

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

Manidoo Giizis
Spirit Moon



January 23, 2015, Vol. 36, No. 1

Chief judge appointed to state drug court board

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe's Chief Judge Jocelyn Fabry and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Chief Judge, Allie Greenleaf Maldonado were both recently appointed to the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals (MADCP) board of directors. The judges are the first tribal representatives to be appointed to the board while Judge Fabry also serves as the only representative from the U.P.

Fabry said she is excited to serve on the MADCP board, which provides leadership to drug treatment courts in the State of Michigan, in addition to making policy recommendations, setting best practice standards and keeping abreast of legislation that could impact drug courts. "I want to play a role in increasing the accessibility of drug courts



Chief Judge Jocelyn Fabry

to tribal members through tribal and state drug courts," she said. "Drug courts are shown to work for the people who need them – people who are addicted to drugs or alcohol have a higher risk of reoffending. We don't

have enough drug courts to reach everyone who needs one."

Fabry said there are close to 100 drug courts throughout the State, including five tribes that have one or more. The Sault Tribe has two drug courts - adult criminal drug court (Gwaiak Miicon) and family drug court (Family Preservation Court). According to Judge Fabry, drug courts seek to rehabilitate drug-using offenders through drug treatment and intense supervision with drug testing and frequent court appearances. Drug courts offer not only the incentive to remain out of jail, but the opportunity for the participants to change their lives. Drug courts also offer assistance in obtaining housing, education, mental health, family counseling, traditional teachings, and other services as identified during the program. The Family Preservation

Court is structured similarly and is offered to eligible participants in child welfare proceedings. Participants in drug court complete four phases of different lengths over about a twelve-to-eighteen-month period. Program length is determined by the participant's progress, but is never less than forty-one weeks. Successful completion and graduation result in having their guilty plea set aside and charges dismissed, unless otherwise specified at the time of their guilty plea or entry into the drug court program. Failure or dismissal from the program results in the immediate entry of their alternative sentence.

Fabry said the most recent graduate of drug court is a young man who has been involved with

the criminal justice system for half his life – for the past 16 years. "Since his graduation on Jan. 8, this is the first time he has not been on probation, in jail or prison since he was 17. He has completely turned his life around. There are a lot of statistics that show drug courts work, but it is more those anecdotes and cases and faces that you can relate to, that tell you that it works. You can't quantify that or the ripple effect his success creates – because it also affects his family, friends and community," she said. Fabry said her first monthly meeting as a MADCP board member will be Jan. 29 in Lansing.

For further information about MADCP, visit their website at: <http://madcp.dreamhosters.com>.

Tribal programs evaluate 2014, plan 2015

BY AARON PAYMENT,
TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON

This time of year brings new promise as we evaluate how we performed last year and what we project to do in the coming year. By the time you read this, the president will have given the state of the union speech to Congress. What we do not yet know is how the presidential administration and Congress will work together (or not) to enact budgets that respect the federal trust responsibility to uphold our "pre-paid treaty rights."

We do not have a federal lobbyist, so it is up to us to make clear to Congress our needs as a tribe. Part of this includes working to gain approval for our gaming expansion projects. Recall that you, the voters, had the opportunity to, and in the spring of 2012, approved the Lansing casino project via tribal referendum. Once the Department of the Interior recognizes our legal right

to take land in trust in Lansing and for this property to be "held as Indian lands are held," we will have the funds to expand services including increases in our elders' dividend and other benefits approved pursuant to the approved referendum.

Today, we are doing more with much, much less casino revenue. Our non-gaming enterprises have stabilized to bring to the table about \$1 million per year. We have had a drastic change in our casino revenues over the last 10 years, with a drop in tribal support funds from gaming, from \$34 million in 2004 to \$17 million today; so, about half of what it once was.

It is important to keep in mind that three precepts govern how my administration operates.

First is my conservative fiscal approach to management and administrative oversight. I am proud to report that for all four years I presided over operations

as tribal chairperson/CEO (2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007), my administrative team and I operated balanced budgets. For the last three years, I have served as chair (2012, 2013 and 2014) I have also balanced the budget even with the serious challenges of sequestration and the federal government shut down. These type of successes don't just happen. I hold monthly financial reviews to monitor spending against projected budgets. This did not occur prior to me being chair in 2004 (except when I served as deputy executive director) and ceased to occur when I left office in 2008 through the time when I returned to office in July 2012.

Two other drivers governing how we operate and spend include resolutions introduced by Director Dennis McKelvie during my last term to require a balanced budget and to earmark 100 percent of our net revenues (in this case about \$18 million; \$17 million from gaming and \$1 million from non-gaming enterprises) for programs and services.

In the meantime, we will continue to set our goals high for services delivery and operations. For the next three years, we simply need to do more with less. I

See "Accomplishments," pg 23



Photo Courtesy ACFS

Above are just a few of the beautiful mittens donated to Anishinaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) by Bonnie Miller and her mother, Pauline Kraxner. Miller made all of the mittens and Kraxner sewed them together for her. Their generous donation will help keep the hands of many children warm for this winter. ACFS is very grateful for the generous donation! See more on page 11.

U.P. electricity charges won't be so shocking

According to the governor's office, a series of agreements that lay the groundwork for elimination of a costly utility rate payment for Upper Peninsula families and job providers, while providing the region with long-term, cost-effective energy reliability and ensuring the U.P.'s energy independence were announced Jan. 13 by Governor Rick Snyder, Attorney General Bill Schuette, Wisconsin Energy Corp., Upper Peninsula Power Co., Invenergy and Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.

The governor's office release said proposed solutions meet two key goals for policymakers: 1) protecting U.P. ratepayers from years of costly System Support Resource (SSR) payments for the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette, Mich., and 2) providing replacement electric generation in the U.P. to avoid a likely federal mandate to pay half a billion dollars or more to remain dependent on out-of-state coal plants.

"Our primary goal is to protect

U.P. families from unreasonable rate increases to the greatest extent possible," Schuette said in a release. "We remain committed to vigorously opposing any short-term rate increases due to the costs of maintaining the Presque Isle Power Plant, but this agreement will help avoid long-term burdens on U.P. ratepayers while increasing energy reliability and the opportunity for future economic growth."

According to a Jan. 13 See "UP Energy Crisis," pg. 19

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Sault Tribe Tax Office notice to members who registered in 2014

Please note the following when filing your 2014 Michigan income tax return: A change in members' tax status is reported to the Michigan Department of the Treasury on the 15th of each month. The treasury then recognizes members' status on the first of the following month. This date will determine how many months of the year you can claim a state income tax exemption.

The 4013 tax credit is based on the same amount of months as your state income tax exemption that is reported to the treasury upon your registration with the tax office.

For example if you registered with the tax office by Jan. 15, 2014, your income will be exempt from Michigan income taxes for 11 months of the year based on the fact that you remained in a tax

agreement area throughout 2014.

Your 4013 tax credit will also need to reflect that you only resided in the tax agreement area for 11 months; you would not qualify for the entire year.

For example, if you registered with the tax office in the month of November of 2014, your income will be exempt from Michigan income taxes for only the month of December 2014.

Your 4013 tax credit will only be for one month of 2014.

It is very important that, when filing your state income tax return, the correct amount of months you are exempt is recorded. If there is a discrepancy between what you file and the information the treasury has, your refund could be delayed.

If you file electronically and receive an amount that is

Therapeutic horseback riding camp scheduled for summer of 2015

Chippewa County 4-H will once again sponsor the Proud Equestrian Program (PEP) Therapeutic Riding Program at Charlotte Ridge Equestrian Center June 22-25, 2015.

PEP is volunteer-driven and offered through Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development. The objective is to offer children with physical, mental or psychological difficulties an opportunity to learn how to ride and nurture carefully selected horses.

Children with special needs aged 5 and older are invited to participate in this year's program. Children 4 years old with a doctor's note that youth would benefit may also participate. Therapeutic riding helps children with special needs do things such as sit up, walk and talk. It can make them strong enough to do tasks as dressing themselves. It also helps people with mental and emotional problems compensate.

The walking movement of a horse is almost the same as the walking movement of a human. When horses and humans walk, their hips move up and down and tilt from side to side as well as turn or rotate. When children ride a horse, their hips move as if

incorrect, the state could audit your return, which could result in penalties and interest in addition to monies owed back to the treasury.

IMPORTANT: Registering with the tax office in 2015 will not exempt you from 2014 taxes or give you the 4013 tax credit.

Registering in a present tax year will not give you any exemptions for prior tax years.

Volunteers and riders needed!

they were walking on their own, enabling riders to gain muscle strength. It also helps with their mental acuity and is an overwhelming confidence booster because of being in control of a horse. In so doing, it aids in the development of other skills necessary for a better quality of life.

Riding is not the only skill the children will learn. They will have hands-on opportunities with a horse, learn how to care and manage horses, along with proper nutrition for themselves and a chance to do various crafts.

To make this camp a success, volunteers and riders are needed. It will take a minimum of 45-50 volunteers to put on the four-day program. Teens and adults are invited to assist as volunteers, and no previous knowledge of horses is necessary. If you would like to volunteer, please call Melanie Greenfield at greenf20@anr.msu.edu.

Donations from the general public make this camp free for families. If you would like to donate to this program, please call Melanie Greenfield at the Chippewa County MSU Extension office at 635-6368. All donations are appreciated and tax deductible.

Job opportunity: Sault Tribe Eldercare Services director

The Eldercare Services director is responsible for providing leadership to the Sault Tribe Eldercare Services Division and ensuring the provision of quality services including home health care, transportation, congregate and home-delivered meal program, Elder Health Sufficiency Fund and geriatric programming.

The position also serves as an administrative point of contact for the Sault Tribe Elders Advisory Board and all unit elders subcommittees.

The position requires a bachelor's degree in health or human services, business management, accounting or communications plus five years of experience working with non-profit organizations or governmental agency programs serving tribal communities or elder populations.

For more information about the position – including requirements and deadline – please contact the Sault Tribe Human Resources Department at (906) 635-4937 or email stemployment@saulttribe.net.

Chi Mukwa Pro Shop promotion for members

Promotional discount of 15 percent off store-wide for tribal members at the Pro Shop in the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

This offer is available year round. Proof of membership required at time of purchase. No sales tax for Sault Tribe members living and registered in tax agreement areas.

Discounts do not apply to special orders, clearance items or skate sharpening and repair. No double discounts.

Accepting cash, U.S. check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover and Sault Tribe payroll deductions.

For more information, please call Derek at the shop at 635-4906, office at 635-4751 or cellphone at 203-6992.

This offer is subject to change without notice.

Sault Tribe employment opportunities

Contact (866) 635-7032 or stemployment@saulttribe.net
Apply online at www.saulttribe.com/about-us/employment

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Community health educator – full time/regular
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Project coordinator – full time/regular
Director of strategic planning – full time/regular
Budget analyst – full time/regular

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

Newberry:

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Behavioral Health counselor (Manistique) - full time/regular

KEWADIN CASINOS OPENINGS

Sault Ste. Marie:

Electrician – part time/regular
Food and beverage director – full time/regular
Marketing director – full time/regular
Beverage supervisor – full time/regular
Website administrator – full time/regular

St. Ignace

Restaurant assistant manager I – full time/regular

Manistique

Food and beverage manager II – full time/regular

Christmas

Restaurant manager III – full time/regular
Casino manager III –full time/regular

Darrell Labranche Indian taco benefit Jan. 21

Darrell has recently been diagnosed with stage three colon cancer. He is 27 years old and just recently celebrated a year of continuous sobriety. Darrell continues to be an inspiration to all who have the good fortune to come in contact with him. The demands of treatment have forced Darrell to discontinue employment and travel costs downstate continue to mount. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to join us in supporting Darrell!

An Indian taco sale is set for Wednesday, Jan. 21, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Naagaanigiizhik Ceremonial Building, 11 Ice Circle, across from the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center in the Sault. An Indian



taco with a drink is \$6. Local deliveries are available as is dining-in.

To pre-order or for questions, contact Pat McKelvie or Julie McKelvie at (906) 440-0027.

Newberry food distribution rescheduled — On Jan. 8, the USDA Food Distribution Program truck broke down in Newberry. Distribution is tentatively for Jan. 29, 2015, subject to change depending on weather conditions and the repairs to the truck.

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January 23, 2015
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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
Rick Smith.....Staff Writer
Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Advertising: \$8.50/column inch.
Submission and Subscriptions: Win Awenen Nisitotung
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Telephone: (906) 632-6398
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DOJ issues memo on marijuana enforcement in Indian Country

Rumors run rampant, but no changes in federal or tribal prohibitions against marijuana on Indian reservations

BY RICK SMITH

An Oct. 28 three-page memorandum from U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Director Monty Wilkinson to federal officials about Indian Country marijuana law enforcement is the subject of a lot of misguided speculation and controversy, shifting rumor mills into overdrive and even fueling erroneous reports through some mainstream media outlets.

Regardless of widespread claims that the federal government legalized marijuana production, distribution and use in Indian Country, that is not the case; marijuana cultivation, production, distribution and use remain federal and Sault Tribe offenses. “It is important for all tribal members and tribal employees to understand that the Justice Department policy did not legalize marijuana use. It only changed the attorney general’s enforcement priorities,” Sault Tribe officials noted in a memo issued on Dec. 12. “Under the new policy, the federal government will be more likely to defer to a tribe’s own laws on marijuana. This means that the U.S. attorneys probably will not file federal criminal charges for routine marijuana use or possession in Indian Country if the tribe has changed its own tribal laws to legalize marijuana.

But the new policy also makes it clear that marijuana is still illegal under federal law.” Further, the memo notes the new policy still leaves the local U.S. attorney with the authority to file federal charges in individual cases.

According to the DOJ memo, some tribes asked for guidance on enforcing the Controlled Substances Act on tribal lands in the wake of marijuana legalization in some states. The Attorney General’s Native American Issues Subcommittee reviewed an earlier memo, commonly called the “Cole Memorandum,” covering issues related to states’ legalization of marijuana trade and considered the situations the new laws raise for Indian Country.

Both memos set priorities for marijuana enforcement for medicinal, agricultural or recreational use. Eight DOJ priorities are specified:

- Prevent distribution of marijuana to minors;
- Prevent revenue from the sale of marijuana from going to criminal enterprises, gangs and cartels;
- Prevent the diversion of marijuana from states where it is legal under state law in some form to other states;
- Prevent authorized marijuana activity from being used as cover or pretext for the trafficking of other illegal drugs or illegal activity;

- Prevent violence and the use of firearms in the cultivation and distribution of marijuana;
- Prevent drugged driving and the exacerbation of other adverse public health consequences associated with marijuana use;
- Prevent marijuana cultivation on public lands and the attendant public safety and environmental dangers posed by marijuana production on public lands; and
- Prevent marijuana possession or use on federal property.

Further, nothing in either of the memos precludes investigation or prosecution “where the investigation and prosecution otherwise serve an important federal interest.”

“Indian Country includes numerous reservations and tribal lands with diverse sovereign governments, many of which traverse state borders and federal districts,” Wilkinson noted. “Given this, the United States attorneys recognize that effective federal law enforcement in Indian Country, including marijuana enforcement, requires consultation with our tribal partners in the districts and flexibility to confront the particular, yet sometimes divergent, public safety issues that can exist on any single reservation.”

In addition, the memo from tribal officials notes Sault Tribe laws and policies regarding marijuana remain unchanged:

- The possession of marijuana

is still a crime under section 71.1603 of the Tribal Code and is punishable by up to three months in jail and/or a fine of up to \$1,000.

“Under Tribal Code section 71.1601, furnishing marijuana to another person is a more serious crime — punishable by up to six months in jail, and/or a fine of up to \$2,000.

“Federal law still requires the Sault Tribe to enforce a strict “zero tolerance” policy in tribal housing. This means that if a tenant, a family member or even a guest is found to be using, selling or simply possessing an illegal drug — including marijuana — in tribally managed housing, the entire family can be evicted from the housing.

“Tribal employees continue to be subject to the drug-free workplace policy adopted by the board of directors. Under

that policy, employees are subject to not only reasonable suspicion drug testing but also random drug testing. If an employee tests positive for illegal drugs, including marijuana, the employee will be suspended without pay for one week. A second offense within three years will result in immediate termination from employment. There is no appeal from this action

“Sault Tribe members and employees are cautioned that these tribal laws and policies remain fully in effect unless and until modified by the board of directors. These laws and policies are very strict and can have very serious consequences for those tribal members or employees who may be found using or possessing illegal drugs, including marijuana.”

Winter survival camp Feb. 6-7 on Sugar Island

Mary Murray winter survival camp for students aged 12 to 17 is set for Feb. 6-7. Students learn cold weather survival by preparing for an emergency, building a rough shelter and making a flint fire.

Participants need to bring warm clothes, bedding and toiletries; children must have appropriate winter wear to participate in outside activities.

Those needing a ride should meet at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building at 4:15 p.m. on Friday, Feb 6. Drop off is on Saturday, Feb. 7, 4:15 p.m.

Permission slips available through Jackie Minton or Linda Grossett at 635-6050, the Sault Tribe administration office at 523 Ashmun Street, the Intranet or any YEA coordinator.

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Special gear helps to reduce tribal energy use

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe Planning and Development Specialist Jeff Holt said the tribe has purchased energy-saving equipment to identify ways to reduce energy consumption, including reducing heating and electric bills.

“Our tribal energy group is working with Facilities, which has helped identify what equipment is needed for maintenance staff to see where energy savings measures can be made,” Holt said.

The funding for the equipment purchases comes from a DOE grant that was used to perform energy audits on the tribe’s governmental buildings and Sault Tribe Housing Authority houses (along with rebates from local utility companies). There were a few thousand dollars left from that original grant that was used to fund the equipment purchases. “We’ve received energy rebates because of the work we’ve done through grant funds, which will be put toward more energy saving projects, such as installing motion sensors on lighting in our governmental buildings. Past energy projects have not only saved the tribe money on energy costs, but has allowed our energy group to be better informed of the needs and potential savings available,” Holt said.

The new equipment will allow Facilities, Housing and Environmental staff to measure energy usage and cost, the first step to increasing energy efficiency within the tribe.

The equipment purchased includes infrared cameras to check for heat loss, blower door units to test for air leaks, gas monitors to check for leaking natural gas lines, carbon monoxide (CO) monitors for use inside the home and smoke pens to

check for air leaks. Sault Tribe Environmental Manager Kathie Brosemer said combustible gas can be just as toxic as CO and can also be explosive. “A gas leak would typically be outside your house in the fittings near your meter. When you are doing an energy audit on a home you want to check for gas leaks before you do any work with the furnace or air pressure in the home so that you are not spreading combustible gas or CO throughout the home,” she said.

Sault Tribe Facilities Manager Chip MacArthur said, “This new equipment will allow me to make sure boiler systems and hot water tanks are properly drafting up through their flues. Sometimes you get a down draft, or something could be plugged, and that will help me with those issues as well.”

Brosemer and Water Resource Technician Joe McKerchie have both been trained in and received their Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification as building envelope specialists and building analysts. Brosemer and McKerchie will also be working with BPI certified Housing Department staff to do home inspections on the tribe’s housing units.

McKerchie said, “Being BPI certified means we can work with the tribe’s Housing Department to do home energy audits. Housing can then make changes to make those housing units more efficient.”

Brosemer said, “It all also connects with the Climate Champion award we just received – these are some of the things we do that got the attention of the DOE and the President’s group that worked on the selection process. What we are doing to make our buildings and residences safer, cleaner, and more energy efficient was an attention getter.”

Holt said utility companies offer numerous rebates to their customers for such things as replacing thermostats and lighting. Visit your utility company’s website to see what is available.



Photo by Brenda Austin

Left, Sault Tribe Environmental Manager Kathie Brosemer, Planning and Development Specialist Jeff Holt, Facilities Manager Chip MacArthur and Environmental Department Water Resource Technician Joe McKerchie unpacking the new energy-saving equipment including gas monitors, CO monitors and smoke pens.

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St. Onge named cultural repatriation specialist

BY ANGELINE BOULLEY

Colleen St. Onge was hired as cultural repatriation specialist for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The position was vacant due to the retirement of Cecil E. Pavlat Sr. in December of 2014. St. Onge began her new position on Jan. 1, 2015. Previously, she served as the cultural repatriation assistant and trained with Pavlat for a period of two years.

The cultural repatriation specialist is a critical position for the tribe, serving as the point of contact for the discovery of ancestral remains and historically sacred land issues. St. Onge will represent the tribe in local, state and federal matters concerning

the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. St. Onge will also continue international repatriation efforts on behalf of Sault Tribe with the Karl May Museum in Germany. In addition to her duties regarding repatriations, St. Onge will supervise the Language Program, the Ojibwe Learning Center and Library and the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building.

St. Onge is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science with a concentration in public administration and a minor in American Indian studies from Central Michigan University in 2012. She is current-

ly working on a Master of Science in Administration (MSA) degree in international relations from Central Michigan University.

She is the daughter of Francis St. Onge and Mary Ribble. St. Onge is a former member of the tribal youth council. She enjoys spending time with her fiancé, family and friends and hitting the powwow trail. She would like to acknowledge her family for always supporting her and Cecil E. Pavlat Sr. for guiding her over the last two years.

Colleen St. Onge, cultural repatriation specialist, can be contacted at (906) 635-6050 or by email at cstonge@saulttribe.net.

Angeline Boulley is Sault Tribe's assistant executive director.



Raffle of paintings to support Sault language conference

BY THERESA LEWIS

Aanii boozhoo, mino nimkoodaading! (Happy new year!) The Baawting Anishinaabemowin Conference Committee is planning this year's fifth annual conference on June 12 and 13. One of our presenters from last year's event, James Mishibinijima, donated two of his original paintings toward fundraising for this year's conference. The Language Committee is very thankful for Mishibinijima's generous contribution. Gchi-miigwech!

The paintings are on display in the Ojibwe Learning Center and Library. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and will be available by contacting Sault Tribe's Language

Department. All proceeds will go toward the fifth annual Baawting Language Conference. The drawings will be on June 13, 2015, at the Language Conference closing ceremony at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building, 11 Ice Circle Drive in Sault Ste. Marie. Participants need not be present to win. (License STR-028-14.)

The artist, James Mishibinijima, is an Ojibwe from the Wikwemikong Reserve on Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Canada. Mishibinijima has artworks on display worldwide that depict legends passed on by the elders over generations. He also continues to collaborate with First Nation education programs

to develop curriculum resources as Anishinaabemowin is his mother's tongue and he's a fluent speaker. More information on the artist can be found at <http://mish-mountains.blogspot.com>.

Also check for additional updates on the language conference on the Sault Tribe website by visiting <http://www.saulttribe.com>.

Learn Anishinaabemowin at your own pace through LiveStream by visiting the website mentioned previously or go to <http://new.livestream.com/saulttribelanguage>.

For more information, contact Theresa Lewis or Colleen St. Onge at (906) 635-6050.



Resolutions passed at Dec. 9 board of directors meeting

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors convened a meeting on Dec. 9 in Sault Ste. Marie. All were present.

Annual tribal liquor licenses were renewed for Kewadin Casino Hotel and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie and Kewadin Casinos in Hessel, St. Ignace, Manistique and Christmas as well as the Midjim Convenience stores in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace.

Tribal Code Section 14.106, the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure Ordinance — Emergency Cancellations and Rescheduling, was amended to add a new subsection six which reads: "In the event of severe weather or other similar emergency that makes it dangerous to hold a scheduled meeting or workshop, the chairperson or the board of directors by taking consent by majority vote of the directors, may cancel a meeting or workshop or may reschedule it to a later date and time. If a meeting is rescheduled to another date, it shall be deemed called as a special meeting and shall comply with Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Constitution of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians."

A fiscal year 2015 budget for was approved for Administration for Native Americans Social and Economic Development Strategies Wequayoc Cemetery with federal Health and Human Services funding in the amount of \$25,941.30 with no effect on tribal support.

Fiscal year 2014 year-end

reconciliations were approved for the Hessel and Manistique elderly meals for an increase in tribal support of \$4,005.49.

A fiscal year 2014 budget modification for the Big Bear Fitness Center was approved for a decrease in other revenue of \$37,477 and an increase in tribal support for \$35,887.12.

A fiscal year 2015 budget was established for the Wellness Program with other revenue of \$47,690.12 and third party revenue of \$200,538.22.

A fiscal year 2015 budget modification was approved to change the personnel sheet and re-allocate expenses for the St. Ignace clinic with no effect on tribal support.

A fiscal year 2015 budget modification for Access to Recovery and support services was approved for an increase in Inter-Tribal Council funding of \$90,000 with no effect on tribal support.

The board approved the fiscal year 2015 budget document 003, including internal services, totaling \$58,219,961, of which \$16,246,349 comes from tribal support.

The board also approved the fiscal year 2015 budget document 004, enterprises, for revenue of \$13,309,696 and expenses of \$12,988,346.

Resolutions approved by the board may be viewed or downloaded in their entirety, along with documents indicating how board members voted on the resolutions, at the tribe's website at www.saulttribe.com/government/board-of-directors/board-download-files.

Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School

Kindergarten Round Up for 2015-2016 School Year

Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School is holding



Kindergarten Round Up for the upcoming 2015-2016 School Year. Only those who complete and turn in an enrollment application during the Open Enrollment period will be considered for the lottery.

The Open Enrollment dates are from Feb. 5, 2015, through Feb. 20, 2015, with evening hours from 5 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Applications may be picked up from the school office or from the school website at www.jklschool.org beginning Feb. 5, 2015.

All applications must be received by the school office by 4 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on Feb. 20, 2015.

The lottery will be held in the school cafeteria at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, for those wishing to attend.

Attendance at the lottery is not mandatory.

The parents of those children selected from the lottery will be notified by phone to set up the appointment for Round Up. The dates of Kindergarten Round Up are set for March 18 and 19.

Boulley completed Honolulu Marathon in December

Sault Tribe member and the tribe's assistant executive director, Angeline Boulley, fulfilled a personal goal and walked the entire length of the Honolulu Marathon on Dec. 14, 2014. It took nine hours and 48 minutes for her to complete the 26.2-mile race. The dream, a few years in the making, of walking a marathon "someday" became a goal with a deadline: to walk one before her 50th birthday. "I just barely made it," joked the 49-year-old mother of three.

Boulley said, "The Honolulu Marathon is one of the most walker-friendly marathons in the country. Marathons usually have a time limit that excludes walkers — I had heard this race was wonderful and special."

She said there was a great sense of camaraderie, with tourists and locals lining the streets to cheer for everyone. "It's mutual awe and respect, they're in awe of the people out there pushing themselves to complete the marathon and you're in awe that complete strangers are standing in the rain nearly ten hours later, clapping and saying encouraging things to you. My feet were so sore and I felt physically wiped out, but the adrenaline of the experience pushed me through those last several miles."

How do you prepare for such an endeavor? Boulley walked about five miles per day, with one long walk over the weekends and one day of rest per week. In the months and weeks leading up to the marathon, she worked up to longer walks of 14 to 20 miles. "I was a bit nervous right before the marathon, wondering if I did enough to prepare," she said.

"But there was no backing down. I was going to give it my best shot and have no regrets, lots of friends were rooting for me."

She said she shut off her iPhone and tucked it into her bandolier bag during the race and would give herself the incentive that every four miles or so, she could check for texts, emails, and Facebook messages for encouragement. "I was there by myself, but I felt connected to my tribe, wearing my Sugar Island Powwow T-shirt during the race and with my bandolier bag," she said.

Was there anything she wasn't prepared for? "Well, the crowd, for starters," she laughed. "There were 31,000 race participants and the major streets in downtown Honolulu and Waikiki were closed. It was amazing to experience something so huge, but I hadn't planned for so much rain. I was proud of myself for thinking to bring along a spare pair of socks. But it kept raining and by mile 10 both pairs were soaked and I was dealing with some awful blisters."

Boulley said her advice to anyone who has a fitness goal is consistency. "It's not so much what you do, but that you do something every day," she said. "When I'm consistently walking 35 miles a week I breathe more deeply, I'm better able to handle stress, I sleep more soundly and I just feel better."

Boulley said, "I'm proud of myself for setting an ambitious goal and sticking with it. It wasn't easy, but it was worth it. It's about striving to become a healthier person regardless of your size or your age."



Above, Boulley at the finish line. Below, she pauses alongside a scenic ocean view.



Below left, folks cheer on Marathon participants.



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Tuesday, Feb. 24
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Elder poet Warner publishes first novel — *Dakota Queen*

BY RICK SMITH

Sault Tribe elder Ted Warner of Montpelier, Vt., began writing poetry at the age of 13. Further, he spent 50 years working for various newspapers in different capacities as he competed in poetry competitions and became a published author of poetry and prose.

In recent times, he dusted off a manuscript for a novel he wrote called *Dakota Queen* that sat dormant for about 20 years. With the help of his daughter, Patrice Alexander, book cover artist and poet, Carol Henrikson; and pre-press agent, Linda Tyler, the manuscript was polished and *Dakota Queen* was submitted for publication through the independent publishing service, CreateSpace, an Amazon company.

A cursory cruise through the book suggests anyone who enjoys Zane Grey and Louis L'Amour western classics will no doubt enjoy Warner's opus. In fact, it seems the story would appeal to anyone who enjoys the easy reading and imagery-rich style of authors such as Stephen King, whose works so easily convey pictures to the minds of readers that one feels he or she is watching a movie rather than reading. It's probably all the years of experience in writing and publishing showing through in Warner's tight, gripping tale.

"It's based on a true story," said Warner. The story is set on the Great Plains in 1888 and follows the conflicts brought to



Ted Warner

some Dakota Sioux folks and a struggling rancher's widow by a ruthless banker and his equally unscrupulous thugs.

Dakota Queen is available online at www.amazon.com.

Warner grew up in the area of Flint, Mich., but has roots and relatives in the vicinity of the Mackinac Straits. In 1981, a collection of his poetry, titled *The Mackinaw Light*, was published by KATHE Publishing of Royal Oak, Mich. The title comes from the poem that opens and closes the collection, plus all of the poems are written from the viewpoint of the old Mackinac Point Lighthouse in Mackinaw City, Mich.

While all of the poems are interesting works conveying glimpses of a period around the straits area, one of the poems in particular allows readers to become eyewitnesses into the heart of a historic development at the straits. Warner adeptly

captures the view of the lighthouse (and, probably, many others) on the threshold of changing eras in a poem simply titled, *The Bridge*:

What's that I see on the St. Ignace shore?

*A causeway being built a mile or more?
Not a bridge, please don't tell me so.*

Where will all of our car ferries go?

The boats are part of our life, you know.

*They run until the ice starts to flow.
But, alas, it's true, I see the dredge.*

For sure they are planning to build a bridge.

It'll never work with the bottom shale.

*Their bold attempt will surely fail.
They have talked of it many times before,*

A road to connect northern and southern shore.

Ah, they have stopped, but I suppose then,

*When the war is over, they'll start it up again.
But for a little while, at least, a reprieve.*

Until it's finished, I just won't believe.

Look at it rise, majestic and strong.

Can you imagine, almost five

*miles long.
They've done it, a road from shore to shore,
Coming from St. Ignace to my front door.*

It's done, it's finished, at last I see,

*It was a real undertaking, it had to be.
Though the boat rides were always quite fun,*

They have succeeded in making a divided state one.

Progress and change, though hard to digest,

*Is not always bad, sometimes it's best.
And it is beautiful, rising so high
Before arching its back where it touches the sky.*

And when the lights go on, it's such a thing to behold

*As the twinkling of stars being to unfold.
Now, I suppose, they'll retire the fleet,
Making my job seem almost obsolete.*

*But as long as there are boats plying the strait,
They will need my light to help navigate.*

*And my wailful horn, so long and so low,
Will surely warn them where not to go.*

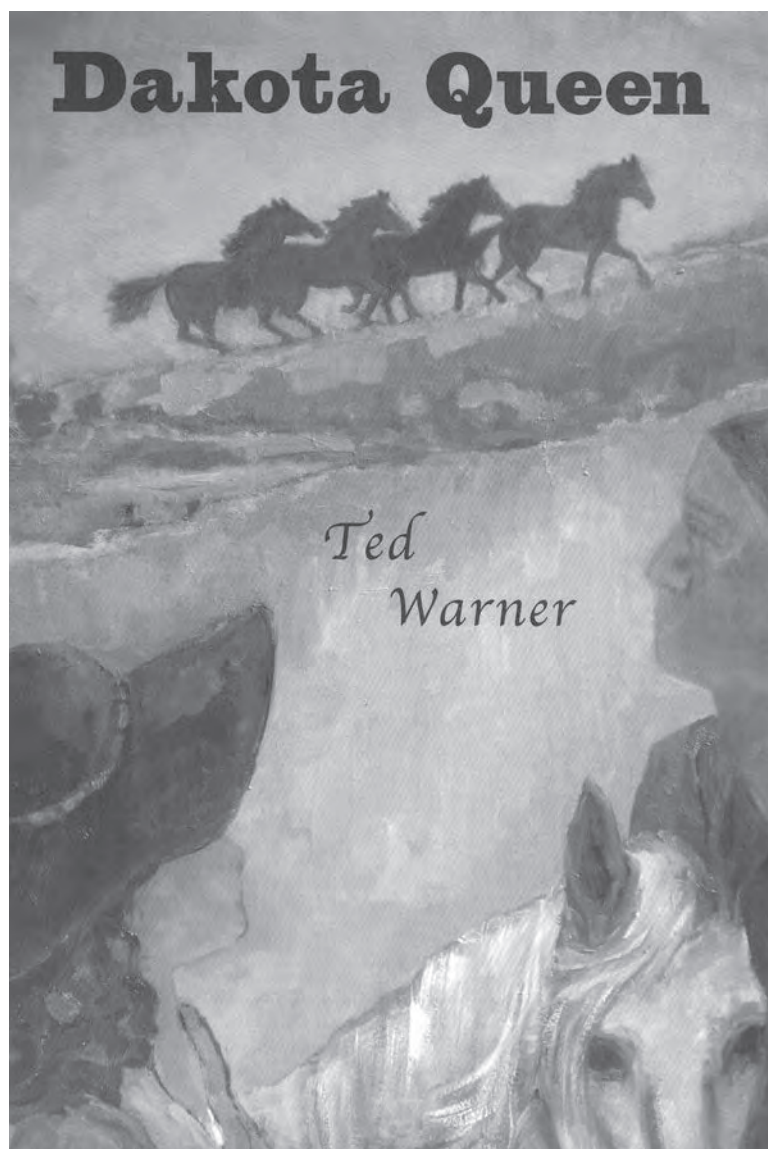
So I guess it was foresight on their part,

*To build such a monumental work of art.
And we'll cherish our memories of a time back then,*

The pace was slower, yes, we remember when . . .



Above, an illustration from the cover of Warner's collection of poetry titled *The Mackinaw Light*. The cover features a faithful rendition of the old Mackinac Point Lighthouse in Mackinaw City, Mich. Below, an image of the cover of Sault Tribe member Ted Warner's debut novel — *Dakota Queen*, a tale based on true events set in the late 1800s on the Great Plains. The work is available through amazon.com.



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SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015

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Head staff for this year's powwow will be announced by February 10. Watch the NMU Center for Native American Studies website for more information.

www.nmu.edu/nativeamericans



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DNR reviewing Graymont's revised EUP land, mineral applications

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has received revisions of a land transaction application and a mineral exchange application from Graymont, Inc.

The company is proposing development of a limestone mining operation in northern Mackinac County near the town of Rexton. The land transaction application amends an October 2014 application. The mineral exchange application amends a June 2014 submission. Land transaction application

The proposal is unchanged in the total amount and location of public land in the application.

The application continues to propose royalty payment for the limestone to be mined. Graymont would pay the state 18.75 cents for each ton of extracted limestone. Those royalties would be deposited into the State Parks Endowment Fund.

The entire revised proposal can be found at www.michigan.gov/graymontproposal.

"The DNR has reviewed the company's proposal for

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is hosting a public meeting Wednesday, Jan. 28, in Newberry to discuss pending proposals from Graymont, Inc. for a land transaction and mineral exchange in the eastern Upper Peninsula and the current DNR recommendation on those proposals. The meeting is scheduled for 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the High School Auditorium at Tahquamenon Area Schools located at 700 Newberry Ave. in Newberry.

DNR staff will provide an overview of the proposals submitted by Graymont, as well as detailed information on the recommendation that has been made to DNR Director Keith Creagh. Starting at roughly 6:15 p.m. and ending at 8:30 p.m., the public will have the opportunity to provide both written and oral comments to the DNR on the proposals.

environmental, legal and social impacts," said Bill O'Neill, chief of the DNR's Forest Resources Division. "DNR representatives have met with Graymont to define our concerns."

As with the company's most recent proposal, this application seeks to acquire limestone mining privileges on approximately 10,357 acres of state-owned land.

Revisions in the new proposal include:

- An increase of 801 acres of land to be purchased rather than exchanged (Tract E).
- A list of proposed exchange lands have been provided by

Graymont and would provide immediate replacement of public property by equal or greater value.

- A proposed value for all of the tracts.
- A dispute resolution process.
- A new format to improve clarity.

Proceeds from the direct sale of lands would be available for the purchase of additional public land. Graymont has indicated that public access will continue to be permitted on lands it proposes to acquire, except where active mining or processing is occurring. The

DNR would continue to manage the surface of the proposed underground mine location for recreational, environmental and economic values, including timber management. The proposal includes the ability for Graymont to designate a maximum of 360 acres of "exclusive use" in Tract D for mining infrastructure such as mine portals, vent shafts, water holding basins, etc.

"Feedback from the public remains a critical component of the review process and will be taken into consideration before any decisions are made," O'Neill said. "Staff will provide a recommendation to DNR Director Keith Creagh at the Jan. 15 Natural Resources Commission meeting in Lansing. The proposal will be before Director Creagh for a decision at the February Natural Resources Commission meeting."

Mineral exchange application

Also at the Feb. 12 NRC meeting, Director Creagh will likely make a decision on Graymont's revised mineral exchange application. The new mineral exchange proposal

can be found on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/graymontproposal. This proposal seeks to exchange more than 1,700 acres of state-owned minerals under the Hiawatha National Forest in Chippewa County for 1,700 acres of Graymont-owned minerals under state-owned lands in northern Mackinac County. This application includes a proposed royalty payment of 20 cents per ton through the end of 2037.

Public comment
There are multiple ways people can provide comments about the proposal, including at upcoming NRC meetings. The DNR continues to maintain an email address for public comment. Interested parties may send comments to DNR-GraymontProposalComments@michigan.gov. Mailed comments can be sent to the Roscommon Customer Service Center, ATTN: Kerry Wieber, 8717 N. Roscommon Road, Roscommon, MI 48653. Comments will be accepted until a final decision is made.

Kite mapping: An old technology becomes new again, more relevant

BY NATHAN FREITAS

Before the drones, unmanned aerial vehicles, manned airplanes or satellites, aerial imagery was captured through the use of hot air balloons, pigeons and kites. Aerial imagery is used in map making, land use planning, archeology, environmental studies, art and much more. With so many resources for aerial imagery (Google Earth, Landsat 8, National Agriculture Imagery Program), you may ask why the need for a kite to collect imagery. Although not as technologically advanced as some modern devices, using kites allows for more recent relevant imagery, high resolution, advanced data and resilience.

With a kite platform, new imagery would be almost on demand because of rapid field setup and deployment, low operating expense, and minimal crew training. Currently, online maps that have an imagery base map, the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) and satellite sensors all have a timetable in which you have to work, and updates are less frequent than you would like with the exception of satel-

lites, which revisit the same spot on earth roughly every three to 16 days. With less frequent updates, a lot can happen between these visits, especially if the application is to monitor change in the environment. Recent imagery lets us see what is happening now instead of two to five years ago.

While satellites can provide high revisit rates, it is limited in spatial resolutions — detail — especially when referring to free or cheap imagery. Resolution is referring to how much land area we can fit in a pixel of an image. With a kite, we are talking centimeters in a pixel whereas satellite is anywhere from 30 meters to one meter. When using online maps like Bing Maps, as you zoom in closer to your target you notice the image becomes blocky and it is impossible to know what you are looking at. High resolution helps to avoid that and let us zoom in a little closer. Higher resolution will allow Environmental Department staff to more confidently identify items such as barrels (phase one environmental assessments), plants (invasive mapping or land change) and animals (habitat modeling).

Sometimes the information is not something we can see. Most cameras are capable of capturing true color images or three bands of color known as RGB (red, green and blue) or the visible spectrum. However, we can collect data outside the visible range to help in discerning materials, identifying vegetation type and vegetation health, but a different image capture device is needed to help with this data collection, these are generally called multispectral or hyperspectral sensors. With access to more information from multispectral images we are able to manage our natural resource more efficiently through modeling and observation rather than rely on outside agencies to analyze and or deliver the results in a report form.

Kites are made from very basic resources (wood, string tape and tyvek at the minimum); this eliminates the need for specialized resources such as fuel and electronic components. Any tears or damage can be readily fixed in a matter of minutes while in the field. With less delays and low cost materials more time can be focused on gathering data and

less on maintenance especially in remote locations that do not favor quick retreat and access.

The Environmental Department staff is in the research and development stage of building kites to lift cameras in the air for remote capture of aerial imagery. You can help by acting as a source of some kite building materials as we experiment with kite designs and size. Below is a short list of desired supplies and would be appreciated very much. If you have any of these things and would be willing to donate to the Environmental Department, please contact us at (906) 632-5575 or come see us at 206 Greenough in Sault Ste. Marie.

Needed supplies:

- Old or damaged tents (poles and lightweight fabric).
- Ripstop fabric (jackets, waders).
- Tyvek.
- Large (two-ply or more) plastic bags.
- Hardwood dowels.
- Plastic sheeting or vapor barriers.
- Most nylon fabrics.
- Bamboo products (stakes, blinds and similar).
- Carbon fiber tubes, aluminum tubes or fiberglass rods (damaged or used arrows).

Nathan Freitas is a technician with the Sault Tribe Environmental Department.

Support groups meet in Sault Ste. Marie

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) meets on the third Wednesdays of each month, 5:30 p.m., First United Presbyterian Church, 555 Bingham Avenue. For more information, call (906) 203-8959, email Chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org or visit www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org.

Meetings on Feb. 19 and March 19. FAN is for education, information, resources, and support for those affected by drug abuse or addiction.

The Prescription Drug Abuse Support Group meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 6 p.m., Huntington Bank. Next meetings on Feb. 3, Feb. 17, March 3 and March 17. Please call Linda at 440-7252 or Suzy at 248-3545 for more information.

2015 Black Lake Sturgeon Lottery Application

Sault Tribe has an allocation of 1 sturgeon from Black Lake in Cheboygan County in 2014. A lottery will be conducted on February 9 to determine who will have the opportunity to harvest a sturgeon. Please fill out the following application and return to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement at: **PO Box 1829, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Application must be received by 5:00 P.M Friday February 6**

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Address City State Zipcode

File Number (Red # on Tribal ID) Phone Number

STS # Date of Birth Sex email address



Cut out and send in, or go to online form at saulttribe.com

Review of Sault Tribe transportation projects

The year 2014 was a busy one for the Sault Tribe Transportation Program. Wendy Hoffman, the program's planner, had the opportunity to administer several projects identified by the executive office and council. The initiatives reflect the five-year priorities for programming and expenditures of BIA Tribal Transportation Program funds. Projects focus on addressing needs and priorities of our membership with emphasis on equitable distribution of resources that accommodate existing and proposed land use in a safe, sustainable and respectful way.

While we plan for the future, be it roads, bridges, trails, sidewalks or transit, we acknowledge our strengths as Anishinaabe and strive to preserve unique aspects of our way of life as we move forward into the future.

Transit, safety and establishing the Transportation Committee were the main focal points for planning last year. Members of the Transportation Committee include council members, chairman, staff from diverse disciplines such as law enforcement, housing, health, legal, communications, accounting and budget.

Reconstruction on the Sault reservation of Shawano Drive and cul-de-sacs along with installation of a sidewalk on Ice Circle Drive was the major construction project for 2014. The project was completed with some restoration (seeding) to be finished early spring of 2015. This project addressed numerous structural deficiencies in drainage, pavement, pedestrian mobility and safety to promote driver and pedestrian safety.

A Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) safety grant financed the creation of a tribal road investment plan for

road safety assessment, analysis and planning. The program assessed risk, safety shortcomings and provides network screening and developed risk maps, assign star ratings and create the Safer Roads Investment Plan.

The scope of the project relied on a collaboration with the Transportation Committee and strong data collection methods that included video segments recorded (camera mounted on vehicle and synced to geographic location), Google street view and analysis of various geometry variables which included the number of lanes, road and lane width, surface conditions, intersection types, pedestrian/bike facilities and traffic flow.

Another FHWA safety grant will fund a tribal transportation safety plan, creating our own safety plan will help us identify priorities that we believe are critical to focus on. Most safety plans incorporate the four E's: Engineering, encouragement, emergency response and enforcement. This is our opportunity to create a plan that could incorporate media campaigns to educate on distracted driving (texting), pedestrian safety and other driver behavior and awareness. We will keep the membership informed and hope everyone will take time and become involved with the project.

We also completed a tribal transit study that had three focus areas: collaboration with current providers, tribal transit and a combination of collaboration with limited tribal transit. Now that this study is complete, we hope to research grant opportunities and move forward with one of the recommendations from the transit plan. We would like to thank the many tribal members, staff and community members who attended our community input



Photo Courtesy Wendy Hoffman
Reconstruction of Shawano Drive and cul-de-sacs along with installations on Ice Circle Drive was the major construction project for 2014. The project was completed with some restoration (seeding) to be finished in the early spring of 2015. The project addressed numerous structural deficiencies in drainage, pavement, pedestrian mobility and safety.


sessions and shared input for us to include in the plan.

Looking forward into the new year, the Transportation Program will focus on reconstruction of roads at the Odenaang Housing development, completing upgrades funded by the Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads Program on Sugar Island, installation of several sidewalks and trails and continued focus on our transit and safety planning projects.


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State Senator Wayne Schmidt is ready to meet with you

LANSING, Mich. — State Sen. Wayne Schmidt was sworn in as senator of the 37th district on Wednesday during a ceremony at the state capitol. Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young administered the oath of office.

Schmidt was joined in the Senate chamber for the occasion by his wife, Kathleen, sons, Ryan and Danny, his parents, Tom and Sue, and friend Mike Vahl.

"It is an honor and a privilege to serve the residents of the 37th district as their state senator," said Schmidt, R-Traverse City.

"The same values and principles that we share, and that I fought for while in the state House of Representatives, I will bring to the Senate as we continue working together to fix Michigan."

Schmidt announced that in addition to serving as chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, he will also serve on the committees of Agriculture, Economic Development and International Investment, Insurance, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism, and Legislative Council.

The senator also announced that his Lansing office is open and ready to meet constituent



State Senator Wayne Schmidt

needs. His office is located at Room 820 in the Farnum Building at 125 W. Allegan Street in Lansing, across from the Michigan capitol.

Residents may also contact the senator online via email at senwschmidt@senate.michigan.gov, by phone at (517) 373-2413 or via U.S. mail at Senator Wayne Schmidt, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909.

More information will be available at his website at www.senatorwayneschmidt.com.



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Christmas giving—



PRESENTS GALORE — Sault Tribe Health Center employees stage mitten trees for children in foster care through Anishnabe Community and Family Services. Individual team members purchase and create gifts for the children at Christmas. The health center staff have been conducting mitten trees for many years. ACFS and the children would like to thank the health center staff for their heartfelt donations.



Besides mittens pictured on the front page, Pauline Kraxner knitted a multitude of hats and afghans for the children.

JKL Bahweting PSA observes JKL Day



Artwork of her late husband, Joseph K. Lumsden, was presented to Suzie Lumsden by Chairperson Aaron Payment, Carolyn Dale (director of curriculum, instruction, accountability and special programs) and Unit I Representative Cathy Abramson, in honor of Joseph K. Lumsden Day.



Photos courtesy JKL School
Chairperson Aaron Payment thanks each of the veterans for their service to their country during a school Veterans Day presentation.

JKL Bahweting observes Veterans Day

This year highlighted an all online Veterans Day presentation by Vincent Gross (USAF). Video clips of veterans coming home and our own homecoming, Airman First Class Helenna

Krull.

The former JKL student just completed basic military training and is an apprentice aerospace medicine technician stationed at Warner Robins AFB, Georgia.

Students were also treated to videos of the meaning of Veterans Day, the story of Arthur Boorman who endured injury and PTSD to overcome obstacles to better his life.



Vincent Gross (USAF), JKL technology teacher, organized the Veterans Day event.



JKL Bahweting PSA students thank veterans for their service.

Open Enrollment

Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School 2015-2016 School Year Open Enrollment & Lottery Information



Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School is a public school academy where all students attend free of charge. Open enrollment for the 2015-2016 School Year begins on Feb. 5, 2015, and ends on Feb. 20, 2015, at 4 p.m. (EST), with evening hours from 5 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Only those who complete and turn in an enrollment application to the school office during the Open Enrollment period will be considered for the lottery. The lottery will be held in the school cafeteria at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, for those wishing to attend. **Attendance at the lottery is not mandatory.**

Applications may be picked up from the school office or from the school web site at www.jklschool.org **beginning February 5, 2015.**

Those selected from the lottery will be eligible to attend the 2015-2016 school year provided they respond within 3 school days of notification. If the deadline is not met, those children will be dropped from next year's roster and the next name on the waiting list will be accepted.

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Everyone declared a winner in ugly sweater contest



Photos courtesy of Gail Sulander

UGLY SWEATERS FEATURED AT MANISTIQUE CELEBRATION – A great time was enjoyed in Manistique on Dec. 12, 2014. Staff from the tribal community centers and clinics in Manistique, Escanaba and Newberry gathered for a luncheon in celebration of the season along with many laughs. An ugly holiday sweater contest was featured where everyone was a winner. The crew also played card and board games along with a white elephant gift dice game that got everyone up and active for nearly an hour.

JKL students dig and find their own ugly sweaters!



Photos by Lori Jodoin

JKL Bahweting Public School Academy had an ugly sweater contest on Dec. 18. Students and staff paid \$1 to wear an ugly sweater and were judged by two parent volunteers and the parent involvement coordinator. All proceeds went to the eighth grade class trip to Chicago. Above, ugly sweater winners, back from left, Kaitlin Chibnall, Walter Anderson, Nicky Kucharczyk, Sophie Shepard and Susan Solomon. Front from left, Liza Fazzari, Oran Fazzari, Annabelle Fazzari, Kadince Suggitt, Emmett Fazzari and Emma Kitzmiller.



Ugly sweater day is one the favorite events of sisters Jasmine Gardner and Sabrina Pawley.



Rayce Rizzo and his mom pulled out all the stops to come up with a hideous home-made sweater.



Mason Morehouse had to get a sweater two-times larger than himself to fit all of his ideas for an ugly sweater.



Chris Paquin proved that a sweater vest, garland and Santa hat make for one ugly sweater ensemble.



Makenna McMillan enjoyed showing off her Christmas ornament adorned sweater.



Liza Fazzari came out on top of the ugly sweater contest with a homemade three-dimensional sweater.



Sarah Kwiatkowski, fourth grade teacher, made a great effort with Christmas adornments on her sweater.

Santa and elves visit JKL Bahweting PSA

On Dec. 14, JKL Bahweting Public School Academy hosted a community Elf on a Shelf extravaganza. The event featured muffins and juice, live Christmas music, amazing raffle prizes, six crafts and visits with Santa. Photos courtesy of JKL Bahweting PSA.



Joslyn Krull makes a fingerprint candy cane card to give to someone special for Christmas.



Robert and Natalia Anghel enjoyed talking with Santa (David Scales).



Kelsey Daley is proud to show off her elf craft.



The Roe brothers, Dean, Luke and Liam enjoyed doing crafts with their parents, Todd and Carolyn, at this family focused event.



Judy Hill and Lise White provided live Christmas music throughout the event.



Photo courtesy Shannon Jones/Bay Mills News

JKL Bahweting Public School Academy float in the Sault Ste. Marie Christmas Parade.



Jordan James and Shawn Plitz joined in the singing.

More helpful elves



Santa and his elves enjoyed helping at the JKL Elf on a Shelf event (see more pictures on page 13). Above, left, Charlie Dunton, Erin Knight, David Scales, Whitney McKenzie, Tan-A Hoffman and Michaela Zimmerman. Below, Sault High National Honor Society members helped the families at the craft stations. Back left, Brandon Line, Josh Eilola, Matt Eilola, Chelsea Zanker and Ann Diepenhorst. Front row from left, Erin Knight, Shoshana Gardiner, Leona Ellis, Kimberly Jodoin, and Charlie Dunton.



Sault Tribe elders enjoyed a traditional Christmas feast



Photo by Rick Smith

ELDERS' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEONS — Sault Tribe elders throughout the service area once again enjoyed holiday repasts at gatherings from Nov. 13 to Dec. 19 in Marquette, Naubinway, Manistique, Sault Ste. Marie, Munising, Escanaba and Newberry. Pictured here at the casino in Sault Ste. Marie on Dec. 9, some of the 387 people who enjoyed turkey, mashed potatoes, carrots, stuffing, dinner rolls, salad and pumpkin pie.



Santa and one of his elves at the Marquette Christmas party.

Marquette children's Christmas party celebrated



Leila Larson and dad enjoying the party



Khaleesi Tadgeerson with Santa



Maya Snyder getting a gift from Santa



Delana Sprowl visiting with Santa



Judy Daley and her grandson Kellan



Emily, Jessica and Alex Gooch posing with Santa



Dessert table loaded with sugar cookies, cupcakes and candy.

The Unit V children's Christmas party in Marquette was at NMU's Great Lakes Rooms, on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014.



Don't let the bedbugs bite — education is key

BY TIFFANY ESCHERICH

Many people have a misconception about bedbug infestations. Bedbugs are not only a concern for travelers but also a concern for the general public, landlords and business owners. The presence of bedbugs is not necessarily an indicator of unsanitary conditions, as you may find bedbugs in a five-star hotel. The important thing to remember when thinking you may have an infestation is to not panic. There may be no reason to throw out all your furniture, douse your furniture in pesticides or fumigate your entire home. With a little bit of education, everyone can learn how to effectively prevent or remove an infestation of bed bugs from your home or business.

A few interesting facts about bedbugs are that they can expand to three times its body size after feeding. They are attracted to the carbon dioxide given off by humans, and their primary food source is human blood. Ordinarily, bedbugs feed at night but they can adjust to your sleep schedule. Bedbug saliva contains an anesthetic, which make hosts unaware they are being bitten and they are not known to carry diseases (unlike ticks and mosquitoes). Bedbugs do not respond well to standard pest control treatments such as pesticide foggers, which make them one of the most difficult pests to completely eradicate.

The first step in assessing whether you have bedbugs is to know what to look for and properly identify the insect you think may be a bedbug. The most effective way to do this is to take a bug in a sealed plastic baggie to a local pest control company for proper identification. There are many other insects that could

lurk in your home that wouldn't necessarily be problem species that you may mistake for a bedbug. Once you have identified that you do in fact have a bedbug infestation on your hands, you can speak with the pest control company about what the best options are for removal.

If you do not have a bedbug infestation, then that's great! There are a couple measures you can take to prevent an infestation if you travel or live in a building with other units. Diatomaceous earth (DE) is a powder product that can be sprinkled directly onto your floor and left there. It is made of ground up sedimentary rock that is naturally occurring on the sea floor, composed of the fossilized remains of diatoms (a type of hard shelled algae). This product helps tackle bedbugs in two ways. First, this powder is highly absorbent and can dehydrate bedbugs as they crawl across it. Second, the abrasive properties of the powder cause injury to bedbugs, which either kills them or deters them from entering an area. Thus, this is a great method for the prevention of bedbugs. You can buy DE at many health food stores, garden centers, and hardware stores. Simply sprinkle the powder on the floor around the base of your bed and around the perimeter of any room to prevent them from invading your space.

To avoid bringing bedbugs back as an unwanted souvenir when traveling, take certain precautions when checking in to a hotel — any hotel can have them! Don't leave your luggage on the floor or bed until you've thoroughly checked the room — stash them in the bathtub to be safe. Then carefully examine the bed linens, especially the

head end of the bed, pulling out the sheets and flipping the pillow over to check for tiny blood spots. These are bedbug droppings. Remember, they feed on blood, so their bug specks will be bloody, like flea specks. If you find any, report it to management and get your luggage out to the lobby ASAP! And remember to thoroughly inspect any of your baggage from traveling and used furniture purchases prior to bringing them into your home.

If a bedbug has been identified in your home, there are a few natural control options available to you depending on your available time, patience and budget. The most effective removal option is hiring a pest control company to perform a heat treatment on the infested rooms or buildings. These visits are expensive and can run anywhere from a couple hundred dollars to a couple thousand. This estimate is very rough as every situation will be different based on the number of rooms and the size of the infestation. Despite the cost, this is the most effective method of completely removing the infestation. Attempting to remove an infestation on your own is not only time consuming and labor intensive but most people are unsuccessful at ever fully removing the bugs. Thus, your best option for control is to prevent them entirely.

Hiring a pest control company may not be in everyone's budget, however there's still hope for at least reducing the population. First things first, you must de-clutter the entire building as bedbugs do move around and chances are if you have them in one room, they are present in others as well. De-cluttering means that things should be

organized and placed into plastic totes in the same room they came from. If you remove items and place them into a different room, then you may be making the problem worse by spreading the infestation. If you see any bedbugs during this process, be sure to kill them. Each female bedbug can lay up to 500 eggs in her lifetime! Bedbugs hide in small spaces, thus by throwing away or organizing clutter, you will reduce the area available for them to hide. When packaging up trash, be sure to double bag it so any bugs in it cannot escape.

Any fabrics (sheets, blankets, pillows, pillow cases, clothing, etc) should be placed in garbage bags (double bagged) and sealed until you can wash them. Place all fabrics in a washing machine and cleaned/dried with the hottest setting the fabric can withstand. Bedbugs will die at temperatures exceeding 115F.

Next, vacuum rooms well with a high powered vacuum cleaner with a removable hose attachment such as a shop-vac. Be sure to run along the edge of the carpet where the carpet meets the wall, along any cracks in walls and along edges of baseboards and trim. Vacuum all bugs/eggs/exoskeletons off mattresses and upholstered furniture that are visible. If you are using a bagless vacuum, empty contents into a sealable plastic bag immediately after, then bag a second time. If using a vacuum with a bag, remove the bag and again place in a sealable plastic bag. This will prevent any live bugs from escaping back into the room. Disassemble the vacuum and place all washable parts into a tub or large sink with hot water and some bleach to kill any bedbugs or eggs that are stuck inside the

hose.

You can continue treating the room using a low-moisture steam cleaner. You may opt to rent a commercial steamer with a large water tank to allow for longer periods of steaming. If you stop without completely steaming an item, you allow bedbugs to move from the hot treated areas to cold areas, preventing them from being killed. Use the largest steam head available and apply steam directly onto treatment areas.

Finally, placing a bed bugprevention cover over your mattress can seal in any bedbugs that have escaped your treatment. Use care when placing this cover on because if there is a tear in the cover, it will not be effective. This cover will prevent new bugs from infesting the mattress and prevent any bedbugs inside from being able to reach their meal, you! By cutting off their food supply, you'll kill any bedbugs remaining inside the cover within a couple weeks. Bedbug blocker mattress covers can be purchased online and may arrive by the time you finish all the other steps for removing bed bugs.

With a little persistence anyone can treat their homes for bedbugs using tools you already have available to you. Unfortunately, treating for bedbugs at home has a very low success rate unless it's a smaller infestation. The best option for a quick, successful removal of bugs from your home is to call a professional.

For more information on natural pest control options for any pest problem, please contact Tiffany Escherich at the Sault Tribe Environmental Department, (906) 632-5575, extension 73061 or tescherich@saulttribe.net.

Native high school juniors and seniors sought to help summer research project — deadline Feb. 13

The American Indian Research and Education Center (AIREC) seeks applications from American Indian high school students in grades 11 and 12 for summer help with the Short-Term Research Experience Program for Under-represented Persons (STEP-UP). Students will receive a summer research stipend and the recruitment portal closes on Feb. 13.

AIREC is one of four coordinating centers funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease (NIDDK)STEP-UP, it aims to

recruit students and research mentors, assist with the mentor coordination and be the summer point of contact during the research experience and during the August symposium in Bethesda for our students.

The High School STEP-UP provides hands-on summer research experience for students interested in exploring research careers in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social sciences. The program provides exposure to the core NIDDK mission areas of diabetes, endocrinology and metabolic

diseases, digestive diseases and nutrition, kidney, urologic and hematologic diseases.

The program will consist of eight weeks in the summer where the students will identify their own questions and learn concepts that guide a scientific investigation. Students will develop and implement a course of action to carry out the procedures of their investigation, develop investigation instruments, gather and record data through observation and instrumentation to arrive at appropriate conclusions and, finally, communicate their findings, all done under the guidance of their mentors.

Students applying to the program must complete and successfully submit the online application along with a personal statement of no more than 600 words, contacting two academic references for letters of recommendation and order an official academic transcript reflecting all earned credits through December.

Further, eligible applicants must be U.S. citizens, non-citizen national or legal permanent resident, high school juniors or

seniors at time of application with a minimum overall grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale and have personal health insurance coverage throughout the duration of the program.

Applicants must also meet one or more of the following circumstances:

- Come from racial or ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be under-represented in biomedical sciences on a national basis.
- Come from a disadvantaged background as defined by annual family income and/or be first generation college bound.
- Diagnosed with a disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
- If applicable, select the American Indian/Alaska Native option when filling out the online application.

For more information and application deadlines, visit the National Institutes of Health (NIH) NIDDK STEP-UP website at <https://stepup.niddk.nih.gov/hs.aspx>, page will automatically redirect visitors to the appropriate page and provide a optional link.

Some of the program's highlights:

- Eight to 10-weeks of full-time research experience with flexible starting dates.
- Summer research stipend.
- Students are assigned to one of four High School STEP-UP coordinating centers to help coordinate and monitor their summer research experiences.
- Students are not required to relocate in order to conduct their summer research.
- Students are encouraged to choose a research institute and mentor near their hometown or within commuting distance of their residence.
- All-paid travel expenses to the August, annual High School STEP-UP Research Symposium conducted on NIH's main campus in Bethesda, Md.
- Students present a formal oral and/or poster presentation on their research at the symposium.

Anyone who has questions can contact the STEP-UP Program coordinator, Ms. DeeJay Chino, by phone at (702) 895-4003 or email chinoe@unlv.nevada.edu.

Kewadin Shores observes Cardiac Health Day

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. The good news is heart disease is preventable and controllable. Celebrate Heart Health Month with a community Cardiac Health Day on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015, from noon to 5:30 p.m. at the Kewadin Shores Casino event tent in St. Ignace.

This special event features guest speakers Dr. Andrew H. Teklinski, M.D. with a presentation on heart disease prevention; Jeffrey Katke, M.A., LLPC, CVSO, on emotions and heart disease; Dr. Timothy Hoffmann, M.D., on weight loss and heart disease, Dr. Zachary Brian, D.O., on prodromal disease; vendors, information stands and workshops.

Elder care available at the St. Ignace Health Center

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe St. Ignace Health Clinic is located under the same roof as the Mackinac Straits Health System and serves tribal members in St. Ignace and surrounding areas.

Some of the services offered at the clinic include: medical, dental, nutrition, Traditional Medicine, Community Health, Behavioral Health, optical, pharmacy and Anishnaabek Community and Family Services. Also located within the clinic are ancillary departments and staff, including administration, medical records, and medical billing.

Clinic Manager Cheryl LaPlaut, said that services offered by the center are available for tribal members from cradle to death, although medical providers see more elders than youth. "Elders have more chronic illnesses and diseases," LaPlaut said. "And working and partnering with the Mackinac Straights Health System is a great addition

to what we are providing our patients."

The health center has one full time physician, Timothy Hoffman, full time nurse practitioner Tracy Texter and locum physician Louis Zakl. The Community Health Department also has a full time Community Health nurse.

LaPlaut said clinic staff is very accommodating to tribal elders – "If they need a wheel chair or other support services and let us know ahead of their appointment, we will do what we need to do to work with them," she said. She also said medical providers refer patients out to other services as needed – such as home visits offered through Community Health. Also, if a patient is homebound, there are services such as medication delivery available to them.

Other services that are available to elders and anyone else who needs them, include making individualized meal plans to meet

their specific needs with the clinic's registered dietitian, and foot care for those patients who can't do that for themselves – such as a pregnant woman, or someone with diabetes or who is obese.

Dr. Hoffman has a passion for working with patients to help them loose weight and maintain a healthy lifestyle. He recently attended trainings related to obesity and metabolism and would be happy to help patients attain their goals. To help with that, the health center recently purchased an InBody 720 body composition analyzer through a grant they were awarded. The analyzer provides data used for all kinds of medical treatment, including measuring the visceral fat area, which indicates intestinal obesity causing many lifestyle diseases; has an edema index showing water balance and helps to determine nutritional status of the individual being tested; and analyzes lean balance, showing muscle adequacy of each segment of the body

separately. LaPlaut said they would begin using the machine for their cardiac and obese patients who are pre-hypertension or who have hypertension or other related medical issues.

LaPlaut said the health center is also reaching out to all of their members, especially elders, about the Affordable Care Act and the Health Insurance Marketplace. "We want members

to help us get the word out to their family and friends," she said. The Marketplace offers new options for health coverage and supplies tribes with more money to invest in additional health care programs. If you don't already have health care coverage, contact a counselor in your service area. For a counselor in St. Ignace, call Heather Lester at (906) 643-8689.

Johnson, Peterson honored



BY CAROL STRAUER

Longtime chairperson and committee members Jerome Peterson, right, and Daniel Johnson, left, of the Manistique Tribal Unit IV Subcommittee were honored at the Nov. 12, 2014 monthly meeting. Peterson has been chairperson since the committee was formed in 1996 and Johnson was vice chairperson for many years. They both gave years of dedicated service and friendship to the group and tribe and will be greatly missed. We wish them the very best.

— Carol Strauser is the Manistique Unit IV chairperson.

Vote for the Soo for a Bayliss Library grant

Bayliss Public Library is one of five finalists for this year's Michigan Digital Newspaper Grant administered through the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University. The \$2,500 grant award will help improve access to a winning Michigan newspaper.

Bayliss Library, an affiliate of Superior District Library, is the only U.P. library to be selected. If Bayliss Library wins, the funds will be used for scanning and placing online the Sault Ste. Marie newspapers from 1887 to about 1903. The newspapers are a valuable resource to historians, genealogists, and the general pub-

lic, and the library's microfilm is showing wear.

The public is being asked to vote for the organization's city of their choice to determine who receives the grant funding. You are encouraged to vote for Sault Ste. Marie via twitter using #DigSSMarie in posts from January 19-25. Each tweet equals one vote. (Your twitter account must be set to "public" in order for your hashtag to count as a vote.)

Voting can also be done by sending a Michigan picture postcard, equaling 100 votes, to the Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University, Mount

Pleasant, Michigan, 48859. The postcards must be received by January 30 at Clarke Historical Library. Make sure and put your name and "Vote for Sault Ste. Marie" on your card. One postcard allowed per person please.

Postcards became available at Bayliss Library for the public to pick up on Friday, Jan. 16. Das Gift Haus at 305 West Portage Avenue is another place where you may pick up a postcard for voting.

Please check the libraries website at: www.baylisslibrary.org and Facebook page for updates.

BMCC offers two early childhood courses in the Sault at Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

Bay Mills Community College is offering two courses in Sault Ste. Marie this winter at the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan office at 2956 Ashmun Street. The classes are a collaborative effort between BMCC and Sault Tribe Higher Education.

EC 117: Health, Safety and Nutrition for Early Childhood. Credit hours: 3; start date: Monday, Jan. 19, 5-6:50 p.m., in the ITC conference room. Course description: This course is also offered on-line. In EC117, students will understand the roles of good nutrition, health and safety in the early childhood classroom. Students will learn practical skills and procedures to increase their effectiveness with young children. This course incorporates and will provide students

with accurate, authoritative and up-to-date information on nutrition, health and safety for young children.

EC 108: Competencies and Best Practices in Children and Family Programs II. Credit hours: 4; start date: Tuesday, Jan. 20, 5-7:50 p.m., in the ITC conference room. Course description: EC108 is the second of two courses that will prepare students for the child development associate (CDA) competency exam. The course will give students resource materials, a basic foundation of knowledge and hands-on experience in ways to nurture cognitive, motor, language and creative process skills in children. The main objective is to teach students ways to advance physical and intellectual

development in young children. Principles of children's growth and development will be integrated throughout the course, as will experiences in observing and recording children's behavior and progress in the areas of creative process, motor development, language and cognitive development. Long range and daily planning will also be explored. Students will be observed working with children, will continue to work on their professional resource files and will fulfill other course requirements.

Students may register on the first night of class, on campus at Bay Mills Community College, 12214 W Lakeshore Drive, Brimley, MI 49715; or online at <http://www.bmcc.edu>.

Potawatomi professor Robin Wall Kimmerer, author, to speak at NMU Diversity Program

Professor Robin Wall Kimmerer, a member of the Citizen Band Potawatomi, wrote the book *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*, which won the 2014 Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award and was recently announced as this year's Northern Michigan University

Diversity Common Reader selection.

The Diversity Common Reader Program is designed for those interested in topics of diversity. Kimmerer's book focuses on diversity and ecology from an indigenous perspective, according to NMU. *Braiding Sweetgrass* focuses on how indigenous wisdom complements

western science and informs best practices to sustain our earth.

Dr. Kimmerer will visit the NMU campus on Monday, March 30 to lead a storytelling gathering and will be a keynote speaker on Tuesday, March 31, on the campus. Those interested in more information should call the NMU Center for Native American Studies at (906) 227-1397.

Elders' checks in the mail!



Photo by Brenda Austin

On Jan. 9, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indian send out the 2014 Land Claims checks to all eligible tribal elders (those 60 and older as of Dec. 31, 2014). Above, Melissa Killips running the checks through the tribe's postage machine in preparation to be picked up in that day's mail run.

This year the check was in the amount of \$563 with \$6 being taxable. There were 4,919 elders meeting the requirements and of those 4,813 turned in the proper paperwork to make them eligible to receive a Land Claims check.

The Land Claims fund was established in 1998 and has paid the eligible elders every year since. The total paid out from 1998 through the 2015 payment is \$56,577,734! The payments are based on interest and dividends earned on the account of the past fiscal year of the payment. In some years, the tribal board of directors also subsidized the payment amount through the transfer of General Fund dollars.

Elder maintenance opening at Sawyer Village

Sault Tribe's Workforce Investment Act Program posted a senior employment program job for a maintenance worker. The position is part-time (14 hours per week) at Sawyer Village in Gwinn, Mich. The pay is \$7.25 per hour.

The maintenance worker is responsible for a variety of minor maintenance, housekeeping, snow removal, and lawn care tasks for the residential, commercial and vacant properties managed by Sawyer Village.

Inside work consists of general office/warehouse setting, occasional lifting, bending and kneeling. Outside work consists of

lawn care including riding lawn mower, push mower, weed eater and snow shovel. Must be able to lift 50 lbs.

One-year experience in the maintenance field is required. Previous lawn care experience is preferred. Applicants must be Sault Tribe members aged 60 or over, reside in the seven-county service area and must undergo a criminal background investigation, complete and pass pre-employment drug testing.

Reply to Sawyer Village, ATTN: Joy Page, 250 Voodoo, Gwinn, Mich. 49841, (906) 346-3919.

Closing date is Jan. 30, 2015.

Adams' music collection spans four decades

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe member and life-long St. Ignace resident John Adams got his first taste of rock and roll music when his brother Wesley Adams played him Led Zeppelin's Stairway to Heaven. "I was seven at the time, and I've been rocking every since then," Adams said. That was four decades ago.

Adams began collecting compact discs (CDs) of rock and roll music as a hobby since they made their music industry debut in 1982. Although he has never counted his collection, he said it's extensive – everything from Detroit's Amboy Dukes of the

1960s to the Zombies. He subscribes to the music collectors magazine the Goldmine, and spends time looking through their classified ads for something he might like. His most recent online purchase comes from a little record store in Virginia.

Adams visits his local library on a regular basis and while there takes advantage of their Internet and computers to place his orders. He said his favorite groups include Led Zeppelin, Jeff Healey, Frigid Pink, Savoy Brown, Canned Heat and White Witch. Adams says many of his CDs are collectors' items, with

his White Witch album being the rarest CD he currently has in his collection. Some of his CDs have come from British Columbia and Scotland.

Adams is the caretaker for his mother, Alvina Lucille Adams. His father, Earl Gordon Adams passed away in 2006. His brothers are Bernard Wesley Adams, Charles Rex Adams, and sisters Leone Sorenson and Ruth Ann Adams.

Photo by The St. Ignace News
The albums shown here with John Adams are, from left, Michigan's Bob Seger, Georgia's The Black Crowes and Canada's heavy metal group, White Wolf.



United States female veterans deserve better

BY GARRY J. AUGUSTINE

More than a quarter-million American women served honorably in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. These brave women sacrificed much to keep us safe. Now that they are home, our country has a solemn obligation to help them to return to civilian life.

Yet there is mounting evidence that America is not fulfilling this obligation. Based on currently available data, it is clear our country isn't fully meeting the unique physical, emotional and employment needs of women veterans. When they return home, they receive less support than male counterparts from government programs mostly designed for men.

Today, nearly one in five women veterans has delayed or gone without necessary health care in the past year. One in 11 is unemployed. Former servicewomen experience homelessness

at between two to four times the rate of their civilian counterparts.

It's unacceptable that the women who honorably served our country—our mothers, spouses, sisters and daughters—are at risk. A new report released by my organization, Disabled American Veterans, finds that the federal, state, and community programs to support women transitioning out of military service have serious gaps that put some women veterans in jeopardy.

Consider medical care. Today, one-third of the Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers lack a staff gynecologist and 18 percent of VA clinics have yet to hire at least one doctor specializing in women's health.

Mental health services for women are severely lacking. Twenty percent of female patients in the VA health system have been diagnosed with a condition resulting from military sexual

trauma, which can have devastating, long-term consequences. Nonetheless, one in three VA health centers does not have enough sexual trauma specialists on staff.

We are not doing much better when it comes to helping women veterans gain post-military employment. Former servicewomen are highly skilled, with unique life experiences that give them valuable leadership qualities and the know-how to operate effectively in high-stress situations.

Yet the unemployment rate for female veterans has steadily climbed for most of the past decade. What's more, two-thirds of women veterans report that the career service help offered by federal agencies has been sub-par.

These problems could soon get worse. The military has started on a major draw-down of personnel. As a result, more than 200,000

current servicewomen are expected to rejoin the civilian workforce in the next five years.

Now is the time for action.

In our new report, *Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home* (www.dav.org/women-veterans-study/), DAV outlines 27 recommendations that Congress, the Administration, VA and the Departments of Defense, Labor, and Housing and Urban Development can take to strengthen the safety net for women veterans.

For starters, veterans' health centers must meet their obligation to provide specialists in women's health. At a minimum, every VA medical center must hire a gynecologist. And efforts to treat and help stamp out sexual assault within the military need to be expanded.

To help combat unemployment among women veterans, the Department of Defense (DOD)

must take a hard look at the primary program designed to help veterans transition to the civilian labor force: the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). DOD does not collect data on participation, satisfaction and outcomes by gender and race. Simply put, DOD cannot tell us if TAP actually helps women veterans successfully transition. Plus, VA and DOD need to develop career guidance programs for women veterans.

Thousands of women answered the call of duty and put themselves at risk to preserve our nation's security. They served this country faithfully. Serving them with greater respect, consideration and care must become a national priority.

(Garry J. Augustine, a Vietnam-era combat-wounded Army veteran, is executive director of DAV's Washington headquarters.)

Thanks to Kewadin Shores Casino!

A big thank you to the Kewadin Shores Casino in St. Ignace for hosting the Unit III children's Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014.

Thank you to the Kewadin Shores Restaurant for furnishing the pop, water and coffee; the staff and employees for buying the Christmas gifts for the children and making the delicious cookies and the cakes for the cake walk.

Thank you staff and employees for a job well done.

—A Unit III great-grandparent, St. Ignace, Mich.

Letters to the editor ...

Thanks to City of Manistique

Hello to the kind people of my tribe! Others have now had a voice. "We the people" must see that we always do the right thing — let us never again leave a voice unheard, as we are all a part of this great nation we live in.

My name is Megin/Two-Feathers Leuenberger, an Ojibwe from my mother's lineage. On this walk in life it's been a lonely path of tears back to my people. I kept our ancestors' oral words as we sat at the great fire circle

listening to the wisdom of our elders. I carry within my heart and soul the collective memory of all my people, the Ojibwe.

I was born to my mother, Joy, a two-spirited child. My mother and grandmother, as I grew, could see and began to understand I was both male and female, thus my name was given, Two-Feathers. I was taught only a few are given to the life of a midew holy one of both sexes.

A few weeks ago, I stood before the Manistique city council asking that

they remove city ordinance 207 that stated cross-dressing is a chargeable crime. The City of Manistique gave a kind apology to me reassuring me the ordinance 207 would not stand. Thank you, warmly! To all in the tribe for your support as I still unweaving walk the walk of my people one day at a time. Thank you to my Ojibwe mother/grandmother, I am on the humble path back back to my people.

Warmly,
Megin Two-Feathers Leuenberger
Gulliver, Mich.

From Bob's Kitchen — Gratin Dauphinois, creamy potato dish

A simple, rich and decadent potato dish, creamy and delightful, the flavors are delicate while exciting to the senses. Here's how you make it.

Ingredients;
4 large Yukon Gold potatoes
1 stick real salted butter
Whipping cream
Large bowl of salted water
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1 clove peeled garlic

Preheat oven to 375F. Peel potatoes, slice very thin and place the slices into a bowl of salted water to keep them fresh.

Run the garlic clove over the sides and bottom of a one-inch square casserole dish. Pour a thin layer of cream to cover the

bottom of the dish. Place a single layer of potatoes to cover the bottom of the dish, dot with butter and sprinkle with a little salt. Add the nutmeg to the remaining cream and shake to flavor the cream.

Put down another layer of potatoes, lightly salt and dot with butter. Repeat until all of the potatoes are used. Pour cream into the casserole dish until it reaches the top of the potatoes without covering them. Place into the oven and bake for one hour. Turn heat to 400 degrees and bake for 20 more minutes to brown the top.

Remove and let cool for ten minutes or so while you set the

table and place the rest of your meal. The potatoes can easily be the star of this meal. Serve with bright, freshly steamed vegetables and good pork, poultry or beef.

You will want to make this frequently as it tastes so great. But remember, it is calorie-intense. Using a food processor helps to make this dish easier or use a mandolin to thinly slice the potatoes, like potato chips. They have to be thin slices to ensure they cook all the way through.

If you love cheese and potatoes, you can grate a thin layer of Gruyere cheese on top. Enjoy.

From the kitchen of Bob Flowers

First One Billion Rising Revolution

Save the date! Join us on this important day to bring awareness on Feb. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center volleyball court.

Join the tribe's Advocacy Resource Center and Anishnaabek Community and Family Services on Feb. 14 in Sault Ste. Marie, (wear comfortable clothing) as we and others across the globe drum, dance, and rise to bring awareness to end violence against women.

We are also having dance practices on Jan. 21 at 2 p.m., and Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Interpretive Center, 531 Ashmun in Sault Ste. Marie.

One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action to end violence against women in human history. One in three women on the planet will be abused during her lifetime. With the world population at seven billion, that adds up to more than ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS. Abuse knows no boundaries and can affect every age group, income level or race. We would like every woman to take a stand against violence.

Sign up by calling Amy McCoy, domestic violence educator at the Advocacy Resource Center, 632-1808 or by email at amccoy@saulttribe.net.

SAULT TRIBE MEMBERS WALK ON

RICHARD A. GERMAIN

Richard Alan Germain, 53, of Texas, died unexpectedly on Nov. 19, 2014. He was born on July 9, 1961, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

All who knew him loved him. He enjoyed spending time with his beautiful wife, Holi, his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed playing music with family and friends. He also enjoyed watching the Detroit Tigers baseball games and doing ketsudo. He had a very special relationship with his son-in-law, Joseph. He was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.



Survivors are his wife, Holi; three daughters, Kristie Douglas, Apryl (Jospeh) Aycox of Gordonville, Texas, and Kate Garman of Sherman, Texas; four granddaughters, Carmen, Summer, Braelyn and June and one grandson, Cody; several nieces and nephews; six sisters, Patti (Gary) Bosley, Linda Grove, Sandy (Dwayne) Graham of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Janet (Frank) Germain of Kinross, Mich., Sharon Oliver of Kincheloe, Mich., Susie (Terry) Niemi of Barbeau, Mich.; and six brothers, Bernard (Bunz) Germain, Ronald (Bo) Germain, Bobby (Peggy) McKechnie of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Edward (Butch) Germain, Larry McKechnie of Kincheloe, Mich., John (Chicky) Germain of Alpena.

He was predeceased by his parents, Leo "Hoppy" and Eleanor Germain; father-in-law, Henry Tremblay; two brothers, Kenneth (Weegie) Mongene and

Jackie Germain; four nephews, Jimmie Lee Germain, Jackie Bennett, Wally Bosley and Francis McKechnie and brother-in-law John Caster Jr.

SEARLE A. LAWRENCE

Searle A. Lawrence left this world on Jan. 4, 2015, at Sentara Careplex Hospital in Hampton, Va. Searle was born in Newberry on June 8, 1943, the daughter of Eugene and Lillian (nee Thorn) Mercier.

She spent her life taking care of others. She cooked for Meals on Wheels, the Head Start Program in Brimley and Brimley Public Schools in the cafeteria. Searle could cook one heck of a pot roast and always made sure everyone had enough to eat. She was "Nana" to all who knew her.

She was a past member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 9023 and served the citizens of Chippewa County through this membership. She assisted her late husband in numerous Lions Club endeavors and took her very first airplane ride in 1991 to Australia when he was inducted as Lions Club District Governor of Region 10B.

Later in life, Searle took care of the elderly providing companionship, meals and house cleaning services. She worked at Kings Casino as a cook and housekeeper before she finally decided it was time to retire.

Searle moved to Virginia to live with her daughter in 2009. She would sit on the front porch or by the window watching the butterflies and the hummingbirds as they flitted around the garden.

She is survived by her daughter, Sharolyn Graybiel and her family of Poquoson, Va; son, Charles Lawrence, Jr. and his

family of Rockford, Ill.; brothers, Eugene Mercier of Florida and Thomas Mercier of Tennessee; five granddaughters, one grandson and a great-granddaughter.

Searle was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Stewart; and her beloved husband, Charlie.

Her generous heart stopped beating although the paramedics and the hospital staff did all they could to keep her here a little longer.

Arrangements by Claytor Rollins Funeral Home and Crematory of Poquoson.

PAMELA A. MAHANNA

Pamela Ann Mahanna of Kincheloe, Mich., passed away on Dec. 7, 2014, at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., surrounded by her family. Pamela was born July 15, 1965, in Sault Ste. Marie, the daughter of Alfred and Evelyn Berkland.

Pam loved the outdoors and spent a lot of time camping with her family and friends. She also enjoyed canoe trips, kayaking, four-wheeling and anything outdoors. Pam had an adventurous spirit and longed to live in the warmer climate of Florida, and she did live there a couple times. Pam is a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. In recent years, she sought our creator and turned to her Native American heritage and beliefs to help her through life. She joined

in the effort to Keep Michigan Wolves Protected and got the most petition signatures in the state. She will be missed by many.

Pam is survived by her two sons, Lucas (Angela) Mahanna and Alexander Mahanna; granddaughter, Ryan Nicole Laponsie, and grandson, Dennis James Mahanna; brothers, Robert Berkland and Leo Berkland; sisters, Karen Berkland and Brenda (Bruce) Lipponen; nephews, Nathan, Lance, Terry, Dan and Russ; nieces, Brandi and Heather; great-nephews, Frankie, Tommy, Seth, Isaac and Atticus; great-nieces Leah, Autumn, Vera and Ella; several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends and her beloved dog, Aries.

Pam was preceded in death by her parents; grandparents, Emil and Anna Berkland and Wilfred and Genevieve Aikens.

Visitation and services took place on Dec. 12 at Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home with Pastor Larry Witte officiating. Contributions in memory of Pam may be left with her family. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

MELVIA B. MENARD

Melvia B. (nee McCoy) Menard of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away at Hospice of the EUP on Dec. 14, 2014. She was born to Fred and Bertha

(nee Rickley) McCoy on Oct. 8, 1930, on Sugar Island, Mich.

She is survived by her husband, Glenn; sons, Robert Lovin, Doug Menard, Darrell Menard of Sault Ste. Marie and Kenneth (Cindy) Lovin of Dayton, Ohio; daughter, Melinda (Randy) Menard of Dafter, Mich.; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and sisters, Pearl (Alvin) Menard of Sugar Island and Elizabeth Smith of Sault Ste. Marie.

Melvia was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Phillip McCoy and David McCoy; sisters, Lillian Perrault, Isabel McCoy, Lorraine Menard, Catherine McCoy; and daughter-in-law, Terry Lovin.

Services took place at the Sault Tribe Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building on Dec. 19 with Brother John Hascall officiating. Burial will be at the Holy Angels Payment Cemetery on Sugar Island at a later date.

Memorials may be left to Hospice of the EUP.

BERNICE MICHAELS

Bernice (nee Moses) Michaels, 85, passed away on Dec. 30 in Tucson, Ariz. She leaves behind her husband of 56 years, George; a daughter, Gerri of Claremore, Okla.; and a sister, Ruth.



Agreements ensure U.P.'s long-term energy security

From "UP Energy Crisis," pg. 1
Cloverland Electric statement, the solution brokered by the governor's office attempts to address the long-term energy needs of the U.P. but does not address the short-term problem.

"Cloverland Electric was not part of the discussion leading to this announcement," Cloverland President and CEO Dan Dasho said. "At first glance, this long-term solution has no effect on the short-term crisis facing Cloverland members in the coming months. If the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) announces a decision in mid-February related to the System Support Resource (SSR) payments for the Presque Isle Power Plant, then Cloverland members

may have to pay up to \$2 million per month for several months until the purchase of the Presque Isle Power Plant by UPPCO is completed."

While the effect on different U.P. electric customers will vary widely, they will see a reduction on their bills after the SSR payments cease, which likely will be in July. Without protection from SSR payments, residents could be asked to pay approximately \$150 more a year, and businesses could pay tens of thousands of dollars – or even millions of dollars – a year, depending on their location and energy usage.

The four agreements in principle announced Jan. 13 are as follows:

— Agreement in principle between UPPCO and We Energies: The electric utility businesses now owned by We Energies and Integrys (doing business as Wisconsin Public Service Corp.), including the Presque Isle Power Plant, would be sold to UPPCO, meaning a single U.P.-based corporation would provide electric service to a majority of the U.P. UPPCO indicated that it will "step into" existing rates, except that the SSR will be terminated.

— Agreement in principle between UPPCO and Cliffs: Upon acquisition of the Presque Isle Power Plant, which is expected no later than July, the SSR payments would be terminated and UPPCO would not seek an SSR. Cliffs would purchase a significant majority of its power from UPPCO until the Presque Isle Power Plant's retirement, anticipated in 2020 due to new federal air emission requirements impacting coal generators state-

wide.

— Agreement in principle between Cliffs and Invenergy: Invenergy would build, own and operate a new natural gas-powered, combined heat and power facility, located on Cliffs' site to supply electricity and steam to Cliffs and excess energy to other local utilities. Initially dubbed the "U.P. Cogen Project," the proposed facility is planned to commence operation in advance of the retirement of the Presque Isle Power Plant, and is expected to resolve long-term reliability concerns by providing clean, cost-effective and highly efficient generating capacity serving the energy needs of Cliffs and having some excess power available for other utilities.

— Agreement regarding settlement between We Energies, Gov. Snyder, Attorney General Schuette, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) staff, and Cliffs Natural Resources: The parties have agreed to notify both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the MPSC of their position of no objection to the merger of Wisconsin Energy and Integrys Energy Group, conditional upon the above agreements being approved.

While all of the agreements have a number of contingencies and will be subject to further discussion and refinement, the governor praised all parties for their commitment to hammering out tough issues and said all parties' hard work and efforts mean that he is "personally very optimistic" about the ability to bring these transactions to fruition and get the required approvals from federal and state decision-makers.

Nolan-Horner engaged



Amber Nolan and Joshua Horner, together with their families announce their engagement. The wedding is planned for May of 2015.

Nolan is the daughter of Willard and the late Lisa Nolan of Sugar Island, Mich. Horner is the son of Rayann (Bob) Bertram of Riverdale, Mich., and Scott Horner of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Nolan currently works at Sault Tribe Law Enforcement as an emergency dispatcher/records clerk. Horner works at Precision Edge as a calibration/metrology technician. Both live on Sugar Island.

Foster earns bachelor's degree

Ruby Foster, daughter of Deborah Campbell and granddaughter of the late Francis "Pat" Andress, Sr. and Mary (nee Cadotte) Andress, achieved her Bachelor of Applied Science degree in corrections from Siena Heights University in Adrian, Mich., on Dec. 13, 2014.

She graduated with a 3.6 grade point average and will be walking in the Siena Heights commencement ceremony on May 2, 2015, in Adrian. She achieved an associate degree in corrections law in April 2011, graduating with high honors from Jackson College in Jackson, Mich.

Foster is from St. Ignace but currently resides in Addison, Mich., with her boyfriend, Robert Smith, and her two children, Vlad and Sophie Jennett.

GAMING EXPANSION PROJECTS TO CONSOLIDATE OR ENHANCE: A TRIBAL REFERENDUM ON A REVENUE ALLOCATION PLAN WOULD GUARENTEE



With President Obama at the 2014 Tribal Whitehouse Conference

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

Ahneen, Boozo, Negee:

In this edition of our Tribal paper, we highlight a few of the top achievements of my administration in 2014. Of course, I would first like to acknowledge our team approach in our accomplishments. As the lead administrator, I take great pride in the work we do. Of course, I say "we" as we are a team. I have

some great executives, directors, managers, coordinators and front line team members who assist me in all that we do. Their competence and expert assistance helps us to operate efficiently and to shine our Tribe beacon at the national level. Please read in this edition of the paper, our top accomplishments in our Tribal governmental operations and services delivery. Also, note the recognition we received by President Obama as a Climate Change Action Champion. I am so grateful for our Natural Resources, Housing, Efficiency, Grants, and Traditional Medicine Team Members for pulling together such an great example of what Indian Country can do to protect our Aki (Earth Mother).

I try to work very hard as your elected Chairperson. I strive to strike the right bal-

ance of directly serving you, representing you at the highest levels, and fighting to protect our sovereignty while acquiring additional resources for our continued delivery of services. As I mature (I turn 50 this year; arrgh!) I become less interested in the scuttlebutt and petty bickering (by some of our own elected leaders) and more on having something to show for my efforts. Anyone can complain about what they don't like. True leaders take this into account and lead the way in making change. That is the kind of leader I aspire to be.

Since returning to office, I have lead the way in turning half of our pending trust land applications into our Indian lands which are exempt from taxes saving about \$200,000 to date. This just didn't happen. Additionally, we have secured millions

more in federal funding in grants and legal settlements (Blue Cross Blue Shield of about \$1 million and another \$1.2 million from Contract Support Costs from IHS, a new \$445,000 for our treaty rights implementations).

We handle our inter-governmental relations with federal agencies with finesse. Working as the VP for the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, United Tribes of Michigan, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, and the National Congress of American Indians, grants us access we otherwise would not have. We don't even have a federal lobbyist. Cathy Abramson and I serve on the HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Council and I serve on the IHS Contract Support Cost Workgroup. These successes don't just happen. They require us to be seen in DC and to represent our Tribe. Cathy was the lone wolf on these issues for the time I was out of office. I credit her for inspiring me to get involved at this level. While she and I had our differences in the past, our working relationship and cooperative work ethic is the example of what we can do when we share a vision and work toward the same goal ~ serving our people.

GAMING EXPANSION: Enhance and Consolidate?

As you may recall, in 2011, as a private Tribal citizen, I circulated a petition to grant us the right as voters to decide whether or not to move forward on our Lansing Casino. The result of the referendum compelled us to improve the proposal that the Members ultimately approved. After returning to office, I teamed with Director Denny McKelvie to make the project even better. Since this time, we have cleared a major hurdle with the dismissal of the lawsuit brought on by the State to try to top us. This suit was dropped after the MI Attorney General lost his case against the Bay Mills Indian Community in the United States Supreme Court. Our petition to recognize our right to acquire land with our Land Claims Fund and for the land to be held as Indian lands are held, is at the federal level. We have a good chance of being successful. The Board has since expanded the scope to include a proposed development in New Boston,

Michigan (not the failed race track project). This project is at the juncture to purchase land. The Board has authorized me to do so but I am reticent until we solidify a long term plan for how the Members down state will benefit, as well as, the expansion of services for our Members in the UP. I am not comfortable with a "Trust Me" approach. In the coming weeks I will offer to work with the Board to develop a long term revenue allocation plan to earmark our future net revenues of our proposed downstate casinos so no future Tribal Chair or Board can renege on the promise. I am reluctant to executive a land purchase without a commitment from the Tribal Board to let you vote on this long term spending and strategic plan.

The core legal principal in our petition is to consolidate or enhance our existing lands for the benefit of our Members. My ethics require that we truly mean this rather than just use our Members in the lower peninsula. As you can see, the Lansing and New Boston areas are heavily populated with our Members. This is our greatest strength. I hope our Board will support a long term plan. If not, this is likely to become our greatest weakness. How do we consolidate and enhance if it is not for the benefit of all Members; especially those who live in the vicinity of the proposed project sites?

Finally, here are a few pieces of Tribal legislation I plan to introduce in the coming months:

- Tribal Referendum to include a Tribal Promise to Raise Elder Dividend to 10% of Net Revenue of all Gaming Expansion Projects;
- Negotiate to extend the State Tax Agreement to all Members in Michigan;
- Establish a Mackinac Island Elder Subcommittee;
- Re-Open Enrollment;
- Immediately commit a level of services expansion for the Western End of our Service Area.

Constitutional Amendments to:

- Establish a Unit 6 "At Large" Election Unit ~ necessary to Consolidate and Enhance;
- Add the Mackinac Band to our Historical Bands;
- Establish a Separation Powers into an Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches;
- Set Term Limits for the Chairperson and Board of Directors

Thank you for your continued support of our Tribe.

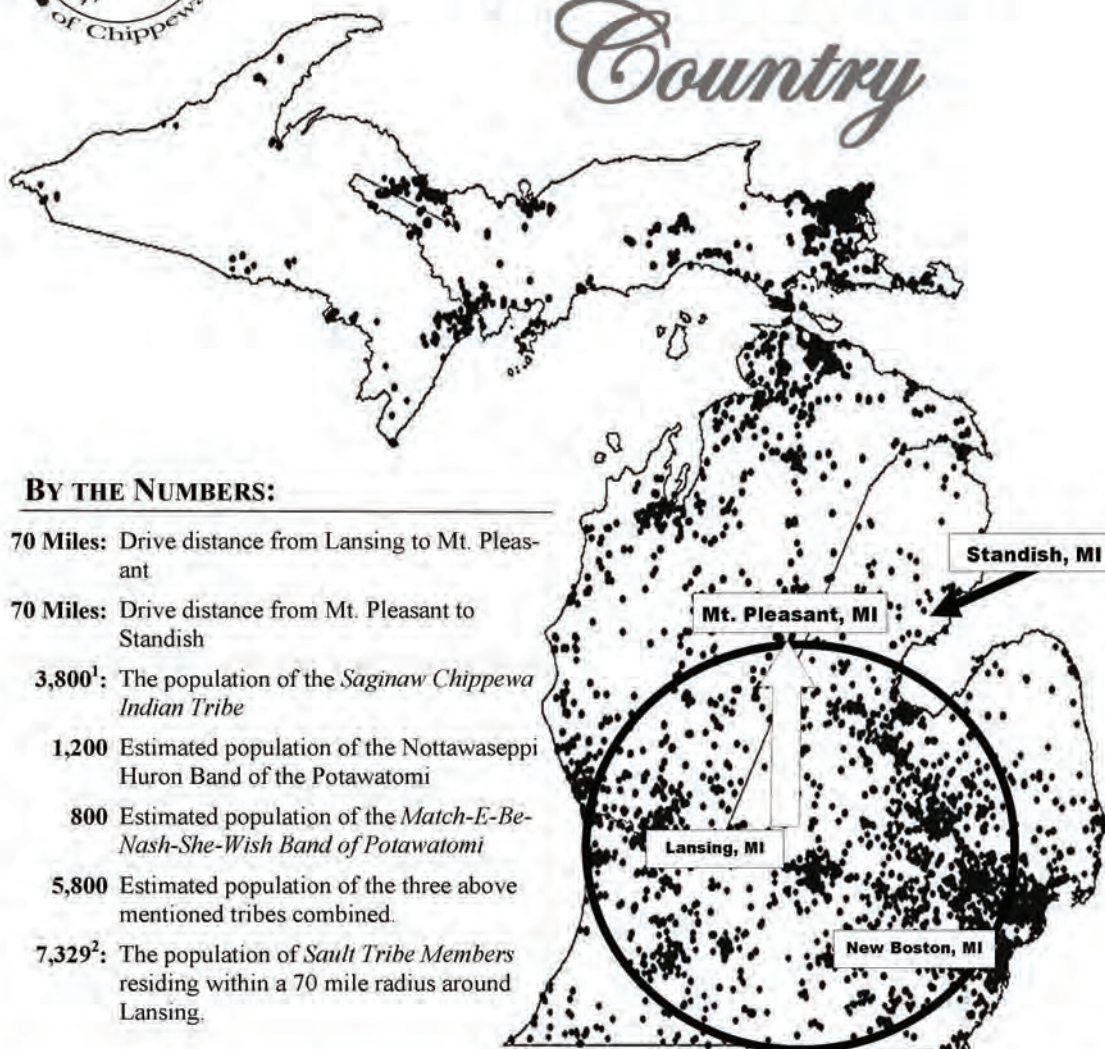
DOWNSTATE SAULT TRIBE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7 - 9pm, TUESDAY ~ February 10, 2015
Lansing Center, Lansing Michigan

Lansing & New Boston

are

*Sault Tribe
Country*



BY THE NUMBERS:

70 Miles: Drive distance from Lansing to Mt. Pleasant

70 Miles: Drive distance from Mt. Pleasant to Standish

3,800¹: The population of the *Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe*

1,200 Estimated population of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

800 Estimated population of the *Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi*

5,800 Estimated population of the three above mentioned tribes combined.

7,329²: The population of *Sault Tribe Members* residing within a 70 mile radius around Lansing.

1. February, 2007, MDOT State Long-Range Transportation Plan (2.1.11) reported the population at 3,296. The number reported above represents an estimated increase due to enrollment since 2007.

2. December, 2013, Sault Tribe Enrollment, MIS Data, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Call: 800-793-0660 Cell: 906-440-5937 Email: chairpersonpayment@saulttribe.net Facebook 'Aaron Payment'

WATCH SAULT TRIBE BOARD MEETINGS ON LIVESTREAM: <http://new.livestream.com/TOSSABCS2>

Chi-MeGwitch, Negee!

Aaron

Tribal Drug Court program applauds graduate



**KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello, I hope all is well with

everyone after the busy holidays.

The topic I would like to discuss is our tribal Drug Court. I witnessed an individual graduate from the Drug Court program this past week. The pride he showed when accepting his completion certificate was very humbling.

When asked if he could give any advice he said you have to make up your mind to stay clean and make sure you have a support system you can call on when needed.

What this program does is when an individual is sentenced to Drug Court, they have a maximum jail sentence held in abeyance. The program takes

an average of 12 to 18 months to complete. Participants are drug tested three times a week, attend three AA/NA meetings a week, attend behavioral health appointments, participate in matrix intensive outpatient and Moral Revocation Therapy Group (which targets criminal thinking), completes budgeting classes, and participates in a cultural event during each phase. They also have to be employed or getting an education during this time. If they aren't employed, they have to be actively seeking employment.

If the participant is terminated from the program, their jail sentence will then be imposed.

On average, Drug Court has five to seven participants at any given time but have the capacity for more participants in the program.

Drug Court's goal is to make this program available to more members by working with state and/or federal courts to target members under those jurisdictions. This is an opportunity of a support system for our tribal members.

For more information regard-

ing this program, you can contact the Tribal Court at (906) 635-4923.

If you feel you have a substance abuse problem, please call the Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Department at (906) 635-6075.

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (906) 203-1930 or at kgravelle@saulttribe.net.

Thank you,
Kim Gravelle

Have you recently moved or do you know another tribal member household that has moved or changed addresses? In order to keep receiving tribal mailings, call the Sault Tribe Enrollment Department to update them with your new address at (800) 251-6597 or (906) 635-3396.

Retaining valuable team members is a priority!



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

I would like to thank those who contributed financially to the tribe's children's Christmas parties this year. I would like to say thank you to the Kewadin Shores and shipping/receiving staff for your extremely hard work — shopping, wrapping, baking, decorating, serving food, setting up, cleaning up and everything else you did to make this year a huge success! You guys make me very proud to have you on my team! Thank you to Director Massaway and our families and friends for all their support. Thank you to the Unit III elders who baked for the bake sale. Thank you to Sue St. Onge, Francie Wyers and the tribal youth for participating. Thank you Santa and DJ Jimmy! Finally, a big thank you to Trish Bunker, for once again coordinating the Mackinac Island gift distribution this year.

I believe we are moving in the right direction with the hiring of temporary Casino Executive Fred Buro. The couple of times he has updated the board on his evaluations of the various casino departments has been very impressive. He has immersed himself into all facets of the business and is focusing on the areas of immediate attention. Changes are not always welcomed and, as humans, we are usually uneasy but we must give things a chance because we all want to succeed in the end. The casinos employ hundreds of hardworking people who have lost their way and need to be heard and understood. The team

members care about our customers and want us to succeed. This is a new year and we shall stand tall together to build a better tomorrow for ourselves and our communities.

The government side has had some setbacks this year with losing long-term team members due to grants ending and "supposed streamlining." We are losing great health care professionals, especially in St. Ignace. We lost a lot of great casino team members last year with cuts. When are we going to make **RETAINING VALUABLE EMPLOYEES A PRIORITY?**

After numerous casino staff lost their jobs last year, I had talked to human resources about the possibility of an elimination of a position policy. Since this time there has been a policy review group made up of staff from all divisions of the tribe, human resources and the executive director and membership services director. The elimination policy is one of the policies that is being reviewed by the group. Some of the possible components of the policy would be keeping staff for more reasons than just their hiring preference, for factors such as length of employment, education, specialized training or skill, overall job performance and effectiveness and disciplinary record. There could also be a possibility of a team member to bump another team member.

I added this to the Jan. 6 Newberry meeting agenda and the board had a small amount of workshop time to discuss this. During the meeting it was tabled to discuss the next day. During the next day human resources presented the composition of the policy review group and the process and current policies they are reviewing. The group has the elimination of position policy on its docket for the first quarter of this year.

I think one of the difficult things to comprehend is that a team member who has been terminated for attendance issues (tardies, call-ins) has an opportunity to appeal their termination to the appeal board. A team

member who may have had no performance issues/disciplinary issues but their position is then eliminated (budget cuts or grant ends) has no appeal process. To me we have a person who may really not want to work and someone who wants to work and they are not treated equal.

When the company decides to eliminate positions or grants end there should be records kept with the qualifications and skills of those team members that are valuable to the organization so when other job vacancies occur, we can match these team members to those skills and experiences that are needed.

Honestly, I think we have many issues occurring in our workforce. I think we have people who may have been here for 10-30 years because of who they are or some who get let go because of who they are. I have seen many great people put in their resignation because they can only take so much of beating their head against the wall. Bottom line is that some people are held accountable and some are not. In order to correct the inconsistencies, managers and supervisors need to lead by example, communicate and use corrective discipline when it is needed according to policy.

Another thing that is frustrating for me and many team members is that they used to always have a person they could go to for direction, advice, questions, etc. That has been taken away. So do we want our team members to be miserable? Do we want everyone to have to communicate with Sault Ste. Marie only? We take away people who are knowledgeable team members with whom team members are comfortable and know they can rely on and make them call someone they don't know or don't get to sit with in person. Well, maybe we will send them down from the Sault certain days of the week and cost the tribe even more money! Let's chalk another one up for the low morale!!

I would like everyone who is affiliated with the tribe, whether it is members, team members, board or chair to imagine own-

ing their own business. What kind of people would you want working for you? Would you train them? Would you hold them accountable? Would you empower them? Would you require great customer service? Would you incentivize them? Would you try to retain them?

So now if we answered yes to the above questions, then we should be making decisions with that in mind. As members, this is your business, so what kind of people should the tribe employ? As team members, this is your lifeline, so what kind of an employee should you be and what kind of an employee should be retained? As board and chair, this is our responsibility to make those policy decisions.

Our communities continue to struggle with addictions and suicide. We need to put this on the front burner if it takes meeting a day a week until an action plan is established. I would like our health care staff to research grants and the feasibility of opening and maintaining our own treatment facility. Things are not getting better. The more I look around, the more I see, especially the prescription drug abuse. It is very sad to see how it consumes people's lives and the lives of the ones who love them. There are Narcotics Anonymous meetings at the Lambert Center on Friday evenings led by Cora Gugin.

Anyone needing to enroll in Medicaid or health insurance through the marketplace can contact Heather at the St. Ignace clinic or Teresa at the Hessel clinic for an appointment, (906) 643-8689. I would like to personally thank these ladies for traveling around the U.P. for the last few months enrolling our members. They have given up nights and weekends away from their families to help our members.

For those of you who may have been previously denied or put on a waiting list through Sault Tribe for child care assistance, they will be taking applications with additional funding.

When determining where a member votes, the physical

address is used, not a PO box. There have been recent changes to some members voting units and the result depends on the address you give the enrollment department.

The Pro Shop at the Big Bear is now offering 15 percent off to Sault Tribe members and, for those living in the tax agreement areas, you also do not pay sales tax. They have a great selection of hockey equipment and clothing. Call (906) 635-RINK for store hours.

The tribe's furniture store, Northern Hospitality, will be having a tent sale at the Kewadin Shores Event Center on Feb. 11-14, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., each day. There will be truckloads of furniture and they now carry appliances. Employees can payroll deduct and tribal members living in the tax agreement areas do not have to pay the sales tax. Stop in and check it out!

Reminder — if any of your friends or family members are no longer getting their tribal paper, they will need to call the newspaper to subscribe to receive a paper copy at (906) 635-6050. Elders are the only ones who will continue to receive the paper without subscribing. Anyone can also view the paper online at saulttribe.com. We had to throw away hundreds of newspapers because of bad addresses prior to this change.

This year, there were 4,921 elders who received \$563 and last year there were 4,561 elders who received \$591. The checks were cut on Jan. 8, so everyone should have received their checks by the time this issue of the newspaper is printed.

I hope everyone had wonderful quality time with their family. I enjoyed spending time with mine over the holidays. Anyone with comments or concerns, please contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.

Just because it is on Facebook doesn't make it true. Consider the source and seek out the truth!

Programs work together and quietly save lives



**JENNIFER MCLEOD,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aaniin Anishnaabek, first, I thank everyone who works so hard to make the elder's and children's Christmas parties such huge successes! CHI-MIIGWETCH! You do fantastic jobs and bring much happiness!

I am so proud of the good work our tribe does to help our people. We have so many good people working diligently, pouring their hearts into all they do. From our biggest business to our smallest program, I am genuinely touched by the dedication of all who serve. This month, I would like to take a moment and focus on the people and programs I had the privilege to directly work with throughout the entire year: The Advocacy Resource Center, our Tribal Drug Court Program and the Legal Department in support of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). During 2015, I plan to share more with you about other programs as well, but I wanted to start with these first because they allowed me to either be directly involved or provided guidance I needed; and, second, because these programs work quietly SAVING PEOPLES LIVES. I have witnessed the difference these programs have made and want to acknowledge that they not only changed the lives of the people they served,

but mine as well.

Under of Jami Moran, the ARC is a safe-haven for victims of crime. Her staff is dedicated to providing a wide variety of services to victims of crime with a special focus on women and children in abusive relationships. They provide advocacy and support to our people as well as operating the Lodge of Bravery (a domestic violence shelter). I have worked with Jami and her staff this year and was so impressed by the fine work they are doing. They assist victims of crime with the management of trauma and with resolution of victimization. From crime victim compensation applications, personal protection orders, as well as help understanding and navigating the criminal justice systems, the ARC is keeping our people safe and saving lives. Over the course of this year, I have had tribal members reach out to me as a board member for help, and because of the ARC, I know that they are safe.

The Sault Tribe Drug Court is another service saving people's lives. In short, Drug Court allows eligible drug-addicted people to pursue treatment for their addictions and learn to live clean and sober lives (rather than the more traditional justice system case processing). But it is hard work, not just for the participant but for the Drug Court Team. Our team, led by Judge Jocelyn Fabry, includes counselors, traditional medicine people, police officers, specialists, lawyers and people from the recovering community. It is an intensive program, but it works! Participants are:

- "Provided with intensive treatment and other services they require to get and stay clean and sober;
- Held accountable by the Drug Court judge for meeting their obligations to the court, society, themselves and their families;

- Regularly and randomly tested for drug use;
- Required to appear in court frequently so that the judge may review their progress; and
- Rewarded for doing well or sanctioned when they do not live up to their obligations."

Drug courts exist all over the country. In their 20-year existence, "there has been more research published on the effects of drug courts than on virtually all other criminal justice programs combined. Research shows that drug courts work better than jail or prison and better than probation and treatment alone. Drug courts reduce drug use and crime and are more cost effective than any other proven criminal justice strategy."

Recognizing that nothing works 100 percent of the time, I am pleased by what I have seen in our Drug Court. As a member of the team, we have helped families stay together. We've reunited parents with their children. We've held participants accountable, imposed sanctions when needed and rewards when deserved. I've seen personal growth in individuals who had practically given up, but because of the support from the Drug Court team, did not quit. I've watched with tears in my eyes, as families gathered together at graduations, standing with their loved ones who have been armed with tools, knowledge, support and most importantly pride that they are living free from drugs and alcohol. As one participant said, "Drug Court saved my life."

Over the past two years I have been working on a new area that will save people's lives, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Currently, our tribe does not have jurisdiction over non-tribal people who commit acts of violence on our land. If a non-Indian beats, rapes or even kills one of our people, we have to rely on the federal government

to prosecute and bring justice to our tribe. Across the country, many, many cases are simply not pursued — the non-Indian perpetrators run free and the victims are left to put the pieces of their lives back together with no justice. VAWA can change that.

"Under the new law, a non-Indian defendant would have the right to a jury trial (in a tribal court) that is drawn from a cross-section of the community and doesn't systematically exclude non-Indians or other distinctive groups. The protections would equal those in state or federal court, including the right to a public defender, a judge who is licensed to practice law, a recording of the proceedings and published laws and rules of criminal procedure."

Our tribe has not yet adopted VAWA. However, I believe that being a sovereign nation brings with it a responsibility to protect our people. Of course, there are costs to be considered and some may believe the cost is too high. To them I would ask, "What if it were your daughter or granddaughter to pay then? Could you live with the knowledge that the person who brutalized your loved one is walking around free? Free to do it again?" I know what my answer would be.

I and members of the legal department have been attending free trainings from the Department of Justice to help our tribe make an informed decision to implement VAWA. There is much work yet to do. Codes need to be changed, processes need to be developed, and the tribal board of directors need to say yes.

VAWA is another opportunity to save lives, and I pray that one day we will not have to hope that the feds will do something about a violent crime committed on our land. I pray the day will come when we will exercise our sovereignty, adopt VAWA and protect

our people in every way that we can.

As I said earlier in this article, we have many people and programs working hard to make life better for our people, and I am grateful to them all. I hope no one is offended that I did not include more at this time, but I am limited by space. This is only the beginning and I will be recognizing more of the good that is being done in future articles. Our members everywhere deserve to know about the good things being done by their tribe and the people doing the work deserve the recognition for their accomplishments, dedication and loyalty.

Finally, I would like to say miigwetch to all of our people, and especially to those who chose me to serve. In addition to all of the board meetings, workshops, budget reviews and other requirements of the office, I have been blessed to have the opportunity to work hands on and know that I have made a difference. I have been able to quietly find those who need help the most and have helped them. To do so makes my heart sing and makes all of the negativity of politics absolutely worth it! I would like to make one more "shout out" to the elder (I don't have permission to share her name), who donated a huge bag of beads and craft materials to the children. CHI-MIIGWETCH! Kid's culture class is going to be even better now!

Stay safe and warm everyone. Be kind to one another and remember those who are hurting. Anishnaabe gagige (Anishnaabe for always), and Shawindekaa (Many blessings).

Jen, (906)
440-9151,
jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com
website <http://jmcleodsault-tribe.com>

A new year, a time for progress and positive changes



**DJ HOFFMAN,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

The new year has started and with it there have been some positive changes made in regards to legislative actions.

"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step."

FOIA

I have attempted to get this ordinance passed for some time. In essence, it is merely a means to ensure that the membership's constitutional rights are upheld.

Tribal members have a right to inspect the information of the tribe. This FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) provides the tools to ensure that all requests

are processed in a timely manner and not merely dismissed because of who they are from.

I am pleased to announce that Chapter 15, Tribal Freedom of Information Ordinance was approved at the beginning of the new year. It's effective date is Feb. 6, 2015. To view the code online, please visit <http://www.saulttribe.com/images/stories/government/tribalcode/CHAPTR15.pdf>.

MEETING CONTRACT ISSUE

During the board's first meeting of the new year, an issue was made regarding the approval of a legal contract. Some made a point that the contract should be made an employment position and be posted in accordance with our personnel policies and procedures.

I wholeheartedly agree that all employment positions should be posted. It should be noted that this was not an employment position.

In the 2015 annual budget, approved in December, this item was approved as a legal contractor. While I did not vote to approve the budget, the items

within it must fall within the constraints of the respective budget.

EMPLOYMENT RESTRUCTURING

Several position eliminations were "placed" in the 2015 annual budgets. It is the responsibility of management to manage their respective departments in the tribe. However, I find it unacceptable that position eliminations are placed in budget documents to ensure their enactment.

Managers should be making these decisions in the open, not under the guise of an annual budget approval, which provides employees with no notice and no rights of redress.

This entire process needs to be fixed so that it does not happen in this manner in the future. The tribe needs to develop a Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance to advocate for the employees.

COMMUNICATIONS

I have been working on the development of a weekly newsletter, website and blog to place all of the information (excluding confidential materials such as employment and proprietary materials) that I receive online so that you may have access to it.

The process of development has been slow and a few hiccups have occurred along the way — however, the website will be ready mid-February 2015. If you would like to subscribe to this, please send an e-mail me at djwhoffman@hotmail.com.

In the following months, I will be asking for board support for the following:

- Revisit the processes and procedures for the issuance of tribal license plates;
- Commence work on the provisions for a "right of recall;"
- Work towards the enactment of the adopted Tribal Corporate Charter, which can afford our tribe the ability to incorporate businesses and effectively separate governance from business operations;
- Push for legislation to ensure equality in the treatment of our respective membership in rights under tribal law;
- Amend the removal code to reflect the membership's constitutional rights, which are hindered by the current version;
- Push forward with a code of ethics; and
- Working on legislation to

allow the tribal membership to challenge the constitutionality of actions taken by the tribal board.

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

We will work to ensure the protection of services for the membership of the tribe. Make no mistake when I say "WE." No one does anything alone to make this tribe move forward — it takes a majority of the board as well as the membership. But make no mistake, one person can make a difference, whether on the board or not!

Sincerely,
DJ Hoffman
Home: (906) 635-6945
Cell: (906) 203-0510
Personal e-mail: djwhoffman@hotmail.com
Tribal e-mail: djwhoffman@saulttribe.net

Working to bring positive change



RITA GLYPTIS
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Happy new year! As the new year begins, I am hopeful we can continue to work together to bring positive change for our members. We have a lot of cleaning up to do. Some tough decisions will be made as we move through this next year, but I believe good things will come. It's time for priorities, deadlines and action. Although politics will continue to rear its ugly head as we move forward, we will beat it back in favor of what is best for our membership as a whole.

Welcome to Mr. Fred Buro, our new Kewadin Casino CEO. Mr. Buro has hit the ground running

and you can feel the energy in the air. The board continues to meet with him while he learns his way around and develops his plan of action. He has been at all sites talking to staff, management and customers. Our team members have welcomed him and are hopeful for our future.

The children's Christmas parties in Munising and Marquette were very well attended and a lot of fun! Thank you to Santa, all our party volunteers, Munising elders for your donations and the Marquette elders who put together the party at NMU. Great job!

As my final comment for this

report, I will state for the record that I have a mind of my own and a fairly competent one. I understand that at times it will look like I am aligned with some directors and not aligned with others. Regardless of others opinions or statements to the contrary, my vote is my vote. I will always vote for what I believe in regardless of politics or posturing. If you wonder where I stand on an issue, please ask.

Here's to a prosperous 2015!

Sincerely,
Rita Glyptis
(906) 202-3224

rglyptis@saulttribe.net

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TRIBAL PROGRAMS' TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR LAST YEAR

— Continued from page 1.

I am confident we are operating effectively, but I am always ready and willing to review my administration for improvements. In the coming year, we will dust off our strategic plan and update it. Specifically, during the final three years of our debt retirement plan, we need to set a short-term strategic plan. With a static casino revenue stream, we have to operate within our means. Part of my plan includes raises for team members (government, casino and enterprises), which has not happened in a stable way since I left office in 2008. Six years is long enough!

This spring, I will travel throughout the service area in all and throughout lower Michigan to gather input from you, the members, about what you would like to see in a long-term strategic plan that provides the basis for what our long-term spending plan will look like. I will also post an online survey to gather your input of what you would like our future to look like. It is my hope that the board of directors will join me in this effort as, ultimately, they need to approve the plan. By September, I plan to bring forward tribal legislation to invite you — the members — to vote to enact a long-term revenue allocation plan to guarantee what our next program expansion will look like. Other successful tribes have done this and it is high time we step into our future.

The state of the tribe is good but our future is even greater if we focus on our goals and objectives and we operate efficiently and effectively. It is time to put differences aside and the politics of destruction. Our future is only as bright as our hopes, dreams and leadership.

As a tribal organization we had our own top accomplishments. Our directors and program managers pulled together to compile facts and testimony I could present in D.C. to protect us through the sequestration and government shutdown. Our volunteer-driven Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic awarded 20 Sault Tribe members with scholarships to further their education. And, just recently, President Obama himself recognized our tribe as one of only five national Climate Action Champions, thanks to our Environmental Department. Good job, everyone.

Below are highlights of the top accomplishments of our tribal

departments. To see all the programs top three accomplishments, go to www.saulttribe.com.

Next month I will discuss our tribal divisions and programs goals and objectives for 2015.

Anishinaabek Community and Family Services Advocacy Resource Center received a three-year, \$877,208 2014 CTAS Grant Award — Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), and a three-year \$499,072 2014 OVW Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Grant. ACFS Direct Services provided furnace repair or replacement to tribal families.

Mary Murray Cultural Camp serviced over 550 tribal members and built an Ojibwe Traditional Learning Lodge at the camp.

Culture's Language Program provided classes across the seven-county service area, including children's classes, and began livestreaming language lessons.

Over 20 ancestors and 40 objects were brought home by the cultural repatriation program.

Under Education, Youth Education and Activities expanded service sites and held a teen leadership day where 29 youth from across the service area learned about tribal programs and met with the board of directors. The Youth Development Fund helped nearly 200 tribal youth throughout the seven-county service area by funding a variety of activities.

Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program secured \$610,000 from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust to construct a harbor at Epoufette, Lake Michigan.

ITFAP stocked 1.18 million walleye fingerlings in the Great Lakes and St. Marys River; and 197,000 fingerlings in five inland lakes. The Grand Marais fishery access dock design and budget and survival suits for Great Lakes commercial fishers were also funded.

The Inland Fish and Wildlife Department tracked the subsistence harvest of over 180,000 animals by 5,000 Sault Tribe members and conducted 161 field assessment days on American marten, snowshoe hare and brook trout.

Environmental saved the tribe thousands of dollars in water sampling fees and inspected 85 septic systems and drain fields for tribal households.

The tribe's executive office administrated improvement and upgrades in MIS, security and telecommunications and Human

Resources.

Tribal Transportation received \$867,500 in federal grants and managed the Shawano Drive construction project.

The Health Division's Purchased Referred Care increased its AFA Funding by \$614,672 and added an additional Priority 2 coverage, in addition to Priority 1 and diagnostic.

The Sault Tribal Health Center increased its third party revenue by \$1.3 million for a total of \$8.3 million. It was awarded two three-year CDC grants for \$810,000 per year, and a five-year Health and Wellness Indian Country grant for \$325,000 per year.

Community Health Department expanded outreach services to

St. Ignace, Hessel, Drummond Island and DeTour, held a one-day diabetes conference on standards of care for all medical providers, nurses and dietitians.

The Housing Authority began a project to provide city water and sewer to Odenaang residents. It spent \$1.15 million in renovations, moisture remediation, vacant unit turnover and remodel efforts to Housing Authority properties.

Communications obtained a \$50,000 NCAI grant to produce legislative directory, database, calendar and educational materials for tribal leaders to help the tribe educate legislators and the public.

Law Enforcement/Conservation achieved full staffing, pro-

viding more enforcement effort opportunities in both public safety and conservation.

Legal's top accomplished dismissal of Michigan attorney general's lawsuit opposing Lansing and New Boston projects, dismissal of Gatzaros lawsuit and submitted mandatory trust applications for Lansing and New Boston projects.

Tribal Court began publishing all appellate court opinions online and drafted Tribal Court rules, which were published for public comment.

St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie Midjims made a profit to continue to help support other tribal programs.

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