service are delighted and amazed with Mr. Gardner’s talents.

Tammy Pinkoski is on the staff of the early childhood education programs of Sault Tribe.

## Alaskan tribe boycotting FedEx over sponsorship of Redskins NFL team

BY RICK SMITH

The largest tribe in Alaska announced it gave notice to all tribal employees on June 25 to discontinue use of FedEx services due to its sponsorship of a National Football League (NFL) team, the Washington Redskins. Further, the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska adopted a resolution formally opposing the team’s name and urging FedEx to break its ties with the team as long as it continues to use a name disparaging to American Indians.

“FedEx is one of the football team’s top sponsors and purchased naming rights to the team’s stadium in 1999,” noted the announcement. “Central Council, along with other advocates, are focusing on FedEx as a key funding source of the NFL team and hopes that boycotting the shipping giant will encourage FedEx to reconsider sponsorship of an NFL team that remains obstinate and insensitive to Native Americans.”

According to the Central Council, several tribes and tribal organizations have already taken similar action, listing the National Congress of American Indians and the Native American Rights Fund among them. Additionally, the announcement notes, “Over 100 professional organizations representing civil rights, edu-

cational, athletic and scientific experts have published resolutions or policies recognizing the use of Native American names and/or symbols by sports teams promotes misunderstanding and perpetuates negative stereotyping of Native American people.”

Central Council President Richard Peterson explained promotion of the offensive name by the marketing partnership of FedEx and the NFL franchise perpetuates a “term used during a deplorable and inhumane period of our history suffered by the ancestors of our American Indian brothers and sisters.” He called the continued support of the team by FedEx disheartening and encourages other tribes “to rise up in solidarity to support this movement.”

According to the Central Council website, the organization is a sovereign tribal government representing nearly 30,000 Tlingit and Haida Indians worldwide with headquarters in Juneau, Alaska. While based in Alaska, the council indicates it is committed to serving the Tlingit and Haida people throughout the United States.

According to reports, FedEx is one of the top employers in the state of Alaska with more than 1,000 employees based at its hub in Anchorage.

### Roy Electric Co. Inc.

INDUSTRIAL \* COMMERCIAL \* RESIDENTIAL

[www.royelectric.us](http://www.royelectric.us)

2901 Ashmun St. (M-129)  
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Bus. (906) 632-8878  
Fax. (906) 632-4447

### RADIO STREAMING

\$49 per month

FREE iPhone App & FREE Android App  
No Contracts & No Set up Fees!  
FREE Sponsors & Earn Revenue

Gary Lee (Tribal Member)  
Promo Code: SaultTribe2015

954-481-9402 ext 243 - [glee@securenetsystems.net](mailto:glee@securenetsystems.net)



# Jacques hired as director of strategic planning

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe Planning and Development department has hired a Director of Strategic Planning – Larry Jacques.

Jacques, from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and previously of Paradise, Mich., has an undergraduate degree in agriculture business management and a master's degree in educational technology, both from Michigan State University (MSU).

He started his formal education years ago at LSSU, earning 46 credits towards a degree in Computer Science. That career path wasn't specifically what he was looking for, so he took a break and started working in the field of construction.

It wasn't long before he realized he wanted to further his education, so he enrolled in the construction program at Bay Mills Community College (BMCC) and did very well, resulting in the decision to pursue a second associate's degree in business administration. He graduated from BMCC in the spring of 2010.

The United States Department of Agriculture then hired him to do agriculture statistics for the National Agriculture Statistics

Service and while working there he earned a Bachelor of Science in agriculture business management from MSU.

After graduation, he moved back to the Upper Peninsula and began consulting for BMCC as a research specialist for their Research and Extension Department.

During that time, he decided to pursue a master's degree, so he signed up for the Masters of Arts and Educational Technology program through MSU's online campus. He completed the program in 18 months and graduated this past December.

As the tribe's strategic planner, Jacques will help tribal departments plan, research, analyze and apply strategies to help them attain goals they have identified.

"That is where I want to leverage my educational background – I can work with managers to identify analytical tools that work for their department's needs, we will identify various data sources, some internal and some external, then together we will work through the strategic planning process to develop a direction and plan for implementation. It will be important that the plan is



Photo by Brenda Austin

**Larry Jacques, the new director of strategic planning for Sault Tribe.**

something that is meaningful and applicable to those who it affects, I want to ensure success through individual involvement and individual ownership of any plan," he said.

Each tribal department has a rich history, and currently Jacques is researching each department

one at a time to develop a better understanding of their past and of their current activities to help predict data sources that will be advantageous during the planning process.

"The better the information, the better the decision making," Jacques said.

Jacques, along with others in Planning and Development, wants to have an online resource available to help tribal grant writers successfully progress from their first steps to the last steps of the process. He said the intention is to create a resource that has information that will aid both the novice and expert grant writer.

"I would like to have a folder on the internal website that all employees have access to where they can easily find the information they wish to obtain - including information to aid in finding, writing, submitting, reporting and managing their grants."

Jacques also recently joined the Sault Tribe team working on the *Your Money, Your Goals* "train the trainer" program.

"The Consumer Finance Bureau and our tribe are collaborating on a financial empowerment package for tribal members and I'm excited about getting in and being part of a process that will lead to positive financial outcomes for our members," he said.

Jacques was also recently appointed to the American Indian and Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council as the Bemidji Area Alternate.

# Clement accepts position as training instructor

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Aagii Clement has recently been hired as the new training instructor II for the Sault Tribe Human Resource Department.

Aagii brings to the team a dynamic energy that will help enhance future goals and objectives of the H.R. Training Center.

Aagii said she has worked for the tribe off and on since she was 15. "I was at the original Greenough Street office with Robert and Shirley VanAlstine and Jack Kibble, who were my supervisors," she said. "The tribe has come a long way since then and accomplished a lot of good things. Sometimes it's easier for us to find fault in areas where we need improvement, or where we lack or have challenges, but we also need to look at all the accomplishments we have done for our people, and there are many."

Aagii has a very diverse background that she will be sharing as a training instructor. She has traveled the world and is a partner in a consulting business with Michelle Willis, called A Place For Us All, doing numerous presentations and lectures, camps for adults and children, and retreats and motivational speaking globally.

"Our big focus," she said, "is collaborating across cultures, sectors, departments and out into communities while sharing our similarities, and celebrating our differences. That is the background that I frame things from – collaborative work, team cultures, and current trends."

She also has a public speaking background and is knowledgeable in grant writing and management.

"I have gone through a lot of facilitator training, and motivational interviewing, coaching and speaking," she said.

In addition to all that, Clement is a retired nurse with a background in health care and was

also a substitute teacher for many years. She has degrees in education and environmental science and is in the process of taking courses towards a bachelor degree in exercise science at Lake Superior State University.

"I am a real people person," she said. "I have spent a lot of time exchanging cultural ideas and perspectives with the Jara people from Australia, the Kiwi people of New Zealand, and the Druids, Bards and Gypsies in Europe. I have also spent time with a variety of people from Mexico, Guatemala, Spain, Germany, Scotland and Ireland, and I find that we are all very similar, but we have enough differences that it tends to keep the exchange and experience exciting and symbiotic. I find different cultures and people very beautiful, I am always happy to share my Native culture as I celebrate my background, but I also embrace all other cultures as well."

Aagii affirms that Sault Tribe Human Resource has a good solid training team in place already. Trainings available to team members include customer service, harassment, anger management, and communication and computer skills, among others.

"The Training Department is looking at developing a new training culture (practice), and as part of that is looking at incorporating newer technology features into the training programs. For example, a few ideas for future trainings might be the use of interactive online Gamification as a training tool. This module would allow participants in different departments to take the same training at the same time while sitting at their desks using avatars in shared online situations and environments, as well as streamlining our orientation processes by placing courses online as interactive modules. We are



**Aagii Clement recently assumed a position as an instructor with the Sault Tribe Human Resource Department.**

also looking forward to offering more advanced, contemporary coaching and mentoring courses for managers and team members, as well as other online tools. We are also looking to expand our Training Center to offer more to the community in general. It would add a whole new dynamic and bring an exciting, more contemporary and efficient element into our training department," she said.

Aagii grew up on Shunk Road, and later Marquette Road, and attended the old Finlayson School. Her late father is Lewis Clement.

"He was a funny guy, I love him to pieces," she said. "His attitude was very inclusive and he had a great joy for people and was very accepting of everyone.

He was easy going and liked to play guitar. Mom (Peggy Clement) is a good honest person. She gave me my love for the classics in both music and literature. Her love of poetry has been one of my first loves...and still is. She is solid as a rock and an outstanding mother. It was really pleasant to grow up in the home they created."

Aagii is the youngest of her siblings, then there is her brother, Landan, who works on the International bridge and is a fantastic artist, her sister, Sheila Berger, who is a wizard with numbers, will soon have her bachelor degree in business, her brother, Rush, who is the oldest and lives in Portland, Mich., is an artist and music teacher and now has built and runs his own brew-

ery with his wife, Julie.

Aagii has a son, Jake, who she said she is very proud of. "He has had a lot of challenges in his life, he has stepped up and come out from underneath them and I know he is going to end up being a very strong example and a good advocate for those who are facing their own challenges."

She has two granddaughters, Emily, 3 and Alexys, 5, whom she adores.

A big advocate for healthy lifestyles, Aagii has worked hard to turn her own life around. "I have a life coaching business where I help anybody who is pre or post bariatric surgery, who needs help with life skills mentoring, coaching, or positive attitude training. You can conquer anything as long as you believe in yourself and have a positive attitude."

A very adventurous person, she enjoys traveling, zip lines, hang gliding, mountain climbing, and trying new foods, among others. She also scuba dives and has sailed through the Caribbean while avoiding pirates. Aagii is also a published writer of a children's book as well as several articles and poetry.

"God helps me a lot – not many folks are comfortable talking about God anymore, but the Creator is the most important part of my life. I make mistakes, but I try to learn from them and I try not to make too many because I really feel like I have to answer to my higher power. As Native people the Creator gave us those seven grandfather teachings and I remember them daily," she said. "I truly believe in people and always see the positive and potential in them and in situations, and that is what I focus on. When people know you believe in them and that you are sincere about it, it lifts them up and they begin to believe in themselves, and that is the most important thing. That's who I am, and that's how I roll!"



# Pine opens new Sault area fertilizer operation

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Some might say that Sault resident Doug Pine has gotten himself into a smelly situation when they hear he sells composted horse manure – he says it's not strong-smelling once it has gone through the decomposition and composting process and he'd be happy to have you stop by and take a whiff.

Welcome to DP Equine Manure Composting located at 4678 South M-129, between Four Mile and Five Mile Roads just outside of the Sault city limits. Visit the horses while you are picking up 50-pound bags, or loading your truck with good-for-your-gardens 100 percent naturally composted manure. One 50-pound bag sells for \$12, or get two (that's 100 pounds!) for \$20. You can also bring your shovels and Doug will help load up the back of your truck. Veterans with the proper I.D. receive a discount.

If you see the "Open" flag out by the road you will know he is there and ready for your business. He is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on his days off from his full-time

job as an Army Corp of Engineers lock and dam operator at the Soo Locks. If you would like to call ahead first before stopping by, he can be contacted at: (906) 630-5484. "I am on a rotating shift at work and work one week of days and one week of nights. So if you don't see the open sign out, give me a call and I will make arrangements to take care of your needs," he said.

DP Equine Manure Composting was born out of necessity. His family acquired horses two years ago and the manure began piling up.

During decomposition, he said the 10x10-foot piles generate heat up to 160 degrees Fahrenheit, which kills all the weed seeds and any bacteria there may have been. "The winter can be a problem because of the cold temperatures outside. I will be purchasing a static aeration system so I won't have to turn the manure piles anymore and it will keep the temperature up during the winter months. I will also be using heat tape in the concrete during the cold months," he said.

Once his new system is in place, it will reduce his production time from 60 to 30 days for the finished product to be ready.

He said if there is a larger than anticipated demand, he knows a local veterinarian who has agreed to donate his horse byproducts to keep the community supplied with all the manure it needs. "If I can make enough money doing this to cover vet bills, the tractor, and any other needs associated with the business I'll be happy," he said.

One of DP Equine Manure Composting's happy customers works at Lake Superior State University in the landscaping department. Pine said he had a good conversation with this person and was told they were unable to find good compost locally – so he is going to refer Pine's services to the college.

Pine is a former Sault Tribe employee, a tribal member and is also a U.S. Marine Corp disabled veteran. He is nationally certified through the Farmers Veteran's Coalition and has been authorized to use their branding label



Doug Pine working with a tractor at his new business.

"Homegrown by Heroes," on his business cards and on Facebook.

The two reasons his family has horses, he said, is his 11-year-old daughter, Yvonne, a sixth-grader who likes to help him bag the manure, and his wife, Dana.

Doug Pine at DP Equine Manure Composting can be contacted by calling (906) 630-5484, or by email at [dopine@yahoo.com](mailto:dopine@yahoo.com) also visit online at the company website at <http://www.dpequinemanurecomposting.com>.

# Jodoin hired as summer youth program administrator

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault tribe member Cody Jodoin, a 2011 graduate of Sault Area High School and a former student of JKL Bahweting School, was recently hired at Big Bear Arena as the youth program administrator of the Summer Recreation Program.

Jodoin has worked for the Summer Recreation Program for the past five years, starting right out of high school as a youth program assistant/counselor. The following two summers he worked as an assistant, then as a group leader who was responsible for two other counselors. Last summer, he was hired as the acting youth program administrator.

"I enjoy working this job — it's a full time position right from when I get out of school in the

beginning of May until I start school again in the fall," he said. "It keeps me on my toes, there are so many different aspects to this position such as planning, budgetary issues, conflict resolution, customer service and supervisory experience."

As the youth program administrator, he supervises up to 14 employees.

He said this new position requires a host of organizational skills and that he is also learning about budgeting— hiring staff, transportation and paying the bus drivers when they go on field trips, ordering t-shirts for the program, art and craft supplies, gym equipment — within the program's budget.

"I am comfortable where I am in this job; the hours are great and

I enjoy being here and helping the kids and seeing the smiles on their faces when we get to go do fun activities," he said.

He said that as a 22-year-old, he appreciates the opportunity he has had over the past five years to work his way up and gain supervisory experience. "Supervisory experience is one quality that future potential employers are looking for, so I am glad to have gained so much experience at such a young age."

Jodoin is also a familiar face and voice on the phone at Big Bear during the winter months, where for the past two years he has been employed as an events coordinator.

After graduation from high school, Jodoin attended Bay Mills Community College for

two years, earning an associate degree in general science. He was named Native American Student of the Year. He then enrolled at LSSU, where he has one more year of classes before earning a Bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife management.

Jodoin said he believes there are a lot of job opportunities in fisheries and wildlife management at the federal, state and tribal levels. "A fisheries and wildlife management profession in the Great Lakes region seems like it would always be one of those jobs that will be in demand," he said. "Our fisheries and wildlife program at Lake State is one of the best in the country."

He said his interest leans towards fisheries right now and that he enjoys learning about fish population studies, watersheds and pollution.

"Being born and raised here I



Cody Jodoin

would love to live here the rest of my life. I really can't imagine living anywhere else, but I might have to go where the work is and someday try to come back to the area."

# LSSU Regional Outdoor Center opened to the general public

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — A new campus facility that helps Lake Superior State University students enjoy the great outdoors is now open to the public.

LSSU's Regional Outdoor Center — ROC — opened last summer with a variety of camping and outdoor equipment available to students at low rates. Now that same equipment is available to members of the public. ROC offers tents, backpacks, mountain bikes, fishing equipment, stand-up paddleboards, and more. Some of the bikes are available free as part of the new bike exchange between LSSU and the city of Sault Ste. Marie.

"At the ROC, we strive to get LSSU students, employees, community members and tourists alike outside and enjoying the beautiful scenery of the eastern Upper Peninsula," said Paul Tumey, the center's director. "So if you are planning a trip, looking to enjoy an afternoon bike ride or

just feel like seeing what we have available, come on in and check us out."

All of the ROC equipment is available for rent by the day, weekend or the whole week. Tumey said bikes have been very popular since the center opened, including a few "fat tire" bikes that are made for riding in snow and sand.

"For someone who is thinking about buying their own camping equipment or a bike or a stand-up paddleboard, this is a great way to find out if you'll enjoy using it before you make the investment," Tumey said.

In addition to renting equipment, Tumey has been organizing backpacking and camping trips that have been popular with students. Last spring, he took students to the Carp River for smelt dipping and camping and, earlier, he organized an ice fishing excursion on Munuscong Bay.

In addition to running the

ROC, Tumey is responsible for the rock wall or climbing wall in the Norris Center's Student Activity Center. This facility is also open to students and community members. LSSU students and employees can climb for free; others pay just \$3. It's also available at an hourly rate for birthday parties, Boy Scout and Girl Scout excursions, team-building events and more. Anyone over age 6 may climb and a guide is on hand to help out.

This summer, the rock wall is open 5-8 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The ROC, adjacent to the Kenneth Shouldice Library parking lot, is open this summer 1-6 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is also available by appointment.

For more information, contact Tumey at 635-2890 or [roc@lssu.edu](mailto:roc@lssu.edu). You can also find information on Facebook by looking for "LSSU Regional Outdoor Center."



Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.  
BUSINESS WITHOUT BARRIERS

Employee Benefits Consulting  
Strategic Planning  
Regulatory Compliance  
Wellness Program Design

**Cory J. Sober**

[Corey\\_Sober@AJG.com](mailto:Corey_Sober@AJG.com)  
(906) 635-5238

2956 Ashmun St. Suite C, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

**Your COMPLETE  
Underground Utility Contractor  
Over 30 - Years Experience**

**SEPTIC SYSTEMS  
SEPTIC TANKS & DRAINFIELD  
WATER & SEWER INSTALLATIONS**

COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL

*Belongia*  
Plumbing & Heating  
Master Plumber  
License #6078

115 Elliot Street  
St. Ignace  
(906) 643-9595  
Monday - Friday 8 to 5



# Hammock returns to direct Sault Tribe Elder Services

By RICK SMITH

Sheryl Hammock returns to head Elder Services after a three-year stint with FHI 360, an international non-profit human development organization, as an early childhood education specialist providing training for adult staff of Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

Hammock indicated returning to the post with the tribe provides a better situation for her family. "I left because I had the opportunity to do consulting work for Head Start and Early Head Start programs through a contract in D.C.," Hammock noted, "which was a wonderful learning experience, but involved way too much travel."

She further explained she was required to travel extensively throughout Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Mississippi. She was glad about meeting and learning from many interesting people and tribal programs along the way but "the travel ended up being too hard for my little family that

expanded. My beautiful daughter went off to college and the foster son I had came up for adoption and I adopted him. I wanted to be home to raise him. I am very happy and honored the elders and the tribe have allowed me to come back to work for them," said Hammock. "I am thankful for all the family support I had while I traveled, but home is where I wanted to be and my old position was open, so I applied."

Her daughter is Katie Thompson and her son is Riley Hammock.

Hammock began her position with FHI 360 in September of 2012. Before then, she worked in various positions with Sault Tribe since 1996 ranging from casino work to health services with the most recent couple of years as director of Elder Services.

She holds a bachelor's and a master's from Lake Superior State University and has an assortment of experiences and skills conducive to leading Elder Services.



**Above, Sheryl Hammock, director of Sault Tribe Elder Services. She returned to her position with Sault Tribe in order to have more time with her family. Right, her son, Riley Hammock, and daughter, Katie Thompson. Hammock is a long-time Sault Tribe employee with an array of knowledge and experience garnered from her education and employment with the tribe.**



# Legacy of Seven Grandfathers put on stones for EUP elders

By RICK SMITH

Sheryl Hammock, director of elders' services, came up with an idea of an appropriate gift for the Sault and St. Ignace elders' communities. She also donated supplies and let the talents of an AmeriCorps Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) worker, Emily Higbee, take the project in her hands. "What she is painting is wonderful," said Hammock. "She has some talent."

Higbee is painting rectangular paver stones with the names of the Seven Grandfathers in Anishinaabemowin and English

accompanied by images of clans related to each tenet of the grandfathers.

The first set of stones was presented to the St. Ignace elders' committee on June 12 and the stones for the Sault Ste. Marie committee were finished in time to be presented to them on July 1.

Hammock indicated the stones go on permanent display in the elders' cafeterias.

Higbee noted AmeriCorps VISTA workers are placed with organizations to work on projects that help fill needs or strengthen existing programs.

She said she was looking for a new project when Hammock introduced the idea of painting the tenets of the Seven Grandfathers on stones.

"I've never had any formal training in art, but crafting is something I've always loved as a hobby," said Higbee. She added, "This is my first time as a VISTA worker, and though it's definitely been a different experience for me, it's been an enjoyable one!"

Higbee grew up in Ovid and Elsie, small villages north of Lansing and moved to Ypsilanti to work and go to school at Eastern Michigan University where she graduated in 2012 with a degree in history and anthropology with a minor in health education. "This is my first time living in the U.P., but I'm really enjoying it," she said.

Hammock said, "the elders are grateful to Emily for making the beautiful stones for them. They truly feel blessed and loved."



Photo by Rick Smith

**Artist Emily Higbee of AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America with three of the stones from one set featuring the names of the Seven Grandfathers along with images of clans. The paver stones were created to be placed in the elders' gathering halls in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace.**

## Escanaba Elders Committee meeting rescheduled for July 25 in Gladstone

The July membership meeting for Unit IV Escanaba Elders Committee is rescheduled to begin at noon on July 25 instead of July 16 at the large pavilion at VanCleeve Park, across from the Michigan State Police post in Gladstone.

A picnic for elders, their families and guests is set to follow the meeting. Please bring a dish to pass if possible.

For more information, call Ernie Demmon at 428-1446.

Thank you.

## Rattlesnake Annie visits Naubinway tribal elders



**RATTLESNAKE ANNIE VISITS NAUBINWAY ELDERS** — The legendary country-blues singer/songwriter/guitarist played for members at a gathering and in private performances for homebound folks in the area. She appeared courtesy of elder Joe Blanchard. Rattlesnake Annie (nee Rosan Gallimore of Scotch-Irish-Cherokee ancestry) began her career in music as a young girl and collaborated with the likes of Willie Nelson and many others. "We had an amazing time and the memories are priceless," said Unit II Director Lana Causley-Smith. Above, some of the crowd at her performance with Annie (with guitar) and, left, Joe Blanchard with Annie after a basket presentation.



# NERDS: Supporting love of culture and excellence in school by positive interaction between students

BY RICK SMITH

Dakota Franklin Kicking Bear Brown is a member of the federally recognized Wilton Rancheria Indian Tribe (Miwok) of northern California based about 20 miles southwest of Sacramento, the state capital.

A few years ago, as a student of the eighth grade, he began noticing a couple of problems becoming widespread among his family and friends that gave him concern. Mainly, they were surrendering and withdrawing from school activities and studies, some drop out, some might be persuaded into abusing drugs or alcohol, some may die by their own hands and some mix it all together. He learned by studying reliable facts and figures that the situation was not just isolated to his band, but a fairly common situation in much of Indian Country.

Young Mr. Brown felt the need to bring changes to these disheartening situations. In 2012,



**Dakota Brown**

he founded a new organization called Native Education Raising Dedicated Students (NERDS). These days, approximately 300 members belong to nine NERDS affiliated clubs across the United States.

“Nerds of Las Vegas was our first out-of-state club and we offer national networking and connection to other Native youth



club can identify the problems they face and are most important to them, then work together to make positive changes,” he said. Brown also noted the organization is pursuing growth and seeks as many American Indian students as possible. The club is open to any student who wishes to join, but only students with American Indian ancestry who are part of an Indian education program may run for elected positions in the organization. “Members must have a respect for our cultures and a desire to learn more while helping all our youth to overcome the despairing statistics that face our communities,” Brown added.

As a way to help gain public recognition for the organization and its members, NERDS shirts are available so that students may be easily recognized as part of a national non-profit organization. Clubs are also linked to the organization’s website at [www.nativereds.org](http://www.nativereds.org). Those interested in learning more or joining should visit the NERDS website, just log on to [www.nativereds.org](http://www.nativereds.org).

# NMU Increases Access to Indian Tuition Waiver

MARQUETTE, Mich. — Native American students attending Northern Michigan University will no longer need to be enrolled in a degree-granting program to receive the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver. NMU President Fritz Erickson announced the change today during a meeting with members of the Hannahville Indian Community. He said it is meant to assist Native students who want to take one or more courses, but have not officially selected an academic program or may not need to complete a full degree.

“Making this change helps to ensure access to a wider variety of learning options at Northern for Native American students who are eligible for this statewide tuition waiver,” said Erickson.

The Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver waives tuition at the state’s public colleges and universities for students who meet the following criteria: are one-quarter or more Native American blood quantum as certified by their tribal enrollment departments; are enrolled members of a U.S. federally recognized tribe as certified by the tribal enrollment department; and have been a legal resident of Michigan for at least 12 consecutive months.

The waiver is rooted in federal treaties with educational provisions and represents a tri-lateral relationship between federal, state and tribal governments. It was instituted in 1976, when the Michigan legislature passed

the Waiver of Tuition for North American Indians Act and Gov. William Milliken signed it into law. The waiver was later amended slightly to its current form.

Northern’s Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver has evolved as well. Two years ago, the university removed “satisfactory academic progress” from the criteria. Martin Reinhardt, professor in the NMU Center for American Studies, said eliminating the degree-seeking component further opens the door to higher education for all American Indian people, including the Anishinaabe Three Fires Confederacy, to which all tribes in Michigan belong.

“This change will allow students to take a course out of inter-

est without having to pursue a degree or otherwise comply with federal financial aid guidelines,” Reinhardt said. “It’s similar to what the university offers to seniors 62 and older. But what might happen is that some students may take a course based on interest, find college is a good fit for them and decide to continue their studies. The university has taken another step forward in demonstrating its commitment, both to the tribes and to its Center

for Native American Studies. We continue to explore other ways to further strengthen that relationship.”

There were 222 Native American students enrolled full or part time at NMU during the 2014-15 academic year. Of those, 121 qualified for the waiver, which NMU funded at \$765,000. The state covers a portion of the waiver at all universities in their base budget appropriations.

# Sault Tribe members graduating from BMCC

Congratulations to Sault Tribe members graduating from Bay Mills Community College. The following members graduated in May 2015, December 2014 and in some instances, August 2014:

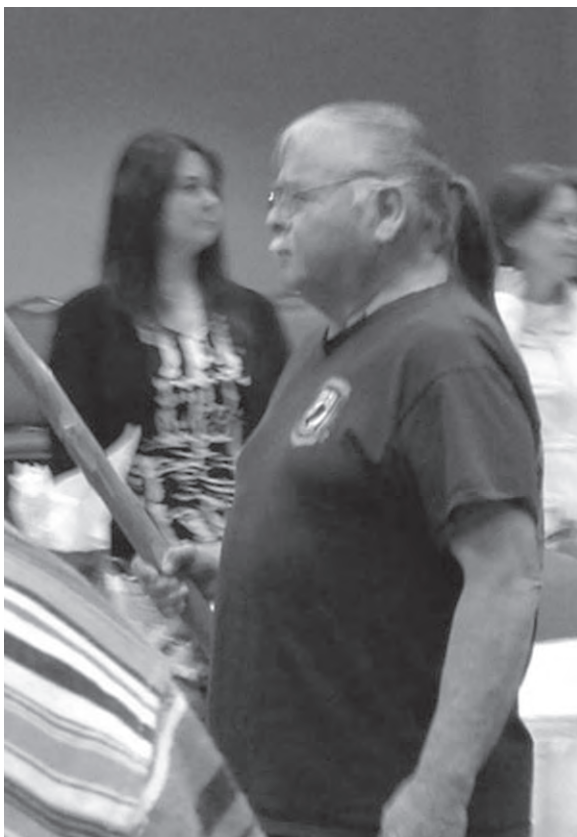
Associate of Applied Science — Brittany Brown, health and fitness; Ashley Samuelson, office administration; Audie Petrosky, CIS — technology; Alan Thomas, CIS — technology; Brent Vassar, CIS — technology

Associate of Arts — Sara Archer (Collins), ECE - teacher preparation; Kara Bouchard, ECE - teacher preparation; Brenda Brigman, business administration; Tia Browning, health and fitness; Brandon Carr, business administration; Kaitlin Fortin, health and fitness; Amanda Goetz, business administration; Craig Gordon, criminal justice; Megan Hall, general studies — arts; Anna Hallai, business administration; Tara KIELTY, social science; Stephanie Liedel, business administration; Kariann MacArthur (Paoli), social science; Melissa Mills, business administration; Noelle Mongene, health and fitness; Joseph Nolan, business administration; Erin Patti, social science; Kristin Tadgerson, general studies — arts; Courtney Tyner, criminal justice; Jordan Warner, criminal justice.

Associate of Science — Cassandra Wilcox, general studies — science; Alexandria Atkins, general studies — science

Certificate of completion — Kelsey Campbell, corrections; Patricia Walker, EMT — basic;

Amanda Shea, general studies — MTA. Diploma — Sydney LeClerc, four-year Nishnaabemwin Pane Immersion Program.



**Sault Tribe elder and veteran Ed Cook (front) served as a flagbearer at this year’s BMCC graduation. Unit II Director Lana Causley attended the ceremony (back).**

## 2 Rivers

2681 Ashmun St. (M-129)  
Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783  
906-253-1904



**NuStar**  
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Call for a  
**FREE Insurance  
Quote!**

- Auto
- Commercial
- Speciality
- Home
- Ask about our Life Insurance Program

## Everyday™


**making a difference.**

*It's What We Do!*

**Dedicated to local, friendly member services:**

- FREE Checking
- Low Rate Loans
- Mortgages
- VISA® Credit Cards
- Nationwide Shared Branching
- Mobile & Online Banking

Learn more at [www.soocoop.com](http://www.soocoop.com)




**SOO  
CO-OP  
CREDIT UNION**

536 Bingham Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
906.632.5300

With branch offices in: Brimley, Bay Mills,  
Kinross, Cedarville and Paradise

Federally insured by NCUA





# Youth council raises tribal flag in high school gym

The Rudyard/Kinross Shkinigid Bwaadang, meaning Young Dreams, worked very hard to fulfill one of their dreams this past year. They mentioned to the board of directors during their part of a presentation of the Grand Tribal Youth Council last April that one of their goals was to get a tribal flag in their high school gym at Rudyard High School.

They finally accomplished that goal on May 29, when the tribal flag was placed on the wall before the 2015 high school graduation ceremony. The tribal youth council needed to attend a school board meeting to gain

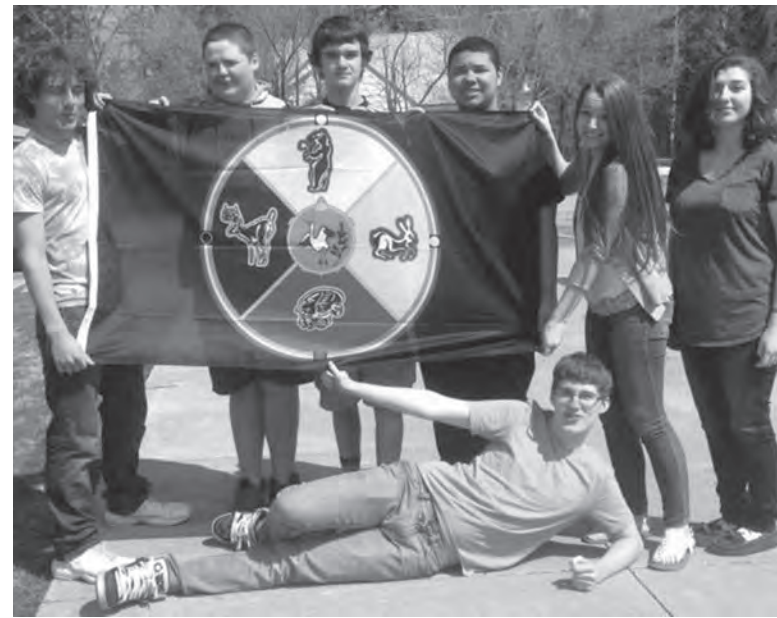


Photos courtesy of Dawn Griffin  
Above, the tribal flag as it appears in the Rudyard High gymnasium.

permission and to receive permission from the administration to fulfill this dream.

This was a great learning experience for all and the result was very rewarding.

Right, students with the flag, from left, James Emrich, Sean VanDyke, Terin Tremblay, Ramido Staten, Sierra Lamma, Quinn Thibert and laying down is Josh Schovenwever.



# JKL School charter with NMU renewed for five years

Photo by Rick Smith  
The JKL Bahweting Anishinaabe Public School Academy Board of Directors took the final step for its part in authorizing a five-year renewal of the school's charter with Northern Michigan University during a regular meeting on June 24. The board designated President Isaac McKechnie to execute terms and conditions of the charter contract on behalf of the school. Seen here just after the measure was approved, from left, JKL Bahweting PSA Superintendent Theresa Kallstrom, board members Ginger Stratton and Nick VanAlstine, President McKechnie, board members Norma Castro, Regina Rolstone and Brooke Rizzo.



# JKL School renews lease with tribe for next three years

Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton  
On June 10, at the Joseph K. Lumsden School in Sault Ste. Marie at 1301 Marquette Ave., left to right, Superintendent Theresa Kallstrom looks on as school board President Isaac McKechnie signs a 36-month lease with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The tribe approved the lease at its May 19 board of directors meeting. "On behalf of the school board, I would like to express our gratitude for the continued support of the school," said McKechnie. The lease gives the school the ability to rent the facility from the tribe to run the K-8 school. "For the next three years we have a home," McKechnie said. "We look forward to continuing a positive relationship with the tribe and community."



# Youth brave rough weather start for Bike the Sites run



Photos by Rick Smith  
Young bicyclists depart from the DonDee Lanes parking lot in Sault Ste. Marie in heavy rain on June 18 for the Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities Bike the Sites ride. Here, the group from St. Ignace lead young bicyclists from across the tribe's service area as they begin the 47-mile trek. The rides are conducted to promote good health and employing physical exercise as a part of a healthful routine to curb obesity.



Stacy Huffman affixes a Sault Tribe flag to a truck and trailer rig in the DonDee Lanes parking lot in Sault Ste. Marie prior to departure for the Bike the Sites ride. The rig is for hauling some of the bicycles for youngsters riding relay legs instead of pedaling all 47 miles of the ride.



# Know the signs - is domestic violence in your home?

**SUBMITTED BY SHEILA KIBBLE**

Violence in the home harms everyone in the family.

Children are especially vulnerable. When they see violent behavior between family members or when they're abused themselves, they may grow up to be abusive to their partners or children. As parents it's our responsibility to prevent family violence and this cycle of abuse.

If you're coping with

violence in your home, remember you're not alone. Abusive behavior affects every neighborhood, ethnic background and economic class. No family is immune. But no family should be victimized by violence.

**The five forms of domestic violence**

**Physical** — Inflicting or attempting to inflict physical injury; examples are grabbing,

pinching, shoving, slapping, hitting, biting, arm-twisting, kicking, punching, hitting with blunt objects, stabbing and shooting.

**Sexual** — Coercing or attempting to coerce any sexual contact without consent; examples are marital rape, acquaintance rape, forced sex after physical beating, attacks on the sexual parts of the body, forced prostitution, fondling, sodomy and sex with others, attempting to undermine the victim's sexuality by treating him or her in a sexually derogatory manner, criticizing sexual performance and desirability, accusations of infidelity and withholding sex.

**Psychological** — Instilling or attempting to instill fear; examples are intimidation, threatening physical harm to self, victim or others, threatening to harm or kidnap

children, menacing, blackmail, harassment, destruction of pets and property, mind games, stalking, isolating or attempting to isolate victim from friends, family, school or work by withholding access to phone or transportation, undermining victim's personal relationships, harassing others, constant "checking up," constant accompaniment, use of unfounded accusations and forced imprisonment.

**Emotional** — Undermining or attempting to undermine victim's sense of worth; examples are constant criticism, belittling victim's abilities and competency, name-calling, insults, put-downs, silent treatment, manipulating victim's feelings and emotions to induce guilt, subverting a partner's relationship with the children, repeatedly making and breaking promises.

**Economic** — Making or attempting to make the victim financially dependent; examples are maintaining total control over financial resources including victim's earned income or resources received through public assistance or social security, withholding money or access to money, forbidding attendance at school, forbidding employment, on-the-job harassment, requiring accountability and justification for all money spent, forced welfare fraud, withholding information about family, running up bills for which the victim is responsible for payment.

For confidential help or for more information, please call the Advocacy Resource Center at 632-1808 or (877) 639-7820.

*Sheila Kibble assists victims of domestic violence at the Advocacy Resource Center.*



## Caregivers — August is Kids Eat Right Month

With childhood obesity on the rise, making sure kids eat right and get plenty of exercise is vital.

Parents and caregivers can play a big role in children's nutrition and health, teaching kids about healthy foods, being a good role model and making sure physical activity is incorporated into each day.

August, which is Kids Eat Right Month, is a great time for families to focus on the importance of healthful eating and active lifestyles. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is encouraging families to take the following steps:

**Shop smart.** To encourage a healthy lifestyle, get your children involved in selecting the food that will appear at the breakfast, lunch or dinner table.

**Cook healthfully.** Involve your child in the cutting, mixing and preparation of meals. They will learn about food and may even be enticed to try new foods they helped prepare.

**Eat right.** Sit down together as a family to enjoy a wonderful meal and the opportunity to share the day's experiences with one another. Research indicates that those families who eat together have a stronger bond, and children have higher self-confidence and perform better in school.

**Healthful habits.** You can help kids form great, healthy habits by setting a good example. Fill half your plate with fruits and vegetables, choose lower-sodium options, and make at least half

the grains your family eats whole grains. For beverages, choose water over sugary drinks and opt for fat-free or low-fat milk.

**Get moving.** Aside from being a great way to spend time together, regular physical activity is vital to strengthen muscle and bones, promote a healthy body weight, support learning, develop social skills and build self-esteem. Kids are encouraged to be active for 60 minutes per day.

Getting kids to eat right can sometimes be a challenge, particularly if they are picky eaters. But experts say that a conversation can help.

"Talk to your children. Learn the foods they like. Teach them about the foods they need for their growing bodies. Find ways together to make sure they have the knowledge and ability to eat healthy and tasty foods at every meal," says Angela Lemond, registered dietitian nutritionist and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics spokesperson.

It may help to consult a registered dietitian nutritionist in your area to ensure your family is getting the nutrients it needs with a meal plan tailored to your lifestyle and busy schedule.

For more healthful eating tips, recipes, videos and to learn more about Kids Eat Right Month, visit [www.KidsEatRight.org](http://www.KidsEatRight.org).

This August, reevaluate your family's eating and exercise habits, and take steps to make positive, healthful changes.

## Bank With Us



### Community People You Know™

Everything seems easier when you're doing business with people you know. Especially banking. When you apply for a loan, it's a good feeling knowing who you're talking to. Bank with us.

Open your account today by stopping at one of our 7 local banking offices!



**"We're Right Here at Home"**

Branch Offices at:  
NORTH BAY & MORAN TOWNSHIP, ST. IGNACE  
CEDARVILLE • MACKINAC ISLAND  
NAUBINWAY • NEWBERRY

Member FDIC



132 N. State St. • Ph. (906) 643-6800  
P.O. Box 187 • St. Ignace, MI 49781

Visit us online at [www.fnbsi.com](http://www.fnbsi.com)

Trust the Eastern Upper Peninsula's oldest community bank, celebrating 127 years of continuous service to the area.



Member FDIC



# Hogue places second in para-cycling time trial

BY RANDY HOGUE

I placed second at the para-cycling time trial in Asheville, N.C. It was a great way to debut in para-cycling. Some of the sections on the course were very difficult for the trikes.

The weekend of the U.S. national championships was filled with a lot of drama. On the morning of the time trial, I was having some serious issues with my postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome. I ended up getting to the start line almost four minutes late. Each rider was given a time to start racing against the clock. My clock was already running when I started out onto the road. I had to calm myself as I got into an aerodynamic tuck and applied power to my pedals. I needed to be careful because the last leg of the course was a long hill. Even with the clock starting without me, I was still fast enough to earn the bronze medal and a place on the podium. However, my chance to go to the world championships was gone for this year. The team selection was to be based on our



time trials.

The next day was the road race. It was a 26.2-mile race with a lot of hills and some fast descents into sharp turns. It was a challenging course. The race started fast. The previous national champions set a hard pace to assure only the strong could keep up. Soon I was alone with the two previous champions. They began to work together to lose me as well. Each would take a turn at escaping off the front and force me to chase. I knew the tactic. It would eventually wear me down and I could possibly be too worn out to stay ahead of the pack of riders

behind me. Together they would be too strong. So I allowed the stronger of the two to get away and I concentrated on the remaining one. I lifted the pace a bit more on each passing hill until this former national champion could not keep up. In the final miles I pressed even harder until I came across the finish line, earning the U.S. National Road Race Championship silver medal.

The team selection for the Olympic/Paralympic games is next May. I am once again training hard with the goal of standing on the podium in Rio as our national anthem is played.

# Goetz celebrate 60 years on July 16



**William and Elizabeth Goetz celebrate 60 years of marriage on July 16, 2015. They have five children, 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Family and friends celebrated with them at Reed County Park on July 11.**

# Sault Tribe members who recently walked on

**JAMES A. MCCOY**

U.S. veteran James Albert "Jim" McCoy, 75, of Brimley, Mich., passed away on March 6, 2015, at his home. He was born on June 5, 1939, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., the son of the late Albert and Marguerite (nee Gariepy) McCoy.



He graduated from Sault High School with the class of 1958. Later, he served his country as a medic in the United States Army. On Nov. 4, 1961, Jim married his first wife, Vallee (nee Cryderman) McCoy. Jim worked for many years and retired from Sault Tribe Law Enforcement as a sergeant.

On July 27, 1991, Jim married Christine (nee McKerchie) McCoy in Brimley, Mich. Jim enjoyed hunting, fishing, going for drives in the backwoods and spending time with his grandchildren. He also loved hanging out with his dog and best bud, Cricket. Jim was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the American Legion Post 3.

Jim is survived by his wife, Christine McCoy; four children, Jamie (Jim) Harvey, of Kincheloe, Mich., Jim (Jessica) McCoy of Kincheloe, Tara (Steve) McDonald of Sault Ste. Marie and Christopher (Cindy) Gardner of Brimley; 16 grandchildren, Erica (Keith), Jared (Ashley), Adam (Alecia), Justice, Joe Paul, Jeremy, Katelin, Braylyn, Coleman, Joe William, Elijah, Jackson, Liberty, Brianna, Ayden and Jacob; two great-grandchildren, Lilly and Remi; two sisters, Betty Faunt of Sault Ste. Marie and Linda

Trial of Brimley; a brother, Leon McCoy of Sault Ste. Marie; and an "adopted son," Mike Searles of Sault Ste. Marie.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Vallee; three children, Theresa Lynn McCoy, James Albert McCoy III and Ursula Kathleen McCoy; and a sister, Ava Shampine.

Jim was remembered in a gathering on March 11 at the Niigaanaagizhik Ceremonial Building.

C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services assisted the family. Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

**JAMES (JIM) AILING**

*To my dearest son, James (Jim) Ailing, Nov. 22, 1954 - July 16, 2013.*

They say there is a reason, they say that time will heal, but neither time nor reason, will change the way I feel.

There is no greater heartache in this world than the loss of a child, my heart hurts all the time, it's never felt whole since your passing.

No one knows the heartache, which lies behind my smile, no one knows how many times I have broken down and cried.

I want to tell you something, my son, so there won't be any doubt, you're wonderful to think of, but so hard to be without. Son, I love and miss you dearly, each and every day.

All my love, Jim,  
Love, mom, Vida Captain

*In memory of a special brother and uncle, James (Jim) Ailing Nov. 22, 1954 - July 16, 2013*

It's been two years since you left, I miss you very much my brother, each and every day.

I cried when you moved on to

a better place, and I still cry to this day.

Although I love you dearly, I could not make you stay. Your golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands now at rest. God broke my heart just to prove to me that he does only take the best.

Sending you all my love, brother, miss you much,  
Robert Captain

*In memory of a special brother and uncle, James (Jim) Ailing Nov. 22, 1954 - July 16, 2013*

Today is full of wonderful memories of a special brother and uncle who is at rest, and every single one of them is filled with happiness.

For you were someone very special, always a joy to be around and to be with,

And there was so much pain when it came time to let you go and to say goodbye.

That is why this special message is sent to Heaven above, for the angels to take great care of you and to give you all our love.

We love and miss you so much,

Ada and John Dagleish,  
Kristen and Tim Olsen, Traci Beliar and Bebe.

**LOUIS GEORGE PAYNTER**

Louis George Paynter, 78, was born March 23, 1937 in Ann Arbor, Mich. to parents Loretta (nee Wilkes) and Paul Edward Paynter. He passed away on June 23, 2015, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army from July 1954 to July 1958 in Company E, 2nd airborne BG 502 Infantry and was an expert in carbine and auto rifle. Louis was very proud of his Native heritage

and proud to serve his country. He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and also a member of the UAW Local 869.



Louis worked for Chrysler as a welder in Detroit from 1972-1997, before retiring to Kalkaska, Mich., in 1997.

Surviving him is his wife of 55 years, Lois Amelia Paynter, sons Louis George Paynter Jr. and David Wayne Paynter, and daughters Cindy Louise Putnam and Denise Marie Paynter.

He was predeceased by his parents Loretta and Paul Paynter, sisters Sandy Langley and Diane Sherrell, and brother Ralph Paynter.

Louis enjoyed deer hunting, was a big Detroit Tigers fan watching every game from beginning to end, loved spending time with family, especially his 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, and also had a soft spot for animals, especially dogs.

The family held a private memorial service in his honor and his ashes will be buried at a later date in Sault Ste. Marie in a place that was special to him.

**He had a golden heart**

*In honor of Louis Paynter*

When we first looked into your eyes, that was then the start. We happily saw within your soul, and found your golden heart.

Nothing in the world prepared us for you, nothing in the world that we love more than you, and your golden heart.

And every time we are thinking of you from a distant shore, and all the time we lay asleep, we will have a reminder that our father wore his golden heart for us to see. His gift to us - a part of him to keep.

And we will send you all our promises across the sea, and while we are apart, we will carry the wonder that you gave to us and keep your golden heart, your beautiful golden heart, alive inside each of us until we are no longer so far apart.

There is no one like you now, let creation sing songs of sorrow, we love you pa pa Lou, and your golden heart.

Stilled now but never forgotten, your golden heart gave us direction, built a foundation for us all to stand upon. Beating still within our chests, your golden heart lives on.

We love and miss you  
papa Lou





# Folks meet in Sault Ste. Marie for fifth annual Anishinaabemowin language conference

PHOTOS BY RICK SMITH

The students and instructors came from all points of the compass and converged at the fifth annual Baawting Anishinaabemowin Language

Conference on June 12-13 at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

The agenda for the conference called for a welcoming feast

and opening ceremony on June 12 followed by songs sung in Ojibwe by multi-talented Sault Tribe member Susan Askwith, words from keynote speaker Rose Trudeau and a drum social with

the Sturgeon Bay Singers.

A continental breakfast preceded an opening prayer and announcements on the following day before the language workshops began. Instructors

were Doris Boissoneau, Cecil Pavlat, Leonard Kimewon, Donna Spencer, Josh Eshkawkogan and Patricia Osawamick teaching on subjects such as introductory Ojibwe, storytelling and others.



**NUTRITIONAL START** — Attendees select from available delectables, which included dessert and beverages.



Doris Boissoneau conducts a class with the aid of George Tessier inside the ceremonial building.



Three ladies from the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve of Manitoulin Island, Ont., enjoy dinner at the language conference feast as one of the first items on the agenda. Left to right, Doris Peltier, Theresa Trudeau and Doreen Peltier.



A client examines a piece with crafters, from left, Bernadette Azevedo and Maggie Scott who had some beautiful works for sale at the conference.



Theresa Lewis of the Sault Tribe cultural staff welcomes everyone to the conference as musician and singer Susan Askwith looks on. Shortly afterward, Askwith and the crowd returned the gesture to Lewis with a surprise celebration of her birthday. Later, Askwith entertained attendees as they dined with songs sung in her powerful voice using the Ojibwe language.



Patricia Osawamick gives a presentation on things Anishinaabe families should know.



# Sault youth introduced to old game of lacrosse

By Rick Smith

Our ancient ancestors knew the game as baaga 'adowe (bump hips). Other indigenous nations of the Great Lakes region, and those from Canada to the Gulf Coast, had their own names for the game. The Eastern Cherokee called the game da-nah-wah'uwsdi (little war) while the Onondaga gave it the descriptive dehuntshig-wa'es (men hit rounded object). According to Dan Ninham, a Wisconsin Oneida more recently from Minnesota and a long-time teacher and coach, French Jesuits saw the resemblance of the playing sticks to crosiers — the staffs of high-ranking clergy — and came to call the game lacrosse.

Ninham came to Sault Ste. Marie on June 18-19 to conduct two seminars introducing children to lacrosse.

He has been introducing the old and new forms of the game to youngsters in Indian communities in Minnesota and is now branching out to others in the Great Lakes region. Ninham came to Sault Ste. Marie following a similar visit with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center and the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court sponsored the seminars.

One can gain a whole new appreciation for American Indians of yore when listening to Ninham pass his knowledge of the history of the game compared to the modern version. Where the contemporary game has the usual governing organizations setting rules and regulations for every detail of the game, the ancients often decid-

ed rules of each game a day in advance. Playing fields could be from 500 feet to two miles without side boundaries. The number of players on each team varied widely and could be from 100 players to a thousand. The game was also steeped in spiritualism and was used at least once as a ruse to capture a fort. Where modern lacrosse games last around a couple of hours, the ancients played their games from sunrise to sunset. Modern lacrosse goals are six feet tall and six feet wide, ancient lacrosse players scored points by bringing game balls into contact with solitary upright goal posts.

Either way, one thing becomes clear after watching the children learn the game: it certainly presents a fun way to pass time and counter health problems plaguing Indian Country, such as obesity and diabetes. Perhaps tribes of the region should consider resurrecting an old tradition and start old-style lacrosse competitions. Old-style lacrosse tournaments are already gaining momentum in parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas, according to the Minneapolis Star-Tribune.

Further, years from now if it should ever come to pass, old-fashioned lacrosse games could be integrated into a tribal replica of an Ojibwe village prior to European contact featuring re-enactors of daily life in such a village, which would contribute to drawing tourism revenue.

While it is too early to tell if Ninham returns to the area to introduce more youngsters to the game, it appears all involved are agreeable to the possibility.



Photos by Rick Smith

**STICKS UP!** — Dan Ninham (far right) instructs children in how to play the game of lacrosse as it was known to be played by some American Indian nations in the eastern regions of what is now the United States and Canada. The sticks were made by one of Ninham's associates and were provided by Ninham for use by the youngsters. A goal post is seen at the far left in the photo. Along with learning the basics of playing the game, participants also learned some of its history, social, spiritual and cultural significance.



Above, Ninham demonstrates how to successfully manipulate game balls with the old-fashioned American Indian sticks. Below, children practice tossing and catching the ball with each other.



Above, players appear to huddle in a women's game as each tries to get possession of the tethered balls. Below, a closer look at the action.



**STICKS UP!** — These young ladies signal their readiness for play to begin by holding their sticks in the air in anticipation of one of the players throwing the tethered balls in the air to start the action. Note the tethered ball about to be launched from the hand of the player in the red T-shirt and black gym shorts. The sticks differ from men's lacrosse sticks because the players in women's games must pick up the tethered balls with their sticks. Traditionally, a wooden ball covered with leather is used for men's games and women use tethered balls resembling miniature saddle bags. For training purposes, tennis balls were wrapped in leather to prevent injuries.



Above, a player hustles to the goal post with other players in hot pursuit as Ninham observes the action. Below left, traditional lacrosse sticks with a carrying bag and tennis balls. Below right, modern lacrosse sticks.





# Gleaming machines shine in sun at the Sault



The sixth annual Sault Area Auto Show returned gleaming rolling art from past shows and drew first-time entries by other shiny beauties as well on a sunny June 13 adjacent to the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center.

Muscle, graceful lines and metal — it was all there to be seen and appreciated.



Cars and trucks from days of yore to more modern times graced the show.



*Photos by Rick Smith*



# Free Legal Aid services available in tribe's service area

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Advocacy Resource Center's (ARC) Legal Aid Program is available to Sault Tribe members living in the tribe's seven county service area who are victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or dating violence and seeking legal assistance with divorce, child custody, visitation, child/spousal support, and domestic personal protection order issues arising as a direct result of the abusive relationship.

ARC Legal Secretary Vanessa Owaski-Patzwald said, "We want to make sure that Sault Tribe members are aware that these services are available in every county in the tribe's service area."

Legal Aid Attorney Jesse Viau, and the ARC victim advocate's travel to the community where each survivor lives. Due to the rural nature of the tribe's service area, transportation is often a common barrier that survivors



**Legal Aid Attorney Jesse Viau**

encounter. Meeting in their community helps to reduce the client's difficulties associated with accessing supportive services and increases the safety and well being of the survivor and their children.

ARC Program Manager Jami Moran said it's amazing the number of Sault Tribe children that are positively impacted by the

program. "The number of children involved in these cases is huge. We are not only providing the survivor direct services, but these services also positively benefit the children. They enhance safety, create stability, and help provide some normalcy. A lot of times ex partners will use the court system as a method of power and control by filing frivolous motions and constantly making the survivor go back to court. This program reduces the number of occurrences of that kind of manipulation for power and control that goes on within the court system," Moran said. "Providing legal assistance to survivors has nationally proven to increase survivor safety and decrease further trauma and victimization."

According to Moran, post-separation abuse involves power and control behaviors that reach far beyond the common belief that abuse is only physical.

Typical abusive behaviors

reported by survivors in the Legal Aid program include: threatening to get full custody of minor children, gaining custody as a way to control the survivor, shutting off utilities to the survivor's residence, withholding child support, working "under the table" or remaining unemployed to lower child support payments, using the court system to manipulate custody, filing repeated legal actions against the survivor to keep them in court, not showing up for child custody exchanges, continued manipulation of custody exchange dates and times to maintain control, inappropriate questioning of the minor children about the survivor such as if they are dating, talking negatively to the minor children about the survivor, blaming the survivor for the family not being together, showering the minor children with gifts to make the survivor look worse in comparison and undermining and criticizing the

survivor's parenting decisions.

Moran said the Legal Assistance program is one of several survivor support services that the ARC provides. She said, "Advocacy support services are provided in coordination with legal aid services to assist the survivor and their family with emotional support, safety planning, information and referral to available community resources transportation assistance, court accompaniment, victim compensation assistance for pending criminal cases, and assistance accessing emergency shelter services at either the ARC's Lodge of Bravery or another emergency shelter facility for survivors and their children that are deciding to seek immediate safety."

For more information about ARC's survivor services or to be assessed for legal assistance eligibility, please call the ARC at 906-632-1808 or toll free at 877-639-7820.

## Hessel cribbage league holds potluck



SUBMITTED BY RAY LATOUR

The Hessel Cribbage League had the end of season potluck dinner recently. The cribbage league meets every Wednesday evening at the Hessel Tribal Center throughout the year. It's a great time of fun, fellowship and staying in touch. This year's leading cumulative scorer was Mary Jo Payment. Special thanks to tribal elders Meryl Sorenson and Betty Huffman for keeping the league organized. Pictured are (front from left) Dorothy Paquin, Mary Lindberg, Robin LaTour, Julie Norton, Jan LaTour, Cathy Sorenson, (middle from left) Mary Jo Payment, Rich Hollowell, Bob Miller, Phil Payment, Jim Huffman, Stacy Huffman, Catherine Hollowell, Merle Sorenson; (back from left) Denver Andrews and Harold "Joe" Tolan.

## Ultimate stuffed burger

Ingredients:

2/3 lb. ground beef (70/30 fat content)

1 small egg

2 tbs. chopped onion

2 tsp. minced bell pepper

1 large pinch shredded, aged Swiss or Havarti cheese

1/8 tsp. granulated garlic powder

1/8 tsp. coarse grind black pepper

2 tsp. Sriracha sauce

2 tbs. sautéed, chopped mushroom

Salt

Directions:

Combine ground beef and egg until smooth and homogenous. Form two equal patties, with centers pressed firmly to form a depression.

Mix bell pepper, onion, garlic, Sriracha sauce, mushrooms and black pepper. Sauté until onion is soft but not browned. Fill depression mixture. Place other patty on top, edges together forming one, filled hamburger patty. Form even thickness of burger. Salt one side and place burger on grill or in a lightly oiled heavy pan over medium heat. Salt top to taste. Cook until lightly browned. Flip and cook until lightly browned. Turn down the heat on burner and cover pan. Cook another four minutes per side. If on grill, flip and cover grill and cook another four minutes per side.

Fillings changeable as desired but should probably be cooked before stuffing into meat. Enjoy.

*From the kitchen of Bob Flowers*

## Retirees - don't be misled by reverse mortgage advertising

BY NORA DOWD EISENHOWER

You might see enticing images of youthful retirees on the golf course or enjoying other leisure activities in a reverse mortgage advertisement. A reverse mortgage is a special type of loan that allows homeowners 62 and older to borrow against the accrued equity in their homes. The loan must be paid back when the borrower dies, moves or no longer lives in the home.

Ads for reverse mortgages are found on television, radio, in print and on the Internet, and many ads feature celebrity spokespeople discussing the benefits of reverse mortgages without mentioning risks. We looked closely at many ads and found incomplete and inaccurate statements used to describe the loans. In addition, most of the important loan requirements were often buried in fine print if they were even mentioned at all. These advertisements may leave older homeowners with the false impression that reverse mortgage loans are a risk-free solution to financial gaps in retirement.

In conducting our study, we met with older homeowners in Washington D.C., Chicago and Los Angeles, to learn about their thoughts and impressions of reverse mortgage ads. After looking at a variety of ads, many homeowners we spoke to didn't realize reverse mortgage loans need to be repaid. Instead, some thought they could access their equity interest-free or that the federal government provided the money as a benefit to seniors. Homeowners told us that the most attractive messages in the ads were "you can live in your home as long as you want," and that you "still own your home." Many ads, however, didn't mention that seniors could lose their homes if they don't satisfy the loan requirements, such as paying property taxes or homeowners insurance.

Seniors said the ads made reverse mortgages look like a good way to travel and enjoy retirement while they were still young and active. Yet Americans are living longer, more active lives than ever before. Reverse

mortgage borrowers can outlive their loan funds by borrowing without careful planning.

Reverse mortgage ads don't always tell the whole story, so consider these facts when you see advertisements:

**1. A reverse mortgage is a home loan, not a government benefit.**

Reverse mortgages have fees and compounding interest that must be repaid, just like other home loans. With most reverse mortgages, federal insurance guarantees that borrowers will receive their loan funds if their lender has financial difficulty or if their loan balance exceeds the value of their home. However, borrowers pay for this insurance and it's not a government benefit.

**2. You can lose your home with a reverse mortgage.**

When a reverse mortgage ad says you'll retain ownership of your home, or that you can live there as long as you want to, don't take these messages at face value. These statements are true only if you continue to meet all requirements of the reverse mortgage. If

you fall behind on your property taxes or homeowners insurance, are absent from your home for longer than six months, or fail to satisfy other requirements, you can trigger a loan default. If you don't take care of the default in time, the lender can foreclose on your home. Sometimes these requirements are listed in fine print, but not always. If you have a question about reverse mortgage requirements, contact a HUD-approved housing counselor near you. You can find one near you at [https://entp.hud.gov/idapp/html/hecm\\_agency\\_look.cfm](https://entp.hud.gov/idapp/html/hecm_agency_look.cfm)

**3. Without a good plan, you could outlive your loan money.**

After seeing a reverse mortgage ad, you might think that a reverse mortgage guarantees your financial security no matter how long you live. Americans are living longer today than they were just a generation ago. Make sure you have a financial plan in place that accounts for a long life. That way if you need to tap your home equity, you won't do it too early and risk running out of retirement

resources later in life.

If you want to learn more about reverse mortgages, visit [www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0192-reverse-mortgages](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0192-reverse-mortgages)

If you have a problem with your reverse mortgage, visit [www.consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb/search/?selected\\_facets=tag\\_exact%3Areverse+mortgage](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb/search/?selected_facets=tag_exact%3Areverse+mortgage) to learn more about reverse mortgages. You can also download a printer-friendly version of this information to share with friends or clients.

If you're having a problem with your reverse mortgage or having problems getting through to your mortgage servicer, you can submit a complaint to us online or by calling (855) 411-2372 or TTY/TDD (855) 729-2372. We'll forward your complaint to the company and work to get you a response within 15 days.

*Nora Dowd Eisenhower is the assistant director for the Office of Older Americans at the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.*



# LaFaver and Frazier intern with Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Chad LaFaver and Whitney Frazier have the perfect college internship for those who love the outdoors — working with Environmental Coordinator Mike Ripley and the staff at Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program (ITFAP) in Sault Ste. Marie.

ITFAP is a biological program administered by the Sault Tribe that addresses environmental issues related to the tribes' Great Lakes fishery interests. That includes representing the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority on various international, inter-agency committees and organizations working on water quality, invasive species and other Great Lakes environmental issues; conducting fish contaminant studies and establishing a database on that research and creating educational materials. ITFAP operates three major focus areas; those are Great Lakes Fisheries Management, Great Lakes Environmental and Fisheries Enhancement.

LaFaver and Frazier, both members of the Sault Tribe, will be spending hundreds of hours over the course of the summer with Ripley and fishery staff doing such things as fish counts and assessments, draining culture ponds, stocking fingerlings, entering data for the fish contaminant monitoring program that Ripley has been involved with for nearly two decades, setting trap and seine nets, working on the Sault Area Watershed Project and putting together a presentation to give to the program funding their internships — the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council's Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH) in Lac du Flambeau, Wis.

Ripley said, "The NARCH program has been key to allowing us to work with Native American



**Whitney Frazier measuring whitefish fry as part of an assessment program the interns are participating in.**

students who otherwise might not have the opportunity to work in tribal fisheries. The students that we mentor are the future tribal biologists and fisheries managers."

This is LaFaver's second summer as an intern with the department. He was made aware of the internship opportunity last summer by his biology professor at Bay Mills Community College, where he graduated with a general studies certificate. He is currently attending Lake Superior State University for a degree in fisheries and wildlife manage-

ment and has about a year left of classwork before he graduates.

This is Frazier's first summer as an intern with the program. She grew up in the Brimley area where her uncles, grandfather and father all work as commercial fishermen. Needless to say, she grew up fishing and has spent many hours on boats and in fish sheds.

Frazier is a graduate of Brimley Area High School and is going into her third year of LSSU's fisheries and wildlife management program. She said she is excited to be interning



**Second-year intern Chad LaFaver recording results as Whitney reads out measurements of whitefish fry.**

with ITFAP. In addition to being a good opportunity, the internship has helped her realize she would like to work in fisheries management, possibly one day for the tribe, she added. Dwight and Brenda Frazier are her parents and she has an older brother, Josh.

Previous to his college journey, LaFaver worked as a machinist for 15 years, beginning his career in Minnesota before moving back home to the Sault and working for Precision Edge, then Superior Fabrication, where after three months, he was laid off. With limited job options in the area, he decided to train for a new career.

"My internship here last summer and again now has really helped me decide what path I want to pursue," he said. "It has allowed me to explore the differences between fisheries and environmental management and

I have found that I'd rather be on the boat working than walking through the woods swatting mosquitos."

LaFaver said he would like to thank NARCH for funding his internship and Intertribal Fisheries for the opportunity of working with them. He would eventually like to find a fisheries job in the Sault area, possibly with the tribe.

During the time he has left at LSSU, he said he hopes to work with the university and other stakeholders on the Little Rapids Project — a plan to return habitat and increase fish spawning grounds and increase fisheries by establishing a 600-foot wide rapids near the Sugar Island causeway.

LaFaver married his childhood sweetheart Cara McGuire, from Dafer, Mich., in 2003, and together they have two children, Eli, 8, and Lillian, 6.

# Sault families enjoy 2015 Mother Earth Fair

BY JORDAN JOHNSTON

On June 6, the Sault Tribe Environmental Department hosted the fifth annual Honoring Mother Earth Fair at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center. It was a warm and beautiful day and attendees were treated to entertaining and educational family fun. The event kicked off with an opening performance by the Healing Lodge Singers from Sault, Ont., and a few words from tribal Chairperson Aaron Payment.

Information booths peppered the lot and included the Aquatic Research Lab of LSSU, Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation District, Bayliss Public Library, LSSU's Chemistry and Environmental Science Club, Superior Edventures Summer Camps and the Sault Ste. Marie Sector of the United States Coast Guard. To add to the fun and excitement, the Environmental Department operated several booths, which featured geocaching, American Plum tree giveaways and more.

Between visiting booths and participating in family fun such as science themed games and face painting, lunch was on hand thanks to the participation of both The Lunch Box serving Indian tacos and fry bread creations and Yooperdog's Michigan-made hotdogs. Fair attendees could enter a no cost raffle by visiting the booths and had opportunities to win several prizes including a one-night free stay at the Kewadin Casino hotel, green cleaning products, a rain barrel, an up-cycled tire basket featuring eco-friendly products and much more.

Despite the numerous events going on throughout the day across town, the event had a solid turnout. It is estimated around 80 people attended the event. At any given time during the event, one would see several families mulling around. The department was pleased with the appearance of families with children as they were the target audience for this year's event.

The event closed with another



**Right: Child playing in bubbles** er performance by the Healing Lodge Singers and the drawings of raffle items. The beautiful sunshine made it a perfect day to honor our Mother Earth and to celebrate all she gives while learning about her inner workings and how to honor and protect her in the future. Due to the success of this year's event the Environmental Department hopes to grow the event in the future to feature more educational booths and activities for all ages.

*Jordan Johnston is the public involvement and records clerk for the Sault Tribe Environmental Department.*





# New app helps health care providers save lives

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Suicides profoundly impact our communities and are the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S., and the second leading cause of death for people aged 10 to 44. For Native Americans that rate is 1.6 times higher than all other races in our country.

Now there is a free mobile app available to health care providers treating patients at risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors that was developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) called *Suicide Safe*.

SAMHSA Lead Public Health Advisor and Chief of the Suicide Prevention Branch at the Center for Mental Health Services, Richard T. McKeon, Ph.D., said *Suicide Safe* is already the most downloaded SAMHSA app and they have had a very positive response from health care providers using it.

McKeon said the goal of the app is to provide a simple and

easy to utilize resource for health care providers - including primary care and behavioral health care providers - on information they would need to interact and respond to people at risk for suicide. "The app walks a provider through how to do a comprehensive suicide risk assessment," McKeon said, "which is an important skill for health care providers to have, but not one that providers routinely train for. The app is a very accessible way for them to get access to this information, and it also contains other resources like how to contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and how to utilize the SAMHSA treatment locator as well as other features."

McKeon said the app has information that can be used in emergency situations, but is geared more towards increasing provider awareness and skills so they would be better able to respond in a crisis.

According to a SAMHSA press release, one of the downloadable tribal publications acces-

sible from the app is *To Live to See the Great Day That Dawns: Preventing Suicide by American Indian and Alaska Native Youth and Young Adults*. This guide helps lay the groundwork for comprehensive prevention planning, including programs that a community can use to promote the mental health of its youth.

McKeon said the resources in the app would benefit a primary care clinic in both a tribal or non-tribal community. "The core components, for example, for doing a suicide risk assessment would not be different in a tribal community verses in a different community that was not American Indian/Alaskan Native. There would certainly be issues of cultural competence that would be important about how you frame certain questions, but the core areas that need to be covered would not be different," he said.

SAMHSA currently funds well over 100 suicide prevention grants McKeon said, and one of those grant programs is

the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which last year answered over 1.3 million calls.

According to information on SAMHSA's website, almost half of people who die by suicide visited a primary care provider in the month leading up to their death, and 20 percent had contact with mental health services. Why is it then that many behavioral and primary health care providers have never received training on how to assess and manage suicidal patients? An important theme in much of SAMHSAs work is the importance of health care providers being trained.

SAMHSA also offers the Safe-T Pocket Card for people who would rather have printed material they can quickly access, which also walks providers through doing a comprehensive suicide risk assessment. The app is designed to make that information more interactive and includes case history material a provider can use for practice.

"Suicide prevention needs to

be a team effort within health care. It is important that suicide prevention be supported by systems as a whole and not simply become the responsibility of an individual provider. For that reason, the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention identified the importance of making suicide prevention a core priority of health care services. Clinicians need to be provided support such as with this app or training, and the system as a whole needs to focus on suicide prevention if we hope to be successful in reaching our goal of reducing suicides nationally," McKeon said.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can be accessed anytime by calling 1-800-273 TALK (8255), day or night. SAMHSA's *Suicide Safe* app is available for download on Apple and Android mobile devices through <http://store.samhsa.gov/apps/suicidesafe/>, the pocket card is also available through the SAMHSA store and can be ordered in bulk.

## Youth attend tobacco prevention training in Oklahoma

Three young students involved with Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities (YEA) had the opportunity to attend youth tobacco prevention training, called Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT), in Welling, Okla., on May 26-28, 2015.

SWAT works to empower youth to make changes in their communities regarding commercial tobacco use. The student leaders who were selected are Breeze Thorson of Munising, Patsy Parrett of Escanaba and Sara Weber of Sault Ste. Marie. They were chosen because of their interests in advocating for change in

their tribe and community. The students were accompanied by Colin Welker and Heather Hemming, educators from Sault Tribe Community Health in Sault Ste. Marie.

The three-day camp gave the student leaders the resources that enables them to advocate for policy change. Some subject highlights of the camp:

- Harmful effects of commercial tobacco use in teens.
- Leadership and team building exercises.
- Public speaking tactics.
- How to use social media to get your message out.

The training for the youth

was supported by the Sault Tribe Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) Project and made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Sault Tribe PICH works to increase access to tobacco-free outdoor recreation areas, reduce youth initiation of commercial tobacco products, including electronic nicotine delivery devices and dissolvable nicotine products, and reduce exposure to secondhand smoke.

To learn more about the Sault Tribe's prevention and wellness projects, visit [www.UP4Health.org](http://www.UP4Health.org).



Left to right, Breeze Thorson, Sara Weber, Patsy Parrett, Colin Welker and Heather Hemming in Oklahoma.

## Sault area health coalition wins governor's fitness award

BY SHANNON VAIRO,

The Sault Ste. Marie Building a Healthier Community Coalition is a group committed to creating a community conducive to walking and riding bicycles while inspiring positive change toward healthier lifestyles.

The coalition is comprised of members from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, City of Sault Ste. Marie, Sault Downtown Development Authority, Chippewa County Health Department, War Memorial Hospital, Lake Superior State University, Sault area public schools, JKL Bahweting School, Chippewa County Michigan State University Extension and the Eastern Upper

Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission, among many others. Successful projects include the Complete Streets Resolution, a non-motorized transportation plan incorporated into the city's master plan; formation of a non-motorized transportation advisory committee; Safe Routes to School, which enables safe routes for walking and biking to school; and infrastructure improvements that enhance active living.

Collaboration and commitment landed the coalition with the Governor's Fitness Award for an Active Community. The award honors inspirational individuals and organizations for their pursuit, commitment and dedication to health and wellness.

The Governor's Fitness Award is a significant achievement and validation for the coalition's mission and goals.

Qualification for the Governor's Fitness Award requires the completion of a promoting active communities assessment, which challenges communities to identify areas for improvement. During the assessment, the coalition identified areas for improvement and began the "Complete the Sault Campaign," which promoted non-motorized transportation.

Shannon Vairo is the operations and account manager for Upper Peninsula Marketing Department Inc. based in Houghton, Mich.



From left, Health Educator Heather Hemming of Sault Tribe Community Health accepts the Governor's Fitness Award for an Active Community from Sault Ste. Marie Mayor Tony Bosbous on behalf of the Sault Ste. Marie Building a Healthier Community Coalition.

## EPA releases environmental justice screening and mapping tool

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released EJSCREEN, an environmental justice screening and mapping tool that uses high-resolution maps combined with demographic and environmental data to identify places with potentially elevated environmental burdens and vulnerable populations. EJSCREEN's simple to understand color-cod-

ed maps, bar charts and reports enable users to better understand areas in need of increased environmental protection, health care access, housing, infrastructure improvement, community revitalization and climate resilience.

EJSCREEN can help governments, academic institutions, local communities and other stakeholders to highlight communities with greater risk of

exposure to pollution based on eight pollution and environmental indicators, including traffic proximity, particulate matter and proximity to superfund sites. These indicators are combined with demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community five-year summary survey enabling users to identify areas with minority or low-income populations who also face

potential pollution issues.

EJSCREEN's capabilities could provide support for educational programs, grant writing and community awareness efforts so that users can participate meaningfully in decision-making processes that impact their health and environment.

EJSCREEN does not direct EPA decisions, it does not

provide a basis for identifying areas as environmental justice communities and it is not an appropriate standalone tool for making a risk assessment. As a screening tool, its data may have levels of uncertainty and is therefore incomplete in capturing the total number of pollution problems people face.

To access the tool, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/ejscreen>.



The following is condensed from the tribe's 2014 annual financial report discussion and analysis.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The tribe's total governmental assets increased to \$95.4 million or 5.2 percent over the course of this year's operations while total assets from business-type activities decreased to \$120.2 million. Total primary governmental assets were \$215.6 million at 2014 year end.

- Total liabilities in governmental activities increased to \$53.1 million or 4 percent and total liabilities in business-type activities decreased to \$30.1 million. Total primary governmental liabilities were \$83.2 million at 2014 year end.

- During the year, the tribe's expenses and transfers were \$2.7 million less than the revenues generated by grants, taxes and other sources for governmental activities.

- In the tribe's business-type activities, total revenues were \$108.9 million while total expenses, taxes, loss on disposal of capital assets and transfers were \$107.6 million.

- Dollars spent on member services decreased \$2.7 million or 6.7 percent while grant revenues increased \$2 million or 5.1 percent.

- The General Fund reported an increase in expenditures of \$2.7 million for the year due to increases in debt service and general government costs.

- Major capital projects included:

Road improvement projects totaling over \$1.5 million were completed on reservation roads with funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The tribe received \$811,600 in the Federal Highways' Emergency Relief of Federally Owned Road funds to help Chippewa County replace the washed out sections on one of the main roadways on Sugar Island.

Generators were purchased from a \$316,000 Department of Homeland Security/FEMA grant which were placed in eight locations throughout the service area.

More than 250 personal computers, related software and servers were replaced, which totaled over \$397,700.

Purchased new X-Ray machine at the Sault Health Center for \$65,212.

Equipment and improvements in the various Great Lakes and Inland Fishing programs totaling \$134,200.

- Facility improvements included:

Replacement of 57 heat pumps in the Sault Health Center totaling over \$171,000. Other improvements in the facility totaled \$35,000.

Replacement of siding on the

Mary Murray (day care) Building at a cost of \$30,750.

Received prior years' Contract Support payment from Indian Health Service in the amount of \$1,104,500.

- New grants included:

Partnerships to Improve Community Health, \$810,000 from the Center for Disease Control.

Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country, \$325,000 also from the Center for Disease Control.

Department of Justice Legal Assistance for Victims grant for \$499,000.

Department of Justice ARC Victim Services grant for \$877,208.

- The tribe has three kinds of funds:

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

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

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

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE TRIBE AS A WHOLE

**Net position.** The tribe's combined governmental and

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
	Current and Other Assets	\$ 52,055,968	\$ 45,897,421	\$ 23,098,150	\$ 26,644,389	\$ 75,154,118
Capital Assets	43,304,132	44,766,511	97,102,929	100,895,510	140,407,061	145,662,021
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 95,360,100</b>	<b>\$ 90,663,932</b>	<b>\$ 120,201,079</b>	<b>\$ 127,539,899</b>	<b>\$ 215,561,179</b>	<b>\$ 218,203,831</b>
Current Liabilities	\$ 15,987,560	\$ 12,095,380	\$ 12,780,971	\$ 18,961,098	\$ 28,768,531	\$ 31,056,478
Noncurrent Liabilities	37,067,036	38,932,199	17,349,076	19,865,228	54,416,112	58,797,427
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>53,054,596</b>	<b>51,027,579</b>	<b>30,130,047</b>	<b>38,826,326</b>	<b>83,184,643</b>	<b>89,853,905</b>
Net Position						
Net Investment in						
Capital Assets	36,902,120	37,189,503	78,644,600	75,412,177	115,546,720	112,601,680
Unrestricted	5,403,384	2,446,850	11,426,432	13,301,396	16,829,816	15,748,246
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 42,305,504</b>	<b>\$ 39,636,353</b>	<b>\$ 90,071,032</b>	<b>\$ 88,713,573</b>	<b>\$ 132,376,536</b>	<b>\$ 128,349,926</b>

Table A-1  
Tribe's Net Position

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Excess (Deficiency)	2,669,151	441,660	19,083,650	20,331,535
Loss on Disposal of Capital Assets	-	-	(94,308)	(5,800,259)
Transfers	-	615,381	-	(615,381)
Taxes	-	-	(17,631,879)	(17,518,984)
Changes in Net Position	2,669,151	1,056,981	1,357,463	(3,603,089)
<b>Net Position - Beginning</b>	<b>39,636,353</b>	<b>38,579,372</b>	<b>88,713,569</b>	<b>92,316,658</b>
<b>Net Position - Ending</b>	<b>\$ 42,305,504</b>	<b>\$ 39,636,353</b>	<b>\$ 90,071,032</b>	<b>\$ 88,713,569</b>
Revenues	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Program Revenues:				
Charges for services	\$ 17,485,861	\$ 13,696,990	\$ 107,963,494	\$ 115,193,955
Operating grants and Contributions	40,784,240	39,184,404	-	-
Capital grants and Contributions	1,158,786	738,296	-	-
General Revenues:				
Taxes	17,631,879	17,518,984	-	-
Interest/Dividends	17,561	23,096	24,768	16,998
Other	448,936	3,152,979	955,571	871,104
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>77,527,263</b>	<b>74,314,749</b>	<b>108,943,833</b>	<b>116,082,057</b>
Expenses	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities	
Gaming Authority	-	-	77,016,648	82,167,042
Other	-	-	12,843,535	13,583,480
Judicial	947,807	836,904	-	-
Education	7,189,462	7,262,398	-	-
Health and Welfare	39,256,558	43,142,067	-	-
Recreation and Culture	2,897,228	2,381,891	-	-
Public Safety	4,746,688	4,745,415	-	-
General Government	12,905,340	10,596,758	-	-
Public Works	2,863,395	1,030,481	-	-
Interest Expense	4,052,354	3,877,235	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>74,858,112</b>	<b>73,873,149</b>	<b>89,860,183</b>	<b>95,750,522</b>

Table A-2  
Changes in Tribe's Net Position

Table A-3 Tribe's Capital Assets – at Cost	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities	
	2014	2013	2013	2013
	Land and improvements	\$ 17,343,058	\$ 6,952,754	\$ 14,970,675
Construction in progress	-	46,185	-	-
Buildings and equipment	78,486,915	215,113,826	79,254,795	212,688,057
	95,829,973	222,112,765	94,225,470	219,640,811
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(52,525,841)	(125,009,836)	(49,458,959)	(118,745,301)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 43,304,132</b>	<b>\$ 97,102,929</b>	<b>\$ 44,766,511</b>	<b>\$ 100,895,510</b>

Table A-3  
Tribe's Capital Assets – at Cost

business-type net position was \$132,376,536 for 2014. (See Table A-1.)

\$36.9 million of governmental assets are invested in capital assets (land, buildings and equipment) with \$78.6 million of business assets invested in the same manner.

### Change in net position

The tribe's total revenues from primary activities (excluding special items) was \$186.5 million. (See Table A-2.) The tribe's revenue comes mainly from gaming revenues, charges for services, taxes and federal sources.

The total cost of all primary activities was \$164.7 million and included both governmental and member services along with business-type operating costs excluding transfers and taxes.

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

### Governmental and business type activities

Revenues for the tribe's governmental activities increased 4.3 percent, while total expenses increased 1.3 percent. Revenues for the tribe's business-type activities decreased 6.1 percent, while total expenses decreased 6.2 percent.

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

- The cost of all governmental activities this year was \$74.9 million.

- The cost of those services was paid from the following:

Taxes of \$17.6 million.

Charges for services of \$17.5 million.

Operating and capital grants of \$41.9 million.

Interest, dividends and other revenues of \$466,000.

The increase in governmental net position for 2014 was \$2.7 million.

### Business-type activities

Revenues of the tribe's business-type activities were \$108.9 million and expenses were \$89.9 million. (Refer to Table A-2). Business-type activities provide all of the governmental tax revenues and the increase in net position for the businesses was \$1.4 million for 2014 after taxes.

As the tribe completed the year, its governmental funds reported a combined deficit fund balance of \$25.6 million, an increase in combined fund balance of \$938,000 from 2013. The primary reason for the increase in fund balance is highlighted in the analysis of governmental activities. In addition, these other changes in fund balance should

be noted:

Debt service expenditures were \$4.8 million.

\$6.9 million was transferred out to other activities from the General Fund, a decrease of 3.0 percent from 2013.

### General fund budgetary highlights

Over the course of the year, the tribe's board of directors made several changes to the tribe's budget. The budget process falls into three categories:

- Original budgets are approved by the board prior to the beginning of the program's fiscal year.

- Amendments and supplemental appropriations are approved as needed by the programs during the course of the fiscal year.

- Year end modifications are made during the calendar year as needed for programs with non-December year ends.

- Even with these adjustments, actual expenditures were \$1 million less than the final budgeted general fund amounts. The actual excess of revenues over expense was \$145,000 less than the final budget anticipated. This is due, in part, to greater revenues, other sources (uses) and less operating fund transfers than the final budgeted amounts.

The most significant variances were as follows:

- Other revenues and charges for services were greater than expected.

- Other financing uses of funds were less.

### CAPITAL ASSETS

At the end of 2014, the tribe had invested \$140,407,061 in a broad range of capital assets, including land, machinery and equipment, buildings, roads, and vehicles. (See Table A-3.)

The principal change in capital assets consists mainly of equipment purchases.

### Long-term debt

At year end, the tribe had \$29,433,729 in bonds, notes, and other obligations. Governmental debt decreased by \$999,996 to \$1,000,012.

### ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND RATES

These indicators were taken into account when adopting the General Fund budget for fiscal 2015. The amount appropriated in the General Fund budget for operations is \$13.23 million, which is a 2.3 percent increase from final fiscal 2014 budget. The tribe will use its revenues to finance current and expected future programs, program expansions into outlying areas, and the expected impact of inflation on those programs.

The largest fiscal 2015 budgeted expenditures are for direct services, consulting and subcontracting, and expansion of member services. If these estimates are realized, the tribe's budgetary General Fund balance is expected to remain steady by the close of fiscal 2015.

As for the tribe's business-type activities, we expect that the 2015 results will also improve based on these items:

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



# BIA releases final rule to reform the federal recognition regulatory process

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn on June 29 released a final rule to reform the regulatory process by which the Department of the Interior officially recognizes Indian tribes. The updated rule promotes a more transparent, timely and consistent process that is flexible enough to account for the unique histories of tribal communities, while maintaining the rigor and integrity of the criteria that have been in place for nearly 40 years.

“Since the beginning of President Obama’s Administration, the department has worked with tribal and government leaders on improving the federal acknowledgment process, which has been criticized as inconsistent, slow and expensive,” Jewell said. “This administration takes very seriously its important trust and treaty responsibilities to Native Americans and Alaska Natives. This updated process for important tribal recognition makes good on a promise to clarify, expedite and honor a meaningful



process for federal acknowledgment to our First Americans.”

Washburn added, “This updated rule is the product of extraordinary input from tribal leaders, states, local governments and the public. We have a responsibility to recognize those tribes that have maintained their identity and self-governance despite previous federal policies expressly aimed at destroying tribes. This new process remains rigorous but it promotes timely decision-making through expedited processes and increases transparency by posting all publically available petition materials online so that stakeholders are well informed at each stage of the process. Many of these improvements came from public comments by stakeholders and we are grateful for their guidance.”

To maintain the substantive rigor and integrity of the current regulatory process (described in Part 83, Title 25 - Code of Federal Regulations), the final rule carries forward the current standard of proof and seven mandatory criteria petitioners must meet to substantiate their claim to tribal identification, community and political



authority. To promote fairness and consistent implementation, the new process provides that prior decisions, which found evidence or methodology sufficient to satisfy a particular criterion for a previous petitioner, are sufficient to satisfy that criterion for a present petitioner. The final rule further promotes consistent application by establishing a uniform evaluation period of more than a century, from 1900 to present, to satisfy the seven mandatory criteria. Key features of the final rule promote transparency by:

- Increasing public access to petition documents for federal acknowledgment;
- Expanding distribution of notices of petitions to include local governments; and
- Increasing due process by providing for an administrative judge to conduct a comprehensive hearing and issue a recommended decision for proposed negative findings.

In a separate action, Washburn issued a policy statement explaining that the department intends to rely on the newly reformed Part 83 process as to the sole administrative avenue for acknowledgment as a tribe as long as the new rule is in effect and being implemented. To build public trust in the federal acknowledgement process, the department has been working to reform the Part 83

process since the beginning of the Obama Administration. At that time in 2009, Interior initiated its own review and set a goal of issuing a proposed rule within a year. In 2012, the department identified guiding principles of the reform effort. In recognition of the high level of interest, the department used a transparent rule making approach and significant outreach effort. Before beginning the formal rulemaking initiative, Interior issued a discussion draft in 2013 to facilitate public input on how to improve the process.

Through the discussion draft and ensuing tribal consultations and public meetings, the department obtained substantial feedback. In total, more than 2,800 commenters provided input on the discussion draft. The department issued a proposed rule in May 2014 and extended the public comment period on that proposal in response to requests from tribes, state and local governments, members of Congress and the public. In total, more than 330 unique comments were submitted on the proposed rule. The final rule reflects substantial changes to the discussion draft and the proposed rule in response to public comments.

Federal acknowledgment establishes the U. S. Government as the trustee for tribal lands and resources and makes tribal mem-

bers and governments eligible for federal budget assistance and program services. Of the 566 federally recognized tribes, 17 have been recognized through the Part 83 process under Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe. Since 1978, the department has recognized 17 tribes through the federal acknowledgment (Part 83) process, and has denied acknowledgment to 34 other petitioning groups.

Though far more tribes have been recognized through executive or congressional action, the Part 83 process is an important mechanism because it allows deliberative consideration of petitions by a staff of federal experts in anthropology, genealogy and history and ultimately allows for a decision by the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs. When petitioning groups that meet the criteria are officially “acknowledged” as Indian tribes, the U.S. Government accepts trusteeship of tribal lands and natural resources. Tribal governments and members then become eligible to receive federal health, education, housing and other program and technical assistance. The final rule and other information is online at [www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/ORM/83revise/index.htm](http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/ORM/83revise/index.htm).

## ProPublica offers minority student journalism program

American Indian college students are among minorities to whom the nonprofit investigative news organization ProPublica offers a new program for those interested in “doing great journalism.” ProPublica is offering stipends to five minority students who work or want to work at college journalism outlets, whether in newspapers, radio, television or websites. Students selected for the Emerging Reporters Program receive \$4,500 per semester.

Further, the organization also provides ongoing mentoring from ProPublica staff reporters and editors as well as a one week stint in the organization’s New York newsroom.

Those interested should send resumes, notes explaining interest, three published or unpublished samples of one’s writing work and a paragraph describing how the stipend would allow an otherwise unaffordable pursuit of a career in journalism. All documents should be sent to [emergingreporters@propublica.org](mailto:emergingreporters@propublica.org).

According to the organization’s website at [www.propublica.org](http://www.propublica.org), it was founded by a former managing editor of the Wall Street Journal in 2007 with headquarters in New York. It began publishing in 2008.

“ProPublica is an independent, non-profit newsroom that produces investigative journalism in the public interest. Our work focuses exclusively on truly important stories, stories with ‘moral force,’” the site noted.

## Volunteers to restore and preserve Grand Island’s Mather-Klauer Lodge

GLADSTONE, Mich. — Volunteers wanting to learn more about historic building renovations and preservation can get some hands-on experience this summer while helping restore Hiawatha National Forest’s historic Mather-Klauer Lodge located on Grand Island National Recreation Area in Lake Superior.

The National Forest has teamed up with both Passport in Time (PIT) and HistoriCorps in order to offer a 4-week long “field school” restoration project on the lodge structure, which is currently used as a museum. Teams of staff and volunteers will work on the lodge’s exterior, which has been impacted by the elements. Participants will remove and replace sill logs; clean and repoint the stone foundation; rehabilitate windows and dormers; repair deteriorated brick chimney stacks; and replace missing balustrades on the porch. Volunteers will have the opportunity to pick up new skills (or hone existing ones) as they are taught to conduct these activities. There will be plenty of work to go around!

Passport in Time is a Forest Service volunteer archaeology and historic preservation program. Volunteers work with Forest Service archaeologists and historians on surveys, excavations, research, structure restoration, oral history projects and



artifact preservation and care.

HistoriCorps is a public-private entity whose experts specialize in historic restoration and preservation. HistoriCorps provides the tools, safety equipment, and training necessary to complete the tasks, as well as three square meals a day and water for crew.

This project is open to four to six volunteers (18 and older), who are able to commit to work during an entire session. Sessions still needing volunteers include:

- July 26-31 (register through PIT)
- Aug. 2-7 (register through PIT)

Volunteers must be physically capable of standing, stooping, lifting, and kneeling for extended periods of time. They also must be able and willing to work above ground level on scaffolds and ladders with safety harnesses. Basic carpentry, roofing, construction, or related experience

is desired and helpful, but not required.

Interested volunteers may register online via Passport in Time <http://bit.ly/1HTPt1>. Volunteers will camp on site in rustic conditions, but with access to restroom, kitchen and shower.

The Mather-Klauer Lodge is located on Grand Island in Lake Superior, a half-mile offshore from Munising. The island has been inhabited consistently for at least the past 4,000 years, and is replete with archaeological sites.

Much of the island was purchased in the early 1900s by William Gwinn Mather, CEO of the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, to use as his personal game preserve. He built Mather Lodge as his retreat, and fenced off the northern portion of the island for imported animals like elk and caribou; further additions down the line doubled the size of the lodge.

The lodge was later sold to

## Learn New Skills in a 4-Week “Field School”

William Klauer, who, along with his family, already occupied the lodge seasonally; it remained in the Klauer Family’s possession until William’s death in 1952. Following Klauer’s death, the local caretaker, John Lezotte and his wife, Nona, looked after the property until they, in turn, eventually purchased the estate in 1962. The lodge remained in the Lezotte family until 2012, when Lezotte’s granddaughter, Mary Jo Frederickson, sold the property to the Hiawatha National Forest. However, the Klauer Family and the Mather Foundation continue to donate funds dedicated to the historic restoration and preservation of the lodge, which is now a museum and hosts summer archaeological field schools.

Today, the lodge and its outbuildings still present a majestic structure on a unique landscape, but time and the elements have taken their toll, and the building is in need of some care to return it to its former glory, so we need your help!

What can project volunteers do during their “off hours?” Hiawatha National Forest also offers an array of recreational opportunities including sea kayaking, hiking, wildlife viewing, mountain biking and more. Volunteers will meet great people, enjoy delicious cast iron cooking, and gain the satisfaction of saving this important piece of history — see you in July!



# LEVIN CENTER \* CLIMATE ACTION AWARD \* NCAI



With Senator Carl Levin (Retired from MI) and Jocelyn Benson, Dean of the Wayne State Law School.

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

*Ahneen, Boozo, Negee:*

## LEVIN CENTER

Recently, I received a call from retired Senator Carl Levin to ask me to serve on the newly created Levin Center at Wayne State University Law School. The Levin Center was created to continue the vision and work of Carl Levin, Michigan's longest-serving U.S. senator (1979-2014) who dedicated much of his public service to digging for the truth and using the tools of Congressional oversight to craft meaningful and fact-based public policy. Senator Levin also used a commitment to the facts to bridge party and political divides.

The Levin Center will educate future attorneys, business leaders, legislators and public servants on bipartisan, effective techniques to oversee public and private sector activities, using oversight as an instrument of change and as a means to increase integrity, transparency and accountability in civil society. Senator Levin will serve as a Distinguished Legislator in Residence, teaching classes and seminars on law and policy, legislative processes and oversight.

I am humbled to serve at Senator Levin's request to promote good governance and processes over partisan politics. Through my work for 22 years with the Michigan Political Leadership Program, I have trained each fellows class on tribal governance and sovereignty. Sixteen of MPLP Alumni currently serve in the Michigan Legislature. I hope to bring a similar contribution to the Levin Center."

Other members of the board include: U.S. Sen. Dr. Tom A. Coburn (R-OK); former U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle, (D-S.D.); former

U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, (D-W.Va.); former U.S. Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, (R-ME) and Paul Hillegonds, an attorney and CEO of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

I am excited to have met these folks at my first meeting in June and I look forward to learning from them and sharing what I know about tribal governance. Again, I am grateful to have been requested by Senator Levin to serve on this committee.

## CLIMATE ACTION GRANT AWARDED!

I just got a call from Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of Interior, to inform me that a grant for which we applied for Climate Action Implementation Funds was approved! We will receive \$87,000 for this purpose. Kudos go out to Eric Clark, our Inland Fish and Wildlife Manager for successfully writing this grant. Eric has built his program and worked very closely with me along with my Treaty Rights Implementation Team to secure federal funds in the amount of over \$455,000 annually so this program is not dependent on Tribal funds. This latest grant will mean additional funds that will supplement our inland wildlife program and collect data to better understand the threats to our natural environment.

I also want to recognize my Natural Resources Team which includes Eric Clark, Kathie Brosemer, Tom Gorenflo and our Planning and Development Team Member Nichole Causley, Susan McCoy, and Wendy Hoffman for their ongoing contributions here. I also want to give special recognition to both Jason Grondin, Great Lake Conservation Chairman, and Clarence Hudak, who work on various project teams with our Natural Resources Team so I count them as part of our team as well.

## NCAI

Way back in 1991, I graduated with a Master's degree in Public Administration. While some may not value a higher education, I transcended my days as a high school drop out with the motivation to come back and serve my people and to provide better opportunities for our youth to succeed. College is not for everyone, but for those who wish to attend, I strongly support this as it has opened many doors in my life. During my studies, I chose to write about U.S. American Indian Policy. This is when I learned of great authors like Dr. Vine Deloria Jr. who wrote the seminal, "Custer Died for Your Wins," "God is Red" and "Red Earth, White Lies."

I also learned of an organization that was formed in 1944 for fight for our tribal sovereignty, government-to-government relations, upholding the treaty and trust obligations and fighting for our very existence as a people. I cannot tell you how proud I am to serve as an executive officer for this organization. While some little minds on our board do not appreciate or understand the value here, I can tell you that service as an

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

One of the contributions I believe to NCAI and on a national scene for our people is that of helping to renew a crystalized focus on education issues. As a high school drop out who is on the cusp of completing my doctorate degree in education, I am proof that given the right opportunities, that our people can accomplish anything. I benefited from the Upward Bound program and give credit to Rosemary Gaskin for believing in me. This is why I created the Rosemary Gaskin Memorial Scholarship. I want to share this type of inspiration and opportunity with others. Thus, I am on the NCAI Education Subcommittee, to which I have brought attention to the need to address the high school drop out rate which languishes around 50 percent nationally.

To try to effectuate change, I have dedicated my graduate research and doctoral degree to understanding why our people have such a challenge in educational attainment. I know what made a difference for me, but I like to understand what works for others. I believe that regard-

## RESOLUTION TO FULLY FUND TUITION WAIVERS

During the NCAI subcommittee meeting on Education, a resolution was introduced to fund two colleges who accepted the responsibility to educate American Indians in their respective states (Colorado and Minnesota). Like in Michigan, the funding is not keeping pace with the rapid growth in American Indians in college. Thus, a resolution was introduced by a coalition of folks including retired U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, who is the only American Indian to serve in the U.S. Senate. I was happy to support this resolution and offered an amendment to add the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver to qualify for future federal funding. Talk about being in the right place at the right time. While some haters on the board complain about the national work I do, this may result in full funding for the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver and is well worth the effort.

**Chi McGwitch, Negee!** *Chi McGwitch*



Top Row: NCAI President Brian Cladoosby; Assistant Secretary of the Interior Kevin Washburn; U.S. Senator Al Franken (D-MN); U.S. Congressman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ); Middle Row: U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN); U.S. Senator Ben Night Horse Campbell (Retired from CO). To the right is Juanita Ahtone, whose father was a founding member of NCAI in 1944. She has spent her life in various capacities supporting and serving NCAI.

area vice president and now executive officer of NCAI has opened doors for our tribe as well as, provided me personally gratifying opportunity to serve American Indians across the nation.

less of our backgrounds and experiences, each and every one of us accomplish anything we choose. From the result of my research, I plan to publish and share my results to help tribal communities everywhere.





# Change direction to adjust for the changing winds



**DJ HOFFMAN**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

In the past month the tribe has addressed many challenges, and more are looming upon the horizon.

## POLICY

It has been noted that I have upset some from a demand of accountability and adherence to board adopted policy. Regardless of who is involved, "friend or proverbial foe," all must be held accountable for actions or inactions. Those who believe that they are immune from policy or accountability do not serve the tribe, they serve themselves.

## CASINOS

In my September 2014 unit report I wrote the following:

*Our casinos are the driving*

*force behind the majority of our non-grant tribal operations revenues. Currently, the revenues generated from our casinos are in a state of decline. Some are quick to attribute this decline to market saturation, as well as the economy, to account for this decrease in revenues. While this generalized excuse would be rational if not for the performance figures when the economy was actually in the proverbial tank during the US Financial Crisis of 2007-10. One of the simple truths that many do not wish to admit is that the political push to "pay off" casino debt within 3.65 years, as well as the lack of accountability at the managerial level, has been one of the primary causes of our revenue declines. The current plan to pay off the existing \$21 million in casino debt is strangling the operational resources of the casino and decreasing the available cash flow. While revenues are in decline, due to our bank covenant ratios, the amount of cap ex (capital improvement) dollars proportionally declines.*

*I will be proposing that the tribe attempt to extend the terms of its current debt from 3.65 years to up to 7 years to increase available cash flow, and capital ex to ensure that our*

*properties can remain sustainable and competitive.*

Since that time, the casinos have broken their financial covenant requirements on multiple occasions. As a result, the tribe is currently pursuing options to restructure our current casino debt. The options currently offered by the current note holder include an increase in the interest rate of the current note and a reduction in the tribe's annual distribution (reduction in funds available for services).

This is the entire problem with how the tribe operates. As a tribe, we do not plan ahead, nor change direction to adjust to the changing winds. We plow forward until forced to make decisions, or have them made for us. I am extremely concerned with our operations and the planning (both short and long term) necessary for their continued stability.

We need a detailed written plan and roadmap for the current and future operations of the casinos, as well as our tribe as a whole. I will be proposing that no annual budget be approved for any area (tribal or enterprise) lacking a DETAILED, WRITTEN PLAN.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The economic development

director position is now posted. It is my hope that a highly qualified and experienced applicant will be selected that will be able to move our businesses forward in a more profitable manner, as well as lead the charge towards new business planning, development, and diversification. I am also hopeful that our corporate charter, approved by the BIA, will one day be utilized. This will afford our tribe with the opportunity to develop and maintain businesses free from the meddling of politics. Thus ensuring that they have a chance to be successful and provide revenues to tribal services.

Part of the position summary is:

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

ing and business assistance programming. This position would be responsible to develop long and short term economic and community development goals."

I am hopeful that this position will be filled by September 2015.

## JKL BAHWETING SCHOOL

I have written for the past several months regarding the schools need for a new, larger gymnasium to accommodate the children. I am pleased to announce that an RFP has been issued for a design build new gymnasium. I look forward to looking at the proposals and securing this much-needed resource for our tribal and community children.

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

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

Sincerely,

DJ Hoffman

(906) 203-0510 (cell),

djwhoffman@hotmail.com (personal e-mail), djhoffman@sault-tribe.net (tribal e-mail)

# Tribal primary provider needed to use tribal pharmacy



**RITA GLYPTIS**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

I have received several phone calls from tribal elders about the notice attached to medication bags stating the changes made to the prescription/provider policy. Although I do not agree with the changes, it has been presented and stated to the board of directors that we have no choice but to do this. What will happen if we do not make the changes? If we ignore the regulations and do not implement the changes, we will be out of compliance and during the audit findings will be fined for each non-compliant prescription and can be ineligible to participate as an organization in the 340b program. Further, after fines or being kicked out of the program, our increased costs for medications are estimated to be between a \$2-3 million increases to our pharmacy budget, which we cannot afford.

I have not seen the notice being provided but it seems there are many unanswered questions with regards to our elders who see specialists, providers closer to home, etc. Please contact a

clinic supervisor listed below with your questions and concerns.

Those presently served by the Sault Tribe Health Center pharmacies are encouraged to read the following policy clarifications so the Tribal Health Center can give them the best service possible.

Effective Oct. 1, those who want their prescriptions filled at the tribe's pharmacy must receive their primary medical care at one of the tribe's health centers, with a designated physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant, whose prescriptions can be filled at the one of the tribe's pharmacies. They will also be able to fill prescriptions from specialists when referred by their designated physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant, as well as prescriptions for urgent and emergency care. Pharmacy services are offered at three of the four health clinics.

Those presently receiving prescriptions from a Sault Tribe pharmacy, who don't have medical care through the tribe's health clinics, can transfer to one of the tribe's health centers before Oct. 1 in order to remain eligible for pharmacy services. This involves scheduling a medical appointment and transferring medical records. Contact the appointment desk for the Medical Records department at any of the four health centers for help in doing this:

Sault Tribal Health Center, 632-5200; St. Ignace Health Center, 643-8689; Manistique Tribal Health Center, 341-8469; Munising Health Center, 387-4721.

Sault Tribe's Health Centers provide high quality patient-centered health care that is respon-

sive to patients' needs, with an emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion for all Native Americans from infancy through adulthood. The tribe employs a strong staff of talented professionals throughout the area to serve the membership's primary medical care needs.

Services include medical, nursing, laboratory, radiology, dietary, community health, pharmacy, optical, dental, behavioral health and traditional healers.

For those who want to continue care with their non Sault Tribe physician after Oct. 1, the tribal pharmacy will help them transfer prescriptions to the retail pharmacy of their choice. Purchased and Referred Care (formerly known as Contract Health Services) cannot pay for these prescriptions. Please contact a tribal clinic manager with any questions or concerns: Cheryl LaPlaunt, 643-8689 (St. Ignace); Tony Abramson, 632-5282 (Sault Ste. Marie); Marlene Glaesmann, 341-8469, (Manistique) or 387-4721 (Munising).

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

The liaisons also respond to and follow up on membership issues to ensure they are resolved. Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or individually at: Unit I: Trisha Gough,

Office of the Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie, 635-6050, tgough@saulttribe.net; Units II and III: Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net; Units IV and V: Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, 341-8469, Munising centers, 450-7011 or 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net.

Programs opened June 1. Call your local ACFS office or visit [www.saulttribe.net](http://www.saulttribe.net) to print an application.

Cooling Assistance, in which members are provided a credit on their account with their primary electric provider (target households). Target households are defined as:

- 60 years or older (refers to applicant who is an enrolled tribal member).

- Disabled (Sault Tribe members receiving SSI or SSI Disability in own name).

- Aged 5 years or under (child must be an enrolled Sault Tribe member and a permanent year-around resident of the tribal service area).

- AND the household income is at or below 100 percent of poverty, 125 percent for crisis;

- AND the household demonstrates energy need (credit on primary heating accounts less than \$50 will be accepted as a demonstration of need).

Weatherization assistance provides furnace repairs or replacement. In order to process your application, we will need copies of the following:

- Sault Tribe membership card and/or Social Security cards for all household members.

- Social Security cards for head of household.

- Proof of income for the past

12 months for all members of the household or current food stamp verification. Income includes employment, child support (must have printout from the Friend of the Court), FIP grant, food stamps, workmen's comp, Social Security award letters, etc.

- Proof of current property taxes paid.

- Proof of home ownership - deed; land contract.

Traditional healer hours with Keith Smith will be at the Munising Tribal Health Center July 13 and July 29. Please call to make an appointment at (800) 236-4705 or 387-4721. Services offered are naming and receiving your colors, clans, teachings, talking circles, medicine walks, diagnosing, healing and sweat lodges and more.

Thoughts and prayers to the families of two tribal elders from the Munising area who walked on last month, Kathy Smith and Bruce Moore. Our memories and the lessons we learned live on.

Elders who need assistance with transportation for medical appointments on the western end may contact the Sault Tribe Elder Services at 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356. Mary Wood is the new driver for our area.

The Munising Powwow is on Aug. 8 at the Bay Furnace Campground in Christmas, Mich. If you would like to help out with fundraising activities or need more information, contact powwow coordinator Katy Matson at (906) 202-0026.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at (906) 202-3224 or email me at [rglyptis@saulttribe.net](mailto:rglyptis@saulttribe.net).

Sincerely,

Rita Glyptis



# Let us operate from a position of strength



**JENNIFER MCLEOD,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aaniin Anishnabek, at long last, there is discussion and forward movement on the tribes' strategic plan! Currently, individual departments are in various stages of completion of "departmental" strategic plans. I am very pleased to say that some departments have HAD strategic plans all along, but efforts are being expanded and will lead to the TRIBE having a TRIBAL strategic plan! I have been giving voice to this need for a long time as I feel our tribe has floundered without it. How can we move forward without knowing where we are going or how we are going to get there? I tend to be a logical and methodical woman and have been highly critical of our tribe's illogical actions and the excuse, "This is how we've always done it." In my opinion, doing what we've always done, without a cohesive plan to respond to changing times and circumstances, has put our tribe in a bad situation. You have heard me say we need to prioritize and you have heard my frustration at the "head-nodding, but nothing getting done." I am happy to say at last, something is getting done, but I worry it is not enough, nor will it be fast enough. There are some serious circumstances

occurring and we are moving too slowly to respond in an effective manner. A neighboring tribe will be building a casino in Mackinaw City just off the expressway and just a few miles from our St. Ignace casino. This could have a devastating effect on our revenue and our ability to provide services to our members.

If we would have had a strategic plan, it would have addressed "competition," however, without a plan, we are now in a "reaction mode." Once again, we will probably be making quick and perhaps poorly thought out decisions, just like we did during the federal government's sequestration crisis. Thankfully, we have good legal advisors and department heads and, hopefully, we have learned a few things from the sequestration crisis. One thing you can count on, though, in reference to this new casino, politicians will come out saying, "It's not MY fault," or "If we had expanded into a Unit VI this wouldn't have happened," or some other garbage that only creates drama instead of solutions. I prefer we be LEADERS, work on solutions and FAST. I have some solution suggestions:

First, put our tribe into a position of operational strength by following the WILL OF THE PEOPLE and separating the duties of the chairman of the tribe from the CEO. Our people voted for this separation! Our failure to do this is hurting our tribe. The day-to-day operation of the tribe needs someone there on a day-to-day basis. This is not happening. I have addressed this in previous unit reports why this is vital but, in the end, the day-to-day operation of our tribal government needs to be handled on a day-to-day basis and by an EMPLOYEE, not a POLITICIAN. The daily operation of our tribal government needs to be consistent from one election to another and not

subject to an upheaval every four years. I will bring a resolution to do this. It is the will of the people. Be prepared, you will hear our current chairman accuse me of "stripping away the power of the chairman," and lots of personal attacks against me and whoever supports this move. But, we've been there before and I know our people recognize it for what it is — high drama and politics.

Having the right people in the right job at the right time is operating from a position of strength. At this time, our chairman is the right person to be maneuvering in the D.C. and state political circles. He is good at it. It requires full-time effort and he is giving it much of his time. However, running the day-to-day operations is also a full-time effort. The same person doing both jobs means one of those jobs will suffer. One need only look around and see how our highly qualified people are leaving tribal employment to realize something is wrong. One need only TALK to them to learn how difficult it is working under the dysfunction of an absent "CEO." We need a full-time employee, empowered with the full duties of a CEO, running the day-to-day business of our tribe. If we fail to do this, the "brain drain" will continue and our vulnerability will increase. I prefer to operate from a position of strength. Let's put the right person, in the right job — the right TIME is NOW.

It appears we have the right person in the right job in our casino operations. Casino CEO Fred Buro and all the general managers are doing fine work increasing our profitability, even under very difficult circumstances. I am not saying we are out of the woods or that things are perfect, but the data shows that what Fred, the general managers and **ALL team members** are doing is working. It's truly a group undertaking and they have some serious obstacles

to cope with. Nationwide, casino revenues are on a downward trend and ours are no different. Add to this the downward trend of the Canadian dollar, and the 30 percent decrease in Canadian traffic to Sault Ste. Marie, and you will see a serious downward trend in our casinos' gross revenue. Many local businesses in the Sault are also suffering from the loss of Canadian customers. However, the new casino competition in Mackinaw City further compounds the difficulty of generating profit in an already depressed market. I am looking forward to hearing what their plan is for addressing this new situation.

On a positive note, there are GOOD things happening in the tribe. At our school, 90 percent of students are now proficient in reading, a 23 percent increase from fall 2014 to spring 2015! In mathematics, 85 percent of our students are proficient, which is a 35 percent increase from fall 2013 to spring of 2014. These are extraordinary accomplishments, and I am so grateful to the hardworking staff who made this possible. Chi-miigwech! Also, our school is working on the possible additions of a gymnasium, stage and perhaps additional office and classroom space. A request for proposals has been sent out and we are looking forward to reviewing the proposals. I can already envision an awards program where the entire student body can attend at the same time!

More good news: Economic development is getting attention! We are finally starting to look at self-sufficiency from a non-gaming perspective. I know the tribe has done this before, but lessons have been learned and I believe THIS TIME will be better.

Other good news: Random drug testing has been on the board of directors agenda and is getting long overdue discussion.

I've personally heard from tribal members and non-tribal team members that the current drug testing policy needs to be looked at — I AGREE! Obviously, what we are doing isn't good enough, because it isn't working. I've learned a great deal during our last meeting regarding random employee drug testing and have spent considerable time thinking about the issue and what we can do better. I do see one thing missing. I am definitely not an expert, but I do know for any drug testing program to be successful, it must be applied fairly and to everyone — including elected officials of the tribe. I believe board members, and any future elected offices that may come to pass, should, by **tribal law** (instead of employment policy) be subject to random drug testing.

Drug usage in our communities and in our enterprises is devastating our people. A small piece of hair from employees and elected officials alike, is a small price to pay to protect our people. It is not the sole answer to the plague destroying people's lives, it is but a small part of a big solution. It is not too much to ask to save people's lives. In our old tribal ways, we care for and about each other, and no one is better than anyone else. In this "modern era" it is still possible to hold on to those things that make us who we are, Anishnaabe. I am no better than anyone else, and if random drug testing is required of team members, it should include me. We are all connected.

Miigwech to all who have contacted me and shared your thoughts and perspectives. Working together, we will be strong.

Anishnaabe gagige  
(Anishnaabe for always),

Jen  
(906) 440-9151, jmcleod1@saulttribe.net or jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com.

## How drug policy, laws affect our workforce



**CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Illegal drug use and the damage it inflicts on individuals, their families and the entire community is epidemic across the nation, but more so in our rural tribal communities. It goes hand in hand with poverty, lack of economic opportunity and hopelessness. In my second term as a board member, I've been around long enough to witness up close the human tragedy of domestic neglect and abuse; crime and imprisonment; overdose and death. Bottom line: within our

tribe, illegal drug use (as well as alcohol and prescription drug abuse) is epidemic.

It's a social and human health issue that can't be legislated away. It requires community support and resources and a top priority commitment from the governing body of the tribe. We are currently into the third year of a Department of Justice grant to formulate a Tribal Action Plan (TAP) to deal with substance abuse in our communities. I do not sit on the TAP committee but I appreciate the work and effort demonstrated. My concern is whether a viable initiative will materialize before the grant funding runs out. Given the root causes of this epidemic, I'm concerned that the court system and a penal code will be the ultimate direction—rather than health, social services, education and economic opportunity solutions.

Our tribe is 40,000 strong, but tribal laws have jurisdiction over a minimal number of tribal individuals. With some exceptions, tribal laws basically affect only those who live on tribal lands (tribal housing) and our work-

force. I would like to address in this report drug policy and laws that impact our workforce and then cover housing policy in next month's report.

On the agenda at the June 2 tribal board meeting in Escanaba, we considered "Eliminating Random Drug Testing" as an employment condition. The consideration failed on an 8-4 vote.

I voted "no" because I have concerns about how it will impact compliance with the National Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (NIGRA). What we absolutely need to assure and enforce is a drug-free casino operation. I am in full support of a zero tolerance drug policy in our gaming establishments. Possession, use, and sale of drugs on Kewadin property cannot be tolerated. It should be grounds for automatic termination.

My concern however, is that enforcement of our current laws and policies are not effective in keeping our enterprise drug free. Currently, the tribe has three drug deterrent policies: a pre-employment drug test, random drug testing protocol, and "reasonable

suspicion" testing. The pre-employment drug test serves its purpose. But the "random drug testing protocol" raises serious issues about how "random" it really is and whether there are functional problems about how it is administered. But, my biggest concern is how our policy comports with state of Michigan law where medical marijuana is now legal. We have employees (both tribal and non-tribal), who do not live on tribal land. They are citizens of the state of Michigan. They exercise their civil rights to seek legal medical care (which is a decision that belongs to themselves and their health care provider). They are great employees, who give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. They do NOT come to work under the influence of any substance. These employees get netted in our "random drug testing protocol" and are subject to discipline including termination. Ironically, random drug testing for marijuana does NOT indicate impairment. Sooner or later, we are going to find ourselves litigating this policy as a violation of HIPPA protected

rights.

Meanwhile, management has failed to use the obvious policy tool that could better ensure a drug free workplace: namely our "reasonable suspicion" policy. With a workforce close to 1,500 employees, only 26 "reasonable suspicion" tests were conducted in 2014 (with over 60 percent positive results). The random drug testing policy and the second chance policy need to be overhauled. Instead, managers need to quit looking the other way and start managing their workforce—and zero tolerance for possession, use or impairment on tribal property needs to be enforced vigorously.

We have three powwows coming up in Unit II. Please see [www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/culture](http://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/culture) for dates and locations. Everyone is welcome!

Good wishes to everyone for the summer. I hope you get to pick blueberries and share the good weather with family and friends. Please call me with questions and concerns any time, at (906) 430-5551 or (906) 483-6821.



# Greektown update, drug addiction, testing issues



**LANA CAUSLEY,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

I would like to start by bringing you up to date on the Greektown lawsuit case of our threat of being sued for the \$177 million. As you know, many leaders played a part in all the actions and inactions of the business endeavor in Detroit; there is plenty of blame and finger pointing to go around for all of us, including myself.

In many past reports, I have attempted to educate and explain my position when we filed bankruptcy and also keep the focus on moving forward after the decisions. When I was elected, we had extreme debt and turmoil, only two board members seated at the management board level and the debt was hundreds of millions. We could not sustain the management structure, our information and oversight was limited. We had unreasonable and unreachable demands with the city for payments and all the NON-tribal players had their positions solid.

What once was a revenue-generating dream for us turned into something that we could not sustain through bad decisions, game playing, politics and inexperience through leadership. I've always taken responsibility for the outcome and will continue; the path was laid and the people in place in our government just couldn't secure the future of that endeavor. I stand behind the decision I made to file bankruptcy and my true hope was that we could move forward without the cloud and debt and remain moving forward in our northern businesses.

The update this far is we are a small step closer to making

that happen, with the Greektown experience anyway. Last August, the bankruptcy court ruled against us on sovereign immunity motion. The bankruptcy judge ruled that Section 106 of the Bankruptcy Code, which abrogates the immunity of domestic governments, applies to Indian tribes and abrogates our tribe's sovereign immunity. We then appealed to a district court, which reversed the bankruptcy judge's decision. The court found that, because Section 106 did not specifically refer to Indian tribes, it did not abrogate our immunity. This is the small step we hoped for at this point — we have not won and we foresee an appeal but we are prepared through our Legal Department. We have strong, solid arguments and I'm confident of our legal team.

I've given this update so that you all know that my priority is to still move forward; I have spoken about the Greektown decision often and accepted responsibility for the lack of seeing that project benefit us. I've sat through many meetings and arguments watching the finger pointing and lack of accountability on leaders' parts and think to myself, you were there (only a couple board members seated now had no role). Most of us had a role and still do if we are at the table. To not learn from that mess and use it to play games is unacceptable; we have that going on as usual. I don't like to write about this, but an update about the threat of lawsuit is needed. I'm grateful to our Legal Department for their professionalism and direction on this because leadership sometimes some can't see the forest for the trees on this one. Seeing it through for the best outcome for our tribe is imperative to me at this point. We are also still paying the 12 percent to the Land Claims Fund for interest on the loan and this did not stop nor will the loan be forgotten.

We held a very good TAP meeting this last month. I was extremely impressed with the structure and agenda of the meeting and also the outcome for the direction we are now moving in. We only had two board members, Director Gravelle and myself. Director Sorenson was out of town on tribal business and the

other board members obligated to attend didn't. It's disheartening, because finally we get our staff committed and working hard and then our own commitment waivers. This is another priority I've written about and stated updates will be constant.

We evaluated the focus group and community meetings input, worked toward vision and mission statements to place in perspective what the group needed to accomplish and department staff gave input on what they envisioned for the goals and service to members. Leaving the meeting was good as we shortened the time before we would meet again, instead of a month we planned to meet in two weeks to get started on the actual creation of the plan.

When I was at the Tribal Self-Governance Conference, I had the opportunity to speak directly to Robert McSwain (acting director of IHS) in an input session. I spoke about our tribal action plan project; I reminded him it was the first in the nation and requested that he personally read this when it does make it through the process. This can educate him on the needs through IHS as well as a stepping-stone for other tribes. Our drug addiction problems aren't getting better; we have lose policies through our workplace that only hurt our members. We have in place pre-employment drug tests, random drug tests and reasonable suspicion testing. Recently, I placed on our agenda at a meeting to "eliminate random drug testing in the workforce." I absolutely agree with pre-employment and reasonable suspicion. My position on this is that we have had recent events take place at our board level that called this in question. Team members contacted me especially about the issues. I won't write about it here, but this calls the random testing into question — who is randomly tested, privacy of team members, etc. After speaking with many of you about this and the lack of a follow up plan we do not have in place sufficiently, this was the question asked . . . We simply offer information to get help and that's not effective to assist with a drug abuse problem. I'm still very much in support of the pre-employment testing and also

reasonable suspicion while on the clock testing, but we have to have a good solid plan for the outcome of random testing, once someone tests positive. By offering no real service plan to them, we only compound the problem, suspension without pay and termination are the two outcomes. Once the member is terminated, the drug problem will ONLY GET WORSE. Because of my position on this, I've taken a pretty good verbal attack from the chairman (my motives are called into question constantly and that's the norm at our board table) through the famous Internet sites as well as threats but that's all right (my skin's pretty tough these days). My only motive is to have a solid plan for the team members to have assistance, guidance and support through the tribe's programs once they are tested positive. Of course they will have to do their part, but through our tribal action plan, the team can work toward that goal because simply being fired is not the answer and IS not going to assist a tribal family in any way.

Members have expressed a government that only penalizes and does not take the real issue in consideration and that's true, in order to help we need our services available and solid. This all becomes clear when you are sitting with members and hearing the problems first hand, maybe that's the disconnect some on the board have. I've also heard many program managers and casino managers express the same opinions about penalizing vs. real supportive methods of assistance. P.S. — none of my family members have recently tested positive. That accusation is untrue; as usual, the norm is to attack my family and close friends. I will update on our progress about the tribal action plan and have hopes we will have a draft in the next few months.

In my reports, I try not to just complain and whine about the ways things are going, I'm truthful, and simply throwing out the problems does not help us in anyway. Once I'm on the opposite side of an opinion things can get pretty ugly with threats and bullying, either at the board table, through emails or the Internet.

I have hundreds of emails and comments that are unacceptable in a governmental atmosphere BUT it won't change my position on items. I've worked with many leaders on this board, many good people as well, and I have to say that this one is truly the finest at bullying tactics and plain ol' high school drama. As always, watch closely.

I'm in the process of advocating and simply begging for repairs on our two powwow grounds, one in Newberry and one in Hessel. With my votes on items, the punishment from some on the board will make this next to impossible, but again, watch closely. The techniques used to play politics are unreal, I have sent dozens of emails and requests to assist in repairing unsafe structures on our grounds. I've been told that a staff member had to actually go out and purchase caution tape to put up because no direction would come forth from admin in a timely manner, these are grounds owned by the tribe for upkeep and responsibility, to use them as a punishment to me and my units is disgusting. Since, and again for a solution, I have requested a proposal come forward for ALL our grounds to be repaired as needed. I will always support the upkeep and priority of all our grounds no matter where they are.

In closing, I had the opportunity to gather with the Naubinway elders this last month to meet and listen to Rattlesnake Annie, who played in a private session just for them. She sang songs that she played in Nashville, wrote and toured with many legendary country singers. The time we had was precious and I would like to send a chi miigwech to Joe Blanchard, one of our tribal elders, who arranged for this. Joe and Annie also went into the homes of elders who cannot get out and sang for them as well. What a priceless experience for them and again, thank you for sharing it with us.

As always, call me with input, concerns and meeting if you would like.

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

# Great Lakes treaty fishing agreement RFP ok'd



**DARCY MORROW,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I would like to thank everyone who attended the annual Indian Point Cemetery clean up in Nahma Township: Nancy Flynn, Larry Godfrey, Annette Powers,

Ernest and Pam Demmon, Mike LaJoice, Ron and Brenda Nelson, Betty Majestic, John Perkins, Barry Hardwick, Bill and Connie Hardwick, Levi Morrow, Edward Goudreau, Mike Scheutter and Denise Chase. The day turned out beautiful and we always found time to have a laugh or two. Once again, thank you to everyone who attended this event.

After the cemetery cleanup, we started working on the Gathering of the Clans Powwow, which is always on the second weekend in June. Again, this year, we had an excellent turnout of drums, dancers, vendors, spectators and volunteers! It's always nice to have extra hands and our volunteers were excellent. Thank you to all the volunteers and everyone who brought a dish for the feast meal. Thank you, Bill Perry, for

cooking the fry bread in the food booth and for showing my husband how to cook it, too. I would like to thank the committee members: Viola Neadow, Mary Jenerou, Rita Glyptis and Denise Chase — each of these women pitched in and made sure the weekend went smooth.

I would like to apologize to any member who made an attempt to make the Escanaba board meeting on June 23 at Bay College. The college moved us to the 500 building instead of the Heirman Center where we always hold our meetings. We asked that they post signs so members could find the meeting, but I was informed afterward that none were posted.

At that Escanaba meeting, it was voted to accept the Great Lakes Conservation Committee's

June 16, 2015, meeting request to put out requests for proposals for representation for the 2020 Consent Decree negotiations. I would like to see a Native American attorney hired for our negotiations, but I am only one vote of 13. We need to hire someone who realizes our fishing is

imperative to our members. And, he or she needs to be willing to fight to keep our waters open for our members, not take more away!

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

## Moving ?



**TRIBAL MEMBERS!**  
When you move, let tribal enrollment know where you are headed and stay up to date with your tribe!

(800) 251-6597  
enrollment@saulttribe.net



# Putting the tribe and team members first



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

In my last report I talked about the lack of support for our team members through the Human Resource Department. At the June 23 meeting in Escanaba, I made a motion, "To direct legal and the executive director to develop a plan for consideration of an employee advocate position(s) separate from the Human Resource Department, due back within 60 days to the board of directors." The motion was supported by Director Hoffman and after much debate was passed unanimously by the board. I am hopeful we will be able to fund these positions to advocate for our most important asset of all — our team members.

Also in Escanaba, Director Causley motioned and I seconded to eliminate the random drug testing of our team members. That motion failed 8-4 with directors Abramson and Hoffman also supporting eliminating. We currently do urine tests for new team members, random swabs and reasonable suspicion tests for all team members. I supported eliminating for a few reasons. One being what team members do on their own time is not our business. Second, as long as someone is not high or intoxicated while they are on the clock, we cannot control them. When they are under the influence at work they can be tested for reasonable suspicion. Third, teachers are not subject to random drug testing but care for our most precious people. I do support keeping the random testing for safety

sensitive positions. I wish I had the exact number of drug testing that come back positive for marijuana. That is the most common drug I have seen listed on Human Resources monthly reports. In my opinion, besides from marijuana currently being illegal, why shouldn't a person be able to use that after their work day when you can certainly pick up a 12 pack at the party store and still have a job.

For some of you who don't know me, you may think I support alcohol and drugs. People who know me would tell you I rarely ever drink and do not do drugs of any kind. I believe marijuana will be legal in 2016 or close to that time frame. I support people who have a medical marijuana card in lieu of using narcotics for pain. Who are we to say that you should suffer with pain because you may have to take a random drug test? As long as we require team members to be subject to random testing, then we should be leaders and have the same expectations. I actually support hair samples from an outside company.

The resolution to amend Ch. 94—Composition of the Gaming Authority Charter was not approved. This would have allowed board members to resign off the gaming authority board if they wanted to. The gaming authority board oversees the casino operations. My own opinion is that, as it currently is structured, this is a large responsibility of a board member. Director Hoffman says the bylaws allow for a choice to serve or not. I suggest changing the bylaws, then.

Another resolution up for a vote was for a voter registration referendum. There was a motion to refer this to the election committee, which passed. I don't know how the chair can say this resolution makes it equal for all members. How is it equal for members inside the service area to be automatically registered in the unit they reside and the members outside the service area could register in a new unit in each election? There was conversation about it being conflicting with the Constitution. Chapter

16 is also conflicting, as it calls for 100 signatures or 10 percent of the last election, whichever is greater. The Constitution says 100 signatures.

I think anybody who lives outside of the service area should be able to choose which unit to vote in that they are tied to by family, where they were born or raised or where they wish to retire. I think it should be a one-time decision not changing (unit shopping) for each election. The hard part is the person representing that unit is usually voting on things that only affect people living in the service area. I do support the idea that any registered tribal member should be able to run for the chair position because they represent everyone. Regardless, these issues should be discussed with the election committee.

Director Hoffman has been bringing the marriage ordinance forward recently. Changes such as eliminating a Michigan license and to read, "Any marriage between two people." This will be coming up for a vote but is a little behind since it is now legal in all 50 states.

We have resignations from three team members who work with the board. The assistant executive director, the executive assistant/membership liaison and the board's administrative assistant. I tried to discuss with the board that many people at the admin building were leaving or looking for new jobs but it fell on deaf ears. I am sure these won't be the only ones. I did, however, suggest that since there are vacancies, now would be the time to look at restructuring. Somehow that got spun into me not wanting the chair to have "his only secretarial support position." I love how partial facts get left out. The chair also has an administrative assistant so he does have secretarial support like all of our other executives.

We have had the threat of a casino being built in Mackinaw City since prior to my being elected. We have done nothing to prepare ourselves for this. We have not built good relationships with the businesses in Mackinaw City. We continue to put off cap-

ital improvements to the property that will be most affected. Apparently sending a shuttle to Gaylord with little to no signage was a start? Once again, we sit with no strategic plan for the casinos or our government, which relies on \$17 million of casino funding. I guess the chair may finally analyze the increase in the government operations.

With all that is going on in the workforce and limited direction for the future, now is the time to hire a CEO or tribal administrator for the government operations. When the person at the top of the administrative chain is working at the state and federal levels and serving on many committees, everything cannot be taken care of. We need someone who will be available to our workforce to move things forward. They need direction and accountability. We currently are spreading the chair too thin to accomplish all we need to do. He is the best in the political arenas so we need to hire an employee that can be held accountable for leading the governmental operations. This is nothing personal but what makes sense. The members voted for the separation and we need to operate based on that decision. There will be plenty of drama created from this proposal such as the victim mentality. "No other chairperson has brought as much money back to the tribe as I have." "Members did not know what they were voting on." It is not about any one person but what is best for the tribe. Who can argue with that?

Just as an example, the Budget Department reports to the chair. If the chair tells them to find him money for this or that or to stop up action, they will do it, he is their supervisor. We cannot discipline the chair but if it was an employee, they could be disciplined. On the government side, we have the key employee resolution so it takes seven board votes to hire or terminate them. This prevents key employees from being targeted by one individual so they can make the tough decisions to do their job.

Two of the Head Start staff and myself went to the National

Indian Head Start Directors Association (NIHSDA) conference in Sacramento, Calif., June 15-19. This is my second year testifying on behalf of our tribe. Last year, there were a handful of tribal leaders who attended and this year that number had doubled. It is still disheartening to see the low number of tribal leader participation, but like I told the federal employees, it probably is due to the fact that we see little to no change in the issues we bring forward. The issues I testified on were similar to last year and the years Director Abramson has testified. Head Start is very important to our children and needs to be a priority to all tribes and there continues to be more requirements placed on programs with little to no increase in funding. We suggested they change this annual conference to possibly coincide with other conferences such as NCAI or NIGA to get more participation.

I would like to personally thank the team members who continuously strive to increase third party revenue! You ALL are the reason the health division can operate without tribal support!

Thank you to those of you who hate getting out of bed to go to work but still continue to do it. I know you are tired and so am I of saying just hang in there because it will get better. All we can do is try and open up eyes of people on where the barriers exist. I will continue to fight for our team members and be their voice at the table. After all, the stuff under the rug is starting to show a bump in the floor!

Please take the time out of your busy schedule to attend some powwows. For a complete listing go to saulttribe.com. For those of you who didn't know what happened to your monthly newspaper, you should have received a post card in the mail to tell you how to receive them again.

Enjoy spending the summer with your family and friends!

If you would like to communicate with me please send me an email to bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or call me at (906) 430-0536.

## Feds deny petition to change gray wolf status

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has denied a petition to reclassify all gray wolves in the U.S. (except Mexican wolves) as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

A USFWS press release said the petition "does not present substantial information indicating that reclassification may be warranted."

According to the release, the USFWS will take no further action on the petition, which was submitted by The Humane Society of the United States, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and 21 other petitioners in January.

The USFWS announced its finding June 30.

According to the USFWS release, the petition did not provide information to indicate that the population petitioned for listing, which does not correspond

to any currently listed gray wolf population, may qualify as a listable entity under the ESA. The USFWS said the petition failed to provide "substantial information indicating these wolves may meet the definition of a threatened species, specifically are likely to be in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range."

This finding will appear in a 90-day batched notice with 30 other petition findings, said the release.

In a June 30 press release, The Humane Society of the United States said the petition "offered a pathway for a reasonable compromise between the current more restrictive 'endangered' listing for wolves in the Great Lakes and Wyoming, and the efforts by some anti-wolf politicians in Congress to strip



wolves of all protections entirely."

A "threatened" listing would have continued federal oversight and funding of wolf recovery

efforts, but also would have given federal, state and local wildlife managers more flexibility to address specific wolf conflicts such as livestock depredation.

Michael Markarian, chief program and policy officer of The Humane Society of the United States, said, "We are disappointed in the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision not to consider this middle-ground approach to wolf management. A threatened listing is a reasonable compromise to this contentious issue, and it retains some federal protection for wolves, while providing more flexibility to the states in dealing with the occasional problem wolf. We need practical solutions, not to turn back the clock to the days of widespread hound hunting, baiting and trapping of hundreds of wolves in states with hostile

and reckless wolf management policies."

Other petitioners were: Born Free USA, Center for Biological Diversity, Audubon Society, Detroit Zoological Society, The Fund for Animals, Friends of Animals and Their Environment, Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf, Help Our Wolves Live, Howling for Wolves, Justice for Wolves, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Minnesota Humane Society, Minnesota Voters for Animal Protection, National Wolfwatcher Coalition, Northwoods Alliance, Predator Defense, Public Trust and Coexistence, Wildwoods (Minnesota), Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies and Wolves of Douglas County Wisconsin.

Congressional bills stripping the gray wolf of federal protections are still in committee.



# Bamboo and Loosestrife and Frogbit, Oh My!

## Your guide to invasive plants

BY TIFFANY ESCHERICH,  
ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

Invasive plants are all around us. Whether you realize it or not, you probably see more than one patch of invasive plants every day. An invasive plant is introduced (either intentionally or unintentionally) and is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive plants are of special concern as they have the ability to spread out of control and overwhelm native vegetation, degrade wildlife habitat, mix with native plants altering their genetic makeup, harbor pests harmful to other plants and produce toxins lethal to certain animals and native plants.

When one invasive species takes over an area, it can cause the alteration of hydrological patterns, fire regimes, soil chemistry, moisture holding capability, wildlife habitat and erodibility. Invasive plants cause billions of dollars of damage a year and tens of thousands of dollars are spent to control them. In addition, invasive species as a whole (plants, animals, etc.) represent the second leading cause of species extinction and loss of biodiversity in aquatic environments worldwide.

So, why are invasive plants a problem in our community? Many aspects of our lives are affected by the existence of invasive plants in our ecosystem. Invasive plants affect fish and wildlife habitat by degradation; forestry by preventing the growth of new trees; raw water users, such as utility companies, by clogging passageways; and recreation by altering land and water bodies, making them no longer desired places to visit and recreate, just to name a few.

What can you do? Learn how to identify invasive plants in your area. Catching infestations early is the key to controlling them long term. The sooner we can remove the invasive plants, the sooner the native population can regenerate. Here is a list of some of the common invasive plants you may see throughout our community. This summer the Environmental Department will be surveying tribal property to map known locations of invasive plants. Any tips from the public are extremely helpful. Tribal residents will be receiving information packets about tribal invasive plants this summer as the survey is performed. Look for these hanging on your doors sometime this summer.



Wikipedia Commons

**CANADA THISTLE**- This species is listed as a prohibited noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. It is a perennial, rhizomatous thistle that ranges in height from 2-5 ft. and forms large, dense stands. Flowers are numerous, purple-lavender in color, have small heads, less than one inch tall, clustered at the tops of stems, fragrant and bloom June through September. Seeds are small and light brown with tufts of hair attached to the tip for wind dispersal. One plant can produce

1,500-5,000 seeds which can germinate 8-10 days after flowering.



@2014 Zoya Akulova/Wikipedia Commons

**EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL**— This species is listed as a restricted noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Eurasian water milfoil begins photosynthesizing and can grow rapidly in early spring, allowing it to dominate an area and limit light availability to other aquatic life. This is a submerged aquatic perennial that commonly ranges from 3 to 10 feet in length and can create dense mats. Eurasian water milfoil can reproduce vegetatively via plant fragments. Although many aquatic plants may look similar, Eurasian water milfoil is unique in having whorled, pinnately compound leaves with 12 to 20 leaflets on each side. It closely resembles the Northern water milfoil which only has seven to 11 pairs of leaflets, remains rigid out of the water and produces winter buds.



Christian Fischer/Wikipedia

**EUROPEAN FROGBIT**— This species is listed as a prohibited noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Many populations only consist of one sex; most plants are male with little seed produced. European frogbit is a perennial, free-floating aquatic plant that forms large colonies creating dense mats with tangled roots. Flowers are white in color, cup shaped, and have three petals with yellow dots at the base. This plant can usually be found in slow moving water on the edges of lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, swamps and ditches. Reproduction occurs primarily vegetatively from plant fragments. This plant was just discovered in Monuskong Bay and Raber Bay two years ago. This plant has the capability of negatively alter-



Garlic mustard Maskin/Wikipedia Commons

ing fish habitat. IF THIS PLANT HAS BEEN OBSERVED IN ANY OTHER WATERBODY, PLEASE CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT WITH ITS LOCATION IMMEDIATELY. SMALL POPULATIONS CAN BE CONTROLLED MUCH QUICKER AND EASIER.

**GARLIC MUSTARD**— All parts smell like garlic when crushed, especially in spring and early summer. Garlic mustard can dominate the ground layer of a forest floor which will displace native plants. In addition, the plant secretes chemicals into the soil destroying mycorrhizal fungi that is needed by woody plants for regeneration. Flowers are numerous, small, white in color and have four petals, usually in clusters at the top of the stalk or in leaf axils. They will bloom in late April through June. One plant can produce up to 3,000 seeds which are viable within a few days of flowering and remain viable for many years. Garlic mustard has the ability to spread quickly.



WAN archive

**GIANT AND JAPANESE KNOTWEED**— Giant knotweed is also known as “giant bamboo” and Japanese knotweed is also known as “Michigan bamboo.” Seeds produced by both plants are not viable. However, it can reproduce vegetatively through its roots and plant fragments. These plants can cross to produce Bohemian knotweed whose seeds ARE viable. Currently, we do not know of any Bohemian knotweed in the area, so it is very important to control the giant and Japanese species. If you have “bamboo” in your yard that is not currently being treated or has plans to be treated with the Chippewa Mackinaw Luce Conservation District this fall, please contact our department with your address and contact information to be added to the treatment list.



Leslie J. Mehrhoff/Bugwood.org

**PHRAGMITES (INVASIVE)**— This species has been listed as a restricted species under Michigan Law. It can form dense, impenetrable stands that range in height from 6 to 13 feet. Invasive phragmites can typically be found along water edges. This plant can reproduce by seed and also through an extensive aggressive system of rhizomes that can live for three to six years, causing it to spread rapidly. There are two varieties of phragmites in our area, invasive and native. Invasive phragmites is distinctive and much taller than native species. The base of the invasive phragmites is primarily green, while the native species has a red to pink tinge.

Also, the flowering plume of the invasive species is thicker and denser than the native species.



WAN archive

**PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE**— This species is restricted under Michigan Law. Purple loosestrife is an attractive but persistent weed that spreads vigorously in moist soil conditions. It will crowd out native wetland plant species. Purple loosestrife is a perennial that grows 1.5 to 6 feet tall. Flowers are numerous, primarily purple (also white or pink) in color, occur in clusters or two to several, five to seven petals and bloom in July through October. This plant reproduces by seed or vegetatively by re-sprouting from cut stems and regenerating from root stock.



Bugwood.org

**WILD PARSNIP**— Chemicals found in leaves, stems, and flowers of wild parsnip can cause skin rashes, burns and blisters, especially in the presence of sunlight. A tall, herbaceous biennial, it dies after producing seed. It grows up to 5 feet in height with a long, thick taproot. Flowers are numerous, small, yellow in color with five petals and found in flat umbels up to 6 inches wide. Blooms June through mid-July. Seeds are large, flat, round, yellowish and can remain viable for up to four years. This plant reproduces by seed. Roadside mowing can disperse seeds.

Other invasive plants that may appear in the area include Amur honeysuckle, Morrow’s honeysuckle, bittersweet nightshade, white sweetclover, dames rocket, narrow leaf cattail, spotted knapweed, tatarian honeysuckle, butterbur, leafy spurge, St. John’s wort, reed canary grass, onerow yellowcress, perennial sow thistle, ornamental jewel weed, redtop, spotted lady’s thumb, spearmint, smooth brome, Scots pine, watercress, watermint, true forget-me-nots, bull thistle, common tansy, birds foot trefoil, bitter dock, common buckhorn, cow vetch, European speedwell, English ivy, curly pondweed and crack willow.

If you see any of these species whether it be on a roadside or located on your property, please call in or email the location and species (preferably a GPS coordinate, but not necessary) to Tiffany Escherich at the Sault Tribe Environmental Department (906) 632-5575, ext. 73061 or send email to tescherich@saulttribe.net. (Information provided by Midwest Invasive Species Information Network and the EPA.



# NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE SHOW

Featuring  
**Mark Thomas**  
Reliving The Legend



KEWADIN SAULT STE. MARIE'S  
**DREAMMAKERS THEATER**



**Friday, July 31**

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.  
Show starts at 8:00 p.m.

**Sunday, August 2**

Doors open at 3:00 p.m.  
Show starts at 4:00 p.m.

**Tickets \$12.50**



1-800-KEWADIN | [kewadin.com](http://kewadin.com) |     

MANISTIQUE-ST.IGNACE-SAULT <sup>STE</sup> MARIE-HESSSEL-CHRISTMAS