



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

January 20, 2017 • Vol. 38 No. 1  
Spirit Moon  
Manidoo Giizis



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



Photo by Brenda Austin

## Board PSA addresses recent board actions

*The following is a public service announcement from members of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors issued on Dec. 15, 2016:*

Tribal/community members:

Tribal employees are held accountable every day through the established policies and procedures and the tribal chain of command. Prior to 2010, the tribal structure allowed the tribal chairperson/CEO to act in an employment capacity excluded from these provisions.

In 2010, the Bureau of Indian Affairs conducted a Secretarial Election Constitutional Amendment on behalf of Sault Tribe that was approved by Sault Tribe voters with 77 percent saying “yes” to the new language:

AMENDED CONSTITUTION: PAGE 2

“Amendment II, adopted and approved on April 7, 2010, amends Article II, Sec. 1, of the Bylaws in the Constitution by removing the duties as the chief executive officer from the tribal chairperson.”

In 2012, the board of directors established a limited delegation of authority to the chairperson. This limited delegation included that: “All actions taken by the chairperson pursuant to this delegated authority shall be subject to the authority of the board of directors and the board may review, approve, modify, or rescind any such action.”

On Nov. 28, 2016, the tribal chairperson placed *Rescinding Resolution 2012-146* (limited delegation of authority to the chairperson) on the meeting agenda. This item was tabled until the Dec. 13, 2016, meeting.

At the Dec. 13, 2016, meeting the agenda item initiated by the chairperson was approved by

the board of directors 10-2. The board of directors adopted (10-2) a follow up resolution delegating the day to day management of tribal governmental operations to the executive director of the tribe. The processes for daily operations will remain the same.

It is important that we recognize and appreciate all of the tribe’s team members who continue to work hard for our government. All of our tribal employees will once again receive a COLA increase beginning on Jan. 1, 2017, (all subsequent years), and the tribe has reinstated a match for its 401(k) program. In addition, all of our development projects are still moving forward.

We understand there are some who believe we are trying to strip the chairperson of all powers. This is not true. The chairperson is still chairperson of the tribe and represents the tribe at the local, state and national level on behalf of the tribe, and shall retain all the powers vested to the office within the tribal Constitution.

Our ultimate goal has been (and is) to try to get more accountability within the tribal government, adhere to the tribe’s constitutional requirements and ensure long term prosperity of the tribe.

Sincerely,  
Director Causley  
Director Chase  
Director Gravelle  
Director Hoffman  
Director Hollowell  
Director Massaway  
Director McKelvie  
Director McKerchie  
Director McLeod  
Director Morrow  
Director Nelson  
Director Sorenson

— Members of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors

## Tribe implements VAWA

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The *Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013* was enacted in response to the epidemic of violence against women with specific provision for tribes. Under VAWA, tribes can exercise their sovereign power to investigate, prosecute, convict and sentence both Natives and non-Natives who assault Indian partners or violate a protection order in Indian Country. VAWA 2013 also clarified tribes’ sovereign power to issue and enforce civil protection orders.

Sault Tribe Board of Directors approved changes to the *Tribal Code Chapter 70: Criminal Procedure* at its Dec. 13 meeting, adding four new sections to the chapter that enable Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and Tribal Court to investigate and prosecute

domestic violence committed by non-Indians on tribal lands.

Unit I Director Jennifer McLeod said, “I am so proud and grateful.” McLeod has participated in the Intertribal Technical-Assistance Working Group on Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction since 2013. “Through the efforts of many tribal departments and team members, we have at last joined the list of tribes who have taken important steps of sovereignty that protects our women!”

Sault Tribe is mostly equipped for VAWA, said Chief Judge Jocelyn Fabry. “The court has the prosecuting attorney, law-trained judge, probation staff, indigent defense attorneys, advocates and law enforcement needed to implement VAWA,” she said.

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



**MINO-ANIMIKODAADING! HAPPY NEW YEAR** — Wiingashk Shawana, 9, from Toronto, Ont., dancing an intertribal dance with his father Tyrone Shawana (pictured on page 16.) The New Year’s Eve Sobriety Powwow took place on Saturday, Dec. 31, at JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy in Sault Ste. Marie. There was a feast and a hand drum contest, and grand entry was at 7 p.m. There was also a sobriety countdown and giveaway at 10 p.m. Host drum for this the event was Bear River of Petoskey, Mich.; co-host drum, Sturgeon Bay of Harbor Springs, Mich.; arena director was Nick VanAlstine of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; head male dancer, Ted Recollet of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.; and head female dancer, Shirley Recollet of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

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# Job openings at Sault Tribe

Sault Tribe job opportunities! Call (866) 635-7032, email [stemployment@saulttribe.net](mailto:stemployment@saulttribe.net) or apply online at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

## GOVERNMENTAL OPENINGS

### SAULT STE. MARIE and KINCHELOE

- Accountant – STHC – full time/regular – open until filled.
- Health education supervisor – full time/regular – open until filled.
- Community Health educator – full time/regular – open until filled.
- Custodian (Big Bear) – part time/regular – open until filled.
- Employee specialist (2) – full time/regular – open until filled.
- Cook – elder services – part time/regular – open until filled.
- Physician – full time/regular – open until filled.

- Events worker – part time/regular – open until filled.
- HR coordinator – full time/regular – open until filled.
- Division director (Health) – full time/regular – open until filled.
- Licensed practical nurse – full time/regular – open until filled.
- Diabetes program manager – full time/regular – open until filled.
- Medical director – full time/regular – open until filled.
- Sovereignty in Education program manager – full time/regular – open until filled.
- HESSEL, ST. IGNACE, ESCANABA, MANISTIQUE, MARQUETTE, MUNISING, NEWBERRY
- Chief solo dentist (Manistique) – full time/regular – open until filled.

- Staff dentist (St. Ignace) – part time/regular – open until filled.
- Community Health program manager – rural (Munising) – full time/regular – open until filled.
- Diabetes case coordinator (St. Ignace) – full time/regular – open until filled.
- KEWADIN CASINO OPENINGS**
- SAULT STE. MARIE**
- Guest room attendant – part time/regular – open until filled
- Chief Executive Officer – full time/regular – open until filled.
- ST. IGNACE**
- Front desk clerk – full time/temporary – open until filled.
- Front desk clerk – part time/regular – open until filled.
- CHRISTMAS**
- Lead cook – full time/regular – open until filled.

# Powwow for Hope on May 6

*Dancing for Life, Love and Hope*, the American Indian Cancer Foundation's sixth annual Powwow for Hope, is on May 6, 2017, at the Base Camp Facility in Minneapolis, Minn. Powwow for Hope is a community fundraising event that honors loved ones who have battled cancer or are fighting cancer and provides an opportunity to learn more about cancer prevention and resources.

Organize a fundraising team to honor someone you love, raise awareness and make a difference. Teams are a critical part of Powwow for Hope. Teams can raise funds in many different ways before, during and after the powwow. All money raised will be used to support cancer education and supportive services for American Indians.

Register your team at [PowwowforHope.CauseVox.com](http://PowwowforHope.CauseVox.com)

Contact Daanis Chosa at [DChosa@aicaf.org](mailto:DChosa@aicaf.org) for more information. Also seeking sponsors, drum groups and volunteers. Learn more at [PowwowforHope.org](http://PowwowforHope.org).

## Sault grief support meetings started

Passages, a bereavement support group, meets Jan. 9 through Feb. 13 for six consecutive Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m., in the Grief Support Room at Hospice of the EUP at 308 W. 12th Avenue in Sault Ste Marie. The group is open to all adult members of the community free of charge.

Passages is designed both for those who have experienced a recent loss and those struggling with unresolved feelings of grief from the death of someone special long ago. The group can become a source of emotional support and help through education and sharing.

Please call (906) 259-0222 for more information or to register for the group.

## Survey assessment gauges need for woodstove swap out program

Aanii! I am the Sault Tribe Environmental air quality specialist Robin Bouschor. I am conducting a woodstove heating assessment primarily focusing on woodstoves. I would really appreciate your participation in this assessment if you are a Sault Tribe member in the seven-county service area in the Upper Peninsula and use a woodstove for heating your home.

I am gathering this information to assess whether the Sault Tribe could support a woodstove change out program.

A woodstove change out program helps communities reduce emissions by providing consumers with incentives to remove old, dirty-burning woodstoves or wood heating appliances and replace them with clean, efficient new heating appliances.

If you would like to participate in this assessment, please call the Sault Tribe Environmental Department, (906) 632-5575, and ask for Robin Bouschor, email [rbouschor@saulttribe.net](mailto:rbouschor@saulttribe.net), or stop by our office at 206 Greenough St. in Sault Sainte Marie, Mich.

I can send you a short confidential assessment form to complete or I can fill in the assessment while speaking with you on the phone. I look forward to hearing from you and answering any questions you may have.

## Give the gift of yoga!

Classes at 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Chi Mukwa hospitality room. All-in-One Fitness Center sells 10-class cards (\$50 for gym members and \$60 for others), that's \$5-6 dollars a class!

Instructor is Amy McCoy and classes are for all levels.

Payroll deduction available for Sault Tribe employees. Punch cards can be used in other fitness classes offered at the fitness center.

For more information, call (906) 635-4935.



# American Indian Health & Family Services

**Minobinmaadziwin**  
"A Good Life"

AIHFS is a non-profit health center serving the Native American community of Southeastern Michigan. We are dedicated to the physical, emotional, cultural, environmental, and spiritual health of the Native American community while also welcoming others who are seeking wellness. AIHFS combines Western medical practice with traditional healing to encourage overall wellness among the people.



## Mission

Empower and enhance the physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental wellbeing of Native American families and other underserved populations in Southeast Michigan through culturally grounded health and family services.

## Vision

AIHFS will be nationally recognized as a leading Urban Indian health and community center supporting healthy Native people, families, and communities.



Our approach integrates traditional Native American healing and spiritual practices with contemporary western medicine in both treatment and prevention in the areas of:

- Medical Care
- Behavioral Health Care
- Youth, Family & Community Wellness Programs

4880 Lawndale St. • Detroit, MI 48210

## Clinic Hours

- Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri  
8:30am to 5:30pm  
Lunch 12:30-1:30pm
- Wed – 12:00pm to 8:00pm  
Lunch 3:30-4:30pm
- 1st Friday every month  
closed until 1:30pm (training)

Ph: 313-846-6030  
Fax: 313-846-2751

*American Indian Health and Family Services may provide transportation within 35 miles of the agency to those who qualify. Please call for information.*



For more information, please visit our website at [aihfs.org](http://aihfs.org).



# Tribe's revenue sharing contributions benefit regional communities

By Brenda Austin

Sault Tribe's five Kewadin Casinos have benefited local communities in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to the tune of more than \$42 million over the past 23 years with the bi-annual 2 percent revenue sharing disbursements.

In November, more than \$850,000 was given to public schools, police and fire agencies, recreation programs, hospice care in Marquette, a food pantry in Munising and Lake Superior State University under a long-standing agreement between the tribe and state.

Last year the tribe awarded a total of \$1,485,825 in 2 percent contributions to organizations across the U.P. in Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette and Schoolcraft counties.

The tribe's casinos are in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Hessel, Manistique and Christmas.

How did these distributions come about? A lawsuit settlement in 1993 between Michigan and seven tribes, including Sault Tribe. The lawsuit challenged the state's failure or refusal to enter into a gaming compact with the tribes. Under the settlement, the state approved a gaming compact for each of the tribes but required the tribes to make payments based on the net win generated by each tribe's casino(s).

Sault Tribe General Counsel John Wernet, said, "Each tribe agreed to pay 8 percent of its net win to the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF). But this payment obligation was to last 'only so long as the tribes collectively enjoy the exclusive right to oper-

ate electronic games of chance in the State of Michigan...' That 'exclusive right' to operate casinos did not last very long. The obligation of the tribe to make those 8 percent payments ended around 1998, when the state approved new casinos - those in Detroit, and those operated by four other newly recognized tribes. These events ended the Sault Tribe's obligation to make direct revenue sharing payments to the MSF."

"The consent agreement also included a provision in which the tribes agreed to make 2 percent revenue sharing payments directly to local units of government in the immediate vicinity of each tribal casino in the amount equal to 2 percent of the net win at each of their class III casinos."

Wernet said that unlike the 8 percent revenue sharing that went to the MSF, the 2 percent local revenue share did not depend on the tribe having exclusive rights to conduct gaming. So the 2 percent payments did not end when the state approved additional casinos, and the tribe still makes those payments every six months, as required by the agreement.

Under that agreement, each tribe gets to determine which local unit or units of government receive payments and the amount of those payments. The guidelines governing the tribes in making those determinations are based on compensating local units of government for governmental services provided to the tribes, and for impacts associated with the existence and location of the tribal casino in its vicinity. The agreement also states that out of these payments, each local

unit of government is to receive no less than an amount equivalent to its share of property taxes that would have been attributed to each casino as if it were subject to taxation.

Wernet said the 2 percent payments would continue as long as the consent agreement remains in effect. "While it is possible that the state and the tribe could negotiate a new compact, every new Indian gaming compact in Michigan has always included a similar 2 percent local revenue sharing provision, and it seems unlikely that this requirement would go away - even in a new compact."

Who benefits from the 2 percent revenue sharing? Only local units of government - counties, cities, townships, school districts, etc., can apply for the 2 percent disbursements. Private organizations such as churches and non-profit groups are not eligible to receive funds directly from the tribe.

Top recipients of the fall 2 percent long-term funds include \$52,275 for Lake Superior State University's Gem of the North campaign to improve university facilities; \$50,000 to improve the pool and track at Sault Area Public Schools; \$29,000 for the Nah Tah Wahsh Public Academy's Willow Creek Meeting Center; \$10,000 for the Hendricks Township Town Hall electrical upgrade; and \$10,000 for Little Bear Skate in St. Ignace. Funds also were awarded for a bus camera system for Pickford Public Schools, ALTRAN in Alger County, hospice care in Marquette, and the food pantry in Munising, among others.

Short-term 2 percent funds were distributed to:

- Sault Tribe Unit I — Lake Superior State University Native American Center, \$25,000; Pullar Stadium in Sault Ste. Marie, \$5,000; student support services at Malcolm High School, \$2,849; and hockey assistance for Sault Area Public Schools, \$10,000.

- Sault Tribe Unit II — Bus camera system for Pickford Public Schools, \$5,000; emergency camera system for Hudson Township, \$1,800; Garnet Park fire rings for Hudson Township, \$3,000; bathroom upgrade for DeTour Area Schools, \$5,049; Fire Ambulance Building for Village of DeTour, \$5,000; Clark Township volunteer fireman support, \$3,000; and McMillan Township Resource and Recreation Center, \$10,000.

- Sault Tribe Unit III — Bowling at LaSalle High School, \$3,000; Mackinac County Sheriff's toy drive, \$3,500; City of Mackinac Island's Turtle Park, \$2,000; City of St. Ignace pocket park, \$2,000; St. Ignace Fire Department, \$5,000; Museum of Ojibwa Culture, St. Ignace,

\$12,349; Fort de Baude in St. Ignace, \$5,000.

- Sault Tribe Unit IV — Rapid River Public Schools, Native American education, \$3,366; Gladstone Area Schools, Native American education, \$3,366; Escanaba Area Public Schools, Title VII, \$3,366; Schoolcraft County Board Christmas program, \$2,750; Little Bear Ice Skating in Manistique, \$1,000.

- Sault Tribe Unit V — K.I. Sawyer Community Center, Forsyth Township, \$2,500; Alger Arena, Munising, \$2,924; YMCA of Marquette County, \$2,500; Marquette Area Schools, Native American education, \$5,500; Lake Superior Hospice, Marquette, \$1,924; ALTRAN, Alger County, \$5,000; food pantry, Munising, \$5,000; Munising Public Schools, Native American education, \$8,500; Aging Services, Marquette County, \$2,000; Meals on Wheels, Marquette County, \$5,000; Upper Peninsula Children's Museum, Marquette, \$2,000.

For more information on how to apply for 2 percent funds, contact Candace Blocher at (906) 632-6281.

## Munoscong Bay ice fishing fatality

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — At approximately 6:45 p.m. on Jan. 3, 2017, a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper from the Sault Ste. Marie Post responded to an incident on Munoscong Bay in Raber Township of Chippewa County, according to an MSP release.

A local man and wife from Chippewa County were ice fishing in two separate ice shanties. When the husband checked on his 54-year-old wife he found her slumped over in her shanty, according to the release. He began CPR until EMS arrived on scene.

She was transported by Pickford EMS to the War Memorial Hospital.

Pickford EMS was assist-

## Membership assistance liaisons

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

The liaisons will also respond to and follow up on membership issues to ensure they are resolved.

Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing

ed on scene by Kinross EMS, Raber Township Fire Department and Pickford Fire Department, according to the release.

The victim was identified as Jenise Lynn Corbiere of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She succumbed to her injuries and passed away on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017, at the War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie. The Chippewa County Medical Examiner's Office has ruled the cause of death was accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.

The public is reminded to be careful when hunting and fishing in enclosed structures with a heat source and to have proper ventilation with outside air and to use heaters approved for enclosed spaces.

membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or individually at:

Unit I — Sheila Berger, Office of the Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 635-6050, (800) 793-0660, sberger@saulttribe.net

Units II and III — Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, (906) 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net

Units IV and V — Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net

## Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors 2017 calendar

January 3	Sault Ste. Marie	January 17	Sault Ste. Marie
February 14	Sault Ste. Marie	February 21	St. Ignace
March 7	Sault Ste. Marie	March 21	Manistique
April 4	Kincheloe	April 18	Munising
May 2	Sault Ste. Marie	May 16	Newberry
June 6	St. Ignace	June 20	Escanaba
July 11**	Sault Ste. Marie Sault	July 18	Manistique
August 1	Ste. Marie	August 15	Marquette
September 5	Sault Ste. Marie	September 19	Munising
October 3	Sault Ste. Marie Sault	October 24**	St. Ignace
November 7	Ste. Marie	November 21	Hessel
December 5	Sault Ste. Marie		

Per the Constitution and Bylaws, Article 1 – meetings of the board of directors, Section 1: . . . provided that at least one meeting per year shall be held in each of the five election units established pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the tribal constitution.

General meetings of the board

of directors are held the first and third Tuesdays of the month. All general meetings start at 6 p.m. All Sault meetings will be held at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center, other locations to be announced.

Meetings with "\*\*\*\*" are changed to accommodate the chair/board attendance at MAST,

NCAI, United Tribes, various Washington, D.C. meetings or holidays. All special meetings will be announced.

For further information, call Joanne Carr (ext. 26337 or Linda Grossett (ext. 26338) at the administration office, (800) 793-0660 or 635-6050.

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

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

See our full, online edition at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

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

*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

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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor  
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer  
Rick Smith.....Staff Writer  
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# Haverkate takes post as IHS program director

Rick Haverkate, an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, has assumed the role of National Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) Program director for the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Haverkate has over 25 years of experience working with tribal organizations, including his past roles as health educator for Sault Tribe and the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, HIV/AIDS public information officer for the State



Rick Haverkate

of Hawaii Department of Health, director of public health programs at the National Indian Health Board and American Indian/Alaska Native health policy lead at the Office of Minority Health.

Haverkate joined IHS in April 2016 as the deputy director of the Office Clinical and Preventive Services, but was drawn more toward a program-specific role that permitted more direct contact with American Indian communities and their partners in health promotion and disease prevention.

As the National HIV/AIDS Program director, Haverkate will seek to coordinate the numerous internal and external IHS resources and gather input from community members, organizations, people living with HIV/AIDS, health care providers, federal agencies, public health experts and tribal and urban leaders.

The IHS National HIV/AIDS Program is committed to partnering with communities to create lasting change in the HIV/AIDS epidemic and provides programs to help individuals, families,

communities and health care providers to understand how HIV is spread and to promote knowledge about HIV prevention and treatment with others.

A son of Shirley Petosky and grandson of the late Joseph (Sr.) and Arvilla Paquette, Haverkate grew up in Munising, Mich., graduated from Northern Michigan University and earned a master's in public health from the University of Hawaii.

He lives in Washington, D.C., since February 2010, with his partner, Thomas.

# NHBP, governor agree on compact agreement

FULTON, Mich. — The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and Office of the Governor of the State of Michigan announced Jan. 3 the approval of a second amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the tribe and state. The second amendment, which was agreed to by the parties in August 2016, was approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Indian Gaming Management by publication in the Federal Register on Dec. 12, 2016.

Beginning with revenue sharing payments due in early 2017, the second amendment revises the section providing for the payment of revenue sharing payments to

the state by allocating a portion (up to \$500,000 per year) of state revenue sharing payments to a newly created Michigan Native American Heritage Fund. Use of funds deposited in the Michigan Native American Heritage Fund will be managed by a board consisting of: two persons appointed by the tribe, two persons appointed by the governor, and the director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights or a designee.

The board will award funds to local governments and public and private schools, colleges and universities to defray the costs of projects that promote positive relationships with and understanding of the history and role of Michigan's Indian tribes and

Native Americans in the state. Projects can include covering the cost associated with schools replacing or revising mascots or imagery that might be considered offensive to Native Americans with more culturally appropriate representations or new mascots and logos.

"This fund demonstrates our commitment to providing Michigan schools, colleges and universities with the funds needed to improve curricula and resources related to Native American issues and mascot revisions," NHBP Tribal Chair Jamie Stuck said "We understand that schools often don't have funds available for these types of projects and we are dedicated to removing that

obstacle."

"I greatly appreciate the productive government-to-government relationship that the state of Michigan enjoys with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi," said Governor Rick Snyder. "I'm proud that this second amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact will provide opportunities for additional partnerships between the tribe, state and schools to promote the rich history and contributions of the first Michiganders and our mutual citizens."

Other amendments also revise the guidelines for distribution of local revenue sharing funds to permit the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board to award

funds to eligible units of local government to cover eligible costs before incurring those costs and to enter into multi-year funding commitments with eligible units of government.

This change will permit local governments to receive commitments to cover costs associated with road, sewer or other infrastructure improvements that are needed due to increased demands associated with FireKeepers Casino Hotel's operations. It will also provide local governments with budget relief by allocating funds that can be included in future fiscal year budgets where costs related to FireKeepers Casino Hotel are known in advance.

# New Indian Child Welfare Act guidelines went into effect Dec. 12

Bureau of Indian Affairs new Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) guidelines that affect the way ICWA is implemented became effective Dec. 12. Although the guidelines are not legally binding, state and private agencies and courts use the guidelines for insight into complex cases and other ICWA implementations.

Tribes across the country last year provided comprehensive review of the guidelines. Sault Tribe wrote an in-depth review suggesting a number of clarifications, definitions and recommendations on the relationship between the state courts and tribes with regard to notification

and representation.

Areas of the guidelines that contain important implementation guidance are:

- Encourages courts to confirm state agencies used due diligence to identify and work with tribes of Indian children and treat the children as Indian children unless or until it's determined the children are not Indian children.

- Reaffirms states cannot use "existing Indian family exception" (ICWA does not apply to illegitimate infants who have never been members of Indian homes or cultures) factors to determine if ICWA applies.

- Provides additional clarity

to states regarding the information tribes need to verify if a child is an Indian child.

- Clarifies states should begin using active efforts to reunify families even during emergency situations that often

happen very quickly and early in a case.

- In addition to sending legal notices for proceedings, the guidelines recommend sending notices at each individual hearing, for any change in placement,

for a change to the child's permanency plan, or if jurisdiction is transferred to another state.

- Encourages judges to ask about active efforts at every court hearing and actively monitor compliance with active efforts.

## S"no"w more violence snowshoe meetings

January is Stalking Awareness Month, Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center and Marquette Women's Center is organizing this event to bring awareness to stalking. Information, giveaways and refreshments will be available in the lodges. We thought this would be a fun way to get out and spread the word about stalking and what you can do to protect yourself and others. Those who do not wish to go snowshoeing are welcome to join us at the lodge.

Events are set for Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Al Quaal Lodge in Ishpeming from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Friday, Jan. 27, at Valley Spur in Munising from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Snowshoes provided for those who do not have their own.

For more information please call Alisha Young at the Marquette Women's Center at 225-1346, extension 207, or Stacy King at the Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center at 341-9506.

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## Open Enrollment

Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School  
2017-2018 School Year Open Enrollment and  
Lottery Information



Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School is a public school academy where all students attend free of charge. Open enrollment for the 2017-2018 School Year begins on January 30, 2017, and ends on February 14, 2017, at 4 p.m. (EST), with extended hours from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8.

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 Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 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 website at [www.jklschool.org](http://www.jklschool.org) beginning January 30, 2017.

Those selected from the lottery will be eligible to attend the 2017-2018 school year provided they *respond within three 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.



# NCAI weighs in on federal permitting process

By RICK SMITH

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) took measures during the waning months of 2016 to help guide the federal government in avoiding messes like the standoff at Standing Rock.

In a nutshell, the NCAI passed a resolution in October, rendered a 51-page commentary in November and conducted a press conference in December to further a message to the government of the United States. The message, essentially, advises the federal government to simply comply with long-established rules and mandates in treaties, federal trust obligations and consultation requirements.

Further, the NCAI recommended the United States should heed the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

A resolution passed by a general assembly of the NCAI during the Oct. 9-14, 2016, annual session in Phoenix, Ariz., sent the aforementioned messages to the president of the United States and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The resolution also calls for integrating tribal trust compliance into all federally permitted construction projects, ensuring appointees to the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council include a tribal trust compliance officer knowledgeable about American Indian

tribes and tribal lands, increase tribal control over developments on Indian lands and providing tribal governments full and early participation in construction permitting processes.

NCAI released a lengthy summary of tribal sovereignty, federal trust responsibilities, tribal treaty rights and a long list of other related issues and a review of a multitude of best practices for developments impacting tribal nations. The comments contained recommendations for specific government agencies such as the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The comments conclude that

every tribal nation in the United States has stories of federally approved destruction or threat of some sort to resources were allowed to proceed over the objections of tribes "to the great detriment of tribal lands, waters, treaty rights and sacred spaces. This reality is reflected in the current groundswell of support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline, and it ensures that the conflict at Standing Rock will not be the last unless the federal government takes significant steps to protect tribal interests in the infrastructure decision making process."

Anyone who would like to view or download the commen-

tary along with an attachment of the aforementioned resolution may do so by visiting the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs website at [www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xraca/documents/document/idc2-055647.pdf](http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xraca/documents/document/idc2-055647.pdf).

The NCAI hosted a press teleconference on Dec. 13 on the next steps to protect tribal lands, waters and sacred places and improving the federal infrastructure permitting process. Tribal leaders from around the country participated in the conference focusing on the Corps of Engineers' decision to deny the Dakota Access Pipeline easement and systemic problems facing all tribes in federal construction permitting processes.

# Ojibwe woman remembered, honored in Lansing

## Cora Reynolds Anderson was state's first female state representative

By RICK SMITH

Cora Reynolds Anderson of the Ojibwe nation was remembered and honored at the unveiling of a portrait of her in Lansing on Dec. 8. She was the first female state representative in the Michigan House of Representatives and the first American Indian female House representative nationwide. She still appears to remain the only American Indian woman ever

elected to the state House or Senate. Anderson hailed from L'Anse, a small town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where she was born in 1882, raised and spent most of her life.

"Cora Anderson led the way for other women and Native Americans in Michigan who sought to take an active role in leading their communities," said Representative Scott Dianda (D-Calumet) at the unveiling. "At a time when opportunities for women and for Native Americans were limited, she had the deter-



mination to become a strong leader for her community anyway. She exemplified the hardworking, can-do spirit I see around the 110th House District to this day, and it is an honor to help share her story with the rest of the state."

According to the State of Michigan, Anderson was elected in 1924 and served one term in the Michigan House of Representatives during 1925 and 1926 before losing her post due to changes in the districts. She became an active member of the Grange, a nationwide fra-

tional organization dedicated to supporting agriculture and agricultural communities, and soon distinguished herself as an Upper Peninsula representative and officer of that organization.

During her term in the House, she introduced six bills covering topics such as fishing rights, sanitation standards in hotels and accountability practices in township offices. She also chaired committees on agriculture, insurance and an institution that would evolve into Northern Michigan University. She also chaired the committee overseeing a state reform school for young women in Adrian. She was an advocate for prohibition, curing tubercu-

losis and the general good health and welfare of her constituents. Baraga County received its first public health nurse due in part to her efforts.

Anderson and her husband, Charles, operated a hotel in L'Anse for a time before they bought a 160-acre farm to run.

The Anderson House Office Building constructed in 1999 in downtown Lansing, home for offices of the state's legislature, is named in her honor. Anderson was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2001. Cora's Café, also named in Anderson's honor, opened in the lobby of the Anderson House Office Building in 2014.



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# New law brings \$4.8 billion for medical research, reforms

By RICK SMITH

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) should receive \$4.8 billion dollars under the recently enacted *21st Century Cures Act* for research in finding solutions to opioid addiction, cancer, brain diseases along with updates on a couple of federal medical policies.

“We are now one step closer to ending cancer as we know it, unlocking cures for diseases like Alzheimer’s, and helping people seeking treatment for opioid addiction finally get the help they need,” said President Barack Obama after signing the bill into law. “The bipartisan passage of the *21st Century Cures Act* is an example of the progress we can make when people from both parties work together to improve the health of our families, friends and neighbors.”

Vice President Joe Biden said in a summary on the White House blog that he served as the

presiding officer as the Senate moved on the *21st Century Cures Act* bringing the best minds in science, medicine and technology to bear on the largest health challenges in current times.

Biden explained the new law “will help us combat the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic ripping apart families and communities. It invests in programs to improve mental health treatment and suicide prevention. It will provide resources for President Obama’s BRAIN and Precision Medicine initiatives, so that our world-class researchers can figure out how to better prevent, treat and eventually cure Alzheimer’s, epilepsy and traumatic brain injuries.”

Biden referred to the Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, which according to the White House, is a major move in revolutionizing the understanding of the human

mind and uncover new methods to treat, prevent and cure brain disorders such as Alzheimer’s, schizophrenia, autism, epilepsy and traumatic brain injury.

The Precision Medicine Initiative also supports advancing research, technology and policies to help patients and health care professionals to work together in developing tailored care and prevention strategies for individuals.

Establishment of the Council for 21st Century Cures is mandated by the law as a non-profit corporation overseen by a council to accelerate the discovery, development and delivery of innovative cures, treatments and preventive measures.

The federal Food and Drug Administration is required to establish processes to include information on patient experiences when considering risk-benefit assessments of new drugs.

Additionally, the agency may help speed studies and develop-

ment of “precision” drugs against serious conditions along with a number of other mandates to expedite getting relief to patients suffering from certain ailments.

Many of the bureaucratic hurdles and administrative burdens are streamlined for researchers in the law. Further, the law extends the same exemptions to all federal agencies involved in urgent medical research in certain fields.

One of the more novel directives in the law is for the NIH to establish and implement an Innovation Prizes Program, a competition to significantly advance certain underfunded biomedical sciences through the creation of a prize competition.

The director of the NIH is mandated to form a council to be known as the “I-Prize Board” to advise and help the director in carrying out the competitions. The board is to be composed of nine voting members: the NIH director, four director’s appoin-

tees, one appointee by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one appointee by the majority leader of the Senate, one appointee by the minority leader of the House of Representatives and one appointee by the minority leader of the Senate.

The law includes collective appointments of certain experts to the I-Prize Board in the fields of medicine, economics, budgeting, innovation and venture capital.

Competition designs are due six months from the enactment of the *21st Century Cures Act*. Measures to ensure fairness, realistic goals and reports to Congress on the designs.

Grant funding and other research support measures are also stipulated in the new law.

The 1,000-page act can be viewed in its entirety at [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov), follow options to conduct a search on the site to read the text of the *21st Century Cures Act*.

# Obama White House reflects on Indian Country progress

By RICK SMITH

President Barack Obama and staff of the Executive Office of the President recently released the administration’s final report on the government-to-government relationship between Indian Country and the United States of America.

The 40-page report, titled *A Renewed Era of Federal-Tribal Relations*, summarily recollects the historic progress the Obama administration improvements from creating the White House Council on Native American Affairs and making tribal consultation a priority in the early days of the administration, to initiating the annual White House Tribal Nations Conference and, most recently, establishing principles for working with federally recognized Indian tribes in the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health.

In all, the report reflects on 92 specific achievements in 15 general Indian Country issues such as improving nation-to-nation relationships, consultation, education and Native youth, economics, Indian Country health and wellness, public safety and justice as well as other matters.

Some highlights:

- Settled a number of historic disputes such as the \$4.35 billion “Cobell” settlement awarded to 104 tribes stemming from over 69 lawsuits over trust accounting mismanagement claims and successfully resolved 12 complex water rights cases for tribes in the western United States.

- Defended reservation boundaries through Department of Justice court victories in support of tribal boundaries and jurisdiction over their respective lands.

- Restored more than 542,000 acres of tribal homelands into trust by processing 2,265 trust applications through the Department of the Interior. The administration also overhauled antiquated leasing regulations so that tribes have greater control over their homelands among other measures advancing tribal sovereignty.

- Successfully defended the Department of the Interior (DOI) decision to take land into trust under the new post-Carcieri framework. In 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Carcieri vs. Salazar* that the DOI could not take land into trust on behalf of Indian tribes that were not “under federal jurisdiction” when the Indian Reorganization Act was enacted in 1934. The Department of Justice defended the DOI decision upheld in the Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C.

- Initiating improvements for tribal involvement in the National Historic Preservation Program in order to provide tribes with a voice in projects that may involve sacred or historically significant tribal places.

- Established tribal advisory groups in the U.S. Department of Health, Department of Agriculture and Department of Treasury as well as the Tribal Nations Leadership Council, the latter charged with advising the U.S. attorney gen-

eral on issues critical to Indian Country.

- Changed a National Park Service regulation to allow citizens of federally recognized tribes associated with parks to gather plants for traditional uses on lands in the park system.

- Made certain disaster relief programs provided under the Stafford Act applies to tribes to supplement efforts to respond and recover from overwhelming incidents.

- Protected American Indian voting rights, including the right to vote without discrimination and the right, in some cases, to have voter information available in Native languages.

Many other instances of the Obama administration’s progress on behalf of Indian Country are recounted in detail in the report, which can be found online at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2017/01/02/renewed-era-federal-tribal-relations>.

On another positive note, aside from helping Indian Country, in the waning days of the Obama administration, the U.S. Department of Labor released information showing the U.S. mainstream economy experienced an addition of 156,000 jobs with an unemployment rate of 4.7 percent, making the final 31 days of

2016 the most recent month of 75 consecutive months of job gains.

“The U.S. economy again demonstrated its strength in December,” the agency noted in a press release. “The economy added 156,000 jobs, and the unemployment rate ticked up slightly to 4.7 percent, as more workers were drawn into the labor force. December saw the strongest wage growth since 2009; wages grew faster over the last year than

at any point during the recovery. All told, the U.S. economy has added 15.8 million private-sector jobs since February 2010. We’ve experienced 75 months of continuous overall job growth, the longest streak on record, and over two years longer than the previous record.”

And now citizens of Indian Country and the rest of the nation await the transfer to a new administration.

## Appellate judges sought for Tribal Court

APPELLATE JUDGE (elder position)

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians seeks qualified elders for the position of appellate judge in their Court of Appeals. A letter of interest shall be submitted to the Tribal Court, 2175 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Deadline to submit is Feb. 6, 2017.

More information can be found at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com), under government/tribal court tab, downloads, or by contacting Traci Swan by email at [tswan@saulttribe.net](mailto:tswan@saulttribe.net) or by phone at (906) 635-7747.

APPELLATE JUDGE (community member position)

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians seeks qualified community members for the position of appellate judge in their Court of Appeals. A letter of interest shall be submitted to the Tribal Court, 2175 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Deadline to submit is Feb. 6, 2017.

More information can be found at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com), under government/tribal court tab, downloads, or by contacting Traci Swan by email at [tswan@saulttribe.net](mailto:tswan@saulttribe.net) or by phone at (906) 635-7747.

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# LTBB seeks federal recognition of reservation boundaries

**Court case will decide if large portion of northern lower Michigan is reservation land in accordance with the 1855 Treaty of Detroit**

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

A big chunk of Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula including vacation spots loved by downstaters for generations — the cities of Charlevoix, Petoskey, Harbor Springs, Good Hart and Cross Village — are all located within the reservation boundaries of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB). This is according to the tribe and the 1855 Treaty of Detroit.

The Petoskey-based tribe is asking a federal judge to allow it to assert jurisdiction over the 337-square-mile area, including High and Garden Islands in Lake Michigan. The tribe's chairperson, Regina Gasco-Bentley, said a ruling in their favor would not alter local governance, law and zoning enforcement or other aspects of life for non-Indians. What it would do, she said, is clarify the tribe's jurisdiction over tribal citizens within reservation boundaries.

The lawsuit, filed last year against Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids, claims the 1855 Treaty of Detroit between Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the U.S. government affirmed as the tribe's reservation land an area 32 miles north-to-south from the northern tip of the Lower Peninsula down the eastern shore of Little Traverse Bay.

The lawsuit claims Michigan has "refused to recognize the tribe's reservation in a number of ways that threaten the tribe's autonomy and sovereignty, and that violate the 1855 treaty." For example, the state has asserted jurisdiction over Indian child welfare matters on reservation lands, in violation of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act.

Defendants in the case include the Emmet County Lakeshore Association, an affiliation of lakefront property owners and businesses from Harbor Springs to Cross Village, and the cities of Charlevoix, Petoskey and Harbor Springs.

U.S. District Judge Paul Maloney has split the lawsuit in



**LTBB Chairperson  
Regina Gasco-Bentley**

two, first seeking to determine if the Treaty of Detroit created the reservation with the boundaries the Little Traverse Bay Bands assert, and whether later acts of Congress diminished or disestablished that reservation. The first phase of the trial is scheduled for late 2018.

If the court finds the reservation does continue to exist, a second phase of trial would hash out jurisdictional issues with state and local governments.

Gasco-Bentley said appeals could follow, which would mean a final decision for Phase 1 of the trial would be expected around 2019-20. "The parties could expedite the process by deciding to pursue settlement negotiations," she said. "The tribe has informed the other parties and the court from the outset that it is open to settlement negotiations."

There are more than 4,000 LTBB tribal members, with the majority of those living in Emmet and Charlevoix counties in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula.

Below are answers to questions posed to Chairperson Gasco-Bentley and General Counsel James Bransky.

**WAN:** What benefits does the tribe gain if a judge confirms your reservation covers the 337 square miles the tribe is claiming in its lawsuit?

**Gasco-Bentley:** It will honor our history, the treaties and our

continuous presence on our reservation. On a practical level, it would clarify that the tribe has exclusive jurisdiction over its children in need of care throughout the reservation, strengthen our ability to protect our ancestral heritage through application of NAGPRA [Native American Grave Repatriation Act], give us greater authority in aiding the rehabilitation of tribal citizens who find themselves in the criminal justice system, and solidify our efforts to secure federal reservation resources for areas such as transportation improvement and monitoring air and water quality.

**WAN:** If the tribe wins the lawsuit, what impact will that have on the villages and towns located within the reservation boundaries?

**Gasco-Bentley:** It will help us continue to partner in areas such as road improvements, and environmental protection and enhancement. It will relieve some of their resources needs as the tribe takes over greater jurisdiction over its citizens in child protection and criminal matters.

There is some fear of the unknown and questions, and, I think, some false information given out. One of the issues I have a big concern with, is we have heard from people saying that we are going to take their land. That is not true. It will stay the same for non-tribal people. This is only giving us jurisdiction over our own people within our reservation.

Non-natives are unlikely to notice a difference in their lives. Tribes do not have criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians, and the U.S. Supreme Court has also

greatly limited tribes' civil jurisdiction to consensual contractual relations and matters that directly impact tribal sovereignty.

**WAN:** Some residents of Charlevoix, Petoskey, Harbor Springs and Cross Village are concerned about property values and what might happen if their villages and cities all of a sudden are legally part of reservation land. How would you address that?

**Gasco-Bentley:** The tribe's ability to help improve roads and protect the air and water can only serve to enhance property values. They will only be negatively impacted if those who are publicizing the reservation question as one of grave danger create a self-fulfilling prophecy, and even their "sky is falling" message would only have a short-term impact.

**WAN:** Would zoning laws change?

**Gasco-Bentley:** The tribe currently has its own zoning laws in place that put great importance on preservation of the natural setting and community character. The tribe's zoning would not supplant local governments. The extent the tribe's zoning laws would apply to tribal citizen's fee land is unclear, but regardless, tribal and local zoning authorities can work together to protect the natural setting and community character. Much of the land that the tribe has purchased and placed into trust is for the sole purpose of preservation.

**WAN:** As a former local business owner yourself, how would you address the fears of business owners in the northwest Lower Peninsula who have watched as

other states with expanded reservations saw an expansion of slot machines and video gaming into party stores, bars and restaurants — even those not owned by Indians. And, local governments, such as townships and cities, are saying would lose regulatory power.

**Gasco-Bentley:** Because of my knowledge of the on-the-ground reality here, I would have no concerns. The tribe has no reason to expand gaming beyond its Petoskey and Mackinaw sites, and would have no reason to permit gaming on other than trust lands. Our compact limits Class III gaming to two sites total on trust land in Emmet or Charlevoix Counties, and there is no economic advantage of expanding Class II beyond the Mackinaw location. The local governments will lose no regulatory authority over non-Indian businesses on the reservation.

**WAN:** Is the tribe still working with the Department of the Interior, or has that stopped since the lawsuit was filed?

**Gasco-Bentley:** I cannot comment on any communication with Interior.

**WAN:** How would clarifying the tribe's reservation boundaries relieve human service caseloads and court dockets, while also establishing a clear framework for agreements with local municipalities and the state? What would change?

**Gasco-Bentley:** It would clarify the tribe's exclusive jurisdiction over child protection proceedings within reservation boundaries, as well as criminal jurisdiction, which would make it easier to

See "LTBB," page 9

## KINDERGARTEN Round Up



**Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School  
Kindergarten Round Up for the  
2017-2018 School Year**

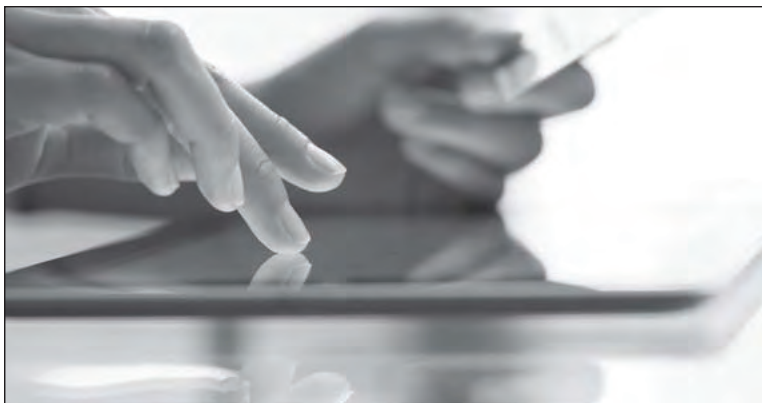


Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School is holding Kindergarten Round Up for the upcoming 2017-2018 School Year. Only those who complete and turn in an enrollment application during the Open Enrollment period will be considered for the lottery. The Open Enrollment dates are from January 30, 2017, through Feb. 14, 2017, with extended hours from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 8. Applications may be picked up from the school office or from the school website at [www.jklschool.org](http://www.jklschool.org) beginning January 30, 2017.

**All applications must be received by the school office by 4 p.m. (Eastern Time Zone) on February 14, 2017.**

The lottery will be held in the school cafeteria on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., 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 Kindergarten Round Up dates are set for March 14 and 15.



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# Youth taking service trip to Guatemala next spring

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Chippewa County Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council (YAC) students head to Guatemala in April of 2017 for an eight-day service trip in Xela, Guatemala, where they will become immersed in the Guatemalan culture and work at a local elementary school.

YAC members are Hanna Johnston, Logan Soloman and Deana Lalonde, Kinzey Heikkinen, River Jenkins, Madilyn Swanson, Lauren Weber, Grace Johnston, Paige Calder, Meghan Gerrie, Sidney Wilkins, Lara Waucaush, Victoria Nagy, CeCe Werner, MacKenzie Kalchik, MacKenzie Thomas, Ava Andary, Elayna Clow, Kayla Andary, Mana Mclean, Paige Cushman, Taylor Masters, Drake Perez, Benjamin Jones, Kyle Huskey, Drew Larson, Adam Smith, Avery TenEyck, Matt Knowles and Jake Jacques.

Poverty is particularly widespread in the countryside and among indigenous communities. The students will see this at the schools where they volunteer. Homes that do not have running water or electricity are common, which will be a new concept for the students.

The students will begin their



**Standing, Kinzey Heikkinen, River Jenkins, Madilyn Swanson, Lauren Weber, Grace Johnston, Paige Calder, Meghan Gerrie, Sidney Wilkins, Lara Waucaush, Victoria Nagy, CeCe Werner, MacKenzie Kalchik, MacKenzie Thomas, Ava Andary, Elayna Clow, Kayla Andary, Mana Mclean, Paige Cushman and Taylor Masters. Sitting, Drake Perez, Benjamin Jones, Kyle Huskey, Drew Larson, Adam Smith, Avery TenEyck, Matt Knowles and Jake Jacques. Missing, Hanna Johnston, Logan Soloman and Deana Lalonde.**

community service project at the local school in the mornings. On the first day, they will have a meeting with the teachers so they can learn more about the socio-economic situation of the local community. The service work will be a combination of English language tutoring and “hands on” projects at the school.

In the afternoons, they will be immersed in the local culture. They will visit Iglesia de Salcaja, the oldest church in Central America, take part in a hands-on textile workshop taught by local weavers and learn the art of Marimba, Guatemala’s national instrument.

The students also have the

unique opportunity to learn about the Guatemalan Civil War, which ended in 1996, by meeting with a former guerrilla who is now a human rights advocate.

The YAC students have been working very hard to raise funds for their trip and have already completed a number of fundraising events. During the downtown

Sault Ste. Marie Christmas open house, they wrapped Christmas presents, served hot chocolate and had a fire pit for people to roast marshmallows and make s’mores, all by donation. They also made and sold Christmas wreaths.

On Dec. 23, the YAC had a bake sale at the Soo Co-op Credit Union’s main branch. All sales were by donation. On Jan. 15, Studebaker’s Restaurant hosted an all-you-can-eat Italian buffet dinner and silent auction with all proceeds going to support the trip.

YAC advisor Debbie Jones commented on how proud she was of all these students, “They are so excited to go and help out at the school. I have been to Guatemala three times and can’t wait for them to experience a different culture. They will be amazed at how happy the Guatemalan children are and appreciative for everything we will be doing.”

Anyone wishing to make donations to help support the trip for the youngsters can be mailed to CCCF, PO Box 1979, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or dropped off at the CCCF office at 511 Ashmun St. Suite 200 (Huntington Bank second floor).

## Obama designates national monuments in Utah, Nevada

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

President Obama designated two new national monuments recently, located in the desert landscapes of southeastern Utah and southern Nevada.

The new monuments - the Bears Ears National Monument and the Gold Butte National Monument - are both important for their spectacular scenery and as cultural resources and sacred sites to Native Americans.

The creation of both monuments follows years of public input from tribes, elected officials, stakeholders, and also draws from legislation introduced in Congress.

According to a White House press release, Obama’s Administration has protected more land and water than any previous administration in history, and has taken unprecedented steps to make sure that Native

peoples have a say in the management of the country’s natural resources.

The Bears Ears National Monument encompasses about 1.35 million acres of federal land, and is home to significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources, including ancestral grounds for numerous tribes and landscapes that support hiking, hunting, rock climbing and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

The area gets its name from two geological formations, the Bears Ears Buttes, in the center of lands that are considered sacred by tribes in the region. Five tribal governments with ancestral ties to the region united their efforts to urge protections for the broader area, which includes ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial sites, rock art and artifacts that hold cultural significance.

The Gold Butte National Monument is located in Nevada just northeast of Las Vegas, and spans roughly 300,000 acres. The new monument includes rock art, archeological artifacts, and rare fossils.

The Southern Paiute people collect water from area mountain springs, gather traditional sources of paint, harvest pinyon pine nuts and other resources, and use ceremonial sites located within the new monument.

Gold Butte is also home to important historic resources, such as structures detailing western ranching heritage, an early twentieth-century abandoned mining town, and sites associated with Spanish explorers from the late eighteenth century.

“President Obama has been consistent in his commitment to work with Tribal governments, and this historic designation

builds on his legacy,” said Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye. “We are particularly pleased that the designation affirms tribal sovereignty and provides a collaborative role for tribes to work with the federal government in maintaining the land. Because tribes will help manage this land, it reaffirms President Obama’s fundamental commitment to human rights and equity in voice. Furthermore, while the land will be protected, our local Utah-based tribal members will continue to have access to the land for gathering ceremonial herbs. The land has always been a place of sacredness and fortitude for our people.”

Both the Gold Butte National Monument and the Bears Ears National Monument are comprised exclusively of existing federal lands, and their designations honor valid existing rights.

Plans for both monuments will be developed in an open process with public involvement, according to the White House press release. Both proclamations also establish local advisory councils made up of an array of interested stakeholders, including state and local governments, tribes, recreational users, local business owners, and private landowners, to help ensure that management decisions reflect tribal participation. The Departments of Interior and Agriculture will seek input from the Commissions, allowing area tribes to share traditional knowledge and make recommendations.

Begaye said, “As both Navajo and American, I am proud our President listened to a sovereign appeal and acted to preserve our sacred land for future generations.”

## Bad River Band denies renewal of Line 5 easement

ODANAH, Wis.—The Bad River Tribal Council passed a formal resolution Jan. 4 that established the tribe’s decision not to renew its interests in the grant of easement for rights-of-way of Enbridge Energy’s Line 5 crude oil pipeline through the Bad River Reservation. Furthermore, it calls for the decommissioning and removal of the pipeline from all Bad River lands and watershed.

Formerly known as Lakehead Pipeline Company, Enbridge sought renewal of rights-of-way with the band for the existing line that is now 64 years old. Fifteen individual grants of easement rights-of-way for Line 5 expired in 2013, however, Bad River had reacquired interests in 11 of the 15 parcels of land with-

in the grant of easement rights-of-way.

“As many other communities have experienced, even a minor spill could prove to be disastrous for our people. We depend upon everything that the creator put here before us to live mino-bimaadiziwin, a good and healthy life,” Bad River Tribal Chairman Robert Blanchard said.

He remarked in the tribal council’s decision, “We will work with our Native and non-Native communities to make sure that Line 5 does not threaten rights of people living in our region, and we will reach out to federal, state and local officials to evaluate how to remove Line 5, and we will work with the same communities and officials to continue developing a sustain-

able economy that doesn’t marginalize indigenous people.”

The band has directed tribal staff to begin planning for the Line 5 removal project development and the environmental issues and hazards that exist with removal of old pipelines including hazards response and health study, pipeline contents recycling and disposal, and surface restoration.

“These environmental threats not only threaten our health, but they threaten our very way of life as Anishinaabe,” said tribal council member, Dylan Jennings. “We all need to be thinking of our future generations and what we leave behind for them.”

With 7,000-plus members, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa

Indians is on over 124,000 acres on a reservation in an area within Ashland and Iron counties on the south shore of Lake Superior. The Ojibwe people have a long and rich heritage throughout the Great Lakes region and at Odanah on Lake Superior, prior

to European settlement, and continuing to today. Treaties signed by 11 Ojibwe tribes ceded territory in the region, including what is currently the upper one third of the state of Wisconsin. Learn more about the Bad River Band at [www.badriver-nsn.gov](http://www.badriver-nsn.gov).

### 2016-17 GED programs started

Consolidated Community School Services (CCSS) and the Sault Tribe Adult Learning Center are once again offering free GED preparation classes and testing for everyone.

Free classes take place at several locations in the eastern Upper Peninsula. In Sault Ste. Marie, classes meet at the MI Works! agency every Monday through Wednesday from 12:30 to 4 p.m., and at the JKL Bahweting Middle School every Monday through Thursday from 6 to 8:45 p.m. Contact Tanya Pages at (906) 632-6098 or [tpages@eupschools.org](mailto:tpages@eupschools.org) for more information.

For information on other area programs, please call the CCSS main office at (906) 495-7305, visit <http://ccss.eup.k12.mi.us/> or “C.C.S.S. -Consolidated Community School Services” on Facebook.



# LTBB wants 1855 treaty reservation lands

From "LTTB," page 7

develop cooperative agreements in these areas. The state is pretty good with the federal law we have – ICWA – but we only have it on our fee lands within the reservation. This would give us jurisdiction right away over our children.

**WAN:** You stated that: "... our law enforcement has jurisdiction over our trust lands and over tribal members only, and that sometimes that gets a little bit confusing." How is that confusing and what would change other than the reservation size?

**Gasco-Bently:** Under federal law, the tribe or federal governmental would generally have criminal jurisdiction of tribal citizens throughout the reservation boundary.

**WAN:** Is there anything else you would like to address with local communities about the information they are receiving?

**Gasco-Bently:** The tribe has been a critical part of this community for centuries. We have been and will continue to be an important partner with law enforcement, local schools, road commissions, and other governmental units and community organizations. We believe that

seeking the court's recognition of our treaty promised reservation will give us opportunities to continue to build our longtime partnerships for the good of all within this magnificent area that we share.

When the lawsuit was originally filed, there were meetings held with the different townships. We want to continue to have good working relationships with local governments, while at the same time having the ability to take care of our people within our reservation. That is all we are asking for. Legal jurisdiction including court, child welfare and services will be further clarified.

**WAN:** Who or what is the tribe's biggest obstacle in this journey?

**General Counsel James Bransky:** "The biggest difficulty in the tribe's reservation recognition journey is to accurately convey the true legal ramifications of the case, which are not at all negative for local residents and governments. Reservation recognition has nothing to do with who owns land. That is, regardless of who wins this lawsuit, the case cannot have any effect on land ownership, nor

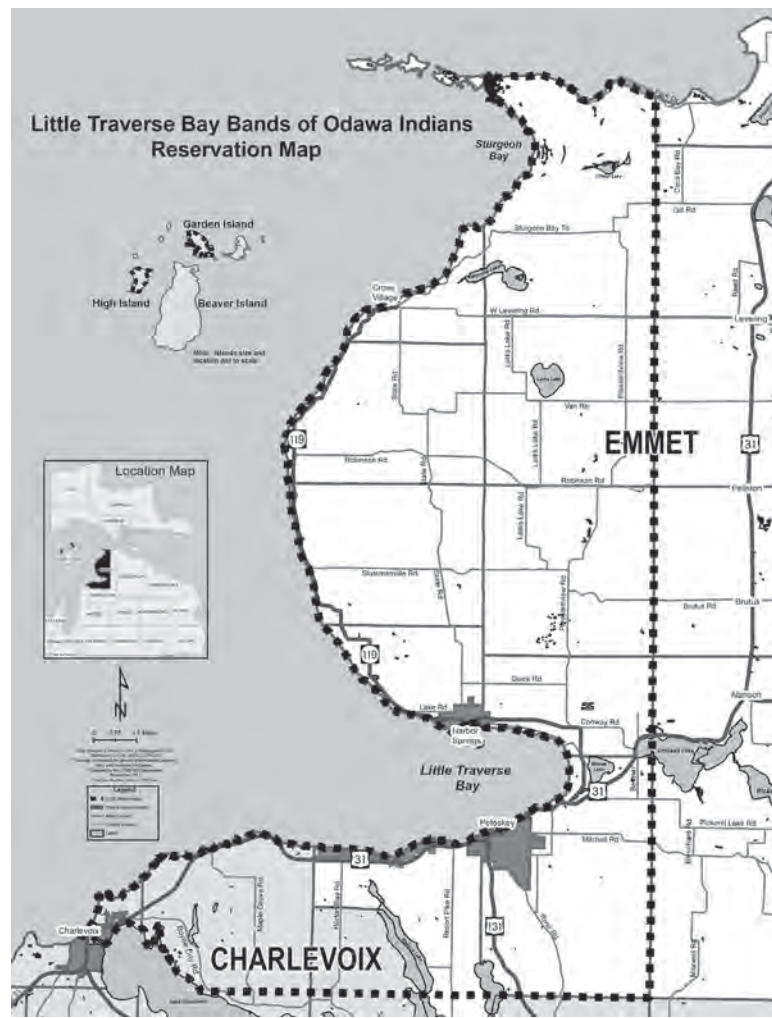
can it lead to any challenge of present land title. It just seeks recognition of the tribe's jurisdictional reservation boundary.

Overlapping jurisdictional boundaries are present everywhere. We all live within cities or townships, within counties, within states within the United States. In many places throughout the country, such as Mount Pleasant, Mich.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Green Bay, Wis.; and Phoenix, Ariz.; Indian reservation boundaries overlap with those of other governments.

Reservation recognition would solidify the tribe's authority over its citizens in areas such as child protection and criminal cases, and allow it to protect ancestral remains through application of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. It will in no way threaten anyone's land title, or supplant local governments' property taxing authority over non-LTBB citizens.

Under Supreme Court precedent, it is in fact likely that all fee land within the reservation, even land owned by the tribe, will remain on the property tax rolls. With regard to tribal trust lands, the resources and services that the tribe brings into the area vastly outweigh the lost property tax revenue."

In a similar case that was decided in March 2016, the Pender decision in Nebraska shows that although the LTTB is sincere about clarifying jurisdictional issues through the law-



suit, it could open up unforeseen issues in the future.

The Pender decision addresses a long-standing dispute over whether the town of Pender lies within the Omaha Indian Reservation and whether the tribe has governance authority over it.

Nebraska officials argued that 98 percent of the town was non-Native and the tribe had not asserted jurisdiction over the area for more than 100 years.

The Nebraska Attorney

General's office issued a statement saying that while the court decided that Pender was part of the reservation, it did not take a position on whether the tribe has legal authority to tax and exercise governing authority over the town.

Bransky said, "The tribe will not hold traditional ownership rights if it prevails, just a jurisdictional boundary to further help the tribe's membership with federal and legal matters."

## Testing for harmful radon in your home

FROM THE SAULT TRIBE ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is colorless, odorless and tasteless. It travels through the ground into the open air and can travel into your home through cracks and crevasses in the foundation, floor or walls.

Radon is a class A carcinogen, which means it's known to cause cancer in people. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, resulting in approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year.

Only smoking causes more cases of lung cancer. The risk of lung cancer from radon exposure is estimated at between 10 to 20 times greater for people who smoke cigarettes as compared with those who have never smoked.

Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes below the third floor for radon. It is ideal to test during the winter months when homes are usually very closed off to the outside fresh air. This will give you an idea what the highest con-

centration of radon that you are being exposed to. It is important to note that any home old or new may have a radon issue.

Radon test kits are available at hardware stores, online, home improvement centers or other retail outlets. Radon test kits can also be purchased from a radon test kit manufacturer for \$9.95 at [www.mi.radon.com](http://www.mi.radon.com).

Here is a link to all the cities and counties in Michigan that offer radon test kits [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/whm-rps-radon-where-to-get-a-radon-test-kit\\_261816\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/whm-rps-radon-where-to-get-a-radon-test-kit_261816_7.pdf).

The EPA has set an action level of 4 pCi/L. Measurements above or at this level require action - the EPA recommends you take corrective measures to reduce your exposure to radon gas. This however does not imply that a level below 4 pCi/L is considered acceptable.

It is best practice to try and get your radon level exposure as low as possible.

If you have any questions, please call Robin Bouschor at the Sault Tribe Environmental Department at (906) 632-5575.

Bouschor is an environmental specialist for the tribe who focuses on air quality issues.

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# KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP!

If you have a child that is ready for Kindergarten in the Fall of 2017, please fill out the following form at [www.saultschools.org/kindergarten2017](http://www.saultschools.org/kindergarten2017). Please select your appointment time and date that you prefer.

**What to Bring:**

- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Shot Records
- Social Security Card
- Proof of Residence
- (Such as a utility bill)
- Tribal Card (If applicable)

**Location:**  
Sault Area Middle School Library  
684 Marquette Ave  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

**Roundup Dates & Times**

- March 6, 2017 – 12-6:30 p.m.
- March 7, 2017 – 12-6:30 p.m.
- March 8, 2017 – 8:30-2:30 p.m.

**Age Requirements**  
Age 5 on or before 09/01/17  
Waivers will be available for children whose birthdays fall between September 2 and December 1.

If you have any questions regarding Sault Area Schools Kindergarten Roundup, please call Amy Kronemeyer at 906-635-5653

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# Anishinaabemowin 2017 *Manidoo Giizis*

Each day I do myself the honor of taking in, absorbing, a single new word of the language of my people.

By Susan Askwith

Our children are learning these word at Early Head Start and Head Start. Sault Tribe language teacher Shirley Recollet helps them learn through pictures, stories and songs.

Manidoo Giizis	Spirit moon
Nimkoodaading	Happy new year
Nshwaaswi	Eight
Kwensenhs(ak)	Girl(s)
Gwiizenhs(ak)	Boy(s)
Kaat	Leg
Nik(an)	Arm(s)
Botsin(an)	Boot(s)
Bibooni miikmoot	Winter pants
G'chi goonka	Lots of snow
G'chi zoogpwa	It's snowing hard
Goonenhs	Snowflake
Goon nini	Snow man
Mkom	Ice
Bigidnan	Put it down
Aaniish e-nankiiyan?	What are you doing?
Biinchigen	Clean up
Gda samendaagwas!	You're awesome!

## Manidoo Giizis Kidwinan

Kidwin = word; Kidwinan = words

Across:

- Clean up
- Snowflake
- You're awesome
- It's snowing
- Pants
- Snowman

Down:

- Boots
- Happy New Year
- It's cold
- Put it down

Our language instructor for adults is Leonard Kimewon. Come learn with us each week for the laughter, for being together, and for the empowerment. Brand new beginners are as welcome as those who now a word or two. See "going further" below for schedules and contacts info.

### Pronunciation Guide (This is REALLY helpful)

Long vowels:	aa	sounds like the "a" in FALL
	ii	sounds like the "ee" in FEED
	oo	sounds like the "o" in GROW
	e	sounds like the "e" in FED
Short Vowels	a	sounds like the "u" in CUP
	i	sounds like the "I" in FIT
	o	sounds like the "o" in BOOK

The section of a word that includes a LONG VOWEL usually gets the emphasis when pronouncing the work.

In Anishinaabemowin sometimes LONG VOWELS have a nasal sound. To show when to do that, our usual system of writing puts an "nh" AFTER the vowel. The "nh" is only a signal. It does not make a sound of its own.

Example: *enh* is the word for yes. This sounds like the "e" in "fed" as you see above, but has a nasal sound t it, as if you pinched your nose when you said it.

G only sounds as it does in "GRAPE"  
C only makes a K sound.

All the letters you see in a word are pronounced. Except for the "nh" signal, no letters are silent. (But some are pretty darn quiet!)

### Health comments of the month

Aaniish ezhi bmaadziiyin      How is your life going?  
N'mino maadz gwa!              I'm having a good life!

### Weather comments of the month

Zoogpwa                              It is snowing.  
Gsinaa                                 It is cold.

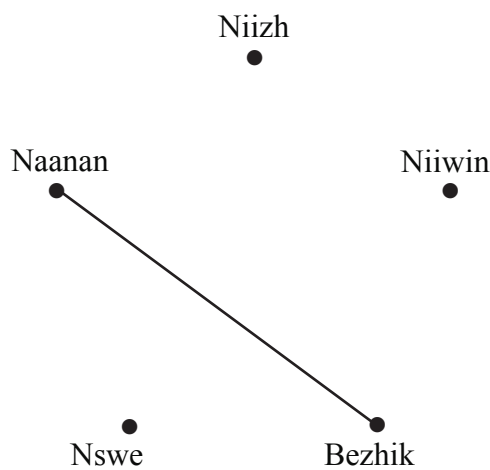


### Gindaasodaa! (Let's count!)

Bezhik	one
Niizh	two
Nswe*	three
Niiwin	four
Naanan	five

\* you say the "n" in "nswe" like in the word "name."

### Connect the dots to form a star



### Chocolate gezhaagmidek ezi-dgongeng

Biinj mnikwaajigan, bezhik emkwaan cocoa bashkdaawngaak miinwaa niizhi-emkwaan zisbaakwaat ka toon ka ndaajii' aan weweni miidash doodooshaaboo ka dgonaan nengaj. Geyaabi ka ndaajii' nan. mooshkinebidoon mnikwaajigan. binji microwave mnikwaajigan toon, megwaajigwaa ngadbagaanhs wii minopagwat!

### Chocolate Hot Drink Recipe

In a cup, one spoon cocoa powder and two spoons sugar you will put. You will stir well. And then milk you will add Nice and easy. Keep stirring. Fill up the cup. In the microwave, the cup put, about a minute. It will be tasty!

**Going further** — If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please contact us or come to language classes if you live near to the EUP. Our teacher Leonard Kimewon has winter hours and locations, plus contact info posted on the tribe's website, saulttribe.com. At this homepage look under member services, choose "Culture," and then choose "Language Department." You will also find some livestream language lessons there as well as the pronunciation of this month's lesson.

Please save this page! Each month this year we will have another. Bit by bit we will learn together.

# Gathering of Nations tickets now on sale

By Rick Smith

Advance tickets for the largest annual powwow in North America are on sale now. The 34<sup>th</sup> Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, N.M., takes place on April 27, 28 and 29 at the Tingley Coliseum/Expo New Mexico. The cost for advance tickets start at \$15, tickets start at \$18 per day at the door.

The gathering begins on Thursday, April 27, with the Miss Indian World Traditional Talent Presentations at the Albuquerque Convention Center featuring all contestants in the Miss Indian World Pageant with special musical performances, according to the Gathering of Nations web site. Miss Indian World is named and crowned on the following Saturday during the powwow.

The powwow features tra-

ditional and contemporary American Indian singing and dancing competitions with over \$200,000 in cash and prizes to be awarded. Over 2,500 competitors are expected to perform in the competitions.

Over 800 artists, crafters and traders are expected to display wares for sale at the Indian Traders Market.

Two days of American Indian and contemporary music performances and entertainment of all genres are provided at Stage 49 and is free for ticket holders.

Attendance at this year's Gathering of Nations is estimated to number about 85,000 to 100,000 people.

Melanie Mathews, program coordinator for the Gathering of Nations and the Miss Indian World Pageant, extended a personal invitation to Sault

Tribe folks, "On behalf of the Gathering of Nations Powwow, we invite the Sault Tribe to the 34th Annual Gathering of Nations Powwow in its new home in Tingley Coliseum at Expo New Mexico," she wrote. "This year's powwow is going to have a new look with the expanded powwow grounds." The "grounds" include Stage 49 — the contemporary music stage, an American Indian food court, Indian Traders' Market for arts and crafts vendors and much more. "It is highly recommended to book your hotel rooms early," she added. "Tickets for the event are available on our website now and always at the door days of the event."

All information needed for those interested in attending can be found on the Gathering of Nations web site at [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com) or staff can be reached via phone at (505) 836-2810 or via email at [melonie@gonmail.com](mailto:melonie@gonmail.com). One can also explore information on the Gathering of Nations and Miss Indian World social media sites on Facebook, twitter, YouTube, Pinterest and Gathering of Nations Radio.

According to a Gathering of Nations poster, headliners are Jamon Paskemin of Sweetgrass, Saskatchewan, head man dancer; Tonya Moore of Stillwater, Okla., head lady dancer; Sonny Little Head of Happy Flats, Mont., head young man dancer; Tia Wood of Saddle Lake, Alberta, head young lady dancer; Regina Topsy of Rocky Boy, Mont., head northern dance judge; Cree Hughes of Fort Towson, Okla., head southern dance judge; Michael LaFromois of

Browning, Mont., head northern drum judge; Walter Ahhaitty of Hacienda Heights, Calif., head southern drum judge; arena directors, Randy Medicine Bear of Loveland, Color., and George Shields of Shawnee, Okla.; announcers, Dennis Bowen Sr. of Salamanca, N.Y., Vince Beyl of Bemidji, Minn., Ruben Little Head of Happy Flats, Mont., Jason Whitehouse (roving) of Madison Heights, Mich., and Larry Yazzie of Tama, Iowa; invited drums, Cozad of Hominy, Okla., Northern Cree of Saddle Lake, Alberta, Show Time of Rapid City, S.D., Poundmaker of Poundmaker, Saskatchewan, Southern Slam of Jemez Pueblo, N.M., and War Paint of Pembroke, N.C., and Miss Indian World of 2016-17, Danielle Ta'sheena Finn of Porcupine, N.D.

# Dankert downs 350-pound doe elk on opening day

On opening day of the December elk season, Christopher Dankert, 11, took a 350-pound cow in lower Michigan. He and his parents, Jesse and Serenity Dankert, and brother, Nick, departed at 3:30 a.m. that day for his guide, Gene Skiba, and a day of hard hunting. That afternoon,

they finally came upon an elk herd and Dankert dropped his cow.

Dankert, of Bliss, Mich., took a hunter's safety course two years ago. Since then, he has been blessed with much hunting success. He shot a turkey with a 10-inch and 11-inch double

beard. He has taken two beautiful six-point, whitetail deer, a partridge and several squirrels.

This was the young hunter's first year to apply for an elk tag.

One day, the Sault Tribe Inland Fish and Wildlife Department left a message on the family's answering machine for "the parents of Christopher Dankert." He got a ribbing — "Oh, no, what did you do?" The next day, when his mom told him he drew an elk tag, the look on his face was priceless. "Better than Christmas morning!" she said.

Dankert's parents started looking for insight on elk hunting in Michigan. The father of Dankert's classmate, Jacob, is Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Conservation Officer Roger Willis, he met with Dankert and gave him lots of pointers about where to hunt, guide services and the ins and outs of elk hunting.

With Willis' recommendation, Dankert's parents hired Gene Skiba as his guide. Skiba works with several other guides in the area and owns property at the south end of hunting area "G" in Montmorency County.

The group went to area "X" first. At first daylight they saw



Photo by Serenity Dankert

On opening day of the December elk season, Christopher Dankert, 11, took a 350-pound cow in lower Michigan.

another hunter take a beautiful 6x6. All in all, they saw 15 bull elk before noon, but no cows, which was what Dankert was after.

Although Dankert's efforts yielded nothing that morning he wasn't down. "That's okay," he said. "My goal was just to see an elk. I'm happy as can be."

After lunch they went to Area "G" in the Pigeon River State Forest. They found numerous fresh elk tracks. DNR employee and local elk guide Preston Casselman walked with Dankert and his dad about a half-mile into the brush to find the herd. Dankert, his father and his guide were able to stalk within 150

yards of the herd and the young hunter made a beautiful shot off of shooting sticks and dropped the largest cow right in her tracks. It took three grown men to drag the cow the half-mile to the road.

The check station determined the elk weighed 350 pounds and was about 8 years old.

Dankert's parents are getting the hide tanned for the young man to hang on his wall.

The Dankerts would like to thank all of Sault Tribe, Willis, Skiba, Casselman, camp cook Cathy, and all of the other guides who helped make Dankert's elk hunt even more memorable than he imagined possible.

## Nominations sought for LSSU Outstanding Native American Student award

The Native American Student Organization (NASO) of LSSU is now accepting nominations for the Outstanding Native American Student Award. This award will be given to a graduating senior at LSSU who has shown remarkable character during their time at LSSU.

Candidates may nominate themselves or be nominated by a peer. The nomination packets must include GPA, at least one letter of recommendation explaining why the candidate is an outstanding student, any activities they participate in on or off campus, tribal affiliation (Canadian students may apply); and a brief letter stating goals after graduation.

Nominations can be hand delivered, mailed, or faxed to: LSSU, Attn: Stephanie Sabatine, Director, Native American Center and Campus Diversity, 650 West Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783; phone (906) 635-6664 or fax (906) 635-2848. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 10, 2017.

The Native American Center Award Committee is looking forward to choosing the recipient for this award and wish all applicants the best of luck.

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# ACFS says thank you for handmade items, gifts



**CHI MIIGWETCH** — A big thank you goes to Gayle Gaynor from South Carolina for all of the wonderful handmade hats and mittens! We know how much time and effort goes into your work and it is greatly appreciated and much needed. The generous donation of the hats and mittens was distributed to the ACFS office and outlying areas for our membership.



**ACFS FOSTER CARE CHILDREN RECEIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS** — A big thank you goes to the Sault Tribe Health Center staff for the time and effort they put into the Christmas mitten tree for ACFS Foster Care children. And, there are other generous Sault Tribe departments that donate their employee Dress Down Funds each year. With their help we were able to make 64 ACFS foster care children very happy Christmas morning.



# Cobe's frank autobiography exceeds expectations

*Red, White, and Blues*  
Linda Raye Cobe  
Softcover, 172 pp  
ISBN 978-1-4951-5872-8  
\$18.99

<https://northerngarnetpublishingllc.wordpress.com/>

"My story comes from a Native American perspective. It is not unique, for what happened to me also happened to so many of our people."

Linda Raye Cobe, Naubinway resident and Lac Vieux Desert citizen, is a survivor of childhood trauma suffered by so many Native children that followed her into adulthood. In her book, *Red, White and Blues*, she tells her story in her own words. Cobe

published her own book, her first book, so don't expect polished editing. However, it is certainly a story worth reading.

Cobe was born in 1958 and spent her early days in Watersmeet. Her parents and siblings, her aunt and her cousins all lived under one roof — 12 kids and three adults — while her grandparents lived next to the house in a travel trailer. There was no running water or electricity.

They lived a simple life with similar families in a small, rural extremely poor community. They had a carefree life with a wealth of traditional knowledge at their fingertips, but, unfortunately,

many of the adults were alcoholics and domestic violence was common place. Cobe's mother left after a particularly vicious beating. In 1972, Cobe and her siblings were taken to a Harbor Springs, Mich., boarding school, the Catholic Holy Childhood of Jesus, where the children were terribly abused, physically, psychologically and emotionally and sexually. She was later adopted by a non-Native family.

It's a story many Natives have experienced or heard from their family members. Most were scarred for life. But Cobe's story is a journey from victim to survivor. Recommended reading.

— Jennifer Dale-Burton



## WHITE OUT HOCKEY GAMES

Together we can end violence!  
We encourage everyone to wear white.



White Ribbon is the world's largest movement of men and boys working to end violence against women and girls, promote gender equity, healthy relationships and a new vision of masculinity.



**Soo Eagles  
Hockey Game**  
Saturday,  
February 3rd, 2017  
Puck drops 7:30 pm

If you have any questions please contact Kaylynn at 906-635-0566 or cairnsk@dprcenter.org.



**LSSU Hockey  
Game**  
Friday,  
February 11th, 2017  
Puck drops 7:30 pm

**1000 Long sleeve shirts  
will be given away.**

## Benefits.gov new features

As we reflect on the past year, the Benefits.gov Program is proud to have served over nine million citizens in an event-filled year.

Read below to learn about some of the new features and helpful content that Benefits.gov now provides.

View 200 additional resources — Benefits.gov offers information on over 1,200 government benefits and assistance programs from 17 federal partner agencies. For example, you can find information on how to manage your federal student loans (PDF), buying your first home, or local state resources.

**Access free Benefits.gov materials** — Did you know that Benefits.gov provides free materials for you to download? Check out our PDF guides for families, people with disabilities, unemployed individuals, seniors, students, veterans and Native Americans. Materials are offered in both English and Spanish!

**Stay connected with Benefits.gov** — The Benefits.gov social media channels serve as a way to connect with our users and to share informational content directly from our team to you. The latest Benefits.gov *User Series* on YouTube provides a glimpse into the types of offerings Benefits.gov provides for specific user groups. You can view videos for people with disabilities, unemployed individuals and families. If you use Facebook or Twitter, follow us for timely updates!

You can expect to see more improvements to our site in 2017 and new, helpful features to help you find the benefits and information you need. You can always start by taking the *Benefit Finder*, our pre-screening questionnaire, to learn what benefits you may be eligible to receive.

**Stay connected** — Subscribe to our *Compass eNewsletter* to receive the latest updates on news and events.

# Malcolm students build powwow drum

By Rick Smith

Students, administrators and guest instructors at Malcolm High School in Sault Ste. Marie may have quietly become part of an historic occasion upon completion of what is believed to be the first American Indian powwow drum built in a mainstream high school. Students and guest instructors built the drum as one of the projects of the school's Dreamstarter Program funded by Running Strong for American Indian Youth.

The program is funded by a \$10,000 grant was co-founded by history making Oglala Lakota Sioux Olympian Billy Mills. The school's advisor for Native students, Robert McRorie, and his mentor in the program, Principal Sandy Sawyer, applied for and were awarded the grant. If all goes well, the school has a shot at another \$50,000 grant from the organization.

Malcolm High opened its elective Dreamstarter Program classes last September and incorporate Anishinaabe guest instructors from the area to teach students the customs, crafts and lore of their people. Sault Tribe member and guest instructor Bud Biron guided construction of the drum with some help from fellow Sault Tribe member Sam Gardner of the tribe's Cultural Department staff. Biron is a drum maker as well as the drum keeper for the Bawating Singers of Sault Ste.



Photos by Rick Smith

Most of the students and others involved with the Dreamstarter Program at Malcolm High are pictured here at the school. Front row from left, Kayla Franklin, Alexis Badger, Coleman Bumstead, Mathew Pages, Kenny Garlinghouse and Isaac Royer. Middle row from left, Taylor Nolan, Ryver Stevens, Chris Ogston and Elizabeth Houghton. Back row from left, Principal Sandy Sawyer, student advisor Robert McRorie, program instructors Bud Biron, Jackie Minton and Sam Gardner. Participating students not pictured are Nicholas Bourne, Dylan Fox, Makenzi LaVictor, Estacia Obeshaw, Sam McRorie and Anne-Marie Peer. Participating instructor Amy McCoy is also not pictured

Marie.

Biron asserted it is likely the Malcolm youngsters stepped into history when they recently finished the drum. He said he has never heard of a powwow drum constructed in any other mainstream high school in the nation or in the state, and "certainly not in a Sault area high school," he said.

According to the Running Strong blog, the Malcolm Dreamstarter Program allows students to earn credit towards grad-

uation while learning the arts and culture of the Ojibwe. Classes started on Sept. 8 with 25 students involved. The main objective of the program is to pass on skills such as making a variety of items like ceremonial drums, telling Ojibwe stories and other facets of ancient Anishinaabe customs; participating students would then be able to pass those skills on to successive generations.

McRorie mentioned other current guest instructors for different



Instructor Bud Biron, in corner, with some students working hides and others making drum sticks as, at right, Sam Gardner smudges.



Instructor Jackie Minton, second from left, beading with students.

Dreamstarters Program classes are Sault Tribe members Jackie Minton and Amy McCoy. Minton is also on the tribe's Cultural Department staff. He also extend-

ed special thanks to Sault Tribe traditional medicine practitioner Keith Smith "for all of his help with organizing the program timeline and outreach."

# IHS scholarships, loan programs announced

On Jan. 10, the Indian Health Service (IHS) announced the opening of the application period for its 2017 scholarship and loan repayment programs with several important improvements to maximize the long-term workforce development impact of these valuable recruitment tools at eligible Indian health programs.

The IHS Scholarship Program provides qualified American Indian and Alaska Native health professions students the opportunity to establish an educational

foundation for a career in health care and serve medically underserved Indian health programs throughout the country.

An estimated \$13.7 million will be available for scholarships and \$30 million will be available for loan repayments this application round. New scholarship applications are due on March 28, 2017. Current scholarship recipients interested in extending their awards must apply by Feb. 28, 2017. Loan repayment applicants must apply by Aug. 15, 2017, and

applications are evaluated monthly beginning in January or as soon as funds become available.

IHS is refocusing both programs on the most-needed disciplines in Indian health programs units, such as physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, behavioral health providers and optometrists, and eliminating disciplines that do not address key vacancies at these facilities. As a result, an increase of 60 additional awards

in the most needed disciplines is anticipated for a total of 200 new scholarships awarded. IHS is also increasing the number of graduate scholarships that require service in Indian health programs and reducing the number of preparatory scholarships that do not require any service.

"The IHS Scholarship and Loan Repayment programs are two of our best recruitment and retention tools to increase the number of healthcare providers serving Indian Health Programs.

We're re-aligning the program based on current needs to best serve our patients and to address key vacancies in Indian health programs," IHS Principal Deputy Director Mary L. Smith said.

"Rural areas are faced with a shortage of doctors and nurses. These programs help make IHS more competitive in attracting talented and qualified health care providers to work in Indian health facilities," Smith added.

For more information, visit <https://www.ihs.gov>.

# Blended eLearning comes to tribe's Training Department

FROM SAULT TRIBE KINOOMAAGEWIN TRAINING CENTER

What is "blended" eLearning? According to Innosight Institute, blended learning is the new way of getting information that includes online delivery of content, often with control over time and pace, as well as some classroom or online face time instruction. The Sault Tribe Kinooaagewin Training Center team is excited to share with fellow team members and tribal members our innovative changes and updates to our classes and sessions that now included blended eLearning!

One of the Training Department's advanced group of videos and tutorials is the eLearning Management Series and Seminar, on which training specialist Beverly MacLaren has taken the lead with the collaboration of training specialist Aagii Clement and cultural training

specialist Deb Pine. This series contains tutorials from Biz-Library (a 5,000 video and tutorial library) and our Human Resources Training Department website: [kewadincasino.articulate-online.com](http://kewadincasino.articulate-online.com).

The Management Series is a "blended" program consisting of eLearning and follow up classroom seminars. This new training model was developed from several previous versions of the management series. Originally, the series consisted of six full classroom days! Now the series can be taken anywhere, anytime at pace, on any device in a more condensed version.

These tutorials and videos focus on key topics such as business and soft skills, leadership, sales and customer service, HR compliance, IT software, workplace safety and more.

Sault Tribe Cultural Division is also making the move towards "blended eLearning." Maintaining

our culture has always been, and will continue to be, the foundation on which our people and our tribe stand upon. It is our source of identity and strength. Deb Pine has joined the Kinooaagewin Training Center and with her comes a rich knowledge of culture, language and history of our Anishinaabeg people. Pine has spent countless hours working on creating several online Anishinaabemowin language tutorial builds while working closely with Lenard Kimewon (our language instructor in the Cultural Division), along with two very talented young ladies, Pine's daughters Jada and Alexia Hall-Pine. Pine has published online language tutorials in the form of videos which are fun and creative courses to help teach the Anishinaabe language to people of all ages. Pine's daughters future plans will include language preservation along with Sault Tribe history. Pine continues to bring

a deepened understanding of the history and culture of Sault Tribe to training classes, sessions and to orientation for new employees. Her focus for 2017 is language preservation, congressional education and the specific history of Sault Tribe.

The Kinooaagewin Training Center is also offering ongoing classes for elders in the area of social media and computers. This is an exciting and long awaited class that is very comfortable, while moving at an enjoyable, easy pace. If you are interested in being able to navigate through your smart phone, tablets or laptops, and have fun doing it, Kinooaagewin Training Center is the place to be!

We are patient and driven in providing our elders with the skills and knowledge they require to keep in touch with their loved ones both at home and away, through social media such as Facebook. There is plenty of room

available in the elder computer classes for new participants. If you enjoy working with a group, or if you would prefer one-on-one instruction, we are able to accommodate what works best for you.

The Kinooaagewin Training Center classes are also available to all team members and tribal members who are interested in advancing their knowledge and skills in social media, computer literacy, Word, Excel and Power Point; as well as soft skills such as leadership, coaching and mentoring. We have something for everyone!

The Training Department will continue working to provide better and more relevant training for all team members and our community as a whole.

If you have questions or suggestions, contact the Training Department at (906) 635-4937 or [bmaclaren@saulttribe.net](mailto:bmaclaren@saulttribe.net), [dpine@saulttribe.net](mailto:dpine@saulttribe.net) or [lclement@saulttribe.net](mailto:lclement@saulttribe.net).

# Conservation Corner: Great Lakes, inland treaty licensing

By ROBERT MARCHAND

This month, Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) serves reminders regarding reporting aspects and license renewals, and provide some preliminary statistics regarding the number of treaty licenses we issue to our tribal members.

If members have questions regarding specific licenses and allowable activities, we encourage you to contact our office to speak with an officer who will be able to assist you.

Inland hunting, fishing, gathering licenses

Inland hunting, fishing and gathering licenses are governed by Tribal Code chapters 21 and 23. Please remember if you held a 2016 inland license, you are required to submit a harvest report by Feb. 1, 2017 (see Tribal Code Chapter 21, Section 21.402). This report is required whether you harvested anything or even had a chance to get out there. Harvest reports are provided to all license holders at the time of their application each year. If you have misplaced yours, they are available online.

2017 Inland licenses will be available beginning on or around March 1, 2017. Applications will be available online at the end of February, but STLE will not be able to issue until March 1 or after. Reminder: if you lose your

harvest card and/or tags, there will be a \$10 replacement fee to have new ones issued.

Subsistence, subsistence gillnetting and recreational

2017 Subsistence and subsistence gillnet licenses are available now. As a reminder, members may obtain the basic subsistence fishing license at no charge (if applying or requesting an application packet through the U.S. mail, there is a \$4 mailing fee that applies. This mailing fee applies if you have the packet mailed to you and then decide to come to the office to pick up your licenses); or they may obtain subsistence gillnet licenses for a \$20 fee (add \$4 mailing fee if applying or requesting an application packet through the U.S. mail). Members 55 and over are free of charge for gillnet licenses; however, they would still be required to pay the \$4 mailing fee. STLE currently accepts only checks or money orders for payment of treaty licenses if processing through the U.S. mail, but have begun accepting debit and credit card payments at the licensing window. Effective with the 2017 licensing season, if you lose your subsistence and/or subsistence gillnet cards, there will be a \$10 replacement fee to have a new one(s) issued.

Whether applying for just subsistence or subsistence gillnet

licenses, all applicants are provided with a packet of information that includes: Sault Tribe's Code, Chapter 20; CORA Code; grid maps showing locations where you can fish and enough monthly catch reports for a 12 month period.

Monthly catch reports are due no later than the 10th of every month, for the previous month. Reports are required to be submitted regardless of whether you actually went fishing, or caught anything. Properly completed reports include the following information (also stated in the letter from Chief of Police with the application packet):

- Printed name of license holder
- ST number, located on the back of the license
- Grid location/number being fished
- Month being reported
- Gear being used
- Species of catch and amount – either in pounds or number of fish – not both

Reports may be submitted in person, by you or your designee (filled out in its entirety by you), at 2175 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; via fax at (906) 635-7707 (if faxing, please call the office to ensure your fax was received); or via U.S. Mail at P.O. Box 925, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Reports may also be submitted via email to Rachel AND

Amber in the Licensing Office. If you choose to email the report in, you must email it to BOTH of them, and receive a confirmation email response from one of them to ensure your report was received. Their email addresses are: [ahorner@saulttribe.net](mailto:ahorner@saulttribe.net) and [rshreve@saulttribe.net](mailto:rshreve@saulttribe.net).

Commercial fishing – captains and helpers

2017 Commercial licenses are now available. Commercial licenses include captains, co-captains and helpers. Members must be 18 years of age or older to obtain a commercial fishing license, if available.

New helpers must schedule their appointment with STLE at least one week in advance, and then immediately contact Sault Tribe Enrollment at (906) 632-8552 to request their "file." Members must pick up their file and bring it to their appointment at STLE. Helpers pay \$25 each year, and this can be in the form of a check, money order, or debit or credit card. Members will take their file, along with the application paperwork and commercial helpers license to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to have it certified. The license is not valid until the Bureau of Indian Affairs signs off on it and affixes your picture to it.

Effective with the 2017 licensing year, please note that if you

lose your license or if you obtain a different type of license (for example, you turn in helper card to become a co-captain, you become a co-captain for a different boat or captain, you obtain a specialty permit while holding other licenses, etc.) you will be required to pay \$10 for each additional transaction.

Annual statistics

In addition to the numerous other responsibilities contained within Law Enforcement, staff issued the following licenses to Sault Tribe members in 2016:

- 4,486 Inland harvest cards
- 11,357 Inland harvest tags
- 112 Camping permits
- 150 Commercial licenses\*
- 224 Subsistence licenses
- 146 Subsistence gillnet licenses

• 2,998 Subsistence catch reports logged

• 250 Subsistence tickets written

\* Includes captains, co-captains and helpers

Treaty hunting and fishing rules and regulations can seem very complex. Members may always contact STLE's office with questions or concerns. Licensing staff is available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., officers are available 24/7.

Bob Marchand is the chief of the Sault Tribe Police Department.

## Snow tracking fun winter skill to learn

By NICK BAUMGART

Winter arrived in Michigan, which significantly changes what we do outside. Skiing, snowshoeing and ice fishing are all great options for winter fun. Another winter outdoor activity is exploring animal tracks. Snow tracking can be done almost anywhere and requires no special equipment.

Lots of animals can be tracked in winter. Many of them can be located near homes in urban or rural areas. Tracks of deer, squirrels, coyote, mice, weasels (ermine), many birds and rabbits are common and can be found in many places throughout Michigan. Other less common animals can be found but require some travel to find the appropriate habitat. Tracks of fisher, bobcat and wolves can be a challenge to find but may bring you to some rewarding sites. Don't overlook tracking dogs and cats too.

Some tracks may be difficult to identify. Guides books are available to help, such as the *Peterson Field Guide to Animal Tracks*. These books can allevi-

ate the guesswork when trying to identify tracks. Guides can help distinguish the difference between tracks of coyote, fox or other similar species.

*(Editor's note: Also look for websites for kids and adults on winter snow tracks, such as [www.naturetracking.com/the-5-most-common-animal-tracks-in-snow](http://www.naturetracking.com/the-5-most-common-animal-tracks-in-snow)).*

The type of snow can make a difference when trying to identify tracks. Tracks in light, fluffy snow may not be crisp, making identification difficult. However, tracks in hard, packed snow may not leave much to see at all. Other tracks may have the snow melted, erasing features needed for identification, but try anyway. Speculation is part of the fun. Don't be afraid to guess.

Be sure to dress for the weather. Venturing out in winter can be a challenge and at times a dangerous situation. When the temperature is near zero degrees Fahrenheit or if wind chill makes it feel even colder, consider waiting for a warmer day. Proper boots are a must. Mittens are warmer than gloves,

but either will do. A jacket and pants that shed snow are important to keep dry. Most body heat escapes through your head, so wear a good hat. Wool is a great insulator even when wet. Nylon and synthetic fabrics shed snow and water. There are two rules to remember in winter weather: don't get wet and don't over-perspire. These are guaranteed ways to get cold and ruin your outing.

Tracking in snow is an interesting and fun activity for youth. Searching for tracks in the snow allows youth an opportunity to explore, ask questions and try something new. Consider taking youth outdoors for some tracking in the snow.

Michigan State University Extension encourages participation in safe, new experiences that expose youth to science involvement with 4-H science: Asking questions and discovering answers. Please contact me at [baumga75@anr.msu.edu](mailto:baumga75@anr.msu.edu) for ideas on spending time outdoors with youth.

*Nick Baumgart is an educator with the Michigan State University Extension.*

### Inland Conservation 2017 meeting schedule

All meetings at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Meetings scheduled for the first Monday of each month and begin at 4 p.m. Contact Linda Grossett at (906) 635-6050 or [lgrossett@saulttribe.net](mailto:lgrossett@saulttribe.net) for any questions.

2017 meetings dates — Jan. 9\*, Feb. 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 10\*, Aug. 7, Sept. 11\*, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4.

\* Dates moved due to a holidays.

### Great Lakes Conservation 2017 meeting schedule

All meetings at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Meetings scheduled for the third Monday of each month (see below) and begin at 5 p.m. Contact Linda Grossett at (906) 635-6050 or [lgrossett@saulttribe.net](mailto:lgrossett@saulttribe.net) for any questions.

2017 meeting dates — Jan. 23, Feb. 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18.

### IFWD public meeting on Feb. 6 in Sault Ste. Marie

The Inland Fish and Wildlife Department invites you to a public meeting.

Sault Tribe's IFWD is working to investigate the vulnerability of culturally important species to climate change. As part of this process, the IFWD is seeking input from the tribal community as to which species to focus these efforts.

Join the discussion for a chance to win a \$50 gas card! Meeting starts at 6:30 pm, Feb. 6, in the Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie.

For more information, contact Dani Fegan at [dfegan1@saulttribe.net](mailto:dfegan1@saulttribe.net) or (906) 632-6132.

## Annual Midwinter Trappers Workshop being held February 4

HERMANSVILLE – Officials of the U.P. Trappers Association, District 3, announced the date for the annual Midwinter Trappers Workshop is Feb. 4, 2017. This popular event is for youngsters and adults interested in learning more about trapping. Doors at the Community Center in Hermansville will open at 8 a.m. central time and volunteers do everything they can to make this a fun-filled, learning opportunity for all.

Two trapping supply dealers

and a fur buyer will be on hand, so attendees can get needed supplies and sell fur. All youngsters receive a free weasel box and trap and will be in a drawing to win other free trapping supplies. Local trapping experts teach kids and adults how to trap weasels, mink, muskrats, raccoons and so forth, and how to properly prepare them for market.

"This event is attended by more kids each year. It's really neat that each kid goes away with a prize along with the weasel

box and trap setup. That, along with having had the opportunity to learn from the experts always makes this a great day for our young trappers," Jim Fornetti, longtime member of the U.P. Trappers Association, said.

The workshop is open to the public and admission is free. Lunch and refreshments available for purchase throughout the day. For further information or directions, call Mike Lewis at (906) 774-3592 or visit [www.uptrappers.com](http://www.uptrappers.com).



Eugene Arduin covers weasel trapping from A to Z for an attentive audience at a previous workshop. (Courtesy U.P. Trappers Association)

# Santa attends Munising kids Christmas party

PHOTOS AND STORY BY KATHLEEN NINO-CORP

Santa made his rounds at the Munising tribal Christmas party on Dec. 10 in the Munising Tribal Center community room. With 85 children registered to receive gifts from the yuletide icon, a total of

52 actual gifts were given out. Items were selected by ages of the children with gifts ranging from art kits to Hot Wheels to dolls.

Gift shopping for the event was achieved in only two days. "I've been doing it for a few years now," present coordinator Tina

Kleeman said. "I have a system figured out."

Reindeer antler headbands were distributed to the attending children, along with goodie bags filled with small toys and candy. The bash began with a group of children singing Christmas car-

ols to greet the incoming guests, alongside the piano accompaniment of elder Mari Beth LeVeque.

Lunch was pizza and breadsticks from Main Street Pizza and homemade cookies made by Johnny Dogs. "He used his mother's recipe," tribal board mem-

ber and event coordinator Anita Nelson said. "He said they all had fun making them."

At the end of the two-hour gathering, a giant plush Scooby Doo doll was raffled off among the attending children and won by second grader Neveah Trombly.



Alexandria Maddox



Elias Eiseman



Hayla Cabanaw



Santa and his elves at the Munising children's Christmas party.



Caroling reindeer



Grandma and grandkids enjoying a visit with Santa.



Youngsters enjoying the Christmas party.



Santa getting a once-over by baby.



Siblings enjoying their Christmas holiday.



The Meyer family



The Trombly kids visit with Santa and receive gifts.

# Drumming in the new year at Sault Tribe's Sobriety Powwow in JKL Bahweting Anishnabe PSA's gym



Flag carriers during grand entry at 7 p.m. Photos by Brenda Austin



Women dancers during grand entry.



Young ladies stand for the posting of the colors at the conclusion of grand entry.



Samantha Recollet from Wikwemikong First Nation, Ontario, Canada.



Men's fancy dancer



Sam Gardner, III, 14 months.



Bruce Burling enjoying himself prior to the evening's grand entry.



Tyrone Shawana from Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



Sisters Martina Bommanda from Garden River and Dot Beaucage-Kennedy from Nipissing First Nation, Canada.



Scott Garcia, 13, from Sault Ste. Marie with his step-mother, Sonja Killips from Bay Mills, and Wiingashk Shawana, 9, from Toronto.



Alana Diamond, 10, and Aubrey Pine, 9.

## Marquette holds kids' Christmas party

A snowstorm could not keep the children and families from Sault Tribe's annual Christmas party at the Thomas Theater in Marquette, Mich.

Children and family members of Unit V-Marquette were the guests of a Christmas adventure on Saturday, Dec. 17.

The party started at noon with an astounding buffet of goodies while everyone was greeted with music and cultural activities. Anishnabe coloring books, music, drumming, dancing and an unexpected giveaway of potatoes were part of the cultural experience.

At 1 p.m. was the premier showing of the *Rogue One Star Wars* movie. Pop and popcorn along with free movie tickets were given to all who wanted to attend the Disney movie.

A pizza buffet followed with cookies, cupcakes and drinks distributed to everyone. Christmas gift stockings were received by all children in attendance along with brothers or sisters who were unable to attend. It was a grand celebration of our heritage past and present.

Thank you to everyone who made this afternoon such a big success!

**Thank you: Unit V children's Christmas party**  
I express my appreciation for all the helpers who came together on Dec. 10 to make a beautiful Christmas party for our Native children and the employees' children of our tribal enterprises.  
You are: Santa who made the long trip. The elves: Tina Kleeman, Jennifer Myer, Mary Jenerou and son Robin, Carly Lindquist, Cleo and Taletha Witty and Dorothy Melon, Krissy Leveque, Deb McNeill, Brandy Deisonroth and Alexis Chase. Kitchen helpers: Kathy Syers, Tom Derwin. And, Mari Beth Leveque, for the piano music and sing-a-long. It was a great success again this year.  
— Anita L. Nelson, Unit V, board of directors



Families hanging out with Star Wars characters at the Marquette children's Christmas party.



Chi Mukwa kids Christmas party - Getting ready for the party, from left, Dan Stinehart, Sam Brody, Aaron Payment, Dani King, Mady Weber, Michael McKerchie, Taylor Ogston, Jill Lawson, Aurora Kelly, Sara Weber, Alexis Kelly, (front row) George Snider as Santa and Carrie Gregg. Photo by Jill Lawson



Waasageebwan Wemigwase, 6, and Waaseyaban Wemigwase, 8, and mom Shauna Wemigwase from the Little Traverse Bay Bands.

**St. Ignace Christmas thanks**  
To Joe Horn, our Santa for volunteering his time for our tribal Head Start children.  
Santa came to visit the children on Dec. 21 at the McCann elders' meal site. The children were served juice and reindeer cupcakes made by John Cadotte of Mackinac Island, and each child received a gift from Santa.  
Thank you to everyone who helped make this a happy day for our children.  
— Connie and Ilene





# Munising holds traditional foods, medicines workshop

STORY & PHOTOS: MANISTIQUE TRIBAL CLINIC STAFF

It was a full house at the Manistique Community Center on Dec. 7 with nearly 60 in attendance. Tribal and community members from all across the service area braved the cold weather to participate. Presentations were made by Harlan Downwind and Tony Abramson Jr. from the Traditional Medicine Program, Lisa Burnside and Patty Teeples from Youth Education and Activities and Marybeth LeVeque of Munising. Gail Sulander RD CDE from Manistique shared on indigenous foods from the Great Lakes region. The Hessel drum shared their gift of song.

The lesson on traditional use of tobacco by Downwind and Abramson included mak-

ing a personal semma pouch. Attendees were provided a leather pouch kit and were offered kinnikinnick by Lisa and Patty to put in their pouch for future use.

Information on the Sault Tribe health services and programs were available along with health screenings. David Wesoloski from the Health Education Program offered carbon dioxide screens and shared a display on the effects of commercial tobacco. Amy Johnson provided blood pressure checks and shared on the Family Spirit Program, which is a new service in Manistique. Participants gained insight on healthful Anishinaabe living throughout one's life and enjoyed a feast of Great Lakes local and traditional Anishinaabe foods. Tom Tufnell, a local elder, graciously provided the meal blessing. Five lucky

attendees were given copies of the *Decolonizing Diet Project Cookbook* by Marty Reinhardt of MSU. (Purchase a copy for your family and friends by contacting the NMU Native Studies Program).

Manistique Community Health schedules this type of health-promoting event every year. There is always a great response by the community. In 2017, plans call for a fall health and wellness gathering in October. They generally take place on the first Wednesday of the month, which coincides with the monthly Traditional Medicine clinic. Anyone interested in being informed when final plans are made may ask to be put on a call list by calling the Manistique Tribal Clinic at (906) 341-8469. If you would like to learn more about tradi-

tional nutrition, Gail Sulander, registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator, has developed a program for integrating more

Anishinaabe and Great Lakes Local Foods into your day-to-day living. Call for an appointment at (906) 341-8469.



Marybeth LeVeque speaking.



Traditional medicine practitioner Harlan Downwind speaking.



Room full of workshop attendees.



Amy Bryant and her healthy mother and babies display.



Hessel drum



David Wesoloski attends his tobacco education display.



Two young ladies make medicine bags.



Lisa Burnside (standing) offers her assistance.

# Notes for elders from the MIEA meeting

The 2016-17 Student Incentive Program application was posted to the MIEA website in November of 2016.

Tribal elders who are contacts and delegates should encourage education departments to work with you on this program. We, as elders, have a responsibility to encourage our youth in pursuing education. The Student Incentive Program not only encourages students to have the best grades possible, they can also learn commitment and a strong work ethic through perfect attendance.

All applications are due to LeAnn Stindt on the MIEA approved form by March 15, 2017. Substitute forms, late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please see application information for further information. *See below.*

In the event you no longer have the email with the Student Incentive Program Application, you can download it from the website at <http://michiganindianelders.org/students.php>.

[michiganindianelders.org/students.php](http://michiganindianelders.org/students.php).

The Student Scholarship Program application will be posted to the website soon. All applications are due to coordinators Tammy Shananaquet and Joan Jacobs by June 15, 2017, on the MIEA approved form. Substitute forms, late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. *See below, on right.*

Some things to look forward to in 2017:

- Registration will be available for the April 2017 spring conference hosted by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in January. The specific dates have not yet been determined, but as soon as I receive those dates, registration forms will be distributed and posted to the MIEA website. Thank you for your patience!

At the October 2016 fall conference, a suggestion box was offered as it is important to the Executive Committee for these conferences to be beneficial to all MIEA members. The

response was fabulous! Thank you to everyone who contributed a suggestion. Please be assured the Executive Committee has reviewed these suggestions and many of them will be implemented at the April 2017 spring conference. Below is a sample of a few of the suggestion, but is not exhaustive of submitted suggestions:

- Workshop on Social Security — signing up, required forms, etc., including information on Social Security Disability and required forms;

- Workshop on hospice care;
- Information on grandparents' rights;

- Vendors — have a separate vendor registration form and have vendors in a separate location from the meeting so they are not a distraction. Note: Only MIEA members are to be vendors at MIEA conferences;

- Minutes — Distribute to delegates prior to meetings either through email or first class mail. Note: Minutes are sent via email

and have been for two years to delegates with email. In the past, tribal elder contacts were asked to distribute minutes to delegates without email. Because this has not been done by the contacts, delegates who do not have email will now receive minutes via first class mail;

- Overlays and computer screens when available are hard for people to see. Please provide copies of information on tables for members to read and to take notes;

- Nominations for officers — Would like to see each nominated person running for a seat give a brief statement in front of the elders during the conference as to why they can fill the seat by their qualifications. We need to identify the elders, the tribe they represent and qualifications to be officers.

Business meetings:

- Have agendas available either in welcome packets or on the tables;

- When anyone speaks, i.e.,

elders in attendance, delegates, Executive Committee, etc., they should provide their names FIRST;

- Make minutes available to attendees;

- Speakers and information regarding legislation affecting Native communities;

- Invite UNITY tribal youth councils to attend meetings.

Plus many other suggestions, the above are just some highlights! Again, thank you to all who took the time to make a suggestion!

Lots more information will be coming in the first part of January of 2017. Please keep an eye on your email messages and add me to your contact list so I don't end up in your junk mail. If I can be of any assistance or answer any questions, please feel free to contact me. Happy new year!

Serving with hope,  
Dawn Lenger

MIEA secretary  
lengerdm@gmail.com, (616) 443-5567

## MIEA Incentive Program now open

This year's Michigan Indian Elders Association Student Incentive Program is now open. The program awards students in grades K-12 for all A grades, perfect attendance or both during the first and second marking periods of the 2016-17 school year. The program is open to ALL tribal students, regardless of location.

You can read about the incentive and download an application at <http://michiganindianelders.org/students.php>.

To apply, send the completed application, a signed report card or verification letter of achievement from a school administrator, and copy of the student's or parent's tribal identification card to the address provided on the application. Applications MUST BE RECEIVED by 5 p.m. on March 15, 2017.

Please note this is not a Sault Tribe program. All applications must be sent to the address indicated on the application.

### MICHIGAN INDIAN ELDERS ASSOCIATION

#### STUDENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM 2016/17

A Student Incentive Program is being offered by the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) to recognize students who achieve all "A's" for a marking period as well as students who achieve perfect attendance for a marking period.

There will be a minimum of \$3,000 available to fund this program this year. An award of \$25 will be made for each qualified entry up to the minimum available funds in the program. In the event that the number of qualified entries exceeds the funds available, the winners will be determined by lottery.

**TO QUALIFY:**

- The student must be an enrolled member or be a direct descendant of an enrolled member of one of the MIEA constituent tribes/bands.
- The student must be in Grades 1-12 at a public or private school.
  - Home schooling is not eligible.
- A student must be in Grades 4-12 to qualify for the straight "A" award (A-, A, A+).
  - For a school system that uses a grading system based on numbers, the equivalent to straight "A's" will be acceptable.
- A student must be in Grades 1-12 to qualify for the perfect attendance award.
  - Perfect attendance means exactly that. A student must be in school or at a school sponsored function each day of the marking period. Excused absences for anything other than a school sponsored/approved function do not constitute perfect attendance.
- The first two (2) marking periods ONLY of the 2016/2017 school year will be used to determine the winners for this lottery.
- A student can qualify for both the perfect attendance and straight "A's" for both marking periods. For example, straight "A's" and perfect attendance for both marking periods would mean four (4) chances to win.

**PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

- A parent of the student must complete and sign the Student Incentive Program Application Form in order for the student to qualify for an award.
- A copy of the child's report card signed by the parent or a letter from an administrator of the student's school must be submitted with the completed application form to verify the achievement of straight "A's" and perfect attendance.
- A copy of student's or parent's tribal identification card.

The drawing to determine the winners will be held at the April 2017 Conference of the Michigan Indian Elders Association.

**\*\*VERY IMPORTANT\*\***

You must follow these directions for your child to be considered for an award. The completed application form (included with these instructions), a signed report card or verification letter of achievement from a school administrator and copy of the student's or parent's tribal identification card **must be received or postmarked no later than March 15, 2017**. Applications received/postmarked after March 15, 2017, will not be accepted; no exceptions. Please send the aforementioned documents to:

LeAnn Stindt  
103 Big Bear Road  
Iron River, MI 49935

### MICHIGAN INDIAN ELDERS ASSOCIATION

#### 2017 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**STUDENT'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First Middle Initial*

**MAILING ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address PO Box*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City State Zip code*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Telephone Number*

**FATHER'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTHER'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address PO Box*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City State Zip code*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Telephone Number*

**CONSTITUENT TRIBE/BAND\*** \_\_\_\_\_

\* Proof of Tribal Affiliation: Copy of Tribal Card or letter of verification from your Tribal Enrollment Department

**IF I AM GRANTED A SCHOLARSHIP AND I WITHDRAW FROM COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL BEFORE THE END OF THE SEMESTER/TERM FOR WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED MONIES FROM THE MIEA SCHOLARSHIP FUND, I HEREBY AGREE THAT I SHALL RETURN ALL SCHOLARSHIP MONIES TO SAID FUND WITHIN THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS OF WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL. I UNDERSTAND THAT EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE TO THIS POLICY IF I WITHDRAW FROM SCHOOL FOR MEDICAL REASONS OR OTHER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE WILL MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION ON THE VALIDITY OF MY REASONS. I AGREE TO INFORM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE COORDINATOR, IN WRITING, OF MY DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM SCHOOL.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Student Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Parent Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Parent Date*

**IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 93-380, 93<sup>RD</sup> CONGRESS, H.R. 69, 21 AUGUST 1974, FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT, THE HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR TRADE SCHOOL HAS MY PERMISSION TO RELEASE A COPY OF MY GRADE TRANSCRIPT TO BE MADE A PART OF THIS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR REVIEW BY THE M.I.E.A. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Student Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Parent Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Parent Date*

AN \* THROUGHOUT THE APPLICATION SIGNIFIES THE NEED FOR YOU TO SEND THE REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.

\* PLEASE INCLUDE THIS APPLICATION WITH TWO (2) LETTERS OF REFERENCE NOT RELATED TO YOU.

Page 1

### ***Training opportunities available for eligible applicants***

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program has funding available for short-term occupational training opportunities. WIOA may be able to provide tuition assistance for skills training if it leads to an industry-recognized certification. Candidates must meet certain eligibility requirements and be a resident of the seven-county service area. Please apply at WIOA, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 for more information.

### ***Unit V Marquette Elder Subcommittee changes meeting to Feb. 9***

The Unit V Marquette Elderly Subcommittee has changed its meeting date from Feb. 2 to Feb. 9 at the Holiday Inn. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. **Previously posted was the Munising meeting date change. The Munising meeting is scheduled as usual for February.** For questions, call the Elder Services Division at (906) 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

# Cousins born two months apart

Cousins Tyrsten Jon Michael Sanner and Bailee Marie Herron (L-R).

Tyrsten was born to tribal member Kyle Sanner and his fiancé, Kara Kancecivus, of Middletown, Ohio, on July 31, 2016.

Bailee was born to tribal member Cedar GrayHawk Herron, of Covington, Ohio, on Sept. 21, 2016.

Proud grandmother is Annette M. Powers-Kilburn, mother of Kyle and Cedar.



# Local support groups

**Families Against Narcotics (FAN)** meets on the third Thursdays of every month, 6:30 p.m., at the Huntington Bank meeting room in Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, email [chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org](mailto:chippewa@familiesagainstnarcotics.org) or visit [www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/chippewa-county](http://www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/chippewa-county) or [www.facebook.com/fanchipp](http://www.facebook.com/fanchipp).

FAN's mission is saving lives by empowering individuals and communities to prevent and eradicate addiction. Our purpose is to raise awareness of the dangers of prescription narcotics, support those affected by narcotic addiction and erase the stigma of addiction.

**Also look into Substance Abuse Support Group for Family and Friends** if you have experienced loss, heartbreak or diminished relationships due to someone else's substance abuse. The group meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, 6 p.m., at the Huntington Bank in Sault Ste. Marie. Call Linda at (906) 440-7252 for information.

# Burnside teaches lessons on Seven Grandfathers principles

Groups from Newberry's Luce County Community Recreation and Resource Center and the Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Program came together for lessons on the Seven Grandfathers by Hessel YEA coordinator Lisa Burnside. Parents, adults and grandparents learned the Seven Grandfathers principles and practiced them by providing a safe environment for each individual to openly communicate their feelings in talking circles. Participants' imaginations and artistic abilities were exercised with craft projects following lessons.

Burnside is planning Newberry activities to start in the fall of 2017. Some of the craft projects will include Seven Grandfathers coasters, DIY laundry soap, bread in a jar, sugar and salt scrubs and making fry bread.



**COURSE COMPLETED** — Luce County participants received certificates for attending lessons on tenets called the Seven Grandfathers. Front row, from left, Ireland Goudreau, Aleah Dunlap, Domanick Goudreau, instructor Lisa Burnside and Jackson Goudreau. Middle row, William Goudreau, Jaden Goudreau, Eddie Leazier and Corey Leazier. Back row, Bella Goudreau, Carrie Leazier, Storm Schley, Marianne Haupt, Tina Goudreau, Paula Leazier and Mary Archambeau.



**GROUP HUG** — Mary Archambeau, Luce County Community Recreation and Resource Center director and coordinator, gets lots of love for her dedication to the youth, families and the community.



Above, one of two Newberry School sixth grade classes participate in lessons on the Seven Grandfathers.



Above, the other Newberry School sixth grade classe participates in lessons on the Seven Grandfathers.



Above, Newberry School third grade class participates in lessons on the Seven Grandfathers.

# Sault Tribe committee vacancies — join one!

Sault Tribe members should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Joanne Carr or Linda Grossett, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783. Call 635-6050 with any questions.

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

Cultural Screening committee - Two vacancies (four-year term)

Great Lakes Conservation Committee - One vacancy-small vessel (four-year term)

Great Lakes Conservation Committee - Four vacancies-large vessel (four-year term)

Health Board - Two vacancies (four-year term)

Higher Education Committee -

One vacancy (four-year term)

Election Committee - Six vacancies (four-year term)

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

Child Welfare Committee - Five vacancies (four-year term)

Unit II Newberry Elders Subcommittee - One regular seat vacancy, one alternate (four-year term)

Unit IV Manistique Elders Subcommittee - One regular seat vacancy, one alternate (four-year term)

Unit II Hessel Elders Subcommittee - Two regular seat vacancies, two alternates (four-year term)

Unit V Munising Elders Subcommittee - One vacancy, two alternates (four-year term)

Unit V Marquette Elders Subcommittee - One vacancy (four-year term)

Unit II Naubinway Elders Subcommittee - One alternate (four-year term)

Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) - One vacant delegate seat

**Advertise in our tribal newspaper! 906-632-6398**

# Sault Tribe community members walk on . . .

## LOUISE LAJOICE BENSON

Louise LaJoyce Benson, 101, ended a long and loving life on Dec. 15, 2016, in Cedar Springs, Mich. Louise was born on March 7, 1915, in DeTour, Mich., to Antoine and Mabel LaJoyce.



Louise married Arvid Benson on Feb. 25, 1939, and they lived in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., where she worked many years for JC Penny. Louise was known for her wit and great baking.

She is survived by her children, Bunny Gustafson and Benny (Elaine) Benson of Grand Rapids, Mich.; 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Louise was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Many thanks to the nursing staff at Metron in Cedar Springs for their excellent care. A memorial service is scheduled for spring.

## KELLY A. BLANCHARD

Kelly A. Blanchard of Prudenville, formerly of Harbor Beach, passed away peacefully at the home of friends on Dec. 22, 2016. He was 57.

He was born in Harbor Beach on Jan. 11, 1959, to Eirnel E. and Marie I. (nee Breathour) Blanchard.



Kelly attended Harbor Beach High School and graduated in 1977. He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Kelly is survived by his brothers, Terry E. Blanchard of Harbor Beach, Joey E. Blanchard, Sr. of Gould City, Jay P. Blanchard and his wife, Jody, of Harbor Beach; sister, Mari A. Blanchard and her special friend, Brian MacArthur (Harbor Beach) of Ramstein, Germany; and brother-in-law, John Mausolf of Harbor Beach; nieces and nephews, Brad Blanchard of Midland, Joey (Amy) Blanchard, Jr. of Gulliver, Bethany (Dan) Gonzales, David (Jessica) Mausolf, Evan Blanchard, Hannah Blanchard, Christopher Blanchard, and Terra (Gary) Booms all of Harbor Beach; many great-nieces and great-nephews; and his special friend and caregiver Michelle "Missy" Seley of Prudenville, Mich.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Marie in 1995 and Eirnel in 1996; brothers, David E. Blanchard in 1964 and Kim G. Blanchard in 2012; sister, Juli B. Mausolf in 2011; and sister-in-law, Nancy J.

Blanchard in 2007.

Cremation has taken place and a private family service will be conducted at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Heartland Hospice of 564 Progress Street, West Branch, MI 48661.

Arrangements handled by Christler Funeral Home of Prudenville.

## JENISE L. CORBIERE

Jenise Lynn Corbiere of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Jan. 5, 2016, at War Memorial Hospital. She was born on March 31, 1962, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.



Jenise was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, auntie and friend. Her love for her family shines in all of their hearts. She could light up a room with just her smile. She loved fishing and hunting as demonstrated through her numerous trophies. She was proud of her boys and raised them with every ounce of her love. She married her best friend, Bob, 36 years ago and their love will continue forever and always. Jenise will be remembered by all of the lives she touched and she will be dancing to the fiddle until the end of time.

Jenise is survived by her husband, Robert Alan Corbiere Sr.; sons, Robert Alan (Corbiere Jr.) Waldner and Jacque Pierre (Katie Lana) Corbiere and son-in-law, James Waldner; sisters, Dellis (Sam) Mourufas, Janet (Rick) Bennett and Nicole (Gary) Golanka; brother, Curt (Bonnie) White Jr.; parents Curt and Marylin White Sr.; grandchildren, Jace Joseph Corbiere, Michael Oliver Waldner and Audrie Rose Waldner; also survived by the entire Corbiere family.

Visitation was on Jan. 8, 2017, at Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home. Memorials in memory of Jenise may be left to Robert A. Corbiere Sr. Online condolences may be left at [www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com](http://www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com).

## PAUL D. LUMSDEN

Paul "Bud" D. Lumsden, 89, passed away Nov. 21, 2016, in Rocky River, Ohio. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., the son of Edward and Beatrice (nee Hatch) Lumsden.



During the Korean War, he served in the army and was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant. In 1994, after many years of service, he retired from his maintenance technician position with the Cleveland Public Library.

Paul was the beloved husband of the late Janet; devoted

father of Katherine Rhubarb (Robert), Sandra Kreal, Michael, Mary, and Timothy; loving grandfather of 10 and great-grandfather of eight; dear brother of the late Joseph and Lawrence; devoted uncle and friend of many.

A memorial mass was held at St. Malachi Parish in Cleveland, Ohio, and his final resting place is beside his wife at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made in Paul's memory to the Jesuit Retreat House, 5629 State Rd., Parma OH, 44134.

## PAUL R. MERCHBERGER

Paul "Pete" Regis Merchberger Jr., 77, of Barbeau, Mich., died on Dec. 22, 2016, at home. He was born on Nov.

19, 1939, in Pontiac, Mich., to Paul Regis and Agnes Rosalie (nee Bedard) Merchberger.



Pete grew up in Royal Oak, Mich., where he graduated from Shrine High School. He joined the United States Marines where he served for several years. He married Maebelle Marie Taschner on Sept. 7, 1963. He worked in small engine sales for his father. In the early 1970s, he began driving truck. He and Maebelle moved their family to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in 1975 and he began driving truck for Graham Trucking. He continued trucking with his own truck, retiring in 2011. Pete enjoyed listening to National Public Radio while on the road.

Pete was a lifetime member of the St. Mary's River Sportsmen Club, a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a member of the American Legion Post 3 in Sault Ste. Marie.

Pete was an outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing and riding anything that could go fast, especially snowmobiles and four-wheelers. He had fun hanging out with his friends at the Cozy Corners Tavern and Grill.

Pete is survived by his sons, Eric Merchberger of Barbeau and Roger (Maggie) Merchberger of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; daughter, Cheryl Merchberger of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Samantha (William) Pratt, and Karl, Brian, Adam, Thomas M., and Victoria Merchberger; great-grandchildren, Maraya, Kaiden and Zoey; sisters, Barbara Nelson of North Carolina, Mary (Richard) Starkweather of Neebish Island, Mich.; brothers, Robert (Linda) Merchberger of Goodrich, Mich., and Mark (Elizabeth) Merchberger of Cedarville, Mich.; and former daughter-in-law, Rebecca Miller.

Pete was preceded in death by his wife, Maebelle; sister, Agnes "Betsy" DesRosiers;

brothers-in-law, Bill Nelson, Frank Taschner, John Taschner and Robert Taschner.

Visitation was on Jan. 5 and services followed on Jan. 6, at R. Galer Funeral Home with Brother John Hascall conducting the service.

Burial will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in Bruce Township, Mich.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Mary's River Sportsmen Club, P.O. Box 6, Barbeau, MI 49710.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com).

## JAMES RABIDEAU

James "Bun" Rabideau was born on May 11, 1968, and died on Jan. 3, 2017.

Dear friends and family of James "Bun" Rabideau: The immediate family of James wants to first and foremost

express our deep gratitude for all your prayers, donations and sympathy. Also our preference would have been that his closest friends and family members were notified personally of this news rather than by social media. Please forgive us.



On Jan. 3, 2017, James was found unresponsive in his bed at his home by family members. We are waiting on the official cause of death. We believe and can only assume there were heart complications or respiratory problems and he "walked on" that night before or sometime that morning while he was sleeping. James was not suffering any obvious serious medical issues in the days prior to his passing on, so this was somewhat of a shock to us all. He is now with his mother, father and loving family who have all previously left this earth walk.

All of your posts and messages received have been very comforting and has shown us how much Bun was a loved friend, brother, nephew, cousin, uncle, godson and co-worker. James would swell with pride knowing how much he was loved and how much he touched or impacted other's lives. The memories, thoughts and sentiments you have shared and continue to post are very healing in this time of sorrow for us all. Megwetch!

James is survived by his brother, Robert (wife Hiroko) Rabideau and son Russell of Japan, Alan Rabideau and son, Scott of Kincheloe, Mich., and aunts and uncles Jim and Theresa Little, and Buck and Kim Gravelle all of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Due to the circumstances, the immediate family decided to have James cremated. A memorial service to honor and remember this wonderful man took place on Jan. 12 at the

Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie.

## MARY ST. AMOUR

Mary "Loree" (nee Thibodeau) St. Amour, 92, of Central Lake, Mich., formerly of Rogers City, Mich., passed away peacefully in her sleep next to her husband of 66 years, Louis Joseph St. Amour, 94, in their home on Dec. 20, 2016.



She was born on June 13, 1924, in Detroit, the daughter of Phillip and Adelaide Thibodeau. Loree was a proud veteran serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. She was a gentle, kind and caring wife and mother who loved her family very much.

She is survived by her loving family, husband, Louis; daughter, Theresa (Terry) McKee; son, Raymond St. Amour; sisters, Phyllis, Luella and Marilyn; grandchildren, Christopher, Jene and Michelle; and great-grandchildren Emmitt, Carson and Logan.

Arrangements are by Mortensen Funeral Home in Central Lake.

## VICTOR LEE MATSON SR.

In loving memory of Victor Lee Matson Sr., born on April 1, 1936, in Munising, Mich., who passed away on Jan. 5, 2017.



Victor served in the Marines for four years. He was a commercial fisherman and was a member of the Sault Tribe, where he served on the Board of Directors for 20 years. Victor enjoyed life by being out on his boat, going to the casino and mostly spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

He had a smile for everyone and if he met you, he would never forget you.

Victor is survived by his wife of 54 years, Lizet, and his eight children: Kathy, Yvonne, Marilyn, Robert, Victor Jr., Michael, Charles and Jennifer. He was proud of his 15 grandchildren and his 14 great-grandchildren, and was uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were held at the Niigaanagizhik Building, Cultural Center, 11 Ice Circle, in Sault Ste. Marie on Jan. 10.

Send Walking On announcements and photographs to [Saulttribenews@saulttribe.net](mailto:Saulttribenews@saulttribe.net).

Moving? Call the Sault Tribe Enrollment Department at (906) 635-3396 or 800 251-6597.

Have questions for the USDA Food Program? Call them at (906) 635-6076.

# KEWADIN CASINO CEO QUILTS!

## TRIBAL BOARD CREATES UNCERTAIN FUTURE



Aaron A. Payment, MPA, M.Ed.  
Tribal Chairperson

*Representing All  
Members Everywhere*

Ahneen Boozho, Negee:

By now, you have heard about the extremely offensive action the Tribal Board took to violate the will of the voting Members by stripping the Chairperson of all authority. Board Members deny this but the analysis to the right shows clearly that this is precisely what they did. If they don't understand this, then you are woefully and inadequately represented.

Then, outside of a duly called meeting and in violation of the Tribal Open Meetings Ordinance, the Board voted to **DIRECT** a legal opinion and put out a press release to deny they stripped the Chair's Authority. Their action appears to be a **REMOVABLE OFFENSE** but what do we do when a majority of the Board violates our laws? Who do we go to without a separation of powers?

### BOARD MEMBERS SAY THIS IS WHAT I WANTED

During budget hearings in November, I shared with the Board my plan to utilize part of a large windfall and operational savings to increase our Elder checks this year and reward our Team Members with a bonus. Several threatened me to not bring this up. Even though I proposed a balanced budget, the Board has failed to approve a budget with no explanation and no plan to approve a budget.

Over the last several years, the Board has chipped away at the authority you expect the Chair to have. With *eyes wide open*, the Tribal voters elected me to exercise this authority just six month ago! Even my opponent in the 2016 Chair race, Keith Massaway and my 2008 primary opponent Dennis McKelvie both voted No to this nonsense. They have both said this is not in the best interest of our Tribe. Regardless of who is Chair, the requisite authority should be preserved. Again...

### BOTH DIRECTORS MASSAWAY & McKELVIE OPPOSED RESCINDING THE CHAIR'S AUTHORITY PLEASE THANK THEM

I do admit to putting this item on the agenda to once and for all FORCE a vote so the Tribal Members can take this authority away from the Board and restore it back to the Tribal Chairperson. Directors Sorenson, Hoffman, and Morrow are arguing that they will simply ignore the Constitution and not hold a referendum vote. Despite this, they are Constitutionally Bound. **To deny this fundamental right is REMOVABLE.** I urge folks to watch closely and prepare to circulate removal petitions if they take away your right.

### 5X THE NEEDED REFERENDUM SIGNATURES!

Immediately after the Board's vote to strip Chair's authority, Members from all across the service area, the State and around the country, took the ini-

### VOTE TO DISPROVE!

tiative to sign referendum petitions to take this decision away from the Board and vest it squarely with the voting Members. In fact, at press time, five times the number of petitions were submitted. Most have said, "this time the Board has gone too far!" While referenda are confusing, I ask that you just...

### ELDER CHECKS AMOUNT CUT!

In March of 2015, upon receiving \$1.2 in Contract Support Cost settlement dollars (sought, negotiated and secured by my administration) I proposed a resolution to pay Elders an increase. The Board tabled the resolution because they said I was campaigning for re-election. The election is over and after we received the remaining amount in December to bring the total to \$5.5 million, I placed on the agenda a resolution to increase the Elders checks to \$1,000. Instead, the Board refused to even discuss it, cancelled a special meeting I called and tabled it again. Instead the Elders got a 6% cut but the Board did not share in a cut to their wages. The Board Pension is \$18,000 annually. Why deny our Elders such a small increase?

### TRIBAL BOARD MICROMANAGEMENT THREATENS FUTURE

I cannot tell you the salary of our previous CEO but it is well over three times what I make as Chair. It was, however, not enough to retain our Casino CEO. Our Gaming Expansion Developers have expressed concern over the Board's actions and their ability to attract other investors. I agree it is a threat to fi-

nancing and possibility even gaining approval by the federal government. I have worked every angle to secure approval. Who, however, wants to take a chance on a Board who cannot retain an Executive and (without cause) strip their duly elected Chair of all authority? We have recently also lost our Health Director, Elder Director, Pharmacist, and our CFO has given notice. We have trouble attracting people to jobs paying over

\$70,000 a year! If the Board micromanagement continues, we will lose even more.

How can I be respected at the local, state, inter-tribal, and National levels including a Presidential and Secretarial appointment and be so disrespected by our Board? Thank you for all of the support and signatures! You make the ignorance of the Board at least bearable.

Chi McGwitch, Negee!

*Chi*

### SAULT TRIBE CHAIRPERSON STRIPPED OF ALL AUTHORITY: MAJOR ACTIONS HANG IN THE BALANCE

Some Board Members insist that the Chairperson position was not stripped of all authority. However, in reviewing Article II-Duties of Officers (A) below taken directly from the Tribal Constitution, you can clearly see that no delegation exists unless the Board specifically and expressly does so like the did in 2012 (B). When the Board voted on 12/13/16, they voted to eliminate ALL of those delegated duties of the Chair listed in (B) leaving only the minimum authority in the Tribal Constitution to Chair meetings. .

Some Board Members are falsely claiming this was to create a separation of powers. However, having 100% of the Administration report to the Legislative Branch (the Board) makes the day-to-day more political not less. This is basic 8th grade civics. The previous delegation to the Chair worked because the Board cannot fire the Chair but can fire the Executive Director. Under this structure, there is NO separation of powers.

There are large expenditures and a stack of federal grants and contracts which will be defaulted upon if the Board does not reinstate the delegated authority of the Chair. Do they care?

**A**

#### ARTICLE II - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the board of directors and exercise any other lawful authority delegated the chairperson by the board of directors. The chairperson shall vote only in case of a tie unless otherwise provided by the tribe's constitution and bylaws.

**B**

1. ... "manage and direct the day to day operations of the Tribe including but not limited to...
  - a. Serving as the ceremonial figure head of the Tribe for public events and visiting dignitaries;
  - b. ...Spokesperson for the Tribe...
  - c. Guiding and directing tribal governmental and business operations...
  - d. ...All duties delegated to, authorized to be performed or directed to be performed by the Chairperson in any previously adopted motion, resolution, or ordinance;
  - e. ...all duties delegated to, authorized to be performed, or directed to be performed by the Chairperson in the various Team Member Manuals;
  - f. ...all administrative and management functions required to be performed pursuant to the current organizational chart.

**C**

#### ARTICLE IX - RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

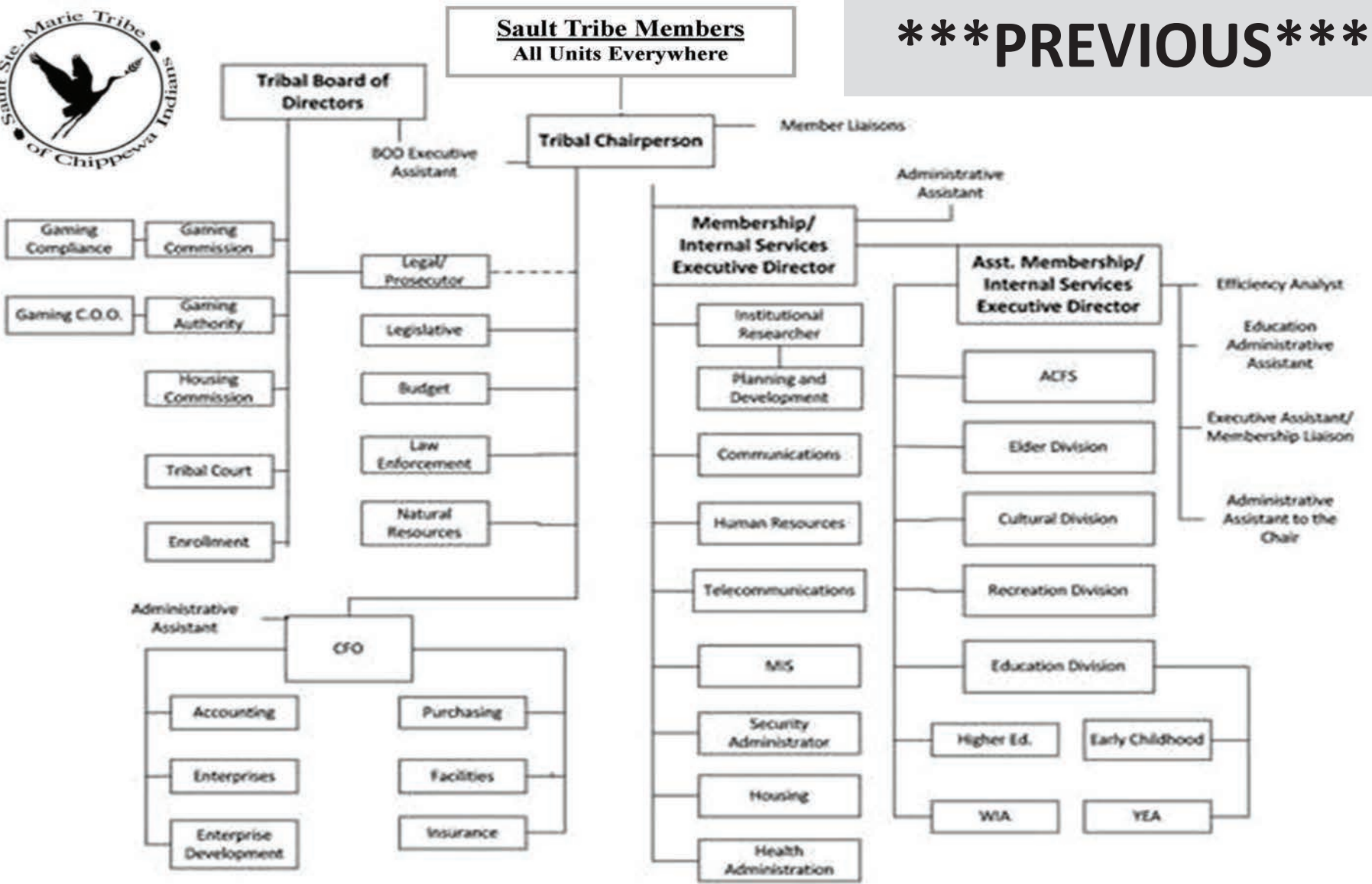
Any enacted or proposed ordinance or resolution of the board of directors shall be submitted to a popular referendum upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the board or when so requested by a petition presented to the board bearing the signatures of at least one hundred (100) eligible voters of the tribe. Such referendum must be held within sixty (60) days after receipt by the board of a valid petition. A vote of a majority of the eligible voters voting in such referendum shall be conclusive and binding upon the board of directors provided, however, that at least thirty (30) percent of those entitled to vote shall vote in such referendum conducted pursuant to tribal ordinance.

## Sault Tribe Member Right of Referendum ABSOLUTE!

One of the absolute rights we have in the Sault Tribe Constitution is the Right of Referendum. This right is not bestowed by the Board of Directors but one retained by the people when the Constitution was ratified in 1975. With no separation of powers and with the Board of Directors never having delegated to the Sault Tribal Court the right to hear Constitutional challenges, the one absolute right of the people retain to overturn the actions of the Tribal Board is the right to gather signatures and submit a petition calling for a referendum.

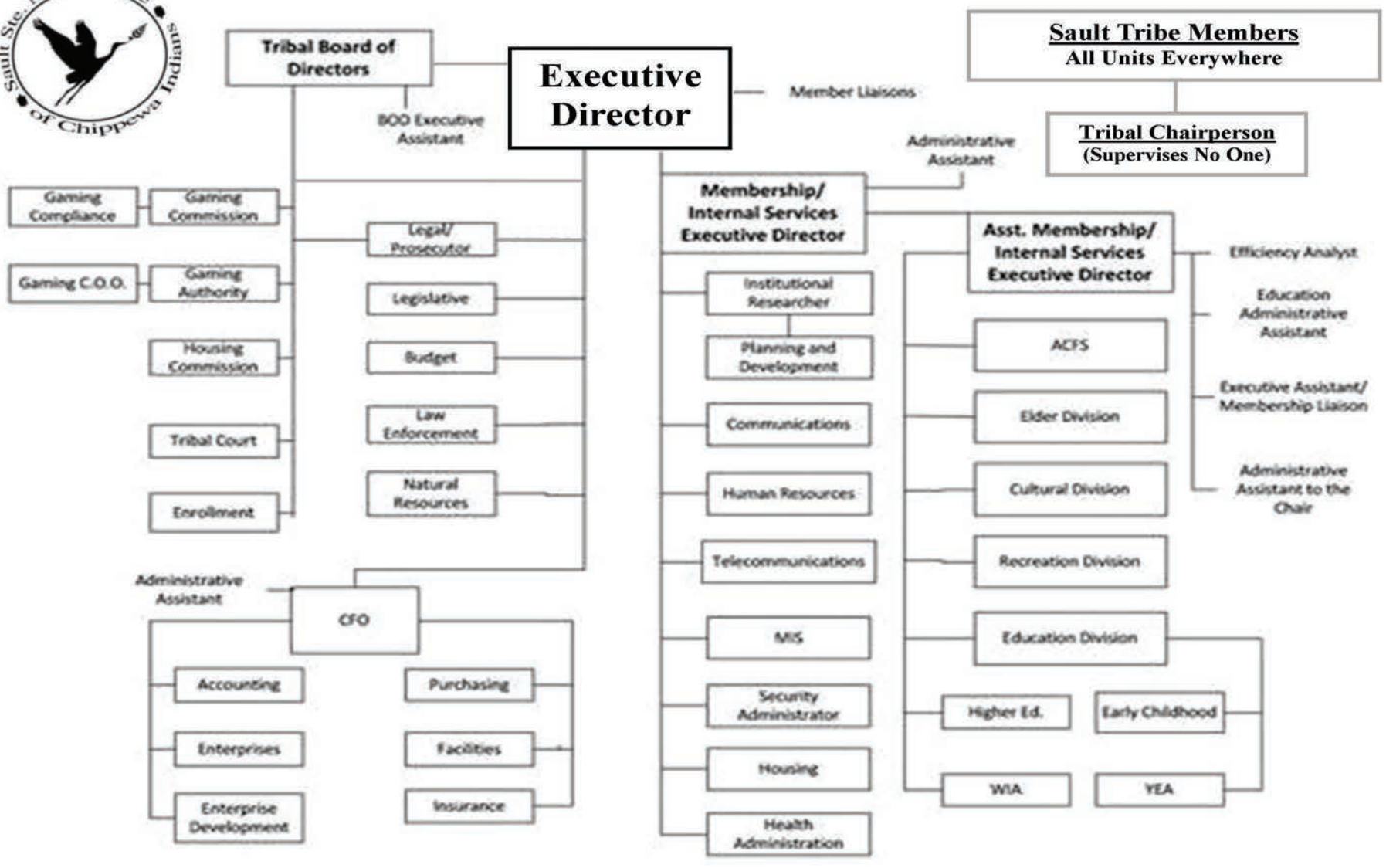
One (or a few Board Members) has/have asserted that the Tribal Voting Members have NO SUCH RIGHT. She is asserting that you have no check or balance on the actions of the Board. Not only is this lawlessness untenable, it is simply not fact. She asserts that it is not subject to referendum because there is no resolution. This is a legal fiction and one that is fortunately not shared as expressed in previous legal opinions or by the Board as a whole. If the Board were to violate such a right, I would be the first to request the federal government to move to "reorganize" our Tribe which would mean new elections for the entire Board and Chairperson.

# SAULT TRIBE CHAIRPERSON PAYMENT RESPRESENTS ALL MEMBERS EVERYWHERE BUT SUPERVISES NO ONE!



**\*\*\*PREVIOUS\*\*\***

**\*\*\*CURRENT\*\*\***



**Sault Tribe Members All Units Everywhere**

**Executive Director**

**Tribal Chairperson (Supervises No One)**

# The tribe needs a code of conduct with teeth



**DJ HOFFMAN**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

The last several weeks have been tumultuous within the tribe. As many of you have no doubt read thus far, many last minute political promises were made as well as administrative structural changes within the tribe.

## TEAM MEMBER BONUS/ INCREASED ELDER CHECK

It has been asserted that since the tribe has received contract support settlement dollars that they should be immediately disbursed in the form of team members' bonuses and increased elders' checks. There has been no plan presented to the tribal board of directors on this topic, only snippets of online postings.

These items have never been discussed at the board workshop level, and have once again been utilized as a political ploy to generate discourse. The board needs to develop a plan for the contract support settlement dollars, with input from the membership, to ensure these funds generate long lasting returns for our tribal membership and our employees. I am hopeful the tribe will adopt a plan that includes adding to the principal of the land claims fund (which will yield larger annual elders' checks) and addressing the pay compression issues in our overall operations — which would increase wages for our employees.

## Resolution 2016-290

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, the board of directors voted by motion to rescind *Resolution 2012-146, Limited Delegation of Authority to Chairperson* (sponsored by the chair), and by a separate action adopted Resolution 2016-290, which delegated day-to-day management of the tribe to the tribe's executive director.

It is important to note this motion enables the tribe to be in compliance with the constitutional amendment adopted by the membership in 2010. While the separation of chairman and CEO has been reportedly referred to as a resolution, or action of the board, it was in fact a constitutional amendment adopted by the membership of the tribe.

"It did not rescind powers and

authority vested in the chairperson by the Tribal Code or granted to the chairperson by prior resolutions dealing with specific projects or circumstances. Nor, of course, did it remove any express or inherent authority vested in the chairperson by the Constitution by virtue of his office as chairperson and as a member of the board of directors."

An executive director is defined a chief executive officer (CEO) or managing director of an organization, company or corporation. By these actions, the tribal board is allowing the position provide management for tribal government operations, and effectively enable the removal of "tribal politics" from the day-to-day business of the tribe while complying with the Constitution.

## REFERENDUM

A referendum has been circulated on the rescission of Resolution 2012-146. It is important to note that under the tribe's Referendum Code (Chapter 12, Referendum Ordinance):

12.106 Submission by Petition of Eligible Voters

(1) An ordinance or resolution enacted by the board of directors shall be submitted to a popular referendum upon petition of at least one hundred (100) eligible voters of the tribe presented to the board in accordance with this section.

(2) The petition submitted shall be in substantially the following form: "WE, THE UNDERSIGNED ELIGIBLE VOTERS OF THE TRIBE, REQUEST A REFERENDUM ON [NAME OF ORDINANCE AND NUMBER OF RESOLUTION ENACTING ORDINANCE, OR NUMBER OF RESOLUTION] ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON [DATE OF ENACTMENT]."

The petition shall bear the name and address of each signatory in legible form. The name and address of the person circulating the petition shall also be included.

The proposed referendum is on a motion adopted by the tribal board of directors. While the chair was asked repeatedly if a resolution number would be assigned, it was declined. Therefore, there is no resolution number assigned to the rescission of Resolution 2012-146.

Finally, resolution 2016-290, delegates the day-to-day management of the tribe to the tribe's executive director and amends all previously adopted resolutions. To my knowledge, there is no referendum on this adopted resolution.

## COLA

Resolution (2015-264) was approved by the board of directors (on Dec. 8, 2015) to ensure that as we move forward our employees are no longer left behind. In FY

2016, the COLA for employees was set at 3 percent, this year's COLA is based upon CPI and has been set at 1.4 percent. All employees will have received an increase of 1.4 percent prior to the publication of this article.

## HUMAN RESOURCES AUDIT

Human Resources is the central hub for all employment related actions: pre-employment, hiring, discipline, retention and termination. As a tribe, we need to ensure these areas are performing in an optimal manner and in accordance with adopted policy to ensure all employees are treated in an equitable manner. The Human Resource audit is nearing completion; employees should be receiving a survey from the independent firm REDW in the coming days.

## CASINOS

Our CEO has taken an opportunity to be closer to his family; therefore we once again have an opening in our casino operations. The tribe is currently conducting a nationwide search, utilizing recruitment firms to fill this position.

While I have stated it in the

past, as well as unsuccessfully proposed legislation to enable it — the tribal board of directors should not be the Gaming Authority or Gaming Commission. These bodies should be comprised of an independent body that has knowledge and experience in the gaming industry. Free of politics, our casinos may once again be a potent economic force.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

I am pleased with the performance of our tribe's economic development director in the short time they have been with the tribe. Planning and assessments are taking place, which is a welcome change from how we have operated rudderless in this area in the past.

## CIVILITY

I posted the following in my last report, and due to the conduct in the last few weeks it seemed fitting to place it in this month's report as well:

Throughout the pages of this paper there are often major occurrences of mudslinging that occurs in "reports." It is essential that true facts independent of politics are conveyed. It is clear that we need

to instill "fact checking" requirements in our reporting processes. Opinions are just that, a majority of the time, however, the membership deserves to see factual data and information on a regular basis. I am hopeful the board can address this in the coming year.

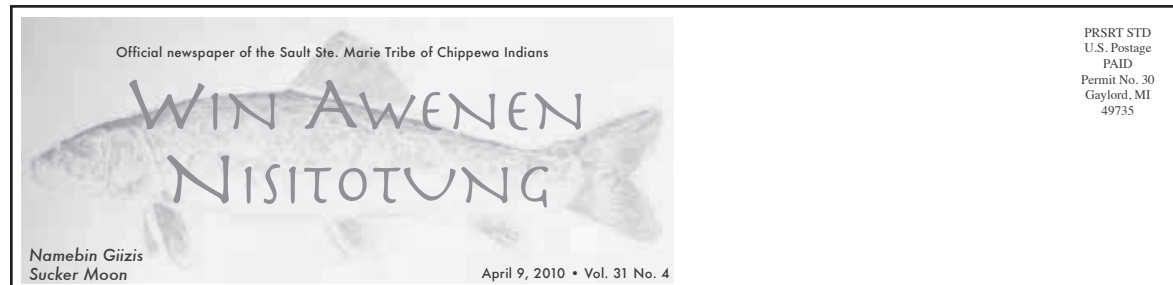
The tribe does need to adopt a code of conduct, **one with teeth**. Quite honestly, the personal issues and banter needs to be stopped. We are elected to serve and represent the tribal membership. It should be conducted with a semblance of professionalism.

Finally, 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 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.

Sincerely,

DJ Hoffman, Cell: (906) 203-0510; Tribal E-mail: djhoffman@saulttribe.net; Personal E-mail: djwhoffman@hotmail.com



## Reform bill includes long-awaited Indian Health Care Improvement reauthorization

**BY RICK SMITH**  
Mainstream media reports about the recently passed Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, widely banded about as the "health care reform bill," are somewhat misleading. Frequently, one sees mention that some citizens are exempt from the bill, American Indians among them. While that detail is true, a fact not surfacing is that the bill also enacted a long awaited revised and permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. After passage by both chambers of Congress, President Obama signed the acts into law on March 23.

This is joyous news for Indian Country.

"Our responsibility to provide health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives derives from the nation-to-nation relationship between the federal and tribal governments," the president said after the signing. "And today, with this bill, we have taken a critical step in fulfilling that responsibility by modernizing the Indian health care system and improving access to health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives."

The act was originally passed in 1976 to address long neglected treaty obligations of the United States to American Indian tribes. While some improvement resulted, health care in Indian Country is historically severely under-funded and inadequate. The act was last reauthorized in 1992 and expired in 2001, most Indian health funding became more precarious and authorized on an annual basis.

The permanent reauthorization is sweeping in its scope of addressing ills in Indian Country health care. President Obama said it is aimed at modernizing the Indian health care system and improving care for 1.9 million American Indians. Its intent is outlined in an amendment to the reauthorization titled,



Official White House photograph  
President Barack Obama signs the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in Washington, D.C., on March 23 as officials from the executive and legislative branches of the federal government look on. The lad in the photograph watching Obama apply his signature to the act is 11-year-old Marcelas Owens, who lost his mother to an illness because she couldn't afford health care. The new law includes an updated reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

### Declaration of National Indian Health Policy.

The declaration reads, "Congress declares that it is the policy of this nation, in fulfillment of its special trust responsibilities and legal obligations to Indians to ensure the highest possible health status for Indians and urban Indians and to provide all resources necessary to effect that policy." The section goes on to describe goals such as raising the level of health among Indians, ensuring maximum Indian participation in health care services while services become more responsive to the needs and desires of Indian communities, increase the proportion of professional credentials for health care providers to match the level of the general population, require meaningful consultation with Indian tribes and organizations, ensure government-to-government relationships and provide funding for tribal programs, facilities and organizations on par with those operated directly by the Indian Health Service (IHS).

It appears IHS is optimistic in anticipating the future

brought on by the act's reauthorization. In remarks before the National Congress of American Indians last March 1, Yvette Roubideaux, director of the Indian Health Service, indicated she welcomes the coming changes. "It is clear that tribes, our staff and our patients want change. The call for change is clear. While most cite the need for more funding for the service, it's clear that we also need to improve the way we do business."

"The new administration and new leadership at IHS provide an opportunity to begin this change. As the new director of IHS, in my confirmation speech I identified four priorities for change to guide our work over the next few years . . ." Her priorities are to renew and strengthen the IHS partnership with tribes, bring the appropriate health care reforms to the IHS, improve the quality of and access to care and ensure all IHS work is transparent, accountable, fair and inclusive.

Bonnie Culfa, director of Sault Tribe health services, pointed out the permanent

reauthorization spares Indian Country from the tumult of requiring passage of the reauthorization every few years and brings a needed broader focus on services. She noted, for example, the inclusion of expanded comprehensive behavioral health prevention and treatment programs instead of the current narrow focus on substance abuse.

She said, among other needs, it also brings mandatory licensing and credentials requirements plus construction and staffing in each IHS area of not less than one inpatient mental health care facility or equivalent to serve Indians with behavioral health problems. "This is significant in that there are few inpatient treatment facilities in Indian country," Culfa added. The expansion includes Indian youth suicide prevention and funding plus more grants available for mental health services and life skills development programs.

She said, in her opinion, the best part of the re-authorization is it requires the inclusion of dollar amounts to cover medical inflation and population growth as a part of the president's IHS budget submission to Congress beginning in fiscal year 2011. That means additional funding in annual agreements from IHS could begin at that time.

"Having this legislation pass is a great thing for all Native Americans who receive their health care at an IHS or tribal facility," said Culfa.

The bottom line for Indian Country is that the United States has permanently recognized its trust and treaty obligations for the health care of American Indians, and it appears more money will be funneled into building a better system to help follow through on those obligations.

The historic action received hearty praise from the National Congress of American Indians, American Public Health Association, National Indian Health Board and others.

### A few highlights of the reauthorized Indian health care act

According to the Indian Health Service, the reauthorized version of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act signed into law on March 23 differs in several respects from the original version passed by Congress in 1976.

It includes many major changes and improvements to facilitate the delivery of health care services, such as:

- Enhancement of the authorities of the IHS director, including the responsibility to facilitate advocacy and promote consultation on matters relating to Indian health within the Department of Health and Human Services.

- Provides authorization for hospice, assisted living, long-term, home and community-based care.

- Extends the ability to recover costs from third parties to tribally operated facilities.

- Updates current law regarding collection of reimbursements from Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program by Indian health facilities.

- Allows tribes and tribal organizations to purchase health benefits coverage for IHS beneficiaries.

- Authorizes IHS to enter into arrangements with the departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense to share medical facilities and services.

- Allows a tribe or tribal organization carrying out a program under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act and an urban Indian organization carrying out a program under Title V of IHCIA to purchase coverage for its employees from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

- Authorizes the establishment of a community health representative program for urban Indian organizations to train and employ Indians to provide health care services.

- Directs the IHS to establish comprehensive behavioral health, prevention and treatment programs for Indians.

- The IHS provides a comprehensive health service delivery system for approximately 1.9 million of the nation's estimated 3.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
OF THE  
SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

**Article II – Duties of Officers, Sect. 1** shall be amended by removing the duties as the chief executive officer from the Tribal Chairperson. Article II sec. 1 of the Bylaws in the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

**BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE II – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1.** The chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the board of directors and exercise any lawful authority delegated the chairperson by the board of directors. The chairperson shall vote only in case of a tie unless otherwise provided in the tribe's constitution and bylaws.

Having been duly adopted and approved, this proposed Amendment A is hereby designated as Amendment Number II to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

## Sault Tribe voters approve Constitutional Amendment

**SAULT STE. MARIE** — The Bureau of Indian Affairs Secretarial Election Constitutional Amendment on behalf of Sault Tribe was approved by Sault Tribe voters with 77 percent saying "yes" to the new language.

The amended section of the tribe's Constitution will now read:

### "ARTICLE II. DUTIES OF OFFICERS"

**SECTION 1.** The chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the board of directors and exercise any lawful authority delegated the chairperson by the board of directors. The chairperson shall vote only in case of a tie unless otherwise provided in the tribe's constitution and

bylaws."

The amendment effectively takes CEO duties out of the Sault Tribe chairman's duties. The vote was 3,315 YES (76.53 percent) and 1,014 NO (23.42 percent), for a total of 4,329 votes. Out of the 6,300 tribal members who registered to vote, 4,333 cast ballots, four of which were spoiled.

Results were released by the local Sault Ste. Marie BIA office the evening of March 30 after the count and certification by the Election Board.

The deadline to file challenges to the results was April 2.

According to the Sault Ste. Marie BIA Office, there were no challenges to the election results.

# Our tribe moving forward despite challenges



**JENNIFER MCLEOD,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aaniin, Anishinaabek, the last couple of months as a board member have, perhaps, been some of the best in the four-plus years that I have been serving our tribe. While there have certainly been challenges (and we are still having significant challenges), it was how the board of directors responded to those challenges that made the difference. With few exceptions, there was a calm, decisiveness and unity of action

that I believe is good for our tribe, even though it began in a difficult way.

One of our biggest challenges occurred after our meeting in Hessel. The chairman and another board member got into a very heated argument and ended with the chairman challenging the board member to put the **delegation of authority to the chairman** on the agenda for a vote. He shouted that he would be ready to launch a referendum to overturn the board decision, and make the delegation of authority to the chairman permanent! A short time later, the board received a notice that the chairman was calling a special meeting of the board of directors, and there was just one agenda item: **rescinding the delegation of authority to the chairman**. THE CHAIRMAN WAS THE SPONSOR! I was shocked.

The board showed up for the special meeting at the appointed time but the chairman did not. We waited a short while, and then the vice chair (Director Hoffman) opened the meeting.

Since a quorum was present and the sponsor of the single agenda item was not (the chairman), the board of directors added items to the agenda and moved forward. It was better than simply adjourning the meeting, what a waste of money that could have been! Our meeting was in progress when the chairman arrived and he then took over running the meeting, as he should. We settled all of the added items, and then tabled the delegation of authority resolution to the next regularly scheduled board of directors meeting. It was a very peaceful meeting. At the Dec. 3, 2016, meeting, the board of directors voted 10-2 by motion, to rescind the delegation of authority to the chairman. It was a very peaceful meeting.

But that peace did not last long. The chairman held true to his word and launched a referendum campaign. He published petitions (EVEN AHEAD OF THE ORIGINAL VOTE!), signatures were gathered and submitted, and the ugly politics, misinformation, overreaction and

public displays of bad behaviors have taken on a life of their own. But the board of directors has held firm and responded (not reacted) to the actions in a professional manner.

To me, it has been a significant sign of unity that 10 of the 12 members of the board of directors voted to move forward and prevent a politician from being in charge of the day-to-day activities of the tribe. If you have followed my unit reports, you will recall that I have tried on more than one occasion to get the board of directors to rescind this resolution, and I am so glad that we finally have! I believe it is in the best interest of the tribe.

All the powers of the office of chairperson have been returned to the **original authority granted in the tribal constitution**. The tribe's day-to-day operations will be managed by a professional administrator. The will of the people (demonstrated by a secretarial election in 2010) has been upheld: the office of the Chair and the duties of the CEO have

been separated!

However, we do have a petition of referendum yet to deal with. There is a faction of tribal members who are believing the chairman's claims that he has been "stripped of ALL of his authority." This is untrue. The chairman may feel like it is true, as his day-to-day control has been eliminated and turned over to an employee. He does, however, have all the authority provided by the Constitution, and as were in place the day he was elected in 2012. I believe that the majority of our people will eventually see through the tangled misinformation and support the separation of politics from the control of day-to-day operations of our tribe. After all, that is precisely what they voted for in 2010.

I realize that I have only given you a very brief overview of the delegation of authority issue; however, if you want more detailed information, please visit my Facebook page, or my web-See "McLeod," page 22

## Duties were separated by will of the people



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

You will be most likely reading various opinions on what was taken and not taken away from the chair's office and why. I cannot speculate on why our chairperson brought up the motion to rescind the CEO duties, I can only offer up my rationalization to the members on why I voted to rescind. There was a constitutional amendment (via the Bureau of Indian Affairs) that separated the CEO from being the chair, the **members** voted to remove that from our constitution. The resolution was improperly completed in the first place; the board should not have delegated CEO duties back to the chairperson. The duties were separated by the will of the people, on behalf of all those who voted for a separation of powers—I voted to rescind the CEO duties.

I have a lot of respect for the chairperson and his position; however, I do not always agree with his approach. I believe there are many inherited duties as chair that do not fall under CEO responsibilities and those duties should continue; consistent with the legal opinion from our lead counsel that was previously released. All government-to-government relations, treaty right responsibilities, negotiating on our behalf and many, many other duties need to be addressed. I believe the chairperson duties

were never the board's to delegate in the first place. He is our chairperson and we need to work together if we want our tribe to succeed. Aaron does a good job representing and fighting on our behalf at the regional and national level, but he should remain focused and not let the situation deteriorate.

The board and chair need to come to a resolution for the betterment of our tribe that respects the constitutional amendment but also acknowledges the chair's duties and leadership responsibilities. We need to come together and address these issues. Leadership is sticking to the issue at hand, staying positive and finding a way to comprise and move our tribe forward.

We need more consensus polling and direction to our staff. Oftentimes we do not provide a clear objective, but rather several opinions. I will make more effort and ask my fellow board members to provide clearer direction and expectations as a group. I also want to make sure the staff realizes one board member's opinion does not equal the will of the entire board. We need to make sure that we remain a policy board and not micromanage and as such our questions, report requests and involvement should reflect that. We have to make sure we are providing good governance and fulfilling our duties as board members.

The board in November had a discussion regarding bonuses and the general consensus was to not spend the money on bonuses but rather find a way to improve the wage grid (raises for everyone). We will continue to work on this and find ways to improve employee wages. It is my opinion that employees would benefit more with raises rather than a one-time bonus. As for elders' checks, I believe the entire board would like to increase them, but we need to discuss it further and have plans made. One option that has been discussed is to add

monies to the Land Claims Fund (the interest is where the elders' checks are from). This is the only way to ensure the checks could increase year after year; we need to devote monies annually into the fund.

Indian Country is faced with a lot of uncertainty right now with a new presidential administration, new congress, new judges, etc. We need to be open-minded and optimistic but we cannot ignore it. The board needs to come up with plans to address what our priorities are.

I want to assure the member-

ship that many positive things are occurring as well. We are one of the few tribes that have implemented VAWA and provide strengthened changes that help protect victims of domestic violence. This is a huge step for tribes to take and it should be celebrated for all the hard work the various departments did to make this happen—thank you. Amendments were made to clear the path to not tax honorariums for cultural events, we've hired an attorney to fight for our treaty right negotiations, we are taking steps to implement our Tribal

Action Plan to prevent and treat substance abuse, and many other great accomplishments are being made.

Lastly, I want to send prayers out to the Matson family. Vic Matson Sr. recently walked on. He was a former board member who was respected for fighting on behalf his people. I had a lot of great conversations with Vic; he did not shy away from telling you how he saw things. He spent many years advocating for members' rights and he will be greatly missed. Chi miigwech.

## Politician or true tribal leader?



**ANITA NELSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V**

Just had my six-month anniversary as director and I certainly learned the difference between a true leader who has the best interest of the members and a politician who is looking to get those votes coming into the next election in order to retain power.

It's unfortunate that some of our members fell prey to the social media and the chair's flim-flaming techniques. Many of the uninformed and disgruntled voices were, unfortunately, past candidates who failed in their attempt to become directors of their units. I say to them, "Why bury the hatchet when you are

putting a marker on the site." I wish they could experience this chaos and turmoil within the ranks today, which is accomplishing nothing but animosity.

There is a constant attempt by the chair to cause friction between us board members. He should unite his board, not divide it. Why is there not a "code of ethics" so people can be held responsible for slander, lies and ridicule of fellow directors and employees. And, posting misinformation on the Internet, as one board member mentioned at our meeting, is very harmful to our tribe. Clearly, an abuse of authority is in existence.

Except for the politicians, the majority of the board has a vision of a better 2017 with a common goal for a better tribal government and the financial status of the tribe. I must take my hat off to the many intelligent, faithful followers who have demonstrated complete understanding of the published legal opinion of our tribal attorney, John Wernet.

On the other hand, I am disappointed in the few that were misguided and ill informed rather than put your trust in me when you elected me to represent Unit V. I believed I voted in the best interest of the elders, the employees and will continue in that pattern until I'm no longer in this

position. It is my hope you will better understand that as things unfold.

To be honest with my unit, I was going to abstain from voting on the elders' checks issue because I am an elder and I believe in using only the interest from the elders' fund rather than have the account drained. However, I had planned on voting for the employees' bonuses as I myself was an employee in the '70s and the bonus sure came in handy during the holidays when I was a single parent raising my two children. Believe me, I do ask the tribal community their opinion.

I apologize for missing the Marquette elders meeting. I've been battling the flu. I also will be making a trip out to the Christmas casino if the manager can find time to fit me into a meeting with you employees. Also, you can call me at (906) 379-7825 if you would like to discuss any concerns you may have. The Marquette Unit V elders meeting is scheduled for Feb. 9, 2017, at the Holiday Inn Marquette, Mich.

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Vic Matson Sr. family and the Gravelle family for the recent loss of their loved ones.

— Anita L. Nelson, Unit V, Sault Tribe Board of Directors



# Providing factual documents dispels rumors



**DENISE CHASE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I would like to start off by addressing the rumors out there that the tribal board is trying to strip the chairperson his authority/power. This is not true!

In fact, as you will see in the following special meeting notices, Chairperson Payment noticed the board of his special meetings with the agenda items noted and on Nov. 28 at 12 noon he called the meeting with one agenda item to rescind resolution 2012-146 Limited Delegation of Authority to the Chairperson.

He put the item on the agenda and sponsored it, no one else. It was then tabled until the Dec. 13 meeting.

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Joanne Carr, Board Secretary

DATE: November 23, 2016  
RE: Special Meeting Notice Per Chairperson Payment, this is your notice of special meetings, for the following dates with agenda items next to the dates:

All meetings will be held at the Kewadin Casino, Sault Ste. Marie.

Nov. 28, 2016: 12 noon:  
Rescind Res – 2012-146 Limited Delegation of Authority to the Chairperson.

## RESOLUTION NO: 2012-146

Limited Delegation of Authority to the Chairperson  
WHEREAS, on March 20, 2010, the Tribe held a Secretarial election to amend its

Constitution and Bylaws; and  
WHEREAS, pursuant to that election, the members of the Tribe amended Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws entitled Duties of Officers by deleting language that had directed the Chairperson to “perform all duties consistent with the office as chief executive officer of the tribe;” and

WHEREAS, as so amended, Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws now provides that the duties of the chairperson are to “preside over all meetings of the board of directors and exercise any other lawful authority delegated the chairperson by the board of directors” and to “vote only in the case of a tie unless otherwise provided by the tribe’s constitution and bylaws;” and

WHEREAS, Article IV of the Constitution provides that “[t]he governing body of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians shall consist of a board of directors;” and

WHEREAS, the effect of the amendment approved by the Secretarial election is

to confirm that the authority to direct the operations of the Tribe is not vested independently in the office of the Chairperson but, rather, in the Board of Directors as provided in Article VII of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution assigns specific authority to the Board of Directors including the authority to “negotiate and consult with the Federal, State, and local governments”; “expend funds for the public purposes of the tribe”; “adopt resolutions, ordinances and a code” on various subjects within the jurisdiction of the tribe; “manage, lease, sell, acquire or otherwise deal with tribal lands ... or other tribal assets”; and to “manage any and all economic affairs and enterprises of the tribe”; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 1 (n) of the Constitution expressly authorizes the Board of Directors to delegate powers and authority to a subordinate tribal officer, board, committee, or group, “reserving the right to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated power or to cancel any delegation;” and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to the efficient operation of the Tribe’s governmental and business operations that a single person be delegated the authority to serve as the policy representative of the Board and to manage the day-to-day operations of the Tribe, subject to the authority of the Board of Directors to review and approve, modify, or rescind any such action; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws, as amended, provides that the Chairperson shall “exercise any other lawful authority delegated to the Chairperson by the Board of Directors;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby declares that:

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 below, the Tribal Chairperson is authorized and directed to manage and direct the day to day operations of the Tribe including but not limited to the following:

(a) Serving as the ceremonial figure head of the Tribe for public events and visiting dignitaries;

(b) Serving as the spokesperson for the Tribe on issues requiring a singular voice; of the Tribal Board’s official position;

(c) Guiding and directing tribal governmental and business operations to ensure operational efficiency, quality, service, and cost-effective management of resources;

(d) Performing any and all duties delegated to, authorized to be performed, or directed to be performed by the Chairperson in any previously adopted motion, resolution, or ordinance;

(e) Performing any and all duties delegated to, authorized to be performed, or directed to be performed by the Chairperson in the various Team Member Manuals;

(f) Performing all administrative and management functions required to be performed pursuant to the current organizational chart.

2. In the exercise of the authority delegated to the Chairperson by the Board of Directors in paragraph 1, the Chairperson shall consult with and shall be subject to the direction and review of the Board of Directors consistent with Article VII, Section 1 (n) of the Constitution. All actions taken by the Chairperson pursuant to this delegated authority shall be subject to the authority of the Board of Directors and the Board may review, approve, modify, or rescind any such action. The Chairperson shall report to the Board of Directors at each regularly scheduled board workshop and shall provide an update of any activities, issues, decisions, or other matters requiring the attention of the board. In the event that the Chairperson is unable to attend any such workshop, the Chairperson shall assign the Vice-Chairperson to provide that report.

3. The authority delegated to the Chairperson by this resolution shall continue until modified, rescinded, or extended by a subsequent resolution of the Board of Directors.

The resolution was rescinded at the Dec. 13 meeting and remember, the chairperson initiated it.

On the front page of this newspaper issue is the public announcement from all 12 board members that was put out to tribal and community members on Dec. 15, to put the correct information out there.

The board delegated day-to-day management of the tribe to the tribe’s executive director. In the opinion, you will see it did not rescind powers and authority vested in the chairperson by the tribal code or granted to the chairperson by prior resolutions dealing with specific projects or circumstances. Nor, did it remove any express or inherent authority vested in the chairperson by the constitution by virtue of his office as chairperson and as a member of the board of directors.

(Please see General Counsel John Wernet’s legal opinion on page 21.)

I supported and voted for the separation of the CEO and chairman positions/duties back in 2010. I said in my article to “please vote “yes” to separate the CEO and chairman positions. The CEO will be responsible for running the day-to-day operations of the tribal government and decisions, without being micro-managed by the tribal board or chairman.”

“I support removing the CEO from our constitution and I am voting to approve — I hope that you do, too! The membership overwhelmingly voted to separate and remove the CEO and chairman duties.”

In fact, someone showed me a public post by Aaron Payment that I found to be very interesting; he said the board “...have yet to honor the will of the people in separating the CEO and chair functions.” He said that prior to running and being elected tribal chair in 2012. Please read all the information and be informed!

This resolution, 2016-289, Selection of Outside Counsel

for 2020 Great Lakes Treaty Rights Negotiations, was passed recently by the tribal board of directors. The board selected the law firm of Morissette, Schlosser, Jozwiak, and Somerville of Seattle, Wash., to serve as outside legal counsel to the tribe.

## RESOLUTION NO: 2016-289

Selection of Outside Counsel for 2020 Great Lakes Treaty Rights Negotiations

WHEREAS, the exercise of that right by the Tribe and by its members is governed by a 2000 Consent Decree that allocates the rights and duties of various parties within the Great Lakes fishery including the Sault Tribe, four sister tribes, the federal government, and the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, that 2000 Consent Decree is set to expire in 2020 and it is anticipated that a new consent decree will be negotiated and/or litigated prior to that expiration date and that these negotiations will have a significant impact on the rights and obligations of the Sault Tribe and its members in the ceded waters of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has conducted a nationwide search to identify interested and well-qualified attorneys or law firms willing and able to represent the Sault Tribe in any such proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Board has concluded that search and wishes to select the attorney or firm that it believes can best represent the interests of the Tribe and its members in these vital proceedings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby selects the law firm of Morisset, Schlosser, Jozwiak & Somerville of Seattle,

## Director McLeod unit report —

### From “McLeod,” page 25

site. I plan to publish events, dates, specifics and evidence and resources there, so that you can make up your own mind. While it is a big challenge, it feels good to be moving forward.

Speaking of moving forward, due to our former CEO of the casino resigning (he cited family issues), we are in the process of finding a new CEO. It has slowed us down, but we have not stopped moving forward. I am proud of the work that our staff is doing; without a CEO and hope that it won’t be long before that position is filled.

I am happy to report that the JKL Fiduciary Committee is moving forward as well. We continue to work toward consolidating our JKL school’s land base, and have been working closely with the school’s superintendent to make improvements to the school building. The future is looking bright for our JKL students!

Next month, I will be attending a meeting in D.C. to discuss the impact of the new presidential administration on Indian Country. I feel this is a very important meeting, and I look forward to sharing with you what I learn. Past state-

Washington, to serve as outside legal counsel to the Tribe for purposes of negotiating a successor compact to the 2000 Consent Decree and in any litigation or related legal proceedings that may be necessary to successfully conclude that process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Chairperson is hereby authorized and directed to enter into negotiations with the firm of Morisset, Schlosser, Jozwiak & Somerville, on the terms of a contract and shall present that proposed contract to the Board for its review and approval.

The resolution authorizes and directs the tribal chairperson to enter negotiations with the law firm and bring a proposed contract back to the board for review and approval. As I said before, I want to see the pros and cons of even considering entering another new consent decree or if we should just let it expire and go back to the original treaty. Going forward, we must be very careful as we know how the current and past consent decrees have impacted the tribe, our members, commercial fishermen and subsistence fishers who exercise their treaty rights in the ceded waters of the Great Lakes. Myself and Director Morrow will be pushing for community input sessions to hear the concerns of the fishermen and members as we go through the process.

I am convinced that the consent decrees entered almost negotiated our fishermen right out of their livelihoods and locked most of them out of our fishing waters. Locking into an agreement for a 20-year time span was not good for our tribe.

You can reach me at (906) 203-2471 or dchase@saulttribe.net.  
Thank you,  
Denise Chase,  
Unit IV Board Rep.

ments of President-elect Trump are very concerning to ALL tribal nations. Also, while I am there, I intend to “walk the hill” and speak with various congressional leaders and help “educate” them on treaty rights and the needs of our tribe.

Finally, I want to share with you that I am working on our tribe’s anti-bullying legislation. It is not enough that we have a “we are against bullying” resolution. We need real consequences added to it. Victims of bullying need to know that there are protections for them. They need to know that, “This is not acceptable.” If you believe that bullying by anyone, INCLUDING ELECTED OFFICIALS, is not acceptable, “Step up... be a hero.” Write, text, email or phone your unit director or your chairman. Post it on your Facebook wall. Tell everyone: **Bullying in Indian Country is NOT OK. It is not our way.**

Working together, we can make bullying stop!

Anishnaabe gagige (Anishnaabe for always),

Jen, (906) 440-9151, jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com, http://jmcleodsaulttribe.com, Facebook: Jennifer McLeod-Sault Tribe, 2 Ice Circle Dr., Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

# Sault Tribe directors taking the tribe back 2017



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Unfortunately, the holidays were not spent by enjoying time with your loved ones and giving them your undivided attention but rather spent combating lies, after lies, after lies.

On Dec. 12-14, RedW, our consultant we contracted with to conduct our HR audit, was on site. They held about 45 in-person, or, in a few cases, telephone, interviews. RedW held a conference call with our committee at the end of December with an update of their findings. The information they gathered through interviews will be the basis for the survey questions that will be set up for all of our team members in mid-January. All team members are encouraged to take the time to take this important survey. All information will be confidential and given directly to RedW. A Human Resource Department is a critical component of employee well-being in any business, no matter how small.

The tribal board had posted and selected Sault Tribe member, Joel Schultz, as our Economic Development Director. Joel comes to us very qualified with many resources to bring us the much-needed economic development and diversification. We have met with Joel a few times and he has hit the ground running getting familiar with all our current businesses and property assets. He has reviewed the enterprise budgets and made recommended changes, which were passed by the board at the Jan. 3 meeting.

At the Dec. 13 meeting, the board voted to take certain items off the agenda such as team member bonus, elder check increase and audit chairperson's tax exemption. All board members supported this action but one. Members have asked why we did not support these. I cannot speak for anyone but myself, but I can say that it is unprofessional for a single person to add these types of promises that are toying with people's emotions. The board as a unit had never sat down and discussed these actions — the cost, implementation, where the funding was coming from, the uncertainty and impact of Indian Country under a new Republican president and the declining casino revenues. These actions are self-serving by making promises without fiscal responsibility.

Also on the agenda was Rescinding Resolution 2012-146, which is the delegated authority of the chair, which had been previously tabled from the special meeting the chair called, with that as the only action item. The board

voted by motion, 10-2 in favor of rescinding the delegated authority of the chairperson. The very next resolution on the agenda was the executive director. This resolution stated the following: Be it resolved that the board of directors declares that until ordered otherwise by the board of directors, the executive director shall perform the following duties:

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 2 below, the Executive Director is authorized and directed to manage and direct the day to day operations of the Tribe including but not limited to the following: guiding and directing tribal governmental operations to ensure operational efficiency, quality, service, and cost-effective management of resources and performing all administrative and management functions required to be performed pursuant to the current organizational chart; and

2. In the exercise of the authority delegated to the Executive Director by the Board of Directors in paragraph 1, the Executive Director shall consult with and shall be subject to the direction and review of the Board of Directors consistent with Article VII, Section 1(n) of the Constitution. All actions taken by the Executive Director pursuant to this delegated authority shall be subject to the authority of the Board of Directors and the Board may review, approve, modify, or rescind any such action. The Executive Director shall report to the Board of Directors at each regularly scheduled board workshop and shall provide an update of any activities, issues, decisions, or other matters requiring the attention of the board. In the event that the Executive Director is unable to attend any such workshop, the Executive Director shall assign a designee to provide that report.

3. All organizational charts shall be amended to reflect the reassignment of duties herein. In addition, The Tribe's Budget Department shall fall under the Tribal Board Office for day to day operations and report to the Tribal Board as a whole.

Be It Further Resolved, that this resolution amends any previously adopted resolution regarding this matter.

Be It Finally Resolved, that the Tribes Governmental Personnel Policies shall be amended replacing Chairman/CEO with Executive Director.

The board also voted in favor of this resolution 10-2. The chair proceeded to grandstand that he was stripped of all his authority and can only chair a meeting. The general counsel tried explaining to him that he still had all the authority granted to him by the constitution and inherent duties in the chair seat such as representing the tribe at the local, state and national level. He still is the signatory for grants, contracts, etc. This action merely took him out of the day-to-day operations of the tribe, which was a constitutional amendment passed by the membership by a 77 percent approval with about a 69 percent voter turnout in 2010.

Upon board approval of the rescinding the delegated authority, Director Hoffman had asked

the chair a few times about assigning a resolution number as the board had voted by motion. The chair did not ask for a resolution number to be assigned.

Within minutes of the meeting ending there were Facebook posts by the chair such as "What chance does an unstable tribal government have for securing our future with our downstate casinos when our government acts in an erratic and irresponsible way?" "I believe the board actions tonight sealed our fate and secured our denial for our downstate casino projects. Why would the U.S. Department of Interior take a chance on an unstable government who ousted their democratically elected leader of all authority through a political coup?" "Stupid actions of our board will undoubtedly have consequences to our tribe."

There where emails sent to federal officials and other tribes saying that his council stripped him of all his duties. He evacuated his office within a day or so which was entirely up to him. I told him to make sure and not hide the tribal arrow representing our tribe as part of a whole with the United Tribes like he did when he lost the election in 2008.

The very next day, he was calling for a special meeting for Dec. 20 with agenda items being the elder increase, employee bonus, board salary, term limits, inaugural event delegation and tribal member issues. Upon request, the board's executive assistant took a poll of the board about canceling the Dec. 20 meeting. By the end of the day, the special meeting was canceled. We were told we could not cancel a meeting and that it was illegal. Per Tribal Code Section 14.106(7) Canceling and Rescheduling. The Board of Directors by taking consent by positive 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. We can cancel a meeting. The change was made in the last few months so there was an avenue for the board to cancel if there arose a need. I did not support this at the time but is now part of our code.

The general counsel was asked to write a legal opinion on what powers and authority the chairperson retains following the rescission of resolution 2012-146. The legal opinion stated that rescinding the delegation of day-to-day management authority did not and could not diminish the duties vested in the chairperson by the constitution nor the powers that are inherent in the office. The legal opinion has been added to saulttribe.com. Shortly after the release of the legal opinion the chair put on Facebook that, "It is just an opinion, opinions are like buttholes, everyone has one." Obviously, no respect for our Legal Department. Reminds me of the court case of the 7+1 and is part of the legal document that Payment referred to the key employees who worked in the Legal Department as "those white

pigs in the Legal Department."

Since rescinding the delegated authority of the chair, the board (all 12) has put out a public statement which is also on saulttribe.com but the gist of it is:

We understand that there are some who believe we are trying to strip the chairperson of all powers. This is not true. The chairperson is still chairperson of the tribe and represents the tribe at the local, state, and national level on behalf of the tribe, and shall retain all the powers vested to the office within the tribal constitution.

Our ultimate goal has been (and is) to try to get more accountability within the tribal government, adhere to the tribe's constitutional requirements, and ensure long term prosperity of the tribe.

On the agenda for the Jan. 3 meeting was a team member bonus, an elder check increase, the chair's tax exemption audit, again all placed by the chair. There was also a resolution "Authority of Chairperson," which was supposedly sponsored by various board members but when discussed in workshop it was stated a couple of board members met with the general counsel, chair and executive director to discuss the proposed legislation. The board voted 9-3 in favor of taking these four items off the agenda.

Aaron has stated that he has gotten 400 petition signatures and per the constitution, a referendum is guaranteed as it is our sole right to undo decisions by our tribal government. He continues that he has stated publicly, if our board violates this fundamental right of you the people, he will lobby the Department of Interior and Congress to REORGANIZE our tribe, which would call for all new elections so you could replace the whole board if you wish. This is not true; they will not intervene as we are a self-governance tribe. He also knows you need a resolution number to referendum something; you can't referendum a motion. He was asked if he wanted one and declined. There is video from a 2007 board meeting of him not wanting a resolution number on something so it cannot be referendum. Ironically it was for an employee bonus. This action was already sent out to the members to decide in 2010. He is playing games with the members when he knows full well how the process works. He likes to create the hatred among the members and team members for his own personal gain.

There is a need to correct so many lies, it really is a full-time job. The board spends so much time putting out fires that he creates, we cannot move forward.

Here are some truths:

The board never considered giving themselves a raise. I am not aware of any board members who are attending the presidential inauguration. The board did not decrease the elder check, the amount is based on the total amount of interest generated off the land claims fund divided by the number of eligible voters. We had about 352 more eligible elders this year. We do not have

\$8-11 million in operational surplus.

He also keeps bringing up the board wage, which, per 2000 meeting minutes — Moved by Director Payment supported by Director Lumsden to approve the increase in stipends for the Board of Directors, as proposed, effective immediately. He also likes to talk about the board's retirement. He does, however, forget to mention the board does not and cannot pay into Social Security. So, if a person does serve 20 or more years on the board they will have minimal Social Security since having paid into it in many years and it is based on the last several working years. He also mentions our tax exemption being various amounts. There was a time study several years ago on the amount the board spent on treaty-related activity by, I believe, Bruce Greene, which has not changed since the time study.

I have decided since the chair has not only posted things I said on Facebook but now in the tribal paper, I want to let everyone know the truth. In the past year, I was sent a friend request from someone who's name I didn't recognize. After some time, I figured out the person had gotten a divorce since we had worked together and had went back to her maiden name. This person I had considered a friend and we once worked in HR together. I accepted her friend request in August.

I later learned she had accepted a job at the tribal clinic. I exchanged several private messages with her congratulating her but informing her to be careful since the manager had gone through 30 staff in five years. I asked if she was related to the manager of which she said no. There were many other comments as Aaron has posted and printed but they only show my comments. Apparently, this person had showed them to her first cousin the clinic manager because they are claiming I was harassing the clinic manager. So, Aaron decided he would go public with my private Facebook messages from a third party. I don't know if the so-called friend of mine gave permission but I did not.

So, let's review the situation, you have comments that a manager has went through 30 staff in five years and I am harassing her? I guess he has no regard for the 30 team members who left nor the ones who are current. This is all what led up to Aaron accusing me of going into back areas of the health center and violating HIPAA and confidentiality. I am a member seeking services and those that are keeping track of me in the clinic are violating my HIPAA rights. I apologize for the staff whose names have been used in the posts.

I have so much more to write but I will leave room for the others. Please be patient with the board, we do have the best interest of the tribe in our recent decisions and will be taking a more active role in moving the tribe in a more positive forward path. Please call, text, email or message your concerns.

Bsorenson@saulttribe.net, Bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.

# Legal: What authority does the chairperson retain following the rescission of Resolution 2012-146?

On Dec. 18, 2016, Sault Tribe General Counsel John Wernet provided the Sault Tribe board of Directors with his legal opinion on, "What powers and authority does the chairperson retain following the rescission of Resolution 2012-146?"

His opinion follows:

I have been asked to provide a legal opinion outlining the powers and authority retained by the tribal chairperson following the action of the board on Tuesday, Dec. 13, rescinding Resolution 2012-146. That resolution, adopted on July 20, 2012, delegated to the chairperson the authority to manage and direct the day-to-day operations of the tribe, including but not limited to certain specific authorities listed in that resolution. The exercise of that delegated day-to-day management authority by the chairperson was made subject to the specific direction and review of the board of directors.

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, the board of directors voted to rescind Resolution 2012-146. By a separate resolution, 2016-290, the board delegated day-to-day management of the tribe to the tribe's executive director.

As will be set forth in more detail below, it is my opinion that the rescinding of Resolution 2012-146 eliminated the authority delegated to the chairperson by that resolution to manage the day-to-day operations of the tribe. It did not rescind powers and authority vested in the chairper-

son by the Tribal Code or granted to the chairperson by prior resolutions dealing with specific projects or circumstances. Nor, of course, did it remove any express or inherent authority vested in the chairperson by the Constitution by virtue of his office as chairperson and as a member of the board of directors.

Background:

The Constitution of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians includes a set of By-Laws adopted as part of that Constitution. As originally adopted, Art II, sec 1 of those By-Laws described the duties of the Tribal chairperson as follows:

"The chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the board of directors, *perform all duties consistent with the office as chief executive officer of the tribe*, and exercise any other lawful authority delegated the chairperson by the board of directors. The chairperson shall vote only in case of a tie unless otherwise provided in the tribe's constitution and bylaws." Emphasis added.

A constitutional amendment was subsequently approved on April 7, 2010, striking the language in Art II, section 1 of the By-Laws that assigned the chairperson to act as chief executive officer of the tribe. This change eliminated the direct constitutional grant of authority to the chairperson and left the authority to direct the day-to-day operations of the tribe vested exclusively in the board of directors under

Article VII of the Constitution.

On July 20, 2012, the board of directors adopted Resolution 2012-146. In that resolution, relying on the express authority vested in the board by Article VII, section 1(n) to delegate its powers, the board delegated the day-to-day management of the tribe to the chairperson. However, unlike the direct assignment of "CEO" authority under the original Constitution and By-Laws, this new delegation was specifically subject to the authority of the board "to review, approve, modify, or rescind any such action."

On Dec. 13, 2016, the board acted to rescind Resolution 2012-146 and instead adopted a new resolution, 2016-290, delegating day-to-day management of the tribe to the tribe's executive director, subject to the direction and control of the board. That resolution further specified that it "amends any previously adopted resolution regarding this matter."

**Discussion:**

In my view, it is clear that the sole effect accomplished by rescinding Resolution 2012-146 was to remove from the chairperson those powers delegated by that resolution, i.e., the power "to manage and direct the day-to-day operations of the tribe." It did not rescind powers and authority vested in the chairperson by the Tribal Code or those granted to the chairperson by prior resolutions dealing with specific projects or circumstances. Nor, of course, did it remove any express or inherent authority vested in the chairperson by the Constitution by virtue of his office as chairperson and as a member of the board of directors.

**1. Tribal Code**

Numerous provisions of the Tribal Code specifically impose duties or authority upon the tribal chairperson. Examples of such provisions include: Chapter 11: Membership Ordinance, § 11.103(4) ("It shall be the responsibility of the Registrar and Tribal chairperson to sign all membership cards issued by the Special Needs/Enrollment Committee, or the board of directors on appeal;" Chapter 20: Treaty Fishing Rules and Regulations, §102(1) "A tribal license shall be evidenced by a Treaty Fishing Identification Card authorized by the Chairman," §102(3) ("Licenses shall be issued under the supervision of the Tribal Chairman," §102(13) (approval of transfer of license), §103 (suspension of a license), §107(4) (waiver of fee for subsistence license), 107(5) (designation of non-snagging areas for subsistence fishers); Chapter 42: Gaming Ordinance, §404 ("The Chairman of the board of directors shall serve as Chairman of the Tribal Gaming Commission;" and Chapter 94: Gaming Authority ("The chairperson of the board of directors shall also serve as chairperson of the Management board"). These examples, and similar delegations of authority found in code, can be amended only by formal amendment of the affected codes and are unaffected by either the

delegation of authority contained in Resolution 2016-146 or by the rescinding of that Resolution.

**2. Tribal Resolutions**

The board has adopted numerous resolutions delegating specific authority to the chairperson such as resolutions authorizing the chairperson to sign specific contracts, grants, or other agreements and to take all actions necessary to effectuate the purposes of that agreement. See, for example, Resolution 2012-11 authorizing the chairperson to sign a Comprehensive Development Agreement with the City of Lansing and which "further authorizes the Chairman or his designee to sign, amend, and execute any documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of this resolution."

It is a well-established principle of legislative construction that specific provisions of law govern over more general provisions. "[I]t is a commonplace of statutory construction that the specific governs the general." *Morales v Trans World Airlines, Inc*, 504 US 374, 384, 112 S Ct 2031, 119 L Ed 2d 157 (1992). In cases where a general provision appears to conflict with a more specific one, the specific provision is construed as an exception to the general one. See, e.g., *Morton v Mancari*, 417 US 535, 550-551, 94 S Ct 2474, 41 L Ed 2d 290 (1974). Thus, existing resolutions expressly delegating authority to the chairperson to act in particular matters continue to be operative; they are not affected by either the general delegation of day-to-day management authority contained in Resolution 2016-146 or by the subsequent rescinding of that general management authority.

Furthermore, this conclusion is not affected by Resolution 2016-290 which delegated day-to-day management authority to the Executive Director. It is true that this resolution contains a "catch-all" provision stating that it "amends any previously adopted resolution regarding this matter." It has been suggested that this "catch-all" language may be interpreted as rescinding all prior resolutions delegating authority to the Chairperson. But such an interpretation is not sustainable. Resolution 2016-290, by its express terms, merely makes a general delegation of day-to-day management authority to the executive director, a delegation markedly more narrow than the prior delegation made to the chairperson by the now-rescinded Resolution 2012-146. That narrow delegation, as expressed in the first resolve clause of Resolution 2016-290, is the "matter" referred to in the catch-all clause. The plain meaning of that clause, therefore, is simply that any prior resolutions dealing with day-to-day management of the tribe are deemed modified; that language does not rescind prior resolutions making specific delegations to the chairperson. Those specific delegations control over the more general delegation. *Morales*, supra.

**3. Constitutional Authority**

Finally, it goes without saying that the board's action in rescinding its delegation of day-to-day management authority did not and could not diminish the duties vested in the chairperson by the Constitution. These include, in particular, powers expressly granted by the Constitution such as those specified in Article II, section 1 of the By-Laws: "The chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the board of directors and exercise any other lawful authority delegated the chairperson by the board of directors. The chairperson shall vote only in case of a tie unless otherwise provided by the tribe's constitution and bylaws." See also Article I, section 2 of the By-Laws ("Special meetings may be called from time to time by the chairperson or by a majority vote of the board of directors.")

This conclusion extends not only to those powers expressly stated in the Constitution and By-laws but also to those powers that are inherent in the office. One example of such authority is the authority of the chairperson to serve as a spokesperson for the tribe. This is manifestly an authority enjoyed and exercised by all members of the board of directors, each of whom, from time to time, serves the tribe by attending conferences, meetings, or other events on behalf of the tribe and by representing the interests of the tribe in those settings. In these circumstances, individual Directors certainly do not have the authority to make or determine policy for the tribe; that authority remains vested in the board of directors as a whole. But individual directors can and do speak for the tribe, describe and advocate for the policy positions established by the board, and bring issues back for consideration by the full board. The chairperson clearly enjoys at least comparable authority – not to set or determine the policy and position of the tribe, but to describe and advocate those policies and positions established by the board.

It has been suggested that the inclusion of such speaking authority in the 2012 delegation to the chairperson, and the subsequent rescinding of that delegation, may have eliminated the chairperson's authority to speak for the tribe. I disagree. The board clearly has the authority to authorize persons, including staff or even outside agents such as retained attorneys, to speak or advocate on behalf of the tribe. When it included this authority in its 2012 delegation to the chairperson, the board was exercising that authority and was making it clear that the chair enjoyed its full support and authority to speak publicly for the tribe. But that delegation did not limit or cripple the previously existing authority of the chairperson to speak on behalf of the tribe; to the contrary, the delegation augmented and underscored that authority. The rescinding of that supplemental authority removes any such augmentation but leaves the basic authority in place.

## Turmoil, hate and chaos will destroy this board



KEITH MASSAWAY,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Turmoil, hate and chaos are going to destroy this board. I say board because the tribe and tribal people are eternal and will survive but not without scars.

We the board, which includes the chairman, have not worked well together. We are letting every type of influence affect our decision making, other than the proper two — what is right for our tribe and what is right for our tribal people, now and into the future.

We act like divorced couples who hate each other and will do or say whatever will cause the most harm to the other regardless

of whom we hurt or what we destroy. We fail to communicate or discuss. We fail to listen to understand. We fail to see or notice what we look like to our people.

No incriminating accusations can justify a position. No lie, half-truth or misinformation can be used to lead a nation. When we put this or that out to embarrass we only escalate the situation and to what end? Where this all went wrong, I don't know, but we forgot we speak for our people or act for the good of the nation. We are not supposed to be the entertainment for a few tribal members.

We are leaders, not dictators. We work together, not just for our own sole interests. Let us all stop! Take a breath. Look in the mirror. We cannot change the past but we can lead into the future with calmer thinking and less emotion. The entire world has acted the same way as the board as of late. We do not have to follow their bad example. We have to lead.

Enough said.

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

# Leadership should focus on moving forward



**LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

With some recent actions the majority — 10 board members — took at the December meeting, rescinding chairman's delegated authority, I would like to make some comments here for factual information. After we took this action, many false claims have been made via some public media and community sites, meetings and Facebook.

Board gave themselves a raise — not true. The wage has remained the same for the last 14+ years with no increase and frankly no discussion ever to increase.

Board planned extravagant spending to go to Trump inauguration — not true. I was sitting in a workshop where the chair encouraged board members to attend and only one considered attending and the chair supported that board member fully!

Board stripped chair of all his authority — not true. The board rescinded a resolution that delegated certain authorities such as administering day-to-day oper-

ations. (Please see the full legal opinion on our website.) Those are facts.

Board kicked the chair out of his office — not true. The chair was told NOT to leave his office as he had plenty of inherent authorities as chair. (Please see video of the actual meeting, as I'm the one who said it). He chose to take that route as we asked him to not vacate.

Board gave themselves retirement increase — not true. The board passed a retirement plan years ago and it has not changed.

Board secretly met to conspire to remove chair — not true. C'mon, this paranoia is old. I've never even been asked to secretly meet for this purpose, ever.

The casino CEO walked out because we forced him to — not true. The CEO resigned and his explanation was to be closer to his family and a better offer. The chairman and board all were notified at the same exact time.

There! All of you know that I absolutely attempt not to take this route in my unit reports, but enough is enough. I'm speaking for members who want a healthy prosperous tribe and staff members who work very hard to get us there.

When will this pathetic turmoil stop? We have been listening to this for almost 20 years. First it was Bernard Bouschor, now it's the majority of the board (in 2008 as well). The constant drama, hardship and flat out lies are truly devastating our tribe at the community home level (dividing families and causing incredible stress to staff members), the state and national

levels. Other tribes' leaders have been contacting me asking what is going on. I explain factually and truthfully; the leaders have concerns and they sympathize and recognize.

It's embarrassing. It's amazing to me that anyone could think this is good for our people. The daily rants on Facebook are hurtful and just plain destructive. Members would be appalled if they read the daily internal emails we get. I'm very concerned about the direction and conduct that has been so destructive and unbecoming to our people and tribe. This is NOT just my personal feeling — I speak with hundreds of tribal members. They trust and count on me to stay solid and strong to prosper. The lies need to stop and our business via social media sites hurts us.

I'm expecting and will advocate and support our chair to bring forward a sound schedule to discuss amendments to our Constitution; this has been a platform of his to create chaos with no real leadership plan to move forward. How can that be? I'd schedule the discussions and respectfully facilitate real fair dialogue between the members and the board. How can that be so impossible, because it's used as a platform to cry fowl for years?

Fair tribal labor laws—get it rolling, schedule some sound, factual discussions that we can accommodate and move on. Recently a private message from a team member and board member was used in the worst possible way. A team member went to our chairman for some

relief and direction. This was NOT brought to the whole board for resolution and discussion; this was not discussed with administration for a resolution. Instead, it was plastered on Facebook and in our tribal paper. The team member was looking for a solution of relief. Not to be thrown in a political fight between the chair and a board member. We had been accused of turning a blind eye. Some of us quietly and respectfully discussed this to assist with a resolve. That's what leadership does! That was a gross abuse from the administration — and I only mean that as far as the team member goes. They did not expect to read about it over Facebook when they reached out for assistance. How do you think the team member feels? How can this even be ethical? I apologize to the team member that this happened, too. I've attempted to work diligently with our leadership for the good of the tribe, I've fought hundreds of battles quietly and respectfully because you have entrusted me to do that. I've had my day of accusations and targets and, frankly, I'm sure this will cause some more.

Just remember, I won't take part in that daily public destruction and I won't tolerate the abuse we have experienced for almost two decades. It's time to stop that. Please really think about this unit report and think about all the staff and members who work very, very hard to unite and serve our people. It's a daily battle. The chairman remains with his inherent authorities vested to him by the people. The fact is, we only rescinded the delegated authori-

ties of the day-to-day operations and that was a constitutional amendment that was set by the people. The day-to-day administration is vested to the executive director who is fully capable and qualified to run our administration. This leaves the chair open to represent at all the state, local and nation levels. I hope he chooses to do this responsibly and professionally for the best interest of our tribe. We have greater issues coming forward that need a clear head and responsible actions.

I have added the item of discussing strategic planning and prioritizing our contract support cost dollars we recently received to discuss where it is most needed and work toward a plan for this. It was promised by the chair in elders' increases and bonuses for the team members, and never did we have a real discussion at the board level. We do distribute 100 percent of the interest earned to our elders per the resolution for the plan and we did approve a CPI for all team members for 2017. An amount we can sustain and for which was planned. This is how we are supposed to work, promising a one time amount is not proper planning with all the tremendous needs we have for services and for the coming new administration at the national level. Those things we must think about.

Hopefully my next report can be focused on plans we took to move forward, because a majority of the board is committed to focusing on that.

Baamaapii,  
Lana Causley-Smith  
Sault Tribe Unit II Director

# We will pull through this manufactured crisis



**CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Happy New Year. We're starting off on shaky ground but I'm confident we'll get through this "manufactured crisis" created by the chairman of the tribe. Aaron has been very busy on social media, state newspapers and media outlets throughout Michigan, and even on national tribal news outlets telling anyone who will listen that "the board has stripped me of all my authority as tribal chairman." He's fibbing, folks. He has not been stripped of any of his constitutional duties, responsibilities or authorities as chairman of the tribe.

Please read the public service announcement on the front page of this newspaper. The board of directors was able to set policy differences aside and

unanimously approve this public service announcement because you deserve to know the truth instead of this false narrative the chairman is hyping to every media outlet who will give him the space time. It's a reckless and dangerous game he's playing. It hurts the tribe and our business interests, it hurts our people and frankly it hurts the reputation of the chairman himself. If you care about our tribe, please consider that 12 board members can't all be wrong on this issue.

Over the last five years, there have been numerous incidents that have been highly questionable. Most recently the annual budget appropriation and approval process was obstructed when Aaron directed the workforce (division directors) to NOT meet with the board of directors during a predetermined week of budget oversight in preparation for approving the 2017 budgets. We're talking close to \$90 million. Unacceptable for an executive administrator to use his authority over the workforce to obstruct a fiduciary budget process. If the executive administrator was a salaried employee, this never would happen. This in a nutshell, is the problem with a political figure having 100 percent control over workforce operations and budgets.

This created a situation where, in the closing days of 2016, it was difficult to truly assess the

financial bottom line (not to mention the funding status of various tribal concerns and initiatives). In the midst of this fiscal uncertainty, with no transparent examination or governing consent, Aaron made a grand announcement at the annual Elders Christmas Luncheon, proposing to give \$2.5 million to all the elders of the tribe and bonuses to the employees too!

### \$2.5 million giveaway

If the \$2.5 million that Aaron proposed to give to all tribal elders was earned revenue, that would be one thing. But it is not earned revenues. It is a one-time reimbursement from the federal government for operational dollars they shortchanged us for contracted services over the years. Those dollars need to be reinvested into programs and services that we had to cut in the past. Things like durable medical services, funeral funds, youth programs, down state social events and initiatives, cultural programs and community elder programs. The chairman cannot use it as a "per capita," vote buying giveaway. That is irresponsible. Shame on him for enticing and manipulating our elders in that manner.

### Employee bonus

Our Kewadin employees, especially, would like to see an increase in wages and benefits. I don't blame them at all. They deserve appreciation and recognition as the source of our tribe's

earned revenue, including wage improvement. But the reality is Kewadin is still burdened with tremendous debt incurred during Aaron's previous administration (2004-2008). I don't know how much was available in reserve funds when he took office in 2004 or how much debt we were saddled with when he left office in 2008—but I can tell you it was well over \$46 million in debt when I took office in 2010. We have been diligent in paying this debt down so we can get this restrictive "monkey off our backs." Until that debt is completely retired, our Kewadin casinos remain under bank spending restrictions that make more liberal wage and benefit policies unreachable. That debt would have been paid off completely in 2017. But in order to "balance

the budgets" we had to refinance the debt and add an additional three years to the debt retirement date. Keep that in mind when the chairman brags about "balancing the budget."

### Moving forward

I am confident that we will pull through this manufactured crisis. We need responsible fiscal management. Despite what the chairman is broadcasting on social media, no one hates him. He just needs to conduct himself in a responsible way as the leader of our tribe. We all take an oath of office and we are all responsible for the protection of our workforce and financial health and to move our tribe forward towards a brighter future.

Catherine Hollowell,  
Unit 2 Director  
(906) 484-6821

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# 2020 Consent Decree outside counsel chosen



**DARCY MORROW,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Another successful year of children's and elder's Christmas parties. I am always glad to see those happy little faces light up when they get to talk to Santa! Thank you to all our volunteers, we really appreciate all your help!

Great news for our 2020 Consent Decree negotiations — the resolution I presented at the Hessel meeting to hire the legal firm of Morisset, Schlosser, Jozwiak & Somerville of Seattle, Wash., was tabled to the Dec. 13 meeting in the Sault. I would like to thank directors Chase, Causley, Hoffman, Hollowell, McLeod, McKerchie, Nelson and Sorenson for voting "yes" along with me to hire this new firm. Directors Massaway, McKelvie and Gravelle voted "no."

Some of our fishermen participated in the legal firm interviews and have been very vocal in wanting a new legal firm to represent us. Mr. Morisset's legal firm works exclusively with treaty rights issues; his interview and follow up questions were spot on and I believe he will work to restore what we lost in our last consent decrees.

I hope everyone had a great New Year; unfortunately, I did not. I am sorry once again to have to report to you about the chairman and his negativity.

Since Thanksgiving this

board has been assaulted by him via emails, Facebook, texts and verbally. When is this madness going to end? During the election, he was private messaging my opponents and telling them that if they gave him their support he would have the elders in Unit IV support them because he has all the elders' support.

One of my opponents realized how hateful he really is and posted the private Facebook messages between them on Facebook for everyone to see. While on the Escanaba reservation his relative also told me that he told her I was telling people not to vote for him. I told her that was a lie and I left her home and immediately called Aaron Payment. He didn't answer because he never answers when I call or text him unless he wants something. I left him a detailed message and told him to call me because he was spreading lies and I wouldn't stand for it. That's the type of person I am, not a keyboard champ if I have something to say I will say it to your face.

I did not campaign against Aaron or let my community know what he really is like because if I did he never would have made the primary. I ask you the members in Unit IV and all our communities — what has Aaron Payment done for our community in five years? When is the last time you saw him in our community besides a board meeting or a photo opp?

Over the holidays, Aaron Payment had placed so many lies on Facebook I couldn't possibly keep track, but I'm sure some people are! I reported last month he called a special meeting; the only item he added to the agenda was rescind resolution 2012-146 Limited Delegation of Authority to the Chairperson.

We tabled the resolution at the special meeting and since then he has been on a manic downhill spiral. After that spe-

cial meeting, he started saying "if the board votes to take my authority we will do a referendum." At the Dec. 13 board meeting the chair placed on the agenda two resolutions, one was to give the elders an increase and the other was for a team member bonus. The chair did not bring either of these resolutions forward during our budget meetings. Isn't it ironic he waits until he challenges the board to rescind his delegated authority resolution and then he adds these two resolutions? He is pitting the elders and team members against the board. I hope members can see this sick game he is playing. If we had the money, we would have talked about it during our budget meetings. I am not greedy and I do care about the elders, all members and team members. We would look at doing more if we had the money to give, unfortunately, we do not. As a board member, I am fiscally responsible for the tribe, your chair is playing Russian roulette with the future of our tribe.

In September 2015, we had to refinance our debt that the casinos pay back. The original debt borrowed was \$70 million the breakdown of total - \$30 million to Greentown - \$5 million to cover Northern Casinos revenue short fall and \$30 million for the new St. Ignace Casino facility. We were paying the debt back at \$6.5 million a year, after refinancing in September 2015 we are now paying the debt back at \$2.94 million a year. This extended our payments out 31 months the debt should have been paid off in November 2017 and it will now be paid off June 2020. The team members were given a raise last year; this year a C.O.L.A. increase was passed and will continue yearly for all team members; the 401K - 1 percent match was also reinstated starting January 2017. I wanted the truth out there as to why those items were taken off the agenda at the start of the

meeting. A motion was made to rescind resolution 2012-146 Limited Delegation of Authority to the Chairperson; it passed with every board member voting "yes" except for Directors Massaway and McKelvie. The board then voted to approve the executive director resolution. This also passed with 10 board members voting "yes" and Directors McKelvie and McKerchie voting "no." Aaron got erratic as usual he said he was clearing out his office, he wasn't able to represent the tribe, he cancelled out of town trips and he has blasted more lies out on social media, etc... There is a video of the whole meeting, I recommend people watch it. He was told do not clear your office out you still represent us at the federal, state, local governments, etc... He lives for this drama. From then on, he has hit the board's wage, board retirement, treaty tax percentage, he has sent threatening emails and texts to female board members. He has had staff going in on their holidays and weekends to get him information so he can try and intimidate the board into giving him back power. He has embarrassed our tribe by sending out emails to his federal committees, a group of true tribal chiefs, etc... crying that we pulled his authority and we are in a crisis. He has caused damage to our downstate casinos getting through before Trump takes over with his public lies. The board has posted on our website a legal written opinion given by the general counsel that states the exact opposite the chair has been crying about. The board also put out a letter to the membership. I hope the editor published both in this paper for you to read and get more answers. The resolution for delegated authority was done by motion; Aaron knows there was no way a referendum can happen. He was offered a couple of times to add a resolution number to it and he declined. So

once again he has rallied members by not telling them the truth and saying if the board doesn't pass the referendum he will go to Bureau. Again, he is spinning more lies; the Bureau is not going to get involved with the intertribal turmoil.

One lie that he has out there is the board only works one day in December. He might only work one day in December, but I know what we do in December. Director Chase and myself along with one other volunteers do all the shopping for our three children's Christmas parties. We do the planning, shopping, help with set up, tear down and clean up. On the day of the parties we have volunteers and we are very grateful and appreciate them. We are behind-the-scene kind of people and we never toot our own horn. The chair likes to show up for photo opps and he will toot his horn all day long. Director Chase and I donate and help members but that's between us and the person that may need help.

He continues to pound the fact that the board makes \$67,000 a year; he fails to mention in 2000 he motioned the new stipend amount and Mike Lumsden second it. As the chair, he makes \$100,000 a year and how embarrassing to have an individual that is the tribe's figurehead act the way he is acting. He has ruined the staff and board holidays, our tribal communities, families and friends have read the blatant lies he has put out there. This is not acceptable; it is not ok for him to use social media and make our tribe out to be a circus. More to come next month...

Sorry to be reporting on these issues but I think you the members need to be informed.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (906) 298-1888.

Thank you,  
Darcy Morrow

Unit 4 Representative  
dmorrow@saulttribe.net

# Tribal chairperson's authority is not stripped



**KIMBERLE GRAVELLE  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello, I thank our team members for their dedication and teamwork over the last year and hope everyone's holidays were good.

First I want to address an issue that has been causing some unrest in our tribe regarding the

board of directors (BOD) stripping our tribal chairman of his delegated authority.

In 2010, the tribal membership voted to amend our tribal constitution to remove the CEO duties from the tribal chairman.

In 2012, a resolution was passed that gave the tribal chairman some limited delegated authority of everyday business.

In November 2016, the tribal chairman brought a resolution to remove his delegated authority. The resolution was tabled until December 2016.

On Dec. 13, 2016, the board of directors voted to rescind the resolution that was passed in 2012.

Now the board of directors is being accused of stripping the chairman of his delegated authority. We did not strip him of his authority. The chairman can still represent the tribe at the local, state and national levels; he still has all the duties dele-

gated in Tribal Code and will still chair the board of directors' meetings and workshops.

I've sat on numerous committees and boards and when resolutions are brought forward, it is with the expectation they will pass. I have never proposed a resolution in the hopes that it would fail. Why would you bring a resolution to be voted on to strip yourself of delegated authority unless you expect it to pass?

Since the board of directors rescinded the resolution that was passed in 2012, we have gone back to what **THE MEMBERS** voted on in 2010. This was an amendment to the tribal Constitution that was done via a secretarial election completed and certified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

I would also like to address the issues of an increase to the elders' checks and team members' bonuses. When I voted to

remove these items from the agenda, it's because we had not discussed them nor had a chance to come up with a plan for them. If the money was distributed for these two items, it would be gone and there would be no plan to provide for it again in the future.

Three weeks ago, the message was we have \$5.2 million in surplus money, two weeks ago the message was we have \$8 to \$9 million in surplus money, then it was published in the *Sault Evening News* that we have an excess of up to \$11 million in surplus funds. With these surplus funds we should be updating our MIS department, looking at investing more money in the elders' fund so they could receive extra money every year instead of just one year, investing some in an account so we could give our team members bonuses, reinstating the free eyeglass program for the elders,

purchasing mini buses to transport members to doctor appointments, investing some money for our homeless students so they could be housed for a couple of months until they get on their feet, putting more money in the self-sufficiency fund for our college students or setting up a program to help pay for books when they start college. A substance abuse center would cost approximately \$3.3 million to build — why wouldn't we do that if we have an extra \$11 million?

When you fail to plan you plan to fail.

Remember to keep the men and women in our armed forces in your prayers and thoughts for a safe return to their families.

If you have any questions or comments please call me at (906) 203-6083 or e-mail me at [KKGavelle@saulttribe.net](mailto:KKGavelle@saulttribe.net).

Thank you,  
Kim Gravelle

# Sault veterans community access center opens

BY RICK SMITH

Veterans of the U.S. armed forces and their families in the eastern Upper Peninsula now have a much more flexible option in finding free help to address a wide range of service related issues, thanks to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Escanaba Vet Center and the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan. A satellite community access site of the Escanaba Vet Center recently opened in Sault Ste. Marie at the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan Building at 2956 Ashmun Street, south of Sault Tribe's medical clinic.

VHA vet centers operate all across the nation and in American Samoa, Guam, the Phillipine Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. While the centers guide all veterans in finding needed resources, the centers are specifically designed to help returning combat veterans and their families deal with issues stemming from combat related experiences. The centers provide "quality readjustment services in a caring manner, assisting them and their family members toward a successful post-war adjustment in or near their respective communities," according to a brochure from the organization.

The type of discharge veterans may have received doesn't matter when it comes to getting help at VHA vet centers. As readjustment counselor Dean Schoen explained, it is quite possible some veterans who received less than honorable discharges may have received those types of discharges because of conditioning induced by combat, sexual trauma or harassment. "If veterans have any doubts about their situations,



Photos by Rick Smith

**Escanaba Vet Center staff at the Sault satellite office open house on Dec. 15. From left, Ken Milam, M.Ed., veterans readjustment counseling outreach specialist; Anglea Ellis, LMSW, clinical social worker for the satellite office; Doreen Bender-Krachey, LMSW, team leader of the Escanaba Vet Center; and Dean Schoen, AAS, readjustment counseling specialist.**

they should contact us," said Schoen. The same applies to families of veterans.

Regular hours at the Sault Vet Center satellite office are 8 a.m. To 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, but services are provided after normal hours or on weekends upon request. Clinical social worker and Sault Tribe member Anglea (pronounced "Angela") Ellis, LMSW, is the main operative functionary at the new satellite office. She also brings services to Newberry on Tuesdays of each week and St. Ignace visits are in the works. For now, those interested in contacting her should go through the Escanaba Vet Center main office by calling either (906) 233-0244 or the toll free number at (877) 927-8387.

If veterans or their family members can't come to the office, a mobile vet center office may be arranged to come to them. The mobile office has many preparations and capabilities for helping vets including live video consultation and wireless communication.

The Escanaba Vet Center is one of eight such organizations in the state and it is the only vet center serving the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Downstate vet centers are sta-

tioned in Clinton Township, Dearborn, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Pontiac, Saginaw and Traverse City.

Services through the Sault satellite office of the Escanaba Vet Center are 100 percent free and confidential. "If you are not the same as you were before being exposed to combat or experiencing a traumatic event, call your vet center right away!"

Issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder and others may be addressed through readjustment counseling:

- Individual and group counseling for veterans and their families;
- Family counseling for military related issues;
- Bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death;
- Military sexual trauma counseling and referral;
- Outreach and education including post deployment health reassessments, community events, etc.;
- Substance abuse counseling and referral;
- Employment assessment and referral;
- Veterans Benefits Administration explanation and referral; and
- Screening and referral for medical issues including traumatic brain injury, depression, etc.

tioned in Clinton Township, Dearborn, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Pontiac, Saginaw and Traverse City.

Congress established vet centers in 1979 under the auspices of the Veterans Health Administration to offer readjustment counseling for Vietnam

veterans returning to civilian life. Eligibility was extended in 1991 to post-Vietnam era veterans including veterans of Persian Gulf operations, as well as operations in Panama, Grenada, Lebanon, Somalia, the former Yugoslavia and the Global War on Terrorism.



Exterior view of the Escanaba Vet Center mobile office. Staff can come to veterans who need help to provide services through the mobile unit.



From left, Anglea Ellis and Dean Schoen sit inside the Vet Center mobile operations unit. The unit allows the Vet Center staff to go to veterans if need be to render an array of help the staff can make available. The mobile office is specially equipped with modern communications capabilities and other features.

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