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Mkwa-Giizis (Bear Moon)  
February 2012 vol.9 Issue 2

## ALSO IN THIS PUBLICATION

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-  P. 27- SEE THE BEAUTIFUL COLORED DREAM CATCERS!



Members Only Site

The long anticipated protected website for citizens of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians was launched at the end of the year. In this issue (pages 12 and 13) you will find a whole tutorial on how to access the site, set up your account and start seeing more information about your tribe.

Office of Public Affairs  
Contact Information  
1-888-723-8288  
1-231-398-6840

## Native Art at WSCC



West Shore Community College held an excellent art exhibit at their Manierre Dawson Gallery that featured many LRBOI tribal members creations. For photos and details see page 14.

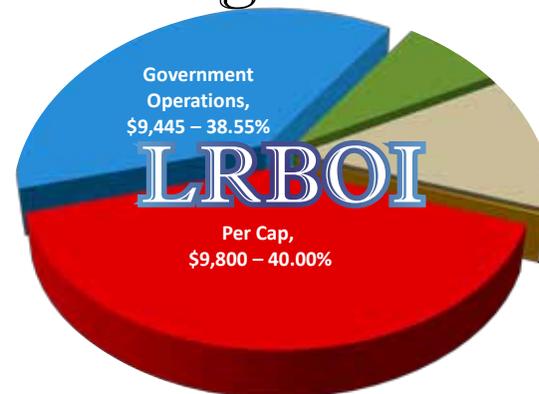
## New Government Center



 LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
GOVERNMENTAL CENTER SCHEMATIC ELEVATION

The Government Center Task Force has announced progress on the project. (page 7)

## 2012 Budget Released



Tribal Council has provisionally approved the 2012 budget for LRBOI. See the report from the Ogema (page 2); the Tribal Council report (page 3) and Tribal Manager overview (5) for more details.



The OSIYO report is now on the website and I have requested the 2012 budget also be placed on the website. It can be located on the Ogema's portion of the Members Only section. I want to thank Tribal Manager, Jessica Burger, Tribal CFO, Steve Wheeler, and Budget Coordinator, Bill Willis for their hard work and assistance on the 2012 budget. It has been a difficult budget because of decreased revenue and increased membership.

In December, I had the opportunity to attend the White House Tribal Nations Conference hosted by President Obama; this is the third annual conference of its kind. Along with the President, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius; Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and Associate Attorney General Thomas Perelli also spoke to the tribal leaders. Additionally, tribal leaders were able to attend breakout sessions on various topics important in Indian country and provided by tribal leaders including: Strengthening the Government to Government Relationship; Creating Jobs and Growing Tribal Economies; Promoting Strong and Safe Tribal Communities; Improving Access to Healthcare, Education, Housing, Infrastructure and other Federal

Services and; Protecting Natural Resources and Respect for Cultural Rights.

What's known as the Carcieri Decision by the Supreme Court which took Secretary of the Interior's authority to take land into trust for most federally recognized tribes and the subsequent Carcieri Fix is still a major effort for most tribes. Our tribe was reaffirmed by Congress and this decision does not affect us directly. In West Michigan we were spared significant snowfall through the end of 2011 but winter has finally arrived. Please remember that the Spring Membership Meeting is April 14<sup>th</sup>!

I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season and had time to spend with family and friends.

REMEMBER- "Things are more like they are now than they have ever been." (Attributed to comments of President Gerald R. Ford)

Aanii,  
I am pleased to announce that the new Members Only website is up and running. I want to thank IT Director, George LeVassuer and the entire IT Department for putting it all together. I also want to thank Glenn Zaring for his assistance in making it happen.

The big difference on the new website is the Members Only portion. By having a more targeted audience targeted toward members and their families will allow us to post more information important to tribal members but not something we wish to share with the general population.



## New Online Business Primer to Help with Job Creation in Indian Country

Posted by Christopher James on January 05, 2012 at 02:21 PM EST

*Ed. note: This is cross-posted from Open for Business, the blog of the U.S. Small Business Administration*

The U.S. Small Business Administration yesterday launched a new online tool that helps Native American entrepreneurs prepare for business ownership. The Native American Small Business Primer: Strategies for Success is a free online business course developed for Native American entrepreneurs that gives an overview of basic business principles and of the SBA's programs and services that help business owners get started.

SBA's Office of Native American Affairs works to ensure that American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian communities have full access to all SBA programs and services. Each year, more than 200,000 American Indian and Alaska Native and 29,000 Native Hawaiian-owned businesses add billions to the American economy. We stand at the ready to help even more Native American entrepreneurs with business ownership.

The new primer is an important tool for American Indians, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian business owners that can lend in our nation's overall economic health through business ownership and creating new jobs. Our ultimate goal is to help spur job creation and to stimulate economic and business development in our Native American communities.

The course is available from the SBA's Online Small Business Training web page under Online Courses for Starting Your Business at <http://www.sba.gov/content/online-courses-starting-your-business>.

The new course is the ideal business development tool for the entrepreneur's toolbox that emphasizes business planning and market research as essential steps to take before going into business. The course gives useful first steps to take, and includes a section on how to estimate business start-up costs that help assess the financial needs of starting a business.

Christopher James is the Assistant Administrator Office of Native American Affairs at the U.S. Small Business Administration.  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/01/05/new-online-business-primer-help-job-creation-indian-country>

**2012 Budget announced!**  
At the Ogema's directive, the 2012 Tribal budget has been placed on the Member's-Only website ([www.lrboi-nsn.gov](http://www.lrboi-nsn.gov)) under the Ogema's tab.

## Recorder's Report to the Membership January 2012



### COUNCIL MEETINGS AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

By the time this publication reaches your home, the Tribal Council will have authorized the video recordings of its regular open session to be accessed via the Tribal Government's website. As of this publication, I can't provide the direct links, because those mechanisms will be created by the IT department, and are not yet available. Please watch for an announcement in the Rapid River News, when the upload and links have been created.

### FY 2012 BUDGET NUMBERS FOR TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

The Tribal Council *provisionally* adopted the

Tribal Government Budget for FY 2012. The Ogema has made the Budget available through the Tribal Government website, however, the information only includes the dollars allocated. If you would like the Budget Narratives, which is the document submitted by the departments to justify their funding requests and detail how the allocations are to be spent, you must make an additional inquiry for that information. The Council's action to provisionally adopt the FY 2012 Budget was made largely due to the time constraints, and the consideration of new fiscal year approaching. The Council had sent a list of concerns to the Ogema's office regarding specific allocations, including a request for additional justification that had not been completely answered. Rather than face yet another budgetary stand-off involving the Council amending the submission, the Ogema's Veto of the amendments, and then the Council override of the veto, the Council elected to exercise its authority to adopt the budget. In doing so, the Council enabled the Government to continue operations, without interrupting services or causing disruption of critical needs for Tribal Members.

The mandate communicated by the Tribal Council for the creation of the FY 2012 Budget was that all direct services, such as Health, Education, and Housing program dollars, were to remain intact. The Submission did include some revisions to programs, which appear are not in line with the original request of the Tribal Council. Unfortunately, the Tribal Council's provisional approval also results in any proposals submitted by the Executive that included changes to direct services as being enacted as of the date of adoption. In some cases, that may mean temporary reductions to direct

services until such time as the Tribal Council can propose amendments to restore those former funding levels, where possible.

The FY 2012 budget is predicated on \$24,500,000.00 of revenues from gaming operations to the Tribal Government. This is a reduction from FY 2011 levels, which were at \$29,681,977.00. This year's budget is based on a reduction in revenues by approximately \$5.9 million dollars overall, including grant sources.

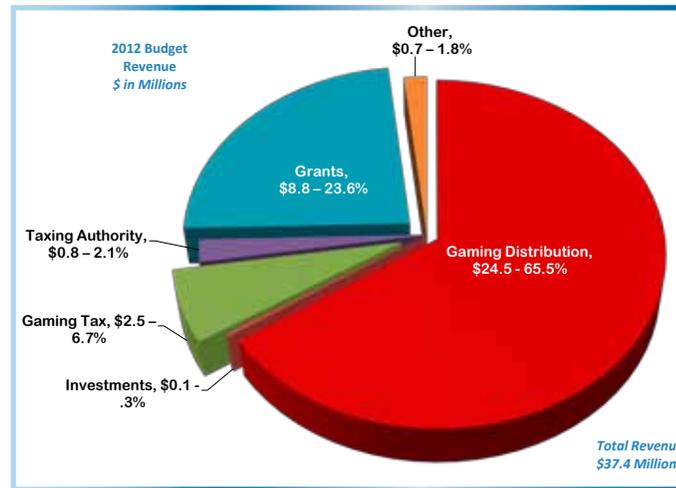
The Tribal Council had discussed with representatives of Ogema's office (CFO and Tribal Manager) during a series of work sessions that were held to review the Government operations

budget, that additional changes to the law requiring more detailed planning effort and justifications for allocations will be coming forward. The Tribal Membership is encouraged to review those changes to the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance when they are posted for public comment, potentially during the first quarter.

The graphs included in this month's report to illustrate for Membership the major categories of funding contained within the FY 2012 budget. As noted, the budget is also available online at the Tribe's website.

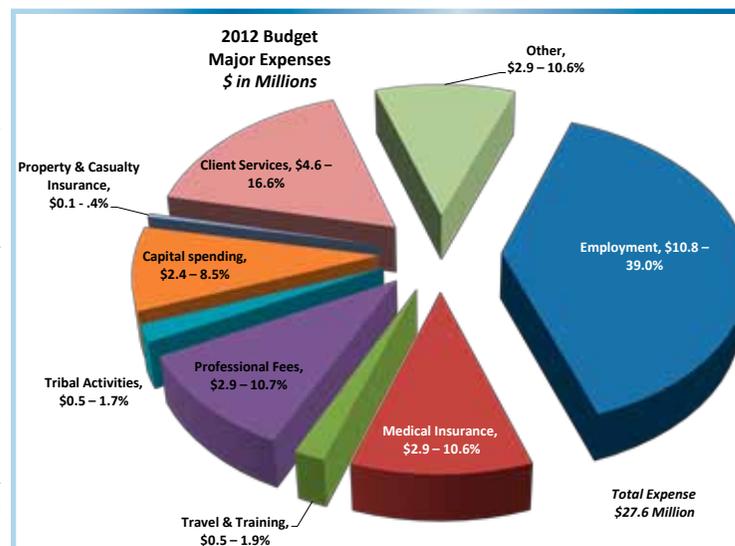
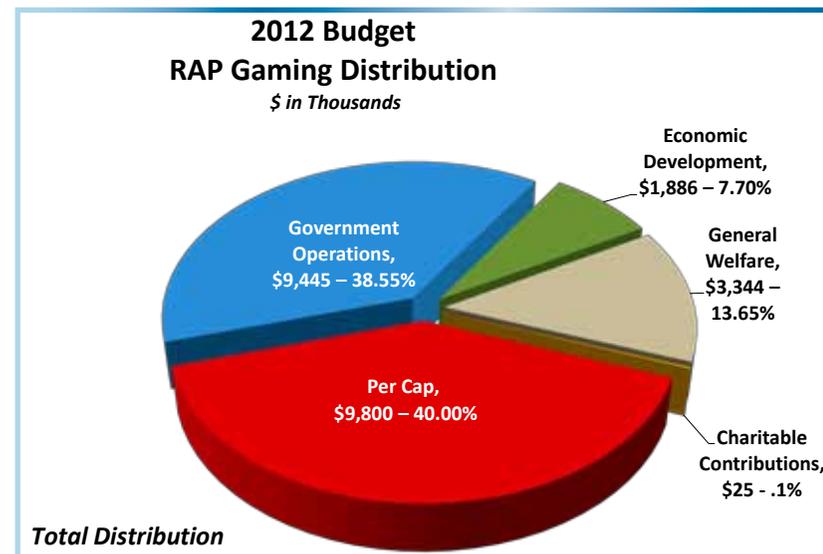
The Recorder notes that due to space constraints, the voting charts for December and January will be published in February Currents. Please be reminded that approved Tribal Council minutes are available at the Tribe's website. The Recorder thanks Dan Velikan for his assistance in preparing the graphs that appear in this issue.

Respectfully submitted, Janine M. Sam-Recorder



### 2012 Budget Revenue vs 2011

	2012	2011	Change
Gaming Distribution	24,500,000	29,681,977	(5,181,977)
Gaming Tax	2,500,000	2,500,000	-
Rental	149,600	160,000	(10,400)
Program	480,000	711,723	(231,723)
Taxing Authority	775,533	732,618	42,915
3rd Party billing	40,000	72,332	(32,332)
Investments	115,000	256,920	(141,920)
Grants	8,838,524	9,242,022	(403,498)
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,398,657</b>	<b>43,357,592</b>	<b>(5,958,935)</b>



### 2012 Budget Expenditures vs 2011

	2012	2011	Change
Employment	10,765,515	11,511,622	(746,107)
Medical Insurance	2,927,955	3,133,807	(205,852)
Travel & Training	527,729	561,943	(34,214)
Professional Fees	2,948,841	2,786,509	162,332
Tribal Activities	464,261	314,008	150,253
Capital spending	2,351,966	3,758,913	(1,406,947)
Property & Casualty Insurance	110,000	109,992	8
Client Services	4,565,826	4,746,834	(181,008)
Other	2,936,564	3,764,133	(827,569)
Per cap	9,800,000	11,833,902	(2,033,902)
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,398,657</b>	<b>42,521,662</b>	<b>(5,123,005)</b>

Work Session Attendance											
Date	Work Session Title	Steve Parsons	Janine Sam	Kimberly Alexander	Candace Chapman	Virgil Johnson	Sandy Mezeske	Pat Ruitter	Lee Sprague	Michael Ceplina	Total Attending
11/1/11	Declaratory Relief	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
11/1/11	Public Safety Issues	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
11/1/11	Tribal Court & Criminal Procedures Ordinance				x	x	x			x	4
11/1/11	Round Table	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	7
11/1/11	Little River Casino Resort Financial Statement Review				x	x	x			x	4
11/7/11	Wind Energy Ordinance	x		x		x	x		x	x	6
11/7/11	Investment Policy	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	7
11/7/11	Treatment as a State	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	7
11/7/11	Agenda Review	x	x			x	x		x	x	6
11/7/11	Administrative Procedures Ordinance	x	x			x	x		x	x	6
11/8/11	Vogue Presentation	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		8
11/8/11	Wind Energy Ordinance	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
11/8/11	Round Table	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	8
11/8/11	Board of Review	x	x		x	*	x			x	5
11/9/11	Tribal Priorities	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
11/10/11	Proposed Constitutional Amendments		x		x	x	x	x		x	6
11/10/11	Uniform Conservation Code	x	x		x	x	x			x	6
11/10/11	Tribal Council Priorities	x	x		x	x				x	5
11/14/11	Government Financial Report	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
11/14/11	Purposing Cost for the Elders Supplemental Insurance	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
11/14/11	Agenda Review	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
11/15/11	Round Table	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	7
11/15/11	LRCR 2012 Operating Plan	x			x				x	x	4
11/15/11	Process and equipment needs for meeting tapes	x	x		x		x			x	5
11/21/11	Personnel Administration - Legal	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
11/21/11	Enrollment Investigation	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	7
11/21/11	FY2012 Government Budget Submission	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	7
11/22/11	Round Table	x	x			x	x	x		x	6
11/28/11	Gaming Commission Ordinance	x		x			x	x	x	x	6
11/28/11	Government Auditor Selection	x					x	x		x	4
11/28/11	Agenda Review	x		x				x	x	x	5
11/29/11	Little River Casino Resort Financial Statement Review	x		x	x			x	x	x	6
11/29/11	Round Table	x		x	x			x	x	x	6
11/29/11	Elders Committee	x		x	x			x		x	5
	<b>Total - 34 meetings</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	

Work Session Attendance											
Date	Work Session Title	Steve Parsons	Janine Sam	Kimberly Alexander	Candace Chapman	Virgil Johnson	Sandy Mezeske	Pat Ruitter	Lee Sprague	Michael Ceplina	Total Attending
12/5/11	Closed Roads and Trails	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	7
12/5/11	Agenda Review	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	7
12/6/11	Commerce	x		x	x	x		x		x	6
12/6/11	Round Table	x		x	x	x		x		x	6
12/9/11	2012 Budget Review		x		x	x	x	x		x	6
12/13/11	Tax Agreement			x		x	x	x		x	5
12/13/11	Agenda Review		x	x		x	x	x		x	6
12/13/11	Health Department Job Descriptions		x			x	x	x		x	5
12/19/11	Clinical Applications Coordinator	x			x	x		x		x	5
12/19/11	Government Financial Statement	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	7
12/19/11	Agenda Review	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	7
	<b>Total - 11 meetings</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	

## A Discussion beyond the Numbers Responsible Fiscal Management for the Tribal Government

By Jessica Burger, Tribal Manager



The Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget was adopted by Tribal Council resolution #11-1221-420 on December 21, 2011; the result of an 8 for, 1 against and 0 abstaining vote. And there are **provisions** included by the Tribal

Council resolution that adopts the measure. (The adoption was not necessarily ‘provisional’ in the sense that there is no contingency on the budget being adopted for a specified period of time based on conditions that needs to be met.) Those provisions will be addressed as the fiscal year moves forward and they are highlighted directly from the resolution here:

“IT I FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the approval of the Fiscal Year 2012 Tribal Government Operations Budget for 2012 **does not imply or authorize expenditures where additional authorizations or appropriations of funds are required** with the exception of the following:

- **Charitable contributions shall be one tenth of one percent (.1%) of the gaming distribution** specified in the Revenue Allocation Plan **regardless of the amount budgeted** for such contributions.
- **Per capita distributions shall be forty per cent (40%) of the gaming distribution** as specified in the Revenue Allocation Plan **regardless of the amount budgeted** for such Per capita distributions.” (**Emphasis added**).

These two areas of spending are essentially, automatic; if there are funds available in those areas, the funds will be spent to the level (percentages) earmarked for them, even if the budget *as approved indicates a level of expected funding*, the funds for these items will never be less than the percentages indicated and the funds may be spend as derived and approved (which may be more than the amounts indicated in the current approved budget). In addition, language is added that speaks to the posting and hiring of personnel, specifically, “... the Tribal Council’s action to Amend and adopt the Fiscal Year 2012 Tribal Government Operations Budget **does not approve the posting or hiring of personnel not currently included** within the Tribe’s approved organization chart; further **does not authorize adjustments to salary levels, or entering into contracts without appropriate authorization** and Tribal Council Resolution.” (**Emphasis added**).

The key resolve; “IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT **the Tribal Ogema**, through the Accounting/

Finance Department **shall identify the amount of funds currently not allocated or budgeted and shall present suggestions for the use of the unbudgeted/unallocated funds to the Tribal Council no later than January 31, 2012 for reallocation into the 2012 fiscal year Government Operations Budget.**” (**Emphasis added**). This suggests that there are unidentified quantities of monies that have not been ‘earmarked’ in the budget in 2012—not entirely a true representation. The government budgeted based on *present spending levels and available resources*, targeting for 2012 within the range of current expenditure trends in 2011—approximately \$24 to \$24.5 million in total when FY 2011 is closed out. We made a conscious decision to bring the 2012 budget in at that mark—in other words, \$24.5 million is what we anticipated could be a workable budget. Here’s why we did it:

To fully understand the budget picture, a Tribal Citizen must understand the factors that influence the flow of monies to the Tribal Government that impact how we do business. Let’s start here; **where the money comes from**.

Tribal Government Operations is supported from a few revenue/resource streams; compacted and contracted activity dollars from the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), grant activity dollars from external agencies (and grants have specific objectives/conditions as to how the monies can be spent in the awards to the Tribe), program incomes (rental collections, third party payments for services, utility charges/fees, lease agreements with external entities, etc.), taxation, investments and *revenue generated by the Tribes enterprise (primarily the CASINO/gaming operation)*. All of those resources are utilized in a **total operations budget; all of the activities of the Tribe—program services/direct services, the costs of personnel and government operations expenses, fees, assessments and all other activity that comprises the operations of the government**. In FY 2012, the overall operations budget is listed at \$37,398,657, **of which a total of \$24,198,464 has been budgeted from the gaming enterprise resources**. The remainder of the budget, approximately \$13,200,193 comes from federal compact/contract/agency grants (\$8,838,524) and other sources (gaming tax, rental income, program income, third party reimbursements for services, interest & dividends/investment, approximately \$4,361,669 in total). The overall picture here is the influence of the federal government on available dollars the Tribe can secure through compacts, contracts and granted resources, *and* the overall economy, impacting the level of income patrons to the gaming enterprise are willing to spend *and* being a venue the patrons wish to frequent.

With those impacts in mind, in the overall Government Operations budget process for FY 2012, the Executive Branch (CFO, Budget Coordinator and Tribal Manager) factored in two very important objectives: **replenishing of the capital reserve** used to pay the loan of the gaming enterprise and **controlling the expenses of the operations**, *ultimately allowing the capital reserve to be replenished to create long-term sustainable financial stability of the Tribal government—a responsible approach to moving forward in any budgeting process*. **The bottom line: it is time to invoke responsible government spending, to create fiscal stability for the government and to manage expectations for the sustainability of the programs and services the Tribal government delivers.**

With that said, we also took a deeper look at the overall picture that was the 2011 budget picture: Gaming enterprise revenues have essentially held their own in their overall income picture; total income coming through the door has remained close year to year with a few reductions depending on the economy. **HOWEVER, the expenses associated with doing business have gone up impacting the disbursement to the Tribal government.**

**Here’s a synopsis:**

- The gaming enterprise forecast an overall disbursement to the Tribe that the government operations budgeted for, however, the months of January, February and March missed their respective ‘marks’ by \$1.9 million, \$1.1 million and \$734,000 respectively. LRBOI was already in a \$3.7 million dollar deficit of expected gaming enterprise revenue by the end of March; *which Government Operations had budgeted to spend*. *The deficit to date has not been made up by gaming enterprise disbursement to the Tribal government.*
- In April, the enterprise made the mark by just over \$56,600 dollars, but May and June again, saw the enterprise revenue missing the mark by another \$746,933; with April’s gain the overall quarter was down \$680,333. In total—the government operations had a deficit in expected revenue from the gaming enterprise of \$4.3 million—and those dollars were in fact, budgeted to be spent, but *were not available* to be spent.
- In addition, the Tribal Council took a bold step and *paid off the loan on the gaming enterprise facility* from the capital reserves of the Tribal Government operations. The payoff, a total of \$19.2 million, depleted the cash reserves from a level of \$55.4 million

that was on hand at the end of December 2010, to a level of \$39.8 million. At some point, those reserves *must be restored*. To date, ***there have been no discussions or provision made to rebuild the capital reserve in either the gaming enterprise budget or the government operations budget.*** Additionally, the loan/interest repayment that was in the enterprise budget has been absorbed in the higher costs of doing business at the resort; those funds are not coming back to the Tribal government in the disbursements from the enterprise.

- In July, the Tribal Government Operations learned that the gaming enterprise was going to reforecast the total disbursement to the Tribal government; essentially, the projected dollars that were anticipated to come into the government operations to support the activity of the government were going to be *reduced for the rest of the fiscal year (2011)*. The gaming enterprise reforecast was the direct result of economic impacts; more competition for gaming dollars with new casino's opening in south western Michigan, and the overall dismal national and state economies. As a result, the Tribal Government took *immediate measures to save money*. Government operations has to the extent possible, *held the line on reductions that were identified in July by the CFO, Budget Coordinator, Tribal Manager and Program Directors*—government operations has made a best effort to be responsible in its role to reducing spending, while striving to maintain the employment status of our workforce (*of which over 50% impacts Tribal citizen/preference households*) while not eliminating programs, though in some instances, *benefits have been reduced from previous levels realized under some programs*.

- The picture has not improved substantially since July; though there were gains in revenue disbursements in September and October from gaming enterprise resources, overall a deficit remains and in November 2011—the enterprise missed the mark by nearly a million dollars—coming in at \$989,889 in disbursement to the Tribe. Without the measures to reduce our government spending, if the Tribal government continued to spend the dollars as was originally budgeted, the picture would be much worse on the Tribal government operations end.

To date, based on the original budgeted distributions of the gaming enterprise at a total of \$30.9 million, and actual disbursement to Tribal Government Operations of \$26 million, operations revenue would be at a \$4.9 million dollar shortfall. Keep in mind, the gaming enterprise reforecast in their 2011 budget, the Tribal government disbursement; an anticipated total of \$29.5 million. As of November 2011, the revenue for FY 2011 disbursed to the Tribal government was \$27 million; even with the reforecast in 2011 a shortfall persists of \$2.5 million. The Tribal Government is working diligently to reduce cost factors and live within those *real and realized dollars*.

And, there are a few elephants in the room:

- Replenishing the reserve, this presently stands at available operational resources due to funds being earmarked and restricted to certain uses, *at less than 3 months of operations in total*. In other words, we have funds earmarked and restricted in their use that are not necessarily available to be spent on program activity;
- Under the Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP), percentages are established for Tribal government operations in certain categories. These percentages are established in the operations budget as the government activities/services provided to citizens and/or other activities/services the government provides. This acts as the driver for service planning and through default, controls the total expenditures for the Tribe, essentially becoming our priority appropriation categories:
  - Contributions to charitable organizations/causes is .10% of the available disbursement,
  - Government operations receives 38.55 % of the available disbursement,
  - Economic Development receives 7.70% of the available disbursement,
  - General Welfare (largely pass thru dollars in tribal citizen benefits) receives 13.65% of the available disbursement, and
  - Per Capita Distribution is 40% of the available disbursement; elders age 55 and older receiving a 2 times payment of the available funds.
- Of the revenue dedicated to our General Welfare line item (13.65% of the enterprise revenue stream), approximately 30% of the funds are paid out for the Elders Supplemental Health Insurance, benefitting about 177 individual enrollees.

With all of this, how do we get from where we are now to where we need to be, and continue to provide services to Tribal citizens? First and foremost, we need to manage expectations and identify the priority areas of spending—the Ogema and the Tribal Council must come together on this effort and be a collective, unified voice. The entire government is in this boat—leadership must dialogue and be reasonable in the dialogue. The possibility of maintaining service levels at previously budgeted marks may not be possible *or practical*. To that end, the Tribal government should set some lifetime limits on program benefit dollars in some areas and create efficiencies in service delivery, which may not equate to reductions in our work force, but may require enhancing access to programs outside of the Tribal government to meet the needs of our citizen service requests. That is going to take a

clear vision of where this government wants to be in 5 and 10 years in regard to services to citizens and more critical, *what the government can expect from the citizens in its quest for sustainable programs.* The quote made famous by John F. Kennedy applies here; “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” We have to create realistic levels of response and manage expectations, and loop citizens into program resources that do not diminish the Tribes efforts; maximizing the total beneficiary dollar picture through available federal and state resources making that the ‘norm’ for service delivery. Citizens, as a part of this process should recognize the obligations of the federal government to your Tribal government and ultimately, you the Tribal Citizen. We need to take an active role in letting federal representatives know the programs that are appropriated for state citizens are also for Tribal citizen benefit, and the level of funding dedicated to Tribal specific programs should not be reduced or diminished when other federal programs are cut. We need to be open in our dialogue with those decision makers that can benefit us the most; the President, the United States Congress, and our respective state lawmakers. It is better to spend federal program dollars on services we need than to spend our own resources to replicate those efforts in Tribal government programs. We also need to be better at documenting our unmet needs to substantiate our efforts to secure these external resources; it's difficult to make a case for program increases from federal/state resources when *we continue to demonstrate that our Tribal government can foot the bill from our enterprise dollars*. In fact, when we do provide those services from our own dollars, we demonstrate that those treaty obligations are not important to us; when in fact the treaty obligations are the elements that allowed the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians to be reaffirmed.

Our Tribal Citizens continued efforts *over time*, demonstrating governance over themselves, accessing programs that were available to meet unmet needs of persons who clearly identified themselves as belonging to our Tribal bands and most importantly, maintaining an active role in the engagement of our Tribal Citizens in these key activities, prior to reaffirmation, made our current services and governance possible. As Tribal Citizens, it may be time to stop asking the Tribe what it can do for us, and instead, ask what we can do to assist our Tribe to sustain what we have—we can no longer take for granted the resources will be available. As Tribal Citizens we have an opportunity to be supportive of our Tribes government efforts, to become informed about the external factors that affect our lives and livelihoods and, most critically to be engaged in efforts that assist our Tribal governments efforts to assure and ensure that the Treaty Obligations our relatives sought to secure for our future are not diminished. Miigwech.



LRBOI Tribal Member Lynn Piwonski, owner of Global Refractory Installers & Suppliers, Inc.— an air pollution equipment company that does work throughout the United States and internationally, has earned a very prestigious honor by being one of the only four companies selected to work with the Green Bay Packers Mentor-Protégé Program in Wisconsin. Lynn is being mentored by Mike Sturdivant – Vice President of Tweet-garot a mechanical company that has 135 years of experience.

As part of this program the Green Bay Packers will be providing links from their

website to the protégé's websites. Here is the announcement. "The Green Bay Packers organization, in a partnership with local business development leaders, has established the Packers Mentor-Protégé Program to foster business growth, economic development and job creation in Brown County.

The program will match mentor companies from the Green Bay area that can provide technical, managerial, financial or other guidance to protégés seeking to improve their competitive standing. The mentor-protégé relationship will require at least a 12-month commitment.

Initially, protégé companies will be minority- or woman-owned businesses located in Brown County or on the Oneida Nation Reservation. The goal also is to reach veteran-owned and other small businesses with the opportunity to participate as the program develops.

Mentor companies must be established companies with the appropriate resources and the ability to commit to the program and the needs of the protégé. Organizations already committed as mentors include Alliance Construction and Design, Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Schenck Business Solutions, Schreiber Foods, United-Healthcare and Wipfli.

The program is administered by AFF Research LLC (AFFR), Anna Steinfest, President/CEO, and overseen by a board of directors that includes John Hartmann, M.D., CEO of Visonex; Tammy Hawkins, Sourcing Manager, ROMO, Inc.; Lorri Kieff, CEO of Bay Area Consultants; David Martin, Business Development, H.J. Martin and Son; and Quasan Shaw, Business Development Planning Specialist, City of Green Bay. Consultants to the program include Jason Wied and Aaron Popkey, Green Bay Packers; and Greg Kuehl, Green Bay/Brown County Professional Football Stadium District.

"We felt this would be a good opportunity to help establish a program that can help companies take the next step in their own business development," said Jason Wied, Packers vice president of administration/general counsel. "We know many organizations in our area have the expertise to assist in developing the various skills needed by small businesses to grow and become more successful companies."

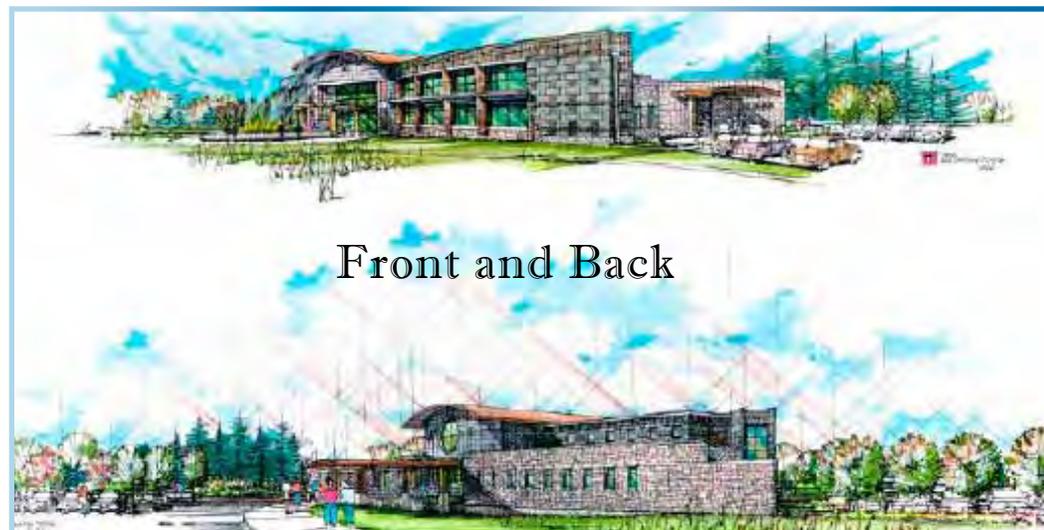
AFFR assists their clients in designing and implementing comprehensive supplier diversity. They also provide guidance to entrepreneurs. AFFR has consulted in the field of supplier diversity for 10 years, and has worked on both the Lambeau Field redevelopment project and post-redevelopment projects."

To learn more about Lynn's company please visit her website at Global Refractory Installers & Suppliers, Inc. [www.globalrefractory.com](http://www.globalrefractory.com)  
Her company is a Winner of the Governor's 2010 Rising Star Award.

## Watch for the announcement of the public Government Center ground-breaking ceremony this spring!

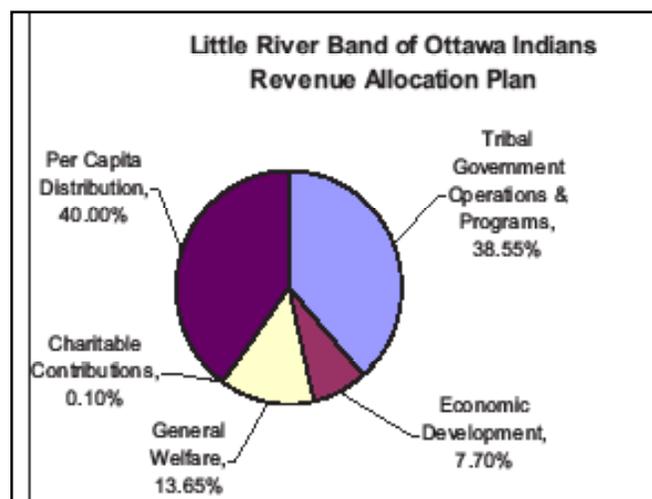
The Government Center complex will be the new home for the Tribal Health Clinic and Tribal Government offices. While the site was cleared in December, major construction of the building is scheduled to begin in early spring 2012 and is estimated to be completed by early 2013. The building's energy efficient design is being built with quality and flexibility in mind because it must both last and readily evolve to accommodate whatever future service may be required of it. The New Government Center represents nearly two years of careful planning. The Government Center Project Taskforce has worked closely with the Architect, Hooker De Jong of Muskegon, and Tribal departments on design and purpose. Wieland-Davco, Inc. of Lansing, a Construction Management Firm, is on board to begin the process of putting all that good design into concrete, steel, glass and stone. Most importantly, it is expected that having most government services under one roof will reduce the operating costs of Tribal Government and improve the quality and delivery of Tribal Services to Tribal Members.

The Health Clinic is located on the first floor at the East entrance, Tribal Members will access other Tribal Services such as Family Services, Be-Da-Bin Substance abuse, and Contract Health. Space is available future development of a Dental Clinic, Pharmacy and Fitness Center. Other Tribal Government services include the Tax Office, Human Resources, Enrollment, Election Board, and Education. Construction is expected to last approximately 18 months and incorporate as much local and Michigan products as possible. Tribal members are encouraged to look out for job, and contracting, opportunities in the coming months.



## Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Revenue Allocation Plan & Per Capita Question and Answers

The chart below illustrates the allocation percentages designated for each category per the Revenue Allocation Plan



Per the LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS REVENUE ALLOCATION PLAN – Approved by Tribal Council Resolution 08-0123-20

### Section 2. Purpose

2.02. The RAP shall allocate revenues generated by the Tribe's gaming enterprises towards the following purposes; the funding of tribal government operations and programs, providing for the general welfare of the Tribe and its members, the promotion of the Tribe's economic development, donations to charitable organizations and per-capita distributions to tribal members.

**This document will be reviewed and updated as necessary. It is recommended that you review the tribe's website often for additions to the Q & A information. Question and Answer – Per Capita Payments**

Brought to you by:

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Enrollment Department  
375 River Street  
Manistee, MI 49660  
1-888-723-8288

### **1. Q. Who is the contact for questions about the Per Capita payments?**

A. The Enrollment Department will assist you with questions or direct you to the Department or agency who can better answer your questions. Phone: 231-723-8288 or Toll Free 888-723-8288.

### **2. Q. How will the tribe know where to mail the check or Direct Deposit vouchers.**

A. The checks and Direct Deposit vouchers are mailed to the last known address on file with the Enrollment Department. If you plan to move or have moved, contact the Enrollment Department for a Change of Address Form.

### **3. Q. What if I have a different address than what is on file with Enrollment?**

A. If you have a different address than what is on file with Enrollment you must contact the Enrollment Department for an Address Correction Form. All Address Changes need to be submitted (15) Fifteen Days before the payment date. If you have not updated your information, this could result in a delay in receiving a payment. Returned UNDELIVERABLE mail is reported to the Enrollment Department. In the event a check or Direct Deposit voucher is returned, mailings will stop until the Tribal Member turns in an updated Address Form to the Enrollment Department.

### **4. Q. What if I do not receive the check in the mail or it is lost?**

A. Contact the Enrollment Department to assist you.

### **5. Q. Are Per Capita Payments Taxable?**

A. Yes, The tribe is obligated to notify you that Per Capita payments are subject to federal taxation. Per Capita is taxable income and the taxes assessed depend on your income bracket and location. The Tribe will automatically deduct applicable taxes from the per capita payments if they meet the Internal Revenue Service's threshold that would require the withholding. The payments may also be subject to state tax if you do not live in the tax agreement area. All Per Capita payments will be reported on the appropriate tax form and mailed to you by Jan. 31st. We encourage you to contact a tax preparer for further tax questions.

**6. Q. Who is eligible to receive Per Capita Payments?**

A. Per the Revenue Allocation Plan Section 8.03 Per Capita Distribution Eligibility subsection (ii) be enrolled in the Tribe no later than the last day of two fiscal quarters previous. For example, to be eligible to receive per capita distribution in the fiscal quarter four (4) of the fiscal year, a qualified tribal member would need to have been enrolled with the tribe by no later than the last day of fiscal quarter two (2) of that fiscal year.

Fiscal Quarters
(1) January thru March
(2) April thru June
(3) July thru September
(4) October thru December

**7. Q. What are the age groups for Per Capita Payments?**

A. Tribal Members who are eligible consist of two groups 18 to 54 and Elders 55 and up. Use the chart below to determine eligibility for each quarterly payment.

Payment Date	Date that you have to be either 18 or 55
December 15th	September 30th
April 1st	December 31st
July 1st	March 31st
October 1st	June 30th

**8. Q. Are minor Tribal Members eligible to receive Per Capita Payments?**

A. No- Tribal members under the age of 18 shall not be eligible to receive per capita distributions.

**9. Q. What will the tribe do with Per Capita payments that are not claimed?**

A. See Revenue Allocation Plan Section 8 (b) Use of Net Gaming Revenues: Individual Per Capita Distributions- Any net gaming revenues allocated for the purpose of funding per capita distributions that have not been expended on the last date of the fiscal year shall be reallocated to tribal investments.

**10. Q. How are Per Capita payments disbursed by age group? Amounts illustrated below are an EXAMPLE and should not be misinterpreted as the amount that will be disbursed. Amounts will vary depending on net gaming revenues generated.**

A. Payment amounts are determined by a point system. Adults age 18 to 54 receive 1 point and Elders Age 55 and older receive 2 points. Example: Using the chart below the calculation for Elders is the point schedule multiplied by the number of Elders (2 x 715=1430). From this number the Allocation Percentage is calculated by using the points divided by the total of both groups points (1430 / 3929 = .3639603 OR 36.40%). From this percentage the Revenue Share is calculated by using the Net Gaming Revenue multiplied by the Allocation % (\$2,500,000 x 36.40% = \$909,900.74). The Revenue Share is then divided by the number of Elders (\$909,900.74 / 715 = \$1,272.59)

<b>-Example Only-</b>							Quarter Payment
Net Gaming Revenue	Age Group	Point Schedule	Members	Points	Allocation %	Revenue Share	
\$2,500,000.00	18 to 54 Yrs	1	2400	2400	63.60%	\$1,580,099.26	\$636.29
	55 and Older	2	715	1430	36.40%	\$909,900.74	\$1,272.59
<b>Total</b>			<b>3214</b>	<b>3829</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$2,500,000.00</b>	

**11. Q. Can Per Capita payments be garnished?**

A. Yes, Per Capita distributions may be withheld to satisfy any court ordered judgment obtained by the tribe against the qualified tribal member or to satisfy court ordered child support obligations. Any amount remaining after satisfaction of the court ordered judgment or child support obligation shall be distributed to the qualified tribal member in accordance with the provisions of the Revenue Allocation Plan.

**12. Q. Can the payment be electronically deposited into a checking or savings account?**

A. Yes, by completing the Direct Deposit form the payment may be deposited to the qualified tribal member's bank account. Contact the Enrollment Department to request the form and instructions. NOTE\* If you plan to move you must update your address with the Enrollment Department. At any time a members information on file with Enrollment Department is determined incorrect the Direct Deposit for the member will be cancelled, until information is up to date.

**13. Q. Can state and/or federal assistance programs be affected by Per-Capita payments?**

A. The Tribe cannot provide guidance for all the agencies that require you to report a change in income. We encourage you to contact the agency office for further information concerning your specific questions about income based assistance programs. For example if you receive S.S.I., DHS, Commodities, please contact your agency.

**14. Q. Can a member refuse these payments?**

A. If the Tribal member meets the eligibility requirements of the Revenue Allocation Plan they will receive per capita payments. Many agencies will count these payments as available income to you even if you refuse the payments. We encourage you to contact the agency office for further information concerning these payments.

**15. Q. Will Per Capita payments be the same amount each time?**

A. No. The payments will vary depending on the amount of net gaming revenues generated each quarter. The Revenue Allocation Plan allocates 40% of the net gaming revenues to per capita payments. The revenue allocation plan sets forth the amount the tribe can disburse to tribal members. The payments are made quarterly from the gaming revenues generated.

**16. Q. Are the Per Capita payments considered income?**

A. Many agencies count per capita payments as income. For further information contact the agency office with specific questions you may have.

**17. Q. When are the Per Capita Payments made?**

A. Per Capita payments will be distributed to qualified tribal members on the first day of each fiscal quarter. January 1st payment will be issued December 15th.

Fiscal Quarters
(1 <sup>st</sup> ) January 1 <sup>st</sup> thru March 31 <sup>st</sup>
(2 <sup>nd</sup> ) April 1 <sup>st</sup> thru June 30 <sup>th</sup>
(3 <sup>rd</sup> ) July 1 <sup>st</sup> thru September 30 <sup>th</sup>
(4 <sup>th</sup> ) October 1 <sup>st</sup> thru December 31 <sup>st</sup>

**18. Q. When will the amount of a Per Capita payment be announced?**

A. The amount will be announced on the main switchboard announcement at least four (4) weeks prior to a distribution. You can reach the message announcement by calling the tribe's main number (231)723- 8288 or 888-723-8288 and listen to the directory prompt to the Per Capita Information extension. Due to end of the year close outs of accounting processes it is determined that the 2nd quarter announcements will be delayed close to the disbursement date. This announcement will be posted when it is available.

**19. Q. Is there specific information on the date when I will be eligible for per capita payments?**

A.

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter – January–March (Distributed Dec. 15)	Member must be of age 18 and 55 by September 30 <sup>th</sup> .
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter – April - June	Member must be of age 18 and 55 by December 31 <sup>st</sup> .
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter – July–September	Member must be of age 18 and 55 by March 31 <sup>st</sup> .
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter – October – December	Member must be of age 18 and 55 by June 30 <sup>th</sup> .

**20. Q. Can I cancel a Direct Deposit request?**

A. Yes, Direct deposit can be cancelled by submitting a Direct Deposit Cancellation form. Contact the Enrollment Department for this form to be mailed to you or download the form at [www.lrboi.com](http://www.lrboi.com). This form has to be NOTARIZED and submitted (5) five days before the payment date.

Check out the exciting opportunities that await you at the  
Little River Casino Resort.

There are many ways to apply.

- ♣ Log onto our Website at [www.LRCR.com](http://www.LRCR.com) and click on Careers
- ♦ Call our Human Resources Department at (231) 723-4530
- ♥ Stop by our Human Resources Department located at  
2700 Orchard Hwy Manistee, MI  
Monday – Friday 7am-5pm

- ♠ Send your Application, Resume and Cover letter to:  
Little River Casino Resort  
Attn: Recruiting  
P.O. Box 417 Manistee, MI 49660  
Phone: (231) 723-4530 □ Fax: (231) 723-1589  
Email: [recruiting@lrcr.com](mailto:recruiting@lrcr.com)



Available job openings can also be found at all LRBOI Tribal Government buildings, in LRBOI Tribal Newsletters and at Michigan Works! Branch offices Tribal Preference will be followed in accordance with the LRBOI- Indian Preference in Employment (Ordinance #11-600-02)

## Employee Christmas Luncheon



Tribal Police Officer Pat Gilles is heading up the Neighborhood Watch program at Aki Maadziwin and he surprised Michelle Bernatche from the Housing Department with a special Certificate of Appreciation for her support of the program. Gilles said that Michelle goes 'above and beyond' in helping with the program organizing meetings and providing food for them. Michelle is also a part of the Tribal Emergency Response Team and is a volunteer Fire Fighter.



Employee Christmas Party Tree



Al Stone, Mary Thomas and Diane Lonn handle the raffle

## Bakakwenh Naboo (Chicken Soup)



Bakakwenh Naboo will answer your questions about Anishinaabek culture, traditional teachings, relationship building, and general advice. There might even be some wisdom here and there for you. No question is too obscure for Bakakwenh Naboo answer. Bakakwenh Naboo will find the answer you seek so send your questions to:

**[csoup@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:csoup@lrboi-nsn.gov)**

**This column is open to all Tribal Members and Descendants.**  
**Those who ask a question will have their names changed to protect their privacy.**  
**Note: You can make up our own name or Bakakwenh Naboo will come up with an appropriate moniker for you.**

## Bakakwenh Naboo Questions

### Question 1.

**Q** Into the Pot asks: Many tribal people feel that a dwelling must be built with its entrance facing the East to welcome the morning sun. Is this a tradition of the Anishinaabek as well? What is the reasoning behind such building directions?

**A** Bakakwenh Naboo says: It is always good to welcome the morning sun, and thank the Creator for the new day. Anishinaabek wigwams and ceremonial lodges in most cases face to the East - Waabinong. The East represents the beginning, the first part of the day (Morning -Kizhep,) the first season (Spring - Mnookmi), the first stage of one's life (Baby - Binojiinhs), the first aspect of life (Mind - Nendimowin), the first clan (Eagle - Mgizi), Semaa is the Mshkiki from the Waabinong, it was given to the first man to pray to the Creator (Tobacco - Semaa). Bakawenh Naboo says when someone thinks about the East it brings to mind a beginning, a new day, so the East is the direction where many things start from.

**DISCLAIMER:** We make no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information; also we cannot answer any questions involving politics, legal questions or give medical advice. We can promise you; you will get an answer to your question. Bakakwenh Naboo, says this is but one possible answer, there may be other ways to answers the question. Offering Semaa, to an Elder would be a respectful way to receive a more in-depth answer to your questions.

## Tribal citizen published...again!



Karen Lewis has again been published. Please go to the Muckleshoot Review, Page 55 & 56 <http://muckleshoottribalcollege.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Volume3forweb.pdf> to see some of her latest work.

### Holiday Hint Fiction Entry 3rd place Winnrer 2011

#### 3rd Prize - 1 Karen Lewis

I could make anything from secondhand cloth. They kept me busy with funerals, births and graduations, meeting everyone's needs. Never knowing how cold I was.





IT Director George Le Vasseur and the IT Staff created a secure login.

To access the secure login an account must be created on the web site.

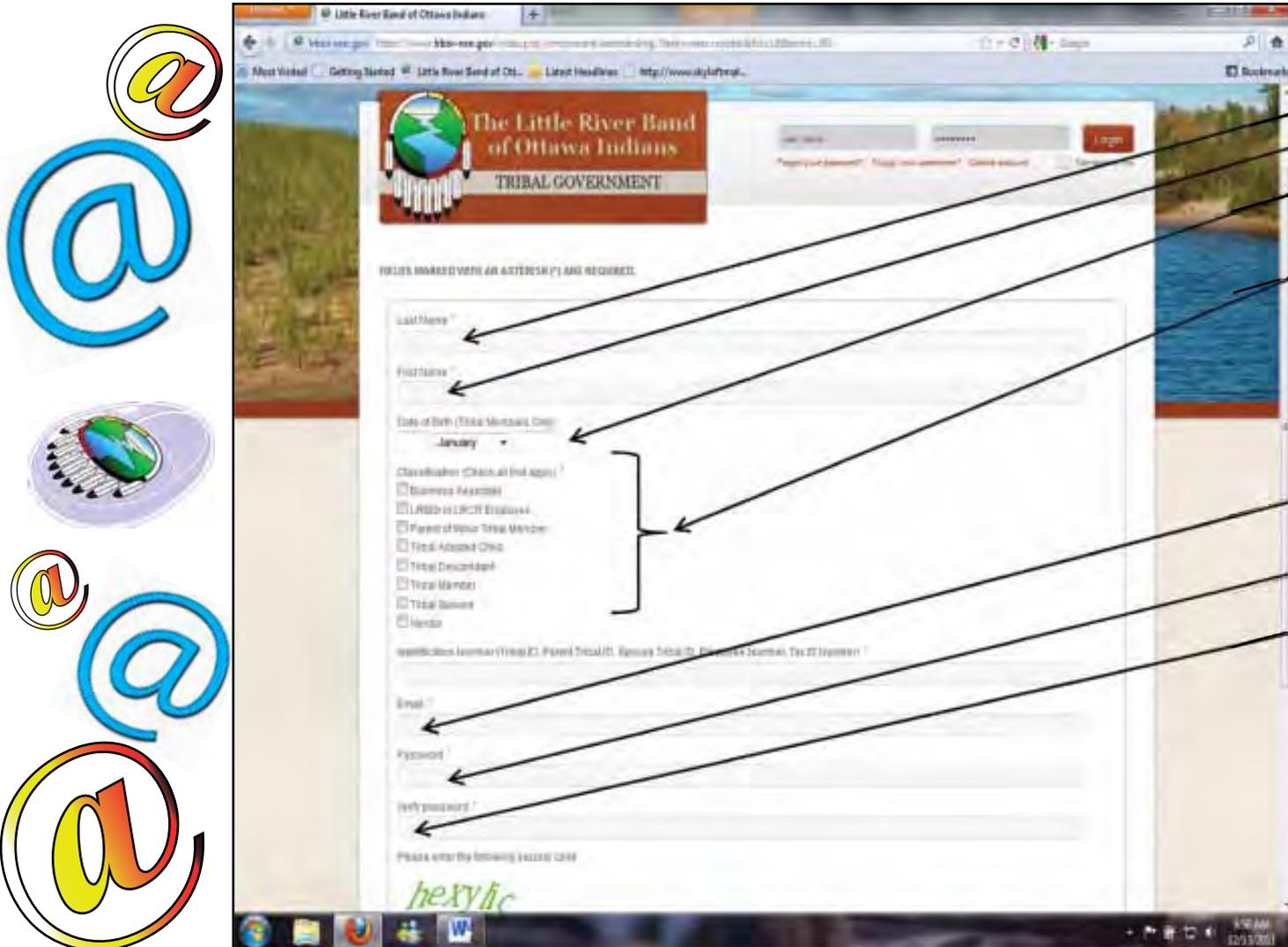
The graphics on this page show the new look of the website and then through the use of callouts shows the steps needed to gain access to the secure area. The memo from Mr. Le Vasseur gives more background on how the site is going to be used. The new site was also official launched, as promised, on December 5th, 2011.

Some areas such as the publications produced through the Office of Public Affairs are in front of the login, so that anyone visiting the site may read the 'tribal news.' Another example is the Tribal Court. You may access their forms and public information in front of the login. However, reports and other government documents which have restricted access are behind the login. Items such as the Osiyo report recommending a government reorganization structure and the McGaladry report on Tribal Commercial Fishing are scheduled to be made available behind the login.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians joined the digital age a number of years ago with a tribal website at [www.lrbioi.com](http://www.lrbioi.com). There, members and visitors could tap into the tribes' publications and activities including viewing of Council Sessions and Membership Meetings. However, because of the very public nature of the website, the tribal government was uncomfortable with

posting of information or documents which were deemed sensitive to the tribal nation.

In an effort to further improve communication with the tribal citizens, Ogema Larry Romanelli directed his Information Technology Department to work out a way where citizens could log into a secured site and see the information that they needed to see regarding their tribal government.



Complete this Form  
Enter Last name,  
First Name,  
  
Tribal Citizens need to  
enter date of birth for  
Enrollment Verification  
  
Select your classification:

Valid Email address is  
needed so we can  
communicate directly.  
  
Enter a unique  
password twice.  
  
(To verify typing and format)





## New Website, Logins, Content



As most of you are aware the Tribal Government has a new website with a new look and a new design. The reason for the update was to give the site a more modern look and feel, also to incorporate some new technologies and capabilities.

Over the last couple of years the most frequent question Information Technology would get from Tribal Citizens was, "When are we going to have a secure login?" It was obvious that the Tribal Citizen's believe that a secure login to get at secure content was a priority. At the fall meeting IT promised it would be before the end of the year. Now the new site is published and the secure login is available and working.



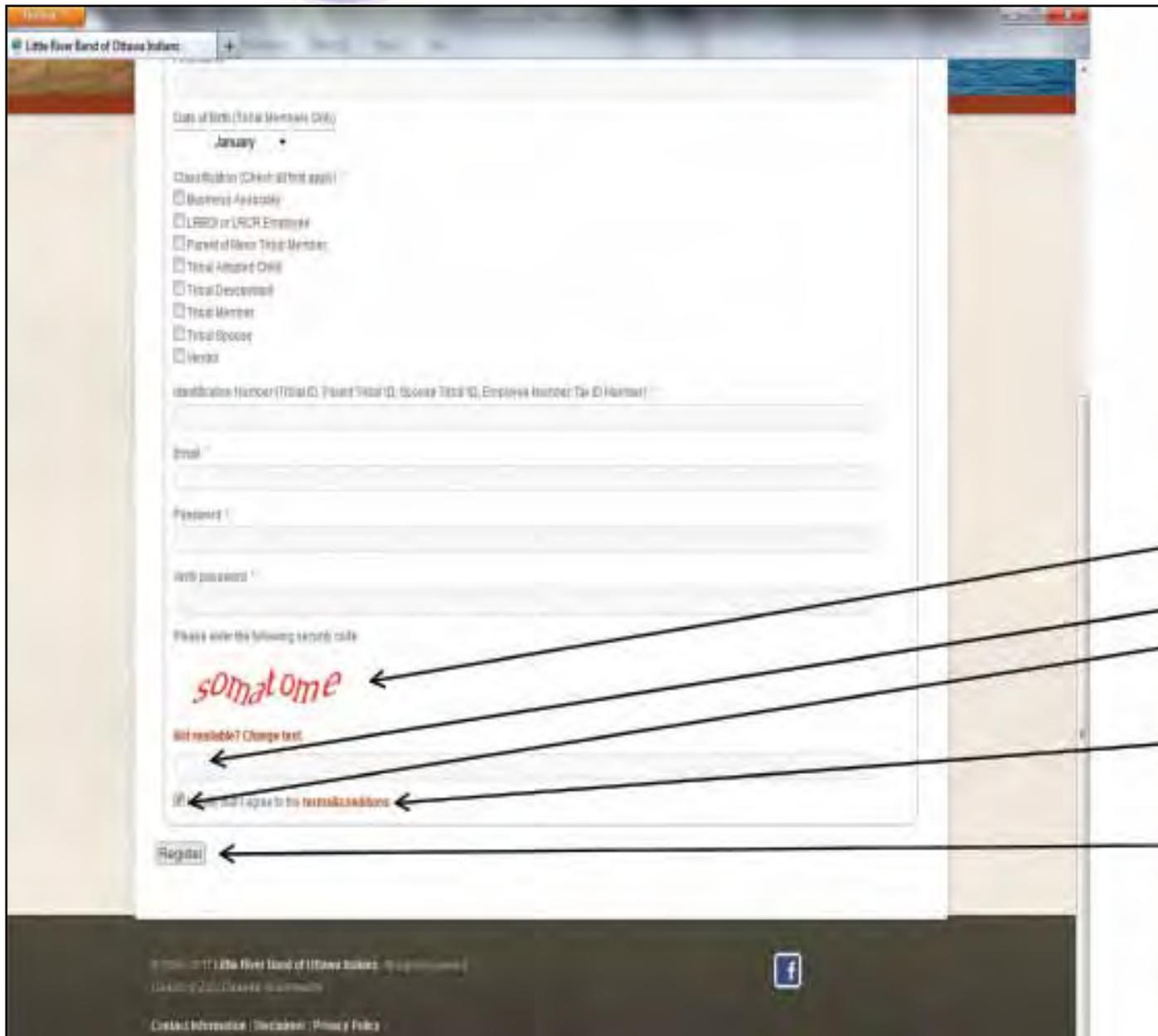
In order to receive your secure login information, you will need to create an account following these steps.

1. Go to [www.lrboi-nsn.gov](http://www.lrboi-nsn.gov) using your web browser.
2. Click on create account and fill out the registration form.
3. You will then immediately receive a registration confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, you may need to reregister and ensure your email address is correct.
4. Your account will be verified as soon as possible but it could take up to 48 hours. When approved, you will receive another email approving your account. Your username will be the email address you submitted in registration.
5. You can now return to [www.lrboi-nsn.gov](http://www.lrboi-nsn.gov) and login to the secure login.
6. If you do not receive your approval email within 48 hours, please inform us at: [webmaster@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:webmaster@lrboi-nsn.gov).

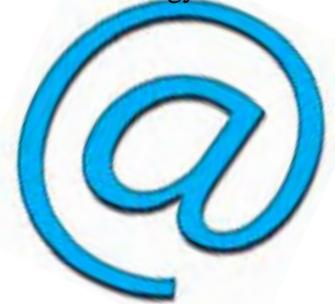
Some new features that are still in development will be added as they are completed, these are; language lessons, a video gallery, and better content search-ability.

All content was moved behind the login as a starting point for a content review by the owners of the content. So now what remain to be updated, upgraded and published are the new content and stories and pictures. The content of the website is controlled mainly by the individual branches of the government and by individual departments and departmental leadership. The Information Technology Department has requested that each branch of the government and each individual department and departmental leadership review their content and update it.

Next, each governmental branch and department will need to make a determination as to what content should remain behind the secure login and what content should be made available outside the secure area. Once that determination is made the Information Technology Department will comply with the request of the content owner. So visit the site often for new content and information.



Thank You  
George D. Le Vasseur  
Information Technology Director



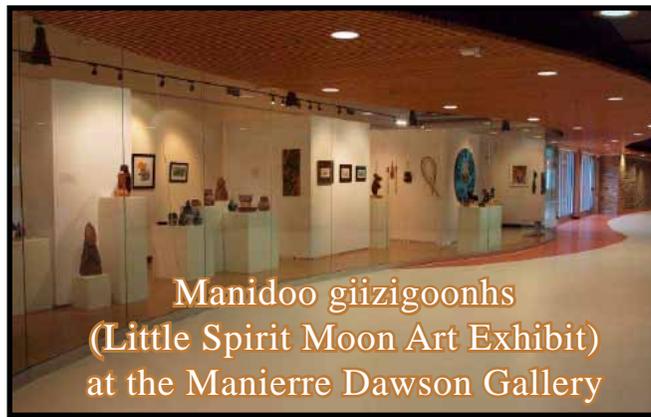
Scroll down and...  
Type the Characters you see here in the box here.  
Click this box to indicate that you agree with the Terms and Conditions of use.  
Now click the Register Button.  
Note the color of the Register Button, the button will highlight when you hover your mouse over it, this means that you are ready to register.



Rebecca Mott, Professor of Art,  
WSCC

I had been interested in exhibiting contemporary artworks from Native American artists and spoke with Pat Wilson about curating a group show. It was exciting to see the work as it was delivered because I had no idea there was so much local talent! I was hoping the exhibit would create a dialogue with our students at WSCC about stereotypes, expectations and cultural traditions and wasn't disappointed. While most of the artworks in the exhibit incorporated Native traditions, the beading of Sandy Lewis and the story-telling of Shirley Brauker were two examples that incorporated a contemporary twist with a nod to popular American culture.

Lewis beaded Sylvester the Cat on a vest while Brauker included a sunglasses-wearing family in traditional dress going to the Pow-wow. Beyond the inherent humor and excellent technique in these and other works, the exhibit is a much needed reminder to the public at large that Native American traditions and art-making did not stop in the 19th century but continue to be rich and vibrant as they evolve with modern society.



Manidoo giizigoonhs  
(Little Spirit Moon Art Exhibit)  
at the Manierre Dawson Gallery

I want to thank all of the artists for loaning their artwork to our gallery. It's been a great honor to have this special exhibit aimed at educating people about Native American art and culture. I know our students were thrilled by what they saw and learned."

Charles T. Dillon, President  
West Shore Community College



Grandpa in the Woods  
- Pat Wilson



Kinetic sculpture - Pat Wilson



Beaded Vests



Debra Davis "Art" cookies



Shirley Brauker painting



Sandy Lewis' beading



3 of Austen Brauker's prints in a row



Carved Eagle head



(Some details are from the Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Manistee News Advocate*) For the sixth year, Manistee County law enforcement officers including Tribal officers Melissa Alexander and Mike Dunneback took time out of their personal schedules to participate in the local “Shop with a Cop” program — spending Sunday afternoon at Kmart helping youngsters complete \$100 shopping sprees.

Most of the funds for the Shop with a Cop program are raised during the annual battle of the bands concert held at the Little River Casino Resort, however organizer Matt McShane, a corrections officer at the Oaks Correctional Facility, said they are considering a golf outing next summer.

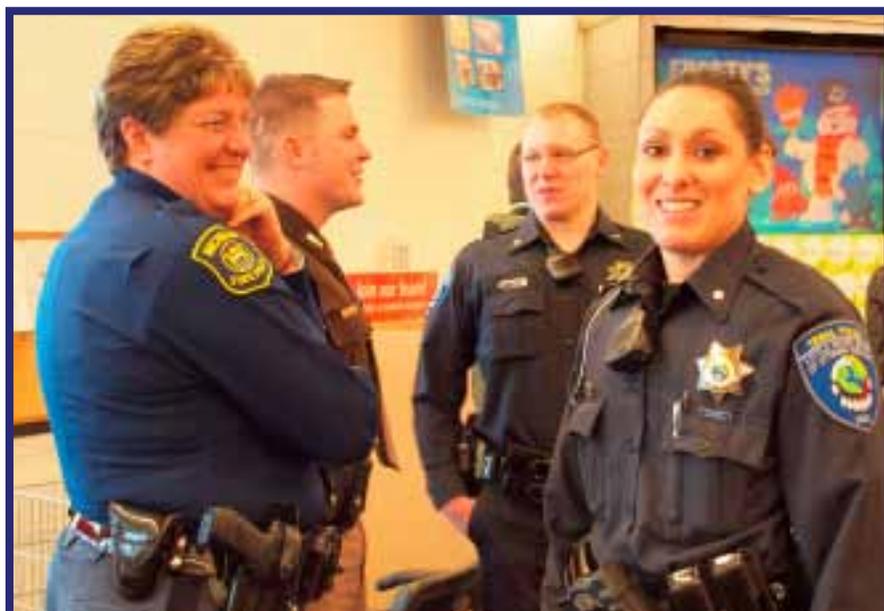
McShane said most of the children come in with a shopping list for members of their families. He said the after they finish shopping, they receive a backpack with a gift inside for themselves, compliments of Kmart. Then, gifts are wrapped and there is a pizza party provided compliments of Pizza Hut. The children also receive a sled and winter clothing and boots if they need them.

Santa was on hand to thank the kids for shopping for their families.

Twenty children were selected for the program by Love INC of Manistee. Officers were from Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Police, Manistee City Police, Manistee County Sheriff’s Department, Michigan State Police and Oaks Correctional Facility.

“I love this program,” said Melissa Brooks of Love INC as she checked the children in. “It’s a great opportunity to partner with these wonderful agencies. If it weren’t for this program, the children wouldn’t get to buy gifts for their families, and we couldn’t do this on our own.”

This is just one program where Tribal Officers work in support of their community and the wider community of Manistee County.



The Tribal Council, Tribal Courts and the employees of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians once again demonstrated their love of their community by quickly pulling together a drive to gather items to help re-supply the shelves of the Salvation Army in Manistee in late December.

Council and a group of employees took over the responsibility to drive the effort and on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December reported that they delivered over 1600 items to the Salvation Army! The Salvation Army folks asked team member Melanie Ceplina to thank everyone and to let them know it could not have come at a better time. The Army had last minute orders come in for Christmas and were thinking they might have to put less in each box so as not to turn anyone away But because LRBOI got our things in before the 16th all of their orders will be filled the way they hoped.

Tribal Council donated over 500 individual items, took up a collection to purchase all the non-food items on the list and sent over a \$500 donation before the drive even began.

In addition to the gathered items, one individual gave money to donate on behalf of all of the employees. Melanie bought a Christmas card signed it "Tribal Council & employees" and stuck the money in with the card and gave it to Salvation Army that way. It was not just those donations either as Elder Katie Glocheski even contributed 4 toys to Toys for Tots.

One reason for the success of the drive was the way that the team created a 'contest' for the employees with teams from the various departments competing to see which team could donate the greatest number of individual items. The winning team, Public Safety/Courts, was announced at the Employee Christmas Luncheon on the 16<sup>th</sup>. They beat out Tribal Council and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Bank Building by one item...542 – 541! They will receive a free lunch coordinated by Tammy Bowen, Sandy Chandler and Melanie Ceplina which will be delivered right to their office!



**Thanks to everyone that chipped in to support a wonderful agency, the Salvation Army!**



## Annual Goonignebig (Snowsnake) Tournament

Location: LRBOI Aki Maadiziwin Community Center  
located at 2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung, Manistee, MI

**Competition starts at 10:00 am**


POTLUCK Lunch


(Please bring a dish to pass)

Prizes to Include:

- Longest Throw
- Best Looking Snake Used in Competition
- Oldest Competitor
- Furthest Travelled Competitor

Registration the day of the event will be from 9-10 am or you may pre-register by calling 1-888-723-8288, ext. 6895 or email [vchandler@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:vchandler@lrboi-nsn.gov)

**Age Categories**

1-4	12-17
5-7	18-35
8-11	36-54
55+	

- Competitors **MUST** be registered
- All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult at all times
- Competitors **MUST** be on site and ready when their name is called

Everyone is invited to attend and participate! Come enjoy the fun!



**Sponsored by the  
Little River Band  
of Ottawa Indians  
Historic  
Preservation  
Department**

By participating, you acknowledge that photographs and/or digital recording may be taken during the Tournament and convey all rights, title, and interest concerning the photographic images and/or digital recording to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. It is further understood that these photographic images and/or digital recordings may be published and/or posted on the internet or tribal website or any other way in which the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians deems necessary. All rights are voluntarily waived to these photographic images and/or digital recordings.

## Tribal Facebook Page gaining steam!

The Office of Public Affairs and the IT Department launched an official tribal Facebook page prior to the fall 2011 Membership Meeting. It has been gaining in 'friends' and usage slowly and steadily.

Be sure to check in often for up-to-date information on tribal activities and information that you can use. Just type in the full name of the tribe, "Little River Band of Ottawa Indians" and look for the listing with the tribal shield. This is the only official Facebook page. All of the others are run by individuals for their own purposes.

Here is a summary for our Facebook Page from the beginning of December:

### Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

99 monthly active users ↗4 since last week

79 people like this ↗3 since last week

3 wall posts or comments this week  
↗5 since last week

35 visits this week ↗63 since last week

## 2012 Jiingtamok Planning Meeting!

The Tribal Community is invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 to provide input and volunteer assistance in the planning of the 2012 Jiingtamok. If you are interested in attending or lending assistance, please mark this date on your calendar. The meeting will be held at the Historic Preservation office located at 294 River Street in Manistee. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact the

Historic Preservation office at  
1-888-723-8288, ext. 6891, ext. 6893, or ext. 6895.

## In Honor Of Our Beloved That Have Passed On, They Will Always Be In Our Hearts

### Melissa Elizabeth Lovett



Melissa Lovett, age 38, passed away unexpectedly Friday, November 11, 2011. Surviving are her three children, Chasman Rose, Samatha and MaryJane Rose and their father, Joe Rose; many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents

### Sandra K. Arnold



Sandra K. Arnold, age 63, passed away July 2, 2011. She was born on August 9, 1947, in Findlay, Ohio, to the late Willard and Alma (Cattell) Starliper. Sandra is survived by her loving son, Chris (Tracey) Arnold; grandchildren, Kaitlin, Dylan; and her dear friend, Jay Eldridge.

We thought of you with love today,  
But that is nothing new.  
We thought about you yesterday,  
And days before that too.  
We think of you in silence.  
We often speak your name.  
Now all we have is memories.  
And your picture in a frame.  
Your memory is our keepsake.  
With which we'll never part.  
God has you in his keeping.  
We have you in our heart.

### Alice J. Schneider



Alice J. Schneider, age 66 of Holton, passed away Friday, November 11, 2011 at her home following a short illness. Alice was born on March 9, 1945 in Manistee to Alva and Edna May (Sikorski) Rinard and has been a resident of the Holton area since 1979 when she moved from Lakewood, Michigan. Alice had been

a nurses aid at University Park Nursing Center for several years until her retirement. Alice was a member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and enjoyed attending events within the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Alice also enjoyed gardening, going to yard sales and her dogs, Dinkie and Spunk.

Alice is survived by her children, George Schneider Jr. of Arkansas; Dale Schneider of Holton; Wayne Schneider of Holton; Heidi Bradley of Beckley, West Virginia; Kimberly Schneider of North Royalton, Ohio; Annette Schneider of Holton; Tony Schneider of Detroit, Michigan; 7 grandchildren, Joshua Schneider; Nicholas Bradley; Harley Bradley; Makayla McLaughlin; Michael McLaughlin; Hailey Murphy; Jason Repogle; her mother, Edna Rinard of Holton; sisters and brother, Judy Snow of Walkerville; Darlene Short of Holton; Alva Rinard; and Karen Alther. Alice was preceded in death by her father, Alva Rinard; her sisters, Janice Rinard, and Martha Denman.

### Mary Ann Bower

Mary Ann Bower, 49, of Interlochen, died Sunday, December 4, 2011, at home surrounded by her loving family. She was born August 12, 1962, in Traverse City, the daughter of Dean and Nancy (Sikorski) Bower. Mary was employed by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians for nearly ten years. In her spare time, she loved working in her flower gardens, canning vegetables, and cooking large family meals. Most of all, Mary loved spending time with her family, especially with little Emmy.

Mary is survived by: her parents, Dean and Nancy Bower of Interlochen; her soul mate of over 25 years, Eddie Feaster of Interlochen; her children, Brian (Janine) Bower of Manistee, Cody Feaster of Interlochen, and Ashley (Dusty VonBuskirk) Feaster of Interlochen; 6 grandchildren, Emma VonBuskirk, Zach Szpliet, Ryan Szpliet, Wyatt Szpliet, Zhaawan Sprague and Nimkiins Sprague; her brother, Dean A. Bower of Traverse City; her sister, Donna Ewing of Copemish; and 5 nephews. Mary was preceded in death by her sister, Cynthia Bower.



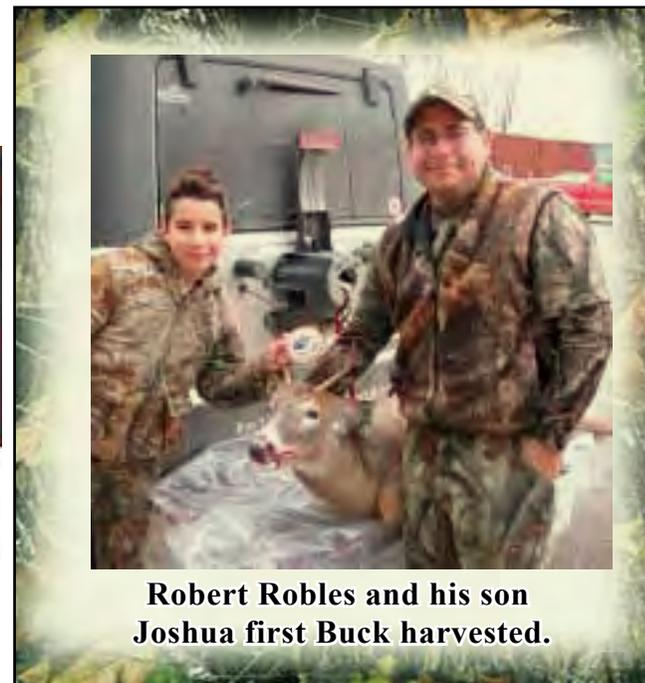
### Joseph "Joe" Medacco



Joseph "Joe" Medacco age 93, the eldest United States Military Veteran of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Manistee, passed away on Friday, December 9, 2011. Joe was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Mildred; and a son, Lawrence "Sonny" Medacco. Surviving are five children, Joyce (Tom) Harrington, Marie Leyton, Francis "Frank" Medacco, David Medacco and Gene (Julie) Medacco; numerous grand, great-grand and great-great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. Joe was a veteran of the United States Army serving during World War II. He was retired from Fisher Steel and Supply and was a longtime member of the Warriors Society. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 12, 2011 at Anchor of Hope Church, 2815 W. Giles Road, North Muskegon. Visitation was at Ever Rest Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be directed to VNS and Hospice or The Dream Foundation.



Congratulations to Tribal member Dennis Kisro who harvested a beautiful 6X6 Elk that dressed out to 780 lbs. He harvested his elk in Atlanta on December 17, 2011



**Robert Robles and his son Joshua first Buck harvested.**

## The spirit of Christmas alive in the H.R. Department!



Elder Alyce Giltz who works as the Human Resource Secretary with the Tribal Government in Manistee has brought her artistic ability to fruition as she decorates the HR Christmas tree this holiday season.

Alyce says that her tribal memories of Christmases past and present have inspired this Woodland Scene Christmas tree. Many of the ornaments have been collected from friends and family over the years and most have been hand crafted by Tribal artisans.

Looking closely you will see the various Tribal Clans represented with the Turtles, Beavers, Elk, Deer, colorful woodland birds like Cardinals and the friendly Chickadees. In addition you will see birch bark canoes, paddles, moccasins, birch miniature fishing creels and fish.

Splashed throughout the trimmings are natural red berries and twinkle lights representing the stars of the night and to set it off a handmade basket star made from splinted ash. Below, the Red Indian blanket keeps the roots warm at night.



## Also in the spirit was Marcella Leusby, the Accounting Receptionist who decorated her WHOLE office for Christmas!



## Tax-Exempt Quotas

Tax-exempt motor fuel monthly limit is 175 gallons per Tribal member.  
Tax-exempt cigarette monthly limit is 20 packs per Tribal member.

### Income Tax Reminder:

#### Per Capita Payments are Taxable

The tribe is obligated to notify you that Per capita payments are subject to federal taxation. Per capita is taxable income and the taxes assessed depend on your income bracket and location. The Tribe will only deduct applicable taxes from the per capita payments if they meet the Internal Revenue Service's threshold that would require the withholding. The payments may also be subject to state tax if you do not live in the tax agreement area. All Per capita payments will be reported on the appropriate tax form and mailed to you by Jan. 31st. We encourage you to contact a tax preparer for further tax questions.

### Michigan Income Tax Reminder

Per capita payments are subject to state tax if you do not live in the tax agreement area. Per capita payments are includable in household income for Michigan taxpayers filing for property tax and/or home heating credits.

### Resident Tribal Members Can File For Annual Sales Tax Refund

If you are a Resident Tribal Member (living within the tax agreement area *and* registered with the Tax Office) you can receive a sales tax refund from the State of Michigan. There is no need to send in receipts. The refund is based on a percentage of the Resident Tribal Member's income. The Tax Office will be mailing Form 4013 to all Resident Tribal Members by the end of January. Call the Tax Office at 231-398-6874 if you are a Resident Tribal Member and do not receive Form 4013 for the Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit by the 1<sup>st</sup> of February.

### It's Time to Check your W-4 Status

Income tax time is a good time to check your W-4 withholding amounts. If you owe state or federal income tax on your 2011 return, you may want to reduce your exemptions or have additional tax withheld for 2012. If you're getting a refund, you may want to increase your exemptions.

It's also a good time to check your beneficiary designations and make sure all your important documents are up to date.

### Why Pay When You Can Get Your Taxes Done for Free?

More than half of all taxpayers pay a tax preparer to file their tax return. Before using a commercial tax preparer, find out if there is a **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** site nearby that can help you prepare your taxes for free.

If you earn under about \$49,000, you can get free tax filing help through the IRS-sponsored VITA or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs. Both programs can provide fast electronic tax filing. Community volunteers receive IRS-approved training to assist individuals with tax returns.

### Free Tax Preparation Sites in our Area

There are many free tax preparation sites available to seniors and low-income taxpayers. The Tax Office will maintain a list with contact information for these sites within the nine-county area. Call the Tax Office at extension 6874 if you need help locating a site near you.

### 2011 VITA Checklist

#### Getting Help to Prepare your Taxes — What to Bring with You

If you need help completing tax forms, a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site near you can help.

Call 1-800-906-9887 to find the nearest location. When you go to a VITA site, or if you choose to go to a commercial tax preparer, be ready.

#### Take these items with you:

- Valid picture ID
- Copy of 2010 tax return (if you have it)
- Social Security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) for you, your spouse and any children born before December 31, 2011. (If available, bring the Social Security cards or ITIN letters to ensure information is copied correctly onto the tax return.)
- Income documentation including:
  - W-2 Forms from all jobs worked in 2011
  - All 1099 Forms showing other income received in 2011
  - A blank check for direct deposit of your refund (If you don't have a checking account, bring your bank account name, number and the 9-digit American Bankers Association (ABA) routing number. Contact your bank if you need assistance identifying the ABA number.)

#### If any of the following apply to you, take documentation with you:

- Child care expenses, including the provider's address and federal ID #
- Mortgage company statements
- Adoption expenses
- Alimony paid or received
- Any notices received from the IRS or state tax office
- Property tax bills
- College tuition and student loan interest statements
- Additional forms of income such as:
  - Prizes and awards
  - Scholarships and fellowships
  - Lottery/ gambling winnings

**If you lost or do not have all of these items, you can still get your taxes prepared. Call the IRS helpline at 1-800-829-1040 to find out what you need to do and how to obtain replacement documents.**

## National Tribal Water Quality Conference

LRBOI Biologist Presents at National Water Quality Meeting



The 2011 National Tribal Water Quality Conference was held at the Pueblo of Pojoaque. This was the first annual meeting and over 105 Tribes were representing with more than 400 people in attendance. Plenary speakers included federal staff as well as Tribal experts who spoke on topics ranging from funding issues to use of Tribal Ecological Knowledge. Throughout the three day conference discussions centered on water, its use, protection and value. Little River Biologist Stephanie Ogren presented on the strength of Tribally collected data, its comparability to other agency data and new ways to use biological assessments (fish and bugs) to help in management decisions. LRBOI has a strong EPA funded watershed assessment program. This presentation highlighted the collaboration and encouraged others to use the same model in building a water program.

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## Government Ad's

### Government Closes for the following Holidays

- \*New Years Day
- \*Treaty Recognition Day
- \*Memorial Day
- \*Independence Day
- \*Labor Day
- \*Reaffirmation Day (September 21<sup>st</sup>)
- \*Veteran's Day
- \*Thanksgiving Day
- \*Friday after Thanksgiving Day
- \*Christmas Eve Day (Half Day)
- \*Christmas Day

Some areas of the government will be continue to be available on these holidays, such as Public Safety.

Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of the Government facilities. It's always a good idea to call first if you are not sure. Just use the toll-free number of 888.723.8288.

## Update on Workforce Development

Revisions have been made to the LRBOI Commerce Department's Workforce Development Program. The Adult Work Experience/Employment Program has been expanded and Internships are available for students who are in college or are college-bound. Please login to the website and then go to the Commerce page under Membership Services.

## Traditional Healer

### J.D. Gibson

Every month

Appointments available for  
Indian Health Service (IHS)  
eligible Native Americans Regarding  
scheduling of appointments

Please call Julie Wolfe

**(231) 398-6740**

Sponsored by Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health of  
the Little River Band Of Ottawa Indians

### Commissions and Committees

If you are interested in serving on any of the following committees or commissions, please submit a letter of interest to the Ogema's office indicating which committee/commission you are interested in.

- Commerce Commission
- Gaming Commission
- Housing Commission
- Binojeeuk Commission
- Enrollment Commission
- Health Commission
- Natural Resource Commission

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Some areas of the government will  
be continue to be available on these  
holidays, such as Public Safety.



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[www.GLPet.Memorial.com](http://www.GLPet.Memorial.com)  
**15% off to Tribal Members!**

“The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Warriors  
Society is organizing fishing teams for next year’s  
event. If you would like to be on a team or partici-  
pate in the event, please contact Bill Memberto,  
Commander of the Warriors Society at 1-231-398-6728”

**The Warriors Society is  
Gathering photographs of members to be  
use when their office opens.**

Please send photos of  
our Warriors either in  
Uniform or in  
Civilian dress to  
the address below

**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians,  
Warriors Society,  
375 River Street, Manistee, Mi. 49660**

*"From the Editor: The end of 2011 saw several major steps forward in tribal country regarding how the government of the United States interacts with our Native Sovereign Nations. Both of the steps involved Emergency Management and both are critical for the Indian communities in taking off the shackles of federal requirements on how we respond to disasters and incidents on tribal lands."*



*Tribal Nations collaborate to create new TRIBAL NIMS Guide. (Commentary)*



## Let's get ready! - Zhiitaadaa

The "Whole Community" approach to emergency management in Indian Country

In 2011, the federal government made a very visible switch in emergency management as agencies started moving from a position of "we'll come in and take care of you" to a position of letting local units of government respond to and manage incidents within their jurisdiction while backing them up with a system of support services, supplies and agencies. The government actively began training and supporting this "Whole Community" approach, *even in the Tribal Nations!*

In Indian country, taking care of our tribal members just comes naturally; this is what we do. With that comes a responsibility to do what we can as part of the community to help out when you are needed. Historically, as an example, everyone had a role in planting, gathering, hunting and fishing so that there would be food in good times and bad; the 'Whole Community' approach.

The same philosophy now holds true in Emergency Management. All members of the tribal community have a role to play in helping the tribe to survive and prosper when faced with disasters and incidents that threaten their well-being or their community.

Over the next several months, the *Currents* will be running a series of articles about the roles of LRBOI, its government and its community, in Tribal Emergency Management. Many of them can be accomplished on a volunteer basis and some can even lead to jobs and careers. Watch for the series and feel free to talk to the folks here at LRBOI who are already involved in taking care of our 'Whole Community.'

Are you ready for the challenge?  
Zhiitaadaa – Let's get ready!

For more information on the subject of emergency management in tribal country, one good source is the website at [www.ready.gov/indian-country](http://www.ready.gov/indian-country).



*A Long Overdue Policy Change to Recognize the Sovereignty of Tribal Governments*  
Posted by Craig Fugate on December 07, 2011 at 10:08 AM EST

As demonstrated time and time again through many disasters across America, emergency management requires a team effort. Our country's tribal nations and leaders are an essential part of the team. The Obama administration has long been committed to supporting Indian Country in efforts to build resilient communities, prepared for all hazards.

Last week, on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the administration, I met with tribal leaders as a participant in the [2011 Tribal Nations Conference](#) hosted by the White House. The goal of this multi-day event was to continue an honest, meaningful discussion between tribal leadership, the administration and federal agencies, to listen, learn and explore how we can continue to strengthen our government-to-government relationship.

During these conversations, I had the opportunity to announce -- consistent with our strong government-to-government relationship and after a lengthy review process -- that the administration supports amending the Stafford Act to allow federally recognized tribal governments to make a request directly to the president for a federal emergency or disaster declaration. Under current law, only states, through the governor, can make such requests.

Amending this legislation will acknowledge the sovereignty of federally recognized tribes and the trust responsibility of the United States, enhance FEMA's working relationship with tribal governments, and improve emergency responsiveness throughout Indian Country.



*Craig Fugate is the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

Obama Administration and FEMA Announce Support for changes to Stafford Act - Tribal Leader Support Key to Spur Congressional Action

Today the Obama Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) announced its support of a change to the Stafford Act to give federally recognized tribal governments the authority to make disaster declaration requests directly to the President of the United States. The Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act currently allows only states, through a governor, to make these requests to the President.

As harsh winters descend upon North America, the US Congress is reviewing various changes to the Stafford Act and inaction will leave both tribes and states without the proper tools and mechanisms to respond to major disaster events.

Tribal leaders are urged to take action following this important announcement. These changes can lead to safer and more secure tribal communities through increased and enhanced emergency management preparedness and planning.

In a statement released today, NCAI commended the Administration and FEMA's support for this critical change in the Stafford Act.

"Just like states, when disaster strikes, tribal nations must act swiftly to respond to protect and secure lives, infrastructure, and public health. We call on Congress to fix the Stafford Act and incorporate the sovereign status of tribal nations in this important law. These changes will also provide tribes and states critical flexibility in responding to catastrophic events when communities need it most," said Jefferson Keel, President of NCAI, the country's oldest and largest American Indian and Alaska Native advocacy organization.

"The support of the Administration and FEMA for a legislative change recognizes not only the sovereignty of tribal nations, but also acknowledges the critical role tribes play in the network of emergency response and disaster relief at the local and national level."

Last year alone, tribes experienced major catastrophic events tied to blizzards, floods, fires, and manmade events resulting in multi-million dollar losses in tribal government infrastructure, and personal property. In the event of a catastrophic natural disaster or manmade incident, the Stafford Act currently creates an unnecessary loss of valuable response time in seeking federal assistance.

NCAI Contact Information: Robert Holden, Deputy Director

## U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$15 Million to Improve Transit Options for American Indians, Alaska Natives on Tribal Lands Investments Improve Access to Jobs, Promote Economic Development



WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced \$15 million to help American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments invest in public transit to help improve access to employment centers and promote economic development on tribal lands.

“With unemployment among American Indians at an unacceptably high rate, reliable public transportation offers a vital link to jobs, training centers and other essential services,” Secretary LaHood said. “The Obama Administration is committed to working with leaders in Indian country to improve transportation connections while boosting economic conditions and creating jobs in tribal communities.”

The money, which is awarded through the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Tribal Transit Program, will provide grants to tribes in 25 states for 67 separate projects. The projects will focus on maintaining existing transit operations during the economic downturn and enhancing services for seniors and people with disabilities. In addition, some grants will be used to plan or launch new bus, van and commuter service in rural communities that have never been served by public transit before.

“For people who live in rural communities and on tribal lands, access to reliable, affordable public transit is a lifeline,” said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. “We’re committed to ensuring that every American Indian or Alaskan native who needs a ride to earn a paycheck, attend school, see the doctor, or buy groceries has that opportunity.”

Eligible grant recipients under the Tribal Transit Program include federally -recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages, groups, or communities, as identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Michigan) was one of the 13 Eastern Woodlands Tribes included. LRBOI was awarded a \$25,000 planning grant to determine the transportation needs of tribal Citizens. This opens the door for the tribe to apply for more grants from the FTA and other funding sources to move forward on the Tribal Transportation Plan. Other awards include:

- The Quechen Indian Tribe along the California-Arizona border will receive \$232,000 for new transit service on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation to improve access to employment, education, health services and recreational opportunities between Fort Yuma and Winterhaven.
- The Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Central Oklahoma will receive \$450,000 to increase the on-demand transit services it provides to seniors, tribal elders, persons with disabilities and others with little or no transportation options to meet basic needs such as medical appointments, grocery and clothes shopping, jobs and adult continuing education.

- The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians will receive \$140,000 to continue providing night service, consisting of five routes six nights a week, serving the Qualla Boundary portion of the Cherokee Indian Reservation in Western North Carolina. The service provides safe transportation for those who work at night, as well as for evening shopping and activities.

The Federal Transit Administration reviewed 116 project applications for the Tribal Transit Program, representing more than \$41.6 million in funding requests from tribal transit providers across the country.

*"A man should rely on his own resources; the one who so trains himself is ready for any emergency." --Oral Tradition, OMAHA*

Man is designed to function independently and to rely on the Creator for his resources. If we build our relationship with the Great Spirit, we are ready when emergencies occur. We need to build a trusting relationship with the Creator. We do this by constantly talking with the Creator. It's good to talk to Him many times a day. Then we will realize, even though we can't see Him, that He is always with us and He is ready to respond to our requests.

God, let me remember to talk to You many times today.

## Commodities

Food Distribution Program ( FDPIR ) was created by congress in 1977 Food Stamp Act as an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for Indian Reservations. The program offers commodity to low income Native American households. No household may participate in both the Commodity Food Program and Snap Program, but eligible households can switch from one program to the other at the end of each month. Eligibility and participation for FDPIR are based on application and certification requiring tribal status, income and resources qualification, in determining who is eligible for the program. We are federally funded by the USDA and they set the regulations and guidelines for the Commodity Program.

USDA Income	
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	
Monthly Income Standards	
October 1, 2011 & October 1, 2012	
Household Size Income Limits	
1.	\$ 1,055.00
2.	\$ 1,373.00
3.	\$ 1,692.00
4.	\$ 2,018.00
5.	\$ 2,362.00
6.	\$ 2,708.00
7.	\$ 3,026.00
8.	\$ 3,344.00
For each additional member add \$ 319.00	

Commodity Department serves 13 counties: Benzie, Grand Traverse, Lake Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Wexford.

Office hours are 8:00 A.M – 5:00 P.M  
Lunch hour is 12:00 - 1:00  
Yvonne Theodore, Laurie Jackson  
1-888-723-8288 ask for Commodity Program  
Office # are 231-398-6716 or 231-398-6715



## White House Highlights Native American Youth as “Champions of Change”

WASHINGTON, DC – On Thursday, December 1st, eleven Native American Youth leaders were honored at the White House as *Champions of Change*. These young people are Champions in their tribes and communities as they work to improve the lives of those around them through innovative programs that help others, raise awareness of important issues like suicide and bullying prevention, energy efficiency and healthy eating.

“The ‘Champions of Change’ for Native American youth were there to share their stories and to attend the White House Tribal Nations Conference. They are examples of the generation that will build a stronger future for Indian Country by continuing to address the challenges facing American Indians and Alaska Natives,” said Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Charlie Galbraith.

These outstanding young Americans were selected from a group of hundreds who answered [President Obama’s call](#) to share their stories of leadership and community service. Here are some of their stories:

### **Teressa Baldwin** Native Village of Kiana Sitka, AK



Teressa Baldwin has been directly impacted by suicide and wanted to take action to help reduce the rate of suicide in her home state of Alaska. As a junior in high school, Teressa was appointed by Governor Sean Parnell to the Statewide Suicide Prevention council and became one of the youngest appointed representatives in the state of Alaska. Following her appointment, Teressa started her own organization teaching her peers about the signs of suicide and sharing her own story about how suicide affected her life. After facing common hurdles to suicide prevention programs, including high costs and low enrollment numbers in trainings, Teressa has been able to work with 12 schools on suicide prevention programs and is hoping to expand to more. Teressa feels that her work is part of her life goal to help lower the rates of suicide in not only Alaska but the rest of the country.

### **Madeline Sayet** Mohegan New York, NY



Madeline Sayet keeps her culture alive by telling the stories of her tribal ancestry through storytelling and plays. Beginning as a teenager, Madeline spent summers creating and teaching shadow puppet plays of traditional stories in the Mohegan language to her Youth Camp. Madeline played a critical role in all aspects of the development and production of these plays which were intended to help children gain a deeper understanding for their heritage and native tongue. She went on to receive a degree in Theater from New York University (NYU) where she also served as Co-President of the Native American Club. Since graduating, Madeline has performed a Native play by William Yellowrobe Jr. and still plays an active role on the campus of NYU as she continues her education. Madeline also writes about her homeland including one short story in University of Nebraska’s forthcoming Anthology of New England Native Literature. She is currently working on her Master’s thesis which will be a play illustrating the life of her ancestor Fidelia Fielding, the last fluent speaker of the Mohegan language- to be performed in NYC this spring before performing to her tribe back home.

### **Emmet Yepa** Jemez Pueblo Jemez Pueblo, NM



Emmet Yepa from the Jemez Pueblo tribe in New Mexico, is an environmental advocate in his tribe and wants to find solutions to help educate his people and future generations about the importance of recycling. Emmet helped to form the Walatowa Green Stars Recycling Group in 2010 which consists of four youth members and is focused on preserving and keeping their ancestral lands beautiful through recycling. Despite initial challenges to get approval, the Green Stars persisted and currently educate students at local schools and have implemented recycling bins in designated areas within their Pueblo. Since 2010, Walatowa Green Stars had been recognized with numerous awards and given opportunities to speak at local and national conferences. Emmet’s ultimate goal is for his tribe to eventually have its very own Recycling Center.

### **Lorna Her Many Horses** Rosebud Rosebud, SD



Lorna Her Many Horses is dedicated to honoring the American Indian soldiers and veterans who serve this country at a higher per capita rate than any other ethnic group. She has worked with elders and language teachers to translate the Star Spangled Banner into Lakota and Dakota because she feels that our soldiers and veterans deserve to be honored in their own language. To make this a reality, along with the help of others, she was able to record and produced CD’s in her own community that have been given out to hundreds of Native American veterans and soldiers, and more than 50 schools and youth organizations.

### **Dallas Duplessis** Alaskan Native Tulalip, WA



Dallas Duplessis is an advocate for healthier eating on her reservation. After seeing firsthand the negative effects of unhealthy eating habits, Dallas was focused on making a difference. Dallas and her family have been involved in the Hilbulb Cultural Center program “Growing Together as families” which teaches families healthy eating habits. From her involvement with the Cultural Center, Dallas was inspired to start the Tulalip Youth Gardeners Club to inspire other kids to garden together with their families. Since the start of the club, they have been able to teach kids to learn about gardening during the opening of the Hilbulb Center, at the Boys and Girls Club and at the Evergreen State Fair where they won ten ribbons. As their club says, their goal is not to be couch potatoes but to grow some potatoes.



## Book Launch

MARQUETTE, Mich.—An anthology of creative works representing the contemporary American Indian experience in Michigan was released in early December. It is titled *Voice on the Water: Great Lakes Native America Now*. A public reading in Mt. Pleasant was held on Friday, Dec. 2, and showcase contributors and celebrate the book's launch including LRBOI Tribal members.

*Voice on the Water* features poetry, short stories, essays, photographs and artwork. It also includes a glossary of Anishinaabe terms and contributor biographies. Northern Michigan University's Center for Native American Studies and the NMU Press collaborated on the anthology, which was made possible by a \$15,000 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council.

"We wanted this book to appeal to a broad audience and our hope is that it will also be used as a textbook from the junior high level through college," said Grace Chaillier, adjunct professor at NMU and the project's coordinator.

"Indians in general are not very well known as contemporary people in American society. If you ask students to draw depictions of them, it's usually with tee-pees, bows and arrows and other images from the past. We want to introduce ourselves as Indian people, but also as contemporary Michigan residents so our Michigan neighbors will know us better."

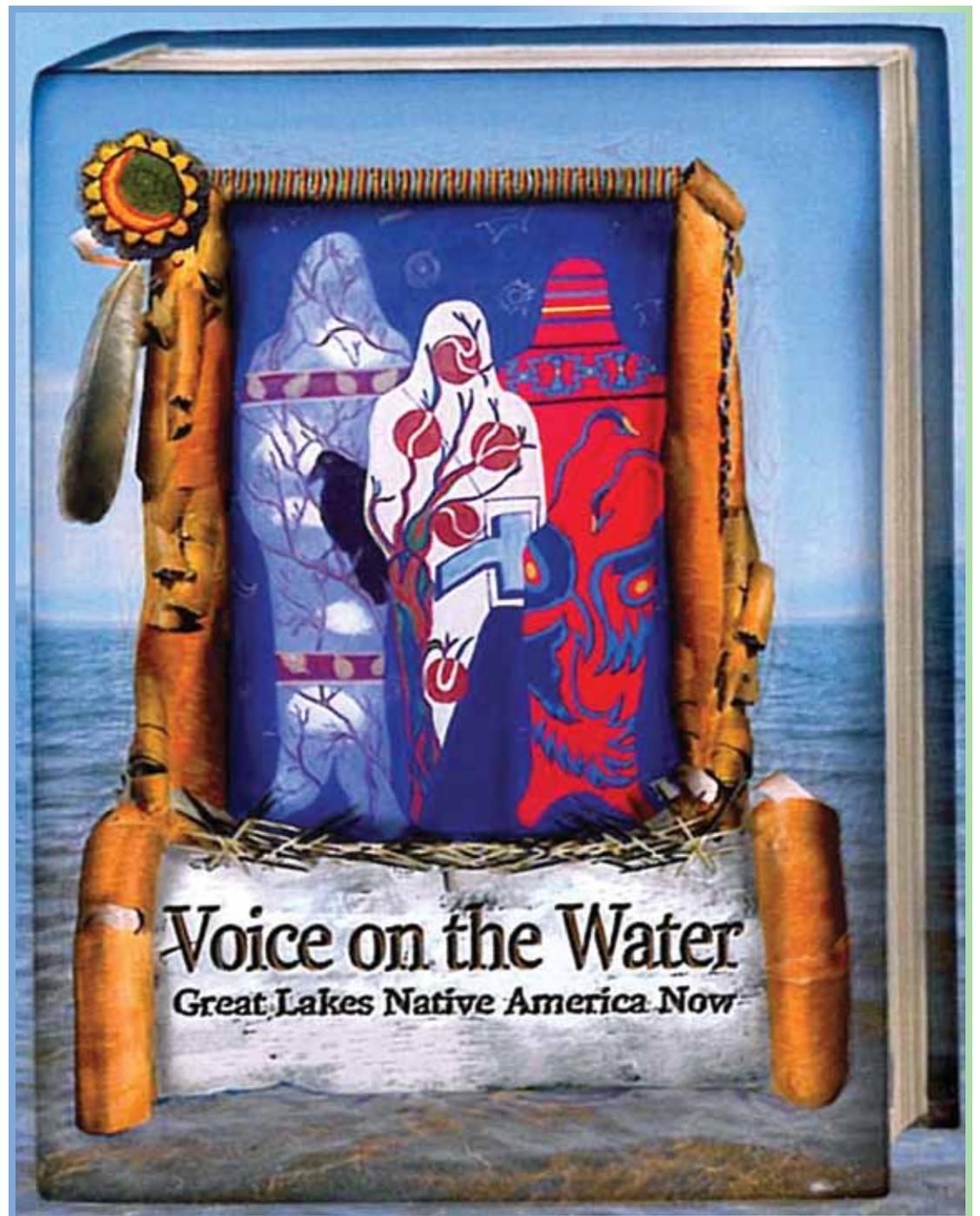
More than 200 pieces were submitted for consideration from within the state and beyond. A committee of campus scholars, along with a community elder and author, selected the 88 that are included in the book.

"The tough part was not being able to include all of them because there were so many quality submissions," said April Lindala, director of the NMU Center for Native American Studies. "I've seen Native anthologies that revolve around themes, but this is the first that specifically relates to the contemporary experience in Michigan. We made a conscious effort to have a span of generations' voices included, so there is a lot of youth representation.

"The seeds for this project were first planted several years ago, before I became director, but it's extremely fulfilling to see it finally completed. It has been a labor of love for the last two years. The book is something tangible we can carry and hold close to our hearts and say, 'We did this.'"

In addition to the Mt. Pleasant public reading and book launch, a similar event will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 30, at the NMU campus in Marquette. Both are hosted by the Center for Native American Studies and the Communications and Marketing Office, which oversees the NMU Press.

*Voice on the Water* is available at the NMU Bookstore at [www.nmubookstore.com](http://www.nmubookstore.com).



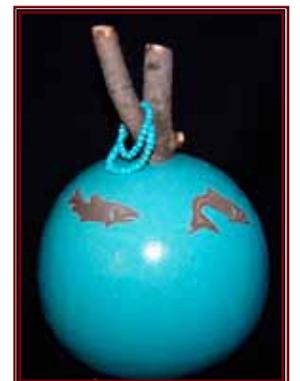
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260-243-9027

email:  
[sbrauker@gmail.com](mailto:sbrauker@gmail.com)



## After School Program!



Starting February 2, 2012 the LRBOI Education Department (**Muskegon**) will have after school activities for Students ages (9yrs-17yrs) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The program will run until March 29, 2012, and will be from 3:00pm - 6:30pm.

**Activities will include:** Study Groups, Xbox 360 & Kinect, Ultimate Frisbee, Tennis, Arts & Crafts, Movies, Bead Work, and Board Games.

**Location:** 1101 W. Hackley Ave., Muskegon, MI  
Space will be limited to 7-8 students per day, so call ahead and reserve a space.  
Santana Aker  
(231) 398-6654

**\*Snacks will be provided**  
**\*Hope to see you there!**

### 2012 Open meetings for LRCR-BOD.

Board of Director 2012 open session meetings will be held on a quarterly basis; the next scheduled open session is March 30th at 4:00pm in the Grand River Room.

**Spring 2012 Membership meeting will be held on April 14th 2012**



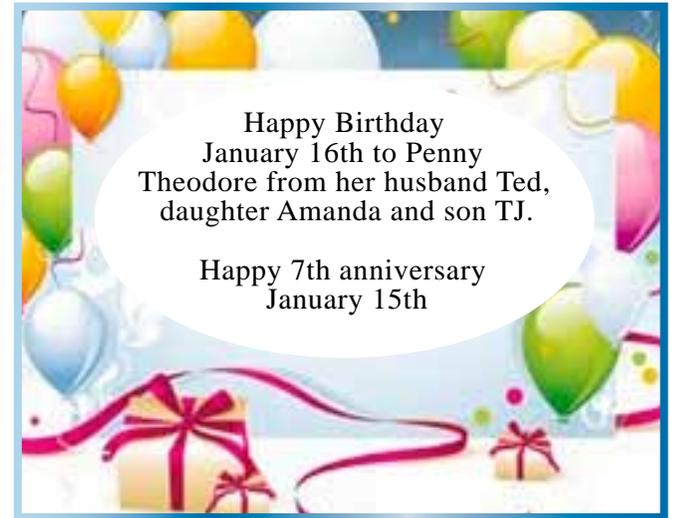
Happy Valentines Day  
Hannah and Mathew  
Love, Fern and  
Buttercup



Happy Valentines Day  
Hannah and Mathew Sandel  
I love you with everything in me!  
Love, Mommy



Justin Kopp  
Brandon Drake



Happy Birthday  
January 16th to Penny  
Theodore from her husband Ted,  
daughter Amanda and son TJ.

Happy 7th anniversary  
January 15th



## Children's Christmas Party



2011 Children's christmas party was a huge success with more than 400 children registered!





Meagan Compton  
9 years old Daughter of  
Daniel Compton Granddaughter of  
Sharon Boucher

**Thank you for sharing with us!**



**Congratulations  
Elizabeth Koone**  
Elizabeth is an honor student  
at Bunker Middle School  
**Job well done!**



Hannah Lynn Sandel  
Thank you for submitting  
Such a beautiful picture!  
**We love you very much!**



Shakota Bingham  
9 years old  
Daughter of Jennifer Granddaughter of  
August Bingham  
Great Granddaughter of August and Carol Bingham  
**Thank you for sharing with us!**



Lilly Nickname "Turtle"  
6 years old,  
Granddaughter of Marvin J.  
Nadiger worked very hard on this  
beautiful picture.  
**Thank you for sharing with us!**



Kaynon Compton  
5years old  
Daughter of  
Daniel Compton  
Granddaughter of  
Sharon Boucher  
**Thank you for sharing with us!**

## Count and Color with the Currents! Number 1= Bezhik





You can find this and many other issues at [www.lrboi.com](http://www.lrboi.com)

Mkwa-Giizis (Bear Moon)  
February 2012 vol.9 Issue 2

## Attention Tribal Members: Spring Membership Meeting April 14<sup>th</sup>!

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
375 River Street  
Manistee, Michigan 49660

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 195  
Manistee, MI

Or Current Resident

**LRBOI Enrollment  
Department will have their  
system set up to create tribal  
ID's if needed**



At the Spring Membership Meeting, you will be required to present your tribal identification card to register to vote. (Drivers' licenses will not be acceptable for registering)



## 2012 Spring Membership meeting

Dear members,  
At the request of members, we are in the process of creating a form that will give members the ability to bring forth potential motions prior to the upcoming spring membership meeting if a quorum is obtained. Once the form is complete, it will be available on the Tribal website for those wishing to put forth a potential motion. The form will also be available from Mary Thomas. At this time, the deadline for the submission of the form will be February 15, 2012.

Mary Thomas  
Ogema Executive Assistant  
375 River Street  
Manistee, MI 49660

If you are not registered to vote, please contact the Election Board at 231.398.6709 or call Enrollment at 231.398.6712 for a packet. Members must be registered 14 days prior to an election to vote!