

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

Mnidoo-Gisoons (Little Spirit Moon)  
December 2013 vol.10 Issue 12

## Elder Coordinator June Sam retires



Long-time Elder Coordinator June Sam was honored during the Elders Conference for her many years serving the tribe.



See photos and the article on page 20

## 2013 Elders Fall Conference



The LRBOI Elders Fall Conference held at the Makwa Endaat (Entertainment Center) in the Little River Casino Resort was one of the largest gatherings ever and one of the best as well. Special speakers appeared including Deb Gutowski from the Kateri Circle, Princess Izzy and others. See page 24 for photos and more details.



## Grand Opening of the Government

The new tribal offices at the Government Center were officially unveiled to the membership and visitors prior to the Fall Membership Meeting in October. The photos and article are on page 6.

## 2014 Budget Conference

Tribal Council held budget discussions with the Executive Team (Directors/ Supervisors) to work on budgets this year in a refreshing approach to this difficult topic. See the details on page 2



## Fall Membership Meeting

The 2014 Fall Meeting was exciting with major news regarding our plans in Muskegon. See the article and photos from this years' meeting on pages 12 and 13



Aanii,

Things have been very busy around here in the last month. I believe the last article I wrote was just before the Fall Membership Meeting. The meeting was well attended but no quorum achieved. The Ogema's Meet and Greet was also well attended.

The biggest announcement at the meeting was that Governor Snyder signed off on a waiver of Section 9 of our compact to allow the tribe to move its efforts to the Department of Interior/BIA. This is a major step for our Muskegon Casino Project. We have been working on this for several years and realize we have more work to do.

Senator Goeff Hansen played a key role in getting the Governor's signature and thanks to both individuals for allowing us the opportunity to do our due diligence at the National level to bring back to the State to vote on our project. We still have a lot of work to do.

The 2013 and 2014 budget has taken much of our time at the Government. The revenue from the resort is down but Resort management has assured us that measures are being taken to increase revenue in the future.

I recently took a trip to Canada by invitation of the Wikwemikong (Wiki) Band who we hosted about two years ago here at Little River Band. History shows that the Wiki Band and Little River Band have ties and are actually related. We did discuss, education, language, economic development and culture. I believe there are some areas that could be mutually beneficial to both bands. I want to thank the Wiki people for their hospitality and Ogimaa Luke Peltier for giving me the grand tour of their Reserve. Kchi Miigwetch Last weekend I attended the Elder's Conference which I believe had the largest attendance to date and believed to actually have achieved a quorum. Deb Gutowski began the series of speakers with an hour-long presentation. I want to thank the staff that took time out of their busy weekend schedules to speak at the Convention both from Government and Judicial branches; Lee Iverson, Noelle Cross Patrick Wilson, Austen Brauker, and Robin Carufel. I hope I didn't miss anyone.

I will be attending the White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington DC on November 13<sup>th</sup> representing the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Along with me, Natural Resource Director Jimmie Mitchell will be in Washington DC representing the CORA tribes and the Midwest Region Tribal Interior Budget Committee (TIBC). Until next month...

**REMEMBER-**

Advertisement in paper "FREE PUPPIES- half cocker spaniel, half neighbor's sneaky dog."



In a first for the tribal government, Tribal Council held productive private meetings with individual department directors to review their 2014 budgets and to jointly tighten up the process as a step towards efficiency and economy for the tribe.

The Comptroller General had prepared detailed reports for each department and/or program which were given to the entire Council and department heads for review. The Tribal Manager and the Chief Financial Officer also attended the sessions to work on details.

Earlier in the process, the Directors had been given a directive to reduce their 2014 budgets by a certain percentage as a cost-saving measure...one which would work with the projected income expectations from the resort and other sources. The majority of departments hit the projected reductions and submitted those numbers along with recommendations.

The directive had the department management focus upon maintaining delivery of services to the membership at the same levels as before, while cutting costs wherever possible. Overall, this was a productive way for Council and the Executive Branch managers to work together on the difficult task of preparing budgets in these tough economic times.

The final budget will be brought before Council for adoption at a later date.

*Megwa Ezhiweback*  
(What's happening now)

Changes are a Commin'

CURRENTS

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

Mnidoo-Gisoons (Little Spirit Moon)



There are some changes coming to the Currents for 2014. Due to budgetary issues, LRBOI Public Affairs will only be printing a physical 'paper' every other month... or what is called, a 'bi-monthly' publication. The first printed paper for 2014 will be available in mid-February.

There will still be a monthly newspaper only now it will be on the website at [www.lrboi.com](http://www.lrboi.com), as usual on the 15th of the month.

Every other month we will print a physical newspaper that will have articles covering two months of activity here at the tribe and within tribal country.

One of the biggest challenges will be letting you know about upcoming events here at the tribe! For that, we're going to ask that everyone get notice of events to the Office of Public Affairs as soon as possible! Even if it is just the date and location, we can still get it in for you!

In addition, even though some folks do not like having to use the internet, we will publish event information on the tribes' Facebook account, the tribes' website and through e-mail blasts with the Rapid River News.

This is a major change and we ask that you be patient as we make the transition. If you have comments on this change, please just e-mail them to [currentscomments@lrboi.com](mailto:currentscomments@lrboi.com) and we'll try to respond as soon as possible.

The Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, (MAST), founded in 1996, represents the 35 sovereign tribal nations of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan. Altogether, MAST represents nearly 134,000 American Indian people.

MAST's mission is to "advance, protect, preserve, and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign nations of the Midwest throughout the 21st century." The organization coordinates important public policy issues and initiatives at the state, regional and federal levels, promotes unity and cooperation among member tribes and advocates for member tribes.

MAST is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the Tribal Chairperson, Chief President, or Chief Executive of each member tribe. Four officers are elected from among the Board of Directors; a President; Vice-President; Secretary and Treasurer.

Current MAST issues and activities include:



Protecting Indian economic opportunity  
Protecting Tribal sovereignty and self-government.



Protecting the rights of individual Indians and member tribes pursuant to treaties with the United States.



Protecting Indian lands, including the rights to place lands into and protecting tribal environmental authorities.



Improving education for Indian children and adults, both on and off the reservation.



Improving the health and well-being of Indian people in the Midwest.



Protecting the cultural and religious resources and rights of all Indian people.



Improving reservation infrastructure, including the provision of safe and affordable homes, clean water, sound utilities and good roads

Directory: Scott Vela-Executive Director, Michele Stanley-President-Saginaw Chippewa, Aaron Payment-Vice President-Sault Ste, Marie Tribe, Kimberly Alexander-Treasurer-Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and Greg Matson-Secretary-Oneida Tribe

## Calendar of Tribal Events!

**Dec.7 -Annual Christmas Party and meeting at the Casino at noon.**

**December 2nd- Slate of Candidates certified**

**December 9th- Last day to withdraw**

**December 11th -Open Election Board Meeting**

## Old Tribal ID Cards

The Enrollment Department has become aware that some of the new Tribal Identification Cards are close to hitting the five year mark, when they will have to be renewed with us.

Please check your Tribal I.D. Card if you are about to hit the five year mark. Please come in to update your Tribal I.D. or email or fax us a letter requesting a new Tribal I.D. You will have ten (10) days before the expiration date and ten (10) days after the expiration date to receive it free. If you miss the twenty (20) day time period when replacements are given free, a \$5.00 charge will be in place. This is only good for the first one, if you lose your card after that, the cost is \$5.00

If you have any questions, please call the Enrollment Office at 1.231.398.6712 or 398.6713.

Diane A. Lonn  
Enrollment Officer

## Children's Christmas Party

**Please mark your calendar and register your children for this special event.**

**When: Sunday December 8th, 2013**

**Time: 11 AM to 3 PM**

**Where: LRCR New Events Center**

**To register please call 231-723-8288 or toll free 888-723-8288 and ask for:**

**Angie Stone - Ext 6829 or**

**Mary Thomas - Ext 6824**

**Deadline date for Registration: 5 PM**

**Tuesday Nov. 26th**



**Registration is required for children to participate in this event as we need an accurate count of who will attend. Failure to register will result in your children not receiving a gift. The party is open to Tribal and descendent children. Children must be present to receive a gift.**



**Commission, Committee and Board Stipend Payments Collected for the Fiscal Year in Accordance with Resolution #03-0813-248**

Commissions are created to regulate and manage within a subject matter or activity.

*Membership.* A commission has at least three commissioners who shall be appointed by the Ogema and approved by the Tribal Council.

*Authority.* A commission shall be granted sufficient legislative authority to allow the commission to create regulations to govern in the subject matter jurisdiction.

Commissions are created by adoption of an Ordinance which sets forth the legislative requirements, direction, limitations, restrictions or other directions regarding a subject matter. Upon adoption of an Ordinance, the commissioners shall be identified and directed to develop and present by-laws.

The Tribal Council shall establish Tribal Committees, as needed, in areas of governance and development. The Committees shall be composed of Tribal members and other interested persons who shall meet and discuss specific issues in order to provide information to the Tribal Council so that the Council can make better informed decisions that affect the Tribal community. In furtherance of this purpose, this Policy will provide rules for the organization, functions, responsibilities, and requirements of Tribal Committees.

Commission/Committee Schedules:

**Commissions:**

**Binojeeuk Commission:** 1:00 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays – Aki Maadiziwin Community Center

**Commerce Commission:** 5:00p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month – Commerce Conference Room

**Enrollment Commission:** 5:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday of each month – Enrollment Department

**Gaming Commission:** 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays –Gaming Commission Office

**Health Commission:**5:30 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday – Health Clinic

**Housing Commission:** 9:00 a.m., 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays –Aki Maadiziwin Community Center

**Natural Resource Commission:** 4:00 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays – Natural Resource Department

\*Special or Emergency Meetings do not appear but may be scheduled.

**Committees:**

**Elders** – 12:00 noon, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month – Aki Maadiziwin Community Center

The Binojeeuk Commissioners and Gaming Commissioners receive \$125.00 per meeting and the rest of the Commissions and/or Committees receive \$100.00 per meeting.

**Commission/Committee Stipends Paid (April 1, 2013 to October 31, 2013)**

**Elders Committee**

Ron Pete – Chair \$ 900  
Darleen Martin \$ 900  
Connie Waitner \$1,000  
Ron Wittenberg \$1,200  
Rita Gale \$1,300

**Liaisons**

P. Ruiter – 2 out of 13 attended  
S. Mezeske – 3 out of 13 attended  
V. Johnson – 2 out of 13 attended

**Commerce Commission**

Connie Waitner \$500  
Jason Cross \$500  
Ron Pete \$100  
Peggy Vriesman \$500  
Karen Lewis \$600  
Keith Sensabaugh \$100

**Liaisons**

G. DiPiazza – 1 out of 6 attended  
S. Mezeske – 1 out of 6 attended

**Gaming Commission**

Lee Ivinson \$3,250  
Dave Corey \$3,375  
Edward Tyler \$3,275  
Joe Riley \$3,175

Vacant Seat

**Liaisons**

M. Ceplina – 7 out of 28 attended  
K. Alexander – 1 out of 23 attended

**Binojeeuk Commission**

Julia Chapman \$1,625  
Sandy Deverney \$1,000  
Carol Gibner \$1,625  
Martha Howell \$1,125  
Vacant Seat

**Liaisons**

M. Wabindato – 1 out of 10 attended  
F. Medacco – 1 out of 10 attended

**Enrollment Commission**

Katie Glocheski \$900  
Diana O’Neal \$900  
Charmaine Stone \$900

**Liaisons**

K. Alexander – 0 out of 3 attended  
V. Johnson – 0 out of 9 attended  
S. Mezeske – 0 out of 6 attended

**Health Commission**

Vacant Seat  
Pamela Johnson \$700  
Al Patricio \$700

**Liaisons**

M. Wabindato – 2 out of 5 attended  
K. Alexander – 1 out of 7 attended

**Natural Resource Commission**

Herman Gamelin \$ 900  
Ben Hamilton \$1,100  
Corey Wells \$ 100  
Nicole Ward \$ 0  
Israel Stone \$ 100  
Tom Guenthardt \$ 500  
Charles Shaw \$ 100

**Liaisons**

M. Ceplina – 6 out of 12 attended  
G. DiPiazza – 9 out of 12 attended

**Housing Commission**

Ron Wittenberg \$1,200  
Judy Hardenburgh \$1,200  
Ron Wittenberg \$ 900

**Liaisons**

F. Medacco – 4 out of 9 attended  
S. Mezeske – 0 out of 12 attended

The day before the Fall Membership Meeting, Friday October 11th, several hundred people attended a Grand Opening of the new LRBOI Government Center at 2608 Government Center Drive in Manistee.

The event brought representatives from not just our tribe, but other tribal nations, state and local municipalities and groups who interact with the tribal government.



*Task Force*



*Senator Darwin Boohar*



*Tribal Council Speaker  
Virg Johnson*

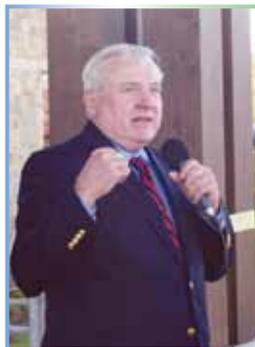


Tribal Council Speaker Virg Johnson served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event which included our own dignitaries Ogema Larry Romanelli, Tribal Council members, Princess Izzy Burger and Urban Nation (Drum). Our Language Instructor Kenny Pheasant offered a prayer in our language at the beginning of the event.

After speeches, the official ribbon-cutting was accomplished by representatives from three generations of tribal citizens, Terri Tyler, Bill Willis and Princess Izzy Burger.

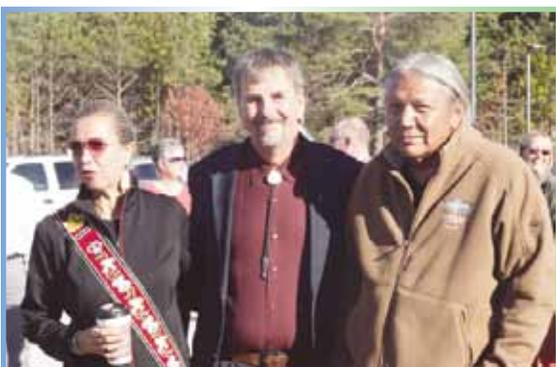


*Senator Goeff Hansen*



*Representative  
Ray Franz*

From the state, Senators Darwin Boohar and Goeff Hansen attended as did Representative Ray Franz. All three spoke in glowing terms about the steps being taken by our tribe to better serve our people and the communities in which we live. They emphasized the importance of the tribe in Western Michigan.



Near the end of the ceremony, a number of folks in the audience pointed up in the sky where a Miigizi flew over, blessing the event. Several people commented that this was a very good sign and truly a blessing from Creator.

Listed below are Tribal Members who have undeliverable address on file with the Enrollment Department. If anyone has any information on the individuals listed below please contact the Enrollment Department. You can contact the Department by calling Diane A. Lonn (231) 398-6712, Jessica Wissner (231) 398-6713 or Joe Riley (231) 398-6720.

Boyer	Derek	Anthony	
Bunting	Jessica	Ashley	
Carter	Sasha	Marie	
Cogswell	Alex	David	II
Cogswell	Randall	Charles	
DeBoer	Ben		
deBres	Angela	Rae	
DeYoung	Lloyd	John	III
Diehman	Renee	Michelle	
Dove	Richard	Wayne	
DuBois	Robert	James	
Dugan	Kimberly	Lynn	
Ellis	Heather	Faye	
Empie	Terry	Marie	
Ensley	Alan	Bradley	
Ensley	Michael	Anthony	
Fleury	Micah	Jeremiah	
Fox	Larry		
Frees	Christopher	Lee	
From	Ashley	Aazhiniik	
Frome	Kevin	Eugene	
Gabourie	Jackqueline	Romaine	
Green	James	Floyd	Jr.
Grocholski	Todd	Alan	
Hayes	Catlyn	Marie	
Heine	Daniel	Duane	
Hewitt	Wesley	Ray	
Hutson	Fred	Joseph Stanley	
Johnson	Thomas	Dawayne	
Jones	Joshua	Scott	
Lakso	John	Robert	Jr.
Langner	Jeffery	Allan	
Lanier	Virginia	V.	
Leibel	Rebekah	Lynn	
Lewis	Jennifer	Ann	
Lewis	Raven	Lavon	
Leyton	Rosalinda		
Loney	Lesea	Michelle	
Magnuson	Lena	Louise	
Margret	Robin	Melissa	
McKenney	Sean	Douglas	
Michalski	Laurie	Ann	
Micko	Gerald	John	Jr.
Milk	Tahca	Mahpiya Takiya	
Minaker	John	Charles	
Nelson	Athena	Marie	
Nickerson	Charles		
Nickerson	Kenneth	Larry	
Pagan	Maria	Susana	
Pence	Heather	Elizabeth	

Peshaba	Mark	Charles	
Rosales	Maria	Elena	
Rose	James	Allen	Jr.
Saugie	Mark	Randolph	
Shalifoe	Scott	Anthony	
Shaw	Jenea	Leah	
Simmons	Louise	Marie	
Sinkpiel	Jason	Gene	
Smith	Anna	Marie	
Stalzer	Roger	Lee	Jr.
Stark	James	Ambrose	
Stokes	Timothy	Wayne	

Stone	Sara	Kathleen	
Taylor	Allan	Forrest	
Taylor	Leslie	Ann	
Tippitt	Elisa	Lynn	
Toothman	William	Darrell	Jr.
Tyler	Bert	William	II
Tyler	Jerry	Scott	
Vallier	Timothy	Warren	
Wabindato	Pauline	Marie	
Warren	Heather	Wynnona	
Wilson	Major	Loren	
Wolfe	Emilie	Denise	

## Announcement of Special Election



Gaa Ching Ziibi Daawaa Anishinaabek  
LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
ELECTION BOARD  
2608 Government Center Drive  
Manistee, MI 49660  
(231) 723-8288



## Announcement of Special Election

**Date of Election:** January 15, 2014

**Offices to be Elected:** Office of Election Board (one seat)

### Procedures for Establishing Candidacy

For Candidates for the Office of Election Board --To run for the Election Board, a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

### Election Calendar

Declaration of Candidacy Packets available .....	November 04
Declaration of Candidacy Packets due .....	November 18
Slate of Candidates certified .....	December 02
Last day to withdraw candidacy .....	December 09
Ballots mailed .....	December 16
Ballots due and Election Day .....	January 15
Deadline for petitions for recount .....	January 22
Deadline for election challenges .....	January 22



The Special Election will be conducted by secret mail ballot. The homes of registered voters shall be designated as polls for voting purposes. You must have a mailing and physical address on file with Enrollment Department to receive a ballot. The ballot counting will be held at 2608 Government Center Drive in Manistee, MI. Ballot counting process begins at 12:00 pm.

A copy of the Election Board Office Hours from November 4, 2013 through November 18, 2013 has been included in this mailing. Please note any changes from the times published in the Little River Currents.

Last day to register to vote for the Special Election is November 21, 2013.

## WE ARE MOVING!



Little River Band Health Services Operations will be moving into our new Government Center Complex offices in December 2013!

To ensure a smooth transition of all operations, patient services will be suspended on the following dates:

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 19, 2013** – all day: moving IT, phones, offices & related equipment

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 20, 2013** – all day: moving offices, related equipment, hooking up IT & phones

**MONDAY DECEMBER 23, 2013** – all day: troubleshooting electronic health records, related IT & operational spaces in preparation for patient care

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 24, 2013** – All Government offices are closed at noon this date, we will be cleaning up the remainder of the space getting it ready for patients/clients and beneficiaries so we are ready to ‘go’ January 2, 2014!

This suspension is necessary to accommodate the move, installation and organization of equipment, information technologies and personnel needed to ensure patient care beginning Thursday, January 2,

2013, (AFTER THE HOLIDAY CLOSURE) at our new location 2608 Government Center Drive—the new Government Center!

## LITTLE RIVER BAND WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS BEGINNING NOON DECEMBER 24, 2013, REOPENING THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014.

This suspension of services will allow health service staff adequate time to organize operational activity in a patient responsible manner to ensure patient confidentiality, continued safe patient service delivery and to provide minimal operational ‘glitches’.

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE WITH OUR MOVE AND SUSPENSION OF SERVICES DURING THIS TIME**

Patients will need to seek their appropriate medical needs/prescription refills/benefit coordination notifications **NO LATER THAN TUESDAY DECEMBER 17, 2013 BY 4:00 P.M. NO EXCEPTIONS PLEASE!** If you have any questions, please call health services operations.





The Lions pavilion at the 1st Street Beach in Manistee was the scene of a wrap up celebration for this year's month-long Take Back the Night observation for the Domestic Violence program hosted by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. The tribal team led by Janeen Cadden (Domestic Violence Coordinator) and members Officer Melissa Alexander, Laurie Willis, Spring Medacco and Teresa Johnson held a picnic on what turned out to be a windy, chilly but beautiful evening. The plan was to

release paper lanterns to commemorate the event but the wind ended up being too strong so the team opted to be safe and save the lanterns for another time. So everybody just shared hot chocolate, hot apple cider and munchies and talked. They also received commemorative T-shirts in, what else...purple! The picnic was the close to a series of events designed to raise awareness of Domestic Violence issues including a Purple Volleyball Game and a Purple Football Game. This event has grown over the years and brings a lot of people from different walks of life together to fight this serious problem.



When filling out your Christmas cards,  
Take a card and send it to:

## Holiday Mail for Heroes

PO Box 5456  
Capitol Heights, MD  
20791-5456

Pass this on and think of how many cards these wonderful people who have sacrificed so much would get.

**Please share,**  
It's the least we can do  
to show our love and support.

Deadline is December 6th 2013



## Bravehearts Archery 2013



*(Akisa Milk is on the Oglala Lakota College archery team and he submitted this article. Akisa is the son of Karen Lewis and was one of the models for regalia display in the Cultural Corridor at the Resort)*

In their first season as members of the US Collegiate Archery Association, Oglala Lakota College took home four national championship trophies from the 3D Target National Championships hosted by the University of Missouri at Columbia.

Competing in the basic bow category with traditional bows, OLC won the women's team round, the men's team round, and took runner-up in the mixed gender team competitions.

Individually, OLC's Ray Hernandez won the men's basic bow national championship and Michelle LeBeau won the women's national championship. On the men's side, OLC's men's captain Nick Gibbons finished right behind Hernandez for second, while on the women's side women's captain Elaine Yellowhorse took second, and Cammie Griffith came in third.

OLC has competed against other Native colleges for years, like New Mexico's Navajo Technical (which took 1st and 3rd in the men's recurve category), but this was their first season competing at the national level.

The wins followed OLC sweeping the men's and women's team and individual competitions in the basic bow category at the North Regional championships three weeks ago at Wayne State College in Nebraska.

This was the third year the USCA has had a hunting-style 3D animal target course, featuring 20 targets spread out over a wooded, quarter-mile course at Prairie Grove Shooting Sports in Columbia MO. In addition, the basic (ie traditional) category, a total of 114 shooters competed in compound, recurve and compound bow hunter categories. The two-day shoot took place this Saturday and Sunday.

Congratulations Bravehearts Archery and Coach Joe Flood!  
OLC Bravehearts concludes their fall season and look forward for a successful spring season, schedule to be announced.

# Ceremonial Lodge

If you have visited the Gathering Grounds when the Firekeepers had a fire going, you know that it was quite a challenge when the weather was nasty. This year, a special Ceremonial Lodge was begun at the Gathering Grounds just to the East of the pavilion and to the South of the Trading Post. The lodge is a beautiful design with solid walls that will protect the fire and our Firekeepers. While the roof isn't completed, as of press time, you can see how it is coming together.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered their construction skills or other things (like Peggy for bringing out donuts for the construction crew)!



## Tax-Exempt Purchase Limits at Little River Trading Post

### Tax-exempt Cigarette Limit for 2014

Cigarette limit is 20 packs per month when tax-exempt quota is available.

Tribal members are responsible for staying within this limit. Failure to stay within the limit will result in assessment of tax and penalty (\$50 for each transaction) plus suspension of tax-exempt purchase privileges until assessed amount is paid in full.

### Tax-exempt Gasoline Limit for 2014

The monthly limit for tax-exempt gasoline beginning January 1, 2014 will remain 175 gallons per Tribal member when tax-exempt quota is available.

Tribal members are responsible for staying within this limit. Failure to stay within the limit will result in assessment of tax and penalty (\$20 for each transaction) plus suspension of tax-exempt purchase privileges until assessed amount is paid in full.

Tribal members are required to be registered for this program. Fueling a vehicle that is not registered with the tax office is prohibited. The penalty for purchasing tax-exempt fuel for any person not entitled to purchase it is \$100 per transaction plus suspension of tax-exempt purchase privileges for up to one year.

### Tax-exempt Fuel and Tobacco Products are Limited

Tax-exempt sales of fuel and tobacco products will be suspended when the Tribe's annual quota is gone. In the event there are quota amounts remaining, additional purchases may be allowed in December. Notices will be posted on the Little River Band website at [www.lrboi.com](http://www.lrboi.com) and at the Little River Trading Post. If tax-exempt sales are suspended, they will resume January 1, 2014 when next year's quota becomes available.



## Used Office Furniture Sale!

“The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is having a used office furniture/furnishings sale on December 6th and 7th in Manistee.

The sale will be open to Tribal members on December 6th from 10-3 and to the public December 7th; from 9-2. All items are cash and carry that day; items must be removed from the premises upon purchase—no delayed arrangements for pick up can be made. Items include: desks, chairs, book shelves, office cubicle partitions, and other general office items.

The sales will be at 375 River Street (come in off the parking lot behind the bank building) and at the ‘Big Blue’ building in Eastlake, near the Natural Resources Department.”

## LRBOI TRIBAL GOVERNMENT JOBS

The Human Resources Department welcomes your application for posted positions that are of interest to you! Did you know that job openings can be found on-line, in tribal newsletters, and on bulletin boards at government buildings? Job announcements are updated on a continuous basis. Look no further than these convenient sources for your next opportunity.

✓ [www.lrboi-nsn.gov](http://www.lrboi-nsn.gov)

✓ Rapid River News Weekly

✓ Tribal Government Buildings

✓ Global E-mail

✓ Michigan Works Offices or Website

✓ By calling the HR Department

What about Temporary Work? Send in or drop off your application at anytime and be included in our temporary employment pool. Just be certain to check “temporary” or place “temp pool” on the position of interest line. Temporary assignments range from 1 to 180 days in duration. It's a great way to gain experience and sharpen your skills.

### Indian Preference applies to the hiring of all vacant positions

Please send your application, resume, and cover letters to:

**LRBOI Human Resources**  
**2608 Government Center Drive**  
**Manistee, MI 49660**

**Fax: (231) 398-9101**

**E-mail: [agiltz@lrboi.com](mailto:agiltz@lrboi.com)**

**Phone:(231) 398-6859 or (888) 723-8288**

The Fall 2013 LRBOI Membership Meeting was one for the books primarily because Ogema Romanelli announced Saturday afternoon that our Muskegon Casino project had taken a step forward. In an announcement timed to be made at the same time as Senator Geoff Hanson released the news in Muskegon, Governor Rick Snyder agreed to allow Little River to proceed with pursuing the agreement with the Bureau of the Interior to take property from Fee into Trust status in Muskegon, Fruitport Township. (See the accompanying Press Release for further details).



The meeting began with the regular Ogema Meet-and-Greet Friday evening in the Three Fires Conference Room and had information booths from various departments on Saturday.

Released at the meeting was information on the new tribal text information alert system. The tribe is using NIXLE text services as a way to get emergent information out to members and employees on a rapid basis. To start receiving the texts, just text **LRBOI** to **888777**. This system was arranged through a collaboration of Public Affairs, Public Safety and the Tribal Emergency Response Team (TERT).



The rest of the meeting went well with presentations and greetings from General Manager Wendell Long; Elders Chairman Ron Pete, CFO Steve Wheeler and our Princess Izzy Burger. Following the announcement about the Muskegon project, Ogema Romanelli was joined on stage by Speaker Virg Johnson, Council member Pat Ruiter, Director Robert Memberto, Director Glenn Zaring and attorney Damian Fisher...all of whom are on the task force working on the Muskegon Project.



## Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Governor Snyder reach consensus agreement on the section 9 waiver of the Tribal/State Gaming Compact to move the Fruitport Casino Forward to the Department of Interior

Muskegon, Mich. — The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is pleased to announce they have reached an agreement with Governor Snyder that will allow the Fee to Trust process to start for the Muskegon Casino Project. Ogema Romanelli commented “That this is the first step in a multi-step process, it is not a sign off or approval of the Casino Project but a step forward”. Governor Snyder agreed to Ogema Romanelli and Senator Goeff Hansen’s request to allow the due diligence process to move forward at the federal level to determine if the project is in the best interests of the Tribe and that it will not be a detrimental to the local community. Ogema Romanelli stated “The Governor is a business minded individual and understands what due diligence is; but in the end he has to do what is best for the State of Michigan just as I as Ogema have to do what is best for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. The Tribe is very appreciative of all the work that the Governor’s Office and Senator Hansen have put into allowing the due diligence steps to move forward.

The Two-Part Determination is a very detailed process which includes an Environmental Impact Statement that can take several years to complete. If the process is successful and the Secretary of the Interior agrees with the due diligence a positive determination will be issued to the then currently seated Governor of the State of Michigan. The Governor will have the option to concur or not concur with the Secretary of the Interior’s decision. If the Governor concurs the compact will still have to be amended and many details worked out between the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and the State of Michigan. In addition the House and Senate will have to approve any change in Eligible Gaming Lands in the current Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Gaming Compact.



Ogema Romanelli announced the consensus agreement at the 2013 Fall Membership meeting of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Manistee, Michigan; the 4100 member tribe has over 700 tribal members that reside in Muskegon County. The Tribe purchased the former horse racing track known as Great Lakes Downs in August of 2008. The project has large wide community support base as many local units of government has signed on in support of the project.

Senator Hansen stated, “I sincerely appreciate Governor Snyder honoring my request asking that he permit the U.S. Department of Interior to begin a review of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians’ Fee to Trust Application for a casino to be built in Fruitport Township.

I’ve had regular contact with the Governor about this project and made him aware of the significant local support, the economic development benefits, its positive impact on Muskegon County and the region.

I appreciate the tribe’s willingness to partner in the renewed growth of Muskegon County by investing in its future. A significant amount of work has already been done by Muskegon County leaders who desire that this project be a part of their overall economic recovery strategy. Given the consensus of support for the project, I requested that the Governor support this first step and allow the approval process to begin.”



## TRIBAL MEMBERS IN THE MANISTEE AREA



An Associate's Degree may be just a few miles away at the Manistee Center of West Shore Community College. Winter Semester 2014 begins at West Shore Community College's Manistee Center on January 13, 2014. Classes in Business, Accounting, Desktop Applications, English Composition, U.S. History, Algebra, Physical Science, Medical Records, Medical Coding, Psychology, Sociology and Principles of Speaking will be offered at WSCC's Manistee Center. If you've been thinking about obtaining a post-secondary degree, now is the time to start the process toward getting that degree. First, Apply for Admission at West Shore Community College by submitting an online application at [www.westshore.edu](http://www.westshore.edu). West Shore Community College can also help you with the other steps involved in becoming a student, including applying for financial aid, course placement, submitting transcripts if you've previously taken college classes, and course advising. There are two Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Government Departments that are willing to assist you in your decision to get that degree. Tribal members qualify for the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver. Please contact the LRBOI Education Department to get your MITW submitted. They can also help you get your financial aid application (Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA) filled out and submitted. You may also qualify for a Scholarship of up to \$2500.00 per Semester and a Book Stipend through the Education Department. If there are

any course fees, the LRBOI Commerce Department's Workforce Development Program can pay up to \$300.00 per tribal member per calendar year for those fees. Don't tarry ... Winter Semester classes begin January 13, 2014. There is help available and application deadlines are fast approaching.

Contacts:

West Shore Community College online at [www.westshore.edu](http://www.westshore.edu) or call Student Services at 231-845-6211

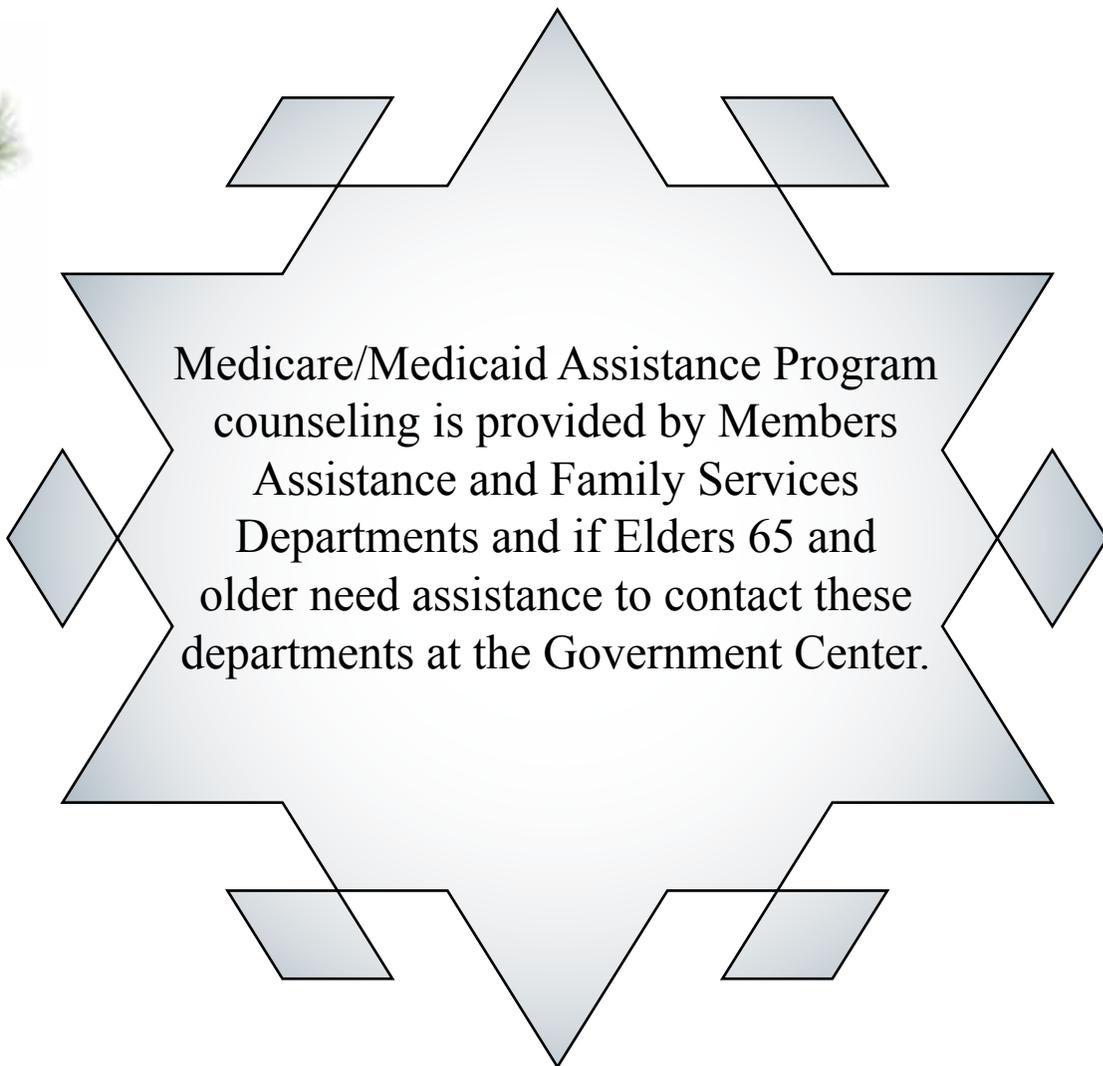
LRBOI Education Department at 231-723-8288 and ask for Yvonne Parsons or Deb Davis

LRBOI Workforce Development Program at 231-723-8288 and ask for David Hawley.

We are here to help you achieve your educational goals!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
FROM TEAM  
CURRENTS!**



Four days of traditional teachings, ceremonies, fellowship, fire keeping, tasty meals, and good words were shared by many people during this year's Fall Fire and Teachings that were held at the tribal Gathering Grounds on October 9<sup>th</sup> through the day of the Membership meeting, on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Although the mornings were cold, the weather cooperated and gave way to some nice sunny autumn afternoons. Many people came out to learn and share with others, including several Tribal Council members and the Ogema, who all made it out for Sunrise Ceremonies and started the days off in a good way.

Discussions and teachings were held regarding the four sacred medicines, the Jingle Dress and the importance of the Dress to the community, balance and harmony in the traditional family, the clan system, the importance of eagle feathers, and naming ceremonies were held throughout the first three days. A special Naming Ceremony was held in which a few people received their names and the ceremony was followed by a wonderful feast. It was refreshing to see an average of nearly 50 people in attendance for Sunrise Ceremonies each day and close to 100 for several teachings; those numbers are wonderful in that more people are taking an interest in participating in our traditions.



The Fire was carefully tended to by several men and it was also good to witness an aspiring young man learning the ways to tend the Fire. People made offerings and lifted up prayers for individuals, families, the membership, and for guidance and thanks. Many good words and thoughts came together with good hearts that made this event a success.

Of course successful events like this cannot be held without the dedication, assistance, and thoughtfulness of others. We would like to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the following individuals, whether for sharing their knowledge, presenting, singing, providing offerings, and tending the Fire: Jack Chambers, Brian Matrious, Philip Memberto, Austen Brauker, Renee Diehlman, Shelly Kequam, Clarence Syrette, Lorraine "Punkin" Shananaquet, Dave Shananaquet, Michelle Reyna, Arianne Gray, George Martin, Jimmie Mitchell, Mike Medawis, Clatus Clyne, Reuben Ramone, Janine Sam, and Roger Williams.



We extend our gratitude to everyone who helped make this event a success, including anyone we may have accidentally missed. We'd like to give special recognition, thanks, and appreciation to Austen Brauker for coordinating and constructing the lodge; and, to Philip Memberto for assisting with the coordination of the presenters and Fire Keepers. Miigwetch to Jamie Friedel and the Trading Post for the donation of coffee; it was very much appreciated! Miigwetch to Shelly Kequam for working with the Tribal Historic Preservation department to provide a teaching with the Positive Parenting class offered by the Family Services department; it was great to have two departments working together for a joint purpose. Also, an extra-special Miigwetch to Ron Pete and the Little River Casino Resort for coordinating the donation of the box lunches on that Friday of the teachings; they were delicious and much appreciated! At each Spring and Fall Fire, our participants enjoy sharing lunch time with our Elders at the community center and each time Noelle Cross goes above and beyond to coordinate and cook extra meals for our attendees. Miigwetch Noelle! Lastly, we must recognize and say kchi-miigwetch to Valerie Chandler for all of her hard work in coordinating, working with other individuals, providing meals, and the "behind-the-scenes magic" to make events like this one a success and an enjoyable one for our people. Through this event, we all can come together with good hearts and good minds to share and learn together. Miigwech!



A statement by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

Each November, we recognize National Native American Heritage Month – celebrating the diverse histories and cultures of American Indian and Alaska Native people. This year’s theme, “Guiding Our Destiny with Heritage and Traditions: Leading the Way to Healthier Nations,” speaks to the vital role that cultural heritage plays in strengthening families and communities.

In July, I had the opportunity to visit the Navajo Nation in Arizona and meet with key leaders to discuss the health concerns of the Navajo. I attended a Special Session of the Navajo Nation Council and heard from the delegates about health issues such as diabetes, cancer, and HIV/AIDS. I also visited the Indian Health Service (IHS) Gallup Indian Medical Center, which was recently designated as a Level III Trauma Center, the first in the Indian health system. IHS work at this center, and throughout Indian Country, saves countless lives every year.

Secretary Sebelius with Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim Our Administration is committed to ensuring the health and well-being of all Americans, which is why we are working with our tribal partners to reduce the health disparities that have historically burdened American Indians and Alaska Natives.

In order to address these issues, we need to make sure that American Indians and Alaska Natives have access to affordable coverage so they can get the care they need.

The Affordable Care Act is critical to that effort, partly by permanently reauthorizing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, ensuring that IHS is here to stay.

Additionally, the new Health Insurance Marketplace made possible by the Affordable Care Act will make more affordable, quality options for health coverage available to uninsured Americans, including First Americans. IHS has trained staff to help its American Indian and Alaska Native patients enroll in Medicaid or purchase affordable insurance that they can use to continue to receive care at IHS facilities. If more IHS patients have health coverage, additional resources from reimbursements at the local facilities will help expand services for all patients served by IHS.

Health care is just one area in which we are working to increase support for Indian Country.

The Administration for Native Americans recently invested in new and continuing tribal programs to preserve Native American languages. We believe that language revitalization and continuation are important steps in preserving and strengthening a community’s culture.

We are also investing in Head Start and child care programs, innovative substance abuse and mental health initiatives, suicide prevention efforts, job training, economic development campaigns, and programs for seniors.

Please join me in celebrating National Native American Heritage Month and bolstering our commitment to ensuring that all American Indian and Alaska Native people have the opportunity for a stronger and healthier future through improved health care opportunities and partnerships that respect their culture and traditions.



According to Christian beliefs, All Soul’s Day occurs on November 2nd, thus our adaptation for celebrating and honoring our loved ones at this same time. Often, families gather together to host the suppers at their private homes and so that everyone can partake, the dates are sometimes spaced apart throughout the month of November. Community members may often attend several Ghost Suppers and each individual that attends represents a spirit.

Generally, the foods that are prepared for the feast are those most enjoyed by the departed or a dish that they were remembered for making. Most often at a Ghost Supper one can expect to find meals of fish, venison, wild rice, fry bread, corn, squash, potatoes, and other traditional staples. A ceremonial fire is lit and maintained outside at which praying and a quiet time for reflection and remembrance is customary. Prior to the feasting, a prayer is said and a plate with a little bit of every dish is prepared and offered in the fire to honor those who are no longer physically with us. Typically, this time is for remembrance and fellowship with the living and the dead. Besides food, gifts are set out and offered so that the spirits can partake of these offerings that they may be missing. Some of these gifts may include sema (tobacco), wiingash (sweetgrass), mshkwadewashk (sage), and kiishig (cedar). Non-traditional gifts may include candy, coffee, flowers, or some other favorite item that your loved one may be missing.

The tradition of a Ghost Supper, or Feast of the Dead or Spirit Feast, is celebrated yearly to honor our departed loved ones with a meal and remembrances. Throughout the years, changes may have been made from what some people remember long ago, but the meaning has remained the same.



It was extremely honorable to witness Rolling Thunder Inc. Manistee Michigan for not only being nominated, but receiving the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year award. Only two days after Veteran's Day and three days after the Marine Corp birthday, how fitting.

*Charmaine Stone*



## George M. Petts

George Petts Jr, age 76, a long time resident of Eagle River, WI and Crandon, WI, died November 10, 2013 in Rochester, MN. He was born January 6, 1937 in Eagle River, WI to parents George Sr and Christine (Thomas) Petts.

George retired from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling. George was a member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and he served in the U.S. Army. He was preceded in death by his parents, 1 brother, and 2 sisters. George is survived by daughters: Shelly Petts of Janesville, WI, Jeani Petts of Waterloo, WI, Lisa Schuerman of Oak Creek, WI; son: George Petts III of Waynesville, MO; brothers: Robert Petts of Conover, WI, Stanley Petts of New Holstein, WI, Leo Petts of Crandon, WI; sisters: Celia Kohl of West Allis, WI, Gladys Romain of Brookfield, WI, Helen Petts of West Allis, WI; 12 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, his ex-wife Mary Jayne (LeDuc) Petts and many other family and friends.

*He will be missed by everyone.*

## National Congress of American Indians



National Congress of American Indians Elects New Executive Committee, Bids Farewell To President Jefferson Keel

Tulsa, OK – The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) elected a new Executive Committee today at the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention & Marketplace. The Executive Committee is charged with advancing the mission of NCAI to protect and advance tribal sovereignty by representing the issues and priorities of tribal nations throughout the country.

President: Brian Cladoosby, Chairman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community  
First Vice President: Michael Finley, Chairman, Colville Tribes  
Recording Secretary: Robert Shepard, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate  
Treasurer: Dennis Welsh, Jr., Tribal Council Member, Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Regional Vice Presidents: Announced Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

The Executive Committee is elected by NCAI membership: the President, First Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer are elected by the entire membership; and the twelve Regional Vice Presidents are elected by each respective region. Each of these officers is a member of the NCAI board and serves a two-year term to begin Friday, October 18, 2013.

Two-term President Jefferson Keel will step down Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. President Keel honored NCAI with his leadership, elevated the role of the organization, and served tribal nations well. He remains a valued and respected leader within NCAI and throughout Indian Country.

About The National Congress of American Indians: Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments and communities, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights. For more information visit [www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org)

## Alfred B. Medacco



Alfred B. Medacco  
age 77 of Freesoil,  
passed away on  
October 23, 2013  
at Spectrum Health  
-Ludington Hospital.  
[www.oakgrovefh.com](http://www.oakgrovefh.com)

“Uncle Al” Medacco used to stop by the Public Affairs Office regularly, bringing with him yet another idea for photos or postcards or articles which could help with his first love, the Warriors Society of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Angela Shining Water Eagle, our in-house graphic artist, was always working with Al on different techniques of art to use as he tried to make portraits of our Warriors for use in a number of different ways. Then he would come to my office and talk about events and opportunities to honor those Warriors. He always brought a smile with him...even if he did leave us with a bunch of extra work!

One of the things that “Uncle Al” did that I specifically remember (and think of often) was a presentation that he made to the United Tribes of Michigan back in 2005. He handmade 13 arrows in our traditional way and presented them to the tribal leaders at the meeting. He gave a lesson to the leaders about the strength that our tribes (and people) had by working together. He demonstrated his point by taking one of the arrows in his hands and breaking it into two pieces. Then he took the remaining 12 arrows and could not break them...even as he tried to do! The point hit home!

Even today, as the leaders of our Michigan tribes gather, they are reminded to bring their ‘arrows’ to the meeting. They then set them on the table in front of their delegation where they serve as a reminder of “Uncle Al’s” lesson. What a beautiful, lasting legacy!

K’Chii Miigwech “Uncle Al”

*Glenn C. Zaring- Director Office of Public Affairs*



“The LRBOI Tribal Public Safety Department handles many different types of complaints and problems. From regular ‘beat’ officers to detectives, narcotics investigators, Maritime officers, search and rescue units and Natural Resources officers, you never know just what issues will come up from day to day. Here is a sampling of calls handled by our Tribal Police this last month.” The following is a synopsis for November Tribal and non Tribal arrests.

11-01-2013:

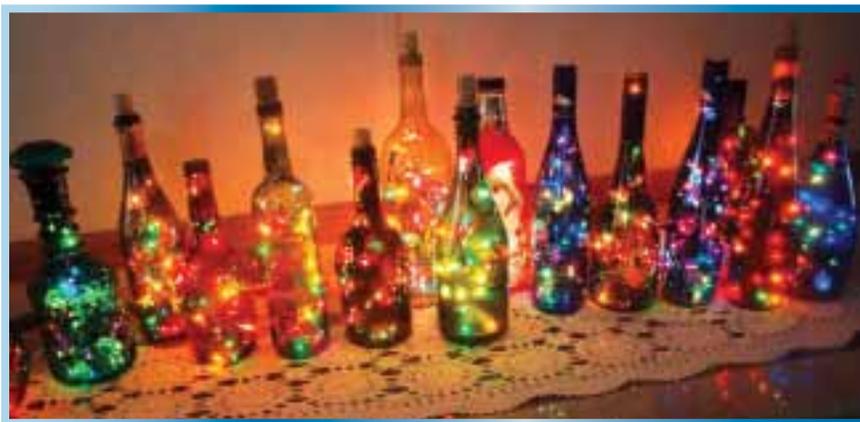
A 29 year old Manistee man was arrested by Tribal Police for disorderly person at Wendy’s.

Tribal Police arrested a 35 year old Manistee man for disorderly person at the Casino.

11-04-2013:

A 48 year old Manistee woman was arrested for Financial Transaction Device-Stealing/Retaining without consent and Larceny in a Building. Tribal Police were assisted by Tribal Conservation Enforcement.

## WINE BOTTLE LUMINATED



**MAKES GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!  
NIGHT LIGHTS OR DECORATIVE GIFTS.**

**\$12 EACH**

**Call Del & Joan Peters 231-398-9132**

## Casino Employment

Check out the new Employment Opportunities tab on the tribal website at <https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/index.php/resources/employment>

Our new preference ordinance is there along with links to website and job opportunities. All in one place for your convenience! Check out the exciting opportunities that await you at the Little River Casino Resort There are many ways to apply. Log onto our Website at [www.LRCR.com](http://www.LRCR.com) and click on Careers Call our Human Resources Department at (231) 723-4530 Stop by our Human Resources Department located at 2700 Orchard Hwy Manistee, MI

**Monday – Friday 7am-5pm**

Send your Application, Resume and Cover letter to:  
Little River Casino Resort Attn: Recruiting P.O. Box  
417 Manistee, MI 49660

Phone: (231) 723-4530 · Fax: (231) 723-1589

Email: [recruiting@lrcr.com](mailto:recruiting@lrcr.com)

Available job openings can also be found at all  
LRBOI

*Tribal Preference will be followed in accordance with the  
LRBOI- Indian Preference in Employment  
(Ordinance #11-600-02)*

## For Rent

The Little River Band Housing Department has an immediate opening for a 5 bedroom/3 bath fair market rental unit \$700.00 a month at Aki maadiziwin in Manistee, Michigan

For details and an application please contact:  
Chad Gehrke at 231-398-6878 or

Michelle Bernatche at 231-398-6875.

## LRBOI Warrior Society

Looking for LRBOI  
Warrior Society Volunteers  
who would like to  
serve on a Rifle Team  
for 21 Gun Salute.

LRBOI has announced  
that they will be having  
election of New Officers at  
this November’s Warriors  
meeting.

## Government Closes for the following Holidays

- \*New Years Day
- \*Treaty Recognition Day
- \*Memorial Day
- \*Independence Day
- \*Labor Day
- \*Reaffirmation Day (Sept. 21st)
- \*Veteran’s Day
- \*Thanksgiving Day
- \*Friday after Thanksgiving Day
- \*Christmas Eve Day (Half Day)
- \*Christmas Day

Just use the toll-free  
number 888.723.8288.  
Some areas of the  
government will be  
continue to be available  
on these holidays, such as  
Public Safety. Currents will  
inform you of any scheduled  
closings of the Government  
facilities. It’s always a good  
idea to call first.

Commission Openings! Even though most committee positions have been filled, the tribe continues to seek applications from qualified members interested in serving upon the Commerce, Gaming, Housing, Binojeeuk, Enrollment, Health and Natural Resources Commissions.

Ogema Romanelli is building a pool of tribal members who are interested in sitting on a Commission. Members are invited to submit letters of interest along with why they would like to be on the Commissions and what skills or knowledge they bring to the group. Applicants will need to submit a commission application along with your letter of interest. You will need to contact our office to get an application and will need to submit both in order to be considered.

Please send the letter and application to the attention of Executive Assistant, Mary Thomas, Office of the Ogema, 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI 49660.

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!"



Fred Ongcapin, J.D., LL.M  
Tribal Court Advocate  
(Licensed to Practice Law Before Tribal Court and Federal Agency Appeals) Represent Tribal Members before Tribal Court Represent Tribal Members before Federal Agency Appeals U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Indian Appeals



"Dedicated to Protecting the Legal Rights of Every Little River Band of Ottawa Indian Tribal Member!"

Tel# 414-841-7972  
Email: [inquire@filway-america.com](mailto:inquire@filway-america.com).

**DiPiazza's Pizzeria**  
1358 LEONARD ST. NW  
**459-2754**

SUN - MON 4:30 TILL 9:00 PM  
TUES - WED - THURS 4:30 TILL 10:00 PM  
FRI & SAT 4:30 TILL 12:00 AM  
LUNCH THURS & FRI 11:00AM - 1:30PM

HOME OF THE LARGEST PIZZA IN GRAND RAPIDS & WEST MICHIGAN  
**Big Di's 30" XXXL**  
CHECK OUT OUR DEALS AT  
[WWW.DIPIAZZASPIZZERIA.COM](http://WWW.DIPIAZZASPIZZERIA.COM)  
Tribal Member Owned

**Own a Business?  
Starting a Business?  
Need Money?  
We're Lending!!!**

**Northern Shores**  
LOAN FUND, INC.  
Certified Native CDFI

Call us!  
**231-347-6753**

Serving Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Grand Traverse and Kalkaska Counties  
[www.northernshoresloanfund.org](http://www.northernshoresloanfund.org)—[info@northernshoresloanfund.org](mailto:info@northernshoresloanfund.org)  
1131 W. Conway Road, Suite A - Harbor Springs, MI 49740

**Beauty on a Budget**

Skin care packed with multiple benefits. Special offers you don't want to miss. Free samples so you can try before you buy. Free makeovers and expert tips. Shop at your convenience with my personal delivery. No crowds, no parking hassles. No drain on your gas tank. What better way to get all your skin care and makeup! Contact me today.

**MARY KAY**

Dori Carnes, Tribal Member  
Independent Beauty Consultant  
[www.marykay.com/dcarnes1](http://www.marykay.com/dcarnes1)  
**231-638-3373**

**GREAT LAKES PET MEMORIAL & CREMATORY**

**Pet Cremation Service & Memorial Products**

- Great Lakes Pet Memorial & Crematory
- Pick-Up Service - 24 Hour Service
- Discounts for LRBOI Members
- Tribal Member Owned!

Custom Urns ♦ Books ♦ Glass Art ♦ Jewelry  
Personalized Stones ♦ Burial Markers ♦ Engraving

Traverse City  
**(231) 421-1370**

Scan Me!

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

**Home is where the heart is...**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Housing Department currently has programs to assist prospective Homeowners, and existing homeowners, with Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance. The programs are available to Tribal Members who are buying, building, or planning to buy or build, or who have purchased a home and would have met the requirements of eligibility for any of the programs established in the Ordinance between September 21, 2005 and the date the Ordinance went into effect. It is available to members within or outside the Reservation or Trust Lands boundaries. There are no income requirements, and you can receive a combined amount up to \$5,000.00 and is based on 2.33% for Down Payment assistance and 1% for Closing Cost assistance which is calculated on the total purchase price. Please contact Chad Gehrke in the Housing Department for additional information and applications, 231-398-6878.

**Indian Preference Business**  
Are you a business owner that owns 51 percent of your business?  
Are you a member of a Federal Recognized Indian Tribe? If so, your business may qualify for Indian Preference. To get registered with the Little River Band, please contact **Michelle Lucas at 888.723.8288.**

Eve Salisbury  
Independent Beauty Consultant  
(231)571-0627  
[crafterlady1940@comcast.net](mailto:crafterlady1940@comcast.net)  
[www.marykay.com/ysalisbury](http://www.marykay.com/ysalisbury)

**MARY KAY**

**Cut-Rite TREE SERVICE**

- Tree Removal
- Chipping
- Bucket Truck Specialist
- Insurance Work
- Firewood
- Stump Grinding
- Brush Clearing

**MITCH THEODORE**  
94 N. Park St.  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
Office 231-788-2123

**MOONBEAR POTTERY & INDIAN ARTS**

Shirley M. Brauker  
1048 Silver Road Coldwater, Michigan 49036  
260-243-9027 email: [sbrauker@gmail.com](mailto:sbrauker@gmail.com)



During the ceremony Ron Pete, Connie Waitner and Ogema Larry Romanelli each spoke and thanked June for her service. June was also presented a plaque commemorating her service of over 13 years as Elder Coordinator, and in a very touching moment, Ron presented June with a special Pendleton blanket which he placed on her shoulders, followed with a hug of appreciation.



At the 2013 Elder Conference Saturday session, Ron Pete and Connie Waitner held an honoring farewell for the tribes' long-time Elder Coordinator, June Sam. The Elder Coordinator's position has been downsized in the 2014 budget year, and those duties reassigned to the Members Assistance Department. As a result of this realignment, June has taken an 'early' retirement at age 79!



June was honored for her long-time service to the People of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; her husband the late Jonnie Sam served as one of the Tribe's first language instructors and was a noted Tribal Elder. June worked alongside the late Margaret Chandler to establish the first Title IV Indian Education program in Manistee County at the Kaleva-Norman-Dickson school district in the late 1970's. She also assisted the Thornapple River Band of Ottawa Indians in the establishment of their non-profit corporation in the early 1970's as they, along with the Northern Michigan Ottawa Association Unit 7 pursued federal recognition and settlement of land claims within the 1836 Treaty areas. June is also the mother of four Little River Band Tribal children; Tribal Manager (and former Health Director) Jessica (Sam) Burger, Tribal Historical Preservation Director, (and former Tribal Judge and Ogema) Jonnie Jay Sam II, former long-time Council Recorder Janine Sam and Jeffrey Sam, a Table Games Supervisor at the Little River Casino Resort. She is also the grandmother to two Little River Band Tribal Princesses; Chelsea Bromley (2006) and Isabel 'Izzy' Burger, crowned in July 2013. All of her children and grandchildren are active in the Tribe's government, gaming and cultural activities.

June's children also spoke and told some humorous stories about life with June. Her son Jay related how his mother always made sure he "took pride in who he was, and that her sacrifices made it possible for me to do what I've done here at the Tribe." A poignant part occurred when Jessica thanked her mother for allowing her the grace to "do her job as Tribal Manager" and having "the dignity to accept the notice of reduction of her position as a necessary part of those duties, in the professional manner with which you (June) have always exhibited in your job." Jessica then related with some humor, the story of how she notified June, stating, "I asked, 'Well, are you thinking of retiring?' and my Mom said, 'I'll retire when someone tells me I have to retire.' So, about a week later, I walked in and said, 'I'm here in the capacity of Tribal Manager, and remember when you said you'd retire when someone told you that you had to? I'm here to tell you that you have to.'" Janine thanked the elders in attendance for showing June the gratitude for her work and for supporting her in her job "all of these years, even when there were times she wasn't easy to work with or you may have disagreed with her approach, you still supported her and I want to thank

each of you for doing that, even after my Dad passed, you made her feel that she was a part of this Tribe and what was happening." Her son Jeffrey, in the emotion of the moment, declined to speak, but gave his mother a warm hug and pat on the back.



Little River Band wishes to thank June for her years of service. We owe you a big debt of gratitude June for your service to our people, who really are your people, too.

K'Chii Miigwech June

A. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) passed by Congress in 2010 includes:

Permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act  
New federal funding for Indian health care starting 2014 through Medicaid Expansion and Health Insurance Exchanges  
Health insurance reforms, health careers training, and more



B. Medicaid Expansion

For everyone under 133% of federal poverty level (FPL) More people eligible, including single men

C. Health Insurance Exchanges

Private insurance plans sold on website  
Federal subsidy of monthly premiums on sliding scale

Voluntary insurance for American Indians and Alaska Natives. No penalty for not enrolling. AI/AN do not pay cost sharing (deductibles or co-pays)  
Special monthly enrollment for AI/AN

D. Insurance coverage through Medicaid Expansion and Exchange Plans for tribal members helps everyone in the Tribe  
Every visit to the Indian health clinic or hospital could be billed to insurance and there will be more resources for Tribe

Insurance will pay instead of Contract Health Services (CHS) No more CHS priority lists or waiting lists  
More CHS funds to help tribal members

E. State is required to consult with Tribes in planning the Exchange, and these topics should be included in tribal consultation:

**Network adequacy** – require all Exchange plans to offer provider contracts to Tribal health clinics with **Indian addendum Enrollment** – assure that AI/AN are identified appropriately so that they can receive the protections and benefits under law

**Navigators** – provide assistance to enroll AI/AN in Medicaid Expansion and Exchange plans

**Tribal sponsorship** – assure that Tribes can choose individuals to sponsor and combine payments for premiums [www.nativeexchange.org](http://www.nativeexchange.org)

## Drug Take Back continues

In recent news articles in the press, it was announced that the Michigan State Police will be holding a 'Take Back Day' for unused and unwanted prescription drugs on October 26<sup>th</sup> at all of their 29 posts.

The Tribal Public Safety Department wanted to remind you that they take back the drugs year 'round out at the Tribal Police Department offices on M22.

Tribal police have a secured location for these drugs and regularly arranges for their disposal. Director Mike Martin told the *Currents*, "Please tell our members to bring these drugs into the department. Leaving them in the medicine cabinet or somewhere in the home poses a danger to youngsters and other family members." Properly disposing of these drugs protects our young, our families and our environment.

## Do You Smell Something?



When power outages occur after severe weather such as hurricanes or tornadoes, using alternative sources of power can cause carbon monoxide (CO) to build up in your home and poison your family. CO is a colorless, odorless gas created by burning fuel when using portable generators, gas ranges, burning wood or by running your car.

While [hundreds of people die in the U.S.](#) each year from accidental CO poisoning, this tragedy can be prevented. If you don't have a battery-powered or battery back-up CO detector in your home, install one as soon as possible and check it every six months.

You should also [follow these safety tips](#):

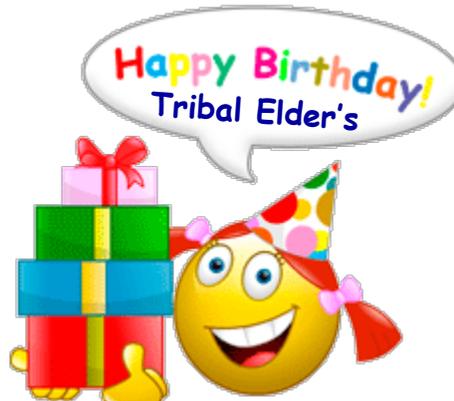
- Do not run your car inside a garage that is attached to your home, even if the garage door is open to the outside;
- Have your heating system, water heater and other gas, oil or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician each year; and
- Never heat your house with a gas oven.

Since you can't see or smell carbon monoxide, it is important to recognize the [most common symptoms](#) of CO poisoning. If you think you are experiencing CO poisoning, you should get fresh air and seek medical attention immediately!



Steven Mathews  
Garry King  
Jayden Kopp  
Duane Renner

Renee S  
Mike  
Ali



Robert Bailey	Judith Ann Moreau
Ruth Marie Boda	Evelyn Otto
Caroline Louis Brand	Gladys Marie Panis
Velva Jean Emmer	Stanley Earl Petts
Katherine Mary Glocheski	Charles Scott Rambaldo
Marie Cecilia Jetton	Philip Charles Robinson
Alma Geneieve Karl	Patricia Ann Ruitter
Joseph Richard Koon	Nancy Paulette Sturdy
Raymond Junior Lamorandier	Barbara Jean Sulainis
David LeRoyLilleberg	Elsie Mae Waite
Paul Woodrow Mackety	Mary Ellen Warren
Elizabeth Ann McKenney	George Zinn
Mary Hazel Miller	



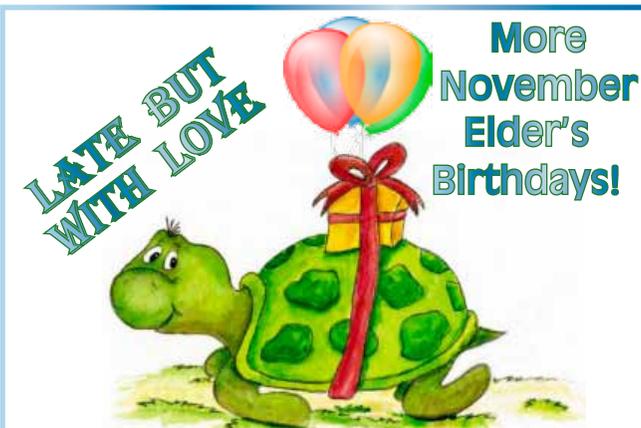
Preference Employees

Congratulations to Joseph (Joe) Wells on your promotion to Supervisor!



One year after becoming a level three medical officer, Joe has been promoted to security supervisor.

Joe says, "I love coming to work at the Resort every day. I strive to make sure I do the BEST I can for my crew, as well as every guest. I believe we should treat everyone the way we want to be treated. Little River is a good opportunity to advanced and gain experience as well as training that you can use anywhere."



Gerald John Micko	Johnnie James Shaw
La Dona L. Pratt	Daniel Albert Somerville
Donna Marie Schultz	Danny George Stewart
	Vernita Thelma Weesaw



Preference Employees

Congratulations to Melinda Smith on your promotion to Casino Host!



Melinda started her career at LRCR as a Players Club Representative. She worked part time for about one year before promoting to Casino Host.

Melinda strives to provide exceptional customer service to all of our guests to ensure the BEST entertainment experience possible. Melinda says, "I feel I work for an awesome team & casino and I love coming to work each day."



Merry Christmas  
my Darlings  
Hannah Sandel and  
Mathew Sandel  
I love you so dearly!

Love Mommy Eagle

Howard W. Koone III 1958-2012



December 23, 2012  
I can't believe it's been a year  
dear brother since you walked  
on. Hope your dancing in the sky.  
Love and miss you everyday.  
You are sadly missed, sending  
love from your whole family.

## Tax Office

Tax-Exempt Purchase Limits at  
Little River Trading Post

Tax-exempt Cigarette Limit for 2014

Cigarette limit is 20 packs per month  
when tax-exempt quota is available.

Tribal members are responsible for staying within this limit. Failure to stay within the limit will result in assessment of tax and penalty (\$50 for each transaction) plus suspension of tax-exempt purchase privileges until assessed amount is paid in full.

### Tax-exempt Gasoline Limit for 2014

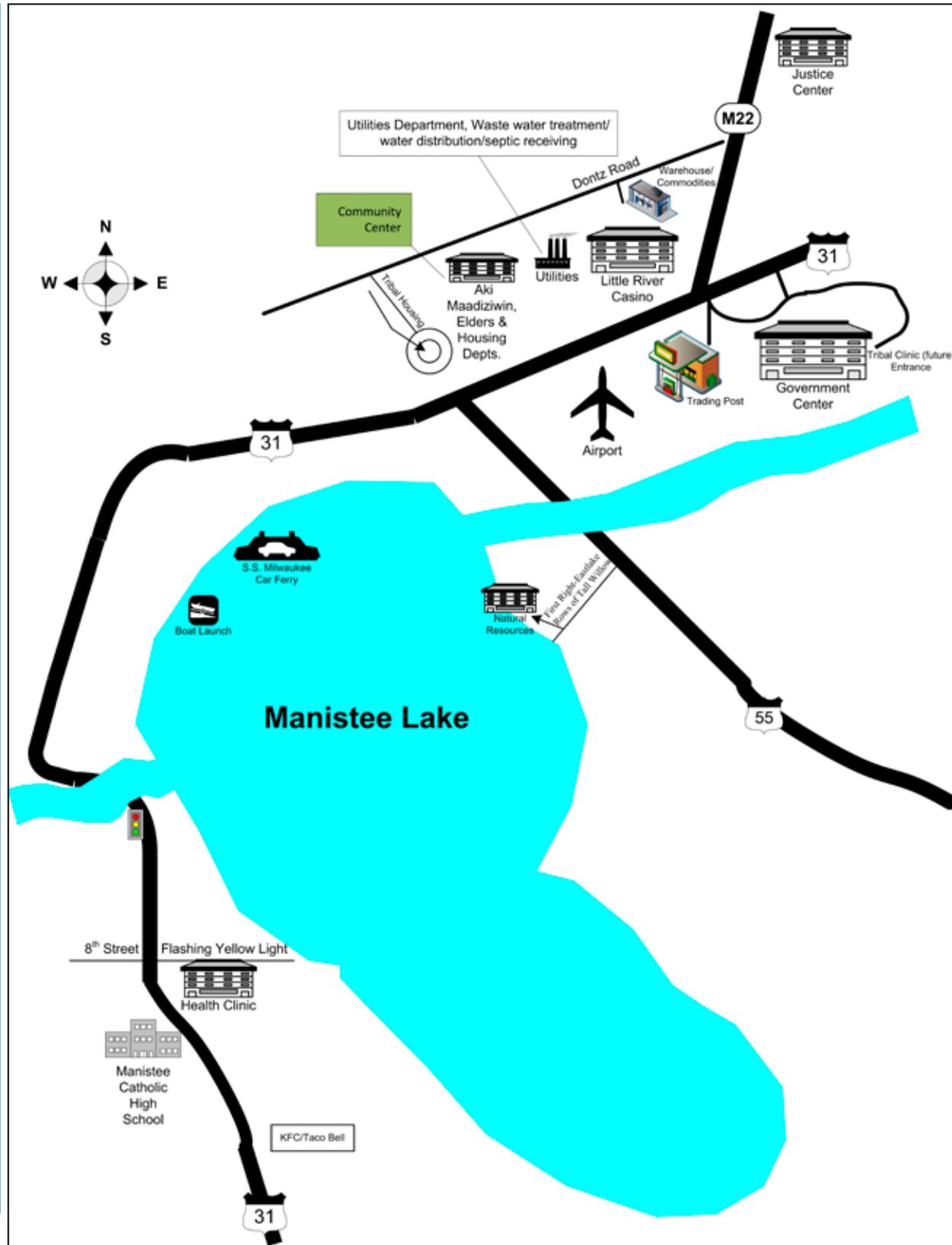
The monthly limit for tax-exempt gasoline beginning January 1, 2014 will remain 175 gallons per Tribal member when tax-exempt quota is available.

Tribal members are responsible for staying within this limit. Failure to stay within the limit will result in assessment of tax and penalty (\$20 for each transaction) plus suspension of tax-exempt purchase privileges until assessed amount is paid in full.

Tribal members are required to be registered for this program. Fueling a vehicle that is not registered with the tax office is prohibited. The penalty for purchasing tax-exempt fuel for any person not entitled to purchase it is \$100 per transaction plus suspension of tax-exempt purchase privileges for up to one year.

### Tax-exempt Fuel and Tobacco Products are Limited

Tax-exempt sales of fuel and tobacco products will be suspended when the Tribe's annual quota is gone. In the event there are quota amounts remaining, additional purchases may be allowed in December. Notices will be posted on the Little River Band website at [www.lrboi.com](http://www.lrboi.com) and at the Little River Trading Post. If tax-exempt sales are suspended, they will resume January 1, 2014 when next year's quota becomes available.



## LRBOI Environmentalists attend UT

The Michigan Tribal Environmental Group attended the October meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan held at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant, MI. The MTEG is an informal group of Michigan Tribal environmental staff that gathers on a quarterly basis. Frank Beaver and Stephanie Ogren from LRBOI are current members of the MTEG and participate in these activities. The Tribes and the State of Michigan have climate and water accords that provide a way for the governments to communicate over environmental issues. The MTEG attended the UTM to discuss the implementation of these accords. Frank Ettawageshik (Executive Director of the United Tribes of Michigan) discussed the history of the accords that there original intent and Mike Beulac of MDEQ discussed current successes and obstacles. The LRBOI Department of Natural Resources looks forward to continuing to bridge implementation and policy.





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

Mnidoo-Gisoons (Little Spirit Moon)  
December 2013 vol.10 Issue 12

## 2013 Elders Conference



The annual Elders Conference was held at the Little River Casino Resort in the Makwa Endaat (Bear's Den Entertainment Center) on the first weekend in November. This was the largest number of Elders to ever attend the November conference. Based on registration, there were 277 Elders that attended the two day event. After a welcome graced by a Flag presentation from our Warriors Society and several songs by the drum Little Bird, Chairman Ron Pete welcomed everyone and then introduced the keynote speaker Deb Gutowski, from the Arch Diocese of Grand Rapids and one of the leaders of

the Kateri Circle based in Grand Rapids. Deb spoke about "Being an Elder and the Path to Get Here Today."

Also addressing the group was the General Manager of the Resort, Wendell Long; Robin Carufel, the LRBOI Clinic Director; our Princess Izzy Burger; Evelyn Szpriet the director of 2-1-1 in Manistee and Lee Ivinson and Noelle Cross from the Members Assistance Department. On Sunday, Pat Wilson and Austen Brauker from the Peacemakers spoke and Lucy Hunter then gave a presentation on her Boarding School Documentary.

A highlight on Saturday was the farewell to June Sam who has served for a long time as the Elder Coordinator. She was presented with several gifts, including a blanket and a commemorative plaque, and the Ogema, Chairman and Recorder all had words of thanks to June for her service over the years. June served the Elders over the years with dignity, honor and grace and she shall be missed. (See the separate photo section for more on June).

The Elder Committee of Chair Ron Pete, Vice Chair Rita Gayle, Secretary Darleen Martin and Committee members Connie Waitner and Ron Wittenburg worked closely with Lee Ivinson and her department on this conference and everyone said it was one of the best ever.

**Thanks Elders Committee!**



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
2608 Government Center Drive  
Manistee, Michigan 49660

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

Or Current Resident

