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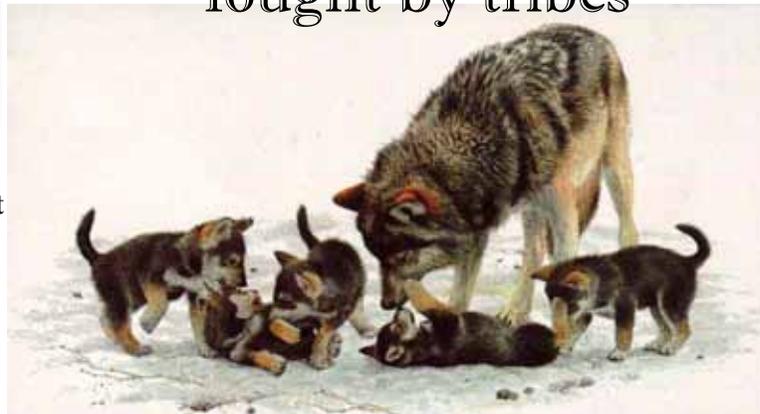
LRBOI is leading in a fight against establishment of a wolf hunt in the state of Michigan. Part of it is having to educate legislators and bureaucrats on the true picture of the wolf in our state and our culture

Tribal Election 2013



What is shaping up to be one of the most lively tribal campaigns in ages with 21 candidate in the Primary for Nine County; 7 for Council At-Large; 2 for Council Outlying; 5 for Election Board and 3 for the tribal Judiciary. See candidate articles beginning on page 9 of this issue. Some chose to not submit articles however the names of all candidates appear prior to the individual messages. On January 5th a Candidate Forum 2013 was held at the Little River Casino Resort at which 27 of the candidate spoke. You may see the recording of the forum on the tribal website under the Election Board tab.

Wolf Hunt in Michigan fought by tribes



Idle No More

The tribal government of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians adopted a resolution of support for the First Nations' of Canada fight against the Canadian government on issues which effect all Native people.

Brief Tribal Shutdown



Ogema Romanelli meets with employees regarding shutdown

The tribal government suspended operations for a day on January 4th as part of an on-going dispute over the 2013 budget. Operations resumed on Monday the 7th.



Chief Spence on hunger strike to support Tribal Consultation



Until next month...

REMEMBER: "No matter how old you get or how tough you think you are, when a toddler hands you their ringing toy phone, you answer it." Author Unknown

Tribe Holiday Contributions!

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians had an early Christmas present for a number of agencies and organizations as they and the Tribal Ogema Larry Romanelli announced donations at the Tribal Council final session for 2012.

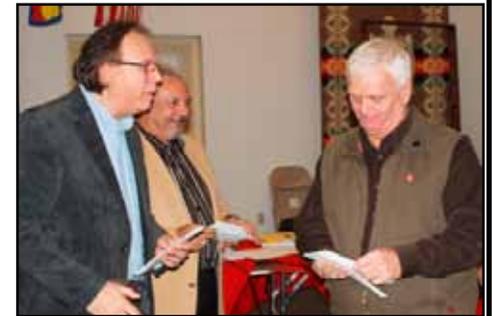
Tribal Council, led by Speaker Steve Parsons announced the following donations from the tribal legislature with Gaming Revenues from the Little River Casino Resort:

Rolling Thunder	\$1,000
Salvation Army – Manistee	\$1,000
Salvation Army – Muskegon	\$1,000
West Shore Amateur Hockey	\$1,000
LOVE Inc.- Manistee	\$1,000
LOVE Inc.- Muskegon	\$1,000
Children Advocacy Center	\$1,000
Kateri Circle	\$500
Kwewok Circle	\$700
Choices of Manistee	\$500
Manistee Recreation Assoc.	\$500
Grand River Band of Ottawa	\$200
MI Vietnam Memorial Wall	\$500



At the Council session, Ogema Romanelli also announced donations from the Executive Branch including:

MI Vietnam Memorial Wall	\$1,000
Rolling Thunder	\$500
Vogue Theater	\$1,000
Tight Lines for Troops	\$1172.47
LOVE Inc – Manistee	\$500
Salvation Army – Manistee	\$500
Veterans Memorial Park	\$500
Child Abuse Council of Muskegon Co.	\$500



**With the donations,
LRBOI
also wished everyone
a very Merry Christmas
and a joyous New Year**

Aanii,

Wow! What an interesting 30 days. I'll leave it at that. As I write this I am hustling to get this to press in time. The holidays are over and it is the New Year.

I'm not even sure where to start so I guess I will begin with the latest event which was the very temporary suspension of tribal government operations on January 4th with the exception of critical operations.

The difficult decision arose out of a concerning difference of opinions between the Ogema and Tribal Council which I believe poses serious legal ramifications including, but not limited to, mandates to each of the Program Budgets that would restrict our ability to maintain the continuation of services to our Citizens.

In short, the Executive branch of government felt it necessary to temporarily suspend operations on January 3rd because the 2013 budget had not been approved. Tribal Council, at the December 19th Council Meeting approved a resolution which was to provide funding for the month of January until the 2013 Budget could be approved.

The Ogema did initially approve the resolution, however, after the Accounting Department brought the Ogema concerns with trying to implement the resolution, the Ogema held a series of emergency meetings to look at the potential problems that could arise and it was determined that unless an amendment to the resolution be made immediately, the Ogema would issue an Executive Order to temporarily suspend operations. Tribal Council, the Legislative Branch, was in disagreement with the suspension and filed in Tribal Court for a stay on the Executive Order on that same day.

The Tribal Council did pass the budget on January 4th. The courts issued a partial stay. The Ogema, having reviewed the budget, vetoed it and sent his concerns to the Tribal Council as of this writing.

The Tribal Government offices were reopened and operational on Monday January 7th as usual. The court proceedings will continue over the coming weeks.

On another issue, the State of Michigan recently approved legislation that will allow the hunt on the gray wolves in Michigan even though LRBOI along with other Michigan Tribes oppose the hunts. Natural Resources Director, Jimmie Mitchell testified in Lansing on our behalf and set meetings up with State Elected Officials prior to the vote. At this writing Director Mitchell has been invited back to Lansing for discussions on the Wolf Hunt. I think it important to note that Director Mitchell was nominated to represent the five CORA Tribes with the direction to preserve the existence of Wolves throughout the 1836 Ceded Territory and beyond, including the entirety of the great Lakes region.

United Tribes of Michigan will be meeting in Lansing on February 19th and 20th at the Radisson Hotel, I'm sure the Gray Wolf hunt will again be added to the topics of discussion.

Work Session Attendance											
Date	Work Session Title	Steve Parsons	Janine Sam	Kimberly Alexander	Candace Chapman	Virgil Johnson	Sandy Mezeske	Pat Ruiter	Lee Sprague	Michael Ceplina	Total Attending
11/02/12	Wells Fargo	x	x	x	x		x	x			6
11/05/12	Little River Casino Resort Financial Review	x		x	x		x		x		5
11/05/12	Special Audits	x		x	x		x		x		5
11/05/12	Agenda Review	x	x		x		x		x		5
11/05/12	Family Services Budget Modification	x	x		x						3
11/06/12	FY2013 Government Budget Review	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		7
11/09/12	Strategic Plan: Identifying Tribal priorities	x	x		x		x				4
11/09/12	Boozhu Productions	x	x		x		x				4
11/13/12	Natural Resources Job Descriptions	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
11/13/12	Fireworks Ordinance	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
11/13/12	Agenda Review	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	8
11/16/12	Office Closure	x	x		x		x		x	x	6
11/19/12	Government Financial Review	x			^			x	x	x	4
11/19/12	Water/Sewer/Septic Hauler 2013 Fees	x		x	^		x	x	x	x	6
11/19/12	Agenda Review	x		x	^	x	x	x	x	x	7
11/20/12	Elders' Insurance	x	x	x	^	x	x	x	x		7
11/20/12	Natural Resources Commission Ordinance	x	x	x	^	x	x	x	x		7
11/20/12	2013 Budget Review	x	x	x	^	x	x	x	x		7
11/26/12	2013 Budget Review	x		x	^	x	x	x	x	^	6
	Total -	19	12	11	12	9	17	12	15	7	
	^ Bereavement										

Work Session Attendance											
Date	Work Session Title	Steve Parsons	Janine Sam	Kimberly Alexander	Candace Chapman	Virgil Johnson	Sandy Mezeske	Pat Ruiter	Lee Sprague	Michael Ceplina	Total Attending
12/03/12	Donations	x	x	x			x		x	x	6
12/03/12	Little River Casino Resort Financial Review	x	x	x			x		x	x	6
12/03/12	Agenda Review	x	x	x			x			x	5
12/06/12	Housing Commission		x	x			x	x	x	x	6
12/07/12	Natural Resource Job Descriptions	x	x				x		x	x	5
12/10/12	Muskegon Presentation	x		x		x			x	x	5
12/10/12	Lobbyists	x		x		x			x	x	5
12/10/12	Agenda Review	x		x		x			x	x	5
12/10/12	Natural Resource Commission Elk Regulations	x				x			x	x	4
12/11/12	Government Organization Structure Act	x		x		x	x			x	5
12/11/12	Budget Resolution Review	x	x	x		x	x			x	6
12/11/12	Budget and Appropriations Ordinance	x		x		x	x				4
12/14/12	Elder Insurance Exchange	x	x			*	x			x	4
12/17/12	Government Financial Review				x	x	x				3
12/17/12	2013 Tribal Council Meeting Schedule and Recesses				x	x	x			x	4
12/17/12	Agenda Review		x		x	x	x		x	x	6
12/17/12	Budget Review		x		x	x	x		x	x	6
12/18/12	Ogema Being Removed from Board of Directors	x			x	x	x		x	x	6
12/18/12	Internal Structures for Council	x			x	x	x		x		5
12/18/12	Lobbying Agreement	x			x	x	x		x	x	6
	Total - 20	15	9	10	7	14	16	1	13	17	
	* - Business-related										

There was high drama the first week of the New Year when the Office of the Ogema suspended tribal government operations for a day!

At 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 3rd the Ogema's office announced that as of 5 p.m. operations were suspended due to a disagreement with Tribal Council over the 2013 budget. An executive order exempted Public Safety, Utilities and Surveillance departments to maintain operations for safety and the resort.

Late Thursday night, Public Safety posted notices regarding the closure on office doors. While technically closed, many directors and employees 'volunteered' and showed up for work.



Ogema Romanelli met with Employees Thursday to announce suspension of operations



Tribal Council met Friday in Emergency Session to adopt a 2013 budget

Tribal Council did hold an Emergency Meeting on Friday to adopt the 2013 budget. The meeting, held in the Dome Room was attended by citizens and employees.

In the Tribal Court of Associate Judge Angela Sherigan, Friday evening a partial stay of the closure was granted which allowed offices to open the following Monday. Other details on the budget discussion were not available at press time.

Manistee HSCB 25 years old!



Part of what a responsible community does is to take care of its residents and bring whatever services and assistance possible to help them in time of need. In Manistee County, a number of agencies, the Human Services Collaborative Body or HSCB, has been doing just this for 25 years!

On December 4th, the HSCB held their annual meeting and celebrated what they called, 'Maximizing Partnerships/Generating Solutions.'

There are approximately 60 Partner Organizations including the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians that come together as the HSCB and a number of the agencies involved work with each other to serve their specific populations. These include collaboration from the tribal Family Services and Members Assistance groups.

Two tribal Directors, Lee Iverson and Glenn Zaring, hold positions with organizations involved in the HSCB and work to expand the availability of service to tribal members in the Manistee area, where the major reservation and government are based.

HSCB was organized in 1987 in response to Governor Blanchard's recommendation to form groups that collaborated across service systems (mental health, public health, substance abuse, child welfare and the private sector).

Several of the program directors speaking to the group pointed out that funding was being reduced quickly but the needs continue to rise. That is why, they said, that collaboration of all providers is so critical to our communities health.

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Purchasing Vendors\ Indian Preference

The Tribe's Purchasing Office maintains a vendor resource database that enables the Tribe to identify vendors who can supply products and services for the Tribe's needs. The database includes vendors who have previously bid on items/services or have requested to be in the database. Vendors are organized by product and service categories in the database. It is important that vendors describe their products and services.

The Tribe provides preference to Native American owned and operated businesses. Indian preference will be given only to bidders who provide proof of preference status to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indian's Purchasing Office. For complete information on how you can receive certification for your business and have your business listed in the Tribe's vendor resource database, please contact the Little River Band of Ottawa Indian's Purchasing Office.

LRBOI Supports First Nations Treaty Rights



(1.10.13 Manistee, MI) The Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has adopted a resolution of international consequence supporting the 'Idle No More' movement, as they join with other Tribal Nations and (Canadian) First Nations in calling upon Prime Minister Harper to meet with Chief Spence immediately.

Council Speaker Steve Parsons said that, "We are joining our sister tribes in requesting consultation regarding the Canadian governments recent action passing a law that effectively ends First Nations Treaties and ends protections over 2 million waterways and lakes in Canada."

On 11 December 2012, Chief Theresa Spence declared a hunger strike intended to focus public attention on First Nations issues, to support the **Idle No More** indigenous rights movement, and to highlight concerns about the government's omnibus bill C-45.

The LRBOI Tribal Council also found that enactment of Bill C-45 by the Canadian government diminishes the sovereign authority of First Nations by diminishing protection for sacred lands and waterways in and around First Nations' lands; lands and waterways that are shared with their tribal Clan Relatives around the Great Lakes.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians are signatories to a Great Lakes Water Accord with Great Lakes Basin Native Nations in the US; states bordering the Great Lakes as well as the First Nations of Canada. The accord was signed in December of 2004, when the Tribe agreed to support First Nations on the issues presented with the **Idle No More** Movement.

For further information, contact the Office of Public Affairs of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians at 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660. Office phone 231.723.8288. E-mail to gzaring@lrboi.com

Resolution # 13-0109

Resolution of Support for Canadian First Nations, the Idle No More Movement, and Call for Canadian Prime Minister Harper to Meet With Chief Spence and Other First Nations Leadership Regarding the Bill C-45

WHEREAS, the status of the Gaá Čhíng Ziíbi Daáwaa Aníshinaábek (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) as a sovereign and Treaty-making power is confirmed in numerous treaties, from agreements with the initial colonial powers on this land, to various treaties with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Tribe) is descended from, and is the political successor to, the Grand River Ottawa Bands, signatories of:
the Treaty of Chicago [August 29, 1821; 7 Stat 218],
the Treaty of Washington [March 28, 1836; 7 Stat 491],
the Treaty of Detroit [July 31, 1855; 11 Stat 621] with the United States,
as reaffirmed by federal law in P.L. 103-324 (108 Stat 2156), enacted September 21, 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted a new Constitution, pursuant to a vote of the membership on May 27, 1998, which Constitution became effective upon its approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on July 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted amendments to the Constitution on April 26, 2004, which became effective upon approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on May 13, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the legislative powers of the Little River Band are vested in the Tribal Council at Article IV, Section 7 of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is authorized under Article IV, Section 7(a) of the Constitution to enact ordinances and adopt resolutions to provide for the public health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Little River Band and its members, and to govern the conduct of members of the Little River Band and other persons within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is empowered to Act by Resolution to declare support for or in opposition of other entities, as well as to voice for the Band and its Members the
Resolution #13-0109

position of the Tribe regarding various public welfare matters, including voicing support for the inherent rights of other Native Nations, both in the United States or abroad; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds that enactment of Bill C-45 by the Canadian government diminishes the sovereign authority of First Nations by diminishing protection for sacred lands and waterways in and around First Nations' lands; lands and waterways that we share with the our Clan Relatives and First Nations; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians believes the recent legislation enacted by the Canadian Government, Bill C-45 will destroy water, something all life requires to live, inalienable rights to drink and sustain our lives and the lives of our clan relatives; and

WHEREAS, this legislation was enacted neither with the input of, nor consultation with, leaders of First Nations, which have a treaty relationship with the Crown; and

WHEREAS, Leaders and Citizens of First Nations in Canada, including Anishnaabek relatives of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, descendant from the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, have undertaken a social movement commonly referred to as "Idle No More," which is seeking to have the Canadian government honor treaty relations with First Nations and recognize their sovereign authority; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians as well as other Tribes' Members throughout Turtle Island, stand united and have participated in the "Idle No More" movement; and have expressed, and continue to express solidarity with Canadian First Nations; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians expresses support for the First Nations in Canada, including those Anishnaabek bands, as they seek to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their Citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians supports the full exercise of all Indigenous Nations to the sovereign rights for development of their own natural resources for the benefit of their own national interests as opposed to the National Interest of the Recognized Governments of the United Nations; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT, The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians declare their support and Call for a Meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Stephan Harper and the Honorable Chief Spence as well as other First Nations Leaders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians declare their support of the efforts of Canadian First Nations, and their Citizens, as they seek a restoration of their sovereign rights and a strengthening of their

Resolution #13-0109-

nation-to-nation relationship with our Indigenous Nations throughout Turtle Island and with the Nation of Canada.

In November, during the general election, two individuals with ties to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and the Little River Casino Resort were chosen by voters in Manistee County and the City of Manistee to sit on area government bodies. Karl Waitner Jr. won his race to take a seat on the Manistee County Commission and Eric Gustad won a seat on the Manistee City Council.

Both are employees of the tribes' resort in Manistee.

The *Currents* caught up with both men in early December and asked them about their newly won positions

Karl Waitner Jr.



Karl Waitner Jr. is in hospitality management at the resort. When asked why he ran for County office, he said, "I remember sitting and watching the news at mid-winter and I remember crabbing to my wife about all the decisions that get made in local politics... and it kind of hit me, what have I done to do anything positive to help guide some of those positions? That made me think about my Dad, who is a past 5th District County Commissioner." His father had three children in the Manistee school system and Karl Jr. has two. Karl added, "It was basically just to get involved in the county where I choose to raise my family." "I've always called Manistee home, even when I moved away a couple times," he added.

Waitner actually started this campaign the day that he was defeated in a run for the same office (2 years ago) by just a few votes. This time, he handily beat his opponent, Duane Anderson.

Waitner is a proud tribal descendent of Little River (Connie Waitner – Mother) and he says that he will always have deep, pure pride in his tribal heritage. He said, "It is something that I wear as a badge of honor." However, he adds that he is equally proud of his affiliation with the non-tribal community represented by his district and that his position with the County Commission is a county office and not a tribal one.

While Karl ran on the Democratic ballot, he is quick to point out that the decisions made on the Commission are made for the County and not the party and that these decisions cannot be 'muddied' up by partisanship.

Waitner represents the 5th district which has the majority of the job creators in the county including the Little River Casino Resort, West Shore Medical Center, Manistee Sheriff's Office and the Prison. Karl said that this makes him, "...very aware of keeping jobs in the county and looking out for ways to bring more to us."

"I'm not afraid to make decisions which won't necessarily be popular but which I feel are right for the County," said Waitner. He added, "I have a true desire to do what is right for all the folks in the district."

Eric Gustad



Eric Gustad this fall replaced Alan Marshall, a popular long-time City Council member who moved on to be elected to the Manistee County Commission. Eric has served on the Planning Commission for the city for 6 years, so he has a good feel for the cities' positions, policies and goals. Eric says, "I loved it! I really enjoyed getting involved with planning development, zoning and things like that." "Having Alan move on gave me an opportunity to get involved at a higher level," he added. This race for the Council was his first run for an elected position.

One of the reasons that Eric got involved with the city was strategic objective discussions which stemmed from back when Jim LaPorte was the General Manager of the resort. According to Eric, at that time, one thing which was pointed out was the need for a better relationship between the city and the resort.

Gustad says that, "This election gives me a chance to help enhance the tribe, casino and city relationship." "I feel that there's a lot that the tribe does for its 900+ employees and the whole community that folks just don't know about. Our support for West Shore Hospital, the Sheriffs' Department, areas schools and everything else is really important," he added. *(Editor's note: In early December, the Revenue Sharing Board distributed \$1,365,650 as part of the P.I.L.T. agreement to local units of government as their 2% share of the electronic gaming revenues. This is defined by our Compact agreement which allows the Little River Casino Resort to operate.)*

As to special agenda items for Eric, he said, "I'd love to see focus on revitalization of the downtown in Manistee and work with the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) with the signature buildings and state programs. What we struggle with in that downtown area is property values and costs and the difficulties in making it through the shoulder (winter) months when tourism is down." On other areas, Gustad said, "I do like the alliance of the City and the Tribe in the area of Law Enforcement with their dual officership! With the budget challenges of the city, what a wonderful idea of tapping other certified officers that are available and our tribal officers are qualified to provide that level of support. This is a good alliance!"

Eric said, "I would definitely like to see some infrastructure and technology improvements to attract long range business (development)." He added that, "...if someone is looking to build a business and we don't have water and sewage capacity and 4G broadband support or arteries so that they can get products in and out that limits our ability to be competitive to draw new business."

"To rest on our laurels with the business strategy that we currently have would be a death sentence for the long range...if we don't look to find new and innovative ways to bring sustainable business here we won't survive," Eric concluded.

The tribal community appreciates the effort of Karl Waitner Jr. and Eric Gustad in becoming involved with the whole community of Manistee.

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 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.

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 1st 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 2012 return, you may want to reduce your exemptions or have additional tax withheld for 2013. 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.

2012 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 2011 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, 2012. (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 2012
 - All 1099 Forms showing other income received in 2012
 - 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**.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is part of the 2-1-1 Action Team!

Earned Income Tax Credit/Michigan 2-1-1

Low-income Michigan wage earners may be eligible for an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) of up to \$5,891. We have partnered with Michigan 2-1-1 to provide information and referrals to free tax preparation sites throughout Michigan.

The Earned Income Tax Credit can make a substantial difference in the lives of our clients.

Each year, many of these funds go unclaimed. Once claimed, EITC funds can be used for utilities, car repairs, preventing eviction or foreclosure, building savings and assets, and so much more.

2-1-1 is the free, easy-to-remember number to call for health and human services information and referral. 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days per year with trained staff. Interpreter services are also available.

Our clients seeking EITC and income tax preparation should be directed to call 2-1-1 in areas served by 2-1-1 (95% of Michigan). For those DHS clients living in areas currently not served by 2-1-1, a toll-free number – 1-888-636-4211– has been established to provide this information.

Michigan 2-1-1 Call Centers have up-to-date databases with thousands of health and human services that may be very useful to the individual and families we serve. You are encouraged to utilize this resource to assist your clients.

The dates of the Tribal
Membership meetings
for 2013 are
April 13th & October 12th.

Native Code of Ethics

Each morning upon rising, and each evening before sleeping, give thanks for: all life, the life within you, the good things the Creator has given you and others, and for the opportunity to grow a little more each day. Consider your thoughts and actions of the past day and seed for the courage and strength to be a better person. Seek those things that will benefit everyone.

Respect: Respect means to feel or show the honor or esteem for someone or something; to consider the well-being of, or to treat someone or something with deference or courtesy. Showing respect is a basic law of life.

Treat every person, from the tiniest child to the oldest Elder, with respect at all times.

Special respect should be given to Elders, parents, teachers, and community Elders.

No person should be made to feel put down by you; avoid hurting others as you would avoid a deadly poison.

Touch nothing that belongs to someone else, especially sacred objects, without permission, or an understanding between you.

Respect the privacy of every person. Never intrude on a person's quiet moments or personal space.

Never walk between people who are conversing.

Never interrupt people who are conversing.

Speak in a soft voice, especially when you are in the presence of Elders, strangers, or others to whom special respect is due.

Do not speak, (unless invited to do so), at gatherings where Elders are present (except to ask what is expected of you, should you be in doubt).

Never speak about others in a negative way, whether they are present or not.

Treat the earth and all her aspects as your mother. Show deep respect for the beliefs and religions of others.

Listen with courtesy to what others say, even if you feel what they say is worthless. Listen with your heart.

Respect the wisdom of the people of council. Once you give an idea in a meeting or to the council, it no longer belongs to you. It belongs to all people.

Be truthful at all times, under all conditions.

Always treat your guests with honor and consideration. Give them your best food, blankets, the best part of your service.

The hurt of one is the hurt of all. The honor of one is the honor of all.

Receive strangers and outsiders with a loving heart and as fellow members of the human race.

All the races and tribes in the world are like the different flowers in one meadow. All are beautiful. As children of the Creator, they must all be respected.

To serve others, to be of use to family, community, and nation is one of the main purposes for which human beings have been created. Do not fill yourself with your own affairs and forget your most important task. True happiness comes only to those who dedicate their lives to the service of others.

Observe moderation and balance in all things.

Know those things that lead to your well being, and those that lead to your destruction.

Listen to, and follow, the guidance given to your heart.

--reprinted from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Frontier;

April 1997 and February 1998



Boozhoo naganabensikwe,
nindizhinikaa makwa doodem.

My relatives, for centuries we have stood as one. We have made decisions not as individuals but as a people, but now even young spirits as my own can see this fading away.

I see the frustration growing between our people. Each of us have a flame that burns inside of us, have anger, have opinions, have our differences as our ancestors before us,

But now, instead of looking though each other's eyes, instead of trying to understand each other's' frustrations we are choosing to stand against each other.

To ignite a fire with our flames you see that fire may burn, but it does not keep us warm. We may argue but it does not get us anywhere. We must stand together to make a difference as always we are strong as a people!

I know in my heart each of you already know this. Sometimes we just need to look into our souls to remember. Greed may blind us at times those are the times we need guidance.

We must remember where we come from, where our hearts lie, what path we have chosen. We must remember to have faith. We must work as one to do what is right for all of us.

Our flames should not burn each other, but shall be used to fight for what we believe in! If we continue to fight our own what will our future bring?

So I, Miss Little River, ask of you to look beyond the anger, the selfishness, the differences and remember our ancestors who stood on these grounds before us.

Who fought for our rights, who's blood was shed on the very ground we walk upon. Remember our losses, remember all we gave to get where we are today.

Remember how strong we are, not as individuals but as a tribe, as a people, as one

Remember!!!!!!! Pandora Pete (Pandora is the current Miss Little River who is doing a wonderful job representing our people)

Seven Grandfather Teachings

We have to take care of Aki (Mother Earth) or we will not have a home. We must all share in this responsibility. We need to make sure that Mother Earth and everything the Creator gave her will always be here for future generations. Each morning let us remember

to greet our Grandmothers and Grandfathers whose spirits are in the many glories that surround us. They taught us, as they had been taught by their elders, how to take care of

Mother Earth and each other. We are straying away from the Teachings given to us. Our young people do not pray

and give thanksgiving. We need to know the Teachings of our Grandmothers and Grandfathers to give us direction and balance. Especially our leaders who are young; they

need to listen and learn. We need their participation.

To take care of Mother Earth and the community of life, we need to remember the Teachings of the First Elder. The First Elder gave us the gifts of knowledge that he received from the Seven Grandfathers when he was a

little boy. Each Grandfather gave him a great gift. One gave him the gift of NIBWAKAAWIN (Wisdom), and he learned to use that wisdom for his people.

Another gave the gift of ZAAGIDWIN (Love), so that he would love his brother and sister and share with them. The third Grandfather offered the gift of MANAADJITOWAAWIN (Respect), so that he would give respect to everyone, all human beings and all things created. AAKODEWIN (Bravery) was the next gift, the courage to do things even in the

most difficult of times. A fifth Grandfather gave the boy

GWEKOWAADIZIWIN (Honesty), so that he would be honest in every action and provide good feelings in his heart. Another Grandfather offered

DIBAADENDIZOWIN (Humility), to teach the boy to know that he was equal to everyone else, no better or no less. The last gift that was given to the boy was DEBWEWIN (Truth). The Grandfather said, "Be true in everything that you do. Be true to yourself and true to your people. Always speak the truth." The

Grandfathers told him, "Each of these Teachings must be used with the rest. You can not have WISDOM without LOVE, RESPECT, BRAVERY, HONESTY, HUMILITY, and TRUTH. You can not be honest if you use only one or two of the Teachings, and to

leave out one is to embrace the opposite of what the Teaching is." We should all try to live by the Seven Grandfather Teachings. Sometimes it may

be hard to apply all of them daily, but we must try. If we don't practice honesty, we cheat. If we don't practice truth, we will lie. We must go back to the knowledge that the

Seven Grandfathers taught the First Elder, who then passed the Teachings on to the next generation, and so on.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings will remind us how to treat one another and our children. Each of us is responsible for taking care of the children and of Mother Earth. The children are the ones who must care

for Mother Earth tomorrow, and for the generations to come.

- Author Unknown

All candidates running for Office of Tribal Council Nine County District- Candace M. Chapman, Bernadine Crampton, Dave J. Corey, Gary Paul DiPiazza, Jamie L. Friedel, Rita Annette Gale, Jeanie Gibson, Martha M. Howell, Steve Kequom, Don Koon, Kareen Lewis, Brian Loney, Karen Love, Frankie L. Medacco, Pamela S. Medahko, Edward L. Tyler, Janine M. Sam, Peggy J. Vriesman, Martin (Marty) Wabindato, Robert (Bob) Whiteloon, (Deacon) Jeremy Wilson

Candace Chapman

Aanii.

My name is Candace Chapman and I humbly seek to continue my service as Nine-County Representative on Tribal Council. Thank you for giving me the chance to serve in this capacity for the last 4 years. We have made great progress however there is still much to be done. Having been part of the highest revenue generating year of our Resort in 2010, the impacts of the economic downturn continue to present challenges for our government. While the future of gaming in Michigan remains uncertain, efforts to closely examine operational structures for both the government and the casino must continue. Our government has discussed many approaches to moving forward though it is the will of our people that our foundation should be built upon.

Realizing there is much room for improvement when it comes to communication; I take responsibility for the shortcomings. I do however remain hopeful that with the help of the people, a viable means of transparency can be achieved. Although communication is crucial, upholding Tribal law is essential to protecting our political status as a sovereign. I remain dedicated to making the necessary improvements and believe that together, by using the traditions of our ancestors, we can vision a future well beyond our own and make it a reality. Community meetings, use of our resources such as Tribal Facebook page are great starters. These changes are already underway and I would like to continue in their progress. I am committed to continue working as part of a team with our Members, fellow councilors and the Ogema's Office to overcome the challenges our government faces and understand the importance of working together. I will continue to working toward the balance that is in the best interest of our Tribe and its people.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bernadene Crampton



Qualifications: I believe that my greatest asset to this position is my education and experience. I hold four degrees thus far in general study, Business Administration, Psychology and Public Administration of non-profit organizations.

Within the realm of Public Administration there were several relevant educational courses including, maintaining Constitutional rights in all levels of an organization; budgeting; Contract administration; Policy Preparation and Analysis; Ethics; Management of Human Resources; and Administration of non-profit Organizations.

Within the social advocacy process, I have advocated for laws which protect women and children in domestic violence situations, educational rights of children requiring special assistance in public schools, advocated for laws against child bullying; and worked in Indian Child Welfare for ten years.

Why I would like to be elected: My whole life has been devoted to sharing my education and experiences with as many people as I can. My ancestors had been involved with protecting Native rights all of their lives and my goal is carrying on this tradition. Some of my relation went door to door to involve people in knowing the issues and discussing them. The end result was that there was knowledge of the facts and true consensus of the people.

Kchi Miigwech! (Bernadene Crampton)

Phone number is (231) 777-5898

e-mail: mernaman@myfrontiermail.com

Candidate Advertisements

Dave Corey

My name is Dave Corey.

I am running for tribal council representative for the 9 counties. My qualifications are achieving my High School diploma from Benzie Central High School, College Education at Michigan State University with my Associates/Certificate in Agri-Business: Construction Business Owner for 8 years, Business Manager of Muschigon Construction, 5 years. I was an adopted member of the Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians for 19 years, and now am a Little River Band Member. I am 1/4 blood Ottawa. I have been married to my wife for 18 years and have three children ages 7, 10 and 13. I was born and raised here in Northern Michigan (life long resident) and have a clean background. I have been a Gaming Commissioner for Little River Band for the past several years. My hobbies include: hunting (bow and rifle), master wood working, gardening, ice fishing, hydroponic gardening, farming, real estate prospecting and spending time with my family.

I am running for council because I would like to see:

- Accountability to the people
- Wiser business decisions
- Council work together with the office of the

Ogema to solve problems and issues

- See ethics and accountability enforced
- Resolve Housing Concerns
- Reduce Government wasted spending
- Represent all age groups
- Create Tribal council five year business plan/strategic plan
- CHANGE FOR THE BETTER ~ For ALL members.

Find me on Facebook: Dave J Corey (<https://www.facebook.com/davejcorey>), Corey for Council (<https://www.facebook.com/CoreyForCouncil>) contact me on e-mail at dave.corey@att.net

Gary DiPiazza



Traditional Name (Sees Bak Tunse)

Anish na

Since the Last election cycle I have devoted my time to seeing that my promises, I made to the Members were fulfilled in a Good Way.

Such: as our Secured Web Site, Video Viewing of the Council Meetings, LRBOI Members facebook page to discuss issues and the Starting of Solar Panels in the Homes at AKI to offset Power needs. I will move the Muskegon Project forward and move us into Manufacturing Renewable Energy, Moving closed Meeting into Open Meetings.

There is a well thought out plan to achieve these goals. I'm drug-free and don't drink

I have Been Married for 30 years, I have 2 lovely daughters and 3 grandchildren.

Have worked all my life with Honesty, Honor, Integrity and the Drive to Succeed. Being Retired it's NOT about the Money.

Embracing my Culture, Traditions, Teachings and Passing them on to all I can.

NOW I need your VOTE to stand with you to give us Stronger Ethics, Accountabilty, Higher Morals and Unity in working together to fullfill all our needs as Members.

Contact me anytime 1-616-450-3928

teedy3@comcast.net www.sightowl.com/garydipiazza/

facebook Gary DiPiazza

Jamie Friedel

Aanii,

I would like to start by introducing myself and a little about me. My name is Jamie Friedel. I currently reside in Manistee, MI. I work for the Tribe at the Little River Trading Post. I have been the manager since we opened in 2008.

Before relocating to Manistee I worked in the food business for 18 years. I was a kitchen manager and then the manager for a local restaurant. After that I became shift leader, trainer and then into management for McDonalds. I also was a kitchen manager and corporate trainer for Apple Bees Inc. Then I started into the gas business at a Mobil station for 3 years then moved to Manistee to open the Trading Post.

I would like to have this chance to represent you as your 9 county council seat. I will not promise you changes because I would only be 1 vote. But, what I will promise is that I will make that one vote count and be heard.

Thank you for your time.

Jamie Friedel

Rita Gale



Boozhoo to all tribal members!

My name is Rita Annette Gale and I am a married Native American member of the LRBOI born and raised in Muskegon and now residing in Manistee.

I have 25 years of experience in trucking, excavating and snow removal services and I worked as a caregiver for several elders in their homes.

I provided catering services in the past for the Elders Committee dinners at the old community center; and am currently on the Elders Committee Board.

I worked for Wolf Lake School for teachers and helped children that needed special help with reading and writing.

I have worked with the Peace Keeping Teen Camp and also with the children's summer Day Camp program through our Tribal Health Clinic Services.

I believe I can make a difference and create changes that are desperately needed for our people. I promise to bring your issues to the table to be discussed before council. I believe in background checks, drug testing, higher standards of attendance and availability for elected officials, respect, communication and a rule of one person equals one job and a 40 hour work week.

You may contact me anytime:

Home phone (231) 723-5988.

Cell phone (231) 750-5581.

Please: Vote Rita Annette Gale for Tribal Council – 9 County.

“The best choice...let me be your voice!”

Candidate Advertisements

Martha Howell



Bozhoo,
Martha Howell Nindizhinikaaz
Manistee Nindoonjiba
Mishiike Dodem

I descend from the Hinman family. I grew up in Mid-Michigan in small town Owosso.

I am a 1990 graduate of Owosso High School. After high school graduation,

I managed/owned a mom & pop grocery store for 12 years.

I am a 2010 graduate from Central Michigan University.

I graduated with honors and earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Journalism and a minor in Native American studies.

First and foremost I am not a politician. I am Anishinabekwe. I have a big heart and I am running for Tribal Council to be of assistance to my people. I believe in open and honest communication. It is vital for the future of our Tribe to seek out Tribal Member input, work together, and listen to one another while utilizing and maximizing those thoughts and ideas, and formulate them into resolutions and amendments for the betterment of our community.

It is essential that we learn from past mistakes, pick up the pieces and move forward in a good way and with an open heart to heal our wounds and ensure our Tribe's culture and success for the next seven generations.

Steven W. Kequom

Steven W. Kequom,

I am declaring my candidacy for the 9- county seat.

I have and will always be for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI).

In the past, I have had the honor to carry the flags at many different jingtamoks. I have attended the medicine lodges, ceremonies and have done some trading. I am a trader (owner of Kequom Kraft's). I will become an elder this coming January.

I cannot and will not promise anything, since I cannot see the actual yearly budget. If there is a problem that arises lets have some mejim and then talk. **BASICALLY I AM FOR THE MEMBERSHIP.**

Steven W. Kequom

Karen Love

Karen Love

Nine County Representative. I have a Bachelors Degree in Business Management. My 28 year career in a management capacity has given me the experience and skills in problem solving, good communication skills, and the ability to work with people. I am able to establish priorities and adhere to deadlines.

My priorities:

Constitution. EVR Equality for all Tribal Members

Tribal Hiring (Preference). Our citizens deserve employment and advancement within our tribe. Apprentice programs that help our members promote into managerial positions.

Economic Diversification. Creating small business within our tribal citizens. Making sound investments to build our wealth within our community.

Financial Responsibility of Tribal Assets. Cutting out underutilized programs and consolidating departments.

Communication. Listening to the opinions and ideas of members.

I will make it a priority to manage tribal funds in a responsible manner and make smart decisions to remain competitive and adapt to our changing economy.

I will work with other councilors to move in a positive direction, so we will be able to realize the rewards of a financially sound enterprise and continue our legacy for our children.

And lastly, lets cut out the politicking and work together as a collective unit to bring fresh ideas to the table and workable solutions to the problems. I will work for the people who elected me and provide them with positive resolutions on issues that impact the health and welfare of all tribal members. Please feel free to contact me at kalowolf@frontier.com.

Frankie Medacco



My name is Frankie Medacco, Tribal Member #1487, and I am running for Tribal Council, 9-County Representative. I am the grandson of Joseph Medacco, and I was born and raised in Muskegon, Michigan. I have worked for the Tribal Government for over 10 years, most recently as the Housing Department Maintenance Technician. I am an active member of our

community and help with a number of activities, including the Elder's Meal Program. I am also a Firekeeper.

I can't promise to make things happen because I am just one man and just one voice. But what I can promise is that I will always serve my Tribe with honesty, integrity, and fairness. I will always put the general welfare of the Tribe first.

As a Tribal Council member, I will work hard to help restore peace to our Tribal community by helping to build positive working relationships between all branches of government. I would like to improve communication between Tribal leadership and Tribal membership. I would like to help pass laws that will address the greatest needs of our Tribal members.

I hope I can count on your vote this April.

For more information, please visit

www.facebook.com/Frankieforcouncil.

Candidate Advertisements

Pamela Medahko



Boozhoo Tribal Citizens,
I greet you in a good way!!

I am a former Tribal Council member (2001-2005), and Tribal Liaison for LRCR (1999 - 2001).

A wise man once said: Politics is more difficult than physics.

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing. I begin from the recognition

& understanding it would become pragmatically unwise to pursue a leadership position if I did not have sincere intentions of being of service to others.

I will not make a myriad of promises, as broken promises contribute to unresolved trepidation & issues. I do, however, commit to standing in the center of the fire, and will not shrink back when difficulty arises.

Cherishing our nation, it is a time for us to embrace values of tolerance, compassion, understanding differences, while maintaining respect for democracy for our nation's future.

Let us prove that the cynics are wrong. That citizens can have a solid representation in their nation's government, rather than in the opposition.

Embrace this opportunity to make LRBOI a leader of nations, and a nation of leaders.

Respectfully,

Pamela Medahko Bear Clan

Web Site: <http://sunryz.webs.com/>

Edward Tyler



We need to honestly assess where we are as a Tribe and where we would like to be in the coming years. I have worked in the field of engineering for over 30 years while raising a family of productive citizens.

I look forward to the future with great optimism. In this New Year of 2013, I also feel we need to be committed to stand firm for the things that we

know to be good and true. I believe in the principles of fairness, honesty and accountability. We need to put into practice the use of good sound, mature judgment. If elected to the Tribal Council I would like to take a serious look at future planning by establishing goals and documenting our progress to fulfill these goals.

These are the qualities that our Tribal Government should be composed of. We need to pursue our Native Culture and Traditions by focusing on better providing for our Tribal Members, especially by seeking to improve our Children's education and Elders healthcare.

For more information on my qualifications please visit my

Web Page at www.edtyler.net, or

email me at sjtyler2@gmail.com.

I would appreciate your vote in the primary.

Edward Tyler

Peggy J. Vriesman

Aanii

My name is Peggy J. Vriesman; I am seeking a seat for Tribal Council to represent the Nine County district. I hold an Associate's Degree from West Shore Community College in Marketing/Management and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Ferris State University. Previously I worked at Little River Casino for over 5 years in the Accounting and Marketing departments. Since 2008 I have worked in the tribal government within the Natural Resources Department. I was elected to the Election Board in 2005/2006 term and currently hold a position on the Commerce Commission. All of these experiences have provided me with an excellent understanding of the good and bad of tribal government, and provided me the motivation to enter my hat into the mix.

My platform is multi-dimensional, but my main priorities will be in:

- 1) Creating a better government through communication and open decision making
- 2) Equality and Respect given to all
- 3) Developing leaders in our government by setting a good example
- 4) Expanding revenue with the Muskegon property and encourage other tribal enterprises
- 5) Developing programs at the Casino that ensures tribal preference is followed and is fair
- 6) Developing revenue generating opportunities

If you have any questions, concerns or comments,

I am available by email vote4peggy@yahoo.com.

If I am elected as your tribal council representative the interest of the tribe will be first. I look forward to working with all tribal citizens in making the future for Little River Band of Ottawa Indians great.

Thank you for your consideration.

Miigwech

Marty Wabindato



Aanii

I'm Marty Wabindato and I'm a full blood Ottawa, Champion dancer & craftsman traditionalist and tribal elder. I was born in Muskegon Feb 25, 1952 into the Grand River Band. After graduating H.S. I left Michigan to experience life. I worked in the chemical industry for almost 20 years. I was an industrial firefighter for 5 years and went to Texas A&M fireschool for my diploma.

Worked in retailing for 12 yrs. I have done

roofing, hot tar roofing, welding and plumbing, over the years. I came to Manistee in 1998 to live I worked a few months painting, etc. our medical clinic. Then I went to Nabco for 8 yrs. Until they closed the doors. I was on the first election board! I've worked 4 summers out to Aki, cutting grass, painting etc. as an elder I've sat in on court cases, job interviews & selections and worked with troubled teens at summer camp. The last 8 yrs. I've been Headman 5 times for our July 4th Pow wow. I've been a health commissioner for 5 yrs. As a traditionalist I need your vote! We need a more rounded council with past and present! I'm also alcohol and drugs free!

231-510-1106

Pomma ,

Marty Wabindato

Candidate Advertisements

Robert (Bob) Whiteloon

Hi my name is Robert (Bob) Whiteloon

I moved to Manistee, year 2000, to be involved in some aspect as a Little River Tribal member. I retired from Harbor Industries at Charlevoix, Michigan with 27 years of employment. While living in Charlevoix I became involved in activities that surrounded Indian people such as Charlevoix Youth Group title IV in the Charlevoix school system. I was on C.A.R.I. board that started a Half Way House for alcoholism in Petoskey, MI. And Michigan Indian Outreach Program for all Native Americans that provided family counseling. I am currently employed at the Little River Casino Resort as a Swing Shift Manager in Slots Operation Department. Was a Council member 4 years ago 9 county area.

I'm Bob Whiteloon; Tribal Elder would very much like to represent all tribal members again. I learned a lot when I was on tribal council. As a council member I will communicate with the utmost professionalism. I believe the future of the tribe is a strong government and exercising our sovereignty. I will support all programs that are in the best interest for our members and the future of the tribe. I want to see accountability from all departments and Casino. I thank you again and I ask for your support so I can with enthusiasm and professional effectiveness support you on tribal council.

Contact at this time is:

Robert (Bob) Whiteloon

Home: 231-907-3960 Cell: 231-463-6168

E-mail: whiteloonr@yahoo.com

Election Board Calendar

- Deadline for Primary Election Challenges.....February 22nd
- Ballots mailed..... March 25th
- Ballots due and Election Day.....April 26th
- Deadline for petitions for recount..... May 3rd
- Deadline for election challenges.....May 3rd
- Voter Registration Deadline for Primary Election.....December 21st, 2012
- Voter Registration Deadline for Regular Election.....March 1st, 2013

Currents Election Submissions

- **February 1st at 5 p.m**

March edition deadline for submission with distribution prior to the General Election)

The Currents will run specifically defined 'ads' for each candidate of either: 300 words (for Council, Judicial and Election Board) 200 words (with a picture) (for Council, Judicial and Election Board) Candidates will submit their messages in the body of an e-mail, not as an attachment. We will not accept 'formatted' ads created by the candidates as there are serious compatibility problems which can cause your message to appear incorrectly.

Send information to gzaring@lrboi-nsngov.

The Office of Public Affairs and the Election Board wish to provide a fair and equal opportunity for all candidates to deliver their message to the electorate.

All candidates running for Office of Tribal Council At Large- Ryan Champagne, Virgil Johnson, Marcella Leusby, Larry Olson, Joseph Riley, Trish Snyder, Lee Sprague

Ryan Champagne



Boozhoo Nindinawemaaganidok,
Nitumigaabow ndizhinikaaz, I am also known as Ryan Champagne. Milwaukee ndojeba. Manistee ndindaa. Niin mishoomis Joseph Paycawwawbawno (Pete) miinawaa niin nookmis Josephine Antoine miinawaa niin nookmis Lorraine Ceplina. Niin noos Jerry Champagne miinawaa niin ngashi Cynthia Champagne.

I have proudly served our people as their first elected Appellate Judge for six years and a social worker for two years. I have devoted my life to Helping Families, Healing Communities! I have demonstrated my devotion to our people by teaching our children at Ho-Chunk Nation and Indian Community School of Milwaukee, and by serving our most vulnerable families, children, and elders as a social worker for the past seven years.

I have proven experience building bridges between tribal, state, and federal relations as the Family Services Director for Mille Lacs Band. I bring with me the experience of developing sustainable government programming that meets the needs identified by our Communities, without utilization of Casino Revenues; developing legislation that protects our families and is based off of the people's customs and values; and the proven work history in Helping Families, Healing Communities!

Miigwech,
Nitumigaabow
Ryan Champagne
(414) 429-6906
"Helping Families, Healing Communities"
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/helpingfamilieshealingcommunities/>

Virgil Johnson

Aanii Tribal Citizens of LRBOI,
My name is Zoongede Mshekenh (Courageous Turtle) Virgil Johnson and I'm the grandson of the late James & Beatrice Koon and a member of the Turtle Clan.

First of all I want to thank all of you for your support over the last 4 years as the At Large Councilor. Most of you know who I am and have witnessed my integrity and work ethics as your Councilor At large. I would like to remind you of my platform as your candidate:

- Healthcare Coverage
- Education of our people
- Housing
- Cultural Sensitivity

Prior Commissions served on are as follows:

- Binojeeuk (the only man to serve on this commission to date)
- Natural Resource Commission (fought for the Inland Consent Decree 2007 and won)
- Commerce Commission

I'm currently serving on the Government Building Task Force, Housing Task Force and Board of Directors for LRCCR. My attendance for 70 meetings was 92%. You can plainly see I'm a Working Councilor that gets things done. I have an Associate's Degree and a Bachelor Degree from Ferris State. I have served honorably in the United States Army from 1968 through 1970. I hold Several US patents while working for Dow Corning Corporation (28 years). I'm currently the Warriors Society Committee recording Secretary.

Why should you vote for Virgil Johnson "At Large Councilor"? Please remember in the last 4 years I've voted on resolutions that open employment for our people at the resort and LRBOI Government. We have increased employment from a low 80's to over 117 preference employees at the resort. I also voted to protect our people for future employment by upgrading the Preference Ordinance and eliminating "loop holes".

I want to say Miigwech in advance for your support on my reelection for Councilor At Large.

Zoongede MshekenhVirg Johnson

Candidate Advertisements

Marcella Leusby



My name is Marcella Leusby. I am running for Tribal Council -At Large position.

I am a tribal elder and am currently employed as the front-desk receptionist at the Bank Building. I am a member of the Pete family. My mother was Alice Moore and my Grandfather was Mitchell Pete.

I'm proud of my native ancestry and I am proud to be a tribal member.

I was one of the first council members. We put in long hours and worked hard to get us federally recognized. We did this all without pay and were happy to do it because we wanted to help our tribal people.

We need to make changes in order for the Tribe to prosper and succeed. We need to start more businesses to provide jobs for our tribal members. We need to education our next generation.

I will be dedicated to my job if I am elected. I will put in 40-hour work weeks. I will work hard to make our tribe become unified once again.

Please visit www.facebook.com/Marcellaforcouncil for more information.

How to Be an Educated Voter

Many people take positions on political issues without doing their homework. They are easily swayed by friends, the media, the political party their family has always sided with, or what they believe is the prevailing public opinion. With a little research, any person can be an "educated"

Instructions

1. Visit the websites for the Candidates Learn about their primary goals, philosophies, proposals, and favored policies.

2. Read the major policies each candidate wants to implement and ask if it would benefit you.

3. Listen to opposing viewpoints. An educated voter should be able to come up with real reasons for why she is voting for someone or against someone else. The only way to do that is to consider the viewpoints of all candidates without bias. Watch the candidate forum and take notes on how candidates explain or defend their policy suggestions. The LRBOI Candidate Forum 2013 was held at the Resort Makwa Endaat (Entertainment Center on January 5th. Many of the candidates attended and spoke. You may see the Forum on the tribal website at www.lrboi.com under the Election Board tab. You must be able to sign on to the 'Members Only' area to view the forum. Thanks to Mack Brushman from Tribal Historical Preservation for providing the recording services.

4. The certified slate of candidates was made public December 10, 2012
You have every right to look up and begin educating yourself about the candidates as soon as that list is made public.

5. Really ask yourself

"How Can I Be a Responsible L.R.B.O.I. Citizen for the Common Good?"

All candidates running for Office of Tribal Council Outlying- Shannon P. Crampton, Bill Willis

Shannon Paul Crampton

Aanii,

I Shannon Paul Crampton am seeking the office of the outlying rep. on council to give a voice to those of you who do not reside in the 9 county area.

My stance on fairness and truth is well known at the time of this letter. Our tribe is in crisis and my warnings to you from 2005-2009 now seem all too prophetic. A change in current policy must occur to insure the security of our tribe, your voice for the past four years has gone unheard due in large to the fact that all the seats appointed you have been filled by 9 county residents who do not share our experiences as outlying members, my lone opponent in the upcoming election is yet another 9 county resident with strong relative ties to the current administration.

Qualifications: I served on council from 2005-2009 and helped implement most of the programs you now enjoy such as Per-Cap.

I have an extensive knowledge of state and tribal law and have managed businesses that have never seen financial loss and currently consult others on how to do the same.

If elected I vow to implement equal voting rights, live streamed council meetings, time clocks for council, and drug testing for elected officials

Email-earlymornwalker@aol.com Website-<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lollytopps/>

I welcome all inquires and look forward to providing you with much needed responsible leadership

Respectfully submitted- Shannon Paul Crampton

Bill Willis

Blessings,

My name is Bill Willis and I am a candidate for the Tribal Council – Outlying District.

I am the son of the late Grace (Koon) Willis; grandson of the late James Koon. I am married and have three wonderful daughters. I was born and raised in Manistee. 1981 Graduate of Manistee High School; Veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and Pastor of Christian Faith Church Int'l in Manistee. Have been an active member of the tribal community since 1994; serving on numerous committees including the original Constitution Committee.

I have worked for the Tribal Government for approximately 14 years in a number of different capacities, including my current position as Budget Coordinator.

I will bring leadership, hard work and common sense to the office of Tribal Council – Outlying District.

I would appreciate your vote.

Candidate Advertisements

Office of Associate Judge (one seat)

All candidates running for Office of Associate Judge- Damian S. Fisher, Spring Medacco, Angela Kay Sherigan

Damian Fisher

Aanii!

My name is Damian Fisher. I am a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. I have had the good fortune of living and working in the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians community since 2005. Back then I was an Associate Legislative Attorney, then for two years I served as the Enrollment Commission's contract attorney. In 2010, I was hired as the Chief Legislative Counsel and served faithfully until early last year. Over these times, I worked closely with the Tribal Council and the Ogemaw of course, but I also got to work with nearly all of the Tribe's programs. I got to know many of the program directors and commissions and I especially enjoyed meeting and working with program staff and Tribal Members whenever I could. There are many wonderful people working hard to provide much needed services to the tribal community. I feel lucky to have made many friends along the way and since leaving last year I have missed these people and those relationships the most.

I want to be your Associate Tribal Judge because I believe we need a full-time, dedicated judge who is fully invested in the LRBOI tribal community. I believe that if one chooses to share a journey with a community that one must share the same path--with all the twists and turns and burdens and joys, and in the easy times and hard times alike.

I have a history with LRBOI, and have come to love and respect its people and leaders. As your next Associate Judge I want to bring all my experience and training as a lawyer to work with Chief Judge Bailey to make the LRBOI Tribal Court a strong and respected institution that serves the Tribal Community with compassion and fairness.

Spring Medacco



Aanii.

I am Spring Medacco, Tribal Member #0136, Biidaabinakwe (First Light Woman). I have been involved with our Tribe since I was 13 years old. My grandmother, Alice (Pete) Moore, was a proud Anishnaabe woman, and that pride was passed on to me at a very early age.

I have been the Paralegal and Victim Advocate in our Tribal Prosecutor's office for over 8 years and I have 11 ½ years of experience in the legal field. I have extensive training in criminal law, civil law, business law, Federal Law, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. I have two Associate's degrees and I am also a volunteer peacemaker.

As a Tribal member, I will make our Tribal Court a priority by making my position as Associate Judge my main job, not just a second job. I resolve to make court decisions fairly, impartially, and justly, taking into consideration not only the law but also the customs and traditions of our Tribe. It's time to make our Tribal Court the very best it can be!

I look forward to serving our Tribe in a new way. For more information, please visit my website at www.facebook.com/Springforjudge or e-mail me at smedacco@hotmail.com.

Angela Kay Sherigan

It has been my privilege to serve you for the last six years as your associate judge. Since taking the bench, in addition to my regular court duties, I have rewritten the court rules, three of which have been approved and published, and the fourth chapter has been written, and is awaiting final approval for publication in February. This was a daunting task, and took considerable time. The court is also now accepting transfers of Indian Child Welfare Act cases from state courts. I have extensive knowledge and experience in ICWA cases, and have served as a trainer for the Michigan State Court Administrator's Office, training Michigan DHS workers and state court judges and referees on ICWA.

It would be an honor to continue to serve as your judge and to continue to improve the court.

I have been licensed to practice law in Michigan, state and federal court for 11 years, and continue my private practice as an attorney. I graduated law school a semester early and with a concentration in constitutional law and civil rights.

I currently hold the following positions:

- State Bar of Michigan;
- American Indian Law Section President;
- Standing Committee on American Indian Law Chair;
- Justice Initiatives – Criminal Issues;
- Diversity and inclusion Advisory Committee Advisor;
- Character and fitness Committee; and as
- Women Lawyers Association of Michigan President;
- LTBB visiting judge;
- Michigan Indian Judicial Association Secretary/Treasurer;
- State Court Administrators Office – Tribal Court Improvement committee;
- Macomb County Bar Association Pro-bono Chair.

I have volunteered my legal services to the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance for 12 years, and take pro-bono cases all across Michigan. In 2012 I was given an award by the Legal Services Corporation, a national organization, for my pro-bono work on behalf of Native people.

Thank you for your consideration.

All candidates running for Office of Election Board- Alesia Condon, Terri L. Burmeister, Carol Gibner, Diane A. Lonn, Valerie Mc Donnell

Carol Gibner



I enjoy helping and working with our tribal members. I have meet many members in the past few years and feel they would be comfortable with me for asking questions regarding the elections. I have been on the election board for over a year now, it has been a real honor and a great learning experience.

I am honest and dedicated to the tribe and its members. I am retired so I would be available when needed. It would be an honor serving on the election board, My phone number is 616.334.2368. my email monag1010@yahoo.com. Please cal or email me if you have any questions. Carol

Candidate Advertisements

Diane Lonn

Aanii: My name is Diane A. Lonn; I am running for a seat on the LRBOI Election Board.

My Grandfather was James Koon and my Great Grandfathers were Joe Koon and Pete Espiew. I am married and have three children, as well as five grandchildren (all girls).

I have worked as the Enrollment Officer for the tribe since 1993 when we only had three employees, in 1999, I moved to the casino and worked for the General Manager there, then in 2004, I returned to the tribe and the position of Enrollment Officer.

I have two Associate Degrees and 2 years ago received my Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Since 1993, I have been on various committees including Constitution, Election Board, Land Acquisition and our Health Board. I have worked as a volunteer on the Pow Wows as well as the Children's Christmas Parties, Community Dinners and other events that the tribe has sponsored.

I have integrity, experience and work ethics and would be an asset to the Election Board.

Please vote for Diane A. Lonn, Candidate for the Tribal Election Board

Valerie McDonnell



Valerie McDonnell would like you to vote for her in the upcoming LRBOI electons.

I would like to announce my candidacy for the election board. I graduated from Hesperia High School in 1981.

I live in Twin Lake, which is in Muskegon County. I have been working at a lawyer's office in Muskegon for the last three years,

before that I worked at Meijer as a cashier for 14 years. I have two children a 23 old daughter, and a 17old son. If you have any question that you would like answered you can contact on facebook and I will do my best to answer as quick as I can. I believe that working at the lawyers' office has given the tools to be qualified as a candidate.

I want to be elected because I feel that I can make a difference.

Good planning and good training pay off and this was proven early into the 2012 Christmas break when the Tribal Emergency Response Team, Bear Lake Township CERT, Little River Casino and the American Red Cross quickly activated to open an emergency shelter for the thousands of folks without power in Manistee County.

At 1:05 a.m. on Friday the 21st, the team coordinator received a call-out to activate the TERT and CERT teams and deploy them to the Little River Casino to help open an American Red Cross *Mass Evacuation Shelter*. By 2 a.m. 10 team members and assorted casino staff were there setting up cots, tables, blankets and pillows for those needing shelter.

A couple years ago, the tribal government and casino management signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to be a Mass Evacuation shelter if needed. Last year, key resort and TERT staff spent a day in training with the Red Cross on how to open the shelter. This involved educating all departments on just what to expect; how to handle the flow of people; the challenges to security and the impact on other areas of the casino operation.



This Christmas, the training and planning came together and the shelter was set up and running in record time...with minimum disruption to the business of the resort!

Tribal Ogema Larry Romanelli said, "I am just pleased with the response time and the overall effectiveness of the team (given the little support they receive). This just shows how we can be a major asset in the community."



Congratulations and thanks to all of the volunteers and staff who are working for the well-being of area residents!

The Historic Preservation Department will be holding a meeting to gather membership input regarding this year's Jiingtamok. If you have any suggestions, comments, ideas, and/or would like to volunteer, please plan on attending the meeting on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 5:30 pm at the Historic Preservation office located at 294 River Street. If you are unable to attend, please contact the Historic Preservation office at 231-723-8288 or toll-free at 1-888-723-8288.



2013 Gatherings for Four Season's Kateri circle

Feb 3 Drum FeastLakeshore Museum
Muskegon 1-3 PM Feast dish to pass for the feast

Feb .9 , 2013 Four Seasons Kateri circle
Valentines Gathering- 11 am to 3 PM...Dish to
pass...St. Thomas Hall 3252 Apple ave.

March 16 2013 Easter Gathering Four
Season Kateri Circle Potluck
St. Thomas Hall 3252 Apple ave 11 am
to 3 PM Egg Hunts for the kids----door
prizes and raffles and silent auctions

March 23 , Reeths Puffer Middle School
SPRING POW -WOW-Reeths Puffer - Whitehall
- Holton - Montague Indian Education
noon to 5 -----1 PM Grand Entry 3:30 Give
away and 4 pm The Feast ----Dish to pass
for the feast.....Raffles and door prizes
craft tables for the pow-wow....call if you want
to be a trader...noon to 5 ----1 Grand Entry 3:30
Give away PM Feast POTLUCKSee More.

all events sponsored by Native American Ministry
If you have any questions call or email.
Patti Wlodkowski 231-670-1455
Email: pski839@gmail.com

Tips To Help You Avoid Financial Exploitation

Signs To Watch For

- You, family, friends or your bank notice financial activity you don't recall, that is not consistent with your financial history or that is beyond your means.
- Your caregiver or beneficiary refuses to use your funds for necessary care and treatment or is threatening to place you in a long-term care facility unless you give him or her control of your finances.
- It appears that food or medication has been manipulated or withheld so you become weak and compliant.

Steps You Can Take

- If you feel threatened and believe you are in immediate danger, contact law enforcement.
- Talk with family members, friends and trusted professionals to plan your financial future. If managing your daily finances is difficult, consider engaging a money manager.
- Talk with a lawyer about creating a durable power of attorney for asset management, a

revocable or living will, trust and health care advance directives.

- Never send anyone personal information to collect a prize or reward.
- Don't be pressured or intimidated into quick decisions by a salesperson or contractor.
- Don't sign any documents you don't completely understand without first talking it over with an attorney or a family member you trust.
- Never provide personal information (Social Security, credit card, ATM PIN number) over the phone unless you placed the call and know with whom you are speaking.
- Tear up or shred credit card receipts, bank statements, solicitations and financial records before disposing of them.
- If you hire someone to help you in your home, be sure that person has been properly screened, with criminal background checks completed.

If you suspect you or someone you know is being exploited, call 888-723-8288 and ask to speak with Members Assistance Department or Family Services Department



I tried to teach my kids respect for all things and all people. You don't sit down if an Elder is standing. And no hate. I'll go to my grave hating no one."
~Rose Shalifoe, Ottawa

General Information Meals served at Noon There is a cost for Guest Meals Questions? Noelle Cross Phone: 231-398-6886 E-mail: ncross@lrboi.com Volunteers are needed to help with meals, if interested please contact Noelle.	Elder Meal Menu AKI Maadiziwin Community Center February 2013		Activities: Wednesdays -Wii Bowling Day Other activities Thursday 7 February Birthday Celebration Tuesday 12th :Bingo 14th Valentine Meal celebration 18th Muskegon Meal 20th Explanation of the D.A.S.H Diet
	Tip of the Month - DASH!! Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension Ways to reduce your blood pressure include: Losing Weight (even a little bit!) Avoiding heavy alcohol use, Quitting smoking, Eating a heart healthy diet(like the DASH Diet) Getting regular exercise, Managing your stress		

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1.	2. Elder Committee Meeting Ham Scal-lop Potato, Veggie Melody, Shortcake
3.	4. Grilled Chicken Macaroni Salad Lettuce & Tomato Mixed Fruit	5. Spaghetti Mixed Veggie Garlic Toast Dessert	6. Taco Bar Fry Bread Veggie Dessert	7. Potato Soup w/ ham Broccoli Dessert	8.	9.
10.	11. Sirloin Steak Baked Potato Spinach Dessert	12. Turkey Club Potato Chips Fresh Broccoli Dessert	13. Apple Chicken Au Gratin Potato Mixed Veggie Dessert	14. Baked Fish Rice Pilaf Veggie Blend Dessert	15.	16.
17.	18. Beef Stroganoff Green Beans Pears Dessert	19. Breakfast For Lunch	20. BBQ Beef Sweet Potato Green Beans Dessert	21. Fish Fillet Mixed Veggie Roll	22.	23.
24.	25. Angus Burger Mac n cheese Veggies Dessert	26. Smothered Chicken Brown Rice Carrots Dessert	27. Roast Beef Potato Green Beans Dessert	28. Hot Turkey Mashed Potato Corn Dessert	Soup of the week offered as an Entre'e alternative	Menu subject to change without notice. Meals meet 1/3 of the RDI based on a 1600 to 2000 calorie diet

(Isabel Burger addressed Diabetes within our tribal communities as part of an article from Indian Country Today on November 28th in support of the SDPI. Indian Country Today Media Network BY CATHY ABRAMSON AND ISABEL BURGER)



My family has a long history with diabetes; my grandmother has type 2 diabetes and I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2007 when I was 8 years old. While I can benefit from exercise in my efforts to control my blood sugar, activity alone will never cure my condition, as

my pancreas no longer produces insulin. My hope for a diabetes-free future lies in the Special Diabetes Program. I see the benefits of SDPI-supported programs in many communities in Michigan as well as the research on type 1 diabetes supported through the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Thanks to SDP funding, researchers at the NIH are making real progress in cure therapies, prevention studies and treatment improvements.

I work hard to manage my diabetes well every day, but it is a constant struggle. If my blood sugar is too low, I cannot play sports or go fishing with my friends. I feel like I do not have the privileges other 14-year-olds have of being able to just be a kid. Diabetes is with me every minute of every day. But with initiatives like the Artificial Pancreas Project, an automated system to disperse insulin based on real-time changes in blood sugar levels, I have hope that one day I will not have to always monitor my blood sugar levels. You see, this is why we have the Special Diabetes Program, because it gives hope to everyone suffering from diabetes. Hope that one day we will all live a healthy diabetes-free life. Hope that one day we will have a cure for diabetes.

The Special Diabetes Program expires October 1, 2013 and we hope that Congress will renew the program this year so that the SDP can continue to provide people with type 2 and type 1 diabetes hope and move us closer to new therapies and cures.

(Isabel "Izzy" Burger is a member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. She has testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and written to the President of the United States to inform him of the issues that impact the lives of diabetic children every day.)

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, 2012 & October 1, 2013

	Household Size	Income Limits	Office hours are 8:00 A.M – 5:00 P.M
Commodity Department	1.	\$ 1,080.00	Lunch hour is 12:00 - 1:00
serves 13 counties: Benzie,	2.	\$ 1,410.00	Yvonne Theodore, Laurie
Grand Traverse, Lake	3.	\$ 1,740.00	Jackson 1-888-723-8288 ask
Leelanau, Manistee, Mason,	4.	\$ 2,081.00	for Commodity Program
Mecosta, Muskegon,	5.	\$ 2,438.00	Office # are 231-398-
Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola,	6.	\$ 2,795.00	6716 or 231-398-6715
Ottawa, Wexford.	7.	\$ 3,125.00	
	8.	\$ 3,455.00	

For each additional member add \$ 330.00

Another Reason to LOVE the Commodities Department

FDPIR client survey question:

How the Commodity Program helps your household.

It helps us to have food to eat, until I can apply for other services and work.

NCAI Transition Meeting

(As reported by NCAI) In advance of the Tribal Nations Summit, NCAI and regional intertribal organization partners developed a briefing book outlining key tribal priorities. One aspect of this book was a Framing Paper of Nine Transformative Steps that the President could take to advance our nation-to-nation relationship. The nine steps are as follows:

1. Visit Indian Country
2. Create an Interagency Policy Council
3. Modernize the Trust Relationship
4. Establish an Administration-wide Policy on Sacred Places
5. Promote Economic Security by Ensuring Governmental Parity between Tribes and States
6. Recognize our Nation-to-Nation Relationship in International Forums
7. Prioritize Appointments that Impact Indian Country
8. Direct the Census Bureau to Lead a Periodic Indian Country Economic Survey
9. Ensure Tribes are Included in National Policy Reform Efforts

To continue this important work and dialogue with the administration, NCAI will host a transition meeting on January 22nd in Washington, DC to set the agenda for Congress and the Administration for the next four years.

Former CHEROKEE NATION Legislation Officer Joins NIEA advocacy team

Washington, DC – National Indian Education Association announces in early December that Clint Bowers joins its staff as Research and Policy Associate. He will support federal legislative and policy development for the leading advocate for all American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children. This includes NIEA's advocacy before Congress and the Obama Administration.

"We are pleased to bring on board Clint's passion for improving education for our Native children," says Ahniwake Rose, NIEA's Executive Director.

Previously, Bowers served as a legislative officer for the Cherokee Nation Washington Office. There, he supported the tribe's education policy and advocacy efforts, as well as on tribal self-governance and federal

funding. Bowers also supervised education centers throughout Iraq and Djibouti on behalf of the U.S. Department of Defense.

A member of Cherokee Nation and a native of Oklahoma, Bowers is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma.

JUST THE FACTS

WHO: Clint Bowers

WHAT: Bowers becomes NIEA's Research and Policy Associate for NIEA.

WHY: The leading education advocate for all Native children is ramping up its legislative and education policy activities.

ABOUT NIEA: The premiere organization advocating for educational excellence, opportunity, and equity for Native students, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) advances comprehensive educational opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians throughout the United States.

Learn more at www.NIEA.org.

PREVENTION THROUGH DESIGN

One of the best ways to prevent and control occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities is to “design out” or minimize hazards and risks early in the design process. NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) is leading a national initiative called Prevention through Design (PtD) to promote this concept and highlight its importance in all business decisions.

Prevention through design (PtD) is the concept of mitigating **occupational hazards** by “designing them out”. This method for reducing workplace safety risks lessens workers’ reliance on **personal protective equipment**. Each year in the U.S., 55,000 people die from work-related injuries and diseases, 294,000 are made sick, and 3.8 million are injured. The annual direct and indirect costs have been estimated to range from \$128 billion to \$155 billion.

While engineering as a rule factors human safety into the design process, a modern appraisal of specific links to design and workers’ safety can be seen in efforts beginning in the 1800s.

Trends included the widespread implementation of guards for machinery, controls for **elevators**, and **boiler** safety practices. This was followed by enhanced design for **ventilation**, enclosures, system monitors, **lockout/tagout** controls, and **hearing protectors**. More recently, there has been the development of chemical **process safety**, **ergonomically** engineered tools, chairs, and work stations, lifting devices, retractable needles, latex-free gloves, and a parade of other safety devices and processes.

A growing number of business leaders are recognizing PtD as a cost-effective means to enhance occupational safety and health.

PREPARING FOR A WINTER STORM

At home:

Keep handy a battery-powered flashlight, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio and portable radio, extra food (canned or dried food is best), can opener, and bottled water (at least 3 gallons per person).

Make sure each member of the household has a warm coat, gloves, hat and water-resistant boots. Ensure extra blankets and heavy clothes are available.

Keep on hand items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.

Keep on hand items for your pets. Animals feel the effects of wind chill. Be sure to have suitable shelter with food and water.

Be aware of potential fire and carbon monoxide hazards if you plan to use an emergency heating source such as a fireplace, wood stove or space heater. (See Heat Sources Safety page later in this packet for more information.)

Outside:

Avoid overexertion, such as shoveling heavy snow, pushing a car, or walking in deep snow. Sweating could lead to chill and hypothermia, and abnormally low body temperatures. Cold weather also puts extra strain on the heart, so the elderly and those with heart conditions should be especially cautious when out in the cold.

Walk carefully on snowy, icy sidewalks.

Wear loose-fitting, lightweight warm clothing in layers, with a waterproof outer layer. Wear a wool hat and mittens.

Keep your clothes dry. Change wet socks and clothing quickly to prevent loss of body heat.

Understand the hazards of wind chill. As wind speed increases, heat is carried away from a person’s body more rapidly which could lead to severe hypothermia.

Automotive preparedness:

Be sure the vehicle is winterized by late fall. This includes having the proper mix of antifreeze and water in the cooling system, topping off the windshield washing solution, and checking the tire treads. Have a mechanic check the belts, hoses, tires, battery, and coolant.

Keep the fuel tank near full, as low fuel levels can cause condensation to form, degrading fuel quality and possibly causing the fuel line to freeze. Additionally, gas stations may be closed during a severe winter storm, so it is wise to fill up if storm warnings are being broadcasted.

Your car should always be equipped with emergency supplies. Keep the following items stored in a portable container:

A small battery powered radio (AM is sufficient) and extra batteries

Flashlight with extra batteries

Cellular phone

Windshield scraper

Jumper cables

Fire extinguisher

Maps

Shovel

Blanket and extra clothes

Flares

Bottled water and non-perishable, high energy foods (granola bars, canned nuts, raisins, hard candy, trail mix, peanut butter and crackers)

First aid kit

Tire repair kit and pump

Tow chain or rope

Phone book and phone list

De-icer and extra antifreeze

“Call Police” or other “Help” sign

Frugal Franny!

A bit of planning can save you a ton of money

Want to get the best deal on everything that you buy? It all starts with knowing when to shop.

February

Best time to buy

Food:

Canned Foods
Chocolate (post Valentine's Day)
Steak (post Valentine's Day)
Seafood (post Valentine's Day)
Oatmeal

Non-food:

Big screen TVs (before the Super Bowl)
Cameras
Motorcycles
Boats
Air conditioners
recliners
Dental care products (toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, etc.)

March

Best time to buy

Food:

Frozen foods
Broccoli
Lettuce
Pineapples
Mangoes

Non-food:

Boats
China and Flatware
Gardening Tools
Perfume

April

Best time to buy

Food:

Candy (Easter clearance)
Eggs
Ham
Cheese
Mustard
Ready-made dough
Dinner rolls
Frozen pies
Cake mix
Cake frosting
Organic/natural foods
Pie crusts
Mushrooms

Non-Food:

Electronics
Vacuums
Cookware
Tires and other car care supplies
Sneakers
Organic/natural cleaners
and healthy and beauty products

May

Best time to buy

Food:

Hotdogs
Ground beef
Hamburger and hot dog buns
Condiments (ketchup, mustard, barbeque sauce, relish)
Salad dressing
Chips
Ice cream
Popsicles
Frozen pies
Soda
Bottled water
Mushrooms

Non-food:

Party supplies (disposable plates, cups, napkins and utensils)
Grill supplies (charcoal, lighter fluid)
refrigerator
Vacuums
Cookware
Pet supplies

Another Great Idea!

LRBOI Tribal member and Elder Delano Peters is still at it, inventing cool items which can help people! Over the fall and early winter, Del introduced a new portable 'exercise' piece of equipment that can help young people improve their balance and ability to do gymnastics including as he says, "Teach them how to get started walking on their hands!"

In the recent past, Del has also built dog carts (see his ad on the next page) and offered to teach members about metal work. He always thinks outside the box in his creations and comes up with answers that make sense!



Mike Cross demonstrates



Family History and Your Health

Sault Ste. Marie, MI/December 17, 2012 - Did you know that your family's health history can play an important role in assessing your risk for many chronic diseases, including cancer?

Relatives share more than brown eyes or curly hair. Chronic illnesses and other health problems also run in families. Family members share many of the same genes, lifestyles and environments – all factors that work together to determine health. Knowing your family health history can give you important clues to unlock your past for a healthier future.

Look for these 'red flags' when asking about your family's health history.

- Cancer in two or more family members
- Heart attacks before the age of 55 in men or 65 in women.
- Sudden unexplained death before age 40.
- Other chronic diseases, such as diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol

Other important information:

- Ancestry (different ethnic groups have an increased risk of certain diseases)
- The age that a family member was diagnosed with a condition
- Age and cause of death
- Number of family members affected

What can you do?

- Talk about it with your family. Let your family know that diseases like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease can run in families. Find out what conditions are in your family and how old people were when they were diagnosed.
- Write it down. Record your family's health history. Update your information as changes occur. Try to include information on at least 3 generations.
- Pass it on. Tell your health care provider about the diseases that run in your family. Ask whether you need to be screened. Share the information with your children and others in your family.

To learn more visit: www.MIGeneticsConnection.org, www.cdc.gov/genomics.public.htm, www.geneticsalliance.org, or www.cancer.org

Thomas Rich
Inter-Tribal Council
of Michigan American
Cancer Society 906-
632-6896 517.664.1422
noelp@itcmi.org
Thomas.Rich@Cancer.org



Living Longer!

Gene Schudlich, an Elder at age 66, started a new interest of living longer, by running marathons of 26.2 miles every weekend for the last 14 weeks, and doing very good at it. Those old age pains have gone away. Do you think it is the Ottawa Blood that makes him able to beat most of the younger people, and even a lady who holds the Guinness World Record for most marathons run in a year of 106?

Government Closes for the following Holidays

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

Some areas of the government will 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.

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
- Binojeuk Commission
- Enrollment Commission
- Health Commission
- Natural Resource Commission

The Warriors Society is gathering photographs of members.

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
The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Warriors Society is organizing fishing teams for next year's event.

“Walks with Wolves”
daughter of Tribal Member
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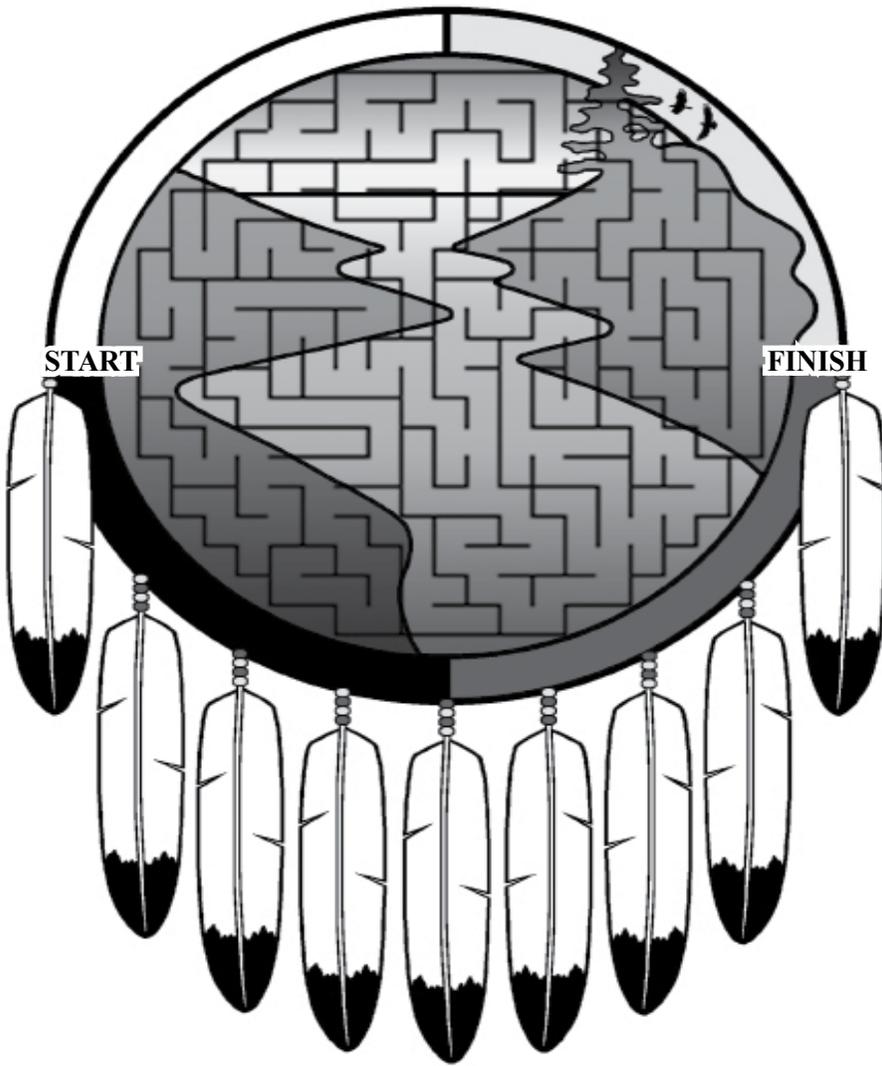
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HOLE	TIP	SIDE	MUDCATS
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	LONGSNAKES		SPIKES

The Game of Snowsnake

The game of Snowsnake is a traditional Woodland First Nation winter sport. The Snowsnake, when thrown along a track, can travel up to a mile if conditions are ideal. Years ago, the snakes were thrown along roadways, or over frozen rivers, along fence rows or wherever there was an accumulation of snow. The track was introduced to the game about the turn of the century.

Color



The game of Snowsnake is a traditional Woodland First Nation winter sport. The Snowsnake, when thrown along a track, can travel up to a mile if conditions are ideal. Years ago, the snakes were thrown along roadways, or over frozen rivers, along fence rows or wherever there was an accumulation of snow. The track was introduced to the game about the turn of the century.

The skill of the Snowsnake maker, who is called a *shiner*, is extremely important in producing a winning Snowsnake. Equally important is how the Snowsnake is selected and prepared for each game once it is made. Each process taken to prepare the snake for competition may be repeated as many times as desired, depending on the requirements of the individual. There are two types of snakes; the short snakes are called *Mudcats* and are approximately three feet long, and the *Longsnakes* are approximately seven feet long.

Selecting the Wood

The maker selects a young hickory, ironwood, hard maple or juneberry tree because these types of hardwood are more adaptable to the manufacturing of a Snowsnake. Other kinds of fine grain hardwood can also be used. The type of Snowsnake and the amount produced are determined by the size of the tree and the straightness of grain. The diameter of the tree can be from 8 to 10 inches. Depending on each maker's personal technique, the wood may either be left whole for one year with the ends greased, or split into sections to dry, or soaked in linseed oil for a period of six months to a year. However, snakes are not always soaked in oil. It may not be soaked until the snake has been completed. If the snake has not run satisfactorily under a variety of snow conditions, then the snake may then be soaked in oil and is referred to as *oiledsnake*. It is then water repellent and heavier than usual. This snake would then be used for wet snow conditions, and could also be used under other weather conditions depending upon the ability of the individual shiner.

Building the Track

In order to build a Snowsnake track, there must be sufficient snow on the ground so that the start of the track, or *pitch hole*, can be made. This is accomplished by piling and packing the snow until it reaches a height of approximately thirty inches. Snow is piled in a straight line and gradually decreased until it is just above ground level. Snow is cleared away from the pitch hole so it is easier for the Snowsnake thrower to run before throwing the snake down the track.

When there is enough snow piled and packed, a log of approximately four inches in diameter and twenty feet long is placed on the snow pile, trunk first. The log is slid back and forth until the track reaches a depth of five to six inches. A wire and a small stick are attached to the log so that it may be pulled up and dropped to make the track more firm whenever it is necessary. While the men are dragging the log, others are piling the snow along the track as a means of assurance against any unexpected warm temperature. Then the log is drawn back towards the pitch hole, making the track firmer and smoother. The track is now ready for the game to begin.

How the Snowsnake is Thrown

Throwers vary in their styles of throwing a Snowsnake. The snake may be thrown overhand, underhand, or with a side-arm pitch. The thrower proceeds to the pitch hole at his chosen rate of speed. The thrower must be well balanced when he throws. As he is running to the track his free arm maintains the proper balance. A player will usually wear baseball spikes for traction on the snow and leather gloves for a solid grip on the snake. Just before he nears the track, he raises the snake slightly so that it will be high enough for release. The thrower must then follow through with his shot, otherwise, the snake may only travel a short distance or the thrower may injure himself by holding back.

Steel wool or a piece of glass is used to polish the snake, giving it a smooth surface. The snake is then washed in clear water and because wood is porous, it expands when wet, forcing the splinters to stand out. The snake is then dried and sanded again with fine steel wool or sandpaper. As this process is repeated, the snake will expand less and less, making it more water resistant each time.

The most important aspect of the Snowsnake is the balance. The weight or balance at either the tip or end is a major factor when choosing a snake for varying weather conditions. When the desired shape of the Snowsnake is obtained, a melted lead solution is poured through a paper funnel into a carved area on the tip. This is allowed to set and harden, then carved and sanded smooth to form an arrow-like point. The lead tip serves as added weight and protects the point from splitting. At the opposite end, a u-shaped finger groove is carved which gives the player a firm grip when throwing.

After this process, shellac is applied to the snake. Since the shellac also keeps out moisture which slows the snake down, more is applied on dry, cold days or when there is fresh snow. For certain weather conditions and to increase speed, wax may be rubbed on sparingly but evenly over the shellac.

Once the Snowsnake goes through the time consuming process of preparation, it may be used repeatedly for small, local games. When an important game or tournament comes up, the shellac and wax can be scraped off with a knife or steel wool and prepared over again. One shiner might take twenty or thirty Snowsnakes to a competition since the track conditions can change within minutes, requiring a differently prepared snake.

How the Game is Played

There is no limit to the number of teams that may enter a game, but each team is allowed only four throws each. The shiner, standing at the end of the track, marks the distance where the lead tip comes to a stop. To win the game a team must acquire four points. One point is awarded to the Snowsnake that travels the farthest; two points if the second farthest Snowsnake is from the same team. A game *out* is called if all four of one team's Snowsnakes are first, second, third and fourth, respectively.

If a thrower misses the track or the Snowsnake jumps the track, the Snowsnake cannot be thrown again and the player misses this turn. At each game the participants decide on certain guidelines; these may change with each tournament. To make the tournament more interesting, each team might put in a certain amount of money and the winning team takes all.

Black Lake Sturgeon Season

The 2013 lake sturgeon season for Black Lake is set for Feb. 2, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. State-licensed anglers can spear six Black Lake sturgeon in February, DNR Fisheries Management biologist Tim Cwalinski said. The number is higher than last year's limit, thanks to successful efforts to limit last year's catch on the lake in Presque Isle and Cheboygan counties. Prior to registering, anglers must have a valid all-species fishing license, and get a lake sturgeon tag from any DNR license vendor, according to the release.

Sturgeon anglers will have the opportunity to register the day before the season, much as last year, Cwalinski said. On Feb. 1 from 2-8 p.m., the Onaway Field Office at 2312 N. M-211 Road will be open for preregistration. Those who can't make it can register the following day, either at the entrance to Onaway State Park or at a DNR trailer where Zolner Road ends at the lake's west shore.

The season starts on Feb. 2 at 8 a.m., with sturgeon fishing hours ending at 2 p.m., Cwalinski said. The season will end immediately once the sixth sturgeon is caught. If less than five sturgeon have been caught by 2 p.m., the season will continue into the next day. The season could last through Feb. 6 if only four sturgeon have been caught as of 2 p.m. the day prior.

Once again, 14 sturgeon have been allocated for catch, Cwalinski said, with anglers licensed by the DNR splitting them with the five American Indian tribes listed in the 2007 Inland Consent Decree. These tribes are the Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

While this year's quota is the same as the 2012 season, anglers will have more of an opportunity because of a successful attempt to limit last year's catch, Cwalinski said. State-licensed sturgeon anglers could take only two due to an over-catch in the 2011 season.

"We took our pains last year, that's why we went with a smaller quota" in 2012, he said. "So now we're back to a more normal scenario this year."

Lake sturgeon can grow up to seven feet in length and weigh as much as 200 pounds, according to information from the DNR. These fish are slow to reach reproductive age, and not every mature fish spawns every year. Because of this, their populations are more prone to decline due to fishing and other factors. (*many details for this story provided by The Alpena News, Jordan Travis, 1.6.13*)

"The harvest opportunity for LRBOI Citizens is going to be different than for State harvesters. LRBOI will likely do a hook-and-line season this spring where the state season is through the ice. When that determination is made, it will be announced."



The idea of starting a foundation in the memory of our daughter came just recently and I would like to share my story with you. I received the news that my daughter had passed on into the spirit world late on a Sunday night. It is not news that you ever want to hear

or believe. I cried for a long time and still do. I could not believe it. The next day I was talking with her mother and she had to make up her mind that day whether to give her a traditional funeral or cremation. I asked her if she would do something for me, if she decided to give her a traditional funeral, so I told her this story.

You see about five years ago I sent her a Christmas package for her and her children. She called me a few days later and said "Thank you Dad" for everything and then she went on to say "Dad, what's with the scarf though". I gave her a scarf, I know it sounds kind of different but I had an idea that day. I could not be there to hug her so I told her "put the scarf around your neck, flip one side over your shoulder and the other side over your other shoulder and that's me hugging you". There was silence for a little while, then she said "Dad, that is so sweet". Little did I know that



she shared that story with her friends. So I asked her mother to put that scarf around her so that she can feel my hugs as she goes on her journey, she did. There was a scarf around her. I shared this story with family members and friends that attended her funeral and many were touched and told me that they would do the same thing with their loved ones that live far away.

We called it "Distant hugging".

Pamela, now we call her Pamelaba, was a daughter, a mother, a sister, an auntie, a cousin and just a great friend.



Her smile and laughter was so contagious. She was a beautiful woman and will be missed by so many. She leaves behind two daughters and a son, also three brothers, a sister, a mother, a father, many relatives and great friends. So a few weeks ago we asked our grandchildren what



color scarfs they would like for Christmas and we sent one to each of them. I felt so good and felt that I was beginning to heal, so we started a business and called it "Distant Hugs."

So if you would like to give your loved ones a hug but can't physically



do it because of distance, send them a scarf like I did. It is a wonderful way to hug our loved ones. We are in the process of creating a foundation in the memory of our daughter, Pamela May Pheasant.

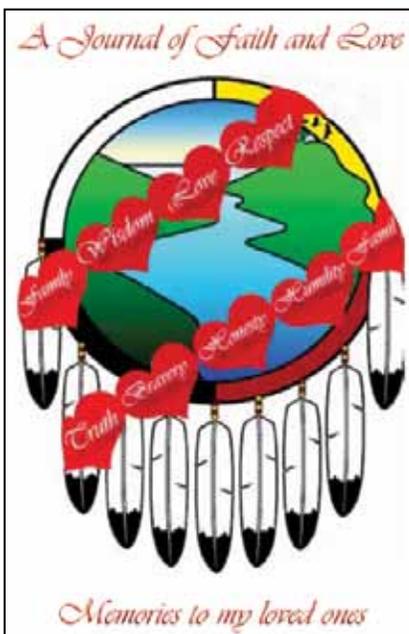


We would like to reach out and help single parents or children with deceased parents or both. We are praying that this tragic occurrence will help others and that more people will find ways to hug each other.

The Pheasant Family

At the end of 2012, the Office of Public Affairs published a small booklet entitled, "A Journal of Faith and Love."

This journal was written by Public Affairs Assistant and Graphic Artist Angela Shining Water Eagle.



This phrase from page 1 sets the tone for the booklet which is designed to help heal, guide and communicate to our families.

*Each morning upon rising,
and each evening before sleeping,
give thanks for:
All life, the life within you,
the good things the Creator has
given you and others,
and for the opportunity to grow a
little more each day.
Consider your thoughts and actions
of the past day
and seek for the courage and
strength to be a better person.
Seek those things that will benefit
everyone.*

The journal gives each person the opportunity to create their own memory book to share with others and to help them to remember. While they last, printed copies are available at the Office of Public Affairs in Manistee or at the Government office in Muskegon. You may also download an interactive version to create your own e-Book at <https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/index.php/government/departments/public-affairs> or contact currentscomments@lrboi.com and request a copy.

WALMART FOUNDATION AWARDS A COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES GRANT FOR BREAST AND COLON CANCER AWARENESS PROGRAM TO THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND THE INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN

Local Organization Recognized with Support from National Program Sault Ste. Marie, MI October 15, 2012 - The Walmart Foundation has awarded a \$25,000.00 one-year Community Health Initiatives grant to the Great Lakes American Cancer Society and the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan. The purpose of the grant is to provide education and outreach on breast and colon cancer among three federally recognized tribes in Michigan - The Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, The Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi; and The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. It is the second year that the program has received Walmart Foundation funding to support its work on this important health issue.

The American Cancer Society has worked collaboratively with tribes and tribal consultants across the country to develop a culturally specific Circle of Life cancer education curriculum.

The curriculum addresses various types of cancers as well as the topics of early screening and detection, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. The participating tribes will implement the curriculum, focusing on breast and colon cancers within their respective communities in an effort to increase screening and early detection and long term survival rates. "We appreciate the support and collaboration with the American Cancer Society to further our education and outreach efforts within local tribal communities," states Noel Pingatore, Manager of the Cancer Education Programs at the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan.

For more information on the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's Cancer Education Programs, please call Noel Pingatore at (906) 632-6896. For more information about Resources from the American Cancer Society, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org,

As the Senate considers a bill to make wolves a game species, Native American tribes in Northern Michigan are trying to get a sit-down with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to talk about an animal that has cultural, historical and spiritual significance.

"Wolves are very important to the Anishinaabek people. They're part of our creation story and they're also one of those cultural indicators that are inherent in our teachings," said Jimmie MITCHELL, director of natural resources for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and the point person for the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority.

The Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority is supposed to have joint management with the DNR on 13.8 million acres, thanks to an out-of-court settlement years ago. The authority manages resources for about 70,000 tribal residents.

Mitchell said that when this bill came up, information and statistics were important. It's part of the consent decree that the DNR and authority are supposed to share information.

"Unfortunately, when this wolf bill came forward, none of that information had been shared with the tribes and to this date has not been shared with the tribes. So we're not able to peer-review their statistics or their math," said Mitchell.

He was at the table for the crafting of the Wolf Management Plan a couple of years ago, where the discussion was that hunting was not an effective way to manage the state's wolf population.

"During that process we all agreed, everyone at the discussion, that a recreational hunt would not be a suitable means to manage wolves. It's not a herd, wolves don't operate in herds. They operate in packs. And when you shoot an alpha male or an alpha female, it changes the dynamic of the pack and then the pack is put into sort of a survival mode," said Mitchell.

That survival mode, he said, may actually lead wolves to prey on livestock or on domestic animals, which is what people are complaining about in the first place. Mitchell said if the Wolf Management Plan isn't working, everybody needs to be at the table again.

The solution the authority is looking for is a chance to meet with the DNR, peer-review their information, and talk about solutions. He said the authority has been meeting with legislators in both the House and the Senate trying to slow the process down.

"We're not saying we're opposing the hunt just because we're conscientious objectors, we're doing it because we just don't know what the science behind it is," said Mitchell.

DNR spokesperson Ed GOLDER said that the appropriate time to involve the tribe would be at the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) level.

"We have heard the tribe's concerns, and we will engage the tribes at the appropriate time. Right now we're just talking about legislation," said Golder.

He pointed out that the legislation doesn't automatically mean wolves will be hunted. For example, the Legislature years ago classified moose as a game species and the NRC decided not to allow them to be hunted.

"We understand the cultural significance of wolves to Native Americans and respect that, so that will all be taken into account as we look at a potential wolf hunt," said Golder.

Interestingly, wolves are part of a traditional teaching on balancing the ecosystem.

"We look at the wolves as we look at our brother or family member. In our creation story the creator told man and wolf that we need to make sure that we take care of each other, and make sure that each other survives, because if one falls, the other will fall. If one thrives, the other will thrive," said Mitchell.

SB 1350, which would classify wolves as game animals, is out of committee but has not yet faced a vote on the Senate floor. ***(This was a press release distributed in late November on behalf of LRBOI by Scofes & Associates Consulting, Inc.)***

(Note) The Michigan DNR held a public 'Wolf Forum' on December 5th in St. Ignace. The press announcement said that the "Michigan Wolf Forum" would be discussing wolf management. They directed readers to, "...learn more about Michigan's wolf population, visit www.michigan.gov/wolves."

"Listen to the howl of our spiritual brother, the wolf, for how it goes with him, so it goes for the natural world."
--Oren R. Lyons, Spokesman,

Traditional Circle of Elders
If we watch nature, we can tell a lot about what is going on in the world. The animals and the plants are great teachers. Some time ago, crops were sprayed with a poison to kill the insects. Other animals ate the insects. The small animals were eaten by the Eagles and the Wolves. We live in an interconnected system. What we do to one, we do to all. If our spiritual brothers are living in balance, chances are we humans are also living in balance.

Great Spirit, let me listen to my Earth teachers, the plants and the animals.



Ken Kunnen harvested a cow elk dressing out to 350 pounds on December 9, 2012 in Montmorency.

The elk is 9 years old.

Ken Kunnen harvested a nice 10 point buck on November 15, 2012 In Newaygo



Tom Wahr
December 8, 2012
Cow Elk Harvested in Montmorency



US Forest Service
100 Years of Caring for the Land and Serving People



"The Forest Service is recruiting NA/AI members for jobs and careers in the Forest Service. Explore the possibilities at <http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/> or contact LRBOI Tribal Member Dan Bailey at dbailey@fs.fed.us for more information here in Manistee. Be sure to let them know that you are a tribal member!"

Happy Birthday Penny Theodore from your loving husband Ted on the 16th January and thanks for 9 wonderful years as we celebrate our anniversary on January 15th.
Happy Birthday to Lilli on her 3rd birthday and for Kendra on her 1st birthday...from Gram and Gramps Penny and Ted!

Happy Valentines Day To my Darlings



I will hold you tight, support you, guide you, teach you, protect you, and love you with all my heart and soul...**I am your Mother** Since the day you were born and until I draw my last breath, all that I am is **YOURS!**
You mean everything to me! *Love, Mommy Eagle*

Congrats!

The Housing Department just received an early Christmas present. We have been awarded \$12,500 for the planning and design of an emergency/weather shelter at Aki. This grant opportunity was by a personal invitation from Kevin Fitzgibbons, Head of HUD in Chicago. This is an example of using our IHBG funds which demonstrates a need, and as a result receiving other opportunities for additional funding. Miigwech to Chuck Fisher!
Frank Figgels

LRBOI Hoop Dancers



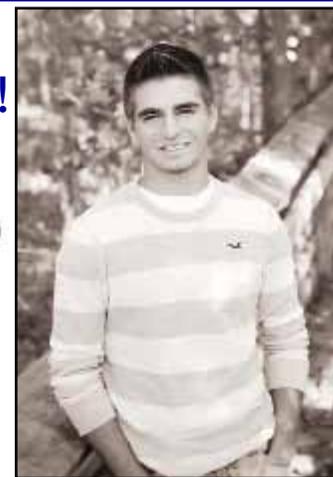
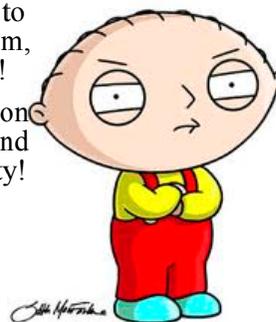
The Hoop Dancers of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians went to Grand Rapids and danced for the young head start children of Straight School in Grand Rapids. The Hoop Dancers danced for a total of 9 classes throughout the day on Nov 14th in celebration of National Native American Heritage Month. They even had a chance to teach the young children and teachers a few hoop moves and how to dance. A good time was had by all.

The dancers names are: Bishop Davis, Angel Shaw, Orion Torres, Emerald Lawrence, and Peaches Torres

Happy Birthday Now Where's my Cake!

Happy 18th Birthday to Jared Knapp from Mom, Dad and the Family!

Also congratulations on being accepted to Grand Valley State University!



Me and my family would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the prayers, ceremonies, cards and all of the hard work that went into the benefit. Because of all the support I was able to pay for the trip to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. What a wonderful gift to give me and my family. The peace of mind of having the best medical care in the world was made possible by your generosity and the kindness of your hearts. We are forever grateful, proud and humbled to be part of this caring community of Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
Bless all of you.- Martha Kase

SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA

Canonization - October 21, 2012



"Jesus, I love you"

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha
Lily of the Mohawks
Pray for us

Kateri's last words on earth

At the Vatican in Rome, Italy, on October 21, 2012 our Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha became one of seven Blesseds who were named "Saint". Saint Kateri Tekakwitha 1654 - 1680 Mohawk Algonquin Native

Obituary for Nathaniel Allen Santos



Nathaniel Allen Santos, 18, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, November 18, 2012 in his home. He was born December 26, 1993 in Muskegon Michigan where he lived all of his life. Nathaniel attended Fruitport and Mona Shores High Schools where he excelled in sports and made many good friends. He had plans to return to school this winter. Nathaniel was an avid gamer who loved the outdoors. He loved to fish and was a devout animal lover. Nathaniel was a very kindhearted young man who would do anything for anyone. He is survived by his parents Candace Chapman and George Pufflett Jr., his father, Chris Santos, his grandmother, Julia (Medacco) Chapman, his brothers, Phillip Santos, Jr., Gabriel Santos and Christopher Santos, his sisters, Brittany Santos, Korin and Kendra Primmer. He is also survived by his girlfriend, Taylor Margraves, Aunt Renee (Ron) Bankert, grandparents, Rudy and Shirley Santos, Uncles Chooch (Vicki)

Santos, Dan Santos, Phillip (Corrina) Santos, Aunt Dena (David) Riffle, close friends, Dakota Sells and Malikai Fraley and many, many cousins, friends and other family members who loved him. Nathaniel was preceded in death by his Uncle Richie Santos.

Words can never express how fondly he will be remembered and sorely his short life will be missed. The FUNERAL SERVICE were held 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 23, 2012 at The Lee Chapel, 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444, (231) 798-1100. Visitation was for 1 hour prior to the service. He was laid to rest in Egelston Twp. Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests you to consider making a donation in the name of Julia Chapman, to be distributed to the local animal rescue programs.

NIEA Statement About Latest High School Graduation Rate Data

November 28, 2012

LEADING EDUCATION ADVOCATE'S Statement about latest high school graduation rate data: more reasons why we must improve native education new information reaffirms policy recommendations to Congress and the Obama administration

Washington, DC – Once again, the data demonstrates that much still needs to be done to ensure that American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children are provided the high-quality teaching and comprehensive culturally based curriculum they need to graduate from high school. This is the conclusion National Indian Education Association has reached from its analysis of graduation rate data released by the U.S. Department of Education this week.

The data, which details 2010-2011 Four-Year Regulatory Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates (ACGR) for states and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education, isn't shocking to NIEA and its more than 3,000 members and advocates. In an age in which knowledge is needed to bring prosperity to – and preserve the traditions of – Native communities, our children are lagging behind their non-Native peers: Nine states – Arizona, Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington – have graduation rates for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students lower than 60 percent. Only six states – Alabama, Arkansas, Maine, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Texas – have graduation rates for AI/AN students of 80 percent or greater. Only Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee have AI/AN graduation rates

are the same as or greater than the state average for Caucasian students.

Three states – Alaska, Arkansas, and Michigan – have graduation rates for Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (NH/OPI) students lower than 60 percent.

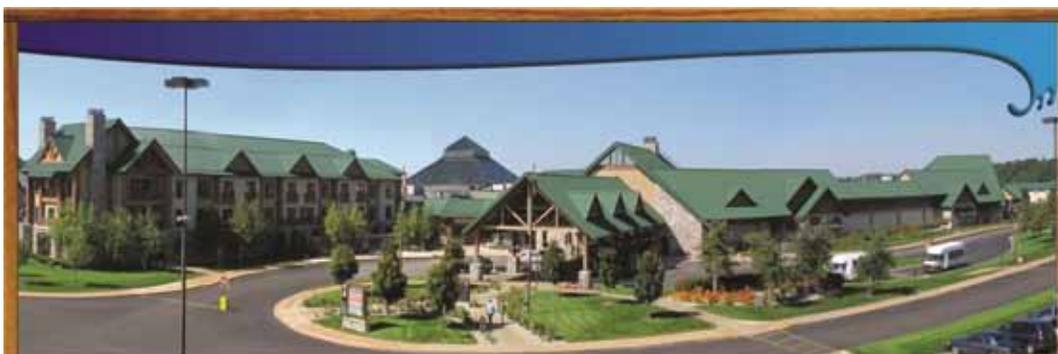
BIE, which serves seven percent of AI/AN students, has a graduation rate of just 61 percent. Just 56 percent of children with disabilities served by BIE graduated on time.

Minnesota, which has a significant Native student population, has the lowest four-year adjusted graduation rate, with only 42 percent of students graduating with a diploma in four years.

“This graduation data is another sobering reminder that our students aren't receiving the high-quality education they need to be the future leaders of our tribes and communities,” says NIEA President Dr. Heather Shotton. “We must take steps toward improving Native education for all of our children.”

The latest graduation rate news comes on the heels of NIEA's release last week of a series of policy recommendations to the Obama Administration as it begins the transition into a second term. The recommendations, part of the Association's efforts to reform Native education for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children, provide guidance to Administration officials in understanding the unique needs of Native students. Among the recommendations offered by NIEA include support for the passage of the Native CLASS Act (S.1262), which would help address many of the systemic problems in Native education.

Reporters seeking additional information and analysis can contact NIEA's Director of Communications, either at (202) 544-7290 or at rbiddle@NIEA.org. www.NIEA.org Contact NIEA Communications E: rbiddle@niea.org T: 202.544.7290 Social: @WereNIEA (Twitter)/NieaFanPage (Facebook)



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