

Announcing The Electric Currents!

Welcome to the first edition of the new e-version of the Little River Currents tribal newspaper! Each month a new edition of this 'Electric Currents' will be available on the tribal website at www.lrboi.com and links to it will be made available on the tribal Face Book page and the Rapid River News.

The name was chosen as a play on words given this new format as we go into the modern age of internet-based publications. It is an 'Electronic' version of our old favorite paper!

The 'eC' as we call it in Public Affairs is being introduced due to some budget changes for 2014. We are all trying to be more aware of spending the tribal dollars in the most efficient way possible while we still make every effort to keep our members informed.

Beginning in February, you will receive a regular printed version of the Currents in the mail. These versions will come out every other month. This change to the 'eC' and bimonthly printed papers saves the tribe almost \$18,000!

Please be patient with the changes and help out our elders and other who might not be comfortable yet with using the computer for their news.

Also please continue to submit news about your families and what's going on within the larger tribal family at Little River.

Miigwech,
Glenn Zaring
Director

The Little River Band Special Election



'The Election Board of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held the election at the Government Center on January 15th in the common area. The results are as follows:

Peggy Vriesman 35 Votes
Mary Thomas 87 Votes
Marcella M. Leusby 63 Votes
Edward Tyler 102 Votes
Valerie McDonnell 20 Votes
Merri Medawis 66 Votes



The preliminary winner is Edward Tyler.

Candidates have one week in which to file challenges with the Election Board. 377 total ballots were counted. 4 were spoiled and could not be used.





Tribal Leaders Meet With President Obama And Thirteen Cabinet Officials, Emphasize Need For 21st Century Trust Relationship

WASHINGTON, DC – President Obama and thirteen members of his Cabinet joined over 300 tribal leaders at the fifth annual White House Tribal Nations Conference. Through speeches and listening sessions, the Administration highlighted the improving partnership with tribal nations and declared a commitment to elevating the relationship throughout the next three years.

The Conference included a townhall portion during which tribal leaders asked questions of several members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. In the townhall's opening statement, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Brian Cladoosby firmly asserted the need to establish a "trust relationship for the 21st century" and urged the Council to regularly convene cabinet officials and tribal leaders at the White House and throughout Indian Country. Other tribal leaders emphasized the importance of addressing the Carcieri Supreme Court decision, fully funding Contract Support Costs, and honoring the trust responsibility in the federal budget.

In afternoon remarks to tribal leaders, President Barack Obama committed to visiting Indian Country next year and echoed Cladoosby's call for close communication between the nations:

"The Iroquois called their network of alliances with other tribes and European nations a 'covenant chain.' Each link represented a bond of peace and friendship. But that covenant chain didn't sustain itself. It needed constant care, so that it would stay strong. And that's what we're called to do, to keep the covenant between us for this generation and for future generations."

Attorney General Eric Holder also delivered poignant remarks as he recommitted to a close partnership with tribal nations and spoke of the progress made since Robert Kennedy's address to NCAI in 1963. AG Holder acknowledged the "injustice inflicted on Native peoples" in the past and committed to a relationship "not as a patron but a partner." NCAI welcomes AG Holder's proposed "Statement of Principles" that will guide the Department of Justice's dealings with Indian Country.

NCAI looks forward to working with the White House to strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship and continuing the policy conversations begun during the Conference. The full list of Cabinet officials participating in the White House meeting included:

Attorney General Eric Holder
Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack
Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
Housing Secretary Shaun Donovan
Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx
Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz
Education Secretary Arne Duncan
Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki
EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy
Acting Homeland Security Secretary Rand Beers
Acting Small Business Administrator Jeanne Hulit

Also participating:
Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley
Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council Cecilia Muñoz

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

Safety actually pays!

Late last fall, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians was presented with a check for \$21,419.00 from our insurance company. This check from the tribal insurer, Hudson Insurance, was issued as a portion of our profit-sharing that is coming back to the tribe for having a good safety record.

Tribal Safety Officer, Mary Velikan said, "This check is a demonstration of just one benefit to having a safe operation."



Aanii:

Due to budget restrictions, we are now required to alternately do electronic editions of the Currents along with hard copies in certain months. Welcome to the electronic version.

As always, it is a busy time for LRBOI government operations. The budget and casino revenue continued to take a majority of our time these past couple of months. As with most of casinos in Michigan, our revenues are down from last year and we continue to look for ways to cut costs yet maintain the same level of services.

We continue to do work on our Muskegon Project as diligently as we can. I had the opportunity to attend the Elder's Christmas Party, the Children's Christmas Party and both were well attended and well organized. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks to all; I want to give a special thanks to Mary Thomas and Angie Stone for the work on the Children's Christmas Party. Much work goes into selecting, wrapping and organizing all the gifts. Miigwetch

Winter arrived early in West Michigan this year and it seems will continue right into the Christmas holiday. I want to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and New Year's Day and hope everyone can spend time with friends and family.

Longevity Awards



The tribal government Christmas Party before the holidays was the scene of a rather remarkable event as Ogema Romanelli presented 82 time-in-service awards recognizing employees with 5 years, 10 years and even 15 years of service to our government and people.

The Ogema commented on the number of presentations and said that it showed that the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has a stable core of dedicated employees committing their work to the betterment of the tribe. He said that we should be proud of this fact and that it represented another milestone in the tribal history.

LRBOI Fall P.I.L.T. Payment

Not Bad for an Old Orchard!



The following 'Guest Column' was run by the Manistee News Advocate on November 20th

Ever since 1999, an important source of funds for Manistee County has been a big building on the site of an old apple orchard just to the North of Blacker Airport. The orchard reportedly used to generate a few thousand tax dollars a year for the county. That all changed when the wheels started spinning in the old orchard...the slot machine wheels that is!

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians opened their first casino in the smaller building you see on the right when you turn into the property of M22. It is called the Interim Casino and it was a place for the tribe to get started with the economic enterprise called the Little River Casino and Resort. The first Revenue Sharing Payment to local governments and agencies from that old orchard land, what is called *Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)* was \$430,501.

Now, after three expansions, the Resort is a full-blown gaming establishment with table games and slots; entertainment on the weekends, a swimming pool, a conference center, a beautiful atrium, a full-service Recreational Vehicle Park and a gamut of dining opportunities.

This year, the fall P.I.L.T. payment is \$814,662.36! The spring 2013 payment was \$732,150.20.

But back to the \$\$\$

Over \$26.5 million dollars (\$26,500,000) has been pumped into just the local governments and economy since the casinos' humble beginnings in the old orchard. That money has bought Fire Trucks, School Buses, Bulletproof Vests, Jaws of Life, Security Systems, equipment for West Shore Hospital, sidewalks in Manistee, Scuba gear, land for expansion of the airport, water wells, computer equipment, radios and turnout gear for fire fighters, ice rescue boats, brush trucks and police chaplains, generators and respirators, thermal imaging cameras, Dial-A-Ride, 9-1-1 dispatch equipment, support for Manistee ISD and West Shore Community College, Manistee County Libraries, School Debt, overtime for the Sheriff's Department officers and even complaint investigations. There's more, but you get the idea.

Where does that money come from? Definitely not old apple trees! It comes from the tribes' gaming enterprise and represents 2% of the electronic gaming proceeds at the Little River Casino Resort. Our agreement (compact with the State) that allows the tribe to run our gaming operation had us offset the loss of tax revenues to the local units of government. At almost \$2,000,000 a year, we've more than made up for the few dollars from a bunch of fruit trees. This year, as the Revenue Sharing Board gets ready to distribute their next pile of cash to police departments, fire departments, schools and everyone else, we just wanted to remind you of where the money comes from. The old orchard up north...and we didn't even mention the 1,000 jobs we provide and their benefit to the entire region! Or the approximately \$85 million sent to Lansing since we started!

*Office of Public Affairs
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians*

Tuesday, November 19, 2013, was quite an occasion in the Manistee County Commission meeting chambers as Council Speaker Virg Johnson, Recorder Sandy Mezeske and LRCR General Manager Wendell Long presented the Fall 2013 *Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT)* due the county as part of our tribal compact agreement. The Speaker presented a check for \$814,662.36 which represents 2% of the Electronic Gaming Revenues for the most recent 6 month period. Accompanying the Speaker and General Manager were department heads from the resort.

Overall, the message to the County Commissioners and community was that the tribe and the resort are important partners dedicated to improving life in the area and that we live up to our commitments. Commissioner Karl Waitner Jr, a descendent and resort employee spoke of how he was proud of both the tribe and the resort for what they accomplish.

See the attached article 'Guest Column' to see a tribal statement made in the Manistee News Advocate following the presentation.



Date	Work Session Title	Kimberly Alexander	Michael Ceplina	Shannon Crampton	Gary DiPiazza	Virgil Johnson	Frankie Medacco	Sandy Mezeske	Pat Ruiter	Marty Wabindato	Total Attending
11/04/13	Agenda Review			V	x	V	x	x	x	x	5
11/07/13	Five Ordinance Reviews				x	x	x			x	4
11/07/13	Laptop Training				x	x		x	x		4
11/07/13	Funding				x		x	x			3
11/08/13	Gathering Grounds				x	V	x	x	x		4
11/12/13	Commissions/Committees		x		x	x	x	x		x	6
11/12/13	Agenda Review		x		x	x	x	x		x	6
11/12/13	Wells Fargo		x		x	x	x				4
11/14/13	Strategic Planning		x		x	x		x	V	x	5
11/14/13	Gallagher Benefit Services		x		x	*		x	V	x	4
11/14/13	Est Health Services Task Force		x		x	*		x	V	x	4
11/18/13	Government Org Structure Ordinance		x	x	x	x	x		x		6
11/18/13	Government Financial Report		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		7
11/18/13	Agenda Review		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		7
11/18/13	TIGA		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		7
11/18/13	Sonosky Chambers		x	x	x	x	x	x			5
11/19/13	Valliant Report	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		7
11/19/13	Environmental Concerns		x		x	x	x	x			5
11/21/13	Health Insurance				x	*	x	x	x	*	4
11/22/13	Information Technology	x	x	x	V	x	x	x	x	x	8
11/22/13	2014 Budget Review		x	x	V	x	x	x	x	x	7
11/25/13	Commissions Ordinance		x	x	V	x	x	*	x		5
11/25/13	Kids Names for Christmas		x	x	V	x	x	x	x		6
11/26/13	Charitable Donations	x	x	V	V	*	x	x	*	x	5
11/26/13	Lagoon		x	V	V	x	x	x	x	x	6
	Total # of work sessions - 25	3	19	9	19	17	21	21	14	11	
	* - Business Related										
	C - Attending Commission Meeting										
	V - Vacation										

Native Code Talkers to Be Honored With Congressional Gold Medals



In 2009, several of the famous Navajo Code Talkers visited Little River in Manistee where a special custom motorcycle had been designed by LRBOI Tribal Member Don Stone. The beautiful bike was an auction item to support the Code Talkers and recognition of their efforts.

This year, it was announced in the following release from NCAI that Native Code Talkers were being honored with Congressional Gold Medals. Here is that story:

“Washington, DC – Native American Code Talkers played a significant role in Allied victories during the major campaigns of World War I and World War II. While Navajo Code Talkers have been acknowledged and awarded Congressional Gold Medals for their service, what is not known widely is the extensive participation for these purposes by Native Code Talkers from dozens of tribes.

Today these courageous warriors will be honored with presentation of Congressional Medals for their valor and service to this nation. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) joins the nation in honoring these daring and humble warriors who played a critical role in preserving and protecting this country, our freedoms, and our way of life.

Code Talkers from various tribal nations served as highly classified specialists on dangerous battlegrounds. These soldiers were so valuable to the war effort that their commanding officers were ordered to kill the Code Talkers in the event of imminent or actual capture. The Code Talkers were aware of this added risk to their lives and continued to face that threat every day in action.

The Congressional Gold Medal is awarded as the “highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions” made by an individual or institution. Other recipients include: George Washington, Thomas Edison, Jonas E. Salk, Rosa Parks, and Navajo Code Talkers. Thirty-three tribes will be recognized in today’s ceremony and the families of deceased Code Talkers will be honored with silver medals.

NCAI is extremely proud to have contributed to the effort to recognize these distinguished men and wish to express appreciation to tribal leaders, tribal community veterans, and the congressional sponsors with whom we have worked for many years to accomplish this long overdue recognition for these war heroes.”

Date	Work Session Title	Kimberly Alexander	Michael Ceplina	Shannon Crampton	Gary DiPiazza	Virgil Johnson	Frankie Medacco	Sandy Mezeske	Pat Ruitter	Marty Wabindato	Total Attending
12/02/13	Agenda Review		x	x	x	V	x	x	x	x	7
12/03/13	LRCR Financial Review	x	x	x	x	V	x	x	x	x	8
12/05/13	Strategic Planning		x		x	V	x	x		x	5
12/06/13	LRCR Board of Directors Update		x		x	V	x	x	x		5
12/09/13	BIA Self Governance			x	x	V	x	x	x	x	6
12/09/13	Agenda Review			x	x	V	x	x	x	x	6
12/09/13	Motor Vehicle Records			x	x	V	x	x	x	x	6
12/10/13	MRG	x			V	x	x	V		x	4
12/12/13	Health Care		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	7
12/12/13	LRCR Budget Meeting				x	x	x				3
12/16/13	Transition to Success				x	x	x	x		x	5
12/16/13	Government Financials				x	x	x	x	x	x	6
12/16/13	Surveillance Equipment		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	7
12/16/13	Agenda Review		x		x		x	x	x	x	6
12/17/13	Surveillance Equipment		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
	Total # of work sessions - 15	2	8	6	14	7	15	13	11	13	
	* - Business Related										
	C - Attending Commission Meeting										
	V - Vacation										

Replacing Your Important Papers

Editors' note....FEMA released this listing following some disasters in the state of Colorado. It addresses replacing your important papers. Please take note and remember to do the same for your state.

DENVER - Not only were Colorado homes damaged by the recent severe storms, flooding, landslides or mudslides, but many survivors also lost valuable personal documents. The documents include everything from Social Security cards to driver licenses to credit cards. The following is a partial list of ways to get duplicates of destroyed or missing documents:

Birth and Death Certificates – Birth and death certificates can be replaced by visiting your county vital records office or on line
<http://go.usa.gov/DFbw>

Marriage Certificates – The online link for replacement of marriage certificates is
<http://go.usa.gov/DFbw>

Marriage Dissolutions (divorces) – The online link for divorce decree replacements is
<http://go.usa.gov/DFbw>

Immigration Documents – Contact your county office or the site below for citizenship, immigration, permanent resident card (green card), employment authorization, re-entry permit and more.
www.uscis.gov

Driver Licenses – Visit any Colorado driver license office with acceptable identification and proof of address. Fee required.

Vehicle Registration, License Tab or Title – Contact your county motor vehicle office. You will need proof

of insurance and Colorado vehicle emissions. Fees administered by county.
<http://tinyurl.com/m2hchyh>

Passport – Complete form DS-64 from
<http://tinyurl.com/ld6z28k>

Military Records – Request Standard Form 180 (SF-180) from any office of the Veterans Administration, American Legion, VFW or Red Cross, or download from
<http://tinyurl.com/lnu2pmt>

Mortgage Papers – Contact your lending institution

Property Deeds – Contact the recorder's office in the county where the property is located

Insurance Policies – Contact the insurance company for replacement papers

Social Security Card – Go to a Social Security Administration office. You also can request a copy of your Social Security statement online
www.ssa.gov

Transcript of Your Tax Return – Call nearest Treasury Department office, IRS office or 800-829-3646; request form 4506. To find your local IRS office, go to <http://tinyurl.com/mvk5dvv>

Savings Bonds/Notes – Complete Form PDF 1048 (Claim for Lost, Stolen or Destroyed U.S. Savings Bonds); available by calling 304-480-6112 or at www.treasurydirect.gov/forms/sav1048.pdf

Credit Cards – American Express, 800-528-4800; Discover, 800-347-2683; MasterCard, 800-622-7747; Visa, 800-847-2911

Fitness Center



You can become a superhero!



You can run like the Wind!

Prepare for Income Tax Time

Changes have occurred that may affect your income tax liability. They include changes in exemption allowance, standard deduction and various credits. Plan ahead and make sure you are ready for the tax season.

Free tax preparation service is available for senior citizens and income eligible taxpayers at many sites throughout Michigan. Call the Tax Office (231-398-6874) after February 1, 2014 to get the phone number for a site near you. In the Manistee area, qualifying Tribal members can have their returns prepared at the Manistee Senior Center on Mondays from February 10th to April 14, 2014. Please call the Senior Center after January 20th at 231-723-6477 for an appointment.

Have Your Records Ready for Your Tax Prep Appointment

The following is a list of records you need to bring for your tax preparation appointment:

- Valid picture ID
- Copy of 2012 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, 2013. (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 2013
 - All 1099 Forms showing other income received in 2013 (Per Cap)
 - 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.)

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

Income Tax Reminder: Per Capita Payments are Taxable

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

Michigan Income Tax Reminder

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

Resident Tribal Members Can File For Annual Sales Tax Refund

If you are a Resident Tribal Member (living within the tax agreement area *and* registered with the Tax Office) you can receive a sales tax refund from the State of Michigan. There is no need to send in receipts. The refund is based on a percentage of the Resident Tribal Member's income. The Tax Office will be mailing Form 4013 to all Resident Tribal Members by the end of January. Call the Tax Office at 231-398-6874 if you are a Resident Tribal Member and do not receive Form 4013 for the Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit by the 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 2014. 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.

Biggest Weight Loss Winner

The final results are in:

Contestant	% of Loss	Winners
Roger Shalifoe	20.5%	50% = \$382
Jason Cross	15.9%	30% = \$229
Noelle Cross	13.1%	20% = \$153
Lee Ivinson	12.8%	
Kathleen Bowers	11.1%	

*Veggies Cool
Enough to EAT!*



We started off this competition with close to 30 contestants, we lost momentum as the holiday drew closer. This was a great challenge to run over the holidays as we all tend to enjoy those home cooked goodies. Stay tuned for our next challenge into the New Year. New Year: New You 2014!!! Our challenge this time raked in \$764 which is split amongst the top 3 winners. Way to go.

Shop with a Cop

Mudoo-Giizis (Spirit Moon)
January 2014 vol.11 Issue 1



The annual **Shop-With-A-Cop** program took place before the Christmas Holiday and the Tribal Police once again played a big part in this great program.

This year however, we want to highlight some of the preparations for this event that took place at the Aki Maadiziwin Community Center where some of our tribal ladies gathered to bake, decorate and package a whole lot of cookies for the participants.

One of the organizers, Lee Iverson from Members Assistance, sent out this message following the preparation: "I hope the kids and their families enjoy the cookies! (Cops and their little cookie snack too) They were made with lots of love and care. Please give a special thanks to Sandy Mezeske, she organized this get together!

The volunteers who helped out with the efforts were Sandy Mezeske, Connie Waitner, Bonnie Kenny, Lynn Saunders, Felisa Moore, Noelle Cross, Norma Hinkle and myself (Lee). The cookie dough was donated by Sysco, with the rest of the supplies donated by the group. Glenn Zaring came in for a photo shoot as well, so there will be pictures of the festivities in action!

It was truly a nice way to spend an afternoon doing something great for the community! Please extend our thanks and appreciation to the public safety officers who shop with the kids, it's always nice to see a positive program working in our community."

Thanks also to CO Janelle Cook for coordinating with our Bakers and picking up the cookies for delivery! Janelle reported that, "we had 20 kids... Ofc. Alexander; Ofc. Gilles; Ofc. Umlauf; Sgt. Medacco and myself from TPD...other departments were from Manistee City Police, Oaks Correctional Facility, Michigan State DNR Officer and the Michigan State Police. It was held at Kmart again!!....."

Good job LRBOI and thanks for helping make our community a better place!

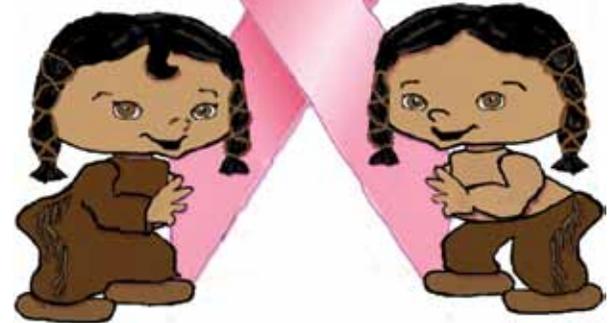
(Be sure and take a guess at matching the aprons with the ladies wearing them! Look at the last page to see if you were right!)



Greetings,
I would like to thank the following ladies who took time out their busy schedule's to bake cookies for the children who participated in the Shop With a Cop. A great big thank you goes out to: Sandy Mezeske (who organized the get together), Lee Iverson, Connie Waitner, Bonnie Kenny, Lynn Saunders, Felisa Moore, Noelle Cross and Norma Hinkle. These ladies baked 20 dozen cookies and decorated them for the children to take home for themselves and their families. The cookie dough was donated by Sysco and the supplies donated by the "Cookie Ladies"! Shop With a Cop was a big success this year and the children had a lot of fun!! Again Thank You so much ladies!!
Merry Christmas Everyone,
Officer Janelle Cook



7 Generations
We're in this together



Aanii all co-workers, I have a BIG request of all fellow employees. First, let me explain.

Last October, I found another lump, which was cancerous. I had the tumor removed end of November. A week before Christmas I was told I would need radiation and monthly injections. I immediately signed up to participate in the Chicago Breast Cancer Awareness walk in May. I wanted to last year, but did not get signed up in time.

For this walk, I need to raise \$1800. To donate, you can send personal check to me, made out to "Avon Walk for Breast Cancer" and I will sent to them, or go to www.avonwalk.org, click DONATE in bottom right, type my name - Terri Tyler- in name of participant, click find and put in your amount. Anything will be greatly appreciated. Monday, I started the first of my treatments, which will not be bad. Monthly injections for about 5 years and starting in a few weeks, daily radiation for 8 weeks.
Chi miigwech

Kchi Mnadending
Terri Tyler

www.avonwalk.org
Click DONATE
Type name - Terri Tyler

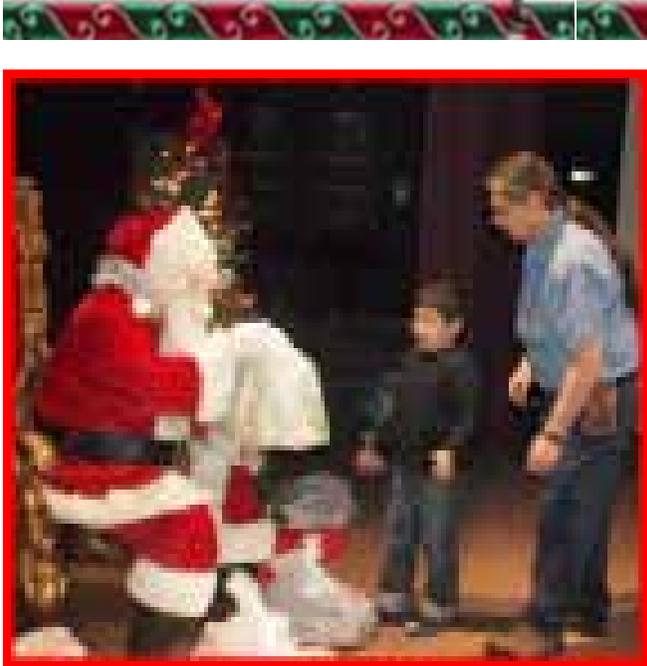
Children's Christmas Party

Mudoo-Giizis (Spirit Moon)
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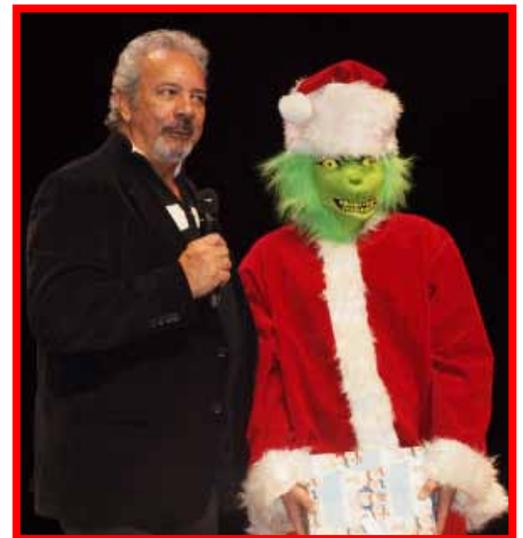
Children's Christmas Party

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Children's Christmas Party

Mudoo-Glizzis (Spirit Moon)
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Children's Christmas Party

Mndoo-Glitzis (Spirit Moon)
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Mary (Thomas), a big thank you for all the work you do for the children's party, it was the best ever from everything I have heard. Thanks to Angie (Stone) for all her help in the weeks before. Thanks to Diane (Lonn) and Carol (Gibner) for help with gifts, Damian (Fisher) for volunteering to get Santa to all the children, Glenn (Zaring) for photos and Jessica (Burger) for saying the prayer. Good job to all and all a good day!" Ogema Larry Romanelli

"What a wonderful Children Christmas Party. This was the Best Ever. The food was super and the gifts were great. A big thank you to Ogema Larry, for sponsoring this event! Many, Many thanks to Mary Thomas and Angie Stone for all the shopping and wrapping you guys did for over 400 kids. You are my Super Heroes!! Come wrap my presents! Thank you to all the volunteers and especially Santa and Grinch. Thanks again to Mary and Angie." (Diane A. Lonn, BA Enrollment Officer)

Old Admin Building used for training

November 14th, at night at the old Administration Tribal building across from Taco Bell, the Manistee City Fire Department and the Filer Township Fire Department trained together. The Filer Twp. Training Officer and 9-1-1 Director Jim Espvik reported that, "We did some venting on the roof and some trapped fire fighter training where Firefighters had to find a way out of the room under adverse conditions without using the door...which means going thru the walls." It was very useful training and the Fire Departments thanked the tribe for the use of building. This building is going to be demolished in the future.



Round Dance





Members Assistance

Mudoo-Giizis (Spirit Moon)
January 2014 vol.11 Issue 1

Mission Statement

“To strengthen and secure maximum independence for individuals and family members of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians by providing assistance services that meet the needs of the community.”

Vision

“Meeting the needs of our community and empowering our members through accessible and responsive services to promote self-sufficiency, quality of life, health status and wellbeing.”

Members Assistance Department Goals & Objectives

Goals

Meet the needs of the individual and/or family by providing programs for health and safety, continued utility service and other services requested by tribal members that are identified as a need or crisis. Maintain a quality relationship with the members of the Tribal Community. Utilize a centralized intake process for the Tribal Community to contact for program information and to receive prompt services and/or referrals

Objectives

- Promote health, safety, self sufficiency and personal growth in individuals and family members by providing confidential, consistent, effective and timely services to ensure the health and safety of eligible individuals/ families in need of assistance.
- Respond to all family support advocate's and referral requests to ensure the most assistance is provided to the eligible member and/or family in crisis or in need of assistance
- Advocate and/or provide funding for Indian specific programs to fill the needs of the local and at-large communities based on membership requests
- Inform membership of existing local and Tribal resources and coordinate service assistance.
- Network with tribal service departments and/or agencies to maximize utilization of services and information available to the members of the Tribal Community.
- Create and implement a centralized intake process accessible to service departments. This process will be utilized to compile information for case management, family needs assessment, referral and follow up, service tracking of funding provided to each individual.

FY2014 Members Assistance Department Programs

Programs are available in ALL STATES with the exception of the grant funded programs as noted in program listing. Programs are subject to availability of funding -

***Food Assistance Program**

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing a dietary/food crisis. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. If household is receiving food assistance from another agency, it is the responsibility of the applicant to verify with agency to ensure accessing this program will not affect current benefits. Submission of proof of purchase (receipts) is a requirement of this program.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household.
- Meet program eligibility
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Amount of assistance: Level of assistance is based on household income and the Assistance Matrix.

***Low Income Energy Assistance Program**

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing an energy crisis. Assistance may be accessed once per year. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Received a shut off notice from utility vendor
- Received a denial from an outside agency for utility assistance
- Amount of assistance: Level of assistance is based on household income and the Assistance Matrix.

***Elder Chore Assistance Program**

The Elder Chore Assistance assists elders age 55 and older. This program is intended to provide limited, short-term financial assistance to eligible Elder members who are disabled and are limited in their ability to perform routine household chores essential to their health and safety and have no other recourse for assistance.

There is no income requirement for this program. Elder must be a permanent member of the household and must provide proof of a permanent or temporary physical disability. Temporary disability shall be for no less than 30 days and shall be verified by documented evidence of temporary disability from a qualified mental health professional or medical professional. Permanent disability shall be verified by documented evidence from a qualified mental health professional or medical professional.

The assistance for elder chore services are identified in the categories below;

- *Snow Removal from drive way and sidewalks
- *Weather stripping around doors and windows
- *Grass cutting, leaf raking and removal, general clearing of debris around home
- *Gutter cleaning
- *General cleaning of the household including but not limited to dusting and cob web removal, vacuuming, trash removal, bathroom cleaning of toilets and water closets, dishwashing, laundry, scrubbing floors and walls, cleaning of appliances, washing windows, stripping and making of beds

*Circumstances that are outside the scope of items listed may be applicable to the program scope only if left un-serviced poses a threat to the health and safety of the elder.



Members Assistance

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Amount of Assistance – Level of assistance is based on Elder resources and the Assistance Matrix. Assistance amount is no less than 50% of the amount available.

If scope of assistance is beyond what the tribe can assist with there are referrals resources such as Area Agency on Aging, Community Action Agency and other agencies. If you are in need of assistance in accessing these services please contact the Members Assistance Department.

*Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and experiencing a housing crisis. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance

is subject to available funding. Program may be access once every two years. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Received demand for payment, eviction or foreclosure notice
- Relocation to affordable housing
- Relocation due to loss of housing due to natural disaster
- Relocation due to substandard housing as documented by an inspector
- If program has been accessed in the past, received a denial from an outside agency for assistance.
- Amount of assistance: Level of assistance is based on household income and the Assistance Matrix. Equivalent to one month's rent or mortgage payment not to

exceed program maximum program amount available to prevent or resolve housing crisis.

*Emergency Transportation Assistance

The Emergency Transportation Assistance Program assists members experiencing a transportation crisis.

Program scope for assistance is repair or replacement of mechanical and/or electrical items required for proper vehicle operation and maintenance of safety items.

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Vehicle ownership is in the name of the Tribal member or a residence verified permanent member of the household
- Vehicle must be insured and registered.
- Vehicle areas in need of repair meet the scope of the program.

Amount of assistance – Level of assistance is based on household income and the Assistance Matrix.

*Programs can be accessed by the Parent or Guardian of a member who has not reached the age of 18 or the legal guardian of a member who has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to require legal guardian over the person and/or affairs, provided that the guardian is not the State of Michigan or other state government. This information must be on file with the Enrollment Department.

THE FOLLOWING ARE GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS

Elder Meal Program - Title VI

The Elder Meal Program available at the Aki Community Center.

Meals will be served for lunch at noon Monday thru Thursday at the Aki Community Center located at 2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung Manistee, MI 49660

One very important component of keeping elders healthy in their homes and communities is providing nutrition services. Adequate nutrition is critical to health,

functioning, and quality of life. The purposes of nutrition services, activities and disease prevention education are:

- To reduce hunger and food insecurity;
- To promote socialization of older individuals; and
- To promote health and well-being by assisting older individuals to gain access to nutrition and other disease prevention and health promotion services to delay the onset of adverse health conditions.

Eligibility: Enrolled Tribal Elders age 55 and over. Also included in this eligibility are spouse of the eligible participant, handicapped or disabled individuals in the same household are eligible to participate when accompanying the Tribal Elder to the meal site. The meals are provided at NO CHARGE.

Guest Meals are available for individuals who would like to attend a meal with an eligible participant/Tribal Elder but do not meet eligibility guidelines. There will be a charge for the guest meal that is calculated according to the meal being served. Average cost is about \$5.00. This provision does not exclude Caregivers, In-Home Caregivers or Home Aides from paying for guest meals if they do not meet eligibility requirements.

Donations are acceptable and will be used for program activities and to purchase food. At no time are contributions required however the offer to contribute must be provided per program requirements.

Home Delivered Meals – (limited services and based on availability of volunteers) Elders should only be on the home delivered meal program if they are unable to leave their homes without great difficulty. Their inability to leave home may be because of illness, disability, or general frailty. Frailty means having a physical or mental disability that restricts the ability of an individual to perform normal daily tasks. This shall be determined by a mental health professional or medical professional.

Monthly Menu – the menu will be published in the Rapid River News, the Currents, posted in tribal buildings and posted on our website. Menu is subject to change at any time.

Beneficial Activities will begin activities in September and will include fun games, educational presentations on Elder health and wellbeing and other activities of interest to our Elders. The activities portion of the program is a collaborated effort with tribal service departments and outside service agencies; we are hoping to have a well blended number of events on the September Menu Calendar. This calendar will be mailed to all Elders whom have completed their Intake Form.

Registration is required to participate in the Elder Meal Program with initial intake processes taking place at this time. If you would like to participate in this program please contact Lee Iverson or Noelle Cross about this program. To complete the short intake process contact the Members Assistance Department or complete the form at the first meal you attend.



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The many benefits of this program will be evident with more participation by our Elders. To ensure this program continues there will be assessments conducted on participating elders. The data gathered from this process will assist us in gauging how the program is working and areas where improvements can be made.

*LIHEAP Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Heat Source – Natural Gas, Propane, Electric, Coal, Fuel Oil and Wood)

ATTENTION TRIBAL ELDERS – LIHEAP –

Cooling Assistance LIHEAP Component- Tribal Elders

This is a grant funded component of LIHEAP to provide assistance to Tribal Elders who meet the eligibility requirements, have a medical condition that require air conditioning during hot summer months, are experiencing an energy crisis due to additional energy burden to operate the cooling system and live in the 9 county service areas in Michigan. (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)

- Amount of assistance varies according to individual income level, number of family members and available funding.
- Medical condition and need for air conditioning must be certified and documented by medical professional.
- Assistance is available May 1, 2014 thru September 30, 2014.

NOTE** LIHEAP funds are available in all counties of Michigan, for the counties outside of the Tribal 9 county service areas the local Department of Health and Human Services in your county administers this program under their guideline rules. LIHEAP is also available in all states through their local Health and Human Services and Housing Authorities. Funding Cycle is Oct 1st thru Sept 30th – If you are in need of assistance it is important to contact the office as the need arises.

Well and Septic Program –

The Well and Septic is an Indian Health Services (IHS) funded program. This program promotes health and safety for our tribal members by providing new or renovated sanitation facilities (Well and Septic). This program is available in the nine county service areas. Applicant must be:

- Enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- Reside in the nine county service areas (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)
- Home must be the primary residence of applicant – (Reside in year around)
- Ownership of home/site must be in the tribal member's name.
- Project Site meets the I.H.S Eligibility Requirements.

A complete application and the supporting documents must be submitted in order to process any assistance request in a timely manner. Supporting documents are listed on the cover page of the application and are required at time of submission.

Please contact the Members Assistance Department for program information and/or to request an application. Applications and Program Regulations are available online at www.lrboi-nsn.com Members Assistance link

BIA Home Improvement Program – Applications being accepted at this time for the 9 County Services Areas. Please contact Lee Ivinson for more information.

Other Services:

- Referral assistance in finding assistance organizations and/or agencies to assist with needs that are not readily available or provided through tribal programs.
- Interdepartmental Referral Services that provided interdepartmental coordination and collaboration with tribal service departments when assisting members.
- MMAP assistance to Elders in need of Medicaid/Medicare Assistance -

PROGRAM FYI'S-

Incomplete applications will not be processed. In the event an application is inactive for 30 days it is closed. Please read the coversheet of application for all the required documents that must be submitted in order to process an application.

Copies of original documents should be sent with application, please do not sent originals. In order to keep costs down we will NOT return original documents.

Applications are processed in the order they are received. The process is in place to be impartial to all applications received into the department. Normal processing may take up to 5 days. LIHEAP has requirements outside of this period. If household has a pending shut off notice from a utility company. It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact the utility to discuss the situation. Most companies will give an extension and provide services to assist.

Household Budget Skills – Promoting Self Sufficiency- Currently this service is provided upon request. Future program access will prompt an initial budget review and an informative snapshot will be provided to applicant of current resources to expenses and tools to assist household in creating a realistic household budget. Continued tips and information will be provided in the Currents as well. In the event there is enough interest, this process may broaden into a more formalized program.

Department Personnel

Lee A. Ivinson – Members Assistance Coordinator
Linda Wissner – Program Specialist
Juli Duncil – Program Specialist
Noelle Cross – Elder Meal Program Administrator
Vacant – Cafeteria Worker

Phone: 231-723-8288 or Toll Free 888-723-8288
Office Hours Mon thru Friday 8 am to 5 pm
Closed for lunch hour 12pm – 1pm (Unless appointment is made in advance)

The LRBOI Tribal Clinic is now open at the Government Center



Aki Community Center Elder Meals Menu 2014



February

Depression is more common in the winter months. Socialization is proven to help with depression. Make an effort to spend time with friends, attend the Elders Meal Lunch and visit with other Elders. Pick up the phone and Chit chat with someone you haven't talked to in a while.

Please contact Noelle Cross with any questions Phone: 231-398-6886
E-mail: ncross@lrboi.com
Volunteers are needed to help with meals if interested please contact Noelle.

Meals served at 12 o'clock

- No Charge to Elders, their Spouse and Handicap/Disabled individuals who reside with Elder.
 - Guests Meals are \$5.00
- Donations are appreciated and will be used for program activities and food.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ FEBRUARY ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1. Elder's Monthly Meeting
2 	3 Hot Turkey Mashed Potato Winter Mix Veggie Sugar Free Cookie Language Class 12:30	4 Grilled Chicken Sandwich Macaroni Salad Lettuce & Tomato Mixed Fruit	5 Pork Roast Whipped sweet Potato Peas Jell-O Activity: Wii Bowling	6 Hamburger Sweet Tator Tots Corn Dessert	7	8
9	10 Fish Filet Potato Wedge Cole slaw Pudding Language Class 12:30	11 Beef Stroganoff Green Beans Pears Cookie	12 Savory Roasted Chicken Parsley Ricc Mixed Veggie Tapioca Activity: Wii Bowling	13 Pot Roast Red Potato Carrots Sherbet Activity: BINGO		15
16	17 Smothered Pork Chop Mashed Potato Peas & Carrots Strawberry Shortcake Language Class 12:30	18 Oven Fried Chicken Squash Apple Sherbet	19 Meatloaf Mashed Potato Broccoli Banana Activity: Wii Bowling	20 Salisbury Steak Roasted Potato Carrots Cake	21 Muskegon Meal Please RSVP with Noelle @231-398-6886	22
23	24 Chicken Tenders Mac n Cheese Creamed Corn Dessert Language Class 12:30	25 Vegetable Soup Grilled Cheese Fruit Pie	26 Sirloin Steak Mashed Potato Spinach Healthy Cheesecake Activity: Wii Bowling	27	28	
			Coffee, milk and water are available at every meal.		Menu subject to change with out notice. Meals meet 1/3 of the RDI based on a 1600 to 2000 calorie diet.	

Members Submissions

Mudoo-Glizis (Spirit Moon)
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You can send your Member Submissions to currentcomments@lrboi.com

January 2014 News Letter

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, 2013 & October 1, 2014

Household Size	Income Limits
1.	\$ 1,110.00
2.	\$ 1,445.00
3.	\$ 1,780.00
4.	\$ 2,126.00
5.	\$ 2,489.00
6.	\$ 2,852.00
7.	\$ 3,187.00
8.	\$ 3,522.00

For each additional member add \$ 335.00

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

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

Ashley Koop
Traea
Walter Scharand
Debroa Covington



Ted Theodore
To our 10 year wedding anniversary
To a great 10 years you have been a great wife.
Wishing you a happy birthday and on the 16th of January from you husband Ted

Miigwetch!
Miigwetch!
Miigwetch!



Our tribal friend from Indianapolis, Terry Webb and her friends in the Urban Indian League sent a nice package of toys up before the holiday for distribution to our little tribal folks. Thanks to Terry and the UIL for thinking of us at the holidays.



Occasionally, staff members at the tribal government have the opportunity to help outside agencies and groups in supporting members of our community.

Last month, Angela Shining Water Eagle in Public Affairs, created some Donor cards for Habitat for Humanity, a group that she is helping. Amy Wojciechowski, the Business Department Chair at West Shore College (and a key leader of the organization), said of the cards, "I absolutely love them!! I took them to our financial meeting and showed them off Wednesday. I also met for wreath making with Bree (another Board member) this weekend and left them with her. She thinks they are great as well.

Thank you so much for the terrific cards. You are very talented and we truly appreciate them and you!!!"

Other staff members such as Lee Ivinson and Barb Czarnecki, who serve on outside groups (Lee is on the 2-1-1 board and Barb does tax help for Elders) do a lot of good for the whole community. They deserve a round of applause because what they do also reflects well on our tribal community.



The LRBOI government staff (and our Manistee reservations' feathered residents) send a great big 'Thank You' to Yvonne Parsons and Deb Davis for feeding them during the winter weather out at the Government Center.



A note from the MAPS superintendent



I don't know who I should send this to, so I'm sending it to you (Public Affairs). I just saw Kenny Pheasant and we talked for a minute or so. I love that guy. He cares so much about kids - and humanity in general -and I always leave my interactions with him with a lasting smile on my face. ***I know the students love their time with him as well.*** John Chandler Superintendent

NOTICE: Language website not viewing correctly

From LRBOI Information Technology Department If you are using Internet Explorer version 11 only, you may experience problems with viewing the language website: www.anishinaabemdaa.com

*To view the language website correctly, please install either Mozilla Firefox or Google Chromebrowser by following one of these links.
<http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>
<https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/>

*Optionally, you can continue to use Internet Explorer, but please follow the steps below for using compatibility viewing.

1. Open Internet Explorer 11
2. Type in www.anishinaabemdaa.com in the address bar and press the enter key.
3. Click on the gear that is located in the upper right portion of the screen. The gear is next to the star and looks like this:
4. Select Compatibility View settings from the drop down menu.
5. The Add this website: box should already be filled in with [anishinaabemdaa.com](http://www.anishinaabemdaa.com) (if not type it in)
6. Click on the Add button
7. Click on the Close button
8. The website will refresh automatically and you should now be viewing the language website without any problems.



For additional resources and assistance on Stalking contact:
LRBOI Family Services
Department
Janeen Codden
Domestic Violence/Sexual
Assault Coordinator
jcodden@lrboi.com
231-398-6719

January is Stalking Awareness Month
DO NOT BE SILENT.
STALKING; KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

Mudoo-Giizis (Spirit Moon)
January 2014 vol.11 Issue 1

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a crime that affected 6.6 million victims in one year. According to the 1998 Department of Justice report *Stalking in America: Findings from the National Violence against Women Survey*. American Indian women in the United States are stalked at double the rates experienced by white women, according to several studies. Moreover one in every 12 women has been stalked in their lifetimes, and 31 percent of those women have been sexually assaulted by their stalker, Native women reported the highest rates of stalking, with at least 17 percent reporting that they were stalked in their lifetimes, compared to 8.2 percent of white women, 6.5 percent of African American women, and 4.5 percent of Asian-Pacific Islander women.

Stalking is a crime in all 50 states, the U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia, yet many victims and criminal justice professionals underestimate its seriousness and impact. In one of five cases, stalkers use weapons to harm or threaten victims, and stalking is one of the significant risk factors for femicide (homicide of women) in abusive relationships. Victims suffer anxiety, social dysfunction, and severe depression at much higher rates than the general population, and may lose time from work or have to move as a result of their victimization. “Most tribes do not have specific stalking laws. Those that do have a stalking statute may not have been updated in years and the methods in which a stalker can use to track their victim have substantially changed in the past 10 years”.

Stalking is difficult to recognize, investigate, and prosecute. Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime but a series of acts, a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalking may take many forms, such as assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary, or animal abuse, as well as unwanted cards, calls, gifts, or visits. One in four victims reports that the stalker uses technology, such as computers, global positioning system devices, or hidden cameras, to track the victim’s daily activities. Stalkers fit no standard psychological profile, and many stalkers follow their victims from one jurisdiction to another, making it difficult for authorities to investigate and prosecute their crimes. The Violence Against Women Act was recently re-

authorized (VAWA 2013), and included updates to various provisions, acts, and grants.

Federal Stalking law amended as follows: Presence added - “whoever travels in interstate or foreign commerce or is present within special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of US...” Intimidate added to list of intended actions - “with intent to kill, injure, harass, intimidate, or place under surveillance...” Emotional distress – changed to “causes, attempts to cause, or would be reasonably expected to cause substantial emotional distress...” Cyber stalking section added- “electronic communication service or electronic communication system of interstate commerce or any other facility of interstate or foreign commerce....” (Stalking Resource Center, 2013).

All communities that understand stalking, however, can support victims and combat the crime. If more people learn to recognize stalking and not be a silent observer, we have a better chance to protect victims and prevent tragedies. This January let us stand as a community and proclaim that stalking will not be tolerated here.

Connecting the Dots: The Challenges of Identifying and Responding to Stalking

Connecting the Dots: The Challenges of Identifying and Responding to Stalking

By Paul Schnell, Chief of Police, Maplewood Police Department, Maplewood, Minnesota; and Michelle M. Garcia, Director, Stalking Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime, Washington, D.C.

Stalking is a pervasive, dangerous, and—far too often—lethal crime. It is a crime that occurs at dramatically high rates; in a one-year period, 6.6 million individuals were stalked in the United States, and 1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men are stalked in their lifetimes. Stalking often co-occurs with other crimes such as threats, property damage, physical assault, domestic violence, and sexual assault. The risk of harm is very real for stalking victims—approximately 25 to 35 percent of stalking cases in-

volve some type of violence, and 3 out of 4 women murdered by an intimate partner were stalked in the year prior to their murder.

Similar to domestic violence and sexual assault, stalking is underreported. Only 37 percent of male and 41 percent of female stalking victimizations were reported to law enforcement by the victim or by someone else. There are numerous reasons why victims choose not to report stalking to law enforcement. Common reasons cited by victims include considering it a private or personal matter, reporting to another official, thinking of the incident as minor, lacking evidence, and believing that police would not think it was important or would be ineffective. Unfortunately, the last of these is not an unfounded belief—nearly 20 percent of stalking victims stated that police took no action when contacted.

Only 28 percent of stalking victims perceived that the situation got better after reporting to law enforcement, while 49 percent of victims reported that the situation stayed the same and 23 percent of victims reported that it got worse. In most cases, reporting stalking to law enforcement does not stop the behavior. Stalkers do not recognize or respect boundaries set by the victim, law enforcement, or the courts.

One study of stalking offenders found that recidivism, defined as target contact after intervention, occurred in 60 percent of cases. Another reason why victims do not report stalking to law enforcement is that the victim is unclear that a crime has occurred. This inability to identify the behavior committed by the stalker as a crime can be particularly challenging for victims.

It is easy to see how victims may fail to recognize these behaviors as crimes, given that many of the behaviors, in and of themselves, are not criminal acts. Showing up in public places, spreading rumors, and sending text messages or emails (absent a specific threat or in violation of a court order) are not crimes on their own. This under-identification of stalking also affects law enforcement and prosecutors. In two studies examining domestic violence cases, researchers found that in only 5 to 16 percent of identified stalking cases among re-

If you are a victim of stalking or know of someone who is a victim there is help available. Please report all incidences to:
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Department of Public Safety
3031 Domres Road
Manistee, MI 49660
231-398-3413
If an emergency call 911



ported domestic violence cases are the defendants actually charged with stalking.

The very nature of stalking can make it challenging for law enforcement to identify. One challenge is that stalking is a “course of conduct” crime. All stalking laws in the United States have an element requiring repeated conduct or contact. Statutory language varies across states with common language such as “on more than one occasion,” “two or more acts or occasions,” or simply “a series of acts” or “repeated acts.” Only one state, Delaware, requires three or more separate incidents. However, the law enforcement response to crime is largely incident based, which is incompatible with effective investigation of and intervention in stalking cases. Typically, law enforcement responds to a call for service, addresses that call, and then moves on to another call. The focus is on the specific incident that precipitated the call and not necessarily any behaviors or incidents that may have occurred previously. If an officer responds to a stalking victim’s call regarding a single non-threatening email and does not ask about any other behaviors or incidents experienced by the victim, there is no ability to meet the course of conduct requirement, and therefore, no ability to identify or charge stalking. For law enforcement to identify and successfully investigate stalking crimes, a paradigm shift is needed in how law enforcement responds to these types of reports. Law enforcement must connect the dots between all of the stalker’s actions.

Another challenge is that stalking laws require that the course of conduct cause the victim, or would cause a reasonable person, to experience emotional distress or fear. The challenge with the notion of emotional distress and fear is that they are subjective. What one person might view as harmless or benign might cause another person distress or fear. For example, responders or others might regard an ex-boyfriend sending cards, letters, or flowers to his former significant other as an annoying or harmless attempt to regain the attention of his former love interest. However, if the recipient of those communications and gifts

has taken repeated steps to cut off and avoid contact, then the behaviors are understandably distressing. To fully recognize the way the crime is perpetrated and experienced, officers need to understand the experience of the victim. Context is critical in stalking cases. Stalking behaviors are easily minimized when not viewed within the contexts they occur (i.e., from the victim’s perspective).

The minimization of stalking and related crimes occurs in a social context. Many stalking behaviors have been normalized and accepted as part of the process of growing up and learning about relationships. Stalking themes can be found in music, film, television, advertising, and other media, which usually portray the behavior as comedic or romantic. Law enforcement officials should be aware of this social context and demonstrate leadership by publicly discussing the crime’s serious realities. Police leadership plays an essential role in the effective prevention of and response to the crime of stalking.

What else can law enforcement do to respond more effectively to stalking? First, it is critical that agencies have comprehensive policies and protocols in place. Published policy provides guidance and direction to officers, investigators, and supervisors, in addition to making a clear statement about what is valued and deemed important. In 2002, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services published *Creating an Effective Stalking Protocol*, a monograph created by the Stalking Resource Center of the National Center for Victims of Crime. This publication provides a Model Stalking Protocol that summarizes the definitions of stalking and other legal considerations, the basic elements of response protocol, the roles of police communications personnel, graduated response strategies, and key elements in investigations of stalking cases. The protocol also acknowledges the complexity of the crime of stalking, establishes an early and effective response to stalking as a top priority, and recognizes that all jurisdictions have unique characteristics, processes, and allied partners that shape the response realities in a given community.

Second, law enforcement agencies must provide officers with current and practical stalking response training. Training must establish the prevalence and dynamics of stalking, with a focus on the importance of understanding the context in which the crime occurs, and also provide a basic awareness of the technology that is increasingly used to perpetrate it. Training should emphasize the need for complete and comprehensive investigations framed within a course of conduct response rather than an incident-based response. The investigations of these cases require strong partnerships between victims and police. The training should also provide reminders of ways police officers can maintain critical connections with stalking victims, with an emphasis on the importance of working with system- and community-based advocates.

Law enforcement effectiveness is enhanced by developing and fostering partnerships with other resources, as well. Given that stalking is so complex and dynamic, no single profession or agency can simultaneously address all the elements of this crime and the needs of victims. Partnerships between law enforcement, prosecutors, community corrections, mental and health care providers, and system- and community-based advocates, among others, are extremely beneficial. Particularly, strong advocacy and police partnerships can help victims with activities such as understanding their rights, securing protection orders, and safety planning.

A clear stalking response policy and sound training are practical ways to demonstrate the value of being victim-centered and offender-focused. Demonstrating this value makes law enforcement less likely to believe a case simply involves “a few inappropriate text messages.” Instead, victim perspectives are recognized as valid, and offender conduct is seen as spanning a broad continuum. However, this continuum can be understood only through thoughtful investigations that include detailed documentation.

Resource: Paul Schnell and Michelle M. Garcia, “Connecting the Dots: The Challenges of Identifying and Responding to Stalking,” The Police Chief 80 (December 2013): 62–64.

January is **Stalking** **Awareness Month**

DO NOT BE SILENT.

STALKING; KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

Madoo-Giizis (Spirit Moon)
January 2014 vol.11 Issue 1

STALKING SAFETY PLANNING

IF YOU REQUIRE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY!

Overview

Several murders of stalking victims have highlighted the fact that people who stalk can be very dangerous. Stalkers can threaten, attack, sexually assault and even kill their victims. Unfortunately, there is no single psychological or behavioral profile that can predict what stalkers will do. Stalkers' behaviors can escalate, from more indirect ways of making contact (e.g. sending email or repeated phone calling) to more personal ways (delivering things to the victim's doorstep or showing up at their work). Many victims struggle with how to respond to the stalker. Some victims try to reason with the stalker, try to "let them down easy" or "be nice" in hopes of getting the stalker to stop the behavior. Some victims tell themselves that the behavior "isn't that bad" or other sentiments that minimize the stalking behavior. Other victims may confront or threaten the stalker and/or try to "fight back." These methods rarely work because stalkers are actually encouraged by any contact with the victim, even negative interactions. Victims of stalking cannot predict what stalkers will do but can determine their own responses to the stalking behavior. Personal safety and harm prevention is of the utmost importance for victims. While victims cannot control the stalking behavior, they can be empowered to take steps to keep themselves, family and loved ones safe. The creation of a safety plan can assist victims in doing this.

Stalking Safety Plan - What is it?

A safety plan is a combination of suggestions, plans, and responses created to help victims reduce their risk of harm. It is a tool designed in response to the victim's specific situation that evaluates what the victim is currently experiencing, incorporates the pattern of previous behavior, and examines options that will positively impact the victim's safety. In a safety plan, the factors that are causing or contributing to the risk of harm to the victim and her/his loved ones are identified and interventions are developed.

Advocates and Stalking Safety Planning

While victims can make safety plans on their own, it is often helpful to enlist the assistance of trained professionals. These professionals, including advocates and law enforcement officers, can help a victim determine which options will best enhance their safety and will work to devise a safety plan to address each unique situation and circumstance. Victim advocates can be found in local domestic violence and rape crisis programs, as well as in victim assistance programs in local prosecutors' offices and in some law enforcement agencies.

Stalking Safety Plans - What to Include

When safety planning, victims can consider what is known about the stalker, the people who might help, how to improve safety in one's environment, and what to do in case of an emergency. The average stalking case lasts approximately two years; therefore safety planning must begin when the victim first identifies the stalking behavior and continue throughout the duration of the case. Safety plans need to be re-evaluated and updated continuously as the stalker's behavior, the victim's routines, and access to services and support changes.

Below are suggestions to consider when developing a stalking safety plan. This is not an exhaustive list. In a safety plan, any recommended strategy must focus on what the victim feels will work in her best interest at any given point in time. Victims are encouraged to keep a log of all stalking behaviors including e-mails and phone messages. The log, as well as any gifts or letters the stalker sends the victim, can be collected and used as evidence. The evidence will help prove what has been going on if the victim decides to report the stalking to the police or apply for a protective order.

Rely on Trusted People

Many victims have found simple ways to make the stalking affect them less. They may ask someone else to pick up and sort their mail, get a second phone number given only to trusted people, or have people at work or school screen phone calls or inform the police if the stalker shows up. Relying on trusted friends and family is important for victims of stalking to help keep victims safer and also reduce the isolation and feelings of desperation that stalking victims may experience.

Stalking Safety Tips

- If possible, have a phone nearby at all times, preferably one to which the stalker has never had access. Memorize emergency numbers, and make sure that 911 and helpful family or friends are on speed dial.
- Treat all threats, direct and indirect, as legitimate and inform law enforcement immediately.
- Vary routines, including changing routes to work, school, the grocery store, and other places regularly frequented. Limit time spent alone and try to shop at different stores and visit different bank branches.
- When out of the house or work environment, try not to travel alone and try to stay in public areas.
- Get a new, unlisted phone number. Leave the old number active and connected to an answering machine or voicemail. Have a friend, advocate, or law enforcement screen the calls, and save any messages from the stalker. These messages,

particularly those that are explicitly abusive or threatening, can be critical evidence for law enforcement to build a stalking case against the offender.

- Do not interact with the person stalking or harassing you. Responding to stalker's actions may reinforce their behavior.[1]
- Consider obtaining a protective order against the stalker. Some states offer stalking protective orders and other victims may be eligible for protective orders under their state's domestic violence statutes.
- Trust your instincts. If you're somewhere that doesn't feel safe, either find ways to make it safer, or leave.

Safety at home

- Identify escape routes out of your house. Teach them to your children.
- Install solid core doors with dead bolts. If all keys cannot be accounted for, change the locks and secure the spare keys. Fix any broken windows or doors.
- Have a code word you use with your children that tells them when they need to leave.
- Inform neighbors and, if residing in an apartment, any on-site managers about the situation, providing them with a photo or description of the stalker and any vehicles they may drive if known. Ask your neighbors to call the police if they see the stalker at your house. Agree on a signal you will use when you need them to call the police.
- Pack a bag with important items you'd need if you had to leave quickly. Put the bag in a safe place, or give it to a friend or relative you trust.
- Consider putting together a "stalking sack" that includes the stalking log, a camera, information about the offender, etc.

Safety at work and school

- Give a picture of the stalker to security and friends at work and school.
- Tell your supervisors. They have a responsibility to keep you safe at work.
- Ask a security guard to walk you to your car or to the bus.
- If the stalker contacts you, save any voicemails, text messages, and e-mails.
- Give the school or daycare center a copy of your protective order. Tell them not to release your children to anyone without talking to you first.
- Make sure your children know to tell a teacher or administrator at school if they see the stalker.
- Make sure that the school and work knows not to give your address or phone number to anyone.
- Keep a copy of your protective order at work.

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Tribal member Chris Campeau of Whitehall harvested this 21 pound bobcat in Muskegon County December 2, 2013.



David Crane, Sr LRBOI member
My big brother got his bear and I'm very proud and one of the world to know! He blesses so many and is on quiet way..
I love you brother, Tresa



George Zinn harvested 5 point and a 7 point buck in Muskegon County.



Ludington resident and LRBOI tribal member, Harold (Boyde) Nelson shot this 9 point buck on Tuesday afternoon. This deer had four brow tines.



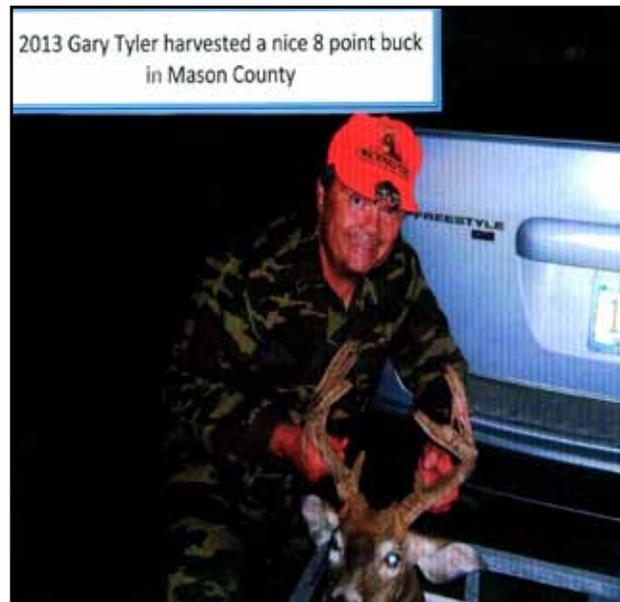
Here he is pictured with the deer and his son David Nelson also a Ludington resident and lrboi tribal member.



Corey Wells harvested a cow elk on December 10, 2013. The elk dressed out to 250 lbs.
Congratulations Cory!



2013 Gary Tyler harvested a nice 8 point buck in Mason County



The 2014 Huron and Manistee National Forest Passes are now available from the Natural Resources Department.