



Win Awenen Nisitotung

April 14, 2017 • Vol. 38 No. 4

Sucker Moon
Namebin Giizis



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

Sault Ste. Marie area residents urge Great Lakes protection at first IJC public meeting

BY SALLY COLE-MISCH, IJC
In Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, where the culture and long-standing heritage of first nations and tribes are a vibrant part of the region's lifestyle and economy, the inherent value of the lakes stood out as the key message to the International Joint Commission at its first public meeting in 2017 on the Great Lakes.

The conversations began in the afternoon, when several representatives from the region's tribes and first nations met with commissioners and IJC staff. Several key issues were identified, including citizen participation in the Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP), the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline carrying oil across the Straits of Mackinac, declining fish stocks and habitat, aquafarming, climate change, toxic contamination in fish and invasive species.

Two participants active in the Lake Superior LAMP – Mike Ripley, environmental coordinator for the Intertribal Fisheries and Assessment Program representing the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, and Aubrey Maccoux-LeDuc, environmental specialist for the Bay Mills Indian

Farewell reception for Bill Connolly, April 22

Bill Connolly, chief financial officer of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, is retiring. Please join him in celebrating his retirement at a farewell reception on Saturday, April 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Sault Kewadin Casino Grand Island Room.



Photo courtesy IJC

Representatives of tribes and first nations, right, speak with commissioners and staff, left, during the listening session before the public meeting. Sixth from left, Sault Tribe Unit I Director Jennifer McLeod; ITFAP environmental coordinator, Mike Ripley; and Sault Tribe Unit I Director Kim Gravelle meet with IJC commissioners.

Community – said the LAMP has been successful overall but progress is hindered by the elimination of the Lake Superior Binational Public Forum, which provided the education and outreach functions of the LAMP process and advised governments about critical issues in the lake. Government funding to the Forum was cut by the Canadian government in 2011 and by the US government in 2015.

“Without the Forum there’s a real gap because grassroots organizations aren’t participating,”

said Ripley. Maccoux-LeDuc added, “We’re starting at square one again in terms of how to connect with people without the Forums, and we’re struggling to receive public input without the structure of the Public Forum.”

Several representatives said they had met with state and federal agencies to try to have the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline removed, which runs across the

Straits of Mackinac. “We believe there is too large of a risk from an oil spill, which would be almost impossible to clean up if it did happen,” said Caroline Moellering, Great Lakes policy specialist for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Transparency with respect to risks and potential impacts associated with the pipeline also were seen as an issue that needs to be

Olson named Kewadin CEO

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – Ron Olson has been named the new CEO of Kewadin Casinos, five gaming properties with slot machines, table games, two hotels, convention and meeting facilities and other amenities in Michigan’s picturesque Upper Peninsula.

Olson was selected to lead the casinos after a national search by the Kewadin Gaming Authority. He officially starts on April 17.

Olson has 25 years of experience in Native American gaming, including more than 20 years in executive leadership positions. During his career, he has managed single-casino properties and gaming enterprises with a variety of amenities, including hotels and golf courses. Olson has been licensed by tribes in North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, New Mexico and Michigan.

He spent a decade in Michigan as the CEO of Grand Traverse Resort and Spa near Traverse



Native American gaming veteran Ron Olson joins the Kewadin Casinos team as CEO April 17.

City and General Manager of the Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey.

Olson and his wife, Cathy, have three daughters working and attending college in Michigan, adding to the family’s excitement of returning to the state.

addressed. Despite large reductions in chemical concentrations in fish since the 1970s, continued contamination of fish from toxic substances is an ongoing concern, especially with the large percentage of the population that relies on Great Lakes fish to eat. “In our area on the north shores of Lake Huron, contamination is still getting into the fish and affecting our people,” said Tammy Tremblay, environmental officer from Sagamok Anishnawbek in Massey, Ontario. “Smelt and pike populations are declining as well.”

Participants said the St. Mary’s River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) has helped to eliminate much of the pollution from direct sources in the Sault Ste. Marie area such as the steel mill and other industries, but massive amounts of contaminated sediments remain on the bottom of the river, mainly on the Canadian side. The group agreed that pollution, habitat loss and invasive species continue to affect population abundance of commercial fish species, which in turn has impacted the tribes’ commercial fishing industry.

The effects of climate change also are clear. “Moose are more stressed with warmer winters,” Ripley said. “Birch trees are disappearing, other plants are weakening, and the emerald ash borer and other invasive plants and insects are killing native plants.”

During the evening public meeting, these issues were emphasized again by participants after three presentations about local initiatives. Catherine Taddo, engineer for Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, outlined improvements in the city’s sanitary and storm-water infrastructure and the resulting significant improvements in water quality in the St. Mary’s River. Mike Ripley explained how fisheries and habitat are being restored as a result of the Little Rapids restoration project as part of the river’s RAP. Joanie McGuffin of the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy presented their project to create six interconnected water trails surrounding the lake, and one in particular along the north shore that will be part of the trans-Canada trail to be completed in time for the country’s 150-year anniversary this summer. The water trails include access points in communities around the lake, easy launch docks, high quality composting toilets, and signage that link people to the trails, local

See “IJC meetings,” page 10

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RTMs: Keep your address up to date at tribal tax office

Doesn't matter if you move next door or across the country, if you move from your residence to a new address without notifying the Tribal Tax Office and the tribe's Enrollment Department, you lose important benefits, such as possible tax benefits, tribal election ballots, elders' dividends, important notices sent by mail and newspaper delivery.

State Tribal Tax Agreement Resident Tribal Member (RTM) Status

A resident tribal member (RTM) is the term used for a tribal member whose principal place of residence is in an tax agreement area. The term RTM is not based upon members being enrolled members of the tribe, it is merely to designate between members living in the agreement areas and members who do not

live in agreement areas.

The procedure for tribal members to receive their RTM status is only through the submission (to the Tribal Tax Office) of an address verification card along with the required supporting documentation verifying their address is within the boundaries of the agreement areas. It is the **responsibility of the members** to submit this information to the Tribal Tax Office.

A member living in an agreement area is **not automatically registered**. Though a member may have lived in the agreement area prior to registering with the Tribal Tax Office, their RTM status will not begin until the Michigan Department of Treasury has been notified that the member has proven through documentation their principal

place of residence is within the boundaries of the tax agreement areas. The Michigan Department of Treasury will then recognize their RTM status (exempt from state income and sales tax) on the first of the following month.

Once a member is registered and given RTM status, it is imperative that any changes to the member's address is reported to the Tribal Tax Office. Per Tribal Code 43: Tribal Tax Code Section 43.1103,

Resident tribal members shall notify the Tribal Tax Office in writing prior to moving their principal place of residence.

— Tribal members must fill out an "Address Verification Card," and provide two proofs of the address stated on the

card. A valid Michigan driver's license or Michigan state identification card must be one of the proofs of address. The address on the identification card must have member's current address. The Tribal Tax Office will not process/register members without an identification card.

— Tribal members who are minors. If the minor has a Michigan driver's license or Michigan state identification card, a copy must accompany the "Address Verification Card." If they do not have state identification cards, then two utility bills with their parent's name and address (matching the minors stated address) are required. The Tribal Tax Office will not process/register without this information.

— Tribal member parents

are responsible to request their minor children (under 14 years of age) be registered for sales tax exemptions on motor fuel purchases. This does not require proof of address if only for motor fuel purchases.

For all Tribal Tax Office business, call Candace Blocher at 635-6050 or toll free at (800) 793-0660 and ask for ext. 26310. Members may also send email to her via cblocher@saulttribe.net.

Also be sure to call the tribe's Enrollment Department to ensure your address is current in order to continue receiving important official tribal notices, election ballots, elders' dividends, newspapers sent via the U.S. mail.

Call the Enrollment Department at 632-8552 or toll free at (800) 251-6597.

Committee vacancies

The following committees have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Joanne Carr or Linda Grossett, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783. Call 635-6050 for any questions.

— Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Three vacancies - men, (four-year term), two vacancies - female (four-year term).

— Cultural Screening Committee - two vacancies (four-year terms).

— Great Lakes Conservation Committee - three vacancies - large vessel (four-year terms).

— Inland Conservation Committee - three vacancies (four-year terms).

— Health Board - two vacancies (four-year terms).

— Higher Education Committee - five vacancies (four-year terms).

— Housing Committee - three vacancies, units I, II and V (all four-year terms).

— Election Committee -

seven vacancies (four-year terms).

— Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - 10 vacancies (two-year terms).

— Child Welfare Committee - five vacancies (four-year terms).

— Elder Advisory Committee - two regular vacancies, one in Unit I and one in Unit III (four-year terms), six alternate vacancies, two in Unit I, one in Unit II, two in Unit III and one in Unit IV (all four-year terms).

— Unit I Sault Elders Subcommittee - one regular vacancy, one alternate (four-year terms).

— Unit III St. Ignace Elders Subcommittee - one alternate vacancy (four-year term).

— Unit IV Manistique Elders Subcommittee - one regular vacancy (four-year term).

— Unit IV Escanaba Elders Subcommittee - one regular vacancy (four-year term).

— Unit V Munising Elders Subcommittee - two alternate vacancies (four - year terms).

— Michigan Indian Elders Association - one delegate seat, one alternate seat.

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Jr. Police Academy fundraiser

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement is hosting a golf scramble on Saturday, June 10, at Tanglewood Marsh Golf Course in Sault Ste. Marie.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. with tee-off at 11 a.m.

The cost is \$50 per person (four-person teams), with a picnic style dinner provided at the end of the scramble. There will

be prizes, auction and more at the golf course.

Please call Sault Tribe Law Enforcement at (906) 635-6065 for details.

All proceeds from this event will be used to help fund Sault Tribe Law Enforcement's annual Jr. Police Academy.

The academy provides 40-45 tribal youth a weeklong oppor-

tunity to interact not only with officers of law enforcement agencies, but other emergency response agencies such as fire departments, EMS, Coast Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol, providing the opportunity to establish positive relationships with these agencies and their personnel at a young age.

Units IV and V membership liaison calendar for April

Mary Jenerou, Units IV and V membership liaison, is available for issues and concerns on these dates and sites during April:

— Manistique Health Center on April 3, 5, 10, 12, 19, 21, 24, 28

— Munising Health Center on April 4, 6, 7, 11, 18, 25, 27

— Escanaba Penn Star on April 13

Call the Manistique Health Center at 341-8469, Munising Health Center at 387-4721 or Mary Jenerou's cell phone at 450-7011.

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State probes actions against school Indian sports mascots

BY RICK SMITH

Michigan's state superintendent, Brian J. Whiston, recently asked for a legal opinion on whether he has the authority to impose penalties on school districts in which any schools continue use of American Indian tribe, individual, custom or tradition as sports mascots, nicknames, logo, letterhead or team names. Whiston posed the question to the state's attorney general, Bill Schuette, and awaits a reply, which is likely coming some time in the first half of April.

According to the State of Michigan, as state superintendent, Whiston is the primary executive officer of the state's Department of Education and a member of the governor's cabinet, the State Administrative Board and acts as chair and non-voting member of the

State Board of Education. He also serves as advisor on state education matters to the legislature and is responsible for implementing laws regarding education along with policies set by the state board and serves as the primary state agent to the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies. Whiston became state superintendent on July 1, 2015. If the attorney general deems

he has the authority, schools where complaints have been made about their mascots would be the first to get official warnings to change mascots. Schools would have 60 days to consider options and afterwards would face fines of five to 10 percent of their state funding if they opted to retain the offending mascots. But if the attorney general decides the state superintendent

does not have the authority to take such action, the matter could be taken to the state's legislative bodies to possibly grant the authority by law.

According to Martin Ackley, director of the Office of Public and Governmental Affairs for the Michigan Department of Education, the state's board of education has long been opposed to school districts allowing American Indian mascots and associated trappings. The board passed a resolution in 2003 to strongly encourage all districts to change such mascots and continues to reaffirm its stance as school boards and local superintendents change over time.

"Over the past several months," Ackley wrote, "a number of members of American Indian tribes have come to speak during the public comment section of the monthly state board of education meetings. Specifically, they commented on efforts to have the Belding and Paw Paw school districts change their mascots. The Belding school board has done so, yet those results have not been seen in Paw Paw. As a result, the state superintendent sent his request for guidance from the attorney general's office."

Further, Ackley said the state board of education recently directed the Michigan Department of Education to develop legislative language to give the state superintendent the authority to withhold state school aid from school districts in which schools continue to disregard the board's policy.

"The state superintendent believes that schools need to be respectful of all peoples and cultures," added Ackley, "and provide safe and supportive learning environments for our students."

Approved agreements between school districts and local tribes to continue using American Indian mascots, imagery, customs or other trappings should be taken into account, according to Ackley, "and the school districts may apply to Michigan's Native American Heritage Fund for a grant to defray the costs of changing its name, symbol or image that depicts or refers to an American Indian tribe, individual, custom or tradition."

Down Payment Assistance Program

Application Period Open May 01, 2017 through June 12, 2017

The Down Payment Assistance Program (DPAP) is designed to assist Sault Tribe members in becoming homeowners of structurally sound homes. The funds are HUD dollars and restricted to low-income Tribal members. Eligible applicants could receive up to \$9,500.00 to be applied towards down payment and closing costs. Each participating applicant will need to contribute \$500.00 of their own money to receive the maximum grant of \$9,500.00 or 20% purchase price of the home. This program is open to Sault Tribe members residing within the seven (7) county service area; Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Alger, Schoolcraft, Delta, and Marquette.

DPAP is open to Sault Tribe members with total income at or below 80% of the area median income, adjusted for family size. Participants must obtain a mortgage with a local lender. The Housing Authority will assist applicants in demonstrating that they have stable income and the ability and willingness to meet financial obligations.

DPAP funds are available to lower the cost of buying a home. Funds will be in the form of a Note applied as a lien against the property. No monthly payments apply; the amount depreciates 20% each year and is forgiven after five years.

Trained staff will assist eligible applicants in successfully working through the process of making an application to a bank/lender for a mortgage loan, assist with inspection concerns, and aid in the real estate process.

Borrowers are required to participate in the Homebuyer Education session designed to assist the homebuyer in understanding and fulfilling the responsibility of homeownership.

If you have any questions please contact Dana Piippo Homeownership Specialists at 906.495.1450 or 1.800.794.4072.

Application period ends June 12, 2017 @5:00 p.m.

1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
\$36,792	\$ 42,048	\$ 47,304	\$ 52,560	\$ 56,765	\$ 60,970	\$ 65,174	\$ 69,379

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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.

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

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Tribe offers parents of newborns a safe sleep alternative that saves lives – the baby box

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe Health Center is providing parents of tribal newborns and infants up to 1 year with a safe sleeping alternative through its Family Spirit Program. In what is believed to be a first in the nation for an American Indian tribe, parents and caregivers will be offered a baby box, inspired by a long running Finnish maternity program.

The baby box is designed to eliminate sleep-related threats such as sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The most common cause of death to babies from birth to 12 months is accidental suffocation, entrapment, or SIDS in an unsafe sleep environment such as a couch, adult bed, or chair, according to the Family Spirit Program.

Assistant Sault Tribe Health Director Joel Lumsden, said, “As far as I know, we are the first tribe in the country to offer this program. Hopefully the community embraces it and new parents will use it. We felt the baby box program was innovative and the statistics that support the reduction in infant mortality rates were very significant. We feel safe sleep and infant mortality is something important for the health division to address within our community.”

The Baby Box program will provide expecting parents with a large specially designed box made of heavy duty cardboard to act as the baby’s first bed. The baby boxes come filled



Photo by Brenda Austin

Sault Tribe Health Centers have started giving out baby boxes to pregnant women and families with newborns as a way of reducing infant mortality. The box provides a safe sleep environment for babies and gives families a good start with the additional safety items included in the kits. Sault Tribe members who participate in the Safe Sleep Training and Education Program are eligible to receive a baby box. From left, Sault Tribe Health Center Family Spirit counselor Debbie Sirk, Operations Manager Joanne Umbrasas, Assistant Health Director Joel Lumsden and Family Spirit nurse Pam Smith. Not pictured is Family Spirit nurse Amy Johnson.

with infant clothing and other essentials. The program encourages parents and caretakers to

keep sleeping infants in the parents’ room, close to the parents’ bed, but on a separate surface

designed for infants in their first year of life.

Information about immunizations and well-child checkups is also included in the box.

Family Spirit counselor Debbie Sirk read about the Finnish baby box and thought it was a unique idea. “I thought it would be a great product for our program, so I talked with our administrators who worked on getting it included in our budget.”

Sirk said that Health Center Clinic Manager Tony Abramson Sr. was instrumental in getting funding for the baby box program and is a strong advocate of the project.

“Having a safe sleep environment is just the first step for babies,” she said. To measure the effectiveness of the baby boxes, the Family Spirit Program be doing research in the form of surveys at 6 and 12 months to see if the box is helpful for the parents and the health of the baby.

Contents of the box, which serves as a crib, include:

- A mattress that fits the box perfectly, mattress cover, and under sheet;
- snowsuit, hat, mittens and booties;
- light hooded suit and knitted overalls;
- socks and mittens;
- hooded bath towel, nail scissors, hairbrush, toothbrush, bath thermometer, washcloth, cloth nappy set;
- picture book and teething toy;

— bra pads, condoms and safety items such as electrical outlet covers, cupboard latches, and refrigerator/microwave latches.

Sault Tribe expecting parents who want the baby box can contact the Family Spirit Program and schedule a time to be educated on safe baby sleep. After the educational presentation, expectant parents will be provided with a baby box.

Each box costs the program about \$250 but is free to parents. Examples of what a baby box looks like can be seen online by visiting www.baby-boxco.com.

The Sault Tribe Family Spirit Program is designed to enhance parenting knowledge and skills, and address parenting questions and concerns, to help promote healthy and positive lifestyles.

Sault Tribe Health Department Operations Manager Joanne Umbrasas, said, “I think people are going to embrace the baby box program and when people embrace things they tend to work. Our hope is that all Sault Tribe infants and babies will have a safe sleep environment and essential items to reduce the possibility of SIDS or any other sleep injuries.”

For more information the baby box, contact Family Spirit nurse Pamela Smith or Family Spirit counselor Debbie Sirk at 632-5200, or Family Spirit nurse Amy Johnson in Manistique at 341-9574, ext. 29574.

Tribal Law Enforcement hires Officer Rob Sayles

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement has a new officer, Rob Sayles, who started his career with the tribe in January.

He graduated from LaSalle High School in St. Ignace in 2006, and after graduation moved to Illinois for two years, living just outside of the Chicago area. Upon returning to Michigan, he attended Mid Michigan Community College in Mt. Pleasant, finishing his program in 2013.

The following fall, Sayles

began Police Academy training at Delta College in Saginaw but had to withdraw from the program after he sustained a torn ACL, a ligament in the middle of the knee. After two surgeries and a 1.5 years of physical therapy he is fully recovered and is now a graduate of Kirtland Community College in Roscommon, Mich.

Sayles is a Sault Tribe member with family in St. Ignace. He said he has always enjoyed visiting the Sault area and thought it would be a great place to live

and start a career. “I originally went to college for accounting, but I didn’t want to sit behind a desk all day,” he said. “I talked to one of my advisors at Mid Michigan Community College and she asked if I had ever thought about law enforcement. I took a few classes and fell in love with it.”

The 29-year old officer has this advice for youth considering the law enforcement field: “Try it, it’s not an easy profession to get into but it’s rewarding and different every day.”



Tribe sells Eagle Ridge Apartments in Marquette

FUNDS FROM SALE TO BE USED FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO GENERATE HIGHER RATE OF RETURN ON INVESTMENTS

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Four months ago, Joel Schultz was hired as Sault Tribe’s Economic Development Director. In January, he made a presentation to the tribe’s board of directors with a plan to sell Eagle Ridge Apartments in Marquette and use the funds for new opportunities to generate a higher return on the tribe’s investment.

The board passed a resolution Jan. 17 approving the sale of the apartments for \$825,000, which was finalized on March 28.

Eagle Ridge Apartments are two buildings, each contain-

ing eight apartments, sitting on about 6 acres of land on Division Street in Marquette.

Schultz said, “Shortly after I was hired I reviewed some letters from an individual interested in acquiring Eagle Ridge Apartments. Because we had an interested buyer, I did a cap rate analysis and found the cap rate the apartments generated was at 2.9 percent,” he said.

A capitalization rate is the rate of return on an investment property that is based on the income the property is expected to generate. The capitalization rate is used to estimate an

investor’s potential return on an investment.

Schultz said it was in the best interest of the tribe to sell the apartments. “We now have the proceeds from the sale and can look at other opportunities with a higher return on investment than what our money was making before,” he said. “We are going to take that money and try leveraging millions of investment dollars by using down payment and structuring some debt. We are going to grow our portfolio, and in order to do that we needed to free up some cash and this was a good opportunity.”

When Schultz looks at opportunities for investment, he likes the tribe to have a competitive advantage and experience in operations, such as advantages associated with tax incentives, or something the tribe has expertise in such as housing. He said the tribe is also looking at potential collaborative manufacturing partnerships to invest in.

“Opportunities are unlimited, and how I try to pare them down is by asking, can we do it? Can we be in that industry, and do that business? And if we can, then we look at numbers and what kind of return on

investment we can get, because when I go to the board I need a benchmark to tell them if this is a good buy or not,” Schultz said.

Schultz said he is working to create an economic environment where businesses can come in and thrive. “Eagle Ridge was not one of our low-income housing projects and I don’t want to see people get confused about that,” he said. “It was a commercial enterprise and a tribal investment to generate income. We can now take the \$825,000 and increase the profitability and have more to offer our members.”

Members open EUP electronic pet protection franchise

By Rick Smith

Sault Tribe members Randy and Melinda Menard recently opened Contain-A-Pet of EUP, LLC, an electronic pet fencing franchise offering professional services and equipment to give beloved dogs the freedom to safely roam the outdoor areas of their homes unfettered by physical restraints such as ropes or chains anchoring them to one spot.



According to the parent company's website at containa-pet.com, it is the only electronic dog fence company in the world to offer clients a one-year money back containment guarantee, training by professional dog trainers, designs by pet professionals and behaviorists, limited lifetime warranty on the electronics and all equipment manufactured in the United States.

The Menards became acquainted with Contain-A-Pet while in Wisconsin where they became customers back in 2003 to protect their 156-pound dog from wandering onto the road. "We compared many different systems before choosing Contain-A-Pet," said Randy. "The installer was polite, courteous, professional and he gave us the feeling that we made the right choice. It was a wonderful feeling to know that our big family member would be contained and safe in the yard."

Randy described the relief of not

having to juggle schedules with his wife so that their big, beloved pet could be let outdoors at times. "What a nice feeling it was to pull into our yard and see him freely running around safe, secure and happy to see us."

Randy said the family took the Contain-A-pet system with them each time they made one of four moves during 14 years and five different dogs before settling down in the eastern Upper Peninsula. He said the family never had reason to regret the initial acquisition

of the Contain-A-Pet system for their dogs. And now, Randy and Melinda would like to share that "same comforting feeling" with folks in Chippewa County and eventually all across the eastern Upper Peninsula.

As the owner and trainer of the Chippewa County start-up, Melinda helps clients with all of the necessary assistance needed for proper pet training with the systems while Randy takes care of installations and any repairs that may be needed. They also keep in touch with clients to ensure optimal functioning of the systems.

At this time, Contain-A-Pet of EUP installs underground electronic fencing throughout Chippewa County and the Menards hope to eventually expand into Mackinac and Luce counties.

Wireless systems work indoors



Photo by Rick Smith

Above, Randy and Melinda Menard recently opened Contain-A-Pet of EUP, LLC, after years of experience as customers of the Contain-A-Pet company. Impressed with the electronic pet fencing company's quality of equipment and service, they decided to bring it to folks in the EUP.

to isolate rooms, furniture or other features from pets or address behavioral issues. The systems also works with cats, an option the Menards are going to explore with the parent company.

Costs for fencing installations vary with the overall lengths and widths of areas to be covered and the number of obstacles to negotiate, such as paved driveways. In addition, the underground antenna wire that serves as the boundary can be configured to isolate

pools, garbage bins, compost piles and other features that may attract the unwanted attention of dogs. However, Randy said the benefits of the fencing system far outweigh the costs and heart-breaks of vet bills or the losses of loved pets hit by vehicles after straying into traffic or other dangerous encounters.

The systems emit radio signal fields with adjustable ranges surrounding the boundary wires and outside installations can sur-

round properties ranging from small yards up to 50 acres. The transmitters can perform a variety of different functions dependent on the needs of the clients. All systems include automatic safety mechanisms, lightning protection and options such as battery back-up to keep systems running during power outages..

Contain-A-Pet of EUP can be reached by phone at (906) 290-0478 or by email at capofeup@yahoo.com.



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KEWADIN CASINO MANISTIQUE
Every Tuesday

Registration & info at Northern Rewards Club
for promotions and tournaments.
Club hours vary by site.

SATURDAYS AT ALL SITES APRIL 1-29 EXCLUDING SAULT STE. MARIE

UP TO \$33,000

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EARN GRAND PRIZE ENTRIES
WEEKLY GRAND PRIZE UP TO \$1,000 EVERY SATURDAY!
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HOT SEATS 4 P.M. - 9 P.M.
WIN UP TO \$150 KEWADIN CREDITS THE MORE YOU PLAY THE MORE YOU WIN!

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Must earn 25 base points to earn entries and qualify for promotion* Beginning at NRC booth open

ALL SITES SATURDAYS, MAY 6-27, 2017 (EXCLUDING ST. IGNACE MAY 20)

PROMOTIONS

WACKY WHEEL

ALL KEWADIN CASINO SITES
Wednesdays ~ 5 p.m.-10 p.m.
Hot Seat Draws & Cash Prizes!
HESSEL: 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

*Must register at Northern Rewards Club.

LOCAL DAYS

PROMOTIONS VARY BY SITE
Tuesdays and Fridays in
April and May!

IT'S YOUR DAY

ALL KEWADIN CASINO SITES
Thursdays ~ 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

- 1st Thursday Black & Gold Card
- 2nd Thursday Silver Card
- 3rd Thursday All Cards and 4th Thursday when the month has five Thursdays
- Century Club - By Invitation Last Thursday of the Month

Must earn 50 base points to qualify for Kewadin Credits and Hot Seat Draws.

PLAYERS DAY

ALL KEWADIN CASINO SITES
Every Monday

After earning 50 base points

- Black Card \$30 Credits
- Gold Card \$20 Kewadin Credits
- Silver Card \$10 in Kewadin Credits

Anishinaabemowin 2017

“The best time to learn a language was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”

*Namebin Giizis
Sucker Moon*

by Susan Askwith

Health comments of the month

Aanj miinwaa n'dakaj. I am catching a cold all over again.

Pane nda sosdam! I'm always coughing!

Weather comments of the month

Maajii gimiiwan. It just started raining.

Booni gimiiwan. It just stopped raining.

Nbiish gchi piitendaagwat

Water is precious/valuable

1. Naagidoowendman nbiish. Take care of the water.

2. Nangwa, aanin **bmaadzijig** Washington DC-ing,
gaawiin naagidoowendisiiwag.

Today some people in Washington DC are not thinking of it.

3. Nishke wa giigoonh! Look at that fish!

4. Nishke wi aankwat! Look at that cloud!

5. Nishke wa magkii! Look at that frog!

6. Nishke newe **zaakiichigan**(an) nbiishing!

Look at those **plant**(s) in the water.

7. Niibinaa zaakiichigan(an) n'gii waabmaadaanan
wiikwedong.

I saw many **plant**(s) in the bay.

8. Ziibi nbiish zhi-jiwang zaagiganing.

River water flows to the lake.

9. Niizh namebinak n'gii waabmaak *ziibiing*

I saw two suckers *in the stream*.

10. Aankok ziiwebinaan nbiish.

Clouds spill out rain.

11. Goon miinwaa mkom nbiish wi.

Snow and ice are water too!

12. Wan naasaap aankot; bkwaane biisaa.

Fog is like clouds; tiny water drops.

13. Nboop n'gii zhitoon. I made soup.

14. Giigoonh nboop n'gii zhitoon. I made fish soup.

15. Mdaamin nboop n'gii zhitoon. I made corn soup.

16. Pin nboop n'gii minikwen. I drank potato soup.

17. Mkade-aaboo n'gii zhitoon. I made coffee. (black liquid)

18. Niibiish-aaboo n'gii zhitoon. I made tea. (leaf liquid)



Delightful little details

1. The ending “-aaboo” means “some kind of liquid”

2. When you have food that is wet-ish, Anishinaabek say you are drinking it, even if you are using a spoon.

3. There is no “he” or “she” or “it” in Anishinaabemowin! You just have to figure that out from what you're being told. There IS however the idea of things being alive or not alive, and that makes a difference. Notice in #3-5 that “wa” is used to say “that” frog and fish, but “wi” is used to say “that” cloud. Frogs and fish are alive and clouds are not. Very cool.

Going further

You could learn a prayer here: Ojibwe.net
When you get there, select “**Projects**”. You'll get to choose “**Grandfather Prayer**”. It is simple, and thankful, and almost everyone would find it good for their spirit to say it every day. Naagidowenim jichaak, ge'ii. (Take care of your spirit, too.)

Pronunciation guide

Let's just stick with these basics: Letters sound like they do in reading English, except for these ones.

a	sounds like U in cup	i	sounds like I in fit
aa	sounds like A in fall	ii	sounds like EE in feed
o	sounds like OO in book	e	sounds like E in fed
oo	sounds like O in grow	g	sounds only like g in go
nh	has no sound at all; it is only a SIGN that the vowel in front of it is said in a nasal way.		

English has a lot of strange spellings. Our system of writing is easier. We pronounce all the letters shown, even if we say some of them pretty fast and some are pretty quiet.

Goin' on a Word Hunt! *Let the fun begin!!*

Find Anish words for these, someplace on this page.

Sucker _____ Look! _____

Fog _____ Frog _____

It stopped _____ Corn _____

I did _____ Ice _____

River _____ Rain _____

Coughing _____ Thirty _____

People _____ Eight _____

Water _____ Clouds _____

Four _____ Soup _____

Make it _____ Fish _____

Snow _____ Leaf _____

Plant _____ Five _____

Lake _____ Potato _____

Twenty _____ One _____

Moon _____ Drink _____

It started _____ Three _____

I am catching a cold _____



Count yourself in!

Count to ten several times a day; when you're impatient, when you're washing your hands, etc. Here they are again: **Bezhiik, niizh, nswe, niivin, naanan, ngodwaaswi, niizhwaaswi, nshwaaswi, zhaangswi, mdaaswi!**

Last month we added 11 to 19 by saying “10 and ___”. In counting we say “**shi**” for “**and**”. So eleven is 10 and 1 = midaaswi shi bezhiik. And 18 is 10 and 8 or midaaswi shi nshwaaswi. We ended the lesson with 20: Niizhtana.

We'll follow that same pattern to count from 21 to 30. Easy!!

Twenty one is (20 and 1) niizhtana shi bezhiik

Twenty five is (20 and 5) niizhtana shi naanan

Twenty nine is _____

NEW WORD: Thirty = nsimdana

Now try saying:

I saw 22 suckers.

I saw 27 plants.

I saw 26 frogs. (add “k” to the end of the frog word.)

YOU ARE GETTING IT!!! Congratulations!!! You GO!!!

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

Indian leaders urge passage of Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, chaired by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Mich.), held a hearing on March 29 to examine the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2017 (H.R. 986). Introduced by Rep. Todd Rokita (R-Ind.), the legislation would protect Native American sovereignty by preventing the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) from asserting jurisdiction over tribal businesses operated on tribal land.

For nearly 70 years, the NLRB respected tribal sovereignty. Then in 2004, the board began using a subjective test to determine when and where to assert its jurisdiction over Native American tribes.

“This hearing is about one basic principle: The sovereign rights of Native Americans must be protected,” Chairman Walberg said. “Unfortunately, the National Labor Relations Board has taken a number of alarming steps in the past decade that have created widespread concern in the Native American community and threatened tribal sovereignty as we know it.”

Tribal leaders testifying before the committee explained the consequences of the board’s actions.

Robert Welch, chairman of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, said the “continued threat of NLRB intrusion” undermines their ability “to deliver essential government services and meet the present and future needs of its

citizens.”

Intrusion by the NLRB is a reality the Viejas Band knows all too well. For more than a year, the tribe has faced legal action by the NLRB after providing bonuses to its employees that were opposed by their union.

Welch said H.R. 986 “would immediately end the NLRB’s meddling in the tribal governance of the Viejas Band” and “save U.S. taxpayers and tribal governments from the substantial legal costs of ongoing and future actions by the NLRB against tribal governments.”

Witnesses flatly rejected claims made by Democrats that without the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), tribal employees would not receive adequate worker protections.

“Indian tribes, like other government employers, have a huge interest in ensuring that their employees are satisfied and productive in serving community needs,” said Brian Cladoosby, chair of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and president of the National Congress of American Indians. “In fact, tribal government employers regularly are hailed as the best employers in their regions.”

Speaking on behalf of the Navajo Nation, Nathaniel Brown explained his tribe has “passed its own laws governing labor, including the Navajo Preference in Employment Act (NPEA) that provides protection for its

employees. It provides for rules on preference in employment, wages, health and safety, appeals, hearings, etc.” He also noted that under the law, a “worker’s right to join a union is protected.”

Welch informed the committee that the Viejas Band has also passed its own labor law with “provisions that are similar to the NLRA.” He noted that the tribe has even received a “Spirit of Cooperation Award” from the AFL-CIO. “As one of the largest employers in east San Diego country, the Viejas Band takes its role as an employer very seriously ... Tribal governments, when allowed to exercise their sovereignty, are capable of developing laws that protect the rights of

workers within a fair framework.”

Tribal leaders urged Congress to reverse the troubling encroachment on their sovereignty and authority by passing the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act.

Congress should “move quickly to enact H.R. 986 to fix a problem created by the [NLRB’s] decision to single out Indian tribes as the only form of government in the United States subjected to the National Labor Relations Act,” Cladoosby said. “This is not merely a legal issue but a moral imperative of protecting and defending the sovereignty of America’s Indian tribes, and guarding against any discrimination against those tribes.”

“We simply want parity,”

Brown added. “If [states] are able to self-govern and be self-determined with regards to the NLRA, so should we. We are simply asking that our right to self-govern is acknowledged and not brushed aside by an external agency.”

Expressing his support for the legislation and the need to protect the sovereign rights of Native Americans, Chairman Walberg said, “What this legislation is about is very simple. It is about the fundamental principle that tribal governments are sovereign and are free to self-govern. Congress now has an opportunity to reaffirm this principle and follow through on our promise to the Native American community.”

Blakely is Mackinac County 4-H coordinator

Rachel Blakely is Mackinac County’s new 4-H program coordinator for MSU extension. Her main goal is to develop programs for youth in the Mackinac County. “I am here to get more young people involved in our programs and to seek adult volunteers to run these awesome clubs and programs for youth,” she said.

Blakely, 28, grew up in Bradenton, Fla. She grew up involved in 4-H and showed llamas at fairs. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in English from Flagler College in St. Augustine, Fla., Blakely joined the Peace Corps in Kyrgyzstan where she served as an English teacher.

After the Peace Corps, she lived in Germany for a little while and then attended graduate school at the University of Chicago, where she studied social science.

She likes to SCUBA dive and has a pug named Penny.

“I am not from the U.P., but I can tell you it is a very interesting place so far,” Blakely said. “It is extremely beautiful and I am looking forward to seeing what life is like here in the summer-time.”

The new 4-H coordinator works out of the Mackinac County MSU extension office in St. Ignace. Get in touch with Blakely at blakelyr@anr.msu.edu or (906) 643-7307.



Rachel Blakely, above with her pug, Penny, is Mackinac County’s new 4-H program coordinator working out of the MSU extension office in St. Ignace.



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Bill would fund Indian Country “trauma-informed” healing

By RICK SMITH

Three U.S. senators, Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), Al Franken (D-Minn.) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) recently introduced legislation in Congress to create the *Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act*, a measure to fund “trauma-informed” health care across the country. Senator Heitkamp said she is going to emphasize help for Indian Country with the bill.

Essentially, the bill if passed

would create nationwide opportunities for law enforcement agencies, schools, social services and medical professionals to learn about the importance and techniques of identifying and helping people with trauma-induced afflictions.

The legislation contains eight primary functions beginning with establishing a task force with people from the U.S. departments of Health and Human Services, Education and

Justice as well as tribal agencies to steer efforts in the best way to help children and families who have experienced trauma.

The bill also calls for an increase in funding for the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative to evaluate new strategies for improving prevention and care, creates eligible uses for major federal grants, creates a law enforcement coordination center for information and training, requires the Centers for

Disease Control (CDC) to take actions improve understanding of trauma and directs the CDC and the Government Accountability Office to study and identify barriers and opportunities to improve services, calls for a Medicaid pilot program to serve as an example for comprehensive coverage of screening and treatment, supports professional workforce development to carry out services where they are most needed and creates expanded

grants to support community partnerships and coordination of efforts in addressing people suffering from trauma.

A summary of the legislation cites a national survey in which it was found that nearly 35 million children in the United States have experienced at least one serious traumatic episode from living in households with sporadic domestic violence, child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse as well as other situations.

IHS announces pilot program for child trauma-informed integrated care

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is announcing 10 locations that will participate in a new year-long pilot project to integrate trauma-informed care at IHS and tribal facilities.

The IHS and tribal pilot sites chosen to participate in the project will receive virtual technical assistance through a series of structured webinars, virtual learning communities, technical assistance calls, and metrics collection and analysis.

IHS is working in conjunction with the Pediatric Integrated Care Collaborative (PICC) which is part of the Johns Hopkins Center for Mental Health Services in Pediatric Primary Care. PICC works with national faculty, pediatric primary care providers, mental health professionals and families to increase the quality and accessibility of child trauma services by integrating behavioral and physical health services in Native communities.

IHS and Johns Hopkins will work closely together to provide assistance and guidance for the programs at each site and ultimately

devise a comprehensive action plan that can be used at additional locations in the future.

“The quality of care for our youngest patients is important and this collaboration will allow IHS to reach out and respond to children and their families with early intervention and promote resiliency in order to lessen the effects of childhood traumatic stress,” said Rear Adm. Chris Buchanan, acting director of the Indian Health Service. “Traumatic experiences that cause stress or can threaten or harm a child’s emotional or physical well-being include poverty, physical or sexual abuse, community and school violence and neglect.”

“We are honored to be able to work with a group of tribal communities and the IHS on trauma-informed integrated care,” said Lawrence Wissow, MD, professor, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. “We hope that we can help those communities develop their integrated care capacities, and we know that the larger integrated

care world will learn from solutions that incorporate Native American traditions of healing and collaboration.”

The 10 selected locations include seven direct service (IHS) and three tribal sites (*):

- Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Pediatric Clinic, Oklahoma*
- Gallup Indian Medical Center, New Mexico
- Fort Thompson Indian Health Center, South Dakota
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health, Oklahoma*
- Northern Navajo Medical Center, Navajo Preparatory School Based Health Clinic, New Mexico
- Northern Navajo Medical Center, New Mexico
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Health and Human Services, Michigan*
- Southern Bands Health Center – IHS Elko Service Unit, Nevada
- Woodrow Wilson Keeble Memorial Health Care Center – IHS Sisseton Service Unit, South Dakota
- Zuni Comprehensive

Community Health Center, New Mexico

The project uses a “learning collaborative” method in which newly learned processes are implemented and subsequently evaluated to identify what works well, what does not work well and what changes might be needed. Staff are encouraged to test practical, sustainable approaches of integrating trauma/chronic stress prevention, detection and early intervention into primary care for young children. Teams identify methods and set up structures and procedures to facilitate the integration of trauma-informed care. Identified approaches may include providing primary and secondary prevention, screening for trauma-related problems or treating trauma-related problems.

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Mental Health Services in Pediatric Primary Care’s PICC is one of the Category II centers of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), which aims to raise the standard of care and

improve access to services for traumatized children, their families, and communities throughout the United States. The NCTSN is supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The IHS Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) serves as the primary source of national advocacy, policy development, management and administration of behavioral health, alcohol and substance abuse, and family violence prevention programs. Working in partnership with tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian health organizations, DBH coordinates national efforts to share knowledge and build capacity through the development and implementation of evidence/practice based and cultural-based practices in Indian country.

The IHS, an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides a comprehensive health service delivery system for approximately 2.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. Follow IHS on Facebook.

Crown ordered to pay Batchewana First Nation band members \$390,000

FROM BATCHEWANA FIRST NATION

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ontario — A provincial court judge ordered the Crown to pay \$390,000 for withdrawing logging charges against four Batchewana First Nation band

members on the eve of trial.

Justice Kwolek of the Ontario Court of Justice found the prosecution’s conduct justified a costs award. “I find that this delay by the Crown in reaching a decision to withdraw the charges in May of 2016 was

‘a marked and unacceptable departure from the reasonable standards expected of the prosecution,’” Justice Kwolek wrote in a 28-page judgment released on Feb. 13, 2017.

“The decision emphasizes what BFN has stated consistently throughout this prosecution: that negotiations must take place on a ‘nation-to-nation’ basis in the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s call to actions and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” Batchewana First Nation Councillor Stacey Tijerina said.

The court ordered the Crown to pay \$90,000 to Clinton Robinson and \$300,000 to Gilles Robinson, Philip Swanson and Batchewana First Nation Chief Dean Sayers.

“I find that such an award is appropriate to express the court’s denunciation of the Crown’s actions in the circumstances of this case while providing reasonable indemnification in accordance with the existing case law,” Justice Kwolek wrote.

The charges date back to incidents in 2007 and 2008. The parties were charged in 2008 under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, which pro-

hibits logging in a Crown forest without a licence. They first appeared in court on Nov. 6, 2008, but a trial wasn’t scheduled until September 2015. The parties pled not guilty to all charges and the trial was adjourned to May 16, 2016.

In May 2014, expert witness James Morrison provided a report to substantiate the band members’ claim the Batchewana First Nation had the right to harvest timber resources for sustenance, trade or sale under the 1850 Robinson Treaty that had likely not been extinguished under the 1859 Pennefather Treaty, an invalid treaty.

On May 6, 2016, the Crown wrote to the court stating that it would not proceed with the prosecution and would be seeking leave to withdraw the charges. The Crown sought to withhold its own expert’s report, but eventually disclosed it when faced with further defence applications. The Crown conceded an award of costs would be fair and appropriate.

The band members did not consent to the Crown withdrawing the charges because they wanted to address the issues of treaty and aboriginal rights.

“In light of the Crown’s withdrawal and Justice

Kwolek’s decision, BFN has decided to commence civil proceedings to litigate the validity of the 1859 Pennefather Treaty and we will continue to take the highroad as we seek redress in the pursuit of our aboriginal and treaty rights,” Chief Dean Sayers said.

“Although this court does not have the jurisdiction, nor the ability to order that the Provincial Crown and the defendants comply with a particular time frame in negotiating the issue of an equitable sharing of the resources of the Algoma forest and in the disputed lands, the court is hopeful, that the withdrawal of these charges will mark the beginning of timely negotiations, in accordance with the ‘Honour of the Crown’,” Justice Kwolek wrote.

The Batchewana First Nation is currently appealing an earlier decision in which a Justice of the Peace found Batchewana First Nation and Chief Dean Sayers have treaty rights to the lands on which the Lake Superior Park is located upon. That appeal is scheduled to be argued before the Ontario Court of Justice in June 2017.

(A copy of the decision is available at <http://bit.ly/rvsayers>.)

Traditional healer schedule

Sault Ste. Marie — April 17, 19, 24, 25, May 1, 16, 17, 22, 24, 30, 31.

Call Peggy Holappa at 632-0220, Kim Vallier at 632-0236 or reception at 632-5210.

Escanaba — May 10, 786-2636.

Munising — April 18, May 23, 387-4721.

Manistique — April 26, 341-8469.

Sault area 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 or visit www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/chippewa-county or www.facebook.com/fanchipp.

FAN’s mission is saving lives by empowering individuals and communities to prevent and eradicate addiction. We envision a nation free of narcotic addiction and our purpose is to raise awareness of the dangers of prescription narcotics, support those affected by narcotic addiction and erase the stigma of addiction.

The Substance Abuse Support Group for Family and Friends welcomes those who 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 more information.

Soo Builders Pee Wee team wraps good season

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The Soo Builders Pee Wee District 7 hockey team wrapped up their successful season with an awards banquet held March 23 at the Kewadin Casino.

The team compiled one of the best records in recent memory for a Soo hockey team, going 43-2-1. Their regular season record launched them into the state semi-finals held in Iron Mountain, where they were defeated by the West Shore Wolves in double overtime. West Shore went on to win the state championship, defeating the Ironwood Polar Bears, 4-2.

“The kids played hard,” said head coach, Travis Pavlat. “Our bench was only so deep, with 10 skaters, the other teams had 16-17 skaters.”

He added that the kids gave it all they got during the grueling tournament, leaving “everything on the ice.”

The Soo Builders were undefeated going into the weekend of the state tournament. They had an impressive run, ending the regular season as MAHA District 7 champions, NMHL Regular Season Champions, NMHL Playoff Champions and SMHA PeeWee Division Champions.

They also won the Cabin Fever tournament held at the Big Bear Arena and the Soo Extravaganza Tournament, held towards the end of the season in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Pavlat attributed much of the team’s success to working together as a unit. “They didn’t play for themselves, but for the player next to them,” said Pavlat, which was reflected in the final play stats for the season, revealing just how spread out goals and assists were among the players.

Four players received special honors during the banquet: Most Valuable Player for both house teams went to Conner Porcaro, who posted 11 shutouts and a less than two goals per game average during the regular season. Best defenseman of both teams went out to Joey Engle, who also racked up 22 goals and 21 assists; Caleb Henderson received the Sportsmanship Award for maintaining a good attitude game after game despite having to be helped off the ice a number of times from an illegal check or trip. Finally, CJ McKechnie received the coveted coach’s award for “Perseverance” for his tenacity on the ice, which resulted in 57 goals, 58 assists and some key



offensive and defensive work. Pavlat gave a shout out to the parents and grandparents who supported the team throughout the season, as well as to his coaching staff, Tom Cook and Herb Henderson. He also thanked Soo Builders for their sponsorship and support of Soo Michigan hockey as well as the many area businesses who provided sponsorship for individual players.

Katy Matson is the only level four woman’s ice hockey referee in U.P.

BY BRENDA AUSTIN
Katy Matson, 26, is in high demand throughout northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula for her women’s ice hockey officiating skills. She is also the only woman USA Hockey referee in the U.P. to reach the highest level of training for referees — level four. She began playing hockey at the age of 7 in her hometown of Munising and fell in love with the sport. She continued to play hockey throughout high school, and at 15 decided to train to become a referee. After graduation, she attended Michigan State University, where she officiated for their women’s team for about four years.

In addition to being a great athlete, she was also a high achiever in school, graduating from MSU with a degree in microbiology in 2014, and then graduating from Northern Michigan University with another undergrad degree in Medical Laboratory Technology in December 2015.

She will be graduating with her Master’s degree in clinical molecular genetics this December and in addition to her studies, works full time at St. Josephs Hospital in Tawas, Mich., and an affiliation of Ascension Health, as a clinical laboratory scientist.

Each week she drives from Tawas, where she moved to help take care of her grandfather, to Munising, and from there to Marquette to research for her graduate thesis project.

Back on the ice ... Last year, Matson refereed over 200 games, mostly on weekends, and often officiated six to eight games a day. She is currently refereeing hockey in the Tawas area, Alpena, Lansing, Marquette, Munising and Manistique. “I am highly sought



Katy Matson (above right) is the only woman USA Hockey referee in the U.P. to reach the highest level of training for referees — level four.

after to officiate girls hockey because I am a female, but the majority of the games I do are boys or co-ed teams since there are more of those than girls teams. I have been sought after for female games like girls state tournaments. Alpena really wanted me to start officiating the girls games there, but I did co-ed there too, such as the peewee B district games,” she said.

“I have been really fortunate that I have been able to officiate a lot of great hockey,” she said.

She recently officiated the ACHA Women’s National Ice Hockey Division 1 and 2 Tournament, and also officiated the same tournament last year and the Girls Tier II National Tournament two years ago.

Matson said she officiates everything from 5-year-old mites all the way up to women’s college hockey. She chooses to officiate women’s games, but said she would be open to officiating men’s college games (Division 3, Division 2 and potentially Division 1). She does midgets (high school) — she has refereed some of the top teams, including a bantam AAA

game last year that brought the four best teams in the nation to Lansing to play.

“Sometimes I ref really big games that are not tournaments but are elite level hockey — it’s really fun,” she said.

Her goal is to referee at the international level, potentially the Olympics. Towards that goal she plans to attend the Women’s Future Development Camp this year. “They help train officials they think can excel and have mentored some of the top female officials who are officiating the Olympics and national and international tournaments,” she said. “You have to get invited to go to this camp and then you have to apply to go. The camp hires refs who have worked at the national and international levels to act as mentors for the participants.”

If you are a female hockey player and think you may have an interest in learning to referee, Matson encourages you to look into it. “Right now there is a severe shortage of officials everywhere, but in Michigan particularly,” she said.

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Sault Combined Aquatic Team finishes out season

The Sault Combined Aquatic Team finished out its 2016-2017 season with another outstanding performance at the Michigan Team Swim League championship held on Feb. 26 at Saginaw Valley State University.

The team scored three meet records, a first place finish and fourth overall.

Andrew Innerebner lead the Sault Combined Aquatic Team

(SCAT) with three meet records, giving him a total of four on the record books. His first meet record was set in 2016. He scored meet records in the 200 individual medley, 100 fly and the 100 back.

Joanne Arbic etched a win in the female 11 and 12-year 200 yard freestyle at 215.45. She improved her time by over 12 seconds to achieve her first

place finish.

Evan Arbic scored second place in the male 9 and 10 50 yard Free.

Emmett Fazzari, second place in the male 11 and 12 50 free and a third in the male 11 and 12 100 free.

Anna Hildebrand, second in the female 13 and 14 50 Free.

Relays were an unexpected highlight with the girls 9 and

10-year old 200 yard medley relay consisting of Abby Kableman, Dayna Szabo, Lucy Huskey and Anna Faari scoring a third.

The girls 11 and 12 medley relay scored second with Cassandra Gallagher, Kylie Jones, Julie Innerebner and Avery Benoit.

The boys 9 and 10 200 year Free relay took second with

Riley Dragon, Brian Li, Kaden Blair and Evan Arbic.

In the boys 15 to 18 year old 200 yard relay, SCAT scored first with Hosh Barber, Emmett Fazzari, Ivan Bergstrom and Andrew Innerebner.

Overall, SCAT finished fourth out of 21 teams, and Coach Dyke Justin attributed that to the efforts of the relay teams.

Innerebner runner up in state swimming championships

Anderw Innerebner, coached by Dyke Justin, put in an impressive appearance between March 24 and 26, at the U.S.A. state championship swimming meet for U.S.A. Swimming short course.

Innerebner placed runner up state champion in a boys 13 and 14 200 free with a time of 144.76. This time eclipsed his U.P. state finals time of 146.8. Innerebner is presently 65th in the country for his 200 time within his age group.

He also placed sixth in the boys 13 and 14 500-yard swim with a time of 452.2, which was an approximate 7 second drop from his entry time.

And he placed seventh in the 100 backstroke, with a time a 55.51 and came in sixth place with a 49.39 100-yard free.

Innerebner swam fast enough to qualify for the U.S.A. sectionals, which are a four-state meet held April 1 in Indianapolis - but

he did not attend.

Coach Justin said, "He had an incredible 200 swim and he hopes for a first place finish at the state long course championship held this summer and is keying toward the U.S.A. zone meet, which will consist of 12 states. The zone meet will be held in late August, in Kenosha, Wis. Innerebner will be training with Justin this summer.

JKL School presents February Students of the Month



Photo by Lori Jodojin

Back row from left, Mason Morehouse, Jacob DeMolen, Kylie Goodman, Zoeie Austin, Christopher Alshab, Ella McKerchie. Middle from left, Alexis Luoma, Kamryn Corbiere, Johnny Osborn, Tiffany Quinn, Saige Somes-Geiger, Gabe Litzner. Front from left, Marley Miller, Khloe Hibbard, Adelyn Perry, Dovid Parish, Alice Bennett-McMyme, Layla Thomas-Holm, Hallii Clement. Missing from photo — Johnny Zabelka, Gegek Webkamigad, Madison McKerchie, Riley Beaudoin, and Alex French.

Regional tribes meet with the International Joint Commission

From "IJC meetings," page 1 stories and the lake.

Patrick Egan of Oil and Water Don't Mix and others expanded on comments in the afternoon about the need to focus attention on the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline. In his view, the Straits are the worst place in the world to put a pipeline because of the currents. "We are at risk in the Great Lakes of becoming an oil transporter with very little reward," Egan said.

Other concerns raised at the public meeting included the lack of accountability for best farming practices, the effects of toxic contamination on local residents, boil advisories for First Nations, protecting the lake bottoms, and

stopping the nuclear repository on the north shore of Lake Huron.

"My family, like a lot of others here, has been here for centuries," said Cassie Baxter. "We've made our living from the lakes, so I was raised with a deep respect for Lake Superior and the Great Lakes. When Lake Superior is sick, you feel sick. When that's your playground, your ancestors' burial ground, it's shocking when others don't respect it in the same way."

Unit I Director Jennifer McLeod of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors echoed the perspective of others in the afternoon and evening session when she

said, "We regard water not as a resource, but in a very sacred manner as a living entity that has a spirit and is alive. We have teachings about what to do when Mother Earth is sick. And what it all boils down to is to stop doing what you're doing and she can heal herself. That is an entirely different way to looking at water - not as an asset to be used, but as an entity to be respected and a part of us."

Sally Cole-Misch is the public affairs officer at the IJC's Great Lakes Regional Office in Windsor, Ontario.

Reprinted with permission from the March 14, 2017, issue of the IJC newsletter Great Lakes Connection.

Isabelle and Grace White join sister Adelaide Marie

Kevin and Shannon White of Cincinnati, Ohio, are pleased to announce the birth of twin baby girls born on Feb. 2, 2017.

Isabelle May was 5 pounds, 9 ounces and 19 inches in length, and Eleanor Grace was 7 pounds, 4 ounces, and 20 inches in length.

They join their older sister, Adelaide Marie.

Maternal grandparents are Nick and Shirley Cherney of Cincinnati and paternal grandparents are Mark and Fran White of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.



Brendan Edgington finishes seventh in state swim finals



Sault Tribe member Brendan Edgington made an all-state finish at the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division three-state finals on March 10 and 11 in Holland, Mich. The high school senior swims for Plainwell High School near Kalamazoo, Mich. He finished seventh in the 500 free with a time of 5:53.08 — an all-state finish.

It was his second-best time ever. His best time came on the day before in the qualifying round at 5:51.66. One of his best friends, Jack Widman, served as his counter and he paced him well.

Edgington's 200 free relay team (1:31.55) and 400 free relay team (3:24.37) finished in 16th place with fellow team members Ricky Holly, Josh Sikes, Tyler McClenny and Brendan Edgington under their swim coach, Andrea Murphy.

Edgington is the son of Brian and Rebecca Edgington of Plainwell, Mich.

Kewadin, JKL School, members support Peppler Center benefit

BY RICK SMITH

Sault Kewadin Casino and Convention Center, JKL Bahweting Public School Academy and Sault Tribe members and associates were on hand to render support to the recent Dolly and Me High Tea benefit fundraiser at the Lake Superior State University Cisler Center on April 2. The elegant and fun soiree took place to raise funds for the Diane Peppler Resource Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

According to the Peppler Center web site at dprcenter.org, staff and amenities at the non-profit center provides a safe, secure, and supportive environment for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Programs and services offered for families and individuals who have experienced either situation include emergency shelter, emergency medical services, transportation, food, clothing, a 24-hour crisis hotline, counseling and support groups, financial referrals safety planning, child and teen services and legal advocacy. The organization's staff and volunteers also coordinate with many organizations in the Sault area to develop and maintain a high level of awareness on issues surrounding domestic violence and sexual assault. The center also conducts community education services on the issues and formed alliances with law enforcement agencies and relevant professionals in the Domestic Violence Task Force.

"That we are able to do any of this is based purely on the generosity of our community and the support of our volunteers," the web site states, "who's generous donations of time, items and money has helped us to accomplish so much. There is still much for us to do, we are so grateful

for your support that allows us to help heal our families."

The Peppler Center serves all three eastern Upper Peninsula counties — that's Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce counties.

Grandmothers, mothers and daughters with their dolls congregated in finery at the Cisler Center where they received greeting from regional royalty, such as the tiara and sash adorned Mrs. Michigan and Miss I-500, as well as by others. A room was the staging area for a number of free functions for the young ladies such as fingernail and face painting, hair styling for them and their dolls, health screenings for dolls and craft lessons. Across a hallway filled with vending tables, an elegantly set dining room was prepared, complete

from JKL Bahweting School who played folk music and tunes from movies.

Charming professional portrait photographs were available at a cost with proceeds going to the Peppler Center.

Kewadin Casinos was listed among sponsors for the gala fundraiser as were a couple of Sault businesses owned and operated by Sault Tribe members. Members of the tribe were also spotted volunteering their help for the function and others were seen among the crowd of "guests." Peppler Center Executive Director Betsy Cronkite-Hugget placed the number of tickets sold for the benefit at about 178. In addition to ticket sales and portrait photography proceeds, funds were raised by a raffle.



From left, JKL Bahweting PSA students Morgan Brow, Alex Hedges and Riley Eavou performed as a string trio at the Dolly and Me High Tea benefit for the Diane Peppler Resource Center in Sault Ste. Marie. The center helps survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.



Dolls and their little human best friends forever receive help with painting fingernails.



Pictured here, some of the regional royalty who greeted attendees to the benefit function on April 2 at the Lake Superior State University Cisler Center. The ladies wearing tiaras and sashes also rendered some of the special services provided for the little ladies.

Photos by Rick Smith



Above, dolls have their hair styled while, below, so do their friends.



Below, young ladies take part in hula hoop lessons.



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Big Bear Arena- 2nd floor kitchen

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Participants do NOT need to attend all 6 classes- each class will be different.

To register, contact Heather Hemming at (906) 632-5210 or email: hemming@saulttribe.net

April 20 - Getting Started, Food Safety, Cooking Eggs with Fixings

April 27 - Recipes with 5 Ingredients or Fewer, Knife Skills

May 4 - Chicken (grilled and sautéed)

May 11 - Vegetables

May 18 - Fish (grilled, baked & pan-fried), Rice, and Potatoes

May 25 - Lentils and Beans

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Supported by the Sault Tribe Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country Grant Made Possible with Funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Good times enjoyed in St. Ignace and Escanaba, homes of the newest Sault Tribe powwows



Seen at the inaugural Honoring Our Waters and Her Protectors Powwow in St. Ignace over March 11-12 were, above left, Josephine Mandamin and, above right, George Martin, Indian Country luminaries of the Great Lakes region. Mandamin gave the invocation and Martin was the head veteran. Mandamin is renowned for long walks organized to draw attention to the plight of the Great Lakes. Martin is a popular teacher of certain Anishinaabe traditions and active in Native cultural activities. Both Mandamin and Martin have been featured widely in mainstream media.



One of the vendors, Gene Biron, offering some of his handcrafted driftwood art for sale at the powwow.



Shawl dancers take to the powwow circle as the dancing begins for all.



From left, Megan Collier of Sault Tribe speaks to an enquirer about Michigan Women's March functions as Linda Raye Cobe of Lac Vieux Desert tells another visitor about her book, *Red, White and Blues*.



Veterans pass in review with colors and staffs.



More veterans passing in review donned in regalia.



Left and above, shawl dancers moving to the beat of the drum.



An Escanaba dancer showing pride in his appearance and his eyes.



Vendors in the lobby of the Escanaba High School where the third annual Caring For Our Elders Powwow took place.



An elder passing down some of the Anishinaabe customs.



A couple of youngsters looking resplendent in their regalia.



Ladies in leather and fringe have a discussion just before the festivities begin in earnest in the school gym.



Hardwood floors allow for wheelchair bound dancers to join the others dressed in fine regalia



Above, ladies in the dance circle. Below, three more dancers.



Photos by Rick Smith

All went well in the first Honoring Our Waters and Her Protectors Powwow and Round Dance in St. Ignace over the weekend of March 11-12 at the Kewadin Shores Events Center.

Folks also enjoyed a good time at the third annual Caring For Our Elders Powwow in Escanaba on March 25 at the high school.

19th annual Family Celebration at Chi Mukwa



Deb Cox, Greg Blankstrom and Gabby Gil



Grandpa Kelly Hewitt with Abby Nolan, 3, and Allie Nolan, 4



Jessica Gillotte and Christina Menard picking names for prize drawings, including bicycles.



Joe Broton, Sr. and Lindsey Matson with their children, Kiera, 3, Ryder, 4, and Eastyn, 1.



Ashley Thompson and Eva Spence, 2



Terri Romano volunteering in the skate room



Trey Forgrave, 13

The 19th annual Family Celebration was held Monday, March 27, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Chi-Mukwa Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie. Kids and their families were treated to free pizza and snacks, free ice skating and skate loans, a bounce house, and games and prizes were awarded throughout the night. In celebration of Parenting Awareness Month, local organizations and businesses offered exhibits with information on programs for parents and hosted interactive activities for children.

Photos by Brenda Austin



Jareth and Jennifer Tyson with their children, Gaibreal, 9, Damion, 7, Tobias, 5, Vincent, 4, and Pandora, 2.



Left: Brandon Povey and Aaron McLeod, 8. Above: Jacob Horn, 11, purchasing french fries from concession worker Seth Bosley, 18.

Air Supply comes to Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie

VETERAN MUSICIANS GRAHAM RUSSELL AND RUSSELL HITCHCOCK PLAY ON SUNDAY, JUNE 4

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – Air Supply brings its international tour, including its award-winning hit songs, to DreamMakers Theater at the Sault Ste. Marie Kewadin Casino on Sunday, June 4. Tickets range from \$33.50 to \$61 and are available online at tickets.kewadin.com or at the Kewadin Box Office, 635-4917 or (800) 539-2346.

Between seven chart-topping singles and countless live shows, this dynamic duo continues to captivate audiences wherever they perform. Air Supply grew from the friendship of two young musicians in Sydney, Australia, over 40 years ago. Starting in pizza parlors and coffee bars, Russell and Hitchcock recorded their first demo in 1975 and the rest is history. Inspired by the Beatles and the Bee Gees, this duo created a style that was uniquely their own.

Air Supply performs at 7:30 p.m. on

Sunday, June 4, and is one of many entertainment acts the Sault Ste. Marie Kewadin Casino is bringing to the Upper Peninsula. In recent months, DreamMakers Theater saw performances by Brett Michaels, Howie Mandel, Jeff Carson and Melissa Lee as it continues to be a premier entertainment venue in the U.P.

“We’re proud to have Air Supply perform at Kewadin Casinos,” said Kewan representative Dan Doyle. “It’s concerts like this that show Kewadin’s success in providing premier entertainment to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.”

Besides the casino Sault Ste. Marie, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians owns and operates casinos in St. Ignace, Manistique, Christmas and Hessel.

For more information or to book your trip to Kewadin Casinos, please visit <http://www.kewadin.com> or call 1-800-KEWADIN (1-800-539-2346).



Big Water Creative Arts aims to expand across Michigan

By Rick Smith

Folks who entertain ideas about gaining fame and fortune, or at least having a heck of a lot of good times by creating music, might want to keep posted on the growth of Big Water Creative Arts.

A non-profit organization, Big Water Creative Arts is based in Petoskey and currently offers music and songwriting education opportunities to folks in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan. In time, the founders of the organization hope to branch out statewide, including into the Upper Peninsula.

Co-founders of the organization, Michelle Chenard and Pete Kehoe, said one of the organization’s board members is from Newberry. “It’s a safe bet that we’ll venture into the U.P. at some point in the game,” they said.

More immediately, Big Water Creative Arts is conducting programs over the next two months in Petoskey and has some songwriter showcases planned for the coming summer and fall along with some tentative programs at libraries and schools in the area. Further, the organization promotes the arts through classes at the Crooked Tree Arts Center with hopes of expanding its programs into the schools in Petoskey and beyond.

Kehoe said Big Water Creative



Photo courtesy of Big Water Creative Arts
Big Water Creative Arts co-founder and instructor Michelle Chenard rehearsing at the Crooked Tree Arts Center with the Petoskey Montessori School children before debuting their new songs.

Arts was formed a year ago and achieved 501©3 status in April of 2016. “Previous to that, however, we had formed the Mackinac Island Songwriters Workshop,” he added, “this has been an annual event since 2014 and was hosted at the Murray Hotel on Mackinac Island every October since.”

The organization is currently working on starting a six-week program at Crooked Tree for youngsters in grades six through 12 “At the end of that class the kids will perform the songs they’ve written during the course,” said Kehoe. “We’re also planning many other programs in the region

hopefully, Charlevoix, Gaylord, Mackinaw and elsewhere.”

Big Water also hosts songwriting showcases called September Songfest, the first took place in 2015 followed by another in 2016, a third is coming this September. In addition, Kehoe said the group hosted benefit showcases

and house concerts in the metro Detroit area last year and plan on expanding on those as well.

“We’ve put the Mackinac Island Songwriters Workshop on hold for this year, though,” Kehoe explained. “We’re super busy putting our core curriculum together for middle and high school students, as well as some weekend-long and single day workshops and seminars for both kids and adults. However, we plan on getting back to the island in the future, to continue with what we started there.”

The organization doesn’t have a web site yet, but one is in development and they hope to have it up this spring. “We’ll definitely be posting on our Big Waters Creative Arts Facebook page when that occurs and also in our spring newsletter, which we’ll get out in early May sometime.” He said the May newsletter will contain information on their summer programs, summer and fall showcases and other events and developments.

Those interested in more information on Big Water Creative Arts or want to keep posted on the organization’s progress may find them on Facebook/Big Water Creative Arts. Chenard said they are also developing a web site.

Chenard and Kehoe can be emailed at: info@mackinacisland-songwritersworkshop.org.



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Sault Tribe community members walk on...

DEBRA K. PAYMENT

It is with profound sadness that her family announces the sudden passing of Debra Kayleen Payment on March 27, 2017, at age 48.

Debra was born in Oswego, N.Y., on April 22, 1968. Deb married the love of her life, Stephen (Sam) Payment, 22 years ago at St. Mary's Catholic Church on April 1, 1995. She was Sam's best friend for 32 years and she was the best time of his life. They loved and cherished the time they had together with their three amazing children. Deb shared many laughs and good times throughout the years with her family and friends.

Debra was taken to heaven to be amongst the angels. She leaves behind her husband, Stephen J. Payment; her daughter, Meghan A. Payment; two sons, Ivan T. Payment and Stephen J. Payment Jr.; father, John R. Scruton (Texas); sisters, Rene E. Robinson (Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.), and Susan J. (Luke) Person (North Carolina); brothers, Richard (Mary) Berry (Maryland) and Robert (Linda) Scruton (Sault Ste. Marie); sisters-in-law, Andrea (Rich) Payment (Sugar Island), Sandra St. Onge (Sugar Island) and Krista Jones (Sugar Island); brothers-in-law, Ed (Myrl) Payment (Hessel, Mich.), and Pierre Payment (Sugar Island); mothers-in-law: Lois L. Payment (Sugar Island) and Sharon Payment (Sault Ste. Marie); and her best friend, Kami Batho (Sugar Island); many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Debra is enjoying the company of her mother, Marlene Scruton; sister, Michelle Berry; father-in-law, James L. Payment; and brother-in-law, Nathan M. Payment.

A celebration of her life took place on March 31 at the Sugar Island Community Center. Supportive monetary donations can be sent to the Payment Family at 8856 E. Haypoint Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

"In our home she is fondly remembered. Sweet memories cling to her name. Those who loved her in life sincerely still love her in death just the same."

CYNTHIA J. GOUGH

Cynthia Jane Gough, aged 67, of Cedarville, Mich., died on March 9, 2017, at Hospice of the EUP in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was born on May 13, 1949, in Petoskey, Mich., to James Patrick and Wilma Susan (nee Kompsi) Francis.

Cindy grew up on Mackinac

Island, Mich., and graduated from LaSalle High School in St. Ignace. She began working on the island for William Gough at the riding stables. On Dec. 20, 1969, Bill and Cindy married at St. Anne's Catholic Church on Mackinac Island. For their anniversary, Bill renamed his riding stable to Cindy's Riding Stables. They relocated to Cedarville in 1982 and continued to spend summers on Mackinac Island.

Cindy was a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church, Mackinac Island Humane Society and the Mackinac Island Horse Association. She was also named Mackinac Island Lilac Queen in 1965.

Cindy loved riding horses and anything that included horses. She also enjoyed snorkeling, boating, traveling, going to Bliss Fest and taking adventures. She went on several cruises to Costa Rica, Belize and the Caribbean.

Cindy is survived by her sons, William Taylor "W.T." (fiancé, Tricia Marshall) Gough of Cedarville, Theodore "Teddy" (Shantelle) Gough of Hessel, Mich., and Jeremiah Gough of Cedarville; grandchildren, Kody (Janae Cottelit) Gough, Keely (Mike) Bazinau, Colton Fisher, Kassidy Gough, Tessa Gough, Madison Gough, and Carter Gough; great-grandchildren, Keera and Makenna; brothers, Don (Gracie) Francis of Mackinac Island, and James Francis of Hessel; sisters, Kay Barnes of Punta Gorda, Fla., and Vera (Steve) Hicks of Cedarville; brother-in-law, Reginald (Laurel) Gough of Cedarville; and sister-in-law, Beverly Barney of Germfask, Mich.

Cindy is preceded in death by her husband, William Gough; and her parents.

A gathering took place on March 15 at R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford, Mich., which was followed by a memorial service.

Interment will be at Bethel Cemetery in the spring.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.

KRISTINE R. HAMIEL

Kristine R. Hamiel, 65, of Manistique, Mich., passed away on March 24, 2017, at the Schoolcraft Medical Care Facility in Manistique.

She was born on Feb. 29, 1952, in Manistique, the daughter of Charles and Lavina (nee Michaels) Hamiel and attended Manistique area schools.

Kristine was happily employed as a transit driver from 1975 to 2000. She thoroughly enjoyed and loved her job. Her job was her life.

She was an avid reader who enjoyed bird watching, photography and metal detecting. She especially enjoyed traveling and shopping. Most importantly, she enjoyed spending time with her family, whom she loved very much.

Kristine is survived by her siblings, Albert Hamiel of Manistique, Charlene Hamiel of Lena, Wisc., Rose Michaels of Highland Lakes, N.J., and Merence (Michele) Michaels of Manistique; along with many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

Per Kristine's wishes, no services have been scheduled.

Burial will be in the Fairview Cemetery at Manistique.

The Messier-Broullire Funeral Home of Manistique assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be expressed at www.mbfuneral.com.

ROSE MARY KERR

St. Ignace resident Rose Mary (nee Andress) Kerr, 62, of St. Ignace, Mich., passed away on March 19 at the Hospice of the EUP in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., in the presence of her three children.

Rose was born on Dec. 17, 1954, on Mackinac Island to Francis (Pat) Andress and Mary Cadotte. Rose was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. For 10 years, she was employed by Kewadin Casino, St. Ignace.

Rose is survived by her three children, Anthony Kerr and wife, Elaine, of St. Ignace, Michelle Gill and husband, Jim, of Forest Hill, W.Va., Krystle Noller and husband, Leroy, of Clarkston, Mich.; her longtime partner of 30 years, Tommy Moody; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren as well as six brothers and sisters and several nieces and nephews.

During her life, she enjoyed spending time with her family, whether in a game of Yahtzee or playing cards. She also enjoyed spending time at the casino with friends and family in pursuit of "the big jackpot."

She was preceded in death by her parents, her niece, Ruby Smith (Foster); and her maternal aunts, Teresa Howell and Francis Bazinaw.

At her request, no service will be held. Instead, the family is gathering later for a burial service this summer with a date to be determined.

COREY A. MILLER

Corey Arthur Miller, 47, of Gaylord, Mich., formerly of DeTour Village, Mich., died on Feb. 20, 2017, at Otsego Memorial Hospital in Gaylord. Corey was born on May 12, 1969, to Terrance Arthur Miller and Cornelia Ella

(nee Bailey) Miller in St. Ignace, Mich.

Corey grew up in DeTour Village and graduated from DeTour High School with the class of 1987. He played basketball on the team, which became state runner up. After high school, Corey attended Northern Michigan University before returning to Drummond Island and working for his uncle at Marshall's Mobile. While there, he accomplished getting his instrument rated pilot's license. He subsequently went to work for Cherry Capital Aviation in Traverse City, Mich., and then worked as a computer technician for UPS for 17 years.

Corey loved snowmobiles and raced them. He liked to tinker with their engines. He also liked to hunt small game.

Corey was a member of the Union Presbyterian Church in DeTour Village.

Corey is survived by his daughter, Ella Grace Miller; his mother, Cornelia Miller; and two brothers, Jay (Jody) Miller of North Muskegon, Mich., and Craig (Traci) Miller of DeTour Village.

Corey was preceded in death by his father, Terrance Miller, in 1997.

A memorial service took place on Feb. 27 at Union Presbyterian Church in DeTour Village.

Memorials may be directed to the DeTour Drummond Community Credit Union, P.O. Box 183, DeTour MI 49725, for credit to the Ella Miller College Fund.

R. Galer Funeral Home in, Pickford, Mich., served the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneral-home.com.

MARY L. NOVITSKY

Mary Lorraine (nee St. Onge) Novitsky passed peacefully at Cedar Ridge Assisted Living in St. Ignace on March 3, 2017. Lorraine was 94 years old. She was born to Albert and Zella (nee O'Brian) St. Onge on July 2, 1922, in St. Ignace.

She was married to Vincent Novitsky in 1948 and resided in Hamtramck, Mich. Upon her husband's death, she moved in with her daughter and son-in-law in Warren, Mich., while spending summer months at her home in St. Ignace. She enjoyed watching all of the activities occurring during the tourist season from her deck porch. She resided at Cedar Ridge in late 2013 while still keeping her home in St. Ignace where she spent some summer days with family.

Surviving family members are her sister, Laurentia Peters of Saginaw, Mich.; her son, James Novitsky and his wife, Rita, of Louisville, Ky.; daughter, Gloria and husband, Lenny Norkiewicz,

of Warren; grandchildren, Keith Norkiewicz and his wife, Tanya; Maria (nee Novitsky) Deamer, Eric Novitsy and David Novitsky; great-grandchildren, Bailey Norkiewicz, Kayleigh Lovett Murphy, and identical twins Tyler and Taylor Deamer, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Lorraine was preceded in death by her dear brother, Levi St. Onge.

Services will be held at Dodson Funeral in St. Ignace a later date in May.

Lorraine loved to dance, sing and make others smile, and was a caring, loving and very giving person. She will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

ROBERT W. VANDERSYS

Robert William "Bobby V" Vandersys, aged 73, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on March 15, 2017 at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital.

Robert was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 27, 1943, to the late Marion Vandersys. He worked for many years as a slot attendant at Kewadin Casino. He was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Robert enjoyed dancing and walking his dog, Sassy. He was a very social person who loved spending time with family and friends. He also enjoyed tinkering in his garage and watching the Red Wings or the Lions play.

Robert is survived by his wife, Lillian (nee Lehre) Vandersys, whom he married on May 25, 2007, at the Soo Locks Park; a son, Todd (Jennifer) Vandersys of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; two step-daughters, Bonnie (Charles) Peller of Lansing, Mich., and Cheryl (Fred) McLeod of Sault Ste. Marie; two step-sons, Wallace (Cathy) MacLean, Jr. of Sault Ste. Marie and Thomas (Danielle Craddock) MacLean of Racoon, Mich.; 10 grandchildren, Jordyn Vandersys, Jammie Romeri, Cynthia Gardner, Susan Grambau, Kevin Parmentier, and Kelsey, Melissa, Emily, Tommy and Brianna MacLean; 13 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Roland Vandersys of Indian River, Mich.

He was preceded in death by his mother; a son, James Vandersys; a daughter, Brandy Vandersys; a grandson, Michael Peller; and a brother, Richard Vandersys.

A funeral luncheon and memorial service took place on March 21 at the Sault Tribe Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to help with funeral expenses. C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services assisted the family. Condolences may be left online at www.csmulder.com.



Work dedicated to eradication of invasive species

By Laura Collins-Downwind

European frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) — The Sault Tribe Environmental Department is working on a new project funded through the Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The project is dedicated to the eradication of five of the top priority invasive species effecting the Great Lakes region, which are greatly impacting our tribes natural resources: the European frog-bit, purple loosestrife, glossy buckthorn, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. It is our duty as tribal people to be protectors of the earth and take care of our natural environment, so please report any sightings of these species if you come across them. Sault Tribe is a local partner of the Three Shores Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA)

through the Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Conservation District and work to collaborate invasive species management and eradication.

European frog-bit is one of the invasive species you may have seen or will start seeing more of in our area. European frog-bit is listed as a prohibited noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. It is an aquatic plant, free floating like a water lily on top of the water. European frog-bit is a popular water garden plant and originates from Europe and Asia.

Risks — European frog-bit forms large colonies, which create dense monocultures that can choke out the native plant species in waterways. Mats of the European frog-bit can grow so dense they can even impede boat traffic and movement of large fish and diving ducks. These dense

mats also prevent nutrients and light from reaching submerged vegetation.

European frog-bit stays as a free floating plant until the fall, and then as it prepares for the winter the mats die off and sink to the bottom of the water. Then decay of all the extra dead mass of the European frog-bit causes a decrease in oxygen and can cause fish and other organisms to die off.

Plant description — European Frog-bit has one to two-inch heart shaped leathery leaves. The top (upper side) is green and the underside is dark purplish-red. The single white flower it contains is a half-inch wide and contains three petals. The plant mainly reproduces by turions, buds that break off from the plant and sink to the bottom over the winter. The root system of European frog-bit is well developed but

rarely anchors to the bottom of the water body, instead it becomes tangled with other vegetation, causing the dense masses. Management/prevention — Given how serious an impact European frog-bit has on an area, it is surprising very few control methods are successful. Hand pulling is the method of removal used in our area and in the Sault Tribe's natural resources departments (Environment, Inland Fish and Wildlife, and Intertribal Fisheries and Assessment Program).

The best control method for this plant is prevention, education and outreach. If you come across this invasive species, please call the Sault Tribe Environmental Department at (906) 632-5575, or Three Shores CISMA at (906) 635-1278, and like our Sault Tribe Environmental Facebook page to get updates on invasive species reports and control activi-

ties in which you can help.

You can become a steward and protect our natural resources by following a few safety techniques: Clean all equipment used while out in the field or on the lakes, (wash your boat, clean your boots, pick plants and seed off your clothing); remove all plant debris from yourself and your equipment prior to leaving a work site; do not release exotic species into the wild or plant nonnative species into your landscaping; and please report sightings as soon as possible to your tribal government or the local agencies in your area.

References: www.misin.msu.edu/facts/detail.

European frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* L.). 24 July 2003. Canadian Wildlife Service. 12 July 2004. http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/inv/p2_e.cfm.

The ins and outs of inland and Great Lakes treaty licensing

By ROBERT MARCHAND, SAULT TRIBE CHIEF OF POLICE

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) would like to provide clarification on several questions received from members in recent months. The most important clarifications and reminders we can provide at this time are:

- Your inland license **does NOT allow** fishing on the Great Lakes
- Your subsistence (or subsistence gillnet) license **does NOT allow** fishing on inland lakes and streams.

Both licenses are effective **only within** Sault Tribe's 1836 Treaty area. Your current, updated (not expired) Sault Tribe membership card **only allows fishing on the Great Lakes in the 1836 Treaty area if you follow state of Michigan rules. INLAND HUNTING, FISHING, GATHERING LICENSES**

Inland Hunting, Fishing and Gathering licenses are governed by Tribal Code Chapters 21 and 23. When you receive your harvest card, it is classified as either a hunting harvest card or a non-hunting harvest card. With your non-hunting harvest card, you are authorized to fish inland lakes and streams and gather, per code.

Your hunting harvest card authorizes you to fish inland lakes and streams and gather, just like the non-hunting harvest card. In addition to these activities, the hunting harvest card authorizes you to engage in small game, waterfowl, migratory birds and general furbearer hunting. Members may also obtain deer, spring and fall turkey, and trapping tags noted on the application. Federal and state firewood permits can also be obtained by calling or coming to our office. The application includes all information required to be provided in order to obtain the licenses.

All activities must be done per the Tribal Code language that governs them. The Tribal Code can be found at www.sault-tribe.com, select Government at the top, and select Tribal Code from the drop down list (www.saulttribe.com/government/tribal-code). You can also find



an inland harvest guide at www.saulttribe.com by selecting Membership Services at the top, and select Natural Resources from the drop down list. Once you are on the Natural Resources page, you will see red lettering at the bottom — For Applications Please Click Here. There are numerous resources in this location to assist tribal members in determining what type of license they need, maps showing where they may engage in the treaty activities, what the laws are regarding the activity they wish to engage in, harvest reports and applications necessary to obtain the current year licenses and more.

At the end of the day March 31, 2017, your 2016 licenses are no longer valid. If you are engaging in treaty activities governed by Sault Tribe rules and regulations, you must obtain a 2017 harvest license — hunting or non hunting. If you held a 2016 harvest license and have not turned in your harvest report for 2016, you must turn this in to receive 2017 licenses. Members can send the reports to the mailing address on the first page of the report, or turn them in at Law Enforcement when applying for 2017. This report is required whether you harvested anything, or even had a chance to get out there.

Reminder: if you lose your harvest card or tags, there will be a \$10 replacement fee to have new ones issued. This fee applies to any and all license holders, regardless of whether you had to pay to obtain the license in the first place. You must provide a copy of your tribal card with an explanation of why you need replacement license or tags, and

sign and date the sheet.

Bear and elk lottery applications are scheduled to be published in this issue of *Win Awenen Nisitotung* and will be available online and at STLE's office beginning May 1, 2017. All applications must be **received** in the STLE office no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, 2017, to be included in the drawing. No late applications will be accepted. If you are 17-59 years of age, there is a \$4 application processing fee **per** application. **SUBSISTENCE, SUBSISTENCE GILLNETTING AND RECREATIONAL**

2017 Subsistence and subsistence gillnet licenses are available now. Subsistence licenses allow members to fish the Great Lakes in Sault Tribe's treaty area following Sault Tribe rules found in Chapter 20 of the Tribal Code (see above steps to find Tribal Codes on Sault Tribe's website), and the CORA Code, which can be found at <http://www.1836cora.org> where you would select CORA Regulations on the left hand side of the page. The Great Lakes Consent Decree is also located on the CORA website. Both Chapter 20 and CORA Regulations are provided to ALL members who apply for the subsistence and subsistence gillnet license(s), along with enough catch reports for a year and grid maps of allowable fishing areas with the subsistence and subsistence gillnet license(s).

The gillnet license allows members to use 300 feet of net in the majority of the treaty area Great Lakes. Tribal Code Chapter 20 mandates that if using net in the St. Marys River, you are allowed only 100 feet of net. The 100 pounds in possession per day regulation applies regardless of the size of the net. Munoscong Bay, Lake George, Bays de Noc and St. Marys River system ARE part of the Great Lakes system. If you are fishing this area and you do not have a subsistence license, you are required to follow all state rules as long as you have an up-to-date tribal enrollment card (see "Recreational Fishing" section of Chapter 20). Members are expected to read the rules and regulations that govern these

treaty rights to ensure they understand what is allowed and what is not. STLE receives numerous questions requesting clarification about sections in these rules that may not be quite clear when reading. Please do not hesitate to contact any of STLE's officers to get clarification on any questions you may have.

Subsistence fishing licenses do not cost anything with the exception of applying through the mail — you would be required to provide a \$4 check or money order to cover the mailing fee associated with the application packet (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 you may obtain subsistence and subsistence gillnet licenses for a \$20 fee (add \$4 mailing fee if applying or requesting an application packet through the U.S. mail). Gillnet licenses are free of charge for members 55 and over; however, you 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 or subsistence gillnet cards, there will be a \$10 replacement fee to have new ones issued.

Monthly subsistence and subsistence gillnet 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 the 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 (St. Marys River and Munoscong Bay do not have grid numbers, just put "St. Marys" or

"Munoscong")

- Month being reported
- Gear being used
- Species of catch and amount — either in pounds or number of fish — not both (Please circle number or pounds, so we know how it is being reported)
- Signature of license holder at bottom of page

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 ahorn-er@saulttribe.net and rshreve@saulttribe.net.

If you know you are not going to be subsistence or subsistence gillnet fishing for a period of time in the current license year (January - December), you may turn in your card(s) any time. When doing this, please turn in a catch report for the month you are turning your card in, as well as the previous month (if not already submitted). You will eliminate the reporting requirement and if you decide later in that year you want to go subsistence or subsistence gillnet fishing you can either stop and pick your license up or call and have them mailed to you. If you decide to turn your license in, you **must** turn in both cards if you have the gillnet portion. Otherwise, you will be required to continue submitting catch reports. Failure to submit catch reports will result in a ticket being issued.

Treaty hunting and fishing rules and regulations can seem very complex. Members may always contact STLE's office at (906) 635-6065 with questions or concerns. Licensing staff are available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and officers are available 24/7.

How the elk and bear permitting process works

FROM IFWD

Sault Tribe members will find elk and bear applications below. The Inland Fish and Wildlife Department (IFWD) would like to explain how the number of permits is determined and how the lottery process is carried out for both elk and bear.

The IFWD works to issue as many elk and bear permits as possible each year. Under the 2007 Consent Decree, Sault Tribe shares 10 percent of the targeted harvest with the other four tribes (Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) across the 1836 Treaty

Ceded Territory. Elk permits are for an area in the northern lower peninsula. For bear, issued permits are distributed throughout different bear management units (BMUs) — Drummond, Newberry, Gwinn and Baraga in the Upper Peninsula; and Red Oak, Gladwin and Baldwin in the lower peninsula. *(See the BMU map on the bear application below.)*

IFWD works with the other signatories of the 2007 Consent Decree to determine a three-year population goal. After a goal is agreed upon, a targeted harvest is set for each of the BMUs. Once the targeted harvest is set for each BMU, IFWD then calculates how many permits to issue. To do this, IFWD takes

the average success rate from the past five years within each BMU and multiplies this by the number of bears Sault Tribe is targeted to harvest.

The elk process works much in the same way as bears. Sault Tribe has input to elk population goals and shares 10 percent of the harvest with the other 1836 Treaty tribes as well. Sault Tribe gets a set number of permits based off the elk population goal. This year, Sault Tribe issues four permits to tribal members. The lottery selection process listed below works for both bear and elk.

IFWD and Sault Tribe Law Enforcement work together to enter all of the applications into a database. After all of the appli-

cations are entered, IFWD then randomly selects the lucky applicants at the Inland Conservation Committee. Sault Tribe does not employ a weighted lottery for elk or a preference point system for bear as the state of Michigan does. Each year is an independent lottery for both bear and elk.

Bear and elk applications are now being accepted by the Inland Fish and Wildlife Department. You can use the applications below. They are also online at www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/natural-resources.

Applications must be received in the IFWD office by May 31 at 5 p.m. The lottery is in June at the Inland Conservation Committee meeting. The cost of

each application is \$4 and must be paid by check or money order. A single check or money order can be used to cover both bear and elk applications, however they cannot be combined with checks for other harvest licenses. There is no charge for members age 16 and under or age 60 and older. Please choose the BMU you wish to hunt in.

Elk lottery winners will be contacted by the IFWD shortly after the lottery. Bear lottery winners will be mailed a permit shortly after the lottery. Non-winners will not be notified, however, you can call the IFWD to check your status if you wish.

If you have any questions please call the IFWD at (906) 632-6132.

2017 Sault Tribe Elk Application

The 2017 Elk application period will run from May 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017. All applications must be received by the Sault Tribe Inland Fish and Wildlife Department before **5:00pm on May 31, 2017**. Applications received after 5:00pm on May 31, 2017, will **NOT** be accepted. A lottery will be conducted at the June Conservation Committee Meeting.

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Address City State Zip code

File number (red #on Tribal ID) Phone number

STS number (red # on harvest card) Date of Birth Sex E-mail address

There is a \$4 application fee. Each elk application must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$4. Elders (60 and older) and youth (16 and under) are not required to pay application fees.

Please send all applications to:

**IFWD Elk Application
P.O. Box 925
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

For questions, please contact the Sault Tribe Inland Fish & Wildlife Department @ 906-632-6132

2017 Sault Tribe Bear Application

The 2017 bear application period will run from May 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017. All applications must be received by the Sault Tribe Inland Fish & Wildlife Department before **5:00pm on May 31, 2017**. Applications received after 5:00pm on May 31, 2017 will **NOT** be accepted. A lottery will be conducted at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Please be sure to indicate which Bear Management Unit you are applying for (see map below).

First name Middle name Last name

Address City State Zip code

File number (red# on Tribal card) STS number (red # on Harvest card) Phone number

Date of birth Sex E-mail address

Please select **one** of the following Bear Management Units. Please note that all Sault Tribe bear permits are only valid within the 1836 Ceded Territory. See map for generalized boundaries of each Bear Management Unit

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Upper Peninsula | Lower Peninsula |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drummond | <input type="checkbox"/> Baldwin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baraga | <input type="checkbox"/> Gladwin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gwinn | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Oak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newberry | |

There is a \$4 application fee. Each bear application must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$4. Elders (60 and older) and youth (16 and under) are not required to pay application fees.

Please send all applications to:

**IFWD Bear Application
P.O. Box 925
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

For questions, please contact the Sault Tribe Inland Fish & Wildlife Department @ 906-632-6132



Fostering Futures Scholarship application period open

Young adults who have experienced foster care now have an opportunity to apply for a scholarship from the Fostering Futures Scholarship Trust Fund, according to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

From March 15 to June 30, eligible students enrolled at Michigan degree-granting colleges or universities have an opportunity to apply for a

Fostering Futures Scholarship up to \$3,000. Awards are given based on need and paid to the students' colleges or universities to assist with tuition, fees, room, board, books and supplies.

"A growing number of our youth are reaching adult age while in foster care and have no resources to pay for college when they age out of the system," said Robin Lott, executive director of

the Michigan Education Trust. "This scholarship provides some help with college expenses when no other assistance may be available."

Since 2012, nearly \$900,000 has been raised and awarded to students. The program is supported through individual donations, group donations, sponsorships, ticket sales, auctions and many volunteer-based fundraising

events.

Funds raised during the calendar year are distributed annually to scholarship recipients. Another option for donors, the education endowment, returns a portion of investment income annually as scholarships.

The Fostering Futures Scholarship is a joint effort between the Michigan Department of Treasury,

Michigan Education Trust and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

To apply or learn more about the Fostering Futures Scholarship, go to www.fosteringfutures-mi.com. Questions should be directed to Treasury's Student Scholarships and Grants area at ssg@michigan.gov or call toll-free at (888) 4-GRANTS, or (888)-447-2687.

Summer youth employment and training opportunities

The Sault Tribe Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Office is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program, an income-based program for Native American youth aged 14 to 21 who reside in the tribe's service area, which includes Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties.

Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office at 523

Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or by calling Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767. Applicants will be required to complete and pass pre-employment drug testing. Some positions also require applicants to undergo and successfully pass a criminal background investigation. The application deadline is May 5, 2017.

Training opportunities available for eligible applicants — the WIOA Office also has funding

available for short-term occupational training opportunities. The office 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 tribe's service area.

Please apply at WIOA, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., 49783, or call Brenda Cadreau at 635-4767 for more information.

Laura Porterfield graduates from CMU

Laura Porterfield of Kinross, Mich., received a bachelor's degree in political science during commencement ceremonies last December at Central Michigan University. She graduated with cum laude honors. She is the daughter of Kris and John Ermatinger of Brimley, Mich., and is married to Nathan Porterfield. Since graduating from CMU, Laura was hired as the Youth Education and Activities manager for Sault Tribe.

Arseneau on dean's list

Congratulations to Autumn Arseneau, a Sault Tribe member who made the dean's list at Lake Superior State University where she studies criminalistics. She is a sophomore.



Trump visits Jackson's gravesite, revisits Native American policies

BY MELISSA J. GISMONDI

Recently, Donald Trump laid a wreath at the gravesite of President Andrew Jackson, who



was born 250 years ago, on March 15, 1767. Supporters have compared Trump's rise to that of Jackson, a similarly divisive and controversial president who championed a populism embraced by non-elite white men. A portrait of Jackson now hangs in the Oval Office and on the night of Trump's 2016 victory, former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani told NBC news that Trump is the "greatest victory for the people of America since Andrew Jackson."

As some media outlets have pointed out, the comparison isn't quite apt. Unlike Trump, Jackson held public office three times before he first ran for the presidency in 1824. Before that, he was known as a national war hero for his defeat of the British in the 1815 Battle of New Orleans.

But there are important similarities. In addition to his populist rhetoric, Jackson is known for his 1830 Indian Removal Act, which violated Native American sovereignty by opening tribal lands to white ownership and development. Now, reports are suggesting that by privatizing oil-rich tribal lands, Trump is threatening to do the same.

In 1828, Jackson was elected president with the promise of removing eastern Native American nations to reservations west of the Mississippi River. Although most Americans supported the move, Jackson faced stiff resistance from many Native Americans and some white allies.

After passage of the 1830 Indian Removal Act, Jackson

led treaty negotiations to remove — usually forcibly — an estimated 70,000 Native Americans. The journey west was deadly. Somewhere between 4,000 to 8,000 Cherokees died on the notorious "Trail of Tears" to Oklahoma Territory. This was around 20 to 25 percent of all eastern Cherokee, while the deportation of the Muscogee (Creek) resulted in the deaths of 50 percent of their population.

As Cherokee chief John Ross and others noted, the Indian Removal Act ignored federal treaties that guaranteed Native American sovereignty. After banishing Native Americans from the eastern United States, Jackson led the privatization and speculation of some 140 million acres of their ancestral homelands.

Now, Reuters is reporting that Trump is considering privatizing tribal lands. There's significant incentive for Trump, a pipeline-friendly president, to do so. Although tribal lands make up only 2 percent of American land, they hold one-fifth of the country's oil and gas reserves. Privatization would have major implications for not just Native American sovereignty, but also energy development and environmental protection.

The move is being promoted by a small group of advisers to Trump on Native American issues. They see it as a way to free 56 million acres of tribal lands from federal protections that restrict development. Tribes can drill on this land but only under regulations that many consider more confining than those governing private lands.

Markwayne Mullin, a U.S. representative from Oklahoma and a member of the Cherokee nation, promotes privatization. "We should take tribal land away from public treatment," Mullin told Reuters, "As long as we can do it

without unintended consequences, I think we will have broad support around Indian country." He hopes that the proposal might result in legislation by 2018.

Other advisers, like Ross Swimmer, suggest that land ownership be restricted to Native American buyers to keep the land and profits in the hands of tribal members. For tribes suffering from chronic underfunding and unemployment, the idea of opening up energy reserves, which are estimated to be worth \$1.5 trillion, is tempting.

Many others maintain that privatization is simply another attempt to undermine Native American sovereignty. Tom Goldtooth, a member of the Navajo and Dakota nations, stresses, "privatization has been the goal since colonization — to strip Native nations of their sovereignty." Critics point to Trump's support of the controversial Dakota Access pipeline, opposed by the Standing Rock Sioux, as evidence that the president might not be interested in protecting Native American sovereignty.

Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal stands out among several key federal policies, including the 1887 Dawes Act and the 1953 Termination Policy, that made Native American land available for private ownership and development. It remains to be seen how Trump's policies toward tribal lands and natural resources plays out. But if reports of privatization prove true, comparisons between Trump and Jackson will only increase.

Melissa Gismondi is a writer and Ph.D. candidate in early American history at the University of Virginia. She's a regular contributor to the BackStory Radio blog, and can be reached at mjg3az@virginia.edu. Reprinted by permission of the author and the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Family Celebration Planning Committee says thank you for help

THANK YOU!

The Family Celebration Planning Committee thanks the following businesses and volunteers for their contribution to the 19th annual Family Celebration on March 27, 2017, at Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center in honor of Parenting Awareness Month.

Thanks to all who donated their time planning and organizing this special event for our local families.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services

Chippewa County Council for Youths and Families

Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District/ Great Start Collaborative Sault Tribe Housing Authority

Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center

Sault Tribe Head Start Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities

Sault Tribe board member; Kim Gravelle

Sugar Island Township Supervisor Rick Roy

Tiffany Escherich Dana and Ed Piippo

Kewadin Casinos

Soo Locks Boat Tours

Garlyn Zoo

Star Line Mackinac Island Ferry

Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry

Mackinac Island Carriage Tours

Huntington Bank

Super 8 Motel

Indo China Gardens

Little Caesar's Pizza

Wendy's

McDonald's

Picture This Photography

The Palace Saloon

Zorba's Restaurant

Back In Motion

The Antler's

Parker's Hardware

A special "thank you" is indebted to all of the members of the Family Celebration Planning Committee for all of their hard work and dedication to the event. Also, many thanks to the vendors and participants who make the event what it is.

Spending time with your family is the most special time you can spend. Be sure to celebrate your family every day and to make each moment count. On behalf of our committee, thank you.

— Jessica Gillotte and Megan Smith

DISTINGUISHING OUR TRIBE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS:



ROB BISHOP OF UTAH
CHAIRMAN

JASON KNIE
STAFF DIRECTOR

RAUL GRUJALVA OF ARIZONA
RANKING MEMBER

DAVID WATSON
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2017

Aaron Payment
Secretary
National Congress of American Indians
1516 P Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Payment:

I am writing to thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs oversight hearing on Thursday, March 9, 2017 to present testimony on, "Improving and Expanding Infrastructure in Tribal and Insular Communities."

Your testimony was extremely helpful in defining the Subcommittee's understanding of the issue and I appreciate the effort you took to prepare and present your testimony. Once again, thank you for your extensive effort in making this a valuable hearing.

Sincerely,
Doug LaMalfa
Doug LaMalfa
Chairman
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular
and Alaska Native Affairs

Ahneen, Boozho, Negee,

We are in some strange times both tribally and nationally. It has been nearly four months now that the Tribal Board voted to strip the Chairperson position of all administrative authority. One question several Members have posted on social media is whether or not my former duties will carry with it a raise of \$100,000 or some lesser amount to our Executive Director - a

person I have always supported. While I cannot answer this question, I will say it makes no sense to pass off my duties (those you elected me to perform) only to cost the Tribe additionally. Four months later, and I supervise no one, not even a secretary. I find this embarrassing for our tribal nation.

Still, I go about doing the best I can with what I have. One of these things is to have launched an effort



March 20, 2017

The Honorable Jack Bergman
Michigan 1st Congressional District
414 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515
Via email: Michelle.Jelnicky@mail.house.gov;

Aaron A. Payment,
(*BiWaaajjig*)
MPA, M.Ed.

Office of the Chairperson

523 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste. Marie
Michigan
49783

Phone
906.440-5937

Fax
906-632-6829

Email
aaronpayment@saulttribe.net

Dear Congressman Bergman:

I appreciate that balancing out your constituent needs goes far beyond the interests of my Tribe or other American Indians in our great state. Eight federally recognized tribes reside in the first Congressional District of Michigan. Thus, our constituents are your constituents. As currently enacted, the *Afford Care Act* has been critical in honoring and upholding the U.S. treaty and trust responsibility and bringing health insurance to nearly 1/2 million American Indians or about 9% of all American Indians.

The federal government though the Indian Health Service only funds 56% of the identified health needs in my tribe's service area which is the seven easternmost counties in the UP of Michigan. The Exchange and Medicaid Expansion under the ACA has added roughly \$6 million in third party revenue to our \$19.5 million in Indian Health Service funding for a total of \$25.5 million. We remain under-funded so this third party revenue is critical to helping the federal government fulfill the treaty and trust responsibility. After all, a government is only as good as its word.

Now, **Congressman Bergman** whether honoring the treaty and trust responsibility is an important part of your duty is for you to decide. My tribe's 1836 treaty obligated the federal government to provide, "health, education and social welfare" into perpetuity. This is not welfare, an entitlement or even reparations. All Michigan tribes have similar treaties which are pursuant to the U.S. Constitution. Provisions in the Exchange have propelled the federal government forward with fulfilling the treaty obligation for health.

The State of Michigan is in a similar situation with having agreed to expand Medicaid in exchange for a subsidy in doing so. Reneging on this, whether based on partisanship or political ideology is not in the best interests of your constituents. In fact, it is very much like a broken treaty. Again, a government is only as good as its word.

I stand in unity with Governor Snyder on this issue. President Trump said no one would lose coverage. **Michigan cannot afford to lose health care for 882,976 or about 9% of our 9,922,576 fellow Michiganders.** Admittedly, there are needed changes to the ACA. Repeal and replace is not the answer and will not protect Michigan's interests.

I encourage you to vote NO for now and work to ensure the benefits of the exchange to Michigan are maintained and the permanent reauthorization of the *Indian Health Care Improvement Act* is assured.

Respectfully,

Aaron A. Payment

Aaron A. Payment

C Michigan Tribal Leadership
Dave Nyberg

MI ACA Dashboard

MI 1st Congressional District

Your Constituents ~ the Exchange: **21,342**

Your Constituents ~ Medicaid Expansion: **46,125**

Total Constituents in Your District At Risk: **67,467**

9.6% of Your Constituents are At Risk

Your Support of Your Constituents: **Priceless!**

to educate Congress of the costs to Indian Country if the Affordable Care Act is repealed. This represents at least a \$6 million loss for our tribe. In Michigan, over 800,000 citizens will likely lose coverage. See the letter I sent out above and the impact in your Congressional District below. Please take a moment to send an email to your Congress member to honor the ACA.

The other item I want to address deals with over \$100,000 appropriated over

the last several months to investigate/ audit our Tribal Health Centers, Human Resources, and most recently our Fisheries. While I am all for continuous quality improvement, some Board Members clearly pushed this method for terminations. We have or will lose hundreds of thousands in contracts. With these audit costing over \$100,000 and lost revenue expected to exceed \$200,000, we stand only to lose for the privilege of mistreating others.

Despite the vote of no confidence from a majority of our Board, however, I must be doing something right as evidenced in having testified for all of Indian Country as noted above left.

Finally, there was no justification or cause for suspending our Great Lakes Conservation Committee so the Board should immediate reinstate them.

Chi McGwitch, Negee!

Chi McGwitch

Congress Member	District	Email 1	Exchange Enrollees	Medicaid Expansion	Total	Total Pop	Percent
Jack Bergman	1st	Michelle.Jelnicky@mail.house.gov	21,342	46,125	67,467	700,136	9.6
Bill Huizenga	2nd	trevor.tenbrink@mail.house.gov	15,126	49,247	64,373	731,188	8.8
Justin Amash	3rd	Jelena.matic@mail.house.gov	14,159	34,636	48,795	730,423	6.7
John Moolenaar	4th	Eva.Vrana@mail.house.gov	13,468	44,160	57,628	701,635	8.2
Dan Kildee	5th	tina.reyes@mail.house.gov	11,879	56,483	68,362	682,716	10
Fred Upton	6th	Bits.thomas@mail.house.gov	15,678	40,483	56,161	713,644	7.9
Tim Walberg	7th	Jonathan.hirte@mail.house.gov	13,537	42,894	56,431	697,627	8.1
Mike Bishop	8th	Susan.larson@mail.house.gov	16,576	39,858	56,434	728,781	7.7
Sander Levin	9th	Hilarie.chambers@mail.house.gov	19,477	41,896	61,373	717,641	8.6
Paul Mitchell	10th	molly.harrington@mail.house.gov	18,441	50,037	68,478	715,535	9.6
David Trott	11th	Marla.rondo@mail.house.gov	16,783	59,936	76,719	720,585	10.6
Debbie Dingell	12th	jennifer.holland@mail.house.gov	13,468	54,994	68,462	708,020	9.7
John Conyers	13th	Erik.sperling@mail.house.gov	11,327	46,043	57,370	679,235	8.4
Brenda Lawrence	14th	Alex.Huang@mail.house.gov	14,987	59,936	74,923	695,410	10.8
			216,248	666,728	882,976	9,922,576	

We are sovereign nations, not special interest groups



**CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

The Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) went to Washington, D.C., at the end of March for MAST Impact Week 2017. It was an opportunity to educate, advocate and press our position on a variety of legislation that will have a direct impact of tribes from the Midwest (Michigan, Wisconsin

and Minnesota).

It was good to gather with tribal leadership from across the Great Lakes. I was very grateful for the welcome and hospitality shown by the National Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of American Indians for opening their doors and hosting a gathering place for our workshops and study group. I would also like to acknowledge Sault Tribe member Megan Starling for providing technical support and guidance through the halls of Congress as we met with various house representatives and congressional committees. And, a big thanks to Mike McCoy, too. He's a seasoned pro and was an invaluable resource to our delegation.

We happened to be making our appointed meetings on the same day as the "Repeal and Replace" Bill (HR 1628) was scheduled for a House vote and the atmosphere was pretty intense. As it turned

out, they cancelled the vote for lack of support. But it was within that context we advocated on behalf of our tribe. Every two years we find ourselves having to educate a new set of elected representatives about Indian country and some basic facts that many are unfamiliar with:

We are not a "special interest group." We are sovereign nations, units of governments much like the states. Our sovereignty is established in the U.S. Constitution and has been reaffirmed extensively in case law as "the supreme law of the land" and is on par with the states. It is vital for Congress to keep these constitutional principles in mind — especially as a movement takes hold to push both regulation and appropriation down to the state level across all federal agencies. For example, when all federal funding is allocated to the states in the form of block grants, the result is that states hold the

purse strings on tribal funding and demand tribes to compete against each other for funds that are rightfully pre-paid treaty obligation funds. This model can also impose additional burdensome regulatory schemes on tribes. Finally, it erodes the trust relationship between tribes and federal government. This is not good or fair to tribes. We therefore advocate for Congress to "hold tribes harmless" in the budgetary process through "set asides" and carve outs.

Chi miigwech to the Sault Tribe Cultural Department, especially Jackie Minton and Colleen Medicine, and everyone who participated in making the St. Ignace powwow and round dance a reality. "Zkamikwe Enaadowendang"—Honoring Our Waters and Her Protectors. This is a dream come true for me and I will look forward to this powwow every year from here on out.

It's time for students to check

the Sault Tribe website for information and coming deadlines related to scholarships, grants and financial support opportunities. Please spread the word: www.saulttribe.com.

Important issues are going on regarding our treaty protected fishing rights. By next month, we'll be better able to address the issues publicly. In the meantime, I encourage you to call me or write, and I will be glad to respond to any and all questions or concerns you may have.

The first spring bulbs are starting to poke their heads above ground, even as we prepare for (hopefully) the last snowstorm of the season. Despite what you may read in the news or in social media—we are moving forward in a good way.

Enjoy this season of rebirth.
Respectfully,
Catherine Hollowell
(906) 430-5551
chollowell@saulttribe.net

2017 EUP Reads

SAULT STE. MARIE — Over 550 local youth and their families attended the fourth annual EUP Reads on March 13 at the Cisler Center at Lake Superior State University.

According to JKL School Superintendent Theresa Kallstrom, it's the biggest crowd they've ever had. "It has been about 500 every year or a little less until this year when we topped 500," she said.

More organizations agreed to participate this year, with 23 securing table space for reading activities targeted at youth from infancy to pre-college, Kallstrom added. Youth of all ages were welcome to participate in 59 separate activities designed to encourage reading.

This year's theme was "Camp Reads-A-Lot," featuring tents, s'more suckers and other refreshments, prizes and free books for students who attend.

The focus of EUP Reads remains on making reading fun, not just for students but for parents as well.

Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton



Scarlett Uhrig makes a birdfeeder from a toilet paper roll, lard, birdseed and yarn.



JKL School Superintendent Theresa Kallstrom and JKL School parent Tymberlee Goff (L-R) at EUP Reads registration wearing the theme t-shirt for the night "Read S'More." The event attracted 557 people.



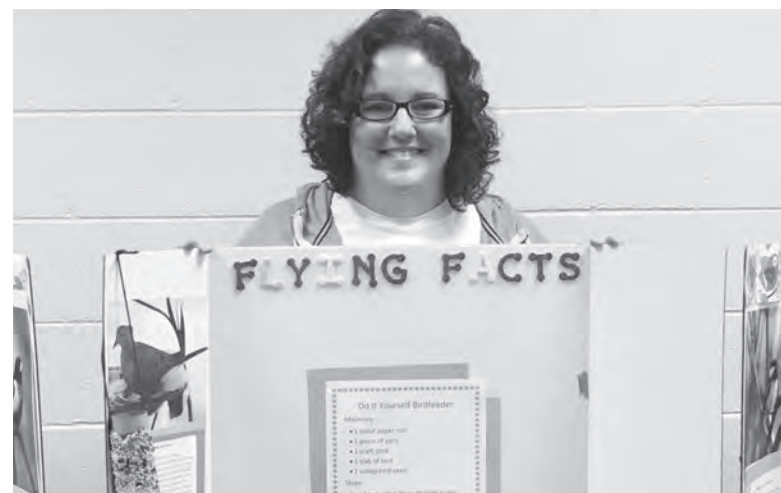
Sault High National Honor Society Student Molly Malette was one of several life-sized animal mascots roaming the event, above with students Emily Cornwell and Ava Jacobs (L-R).



Holly Traynor (R) at one of 23 event tables encouraging reading to a packed house at EUP Reads 2017 at LSSU's Cisler Center March 13.



JKL School Culture and Language Coordinator and Instructor Chris Gordon and his daughter Tia manned the Anishinaabe language and culture booth, offering coloring pages for young and old alike.



Kids made do-it-yourself birdfeeders at the booth shared by the JKL School director of curriculum and instruction and federal, state and school programs Carolyn Dale (above), and Sault Tribe Newspaper Editor Jennifer Dale-Burton.

We dodged a bullet, but haven't won the war



**JENNIFER MCLEOD,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aanii Anishnaabek, I attended the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) March 21-24, 2017. It was excellent. However, this trip to D.C. did little to make me feel better about the future of Indian Country in regards to federal funding. There are still many ominous issues on the horizon, and we have a big fight ahead of us. We may have "dodged a bullet" when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was not repealed (because it kept the Indian Health Act intact), but the ACA is once more undergoing intense scrutiny as the Republicans and the new administration seek ways to eliminate

or severely change the ACA. The Indian Health Act could be affected, and this could be very damaging to all tribal health centers.

There were numerous speakers at MAST, who addressed the areas of concern between Indian tribes and the federal government. Speakers were Attorney on International Affairs Mr. Keith Harper, Acting Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs Mike Black, Congresswoman Betty McCullom and Congressmen Frank Pallone, John Moolenaar, Jack Bergman (whom I had the opportunity to speak with briefly), Mike Gallagher and Dan Kildee. We also heard from Deputy Assistant Secretary for Office of Native American Programs Heidi J. Frechette, Department of Homeland Security Tribal Government Affairs Director David Monro, National Indian Health Board Executive Director Stacy A. Bohlen (A SAULT TRIBE MEMBER!) and other speakers who addressed various issues related to Indian Country.

On March 23, we armed ourselves with "white papers" and flooded "the Hill" with tribal representation. It was a heartwarming feeling to walk those long marble halls with many other

Tribal Leaders, knowing we were there in solidarity delivering our messages.

As the new Administration continues to settle in and make its mark, we must be vigilant in our communications. Over the years, I have been surprised by the number of new staffers, and congressional leaders as well, who don't understand that tribes are sovereign nations! When we succeed in educating them to the facts and truly get them to realize that tribes are contractually OWED money by the federal government, then we are able to have legitimate conversations regarding tribal sovereignty and rights. But, occasionally, despite our best efforts, there are still those who refuse to recognize that tribes are not "seeking hand-outs," and look to find ways to get out of paying what is owed. THAT is our battleground. Combating ignorance, disdain, misunderstanding and flat-out prejudice, by telling our stories over and over again. We do not stop, we do not give up and we do not give in.

On the home front, there are challenges as well. The politics of the board of directors' decision to remove the delegation of authority to the chairman and reassign them to the executive director (also known as a CEO in non-profit organizations) continue to cause some disruption, however, overall I still believe it was the right thing to do. There are some issues to iron out, but hopefully they will be resolved soon, once an organizational chart is approved.

Also on the home front, there has been an issue that has dramatically affected our fishing/biological services. In short, an allegation was made that was egregious enough that the board of directors immediately put some staff on administrative leave (with pay) pending the results of an OUTSIDE investigation. The investigation took longer than expected, and resulted in some members of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) to become very concerned. There may be some negative financial impact to our tribe, and it is uncertain at this time what will be our "new normal" will be. Due to confidentiality issues, I can't say more than this. As everything settles down and decisions are made, I anticipate that formal announcements and information will be shared. At this time, please know that the board of directors acted swiftly in an effort to protect our shared resources and our fishing/



Sault Tribe Director Kim Gravelle, Congressman Jack Bergman, and Director Jennifer McLeod (L-R) in Washington, D.C.

biological programs.

I continue to be active with tribal youth and during the month of March I spent a day at Rudyard Area Schools telling stories as a part of their March is Reading Month activities. It is ALWAYS a delight working with children, and I am excited to announce that I will be doing more with our tribal children attending Rudyard Schools. There are hundreds of our children living in remote areas, who have little to no exposure to the resources of the tribe, even though they live on tribal reservation land. It's past time to change that and I am happy to be a part of that change.

Last month, the two young girls I am mentoring for tribal leadership were scheduled to present at the Michigan Indian Education Critical Issues Conference. We traveled to Marquette the night before, but sadly, one of the girls had a medical emergency and had to be admitted to the hospital overnight. It was unfortunate that we were unable to present, but it still was a good learning experience for both girls. Life happens, despite the plans we make, lol! But there will be other times, and I am so proud of Samantha Hale and Alana Dyament.

Also this month, in trying to honor my campaign commitment to increase communications with tribal members everywhere (and especially downstate), I drove to Orion Township, Mich., and was interviewed for the Oakland leadership show. The host of the show is Penny Shults. I had a lot of fun doing this interview! It's my first in a long time! It's about 25 minutes long and can be viewed at https://youtu.be/L_iAflRy48E. It was a bit of a challenge, because it was a one-shot, straight through video shoot...

no "do-overs" or editing for goof ups! But, Penny is a pro, and she sure made me look good! The time flew by, and I am so glad I did this. CHI-MIIGWECH, Penny!

In closing, I want to share that while we face some potentially BIG challenges, our people have been through tougher times, and we will endure. I and many others will not stand by and just watch these things happen. As many of you already know, I prefer not to travel, but I heard a quote when I was in D.C. that summed it up well, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu!" It's important that tribal leaders everywhere are at every table, every time, as the new administration contemplates actions that could negatively affect Indian Country. If we are not there, if we are silent, our lack of participation will be seen as agreement. I will go to as many tables as I can get to. We cannot be silent and there are things you can do to help, too. Contact your congressional leaders and senators from your state. Speak up and tell them the federal government has a trust responsibility to tribes, guaranteed by and written into the Constitution of the United States. The feds OWE this money to tribes, they are pre-paid by our treaties.

Tribal treaties DON'T EXPIRE!

Anishnaabe gagige (Anishnaabe for always),
Jen
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2 Ice Circle Drive
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783



Unit I Director Jen McLeod joins in March is Reading month activities by telling stories at Rudyard Area Schools.

Paycheck Fairness Act would end pay discrimination

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (MI-12) on April 4 marked Equal Pay Day by cosponsoring the Paycheck Fairness Act to ensure women across the country earn equal pay for equal work.

"Equal Pay Day is the day when, more than three months into the year, women's earnings finally catch up to what men earned in 2016," Dingell said. "Women working full-time,

year-round still earn on average 80 cents for every dollar earned by men, and the pay gap is even worse for women of color. It's not a myth, but a harsh reality that as far as we've come, we still have work to do to ensure women are paid equally for doing the same job.

"The Paycheck Fairness Act takes a critical step toward addressing this disparity by strengthening and closing loopholes in the Equal Pay Act of

1963. This is not just a women's issue – it matters to our children and families and our economy as a whole. With less take-home pay, women have less for the everyday needs of their families – groceries, rent, child care and doctor's visits – money that would go back into our local economies. Women and their families deserve equal pay for equal work, and we're calling on our colleagues to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to help

close the wage gap once and for all."

More than five decades after the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, Michigan women still only earn 74 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. The gap is even wider for women of color, with African-American women making 64 cents on the dollar, and Hispanic women making just 57 cents for every dollar earned by a man. At the rate of change

between 1960 and 2015, women will not see pay equality with men until 2059.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would strengthen and close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act by holding employers accountable for discriminatory practices, ending the practice of pay secrecy, easing workers' ability to individually or jointly challenge pay discrimination, and strengthening the available remedies for wronged employees.

Accountability is the key to the tribe's success



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

It is very unfortunate that the chair continues to throw out crap on social media. This is the same person that preaches we need an ethics policy and claims freedom of speech when discussing a social media policy. I do not see members of the board using social media to crucify team members, creating pandemonium and spreading non-stop lies. I agree there needs to be an ethics and social media policy that has some teeth because his conduct is highly unprofessional.

The board of directors took an oath to uphold the constitution, which includes protecting our property and resources. In doing so, sometimes the board has to take action when information presents itself of possible misconduct or unusual conduct. It is not an easy task with people having friends and family working for

the tribe, but ultimately it is our responsibility to protect this tribe, our property and our resources. When actions such as these are occurring it is unprofessional for the chair or board member to intervene or make public statements. My only conclusion when this does happen is for the protection of family or friends or self-preservation.

The chair seems to frown on any actions of the board involving audits or investigations. Why do you think that is? Should things be swept under the carpet? Are good or vital team members above the law? If any manager or supervisor is provided information that is questionable, it is their responsibility to check into it. We are doing just that. If a casino manager put something out on social media about an audit, investigation or confidentiality they would be terminated. Not only that but it is not something that people with marbles usually do.

There are positive things happening within the tribe, such as the hiring of a Kewadin Casinos CEO. His first day will be on Monday, April 17. I wasn't able to be a part of that particular interview but I supported the board's decision for recommendation. It is critical that we have someone in place with the summer season upon us.

The group RedW that we hired to do the HR audit will be on site, Wednesday, April 5, to present

their findings to the board and the executive director. This has been a long process and hopefully many good things come out of it. Thank you to all who participated in the interviews and/or surveys.

The board is also meeting with the attorney we hired (Morissett) for the 2020 Consent Decree this week. We will begin to discuss an upcoming plan of action.

We will also be meeting with our downstate projects legal team to discuss options going forward with the change in the presidency and trust applications. We are still hopeful we will win the right to game in these areas.

Construction has begun on our new elder complex in St. Ignace. The project is supposed to be done by Spring 2018. There will be 20 lucky elders who will be able to live there.

Interviews will be held during the first week of April to hire the new health director for the tribe. We are also close to hiring a company to conduct the health division audit. Health is the division used by most of our members and providing quality and timely service is necessary.

The board has been reviewing the decriminalization of marijuana. Since medical marijuana is legal in the state of Michigan it makes sense that our members should be subject to the same. I support this action for many reasons. I have seen the benefits for people with chronic pain using marijuana instead of narcotics. It

continues to be illegal when, in my opinion, alcohol contributes to more domestic disputes, car accidents and crimes than I have seen or heard about from marijuana. I am not condoning use prior or during work hours but why should a person be able to purchase a 6-pack or bottle at 5 p.m. on a Friday night at the Midjim and not use marijuana? More states and cities are approving the medical and recreational use so we might as well get on board.

The tribe is facing many new changes to our organization this year with the change in many key employee positions, department and division audits, and complying with the 2010 constitutional amendment separating the CEO and chair duties. Since my five years of serving on the board, I can honestly say we are moving in a very positive direction. Some members many not agree with our actions but the majority of the board is on the same page. We have added Mondays to our schedule to be able to get things accomplished.

Our executive director has her hands full with the entire oversight of the government operations. Since the chair was away a lot, the staff was not given much direction or guidance. Everyone has a job to do and everyone needs directions, goals and accountability. Some individuals continue to try and manipulate and instill fear. These actions are unprofessional and self-serving.

The last thing I want to discuss is the lack of understanding of bariatric surgery and food addictions. Some of our leaders do not seem to understand or care that members struggle with food addictions that are very similar to alcohol, tobacco or drug addictions. Some seem to believe that bariatric surgery is cosmetic instead of life saving.

Our current policy is so outrageous that it is nearly impossible to have the procedure. If you do get the procedure, it is once in a lifetime and a \$35,000 cap, I believe. I don't know of any other insurance provider that has such stringent guidelines. If a person has a shoulder surgery and it doesn't work, they get to have additional surgeries with no cap. If a person attends a treatment program and goes off the wagon, they can attend other programs with no limit or cap. No surgery is ever a guarantee, so how can we place these restrictions on people's lives and well-being?

This seems very unreasonable and biased. The cost and benefits of the procedure far outweigh the cost when compared to the lifetime of prescription drugs, surgeries, and other medical needs. It is time the tribe and its leaders think out of the box and get educated!

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

Sovereign tribes meet with Congress, Senate



**LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

We had a week of intense meetings with tribal leaders from across the nation — state representatives, senators and Congress. We gathered information and were briefed with materials and concerns that we have specific to tribes in the Midwest and Indian Country issues in general. We then gathered in groups and scheduled face-to-face meetings in Congress to educate and advocate. Main issues we brought forward were the concerns we all have with the president's proposed budget cuts to Indian Country and the cuts to the Great Lakes funding.

We educated new members on the trust responsibility and treaty obligations and commitments the federal government has and must adhere to. We reminded them we are not grant-funded and not simply a hand out to our governments. We must always inform them that this is their responsibility so we can take

care of our members for the basic needs in our communities. We do have allies on both sides and must keep it that way and it was an honor to be there with many great leaders from Indian Country. During our stay, we also had the opportunity to see the health care bill pan out. We also had many contacts reminding them that we benefit greatly from the health act and it supplies us with third-party billing so that we can put dollars back into our programs. I felt confident that we had made a difference there and look forward to doing much of the same.

As stated in my last report, the board is acting quickly to seek and schedule candidates for the CEO position for our five casinos. I'm happy to report we interviewed many candidates and selected a qualified, experienced CEO. The new position is slated to start April 17. I want to say *chi miigwech* to all the man-

agers and especially the front line workers who stepped up to keep our ship steady when we had the exit of the last CEO. I want all to know that it has recognized the staff who take the lead and take pride in their jobs to keep us moving forward. I will be advocating that the CEO visits each property and meet you. Thank you again for the hard work.

This coming week, we will be meeting face to face with our newly hired treat rights attorney. It took us many hours of discussion and hiccups to get to the point of securing this specialist. We will be discussing with him our plan and strategy to move forward our positions in the 2020 Consent Decree. This area has always been Director Hollowell's and my priority. We kept the item at the forefront with help of other board members and kept pressing until this was secured. I'm confident we

will be prepared and ready to defend and enhance our positions. I've spoken to many on this issue and any calls for input and thoughts are always welcome.

In closing, I want to confidently state that our government is secure and moving forward with executive duties assigned to our governmental administration. There have been many comments moving around about this and items we must address for protecting our resources, funding and assets are always the focus. We have a responsibility to protect, this is not taken lightly and hard decisions must always be made. With knowing the true picture and entire facts on any situation is the only way

we can move in a direction that protects our tribe. Please don't get caught up in our own "fake news" because that's hurtful and diminishes our government. I want to remind you that we take steps to keep our tribe protected and moving. I don't post on Facebook or any other social media sites, as the intent is not always good for our tribe. Please know that we are working daily to keep the ship steady and to secure our people's rights, services and well being.

As always, if you would like to meet or discuss any items and issues with me, please contact (906) 322-3818 or lcausley@saulttribe.net. Baamaa Pii.

Lana Causley-Smith
Sault Tribe Board of Directors



From left, Sault Tribe Legislative Director Mike McCoy, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Sault Tribe directors Lana Causley, Catherine Hollowell.



From left, Sault Tribe directors Kim Gravelle, Catherine Hollowell, Lana Causley and Legislative Director Mike McCoy on the steps of the Embassy of Tribal Nations at 1516 P Street NW, Washington, D.C.

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