

# U.S. Navy shaped tribal member's life, future

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

Noah Leask was enlisted with the U.S. Navy before he graduated from high school in 1991. Today he is a father, husband, and the president and CEO of Ishpi Information Technologies, Inc., a successful system engineering and integration firm headquartered out of Charleston, S.C. He holds a Bachelor of Science in computer networking from Strayer University in Washington, D.C., graduating summa cum laude.

He and his wife, Lisa, a former naval officer, are raising their three daughters, Brianna, Logan and Peyton, in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. He is also close to his parents, who have retired to Mt. Pleasant.



ISHPI — Anishinaabe for “advanced” — is listed as an American Indian and service-disabled veteran owned certified 8(a) small disadvantaged business. That’s because Leask, born to Chal Leask and Gloria Leask, is a proud member of the Sault Tribe. When he joined the Navy, he meant to stay for only four years and ended up serving

## Supplemental Security income and other income

You may be able to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), even if you have other income.

SSI is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have little or no income and who don’t own many things. SSI is for elderly people, as well as blind or disabled people of any age, including children. To get SSI, you must be 65 or older, totally or partially blind, or have a medical condition that keeps you from working and is expected to last at least one year or result in death.

In addition, to be eligible for SSI, you also must be a U.S. resident and have resources worth less than \$2,000 for an individual or \$3,000 for a couple. The resources usually do not include the home you live in, vehicle you drive and funds set aside for burial or personal items.

Some people believe if they have other income, they cannot apply for SSI. The fact is you can apply, as long as your current income is limited. The type and amount of additional income you receive may have an effect on your SSI amount.

When your income is from work, as in this case, we only

over a decade, returning home as a wartime service-disabled veteran.

Leask, 35, is also deeply involved in his community. He is an eagle scout, serves on the Charleston Metro Area Special Olympics and Unified Athletics Committees and as a Special Olympics coach. He was honored as 2007 South Carolina Parent of The Year by the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association.

Leask was born Jan. 31, 1973 in Cheboygan, Mich., where he was raised. Leask’s father, Chal, is the son of Orville and Lorraine Leask, and his mother, Gloria, is the daughter of Peter and Melvina Gilmette. While Leask was growing up, Chal worked at the Amoco Oil Company Cheboygan River Terminal near the mouth of the Cheboygan River and Leask recalls the huge oil freighters on the lakes where his father worked. His mother worked at Cheboygan Memorial Hospital and retired after 25 years.

Leask was determined to join the armed forces after graduating high school. “I wanted to serve my country; pure and simple,” he said. “I believe serving in the military to be one of the highest honors.”

He decided on the U.S. Navy in his senior year. “It was during my second week of senior year football in Cheboygan in September 1990,” he said. “I remember the coaches belting out ‘Anchors Away’ as we sprinted.” Leask was a captain.

Leask added that the Navy also provides the very best edu-



Tribal member Noah Leask and his wife Lisa with their girls, Logan, Brianna (back L-R) and Peyton (front), in a recent family photo.

cation to the sailors that comprise the world’s finest Navy. “I left northern Michigan on Aug. 1 for Orlando, Fla., and nine weeks of boot camp,” he recalled.

Navy experiences led the way to Leask’s later successes. “I scored very high on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and was offered several top jobs in the Navy including nuclear engineer and cryptologist,” he said. “I chose cryptologist because I only intended to do four years at the time and nuclear engi-

neering was a six-year enlistment requirement.

Once in cryptology, Leask realized he had a special talent that he could put to a variety of uses. “I found that I really enjoyed the specific communications and information technology work I did as a cryptologist specializing in communications,” he said. “I built a solid career based on the work I did in the Navy, which includes engineering in communications, networking, software, systems and systems security.”

Leask spent over a decade

of wartime service as a cryptologist providing afloat and ashore communications and system engineering and integration in the Navy for global operations supporting national defense; his most recent in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Following his Navy career, Leask signed on as senior consulting engineer for the Computer Science Corporation where he led the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) through a series of comprehensive enterprise-wide upgrades. He then held the position of executive vice president and director of Intelligence Enterprise Solutions (IES) for CommIT Enterprises, Inc. He created IES and successfully grew his division to four programs with 12 professionals at three agencies, generating \$3 million in revenue, while he continued to provide award-winning direct client subject matter expertise engineering support to NGA.

In addition to successfully starting, growing, and maturing ISHPI, Leask leads a \$6.5 million 25-member strategic planning team directly supporting the NGA.

Leask’s impressive client list includes the U.S. Navy, NGA, National Disaster Medical Service, Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Space and Navel Warfare Center, Charleston, S.C., Raytheon, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Chugach McKinley Inc., Chugach Industries Inc., SAIC, The Wexford International Group, CACI, Accenture, General Dynamics, Vox Optima LLC, and the British Ministry of Defense.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

BY ED DWYER  
SOCIAL SECURITY MANAGER  
IN ESCANABA

subtract 50 cents for every dollar you earn out of your SSI check base amount. So in this example, even though you worked and earned \$200, your SSI payment would only be reduced by \$57.50.

It is important to remember that we use your gross income, not your net income, to compute the monthly amounts. Also, there are some sorts of income we do not count at all, such as food stamps, food from churches and soup kitchens, and shelter you receive from most private, non-profit organizations. We also exclude most home energy assistance.

If you believe you might qualify for SSI, call us at (800) 772-1213 (TTY (800) 325-0778) or check out our Web site at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). You can also read our online publication, *You May Be Able to Get SSI*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11069](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11069). SSI may be just the thing you need to supplement your income.



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# Longest Walk 2: a 4,000-mile trek across U.S.

BY BRENDA NORRELL

RUMSEY RANCHERIA, Calif.—The Longest Walk 2 began here, with American Indians and walkers from around the world marching for a halt to the desecration of sacred Mother Earth.

Walkers were led by American Indian Movement co-founder Dennis Banks, Jimbo Simmons of the International Indian Treaty Council and Rumsey Wintun, Chairman Marshall McKay and council members.

Focused on the 4,000-mile treks on the northern and southern routes of the Longest Walk, walkers arrived from across the U.S. and countries around the world, including Japan, Israel, Poland, England, Mexico, Peru, Sweden and Australia.

The walkers were welcomed to Rumsey by the Wintun and presented with a huge feast for breakfast. Then, Chairman McKay and council members joined walkers as they took their first steps on the Longest Walk 2 here.

They walked to the steady drumbeat of a delegation of Buddhist monks who kept the walkers in step with the tempo of Mother Earth. After this first stretch, long distance runners took off and the southern and northern route walkers began their separate journeys across America.

Later in the same day, on the steps of the California capitol, California leaders and walkers spoke out for the protection of Mother Earth.

"We will always remember who we are. We will never forget our duties, we won't forget that America. We will never forget. We are coming to you, America, and we have always had the answers," Banks said during the press conference.

On Alcatraz, the day before



Beginning of the Longest Walk 2

on Feb. 11, events began with a sunrise ceremony. Six hundred people crossed on the ferries before first light. During the prayers and blessings, a chorus of seagulls above joined Miwok dancers offering a prayer to greet the sun.

The Longest Walk embraces the struggle of California Natives fighting the sudden and secretive elimination of University of California Berkeley's (UCB) Hearst Museum NAGPRA unit. American Indians are protesting the university's action of turning control of the remains of more than 12,000 Native ancestors to radically anti-repatriation scientists.

Marchers at Sproul Plaza on the UCB campus called for support for a California State Senate hearing on Feb. 26 for an investigation into the ongoing rights violations committed by the university against American Indians. Marchers also voice support for mediation between Indian nations and the UCB system.

"Our ancestors have been dug up and exposed, stopping their journey to the other side. How would anyone else feel if their great-grandparents were dug up, examined, stored and

locked in cardboard boxes under a gymnasium? Not only are our rights violated, but our humanity," said Longest Walk organizers in a statement.

"When it comes to Native Americans, why is that we have no guarantee for the protection of our ancestors' graves and religious freedom. Universities, such as UCB, and developers continue to violate federal law and desecrate our burial sites and sacred places. The university is holding hostage thousands and thousands of our ancestors."

"Over 12,000 human remains are stored in boxes," said Jimbo Simmons, coordinator of the northern route of the Longest Walk 2 and board member of the International Indian Treaty Council.

Walkers also went to offer their support to tree sitters at Oak Grove on the campus, where one of the longest tree sitting protests is underway to protect the old growth oaks on sacred Native lands. Walkers offered tobacco nearby at a sacred place and burial ground.

On the steps of the Sacramento capitol, California Indian leaders joined Longest Walkers from 1978 and 2008 to speak out for Indian rights and



Map of the route walkers will take.

protection of Mother Earth.

Tawna Sanchez recognized the great accomplishments of the first Longest Walk in 1978. At that time, American Indian treaties were under attack and the threat of abrogation of treaties was ever present. Sanchez warned walkers that the walk would be difficult.

"The Ku Klux Klan came to where we were once and threw rocks at us," Sanchez said. "It wasn't safe."

Sanchez was 16 years old in 1978 when she was on the walk and followed by devoting her life to serving her community in social services and with international efforts.

At the capitol, Tony Gonzales of the American Indian Movement pointed out that the United States was one of five countries in the world that did not vote to approve the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The five countries are the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Russia.

Gonzales urged a million people to march in from the south, and another million from the north, to culminate the Longest Walk with two million marching into Washington at the Longest Walk's culmination in July 11.

Speaking at the capitol, Jimbo Simmons said the walkers will not just be talking about climate change and the environment. "We're going to be feeling the environment; we are going to be talking to the environment."

Simmons said the northern route will cover 3,600 miles, the original route. He said the walkers are carrying one staff that is bare right now. "In every community that we go through, we will ask those communities to add something to that staff."

When the Longest Walkers reach Washington, leaders will be waiting.

"World leaders are waiting to meet with us in Washington D.C.," Simmons said.

Corrina Gould, a member of the Muwekma Ohlone Nation and co-founder of Indian People Organizing for Change, told the gathering, "We walk to tell the American public and the government that we have a religion and the responsibility and right to care for our ancestors. The prayers are going to be recognized and we will be heard. We're not federally recognized but as an Ohlone woman I am still here, we are still here and we know that we exist."

During the press conference

at the capitol, a representative for California Senator Alex Padilla presented the California State Legislature with a proclamation in support of the Longest Walk 2. The proclamation states, "Participants will walk for the seventh generation of Native American youth, for peace and justice, and for the healing of our planet, and they will walk for the healing of those in the Native American community who suffer from diabetes, heart conditions, alcoholism, drug addiction and other diseases."

Beginning with the beat of the drum, Gilberto Perez a Nipponzan Myohoji monk who joined the walk addressed the crowd. "We are one earth, one race. We have to take care of Mother Earth now. There is no time to waste." Walkers and California leaders pointed out the devastation by corporations and the need to uphold sovereignty and engage in healing.

At the capitol, Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribe of Grass Valley released a statement of the long-standing destruction of Mother Earth resulting from the Gold Rush. In the resolution, Tsi-Akim Maidu recognized the need to heal themselves and future generations.

"There are tens of thousands of abandoned gold mine sites throughout the state of California that have left mercury, arsenic, cyanide, asbestos and other toxic metals and minerals in our water and our environment.

"One gram of mercury can contaminate an entire lake to levels above what are acceptable standards for humans and the natural environments."

Mercury and other heavy metals have a permanent and irreversible, devastating health effect on the human body. Mining toxins have an adverse impact on salmon, other fish, birds and all other aquatic life, according to the resolution.

"Indigenous people of California depend on fishing, hunting and gathering for our traditional way of life."

Tsi-Akim Madu Tribe urged indigenous peoples to exercise their sovereign rights to ensure remediation cleanup efforts are culturally acceptable. The state should conduct a timely assessment of the full extent of the toxic contamination left by gold mining.

Follow the routes at [www.longestwalk.org](http://www.longestwalk.org) and [www.earthcycles.net](http://www.earthcycles.net). Photos are available at [www.bsnorrell.blogspot.com](http://www.bsnorrell.blogspot.com).

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 Community Health Nurse, *Open Until Filled*  
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**Senior Employment Program:**  
 Volunteer Center Coordinator, *Closes 3/24/08*  
 Headstart Bus Driver (St. Ignace), *Open Until Filled*  
 Student Services Assistant (Manistique),  
*Closes 3/19/08*  
 Chief Solo Dentist (Manistique), *Open Until Filled*

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### MANISTIQUE CASINO

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### ST. IGNACE KEWADIN CASINO

Hotel Manager, *Open Until Filled*

### HESSEL CASINO

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For more information contact:  
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 (906) 635-7032 or toll free (866) 635-7032  
 2186 Shunk Rd.; Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
**St. Ignace Employment Office**  
 (906) 643-4176  
 3015 Mackinaw Trail; St. Ignace, MI  
**Manistique Employment Office**  
 (906) 341-9561  
 5968 W. Highway US 2; Manistique, MI  
 Apply on-line at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com)

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians



# The significance of the drum explained

**Q:** What is the significance of the drum? What does it stand for and how do you ask the drum to attend an event?

**A:** This is an important and somewhat complex question. As always, there are many layers to our teachings. There are the surface layers, that are sufficient for most people, but there are those who are led to peel back those layers one by one. These individuals study a deeper understanding of what lies closer to the heart of each teaching.

Since these are considered "men's teachings" and not women's, the aunties told me that I had to consult the uncles on this one. Well, it took me a while to find them, but I finally tracked them down behind a local store, tucked away in a back alley, playing poker and arguing if Tiger Woods was going to win the next Masters. They were more than happy to put the chips aside (as well as the Tiger debate), however, in order to chat with me about the drum.

I passed them all asemaa (tobacco) and then posed the question to them. One of the uncles shared that the women originally brought the drum to the men so that they could

## Appeal Social Security decisions online

Some people know that when you apply for disability benefits from Social Security, you have the right to appeal the decision you do not agree with. But did you know that now you can file an appeal over the Internet? Doing it online can help speed the process and assist Social Security in serving you better.

The Internet appeal process is a fast, convenient, secure way to appeal a decision on your Social Security disability claim that you don't agree with. You can file your appeal online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/appeal](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/appeal).

To use the Internet appeal process, you need to have applied for Social Security or Supplemental Security Income disability benefits and been denied for medical reasons. Please remember to have your denial notice with you when you begin this process because you will need to refer to it.

When you use the Internet appeal process, just as when you appeal in a Social Security office, there are two steps you'll need to take.

First, complete the appeal request. It will ask you questions about yourself, such as updated information on your address, your disabling condition and your work.

Second, complete the appeal

### Ask the Aunties



take care of it. There is balance there. The women stand behind the men at the drum, to oversee that everything is being done in a good way. The drum came to unite the people, to bring us all together in a celebration of creation. I am sure that you have heard it said that the drum is the heartbeat of Mother Earth, and rightly so. Although the drum is not our mother, it does represent her voice throughout creation; it whispers to the heart of the people, gathering them together and calling them home.

The drum creates a pathway or rather a connection between our ancestors and that of their descendants . . . us. Through the heartbeat of the drum, we

disability report. This section will ask you detailed questions about your medical history, such as updates in your medications, doctor and hospital visits. In this section, we want to learn all we can about your disabling condition.

After you've completed the two sections of the Internet appeal, you'll be ready to review and submit your information. You'll have the opportunity to print a copy of your appeal for

your records. But you won't have to mail a copy to us; just submit the appeal electronically.

Online appeals represent one of many transactions you can now complete right over the Internet using Social Security's Web site. You can also apply for retirement, disability or spousal benefits, request to replace your Medicare card and plan for your retirement. Visit our online services page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices) to learn more about our online office.

To learn more about appealing a Social Security decision online, or to begin an appeal now, visit the Internet appeals page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/appeal](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/appeal).

Learn more about Social Security by visiting our Web site at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us at (800) 772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).



File Photo/Sherrie Lucas

can travel back and gain wisdom and knowledge from the ancients. These teachings of old help to keep our minds, bodies, spirits and emotions in balance in a world that is often out of whack.

There are several types of drums. The one you might see at the powwow is called the big drum. There are also water drums, hand drums and medicine drums. Each one of these drums can serve a particular purpose within the community. The big drum is often used at celebrations and gatherings, although there are some big drums which are ceremonial as well. The water drum, on the other hand, is specific to ceremonies of a variety of types. Hand drums are the only

drums in this area that are carried by both men and women. Some hand drums are used for celebrations as well, or even competitions. However, any medicine hand drum is strictly used for ceremonial purposes.

The uncles wanted me to share that there are many different tribes holding different teachings regarding drums. These teachings the uncles are sharing with all of us are those of our people, the Anishinaabeg, but teachings may vary with other nations.

All drums have their own voices, their own unique spirits. When they sing they have the ability to carry our prayers out to creation with their resonating songs. Drums are very important to the cohesiveness and

connectedness of all of creation and should be regarded with reverence and respect.

There are specific protocols in place when it comes to drums. If you were interested having a drum at a celebration or ceremony, it would be proper to find those who care for a drum and offer them asemaa to sit down and talk with you. Of course, you can call the Cultural Department at (906) 632-7494.

The drum keeps us grounded, focused, prayerful and connected to our past; when we travel too far from it, the drum calls us back home, back to the circle where all things live as one.

Baamaa pii miinwaa kiwaab-min.

*Disclaimer:*

*The opinions and views of the Aunties may not reflect the opinions of this newspaper, the Sault Tribe, or any of its employees or affiliates. Furthermore, although we are all Anishinaabek, we understand things from our own unique perspectives. Therefore, it is our intention that no one will regard the contents of this column as absolute.*

Do you have a question for the aunties? Send your question in care of the newspaper. Please see page 2 for newspaper contacts.

## Old fashioned fry bread



- 4 c flour
- 2 tbsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 c shortening
- 1 c warm water

Mix flour, baking powder and salt. Gradually add in the shortening and water. Add only enough water to make dough stick together. Knead dough until smooth, make into fist-sized balls. Cover them with a towel for 10 minutes. Then, pat them out into circles and cut a slit in the middle. Fry in hot cooking oil in cast iron skillet until brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels.

## Healing Mother Earth ceremony on spring equinox, March 21

A Healing Mother Earth Spring Equinox for Earth, Peace, and Life will be held at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building, March 21 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Every sister, brother, family, group, council, collective, association, community, Native people, Native nation or any other tradition from every area on the planet can have activities before, during and after the grand ceremony of 8,000 sacred drums. These activities may be focused on the defense and respect of Mother Earth (jungles, forests, ceremonial centers and sacred sites), peace (for the collective rights of indigenous peoples and of all traditional societies worldwide) and life (equilibrium with animal, plant, mineral and human life. Life is sacred and in harmony and dignity with all living things.) Call Cecil Pavlat at (906) 440-7849 or ext 26140. Please feel free to bring your drums and rattles, we will be singing at noon. Potluck lunch to follow.

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### Sault Tribe Of Chippewa Indians Housing Authority Down Payment Assistance Available

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- Borrowers are required to participate in our Homebuyer Education sessions.



Contact Angie Spencer to receive an application.  
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906.635.7702  
1.800.794.4072  
[aspencer@saulttribe.net](mailto:aspencer@saulttribe.net)

| Income Limits |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Family Size   | Limit    |
| 1.....        | \$33,400 |
| 2.....        | \$38,150 |
| 3.....        | \$42,900 |
| 4.....        | \$47,700 |
| 5.....        | \$51,500 |
| 6.....        | \$55,300 |
| 7.....        | \$59,100 |
| 8.....        | \$62,950 |





# Health and beauty event held in Munising

SUBMITTED BY YEA

Cindy Blank YEA coordinator for Unit V, and Kim Swanberg, Title VII coordinator

for Munising Schools, teamed up again for the second year to provide a self-esteem building event for teen girls. Girls

were provided with fun games and other activities to promote healthy fitness ideas as well as teachings about healthy food alternatives.

The girls also had a self-esteem presentation and talking circle. Participants camped out in the school gymnasium overnight. On the next morning,

Northern Michigan University cosmetology students traveled to Munising to provide manicures, pedicures and hair tips for all of the girls.

Thank you to the Christmas Kewadin Casino and the Munising Title VII Parent Committee for their donations of \$150 each toward the presentation fee for the NMU Cosmetology Department.



Girls had the opportunity to learn about healthy hair, manicures, and pedicures. Left, is Tori Rousseau, Kacie Ekberg, Megan Watson and Carissa Johnson.



Nikki Swanberg gives a lesson on strong self-esteem.



Cosmetology students at work—Megan Watson gets a new do.



GIRL TALK—Students sitting in a talking circle introduce themselves, their age and one of their favorite things.

## Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center updates facility rules

Over the past year, Chi Mukwa has been working with various tribal departments and management to update the facility rules and to develop a code of conduct. The facility rules have been revised with the safety and comfort of our patrons in mind. With the assistance of the Youth Education and Activities Program, a code of conduct for the facility has also been developed. Listed below are the new facility rules and code of conduct members and patrons will soon see posted throughout the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center.

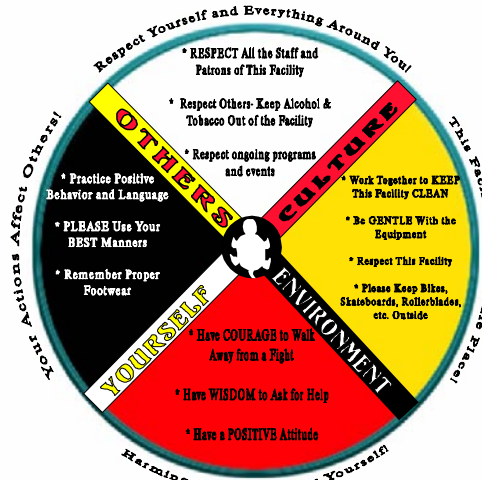
- All patrons must be engaged in facility activities or events. No loitering is allowed.
- All patrons and participants are expected to behave appropriately and treat others with courtesy, dignity and respect.
- Children 11 years of age or younger must be in a supervised program or be accompanied by a parent, another adult or a responsible adolescent (13–17) while using the facility.
- Alcohol and drugs are not permitted on the premises.
- Smoking and use of any type of smokeless tobacco is

BEAVERLY  
LOVE  
HONESTY

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### CODE OF CONDUCT

HUMILITY  
TRUTH  
WISDOM



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prohibited within the facility (tobacco is allowed for tribal ceremonial purposes only).

- Misuse or destruction of facility property is not acceptable.
- Foul language and fighting is not acceptable under any circumstance.
- Interruption of programs and events is unacceptable.
- Use of bicycles, roller blades, skateboards, scooters and roller shoes are not permitted inside the facility.

• Consumption of food and drinks is limited to the lobby area, mezzanine, hospitality room and designated areas within the ice arenas.

- Appropriate footwear and attire must be worn at all times.

Additional rules may be implemented without notice at the discretion of the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center Staff as deemed necessary for the safety and comfort of our patrons.

## Expanded drop-in basketball and volleyball hours

Following recent inquiries by members and approval from the Sault Tribe Board of Directors, Chi Mukwa is excited to announce drop-in hours for basketball and volleyball have been expanded for Sault Tribe members.

In the past, drop-in basketball and volleyball for members was limited to Sundays from 2:30-4:20 p.m. During the winter season, Saturdays were also available from 2:30-4:20 p.m. With the recent expansion of open hours, we are now able to

offer free open hours for basketball and volleyball from 5-8 a.m. Monday through Friday. These designated times are set aside for drop-in participants. Occasionally, the designated times listed are not available due to large facility events.

In addition, the basketball and volleyball courts will be open to members free of charge for drop-in during open times.

The courts are open Monday thru Friday 5 a.m.-9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., unless the courts

are privately rented or scheduled for maintenance.

The hours will also be posted for members' convenience outside of the courts. Members must check-in at the reception desk located on the first floor prior to use.

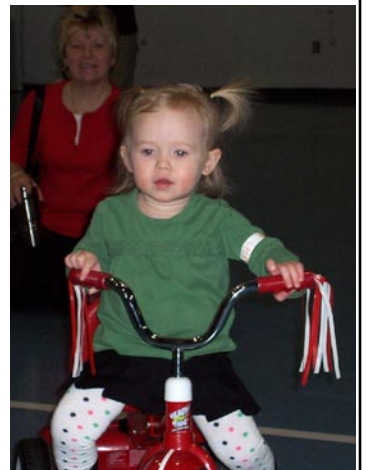
Members are encouraged to call the facility in advance as the hours will vary on a daily basis.

Members can contact the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center at (906) 635-7465.

## Totzone tots have fun meeting for play days



This participant wore his Rockstar glasses for a "Dance Party" themed Totzone.



Photos by Christina Wilkins  
Participants bring their riding toys to enjoy a fun day at Totzone!

## New publication takes mysteries out of Indian education

BY RICK SMITH

It's for the huddled masses yearning to understand, it's for educators yearning to be enlightened, it's for lawmakers and presidents yearning to stay in office: It's *Native Education 101: Basic Facts About American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Education*, a 24-page primer on the puzzle that is American Indian education.

The publication is the product of the National Education Association (NEA) and the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) working together to come up with something to help everyone cut through confusion and better understand Indian education past, present and into the future.

The NEA recently described Indian education in an announcement as a bureaucratic labyrinth that education advo-

cates must learn to navigate in order to help students succeed.

Members of the NIEA received the publication at the organization's recent annual legislative summit and federal lawmakers and NEA members will also receive copies.

The booklet contains information regarding Indian education on demographics, reservations and Native land maps, important community issues and concepts, educational issues for Native students, Indian education legislation and executive orders, frequently asked questions about Indians and Indian organizations.

According to the announcement, the publication is one of several NEA projects designed to help indigenous students.

The publication can be downloaded at [www.nea.org/mco/images/07nativeeducation101.pdf](http://www.nea.org/mco/images/07nativeeducation101.pdf).

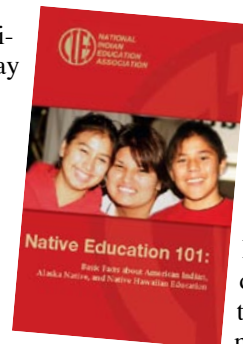






Photo courtesy of Fun Promotions, LLC  
Young snowcross racers grabbing air at the Feb. 16-17 St. Ignace MSXRA Snow Cross Race.

# Paquin gets Vandersloot award

*“Nothing is impossible if I try.”*

Christina Paquin (at right) of St. Ignace was chosen from a field of 1,000 athletes to receive the Rick Vandersloot award during the state Special Olympics winter games opening ceremonies held at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme on Jan. 31. Paquin was awarded a plaque and a Wertz Warriors jacket. She opened the games by reciting the Special Olympic Oath.

One athlete is chosen for this special award for sportsmanship, hard work in training, willingness to help others and best demonstrating the motto, “Nothing is impossible if I try.”

The award is given in Rick Vandersloot’s memory. Vandersloot was a member of Schuss Mountain and Sugar Loaf Mountain Resort management staff who gave much of himself to the athletes during the state winter games. He died unexpectedly in 1982.

Paquin competed in cross-country skiing receiving a bronze medal in the 1K and a bronze medal in the 3K. She is the daughter of Bernard and Viola Paquin.



# Special Olympics athletes conquer 2008 state winter games, get medals

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Special Olympics Michigan Area 35 proudly announces the successes of Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce Counties Special Olympics athletes at the 2008 state winter games held Jan. 30-Feb. 2 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Schuss Village and the Howe Ice Area near Traverse City.

The 31st annual event featured six winter sports including alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoe, snowboarding, speed skating and figure skating. About 1,000 athletes and 500 volunteers attended the games, which makes this the second largest annual event for Special Olympics Michigan.

The following athletes earned recognition: Joan Aikens of Sault Ste. Marie won in cross-country skiing, netting a silver medal in the 1K and a silver medal in the 3K.

Christina Paquin of St. Ignace won in cross-country

skiing, taking away a bronze medal in the 1K and another bronze in the 3K.

Larry Kovack of Sault Ste. Marie won in cross-country skiing, took fourth in 1K and a bronze medal in the 3K.

Russell Dunlap of Newberry won in cross-country skiing, taking home gold in the 1K, a

silver in the 3K and a silver in the 5K.

Jon Luc Detroyer of Newberry won in cross-country skiing, winning a bronze medal in the 1K, fourth in the 3K and a bronze medal in the 5K.

For more information on Special Olympics Michigan Area 35, call (906) 635-5680.

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# Kewadin Shores Casino awards MegaJackpot

ST. IGNACE — On March 2, 2008, Pamela Vandorpe won \$135,848 when she hit a Wheel of Fortune® quarters MegaJackpot® at the Kewadin Shores Casino on Saturday, March 1.

The winner, a retiree from Charlotte, Mich., said she was celebrating her 32nd anniversary. “We like Kewadin Shores, and I love Wheel of Fortune” Vandorpe commented. After investing about \$20 into the winning machine, Vandorpe said she was surprised she won the top progressive prize. “The person next to me informed me that I had won ‘the big one’” she said. When asked about immediate plans for her MegaJackpot winnings, Vandorpe reported that she will be “paying off” her new cabin.

Saturday’s MegaJackpot prize is the first to be paid at the casino so far this year.

Kewadin Shores has now paid nine MegaJackpots totaling over \$4.8 million in prize money since 1997, including two jackpots for over one million dollars each. The first, and largest jackpot hit in July of 1997 on a Wheel of Fortune machine in the amount of \$1,182,166. In May of 2003, the casino paid a \$1.2 million Fabulous Fifties™ progressive. Last year, an impressive \$500,000 Wheelionaire™ MegaJackpot on Oct. 15 by the casino.

Combined, Kewadin casinos have paid out over \$16 million in prize money. The Kewadin Casinos subscribe to a Native American progressive gaming network that includes over 300 casinos in 16 states. Each time a coin is played in a linked machine, anywhere in the network, the cumulative jackpot continues to grow.

## 5-year Perfect Attendance Winners

Special congratulations to Kewadin St. Ignace team members Ernie Terry, table games; Beverly Lambert, housekeeping; Mary Rose, cage; Caroline Davis, tour host; Mark Alkire, Horse Shoe Bay Restaurant; Tracey McCluskey, cage; and Donna Davidson, cage, for earning their five years perfect attendance award. The winners received flowers, a one night stay for two at any Kewadin hotel, dinner for two at any



**Tracey McCluskey from the cage after receiving her award.**

Kewadin restaurant and show tickets for two with a paid day off.

## Meet Angie Meffer, Kewadin Manistique’s Team Member of the Year

Angie Meffer was recently selected Team Member of the Year at Kewadin Manistique.

The team member of the year is selected by their peers and receives a personal plaque; \$200, entertainment tickets, dinner, and a hotel stay along with a plaque that is located in each casino.

Angie has been working with Kewadin for seven years in the cage as a vault cashier. During this time, she has received praise for her compassion, volunteerism, professionalism and her dedication to her job. “Angie is very personable and has great job knowledge,” said Geoff Vallier, assistant casino manager. “She is very dependant, has an excellent attendance record and goes



**From left: Assistant casino manager, Geoff Vallier; Team Member of the Year, Angie Meffer; cage manager, Terry LaVigne; casino manager, Tanya MacDonald; and team member, Joe Miller, who nominated Meffer for the award.**

above and beyond when called upon.”

The award was given to Angie during a special presentation with her family and

team members. She lives in Thompson, with her husband Jim. She has four children, Jim, Corina, Tiffany, and Joey. She has one grandchild on the way.

## Meet James Hancock, Kewadin Sault’s Team Member of the Year

James Hancock was recently selected Team Member of the Year at Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie.

The team member was chosen by peers for this award and will receive a personal plaque; \$200, entertainment tickets, dinner, and a hotel stay along with a plaque that is located in each casino.

Hancock has been working with Kewadin for 12 years in the Dream Catchers Restaurant as a line cook. During this time, he has received praise for his work ethic and dedication to his job.

“Jimmy is extremely deserving of this award,” said Douglas Hartley, Executive Chef and Hancock’s supervi-



**Left, Janice Frye, Food and Beverage director, Tony Goetz, chief operating officer, Team Member of the Year James Hancock, Steve Sprecker, general manager and Douglas Hartley, executive chef.**

sor. “He is a hard worker, has great attendance and really cares about what he does.”

Hancock was given the award during a team member appreciation event in front of

200 of his peers.

Hancock lives in Pickford with his wife, Maggie, and his five children Rebecca, Erica, Jonathan, Micheal, and Melinda.

# Table games are fun for everyone to play! Try it!

BY TOM SHANEBERGER, KEWADIN CASINOS INTERN

The exhilarating world of table games is foreign to many patrons of the casino. Their gaming experience involves playing machines such as slots, video poker, and keno. While for many this is by choice, there are others who are intrigued by the buzz and excitement coming from “the pit” but are intimidated by a number of factors.

Whether it is blackjack, roulette, craps, specialty card games, or live action poker, there are many questions running through the potential player’s mind. What are the procedures of the game? Will the dealers be willing or able to help? How do I know what to do?

When playing table games, never be afraid to ask questions. The dealers and table game supervisors or “pit bosses” are more than happy to help explain the policies and procedures of any games.

The most popular table game in the casino, blackjack, is usually the first game a newcomer to table games will play. Most people are familiar with the general concept of blackjack, and just need a little guidance on the casino procedures. The

procedures described here are for blackjack played with multiple decks of cards dealt out of a large plastic cardholder called a shoe, or dealt from a continuous shuffle machine.

When you decide to take the plunge into table games, be sure to find a table with betting limits you are comfortable with. Every table will have a sign indicating the minimum and maximum bets allowed on the table.

The next step is to locate an open spot to play. Every table has a circle, symbol, or other shape where bets must be placed. Most casinos allow players to play one spot or two spots that are right next to each other. You may sit at any one (or two) of these spots that are not being used by another player. Depending on the specific rules of the game, a new player may have to wait until the cards are shuffled to begin playing. The dealer will let you know if this is the case.

Once you are ready to play, place the money you would like to spend on the game on the table in front of you. This is called your buy in. The dealer will exchange it for chips or coins with which to place your bets. The dealers are not

allowed to take money from your hand, you must always place it on the table for them to pick up. This rule applies to every table game in the casino. Now you are ready to play!

Place the amount you would like to bet on the next hand in the spot for bets in front of you, which was described earlier. The dealer will begin the game. When it is your turn indicate what your action will be.

Common actions are hitting, standing, splitting and doubling down. Rules as far as what these actions can be and how to indicate them differ from casino to casino and between different variations of blackjack games. If you don’t know what these rules are, just ask the dealer, that is what they are there for!

Some of the most important things you need to know for game play are the universal gestures for hitting and standing. If you would like to take another card scratch or tap the table with your index finger. If you are happy with the cards you have, make a waving motion with your palm parallel to the table. The dealer will then deal out the rest of the hand, including his own hand. At Kewadin, the dealer must draw to 16 and stands on all

17s. The dealer then pays the winning bets and takes the losing bets.

Some important rules to remember while playing blackjack are never touch your original bet once the dealer has started dealing the hand and never touch the cards.

You may quit playing any time you like in between hands. When you decide to leave the game the dealer likes to “color-up” your chips or coins to higher denomination chips. This allows the dealer to keep the smaller denomination chips or coins in their tray and make it easier to carry.

Before you leave, don’t forget to tip your helpful dealer! A large percentage of a dealer’s pay is made up of the tips they receive. While tipping is largely a personal choice, most players like to give tips if they are winning or if a dealer has been especially friendly and helpful to them. Many players like to place bets that are for the dealer instead of just giving them a tip. In blackjack you can place a bet next to your own bet for the dealer. If you win the hand, the bet for the dealer wins too! Once again, if you have any questions, just ask a dealer or pit boss.

When you get the hang of playing at the blackjack table, other table games will be easier to venture into. Other games in the pit such as craps and roulette have different game-specific policies and procedures, but don’t worry, the dealers will help you become familiar with them.

One of the best things you can do to familiarize yourself with the game is to spend time watching the action. Just try not to stand too close behind the players, especially if you are observing a poker game, as this can tend to make them uncomfortable.

If you decide you would like to try your hand at live poker, just ask the pit boss (sometimes called a floor person in the poker room) what you need to do to get in the game. He or she will also be happy to tell you about the rules of the games in their poker room.

The table games pit can be a fun and exciting gaming experience for many people. The questions that face many potential table games players are easily answered by the dealers and pit bosses.

Just remember, they are there to help you, all you have to do is ask!



# CHAIRPERSON'S BUFFALO GIVE-A-WAY



**AARON A. PAYMENT**  
TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON  
REPRESENTING ALL MEMBERS  
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Election code restrictions limit my report to 500 words during an election cycle.

## IN OUR INDIAN TRADITION

A few years ago, an opportunity presented itself to our tribe to acquire two buffalo that had broken free from a herd in South Dakota. Because there is no good way to get these animals back to the herd, a call

was put out for tribes to claim a buffalo. At the time, I had the authority to expend funds to purchase these animals for food. Recently, this opportunity presented itself again. Currently, however, given the tribal board has restricted my spending authority, I have chosen to use my own personal funds to buy these animals, have them processed, and give them away in our old Indian tradition.

I am acquiring seven buffalo and distributing them throughout Units I through V in the UP, and throughout Lower Michigan in Cheboygan, Detroit, Lansing, and Grand Rapids. Depending on how quickly I can get them processed, I will deliver them during the March or April tribal town meetings.

## PROTECTING YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

One of the only true protections against a tyrannical government is your tribal constitutional right of referendum. Under Article IX - Right of

Referendum, it states:

*Any enacted or proposed ordinance or resolution of the board of directors SHALL be submitted to a popular referendum ...when so requested by a petition presented to the board of directors bearing the signatures of at least one hundred (100) eligible voters of the tribe.*

On Jan. 15, the tribal board took an egregious step toward stripping the chairperson/CEO

of the constitutional authority to manage the operations of the tribe. What does the constitution say?

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

The above authorizes the chairperson as the lead admin-

istrator of the tribe. It allows for the board to delegate additional authority but it clearly does not permit taking any authority away from the chairperson position.

On Feb. 13, nearly 300 voting members of the tribe invoked their constitutional right of referendum to put the board's Jan. 15 decision to a vote of the people. Now, the only thing left for the tribal board to do is to respect the members' constitutional rights and schedule a vote of the people. If you support maintaining the authority our constitution grants the chairperson position, please VOTE 'NO' on this referendum to overturn the board's decision to undo what you put in place when you cast your vote for the chairperson/CEO. G'chi Miigwech! For tribal town meetings dates, refer to the calendar of events on page 35.

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



# Patience is golden ...



**TOM MILLER, DIRECTOR,**  
UNIT IV

Well, patience does pay off. On Feb. 22, an open house was held at the Willow Creek Professional building in the newly leased second floor meeting area. The Unit IV Escanaba area tribal members finally

have someplace to call home. The new meeting area will be utilized for elder functions, commodity distribution, youth activities and general community activities. I would like to thank Chairman Payment and my Unit IV counterpart, Denise Chase, for staying the course in our efforts to secure a community meeting place.

The board of directors continues its business-as-usual work, which is needed to continue program services and daily operations. One item of concern that will be taking up a majority of time is the recently received Constitution draft. I have reviewed it closely and there are some items that still need to be worked out. Once the Constitution is workable, we must work on three major steps:

- 1) In what form will the Constitution be presented to the tribal members for a vote?
- 2) What will be the plan of implementation?
- 3) How will the implementation and changes be paid for?

I believe these questions must be answered as quickly as possible.

On a national front, the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes will be holding its conference in Washington, D.C., March 11-13. This is a time the board must be politically active and engage our representatives and senators on tribal needs and concerns and use our unique government-to-government status. Proactive, not reactive, is something the tribe must become.

We continue to proceed

on the land claims settlement regarding Charlotte Beach and I am sure you have read the newspaper articles about our recent successes getting it out of the House Natural Resources Committee.

It is still a long process to get the claim settled and our ultimate goal of a Romulus casino. It will take extra patience and perseverance to accomplish this goal.

Greektown Casino is over the halfway mark in the overall expansion with the parking ramp open for business, the hotel and gaming floor well under way. If things stay on schedule, we will see revenues begin to flow north in 2009. The goal is \$20 million per year, but any positive flow will be considered a plus. This year,

we are at zero as a result of the construction required as part of the original development agreement.

We are also in the process of attempting to acquire a Greektown equity partner. Our first attempt was not successful and the agreement terminated, but we have other interested parties and I will keep you informed. I continue to be an integral part of this process in working to ensure that this project becomes a positive and stable financial contributor to the tribal community.

I am in the initial stages of my re-election campaign and will begin in earnest over the next few weeks. If you have any questions, please contact me at (906) 644-3334 or on my cell phone at (906) 322-3827.

# Don't take my homeland away from me



**CATHY ABRAMSON, DIRECTOR,**  
UNIT I

It has come to my attention that an inappropriate message was included with our elders' checks this year. There were statements made in the cover letter that the board voted down

an increase in the elders' payments. It implies that there are only two members of the board who care about the monetary needs of the elders. This is not true. If we could, the entire board would increase the elders' checks to \$5,000 or more, but that would not be fiscally responsible. The truth of the matter is that any individual on our board can promise you the world, but that doesn't mean it is possible.

The Constitution Committee has brought forward their final draft to the board of directors. Thank you committee members for the countless hours that you have put into this document. It was not an easy task.

The entire proposed draft constitution was placed in our

tribal newspaper. Have you read it yet? Other than the Constitution Committee and board, I have yet to have one tribal member tell me that they have read the entire draft. The majority of the board has some serious concerns with the proposed constitution.

However, it's not just the board, it's also members of the Constitution Committee who are not completely satisfied with the document in its entirety. I have heard committee members say they wanted to create a separation of powers and put in a system of checks and balances. Admirable as their goal may have been, I do not believe it has been achieved in this document. For this very reason, I cannot sup-

port the draft as it currently stands.

Another powerful reason is that all the membership living outside of Michigan must register in one of the three proposed units in Lower Michigan. They would not be able to register to vote in the place they were born and raised.

An elder who lives in South Carolina but originally from Gould City (Unit II), deeply distraught over the possibility of being displaced told me, "Don't take my homeland away from me." She speaks for so many people. There are numerous tribal members who live outside of Michigan who have strong family ties to the Upper Peninsula. Those are

the ties that bind us as one and make us a tribe.

Some people may want to say that it's a power struggle between the board and the chair. But in the end, this has to be a document that defines us as a people and truly sets us apart from other minorities. We shouldn't be a poor copy of the U.S. Constitution, but a unique original government that reflects our history and our traditions. It is my responsibility as your board member to make sure that the final document that does go out to the vote of the people is one that upholds the integrity of our tribe.

Please contact me at (906) 322-3823 or [cabramson@saulttribe.net](mailto:cabramson@saulttribe.net). I look forward to hearing from you.



# Tribe is nearing a complete meltdown



**TODD K. GRAVELLE,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

The upcoming election will decide the fate of the new constitution. The structural problems of this tribal government will continue no matter who is elected to office. The question is: Do members care enough to demand these changes to finally solve the structural problems facing this government?

For over four years, I have tried to convince this board and the membership of why these changes are needed. It appears my predictions of a total meltdown of this government are starting to come true. One clear example comes to mind. The board of directors, in a spiteful and dangerous attempt to under-

mine the chairperson, passed a resolution to have the associate directors of this tribe report directly to the board of directors, completely bypassing the chairperson/chief executive officer (CEO). This is illegal but they did it anyway. The chairperson, under the constitution, is the CEO. No one can dispute this. He is elected at-large by the entire membership and his power to do his job comes directly from the people.

Now, he does not supervise anyone! You heard that right. He should just stay home and not even come to work under this crazy structure. How can you hold the chairperson accountable for anything if he does not supervise anyone? The associate directors do not know what to do. Do they report to the chairperson/CEO as the constitution requires or do they have to wait a week before the board even has a meeting?

This board is power hungry and is drunk with its own pursuit of power. They will destroy the office of chairperson if they cannot have it for themselves. It is truly the most dysfunctional system that I have seen in my entire life.

What is also disturbing to me is that the other board members

will not even devote the time and effort necessary to get any positive things done. There were numerous times when I called upon the board to call special meetings, workshops and other informal meetings to discuss our differences in order to pass meaningful legislation to make positive changes in our communities. Despite all of the lip service in the newspaper, they are not even willing to put in one extra day of work despite the fact that we all make \$67,000 a year.

What other elected position do you know of that pays that type of money for one day a week of work? These board members even get paid per diem for their travel, health insurance, phone and computer and you can't even get them to devote one more day of work to deal with these pressing issues. It is very frustrating.

One can only conclude that they are not committed to devoting the time necessary to make any positive changes. There is a stack of tabled resolutions that the board will not even discuss despite their promises to get to it later. There is a stack of suggested changes to the employment manual that the board is not willing to act on.

They seem to think that they are entitled to special privileges and do not need to be bothered with something like having a meeting to get something done.

When this type of mentality develops, these board members do not serve their constituents but only serve themselves—what I call the God complex. Perhaps the most disturbing thing of all is that the board seems disturbed by any suggestion of devoting any time to the new constitution. This project cost the tribe over \$400,000, two years of meetings by committed volunteers with the membership, and a wholesale restructuring of our government for the better.

The new constitution contains: an independent court system with elected judges and prosecutor, a new comprehensive Bill of Rights with employment protections, at-large representation, referendum on our treaty rights, right to Initiative, opportunity to amend the constitution by the people, right of recall and many other improvements. What is wrong with these changes? What are their objections? This board should be locked up in a room and required to work out their concerns and get this done once and for all.

There is a rising tide of anger and frustration building in our communities. Any board member who does not recognize this will soon see the wrath of the membership come down upon them. They see this board as dysfunctional, unproductive and incompetent. There will come a point when they demand complete and total change in this system of government. We can do these changes voluntarily if the board will only do the right thing by making these changes to offer stability rather than anarchy.

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of all is that, at a time when we most need to work together to offer our people hope and solutions to our problems, we see anarchy. Michigan's economy is the worst in the nation with the highest unemployment rates seen in decades. The challenges we face in this poor economy must be met with unity of purpose. If we do not work together to solve these problems things will only get worse.

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

## Minority sale stalled ...



**LANA CAUSLEY,** DIRECTOR,  
UNIT II

In my last report, I addressed a minority sale at the Greektown level. Unfortunately, this sale did not come to resolution. Once again, we are seeking other alternatives for

Greektown. Our financial difficulties are no secret and it will take the entire board to ensure our financial security. As stated, Greektown is the largest revenue-generating property we can count on to assist with our rising operational budgets for membership services.

We have had many problems this past year, including a loan from the Elders' Fund to make a construction payment. I reported to all elder groups (Unit II) that I did not support this loan. Understanding that we have difficulties, I recommended that the CEO/chairman bring back some alternatives to our problems with possible reductions that would not affect services or employment — to me the Elders' Fund was not an option. We have never seen an alterna-

tive plan. We are still waiting for monthly reports from the CEO; the board-enacted resolution (2007-154) for monthly reporting **has not** been adhered to.

The Constitution Committee has been working hard on the final document, with a board vote of 11-1 to send the document back to the committee for the following reasons:

A complete fiscal analysis of how much the new Constitution will cost to implement (last estimate \$1.3 to \$3.4 million; this analysis has been requested by the board and committee for over a year) is needed.

The final document did not go back to the committee, which voted 14-0 that the final would be sent directly to them to ensure it was complete

after the final revisions by the attorney. The committee would then present to the board. (The document was intercepted and the motion was ignored by the chairman and sent with mistakes, words missing and incomplete sentences.) There is no conspiracy as reported in "media releases." The committee had asked that it be able to review the final document and present to the board. The board was to remain neutral in this process, again this did not happen. The chairman intercepted the document and left the committee's wishes/motion unfulfilled. I would encourage you to contact committee members; they have voiced concerns.

Once the document is complete with the committee stating it is **final** and ready to be sent,

I will then vote to send it. The following directors voted to send the document **BACK** to the committee: Directors Miller, Chase, Lapoint, Petoskey, Paquin, Eitrem, Hoffman, Abramson, Massaway, McKelvie and I. If there is any conspiracy (this time) as the chairman reported, it is the entire board he is blaming! The constant cries of conspiracy are very disturbing and affects the tribe terribly.

Miigwech, to all the TRIBAL MEMBERS on the committee. As stated in the meeting with the board, many of you are upset about the attacks on your committee, and I am sorry. Your dedication and long hours of volunteer work for our tribe is appreciated.

### UNIT II meetings

Representative Lana Causley's upcoming office hours and community committee meetings:

Naubinway – March 26, Snowmobile Museum, 12 to 5 p.m.

Hessel – March 17, Hessel Tribal Center, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Newberry – March 28, Newberry Tribal Center, 9 to 11 a.m.

DeTour Unit meeting, DeTour Township Hall, April 3, 5:30 p.m.

Hessel Powwow Committee meeting, Hessel Tribal Center, March 27, 7 p.m.

Newberry Powwow Committee meeting, Newberry Tribal Center, April 25 1 p.m.

L.I.F.T. Meeting, Cedarville Library, March 10, teens – 6:30 pm; meetings – 7 p.m.

## On tribal matters for Unit III



**KEITH MASSAWAY,** DIRECTOR,  
UNIT III

The sun is shining a little longer and stronger now and it does make it feel more like

spring, even though the temperature isn't cooperating. I have enjoyed the beautiful sunrises and sunsets lately.

I have received a few phone calls concerning our lack of a dentist at the Lambert Center in St. Ignace. We have lost our dentist and the Health Division and the Human Resources Division are vigorously recruiting to fill the vacancy. As of this date, no replacement has been identified. It seems that there are too few dentists to fulfill all the needs of the many tribes in this country.

The board of directors passed into law Chapter 21, the inland hunting, fishing and gathering code. This is a

58-page document that is very detailed and well thought out. I want to thank all the committees responsible for all the work that went into the process. The committees are in the process of compiling a more condensed and readable booklet that will be available to the public later this year.

The Greektown Building Project is on track but finances are very precarious because the lending institutions' refusal to allow us to draw down money on our loan. We are working on many levels to remedy this problem but the future is unclear.

The St. Ignace elders had

a soup and fry bread dinner fund-raiser at the last St. Ignace board of directors meeting. The meal was excellent and I commend everyone on their hard work and effort to put on this event.

Our tribal elections are coming up soon so, if you are not registered to vote, please do so soon. Please remember if you wish to receive the federal economic stimulus check this summer you must file a tax return. Some elders don't have a need to file tax returns, but file anyway so you can receive a stimulus check. If you don't file a tax return they will not send a stimulus check.



# Tribe needs sound economic development



**ROBERT LAPOINT, DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

If we intend to develop our tribe and create an economic future, we are going to have to create a "standard" that protects our investments and resources.

I wrote a letter to express my strong opposition to the proposed sale of 22 percent of Greektown casino to Mr. Tom Celani. The proposed deal between the Greektown management board and Tom Celani is not the solution we need and it might only aggravate our situation further. I think the range and the size of this deal is totally out of focus for the harm it could do. I opposed the Celani stock sale because it will devalue our stock. The sale of 22 percent represents 1/5 of the total. That means the remaining 78 percent would only be worth about \$385 million or a lot less than we owe. To devalue our stock like this could do us irreparable harm. We have come too far to have Greektown stolen from us. Other provisions in this deal could also be dangerous. An investor that becomes the manager of Greektown could manage us right out of business and effectively take over the controlling interest of Greektown.

I was against Greektown from the beginning. Indian tribes had a monopoly on gaming in Michigan. We had 100 percent of something. In my first campaign for chairman,

I wrote that Greektown could bankrupt this tribe.

And that was before we made the deal with the Greeks.

Thinking and acting bigger than we really are is what got us into trouble. We do not want to lose all our equity and investment and end up failing in debt. At least I would like the members to be aware of the facts. We do not want to devalue our stock. I have an interested party who is interested in purchasing Greektown. He is willing to pay \$800 million and give us 10 percent of the profits indefinitely. This would actually represent a net gain for our tribe.

I want the members to know there are other options. We have to do something, the other two casinos are showing steady profit, we show a steady decline. Dealing with the federal and state governments is unlike commercial partners. They are unforgiving when it comes to making a deal. The 24 percent money that we have to give the state is too big of an obligation. They require that we meet this obligation regardless if we make money.

Launching this enterprise off reservation land has proven to be very difficult because of the federally mandated gaming agreements or compacts with the state officials and we are being treated unfairly.

Greektown casino has eroded our tribal sovereignty and it continues to be a financial drain. We could walk away with \$150 million if we sold it for the offer of \$800 million. We have to develop our tribe, we have to be willing to trade and make deals. What to do with the \$150 million would be the next question.

I like the words of John McCain when he says, "They spend money like drunken sailors." The problem we are having right now is simple. Our income is down, our bills have increased, and our board is fighting each other. This is frustrating.

When given the opportunity to establish potentially profitable relationships, I say potentially because our government has lost what it means to have a consensus government. It's not the members who are fighting, it's the BOD.

With the economy the way it is, we don't have time to waste, we are supposed to be acting like a national government, developing Indian land is our hope for the future.

Extremism is not the way to govern and the members deserve better. We have been a corporate government for less than 35 years but we have been a "unique people" for thousands of years with values and ethics.

I understand what Aaron is trying to do. He has been trying to keep this tribe from some day going into a constitutional crisis mode. We are almost there. We need a constitution by the people and for the people. A constitution so our sovereign nation can finally emerge. I understand that Aaron wants to create a more democratic government. I agree with this and support the concept of a new constitution. This is the best way to secure the democratic process. Sooner or later we are going to have to step up to the plate or we will fall back on our face. We have gone through the membership process. We need to finish this. I believe the new constitution is important and so is protecting our tribal economy.

Trying to switch the focus and trying to get people interested in new business has been difficult. The damage that was done by the last administration is our biggest obstacle right now. The money that we have paid the Greek partner could have been our money. The money that we are giving the state will keep us from ever getting out of debt.

There is talk about hiring an EDC director to try and bring business to the tribe. I don't know what for. I have given

out plenty of ideas along with commercial partners and so far this BOD hasn't shown any interest. Maybe if we pass the new constitution we can get back to business.

Let me tell you what we had a shot at. We could have gone into business with a company from China, we could have made arrangements to dock up to five big cargo ships in Mackinaw City or Drummond Island. We could have operated the warehouse for these cargo ships and for WalMart. We did not act and this company decided on a port in Canada.

We had a shot at a security contract with the Homeland Security. This would have been a \$38 million deal and might have employed 30 to 40 people. Instead of having me go negotiate the deal, it was passed off to a very inexperienced person who did not know the art of making a deal.

Just last weekend I helped arrange financial backing for a Indian-owned company that will be working with the defense department. The specifics and details are not important, the point is there are plenty of opportunities and we need to stop the bickering and focus on building our tribal economy.

I know we are still paying a huge heating bill at the Big Bear arena. I know the bill is way over \$500,000 per year. We could invest \$120,000 and save \$200,000 a year on this heating bill. We don't need a EDC director to tell us that saving money is like making money. When it comes to economic development, we should be united but for some reason, some of them political, we are in gridlock.

We have an election coming up, we have the opportunity to make our tribal government more effective. Nothing gives me greater satisfaction than to see our democracy in action. I will not run for chairman again and this will be my last two

years on the BOD. I do believe we should set term limits. This is a debate I think our members should be involved in.

Right now we are operating outside of our constitution, having one representative for every 500 members is totally outdated but instead of trying to correct this, our constitution is being ignored. This is not being petty, it is a failure in our role as leaders to not fix this problem. Is it because we might have to restructure the money that the board gets paid?

The board of directors purpose is to help every member realize the dream of tribal leadership. We need to represent the inspiration to others and welcome them into the process. We need business people to come forward and help. We need candidates who have a better than average education seeking the opportunity to lead us into the future. We can accomplish our goals if our motivation is to help the tribe create new standards for doing business.

Politics for the sake of politics won't pay the rent. We need candidates who are committed not only to their own success but also to the success of our people. We need better marketing. Changing agencies is NOT the solution.

There is no special protocol for a leader to acquire this commitment but there is a protocol for this government to convey the opportunity to as many members as possible. If we are to succeed as a nation, then we need to govern by consensus.

We need to look for candidates who have a balance between business competence and personal judgement. A candidate that operates with ethical intent will be willing to embrace democratic change. Then maybe we can get down to building our Tribal economy.

For More Information, contact me: Bob LaPoint, Unit II, (906) 493-5311.

## Board of directors meeting summary for Feb. 12

SAULT STE. MARIE—The Sault Tribe Board of Directors held a special meeting on Tue., Feb. 12 in Sault Ste. Marie.

The following resolutions were passed: 2008 Tribal Voter Registration Mail-Out with 2008 Election Announcement and Chief Financial Officer Internal Funds Access.

The following resolutions failed: None

The following resolutions were removed from the draft agenda: 2008 Election Announcement, Clarification Tribal Offices-Chapter 10, and Public Release of Forensic Audit.

The following resolutions were added to the agenda: Chief Financial Officer Internal Funds Access.

New business: All new business items were removed from the draft agenda.

Legislative summary:

The voter registration resolution, which asks the election committee to conduct a voter registration drive as required in the election code, was approved and referred to committee. A two-week time frame was given for the election committee to respond to or take action on the resolution.

The Chief Financial Officer Internal Fund Access resolution will allow the CFO access to other tribal cash reserves up to \$10 million for cash flow purposes. A close to \$9 million government deficit, other tribal budget issues, financing related to Greektown Casino, and delays in federal funding for Indian Health Services combined with a casino revenue slow-down period between January and April were noted as reasons to

access the reserves if needed. A detailed report of any and all expenditures incurred out of this legislation will be provided

to the board of directors. The land claims fund was noted as a reserve that can be accessed, however, a 12 percent payback

rate for the first year with a 1 percent increase every year thereafter was included in the legislation.

## Feb. 19 board meeting briefs

ST. IGNACE, Mich.—The Sault Tribe Board of Directors held a regular meeting on Feb. 19 in St. Ignace.

AGENDA

The following resolutions were added to the agenda: Unit III Elderly Advisory Board Bylaws Amendment; FY 2008 Budget Modification: Conservation Management.

The following resolutions were removed from the agenda: Revenue Sharing Plan, Amending Tribal Code: Employee Appeals/Grievance; and Tribal Elders' Dividend Increase.

The following resolutions

were passed: Unit III Elderly Advisory Board Bylaws Amendment; Acceptance of Indian Housing Plan Year 11; Rural Domestic Violence; Registered Dietitian Day; Appellate Judge Winnick, Appellate Judge Kronk, Reserve Appellate Judge Justin, Associate Judge Palmer, Assistant Judge Eggert; BIA Request for Tribal Assistance; Allowing Decedent's Use of Tribal Logo; Developing EDC Director Position; and Tribal Interpretive Center.

All fiscal year 2008 budget modifications related to breast health grant, accounting, child-

care, family violence, violence against women, inland fishing and wildlife, LIHEAP, USDA, Manistique Health Clinic, wellness center and WIA were approved.

The following resolutions failed: Amending Chapter 42: Gaming Ordinance (died for lack of support); 2008 Voter Registration (died for lack of support).

The following resolutions were tabled: FY 2008 Budget Modification: Conservation Management; Adoption of Purchasing Policy Statement; Request for Secretarial

See "Feb. 19 briefs," page 31



# Light the fire, don't blow the smoke !!!!



**DJ HOFFMAN, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT I**

Officially the race is under way. People are running left, people are running right, and some are running in all different directions.

In the next few months you will hear many promises and ideas. The latter of the two is something we can all benefit from. Ideas and concepts breathe life into stagnant waters. Unfortunately promises, such as Nation Wide Health Care and Revenue Sharing, we have been accustomed to hearing (even during the "off season") are nothing more than pure smoke that lacks the spark of the fire brought from ideas, concepts, due diligence, and a reality check.

The tribe is facing extremely difficult financial strains, and more loom on the horizon. Earlier this year \$1.2 million dollars was given to employees from tribal cash flow as a rewards-based incentive. I was criticized, demonized and belittled for voting 'no' on this expenditure (see my photo on this page taken from Web site). By no means was I opposed to showing our team members appreciation for their service to the tribe, however, I would rather keep them working than give out a one time \$500 (taxable) bonus with no plan on how to offset the expenditure. **WE WERE RECENTLY FORCED TO BORROW FROM THE LAND CLAIMS FUNDS (ELDER FUNDS) to fund items such as tribal payroll and debt service for our casinos.**

**THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PROMISES ARE MADE WITH NO RHYME OR REASON...**

Recently there has also been a lot of media related to "meeting the needs of the neediest."

Ironically, the majority of this has been distributed to the membership via e-mail and web based communication. Are you aware that according to The National Council for Science and the Environment (<http://ncseonline.org/>):

About 144 million people — 52 percent of the U.S. population — have home access to the Internet?

Web surfers earning more than \$75,000 make up nearly one-third of total users?

Lower-income Internet users represent only 10 percent of the total online population?

Conveying the stance of meeting the "needs of the neediest" is quite contradictory when the majority of the people that have had this message conveyed to them would not fit within the parameters.

If people really want to know what the needs of the membership are, they need to get out there and ask... Listen to their concerns and issues; do not tell them what you believe them to be.

While some of the "SMOKE" related damages have been addressed in the previous paragraphs it extremely important to move on to IGNITING THE FIRE. While we are facing difficult financial issues, all is not doom and gloom if we take a pro-active approach.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE FAT

We have an excess of administrative expense actually inclusive of managers for managers. These types of expenditures need to be rectified immediately. I realize that some will rebut these statements, but those same individuals know the simple truth, we need to re-structure the entire tribe and its enterprises (including Greektown). Money spent on wages, training, and travel in redundant or nonproductive environments has a better use, membership and debt service. The only way to climb out of a hole is to first stop digging!

#### ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Services cost money, it's that simple. We cannot afford to have all of our "eggs" in the proverbial casino basket. We need to diversify.

I introduced a resolution last meeting to direct staff to research and develop a job

description for an economic development director position as well as research grant funding opportunities to finance such a position. Ironically, a request to attempt to diversify the tribe through no expense was met with nearly 45 minutes of questions and nonflattering commentary. There are funds out there to move our tribe forward. In fact By taking a mere 5 minutes to search the United States Economic Development Agency, <http://www.eda.gov/>, I found the following recently awarded grants:

February 25-29, 2008

— \$411,000 to the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, to support development and implementation of a long-term strategy for a comprehensive, entrepreneurial and innovative effort to enhance and diversify the economy of the Red River Valley Research Corridor in Grand Forks County

December 10-21, 2007

— \$3.4 million to the Navajo Nation, Window Rock, Arizona, to support the construction of a building in the Church Rock Industrial Park on the Navajo Reservation to house a manufacturing firm, as well as a training center and small business incubator.

\$1.8 million to the Chilkat Indian Village, Haines, Alaska, for the construction of the Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center Hospitality House, a key installation for serving the tourism industry that will strengthen the local economy and create jobs.

\$1.217 million to the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Ariz., to support construction of a small business incubator facility and provide office space for existing business in the Bylas District Plaza on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

Have you noticed the amount, as well as the recipients that received the GRANT awards? **WE COULD BE ONE OF THOSE RECIPIENTS.** This was a mere five minute search, imagine if someone actually did extensive research on the funding possibilities out there.

In the past the Tribe had many squandered economic activities. Some ventures were doomed to fail, while others were just simply managed poorly. There were, however, many steps by which we can learn to

move our tribe forward.

One such step was the utilization of assistance from external expertise, in the following examples "free" expertise.

University of Michigan Domestic Corps Internship Program (We underutilized this in the past, and overlooked its true potential) — "Domestic Corps is a summer internship program of the Nonprofit and Public Management Center which places business school students as consultants with non-profit organizations. The primary objective of the domestic corps is to enhance the professional and educational experience of students, to instill in them the ideals of corporate citizenship and collaboration, and to enable them to contribute to civic, social and environmental organizations." (U-M)

Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development — "The Harvard Project offers advisory services at the request of tribal governments, other governments and organizations working with Native communities. Graduate and undergraduate students produce pro bono policy-oriented consulting reports, and Harvard Project personnel provide strategic advice on a variety of public policy issues."

"The Harvard Project PAEs, Policy Analysis Exercise, deal specifically with the issues facing American Indian nations or organizations working in Indian affairs. Professor Joseph P. Kalt, a member of the Kennedy School faculty, counsels the student consultants. Assisting him are Harvard Project staff members who work closely with the students. These students offer pro bono assistance on issues that concern your tribe. Most of the candidates have three to five years of professional work experience prior to attending the Kennedy School for their graduate course work." (<http://www.hks.harvard.edu/hpaied/>)

Imagine the possibilities:

Used Car Dealership — builds credit, payroll methods of payment and employment

Tribal Bank — we have vaults at five locations, ATMs up north are owned by casino, we don't own the ATMs in Greektown.

Tribally-owned Starbucks and Cinnabunns, franchises within Greektown Casino

Subway or Blimp's within the Midjim Stores

Medical records storage  
Security consultation and services

Surveillance installation and service

Telecommunication installation service

Cellular phone retailer

Graphic/web design services

Construction services

8(a) certification

The options and opportunities are endless, we just have to be willing to open our minds, shut our mouths, roll up our sleeves, **AND GET TO WORK...**

Since it is the "election season" I will use this opportunity to campaign for an issue, economic diversification. As you are well aware, when the members tell their elected officials, and prospective candidates, that they believe in an issue, or that it merits attention — **THEY TEND TO PAY MORE ATTENTION WHEN THEY ARE SEEKING YOUR VOTE!**



I HAVE CREATED AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BASED WEB SITE GEARED TOWARD ENCOURAGING OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO SPARK THE FIRE BY ENGAGING IN MEETINGS, DISCUSSION, PLANNING, AND GRANT APPLICATION TO START THIS PROCESS. THIS SITE IS PURELY BASED ON THE ISSUE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION, NO OTHER POLITICS ARE LISTED. GO TO THE SITE; SEND YOUR CONCERNS TO ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS... TELL THEM TO GET OFF THEIR BUTTS AND GET US MOVING FORWARD!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

DJ Hoffman

(906) 322-3801 Cell

(906) 635-6945 Home

(866) 4-DJHOFF TOLL

FREE

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

## Escanaba tribal community gets own space



**DENISE CHASE, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT IV**

On Feb. 22 we attended an open house for the community space that we acquired in the

Willow Creek Professional building. It was very well attended by elders, community members, staff, tribal Chairman Aaron Payment, Unit IV Board Rep Tom Miller and myself. I would like to say miigwech to the staff who worked on setting up the open house and thank you to the Manistique Kewadin Casino for providing the refreshments.

The room has enough space to start holding elder meetings, diabetic and health meetings/fairs, youth and education activities, cultural teachings, language classes, fund-raisers, USDA food distribution and potluck meals. In fact, the elders will be hosting their first

meeting and potluck meal in the building on Thu. March 20 at 5:30 pm. They are very excited about finally having a place of their own and where they can finally keep their meeting materials and supplies in one place. Our community should be very proud of this dedicated group of elders who voiced their opinion on every occasion that they could to remind us of the need for their community to have space to hold meetings and activities in.

Dr. Kristi Gibson-Kusiner has accepted a physician position in the Manistique Health Clinic. She will be starting sometime in April. A March 12 meet and greet will be held

for Dr. Kusiner with the tribal center staff and our elders at 12 p.m. If you get a chance, stop by and welcome her during that time.

We have been receiving a high volume of complaints from people unable to get a dental appointment because of the limited number of days we have a part-time dentist available at our clinic. This has been brought up a number of times. Dr. Anderson posted the position and is having difficulty recruiting a dentist. The Sault and St. Ignace Clinics are also losing dentists — we were just told this week that we might be down to one dentist for the Sault and St. Ignace. We know

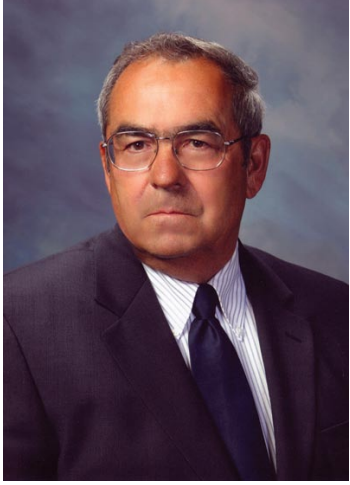
that we have to look at the wages for our medical /dental providers so we can keep our current employees and this will also help when we are trying to attract new providers to our clinics.

In recognition of parenting awareness month, the ACFS staff has planned a family activity: The Easter bunny will be visiting the kids and their families for a breakfast of pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs on Saturday, March 15 from 9-11 a.m. Please plan on attending this FREE activity. We will have a coloring contest, pictures with the Easter bunny, a cake-walk and door prizes.

See "Denise Chase," page 31



# Evil forces abound ...



**JOSEPH EITREM, DIRECTOR,  
UNIT I**

Many of our tribal members may or may not already know the very serious problems we are having in Greektown and the settling of our lands claim in Charlotte Beach.

As I write this article, I continuously remind myself that even though these reports are intended for our tribal paper and for our tribal membership, they are also exposed to our competitors and to many other outside influences that can and will damage our tribe.

Therefore, I will generalize and will refrain from specifics.

Greektown began some 10 years ago as a business venture that could provide millions of dollars in benefits to help

support the programs for our Sault Tribe members. As we progressed through this venture there have been, as in any businesses, many obstacles that our tribe has had to overcome. Many of these obstacles were outside influences within the City of Detroit, state and federal individuals and individuals that are direct competitors. Some of the problems we currently have in Greektown involve the compact agreements we made with the City of Detroit, such as we are committed to building a 400-room hotel, expansion of the present casino and parking. Everyone should know that if our tribe had not agreed to this expansion, chances are we would not be in Greektown today.

Given the fact that we are bound by this compact agreement, we had to borrow money, unlike MGM, we did not have hundreds of millions of dollars at our disposal. Unlike MGM we could not move from our present location and spend \$800 million to build a brand new complex. We were limited to our present location because of money and because we were limited, we had to acquire properties adjacent to our present location. In doing so, we had to deal with the City of Detroit for one of those properties which

cost us \$20 million more than the appraised value. All in all, we lost six months of our construction schedule because of the various acquisitions. Then comes the Michigan Gaming Control Commission that puts restrictions on Greektown that the other two casinos do not have, also causing Greektown to delay financial arrangements which will cost approximately \$50 million in interest on our loan. There is much more to be told here, but I think you get the picture.

Everywhere we turn we are met with more restrictions that limit our ability to function successfully. Given what I have just stated, we can play Monday morning quarter-back and start pointing fingers and play the blame game or we can take what we have and deal with it in an optimistic and positive manner. We are currently looking at various options, including equity infusion, partial sale which could include hands-on day-to-day management on various aspects of the business.

Now, more than ever, the board needs your prayers and support in our effort at Greektown. Together, hopefully, we can overcome the obstacles that stand before us.

The key words in the above paragraph are TOGETHER

AND SUPPORT and what I mean is this:

There is a small segment of our membership that portrays the board as corrupt, stealing from the tribe, greedy, self serving, and pigs at the trough, to name a few. After working with the present board for 3.5 years I can honestly say that I do not know one board member who meets these descriptions.

Those who attest to know about the teachings of the seven grandfathers should perhaps practice them.

Nonfactual statements made by our chairman in his unit reports, e-mail and press releases are having a negative effect on all of the tribe and hurting our financial arrangements at Greektown. Make no mistake about it, the outside world is watching.

Regarding the lands claim in Charlotte Beach, the chairman and several board members traveled to Washington, D.C. recently to discuss and testify before the Natural Resource Committee regarding the settlement of Charlotte Beach in exchange for trust land in Romulous. The talks were very successful and as a result, the committee voted 22-5 in our favor.

Again, I cannot stress how important it is for the chairman

and board of directors along with our lobbyist in Washington to work together to achieve this goal. Mike McCoy, Vic Matson Jr., Megan Kelly Powell and David Jones worked very hard for this to happen and deserve a special thank you.

This is as far as we have come in our efforts to gain trust land in Romulus. It's a testament to what can happen when we UNITE AND WORK TOGETHER.

I have refrained from making any statements regarding our proposed new Constitution until now. Since it has become public in our last edition of our paper, I feel that I can now comment on it.

Our original Constitution has been in effect for some 30 years. I see no reason to force this proposed Constitution to a vote of the people just for the sake of hurrying up and getting it done.

The board of directors has concerns about portions of the new Constitution and we need time to debate the concerned portions. We are not at a point where the board feels comfortable sending it to the membership.

Joe V. Eitrem  
Unit I  
632-8567

## Sault Tribe board Feb. 26 meeting summary

SAULT STE MARIE—The Sault Tribe Board of Directors held a special meeting on Tue., Feb. 26 in Sault Ste. Marie.

The following resolutions were added to the agenda: FY 2008 Budget Modification: Conservation Management, and Amending Tribal Code Chapter 21: Inland Fishing, Hunting, and Gathering.

The following resolutions were removed from the agenda: None.

The following resolutions were passed: Amending Tribal Code Chapter 21: Inland Fishing, Hunting, and Gathering; Proxy Vote for Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes; Victim Assistance Program; National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse-Elder Justice Community Collaboration; Native American Graves

Protection and Repatriation Act Documentation Grant; Directing Human Resources and Legal to Amend Tribal Code to Provide for Enforceable Legal Remedies for Tribal Employee Appeals and Grievances; Anishnabe Way 2008; Amending Tribal Code Chapter 42: Gaming Ordinance Calling of Special Meetings; and FY 2008 Budget Modification: Conservation Management.

The following resolutions failed: Revenue Sharing Plan Benefiting All Members (died for lack of support); and Clarification of Greenough Building Expenses.

The following resolutions were tabled: Grants Management and Development Department; Development of Transportation Building; Directing Immediate Voter Registration; and Elected

Officials Adherence to Tribe's Internal Network Mail System Policies.

New business: None.

Legislative summary:

Proposed amendments to Tribal Code Chapter 21: Inland Fishing, Hunting, and Gathering were approved. Certain rules and regulations were required in order to comply with the adoption of the 2007 Inland Consent Decree.

Unit I Representative Cathy Abramson was authorized to vote on behalf of the tribe during March 10-13 meeting of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes with Ken Ermatinger designated as the alternate.

Grant applications submitted on behalf of the tribe were approved for victim assistance, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation, and prevention of elder abuse.

referred to committee.

The board meeting minutes for Dec. 4, 2007, Dec. 12, 2007, and Jan. 15, 2008, were approved.

It was announced a referendum petition was received on Feb. 14, 2008, regarding resolution 2008-17, which related to the Nov. 6 organizational chart. Memos on the referendum petition have been sent to the Legal Department, Election Committee and tribal registrar. The tribal registrar validated the petition signatures. The issue has now been forwarded to the Election Committee and could be on the agenda for the next scheduled board meeting.

The board directed Human Resources and Legal Department to amend the Tribal Code to provide for enforceable legal remedies for tribal employee appeals and grievances. The proposed code amendment will be submitted to the board for ultimate approval. The final plan submitted will provide for an expansion of Tribal Court jurisdiction to hear appeals of adverse employment actions and the awarding of meaningful civil declaratory, injunctive, and remedial measures.

The board also directed that

### From "Denise Chase," page 30

If you would like to donate a cake, please call 341-6993 or drop off your cakes by Friday, March 14 at 5 p.m. or by 9 a.m. on the morning of the 15. Children must be accompanied by their parents or another adult.

The elders will judge the coloring contest the following Monday at the tribal center and the children will be notified of the results.

We are again in the planning stages of our 2nd Annual Sault Tribe "Gathering of the Clans" Powwow. It will be held June 14-15 at the Manistique Tribal Center grounds. We are looking for volunteers to join the powwow committee or who want to be involved by just helping out preparing for the powwow, set up, clean up, or people who can work the weekend.

There are different areas we need help. If you are interested, please call the tribal center at 341-6993 and ask for Viola, Sharon or Denise to sign up.

a plan be created and submitted to the board within 90 days to develop a tribal fund-raising effort designed for tribal programs and services entitled "Anishnabe Way."

Quarterly gaming commission meetings were established to take place the first Tuesday of the month during March, June, September, and December.

A law enforcement budget modification to fund the employment of two additional officers to assist with the implementation of the Inland Consent Decree was approved.

GREEKTOWN

The sale of 22 percent ownership interest of Greektown to Tom Celani for \$77 million as was reported a couple of weeks ago did not go through. We were unable to come to an agreement with Mr. Celani on the terms of the transaction. Updates will be provided in the future on any other proposals or equity sale that would be considered to benefit Greektown financially.

At the March 11 board meeting in Sault Ste. Marie the following resolutions will be considered:

Secretarial Election:  
Separating Chairman/CEO  
Elected Officials Adherence to Tribes Network Mail System  
Voter Registration  
Clarification of Elder Letter  
If you need to contact me please call me at (906) 341-6783 or my home toll free number at (888) 667-3809.

Thank You  
Denise Chase

## Feb. 19 meeting briefs, from page 30

Election; Development of Transportation Building; Grants Management and Development Department; Anishnabe Way.

NEW BUSINESS

Four tribal youth endowment funding requests were approved by the board and will be forwarded to the committee foundation board for further approval and processing.

A conservation request to grant a fisherman's helper license to Levi Bouley was approved.

All committee appointment and resignations were approved.

A motion to have James Mills review the draft of the Constitution with expenses funded out of special appropria-

tions was tabled. A motion to have an economic impact study/analysis completed on the new draft Constitution was referred to the Constitution Committee.

An update on the development of the 501(c) 3 was requested.

Agenda items titled "Chairman's E-mails," "Board Use of Tribal E-mail List" and "Greenough Building" were removed from the new business agenda.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY  
Five judges were approved to be appointed to the Tribal Court.

The request for a Secretarial Election on the new Constitution was tabled and



# Anishinaabe Bimaadizwin

*Like the grasses showing tender faces to each other, thus should we do,  
for this was the wish of the Grandfathers of the World. — Black Elk*

## Ogeemachichuk reminisces about sugar bush

BY BUD BIRON

It was the spring of 1979 when I began working for the tribe's youth program. There were about 12 others who also worked for the program and most of them lived on Shunk Road.

Each day we would show up for work at the Mary Murray-Bonnie McKerchie building where local bingo games and Head Start were located. And each morning our group of young men and women piled into the work van. We would then go to the Greenough Building where we would gather our tools for that days work — axes, bucksaws, shin guards, files and hardhats. From Greenough we would go to the job site selected by our supervisor, Russ, for the crew to work that day.

One day we showed up for work and were told we were going over to Sugar Island. We all looked at each other and didn't think anything of it. At the time I was a young guy looking for direction and "party" was my middle name. I didn't think this trip to Sugar Island would be any different than any other time.

We went to a place my mother, Dorothy McCoy Biron, had told me was owned by the tribe. I had been by this place many times but never thought I would go there, and just then the van stopped. Russ told us all to get out of the van — we looked out at the snow banks that were almost three feet tall wondering what we were going to do there.

Russ started walking into the trees telling us to follow him, telling us we were going to be there for a while. As we all followed him into the bush, he said we needed to make a camp about 200 feet from the road.

All that day we worked hard clearing out a camp-like setting. We started a fire and cut and stacked some wood. I asked Russ why we were doing all this hard work and he said we were going to do a sugar bush. That's when he got into the van and left us while he went down the road and picked up an Anishinaabe man from the island. This man's name was Edward Pine; everyone from the island called him Pie Pine.

Later we all sat around the fire as Pie told us what we needed to do in order to run a sugar bush. We had some hand drills with bits and Russ had picked up some taps and coffee cans. I watched Pie as he offered some saamaa before he started tapping the tree. He hammered the tap into the tree about 1.5 inches and we made hooks to hang the cans on the taps and watched as the sap fell into our buckets, drip by drip, until the cans were full. We emptied the cans into five-gallon buckets to haul the sap to the kettle where we dumped it for boiling. The vat we used was a 55-gallon barrel cut in half. We put that barrel above the fire and started boiling it. We boiled for many hours, from 8 a.m. to about 5 p.m. when we got off work.

Pie used a carved paddle to stir with when checking to see if the syrup was ready to take off the fire. He told us to watch for the drips that come to the end of the paddle when we stirred the sap. At that time I wasn't sure what he meant by watching the drips. Today, after many sugar bushes, I know what he was talking about.

When the sap comes to the end of the boil you have to be ready to take the kettle off the fire, and the fire has to be just right, not too hot or cool. During sugar bush it is important to take your time and listen to the sap dripping, the fire popping and the people. Everyone has a story that needs to be heard to keep our traditions and our people's spirit strong, a voice for all to learn from and remember.

The 12 of us were out in the bush for at least two to three weeks in the spring. Each day we would take what we boiled and bring it back to the Sault; it looked just like black molasses. I think Russ strained the syrup at home. I asked him what he was doing with the syrup we were all making and he said that we were going to donate it to the tribe's elders.

Jumping forward to 1991, I moved my wife and kids back home to Sugar Island at the bottom of Bully's Hill where my dad and mother lived until my mother passed away in 1981. My brother lived on one side of



the road and my dad and I lived on the other.

I started working with the tribe as a slot attendant and moved my way to youth activities coordinator for the tribal housing department. At that time, we were trying to bring the youth of the tribe back to traditional teachings with cultural nights and drug prevention programs. I worked with Cathy DeVoy, the director of the Youth Sports and Drug Elimination Program for tribal housing. She gave me the task of doing sugar bush with the kids on the reservation. Her brother-in-law, who was Pie, knew she had sugar bush experience and would know the right people to ask if we had any questions or if we needed anything.

That first sugar bush we had about seven to 10 kids participate and we made about two gallons of syrup. After about three seasons of doing sugar bush at what is now the tribe's culture camp, we had the privilege of meeting another Sugar Islander whose family had been doing sugar bush for generations. This man was Ed Andrews (Small Boy). We met him on the south side of the island at Duck Lake where we would bring kids to walk the trails. He was the caretaker of some land owned by the University of Michigan that formerly belonged to Governor Osborn. Ed helped us with the sugar bush as an elder worker for the tribe. When he was there, we had at least 50 or 60 people come through the bush



Above, Edward "Pie" Pine holding a jar of maple syrup to check its color. Left, Ed (Small Boy) Andress keeping an attentive eye on the sap.



Bud Biron tends the fire to keep the sap boiling.



Participants in last year's sugar bush gather around the kettles as the sap cooks down into syrup.

to visit and participate.

Eight years later, in 1998, we had an award-winning culture camp with 1,000 or more people who had participated in the sugar bush camp.

In 2007 we had at least 300 people visit the sugar bush including three schools and representatives from tribal administration.

This year we are expecting all kinds of groups from youth programs to elders who want to take a tour. We are still a small operation; we make about eight to 10 gallons of syrup and, occasionally, try to make maple candy. We make about one or two pounds of the candy in addition to the maple syrup; it takes lots of time and work. I now have a staff knowledgeable in making syrup and some of them have been doing sugar bush since they were children. Some of my staff are just starting to learn the process and that

is how everything is passed on to the next generation.

I think our elders are looking down and smiling every time you hear the drip of sap and crackle from the smoky fire and the good feelings everyone gets from being a part of our traditional ways, that is the good way of our people.

I hope to see you on the island, come join the gathering of all our ancestors.

*Editors note: Sugar bush at the tribe's culture camp on Sugar Island will begin around March 17 with tapping trees. Those wishing to help in the process can contact Bud Biron at (906) 632-7494.*

### Cultural Division Mission Statement

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

## Anishi nabemowin Corner

Anishi

Administration Building  
Bank  
Big Bear Arena  
Casino  
Ceremony  
Cultural Building  
Day Care  
Sault Ste. Marie School

Nokii Gamig  
Zhoonyaa Gamig  
Gchi Mukwa Zhooshkwaade Gamig  
Taage Gamig  
Jiishkewin  
Niigaanagizhik  
Binoojiinh Gamigoons  
Baawating  
Kinoomaage Gamig

|    |    |    |   |
|----|----|----|---|
| a  | i  | o  |   |
| aa | ii | oo | e |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Long Vowels:</b><br>'a' sounds like the u in but. | <b>Short Vowels:</b><br>'aa' sounds like saw. |
| 'i' sounds like the English word bit.                | 'ii' sounds like knee                         |
|  | 'oo' sounds like hole.                        |
| 'o' sounds like the 'o' in wolf.                     | 'e' sounds like led.                          |



## Get fit and healthy with the Fit UP Program in March

The second stage of the Fit UP Program began on March 3 and continues until April 28, so there is still lots of time to get in on the fun and win cash prizes for enjoying physical activity and eating fruits and vegetables.

Spring is coming so it should be easier to get your activity minutes in. If you haven't signed up yet go to [www.fitup.org](http://www.fitup.org) and register. When you start logging your activity you may sign up to be part of a group.

Participating teams are the Sault Tribe Health Center, Kewadin Casinos, the All-in-One Fitness Center and JKL Bahweting School. So pick a team, get active and eat healthy. At the end of Fit UP's stage one, the Sault Tribe Health Center was the leader among Native American groups with 25,000 points. For more information about this program, call Donna Norkoli at (906) 635-8844.

## Grocery store campaign promotes healthy eating

FROM SAULT TRIBE COMMUNITY HEALTH

SAULT STE. MARIE — In honor of National Nutrition Month, the Sault Tribe Steps to a Healthier Anishinaabe Program and the Chippewa County Building a Healthier Community Coalition have partnered with grocery stores throughout Chippewa County to promote the sale of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Last fall, the Building a Healthier Community Coalition completed an assessment of the environment for healthy eating in Chippewa County. One recommendation for action was to implement a campaign to provide motivation at the point of sale for people to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.

"Many companies provide enticing displays for foods that are high in fat and sugar so we decided to provide some marketing materials to bring people's attention to the benefits of eating more fruits and vegetables," said Donna Norkoli, Sault Tribe Steps coordinator.

The Lake Superior State University nursing students distributed colorful laminated posters and large banners promoting more fruits and vegetables to grocery stores to display in their produce sections. Participating grocery stores are Glen's Market, Parmer's Market, Soo Co-op, SuperValu, Neville's, Kinross Co-op and Save-A-Lot. These stores will also be running weekly in-store specials on fresh produce during the month of March.

Fruits and vegetables provide a variety of colors, tastes and textures to our meals and snacks. Because of their water and fiber content, fruits and vegetables help fill us up without adding a lot of calories.

"I thought I ate a lot of fruits and vegetables but when I actually sat down and recorded what I ate in a week, I ate far less fruits and vegetables than I imagined," said Norkoli.

"I needed to add a banana or strawberries to my cereal in the morning, an orange or apple for a mid-morning or afternoon snack and add a salad to my dinner every day."

Betty Noland RD, Sault Tribe nutritionist, suggests add-

ing one or two fruits or vegetables a day to your meals or snacks and gradually increasing until you're eating five to nine servings a day. Set a goal to eventually make fruits and vegetables about half of what you eat at every meal.

Look for the big banners with the "Fruits and Veggies More Matters" logo in your favorite grocery store. Try a new fruit or vegetable once a week during March. You will find huge benefits to adding more fruits and vegetables to your diet, including lower risk of cancer, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure.

For more information and to access easy recipes for fruits and veggies, go to [www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org). For information and counseling on ways to improve your eating habits, call a registered dietitian at your local tribal health center, hospital or health department.

*Some great winter veggies are parsnips and rutabagas. Parsnips look like a beige carrot and can be added to soups and stews. The sweet flavor of parsnips is enhanced by cooking. Once you remove the waxy skin from rutabagas they are great boiled and mashed and add a bit of zip to plain mashed potatoes. To make rutabagas easier to peel, place in a glass bowl lined with paper towel and place a paper towel on top. Microwave for a total of about 15 minutes, checking for softness about every five minutes. When the rutabaga has softened, allow it to cool, peel, cut up, and continue cooking.*



Parsnip

## Stroke is a medical emergency that requires an ER visit

SUBMITTED BY CHARLA GORDON RD, HEALTHY HEART PROJECT

What about stroke? Some people call strokes "brain attacks," but regardless of the name, the bottom line is that during a stroke, blood flow carrying oxygen and nutrients to the brain is cut off. When brain tissue does not get blood, it dies and the body loses function.

Strokes can happen in one of two ways: there may be a blood clot in an artery that supplies blood to the brain or there may be a break in a blood vessel that causes a bleed — either way brain tissue misses getting important oxygen and nutrients.

The key point is that stroke is a medical emergency and it is important to get to the hospital quickly. There is medicine that can reverse the effects of a stroke. This medicine must be given within three hours of the beginning of the stroke to be effective; after that it will not work. People who are having strokes need to get to the emergency room right away. If they do not, they risk paralysis, speech problems, loss of vision and mental difficulties.

What are the warning signs of stroke? Take the time to learn them and teach them to

your friends and family. These are the most common signs of stroke:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion
- Sudden difficulty speaking or understanding speech
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

Call 9-1-1 immediately if you experience symptoms! Remember that time lost is brain tissue lost! Another way to remember the symptoms of stroke is to Think F-A-S-T.

- "F" is for facial numbness or weakness, especially on one side. Ask the person, "Can you smile for me?" Note whether both sides of the smile go up.

- "A" is for arm numbness or weakness, especially on one side. Ask the person to extend both arms and raise them. Note any weakness in either side.

- "S" is for slurred speech or difficulty speaking or understanding. Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence.

- "T" is for time to call 9-1-

## Youth council fights tobacco use, joins National Kick Butts Day April 2

Young people from the Sault Tribe youth council are joining thousands of kids across the country who are taking part in Kick Butts Day, a nationwide initiative that makes kids leaders in the effort to stop youth tobacco use. As part of the Kick Butts Day celebration, students are planning activities related to youth tobacco prevention.

Throughout the year, young advocates take part in a variety of activities to protect kids from tobacco, including working with decision makers to develop policies that reduce youth tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke and educating their peers about tobacco companies' deceptive marketing practices.

On April 2, elementary, middle and high school students across the country are organizing events to fight youth tobacco use. Young people will participate in a variety of activi-

ties such as surveying tobacco advertising in their communities, urging local officials to support anti-tobacco ordinances and tossing caps, hats, jackets and other items carrying tobacco brand names into giant dumpsters. In 2007, thousands of kids carried out nearly 2,000 events and more are expected this year.

"Kids are a powerful part of the solution to reducing youth tobacco use," said Matthew L. Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, which coordinates Kick Butts Day. "For 2008, kids are sending two important messages: they want the tobacco industry to stop targeting them with advertising and they want decision makers at all levels to do more to protect them from tobacco."

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in

1. Note the time the symptoms began.

There are other symptoms that might indicate stroke, but they are less common and include: sudden nausea, fever and vomiting — different from a viral illness by the speed of onset (minutes or hours versus several days); a brief loss of consciousness or period of decreased consciousness (fainting, confusion, convulsions or coma).

What are risk factors for stroke? Strokes are more common in people over the age of 65, but do happen to younger people. Misuse of tobacco and alcohol increases risk of stroke. Manage your medical conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, high blood cholesterol and heart disease to decrease your stroke risk. Talk with your health provider about other health and lifestyle factors that may increase your risk of stroke.

Remember, if you experience any of the signs of stroke, or are worried about someone else, seek help quickly. If you would like more information about stroke or heart disease and diabetes please contact the Healthy Heart Project team at your tribal health facility.

the United States, killing more than 400,000 people every year. Every day, more than 4,000 kids try their first cigarettes; another 1,000 kids become addicted smokers, one-third of whom will die prematurely as a result.

The Washington, D.C.-based Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is one of the largest non-governmental education and advocacy initiatives ever undertaken to decrease youth tobacco use in the United States. The campaign strives to build a healthier future for our children by reducing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

For more information about the Kick Butts Day events being organized by the council, call Lauren Eveleigh at (906) 632-5280. For information on the national initiative, visit the Web site at [www.kickbuttsday.org](http://www.kickbuttsday.org).

## Family health and education training offered

Michigan Family-to-Family Health Information and Education Center is offering a training in family health and education training. This training will increase your understanding and enable you to demonstrate:

- The role of the family, including parent/professional partnerships and parent to parent supports.

- The critical issues in organizing and delivering health and education services to children with special needs and their families, including federal and state legislation and policies and

strengths within systems and the services available.

- Advocacy for children and youth with special needs and their families and ethical issues facing this population and their care providers.

Locations and dates for 2008 training sessions:

Mt. Pleasant, March 25, Central Michigan Health Department, 2012 E. Preston.

Watersmeet, April 14, Lac View Desert Band of Lake Superior, Chippewa Indians Dancing Eagle Resort N5384 US Highway 45.

Wilson, May 12, Hannahville

Indian Community Health Center, N15019 Hannahville B-1 Road.

The sessions are free.

All sessions are offered for credit — three continuing education hours will be awarded through the Michigan Collaborative for Social Workers and .3 through the State Board Office of Certification Services for teachers, school administrators, school psychologists and so forth. The cost for CE/SBCEU participants is \$15. For questions, or to register call (800) 359-3722.



# ACFS receives grant to establish Elder Abuse Justice Community Collaboration

SUBMITTED BY JULIE MENARD, ACFS

SAULT STE. MARIE — Anishnaabek Community and Family Services has received a grant for Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to form an Elder Abuse Justice Community Collaboration and develop a strategic plan for services. This has a direct impact on area agencies that work and have contact with elders. There will be a clear course of action for Sault Tribe elder abuse.

The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) will provide a one-day, on-site training workshop April 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

at the Sault Kewadin Casino. The training will cover the elements of effective networking, including purpose, leadership, infrastructure, commitment to purpose, results-oriented approach and performance outcome measures.

The tribe will conduct two additional workshops, one on May 8 at the Manistique Tribal Center and one in Sault Ste. Marie at the Kewadin Casino on May 22. These workshops will focus on how local professionals can make the most of the area resources and a summary of what was taught at the NCPEA workshop. Local community agencies will be pro-

vided training on collaborating efforts for elder abuse and at-risk seniors. Professionals will gain an understanding about what to do when elder abuse occurs or there is a risk of occurrences. Resource material will be provided with contact information.

These Elder Abuse Justice Training workshops are open to the public.

Suggested for these types of organizations and individuals:

Adult protective services, law enforcement, area agencies on aging, domestic violence advocate, victim services, mental health organizations, attorney, courts, long term care ser-

vices, medical and health care entities, emergency response, veteran services, faith-based organizations, financial/banking entities, public fiduciary, elected officials, real estate brokers, senior groups and media.

Contact Julie Menard at ACFS for more details and registration at 632-5250 ext. 23320 or 1-800-726-0093 or e-mail [jmenard@saulttribe.net](mailto:jmenard@saulttribe.net) at least one week prior to the training.

## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

NCPEA workshop Elder Abuse Justice Collaboration April 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sault Kewadin Casino.

Western Upper Peninsula Elder Abuse Justice training May 8, Manistique Tribal Community Center.

Eastern Upper Peninsula Elder Abuse Justice training May 22, Sault Kewadin Casino.

Morning and afternoon refreshments will be provided at each workshop with an hour break for lunch that will be on your own.

Contact Julie Menard at ACFS with questions or to register at 632-5250 extension 23320, (800) 726-0093 or e-mail [jmenard@saulttribe.net](mailto:jmenard@saulttribe.net) at least one week prior to the training.

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR

### Bahweting Binogii Advocate Award



Anishnaabek Community and Family Services would like to announce the nomination for the annual Bahweting Binogii Advocate Award. April is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month and every year Anishnaabek Community and Family Services holds an advocate honor breakfast as a way of showing our support and appreciation to those who dedicate themselves to protecting and serving our most sacred gifts: our children. At the honor breakfast, ACFS present the Advocate of the Year award for a community member who has made exemplary efforts

on behalf of our children. This person can come from any field and will have their name added to our advocate plaque and will also be presented with a plaque of their own. The winner will be chosen by the Sault Tribe Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Please take the time to complete a ballot for someone you know who has demonstrated advocacy for the children in our community. Return ballots no later than March 21 to Traci Swan, Legal Department, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, 49783. For any question please call Traci at (906) 635-6050 extension 26324.

### Bahweting Binogii Advocate Award Nomination Ballot

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Person nominating: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nomination: Please include details of how this person advocates for children in our community through their work or above and beyond their job duties. Continue on a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## News from Higher Education

BY JANICE M. LEWTON, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

### 2007-08 Self-Sufficiency program update:

As of Feb. 29, we processed 986 student incentive award checks for \$427,370.

The 39 locations of the schools students attended, the number of students and the award amounts are as follows:

|               |     |         |
|---------------|-----|---------|
| Alabama       | 5   | 2,240   |
| Alaska        | 5   | 1,579   |
| Arizona       | 15  | 5,559   |
| California    | 13  | 5,598   |
| Colorado      | 9   | 4,500   |
| Connecticut   | 4   | 2,000   |
| Florida       | 25  | 10,239  |
| Georgia       | 5   | 2,400   |
| Illinois      | 12  | 5,345   |
| Indiana       | 13  | 6,140   |
| Iowa          | 3   | 1,500   |
| Louisiana     | 2   | 1,000   |
| Maine         | 1   | 240     |
| Massachusetts | 3   | 1,500   |
| Michigan      | 722 | 311,726 |
| Minnesota     | 17  | 7,373   |
| Mississippi   | 2   | 900     |
| Missouri      | 5   | 2,240   |
| Nebraska      | 1   | 120     |
| Nevada        | 2   | 1,000   |
| New Hampshire | 3   | 1,333   |

|              |    |        |
|--------------|----|--------|
| New Jersey   | 1  | 500    |
| New Mexico   | 5  | 2,500  |
| New York     | 8  | 3,833  |
| N. Carolina  | 4  | 1,573  |
| N. Dakota    | 1  | 360    |
| Ohio         | 14 | 6,124  |
| Oklahoma     | 4  | 1,546  |
| Oregon       | 1  | 500    |
| Pennsylvania | 1  | 500    |
| Rhode Island | 2  | 833    |
| S. Carolina  | 5  | 1,592  |
| Tennessee    | 5  | 2,020  |
| Texas        | 9  | 3,520  |
| Utah         | 2  | 1,000  |
| Vermont      | 1  | 333    |
| Virginia     | 4  | 1,620  |
| Washington   | 9  | 3,665  |
| Wisconsin    | 43 | 20,313 |
| Canada       | 1  | 500    |

Grade Levels were:

|     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| 263 | Freshmen            |
| 256 | Sophomores          |
| 169 | Juniors             |
| 194 | Seniors             |
| 78  | Graduate students   |
| 8   | Law students        |
| 7   | PhD students        |
| 6   | Medical students    |
| 2   | Pharmacy students   |
| 2   | Veterinary students |
| 1   | Dental student      |

Please keep in mind that this

program operates on a first-come, first-served basis. With less than \$300,000 available, it is crucial that you turn in your winter/spring grades as soon as they get posted.

**2008-09 School year:** Applications will be sent to over 1,400 students who have a 2007-08 application on file either in late March or April.

Other students can request an application at the end of March by sending an e-mail with your address to me online at [jl Lewton@saulttribe.net](mailto:jl Lewton@saulttribe.net)

2008-09 Scholarships will be open for applicants from April 1 with the deadline of June 1. The information will appear in April's issue of the tribal newspaper.

For questions or concerns, please call us at 635-7784 or (800) 793-0660 (ask for Higher Education) or send e-mail to [jl Lewton@saulttribe.net](mailto:jl Lewton@saulttribe.net).

If you're in our area, please stop by our offices in the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center.

## Job application key to success

BY BARB SMUTEK, HR RECRUITER

The Sault Tribe Employment Department in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace and Manistique, receives many applications every day. The Sault Ste. Marie office receives about 25 applications, both paper and online, daily. Last month we received 226 applications with only 96 open positions to fill. It is a very competitive job market and you need to stand out from the crowd. Your application is the key.

For example, for one entry-level position we may have 20 Sault Tribe members apply and another 20 applicants from Sault Tribe households, other Natives or non-Natives. In a pile of 40 applications, your application needs to be the best. In general, your employment application is the first impression you make and you want it to be a good one. It needs to be an accurate reflection of you and display all of your skills and abilities.

With our hiring preference, Sault Tribe members interview first but only if they are qualified. If we do not have any qualified applicants, we will move on to the consecutive rounds. Being a Sault Tribe member does not guarantee you will be interviewed. You must also be qualified for the position and that is why your application is the first step to getting the job you want.

Your application is used in two different ways by two different groups of people. The first is in the screening process completed by the employment department. We use it to see if you are qualified for the position by meeting the minimum requirements listed in the job posting. The second time, it is reviewed by the interviewing manager before the interview process.

We would like to share some of our experiences to help you spruce up your application.

First of all, we see some amazing applications but we

also see too many that need work. If you are in the latter group, please feel free to contact us and set up an appointment to discuss your application. We are here to help you.

Watch for our second article on job applications, *Application Dos and Don'ts* in the next issue of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*.

If you would like to apply, you can visit any of our offices or apply with us online at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

If you have questions, please e-mail us at [STEmployment@saulttribe.net](mailto:STEmployment@saulttribe.net).

If you would like to meet us in person, our offices are at the following addresses:

- Sault Ste. Marie**  
2186 Shunk Road  
635-7032  
(866) 635-7032 toll free
- St. Ignace**  
3039 Mackinaw Trail  
(906) 643-4176
- Manistique**  
5698 W. U.S. Hwy. 2  
(906) 341-9561



**Classes**

**Jan. 2-Dec. 17: Anishinaabemowin language class,** Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m., 531 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. No sign up necessary. Please bring your brown bag lunch. For more information, contact Nancy Debassige, language instructor at 632-6050 ext. 26143.

**Jan. 7-Dec. 29: Dewege (to drum)** 7-9 p.m. every Monday at the Niigaanagizhik Building. The dewegan (drum) is the heartbeat of our people the Anishinaabe. Bud shares teachings on life, songs and the styles of singing. It's a great time for the family to come down and participate by singing, dancing, or just to listen to the Bahweting singers. For more information, call Bud at 632-7494.

**March 18: The Smoke Around You — How it Affects Your Heart** from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun Street.

Could eating in a smoky restaurant be dangerous to a non-smoker? Growing evidence shows that even short-term exposure to second hand smoke can pose substantial harmful effects on the heart, blood and blood vessels. To end the session, we will review the basics of keeping your heart healthy with a fun and informative bingo game.

Heart health is a gift you can give yourself anytime. This series is part of our Healthy Heart Project and this new six session series explores the many things you can do to keep your heart beating strong. Come to any or all sessions. Open to the public. For questions or to register, call Community Health at 632-5210. Registering for classes is recommended so we can inform you of any changes.

**March 18: Healthy Eating on a Budget — Honoring the Gift of Heart Health,** 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Manistique Tribal Community Center, 5698W U.S.-2.

Are you wondering if it is possible to feed a family and eat healthy on a tight food budget? Are you confused about what heart healthy food is when you look at all the food on the shelves in the grocery store? What questions do you have about preparing meals and snacks in a heart healthy way? Have you ever taken a good look at how advertising influences your food choices? We answer these questions in this session; please join us.

Call Gail Sulander at 341-9525 for more information.

**March 21: What Was Never Told,** lesson six, Acts of War and Policies of Oppression, 9-12 p.m. at the Kewadin Shores Casino, St. Ignace. For more information, call Elaine Young at 632-7494.

**March 26: What Was Never Told,** lesson five, 9-12 p.m. at 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, call Elaine Young at 632-7494.

**Elders' meetings**

**March 17: Unit V Munising Elderly Committee** holds monthly meetings at the Munising Tribal Center (Lincoln School), 4:30 p.m., on the first Monday of the month. On the third Monday of the month, the dinner is at 6 p.m. Entrance to the building is off Munising Ave. (M-28) across from the American Legion. Please use the west entrance. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

**March 17: Unit II Hessel Elderly Committee** holds monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month after the noon meal at the Hessel Tribal Center. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

**March 20: Unit IV Escanaba Elderly Committee** holds monthly meetings and potlucks on the third Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Escanaba Tribal Community Center, 3500 Ludington Street Suite 200. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

**March 26: Unit II Naubinway Elderly Committee** holds monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Monthly location to be announced. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

**March 28: Unit II Newberry Elderly Committee** holds monthly meetings on the fourth Friday of every month at 11 a.m. at Zellars Village Inn in Newberry. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

**April 2: Unit I Sault Ste. Marie Elders Committee** holds monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of every month after the noon meal at the Nokomis/Mishomis Center, 2076 Shunk Road. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

**April 3: Unit V Marquette Elders Committee** holds monthly meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at Walstroms Restaurant. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

**April 7 & April 21: Unit V Munising Elderly Committee** holds monthly meetings at the Munising Tribal Center (Lincoln School), 4:30 p.m., on the first Monday of the month. On the third Monday of the month, the dinner is at 6 p.m. Entrance to the building is off Munising Ave. (M-28) across from the American Legion. Please use the west entrance. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

**April 9: Unit IV Manistique elders** meet at the Manistique Tribal Center after the noon meal.

**Meetings**

**March 17: Unit II tribal board Representative Lana Causley** would like to invite our membership to Unit II office hours, 9 a.m. to noon at the Hessel Tribal Center. Please contact either Director Lana Causley at lcausley@saulttribe.net or Lona Stewart at 635-6050 with any questions.

**March 17: Unit I tribal town meeting,** 6-7:30 p.m., Sugar Island Township Hall, Sugar Island, Mich. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

**March 18: Sault Tribe Board of Directors meeting,** Hessel at 6 p.m. Open community hour is from 5-6 p.m. For further information, please call Joanne or Tara at the administration office, 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660, extensions 26337 or 26338.

**March 19: Unit II tribal town meeting,** 5-6:30 p.m., Newberry Tribal Center, Newberry, Mich. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

**March 21: Unit IV tribal town meeting,** 10-11:30 a.m. Manistique Tribal Center, Manistique, Mich. 10-11:30 a.m. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

**March 22: Unit IV tribal town meeting,** 12:30-2 p.m. Escanaba, Mich. Location: TBA. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

**March 22: Unit V tribal town meeting,** 3:30-5 p.m., Northern Michigan University Center, Marquette, Mich. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

**March 22: Unit V tribal town meeting,** 6-7:30 p.m., Munising Tribal Center, Munising, Mich. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

**March 24: Unit I tribal town meeting,** 6-7:30 p.m., Sault Ste. Marie, Kewadin Casino Convention Center. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

**March 26: Unit II tribal board Representative Lana Causley** would like to invite our membership to Unit II office hours, 12-5 p.m. at the Naubinway-Snowmobile Museum. Please contact either Director Lana Causley at lcausley@saulttribe.net or Lona Stewart at 635-6050 with any questions.

**March 26: Unit III board Representatives Fred Paquin and Keith Massaway** are pleased to invite you to attend a Unit III meeting at 6 p.m. Enji Maawanji' Iding the McCann Center, 399 McCann Street, St. Ignace, Mich. Please come share your ideas, questions and concerns with your tribal board representatives. For questions, please call Lona Stewart at 635-6050.

**March 26: Unit II tribal town meeting,** 5-6:30 p.m., Naubinway Pavilion. For more information, call (888) 94-AARON.

**Special events**

**Feb. 1-April 30: Kewadin's top 50 at all Kewadin sites.** Come to Kewadin for your chance at winning \$15,000 for being the top point winner of the month from February-April, 2008! The event will run for one month at a time. At the end of each month all customers in the top 50 will win! Top prize pays \$15,000 in cash and cash prizes awarded to all other winners to \$250 for 50th place. Registered participants can only win the top place prize of \$15,000 once but are allowed to win any of the other prizes. For more information, call 1 (800) KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

**March 3-April 30: Accepting applications for down payment assistance.** You could be eligible to receive up to \$5,000. You must be a Sault Tribe member, be at least 18, live in Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce, Alger, Schoolcraft, Delta or Marquette counties, be a first time homebuyer (exceptions), make at least \$15,000 per year, qualify for a mortgage at a local lender and be within income limits. Accepting applications March 3-April 30. Contact Angie Spencer to receive an application at 635-7702 or (800) 794-4072 or e-mail aspencer@saulttribe.net.

**March 5-25: We are giving away 100s of Franklins at Kewadin Casinos.** All five-casino sites! Do not miss your chance to win \$100 at any Kewadin Casinos from March 5-25. Customers playing on slots and table games and have earned 25 points on a Northern Rewards Club card are eligible for \$100 cash drawings. Drawings will take place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day of the week. Customers can win at all casino sites, but only once each day of the promotion. For more information, call 1 (800) KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

**March 20: Breakfast with the Easter Bunny,** 9 to 10:30 a.m., Sault Tribal Health Center, 2864 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie. To volunteer for Anishnabek Community and Family Services fundraising activities or for more details call 632-5250. Mission: to lead fundraising activities to enhance ACFS relations and to sponsor youth and family community events.

**March 27-April 6: 70th Annual Gold Medal Basketball Classic,** Hermansville Community Gymnasium, Hermansville, Mich. For more information, call (906) 563-7338, 282-0451 or e-mail raybray74@hotmail.com.

**April 4-6: Native American casino pool tour tournament.** Join Kewadin for a brand new event at Kewadin Shores Casino.

Players can register via mail until March 31.

For more information, call 1 800 KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

**Announcements**

**March 25: Blood drive and bone marrow registry,** 11-4:45 p.m., Sault Tribal Health Center auditorium.

You must be 18 years old and present a photo ID to donate blood and between the ages of 18 and 61 for the bone marrow registry.

Please call Janice Pittman 632-5283 to schedule an appointment time or walk ins are always welcome. Please come save a life.

**March 27-30: Artist and craft vendors needed for language conference.** Are you a Sault Tribe member interested in selling your artwork or craft work at the coming language conference? Vendor tables are available at Kewadin Casinos in Sault Ste. Marie. Contact: Aagii Clement at Sault Tribe Cultural Division, 632-7494.

**April 5: Dora and Diego Totzone,** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center.

Dress your little ones in Dora or Diego apparel. Bring their backpack or rescue pack. Enjoy a Hawaiian luau.

Totzones are designed for children five and under and require adult supervision. We encourage everyone to bring strollers, push toys, ride-on toys, walkers and trikes.

In addition, disco lights, children's music and special activities are planned for each Totzone date.

There is a \$3 fee per child to participate.

For more information, call (906) 635-RINK.

**April 5: Collective Soul** in concert, 7 p.m. in the DreamMakers Theater, Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, call 1 (800) KEWADIN or visit www.kewadin.com.

**April 5-6: "Dance for Mother Earth," Ann Arbor powwow,** Crisler Arena 333 E. Stadium Blvd. Ann Arbor, Mich.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office at 530 S. State Street in Ann Arbor or by calling (734) 763 TKTS. No group sales at the door.

Registration: adult dancers (18-49) \$10, other dancers \$5.

Head staff: host drum, The Tribe; special guest, Cricket Hill; invited drums, Big River Cree, Ice Wolf, Eagle Flight, Great Lakes Alliance, Wind Eagle and Little Otter; head veteran, TBA; dance judges, Wayne Silas Jr. and Marie Dreaver; arena directors, Dave Shananaquet and Paul Johnson; emcees, Jason Whitehouse and Paul Johnson.

Open to the public.

Sponsored by the Native American Programming Task Force, Office of Multi Ethnic Student Affairs, Trotter Multicultural Center, Division of Student Affairs, University of Michigan. Visit: www.umich.edu or call our powwow hotline at (734) 647-6999.



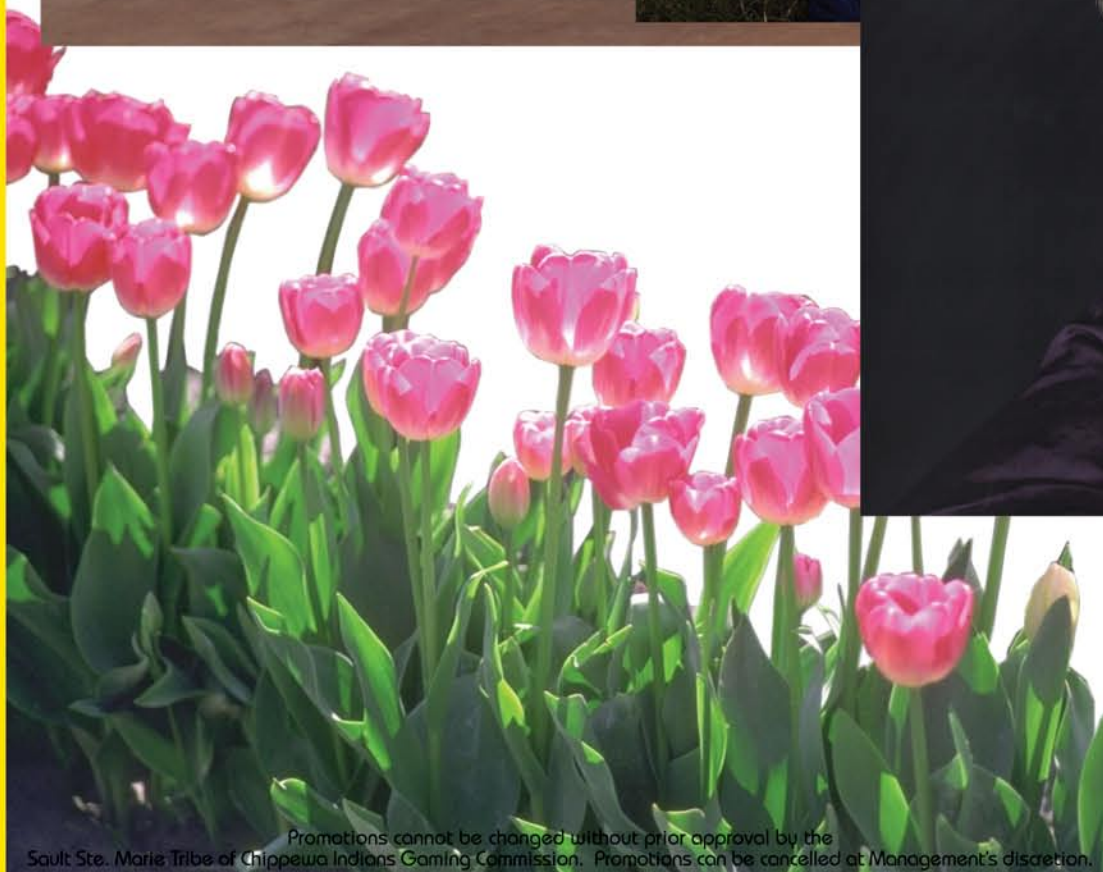
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Promotions cannot be changed without prior approval by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Gaming Commission. Promotions can be cancelled at Management's discretion.

## Minors Welcome

Young adults 13 & under must be accompanied by an adult 21 years or older.  
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