Tribal Waste Water Collaboration

It’s not often that a number of governments with adjoining jurisdiction can work together with positive outcomes, but in 2015 such a deal occurred when the tribal government of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians reached agreement with Manistee Township to start handling their waste water treatment through our state-of-the-art facility. This month, a ground-breaking ceremony was held commemorating working together.

What’s going on at the resort?

Little River Casino Resort General Manager Ron Pete has started a monthly update for the membership.

See the first column in this issue of the Currents on page 3.

TBTN coming in September

The Take Back the Night Domestic Violence Awareness event is coming up soon and it’s a great chance to meet the new program coordinator and see her fresh approach to this problem that causes pain to so many.

Fall Teachings at LRBOI

The Fall Fire & Anishinaabe Lifeways Teachings are coming up prior to the Fall Membership Meeting in October. Please see the flyer on page 6 as well as some teachings and thoughts on page 10. Be sure to join us for teachings which will be for all ages.
Aanii:
It’s been a very busy several months for Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. The Manistee Sewer Project is underway and anyone driving US 31 south of our Little River Casino Resort will see much activity for several miles. The project will help infrastructure and bring in more development to the north end of Manistee. LRBOI is a proud partner in this very important project.

Our Annual Pow Wow, Language Camp and Youth Camp were recently held with all being successful. Kchi Miigwetch to everyone involved. More information inside this Currents. Little River Casino Resort is also under a major renovation project which began within the past couple months and expected to be completed in Spring of 2016. See more in this edition of Currents.

Last month, the annual Bike Time event was held on our Muskegon tribal property. This event brings in motorcyclists from around the country and helps raise money for a wide variety of local charities. The event moved from a downtown Muskegon location to offer a wider variety of shows. While the move wasn’t without some hiccups, it is still being deemed a success and work is underway to make additional improvements for next year. The three day event started slow but quickly expanded to an oversized crowd of thousands enjoying Lynard Skynard on Saturday night.

The Hilt’s Landing Grand opening happened within the last couple months and Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is firmly represented for years to come in this West Michigan project which is expected to draw thousands of visitors annually. The project which takes visitors through the history and our people even before Michigan became a state. Several acres of land were used to create this walking attraction.

Recently, our Little River Trading Post C-Store gas station added a deli expansion which seems to be doing very well with the work of the Store Manager Jamie Friedel and his crew. Miigwetch! Over the past few months, the Government has been working to fill several key department director level positions which have been vacant for some time. The 2016 government budget discussions are in full swing.

Tribal Council has agreed to try and hold some tribal Council meetings on a Saturday so that more people can attend. The first meeting of this was held on Saturday August 8th. More are planned for the future.

Our Muskegon Casino Project is still moving forward and the paperwork we submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Minneapolis Minnesota earlier this year has now moved to some offices in Washington DC, but much work still needs to be done. It is our hopes that within a short time, a Notice of Intent will be published to give people a chance to give their thoughts on the effort and keep the effort moving forward to completion. To date we’ve continued to have great support on this very important long-term project.

Our Commodities Department has been moved and renovated. Our Lagoon Project is nearing completion, and several other projects in the works which we will report on as soon as is possible.

I want to congratulate Ron Pete as the new General Manager of the LRCR and Connie Waitner as the new Assistant General Manager. Both are longtime management employees of the Resort.

The Resort Management, Ogema, and Tribal Council are looking at restoration of some of the benefits that were reduced last year and should have some information by the Fall Membership Meeting.

We continue to support the Grand Rapids Whitewater Project at the request of Grand Rapids Mayor, George Heartwell who is retiring at the end of this year after a very successful time in office. The mayor and I have known and worked together over a 30+ year span on a variety of projects. This project will restore the “rapids” to the Grand River which runs directly through the City of Grand Rapids and seems only fitting given the fact that the city was named for them. It will also provide a great habitat for sturgeon which is why we were called in to assist. Also a reminder that our Annual Sturgeon Release at Rainbow Bend will happen on September 12th at 1:00PM.

In closing, I hope everyone enjoys the remaining good Summer and soon Fall weather. Until next month…

Muskegon First Meeting

"July 21st, Ogema Larry Romanelli, Tribal Council Speaker Virg Johnson and Public Affairs Director Glenn Zaring attended a meeting of the Muskegon First group at the Chamber of Commerce offices in downtown Muskegon. They were assisted by Donna Halinski from MRG out of Lansing.

They were there to share an update on the Muskegon development progress and to address other areas where the tribal government works with other units of local government to help all residents of the area.

The assembled City, County and Township officials were all taken with the passion for Muskegon demonstrated during the presentation as well as the extraordinary efforts that the tribe is taking in their pursuit of the gaming facility."
From the Desk of the GM

Aanii. My name is Ron Pete, Odenaa Anishinaabe, the “place where Native hearts are gathered.” It is my honor to address you here today.

The purpose of this column is to better inform our citizens as to what is happening at the resort that directly impacts us. For many years I have noticed that there has been a gap in the communication of vital information as it relates to the gaming enterprise that our citizens need to be aware of. Going forward it is my intent to inform you on a monthly basis utilizing the Little River Currents “From the Desk of the GM” column.

As you know, we are currently underway with the construction project to update the existing facilities as well as add amenities to our property. This will directly correlate to increased distribution and benefits to our citizens. With this in mind, I am moving forward with a proposal to the Board of Directors to bring back some of our Tribal benefits such as reinstating half-off discounts for food outlets at the casino, and discounts on rooms at the hotel. In addition, I propose extending a 20% off discount to Tribal Government employees and discounts for all Tribal Government functions, such as Tribal Membership meetings, Elders Meetings, Christmas Parties and use of Conference Facilities.

All of this is being done in an effort to allow our membership to enjoy the benefits that we all deserve as citizens and owners of this elegantly casual resort that we are so proud of.

It is my intention as the General Manager of the Little River Casino Resort to bridge the gap between the Tribal Government, the Little River Casino Resort and the Citizens of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. This is the first step toward a bright new future of shared purpose.
Dear Larry (Ogema Romanelli),

I wanted you to know that I shared a few words in memory of Robertba at our forum this week. As you know, he was a big part of our program for several years, and always participated on a panel. I thought it was appropriate to do it before our panel on Regional Collaboration for Tribal Economic Development, as he certainly would have participated on that panel had he been there. Following my words, Frank Ettawageshik asked everyone to stand and sang an impromptu song for Robertba, and it was just beautiful. We all miss him, but no one forgets him. I had never heard Frank sing before in all the years I have known him.

(The following is a copy of a tribute to Robert distributed at the conference:)

Remembering Robert Memberto

For 2015 Tribal Economic Forum
T. Fitzpatrick

Robert Memberto walked on last year over 4th of July and Pow Wow weekend in Manistee. He was the Director of Commerce for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, a proud tribal citizen, and a US Army veteran member of the Tribal Warrior Society. He was 42 years old and left a wife and 7 children.

Robert wore many hats, but we remember him here today for his work in furtherance of tribal economic development, his collaborative spirit, and his life-long focus on the advancement of Indian people.

Robert and I had a recurring discussion for many years that I remember fondly – we would be talking about a project or a problem, and often we would look at each other and ask the same question, “Is he (or they) doing it for Indian people?”, and then we would laugh, because if we were asking that question – probably not.

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Robert wore many hats, but we remember him here today for his work in furtherance of tribal economic development, his collaborative spirit, and his life-long focus on the advancement of Indian people.

Friend to this forum and our collective economic diversification efforts, he was always willing to share and help in any way he could, and generous with his time and resources. He even hosted our first inter-tribal economic developers meeting at Little River. He believed in the power of inter-tribal collaboration, and fostered relationships with many of us here working toward the same goals.

Robert and I both started working in Indian country in the early 90’s. And he was always smart, entertaining, unpredictable, and yes, even a little scary – you just never knew what he was going to do or say! You just knew that it would be with passion.

He had a great sense of humor and could throw you a zinger before you even had time to take a breath. He had a talent for both frustrating you and making you laugh at the same time. In the way that only Robert could, he once told me not to bring a tennis racket to a lacrosse game. I still have no idea what he was talking about. But if you listen, you can hear him saying it. And he said a lot of other interesting things that just aren’t appropriate for this forum.

He had a mind like a steel trap and never forgot a thing. He knew every section of the various state-tribal agreements, state and federal law impacting tribes, and more. He mixed his institutional knowledge with creative thinking, and it was a powerful cocktail.

Robert was the same person whether he was meeting with the Governor or talking to a janitor. Perhaps that is why so many showed up at his memorial. He was a formidable opponent, a loyal supporter, and a dear friend – and always, always, respected.

Robert was a true collaborator for the sake of getting things done. He just didn’t have much time for idle chat. And collaborate he did! There were more than 700 people at his memorial service – friends and family from his own community, several tribes, and various governmental agencies and elected officials, including the Governor’s office. It seemed like everyone there said that they had just talked to him – and they probably did.

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A major Manistee area collaborative project began today with the ground-breaking for a Waste Water treatment project between the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, a Native Sovereign Nation and Manistee Township just north of the City of Manistee.

In keeping with environmental responsibility and love of our lands and waters, both which are guiding principles for the tribal nation, the tribal government built a state-of-the-art waste water treatment facility and has expanded its facilities over the last three years. The facility is located upon tribal trust lands.

After successful completion of the facility earlier this year, the tribe has begun partnering with other municipalities to assist them in properly handling waste water and cutting down on pollution of our critical clean water assets. Manistee Township is the first municipal partner.

This afternoon, an official ground-breaking ceremony to begin the project was held near the intersection of US 31 and M 22. This site is near the connection point for the waste lines to be laid going out to the Tribal Utility Plant on Dontz Road. Lines will be laid going South and Southwest along US 31 all the way down to the intersection with M55 allowing for easy tap on by businesses and residents in Manistee Township.

The project, which began when Robert Memberto (deceased 2014) was Commerce Director for the tribe, is a cooperative effort involving many agencies beyond just the governments of the tribe and township. Robert was key to bringing together agencies such as the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; The Michigan Economic Development Corporation; Michigan Department of Transportation; the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alliance for Economic Success. He led them all to be cooperatively involved in ensuring that the project was done properly and that it would guarantee improved service into the future.

Tribal Utility Director Gary Lewis was the leader in creation of the Utility Plant in such a fashion as to be able to offer effective waste treatment services to other communities. Lewis has been recognized as a leader in this science by the Native American Water Association.
Calling all Little River Tribal Artists!

The Little River Casino Gift Shop would love to proudly display and sell your hand made art. Whether you bead, weave, or draw, all forms of arts and crafts are being sought to sell in the Gift Shop. Beginning the second week in July, (14th), between 9:00 am and 12:00pm, you may schedule an appointment to show off your wares. If chosen, items can be consigned immediately. Please call Sarah Brown or Andrea Krause at 231-398-3903 to schedule an appointment. Exciting things are happening here at LRCR Gift Shop.
For 2015, the Bike Time organization in Muskegon (http://muskegonbiketime.com/) contracted with the tribal government to use the Racetrack property in Fruitport Township as a venue for their well-respected Harley Davidson motorcycle event. The event ended up spread over more than 40 acres and it went on for 4 days including evening entertainment at a massive outdoor stage.

Ogema Romanelli, who arranged for the lease, gave a report to Tribal Council on July 22nd. The organizers had decided to move out of the city this year from downtown Muskegon and go to the tribes’ property in Fruitport where they felt there was more space and a greater opportunity for the 80,000 to 100,000 bikers who come for the event.

Councilor Gary DiPiazza commented upon the attendance and said that, “It was a constant stream of people (coming in) and very few going out.” DiPiazza said that he agreed with the Ogema that it was a very exciting event” and it was difficult to judge accurate numbers of attendance.

Speaker Virg Johnson had the opportunity to meet (with the Ogema) and the organizers on the following Tuesday and he reported how he spoke to a few bikers who had attended and who told him that they enjoyed the event. He said, “They had already booked their rooms for next year to start in Muskegon (at the bike events) and then come up to the Little River Casino Resort next year.”

The Bike Time event got off to a slow start Thursday but grew constantly. Entertainment was a big part of the draw and it began with Night Ranger on Thursday, the Fabulous Thunderbirds on Friday and Lynyrd Skynyrd on Saturday where it was, ‘wall-to-wall people’. Romanelli said that he talked to event security who reported that even they could not move from side-to-side because the crowd was so big.

The Little River Casino Resort had a prominent tent just inside the entrance to Bike Time and many signs and banners around the stage area (see the photos for examples). The Ogema thanked the casino and government staff who attended for a job well done. Also at the event, petitions were circulated regarding support for the Muskegon Casino being planned by the tribe. Over 300 valid signatures were obtained on the petitions.
22nd Annual Anishinaabe Language & Culture Camp

(Camp Report: Jonnie J. Sam, Tribal Historical Preservation Director) First of all, the Historic Preservation Department says Kchi-migwech to all of the volunteers that helped this past weekend: Melanie and Mike Ceplina and their children Ben and Kateri, Chuck Fisher, Janine Sam, Zhaawan and Nimkkins Sprague, Brian Bower, Izzy Burger, Keith Sam, Bishop and DayDay Davis, Jennifer Crampton, Nadine Pheasant, Jeremiah Pheasant, and Trisha & Steve Knauf. All of the volunteers were great, including the Little River Casino Resort staff, and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Maintenance and Janitorial staff. Of course the support of the Ogema and Council for this event ensures it takes place. Our apologies to anyone we may have forgotten. Neither can the support and pre-event activities and at the event efforts of the Department staff be forgotten.

The staff took one year to build; it is purple in color with beadwork on it, seven black-tipped eagle feathers with a little leather pouch at the top with two little stones in it that represent the male and female of our Anishinaabe people that attended Residential schools. The stones came from a residential school in Canada. The wood represents Oos (father), the sleeve represents Gashi (mother), and the eagle feathers represent Niijaanisak (children/offspring). The top eagle feather represents the oldest male Mijiikwis of the family and the bottom represents the oldest female Mijiikwewis of the family. The name of the healing staff is “Noojimowin Mgizi Aatig” and was presented just before the Grand Entry of the Camp’s Jiingtamok.

The evaluations received provided many comments, including: going back to a three-day camp, praise on the recycling that was done, the language website was mentioned several times, some disappointment that there was no talent show this year, some concern about the low number of guests, and that some could not afford the room rates at the Resort.

The Jiingtamok was a great time also. We had three drums: Nizh Mshiikenh from Cheboygan, Urban Nation from Manistee, and Waasawaanagen from Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. Our Head Veterans’ name was Kelly Groszczcky. She is from Wisconsin and served in the US Army, Iraq War. Our Head Dancers were Marty Wabindato and Teresa Johnson, both Little River Band citizens from Manistee, and they looked like two wedding cake ornaments.

The Historic Preservation Department extends a special Miigwech to Tribal Councilors Shannon Crampton, Joe Riley, Jessica Burger, Virgil Johnson, Ron Wittenberg, Marty Wabindato, and Tribal Council staff member Grace Hendler, who all came to serve food to our guests.

We also look forward to next year. (See the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Facebook page for more pictures of the Language & Culture Camp, the teachings, activities and especially the ‘dressing of the Healing Eagle staff).
(Editors’ note: The Currents was asked to present a teaching concerning the tribal way to handle the passing of a loved one. The following was offered by LRBOI Historical Preservation Director, Jonnie J. Sam)

“There is no one way that families handle the passing of someone to the next world. Some have the body cleaned and prepared by the women, then have it present for a wake during the (four) days before burial celebrating the life with feasts (often from donated food from the community, or prepared by the family) and sharing stories and prayers/songs. Others prep the body and use a funeral home, with a fire lit and feast at the end of the process. Many have a feast a year later to celebrate the person’s reaching the other side.

In the case of requesting a fire for the four days of the passing ceremonies, someone from the family seeks a fire keeper out and asks that they start the fire (and also tend it if not assisted) with the gift of semaa. The fire keeper will decide if they can do the service, and if they can light the fire. The family is expected to provide medicine plants, wood, water and food to the fire keeper(s), and a place for the fire. (The Tribe does have a fire lodge, but the fire should be where the family can visit and assist.)

The family members are encouraged to assist by family men making time to tend the fire, women to visit. (It often assists in the grieving process). Once the fire is over the family may give small gifts to the fire keeper(s) for their service. Sometimes the fire keeper approached can’t dedicate themselves to the fire (or can’t get support from others) and they may say no. If saying no they may seek or suggest others to light and tend the fire.

So Basically -

The family of the deceased finds a fire keeper they know (or that someone recommends) and offers semaa (tobacco) to them for lighting and tending a fire. The Fire should be near the family, or a place the family can visit easily (Sometimes at a family member’s home etc.). It is anticipated the family will provide wood, the four medicines, food, water and persons to be at the fire. It is not automatic that a fire is lit when someone dies. There is the process of seeking someone to tend the fire on behalf of the family.

Fire keepers may say no, but should attempt to assist in finding someone to replace them. When they agree it is the fire keeper who will light the fire and tend it for the length of the fire (or arrange tenders for the fire)."

“Try and try again

Did you know that the current Tribal seal that we use is actually a third version?

The river on it is because we made our living most by hunting, fishing, and trapping along the river’s. The Manistee, Pere Marquette, Pentwater, White, Muskegon, Grand, Thornapple, and Kalamazoo Rivers.

It is shown in all three Tribal Seals.

The four-sacred colors of our Tribe are - red, black, white, and yellow.

The circle stands for all things that are around like the sun and the moon. Mother Earth turns in a circle, we dance in a circle, the birds make their nests in circles, and the circle of life.

The reasoning is that yellow symbolizes new beginnings and that is the direction in which the Tribe needs to look. Red is for how we grow. Black means is time to rest let our bodies relax and change. White represents our elders and the wisdom they bring us. The nine feathers mean the nine Bands that make our tribe.

Did you know there was so much in one little seal that we see so often?

How we use the language!

Try and try again

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Did you know there was so much in one little seal that we see so often?
Tekakwitha: Making Things Right
Patron of our Mother Earth
Saturday, October 24, 2015
9:30 AM—4:30 PM
Cooney Conference Center
611 West North Street • Gaylord, MI

Please join together for a day filled with faith and discovery!

Schedule for the day

9:30 AM  Registration
10:00 AM Opening Prayer: Mr. Tony Davis
10:15 AM Healing the Hurt by Deleta Smith, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa
11:15 AM  Break
11:30 AM  Talking Circles
          Noon  Mass celebrated by Bishop Steven J. Raica - Lunch follows
1:15 PM Bridging the Gap through Music and Storytelling—Darlene and Terry Wildman (Rainsong)
2:15 PM  Break
2:30 PM  Belonging: Family, Tribe, Church
3:00 PM  Talking Circles
3:45 PM  Sending Forth

Please mail or email this completed form by October 16, 2015 to:
Native American Conference Registration
St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish
P.O. Box 504
Suttons Bay, MI 49682
or email to:
sgardner@dioceseofgaylord.org
231.271.6651

REGISTRATION FORM
Please duplicate this form for each registrant. Please print.

NAME______________________________________________
ADDRESS____________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP_______________________________________
PHONE______________________________________________
EMAIL______________________________________________
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.

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.

LRBOI Program Services Guide

Public Affairs is getting ready to do an update to the Program Services Guide. One of the questions is do you use the printed copy or just access the one on the website? Please send a note to currentscomments@lrboi-nsn.gov and let us know which you use.

If we can avoid having to print them, it saves the tribe money!

Miigwech,
Glenn Zaring

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 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

Available job openings can also be found at all LRBOI Tribal Government buildings, in LRBOI Tribal Newsletters and at Michigan Works!

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

LRBOI Warriors Society

The Committee consist of the following:

Commander- John Shano
Vice Commander- Vacant
Secretary - Virgil Johnson
Treasurer - Vacant
Sargent of Arms - Chuck Nelson
Chaplin- Raymond Zeeryp

The Warrior Society is ever looking for Tribal Member Warriors to honor and support. If you or someone you know would like to attend any meetings, events, or join, please contact allWarriorSociety@lrboi.com
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 online, 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
Tribal Government Buildings
Global E-Mail
Michigan Works Offices or Website
By Calling the H.R. Department

What about Temporary work?
Send in or drop off your “temporary” or pace “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:
L.R.B.O.I. Human Resources
2608 Government Center Road
Manistee, Michigan 49660

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L.R.B.O.I. Human Resources
2608 Government Center Road
Manistee, Michigan 49660

Vouchers for Newly Hired Tribal Citizens

LRBOI Tribal Citizens at least 18 years of age who are newly hired at a new employer and within 30 days of your hire date, you may qualify for a Career Assistance Voucher of $200.00 and/or an Employment Daycare Assistance Voucher of $250.00 through the LRBOI Workforce Development Program. If you are a new hire, please contact the Workforce Development Specialist within 30 days of hire at 231-398-6842, toll free at 1-888-723-8288 extension 6842, or by e-mail at dhawley@lrboi-nsn.gov.

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Vendors Indian Preference

The Tribe’s Purchasing Office maintains a vendor resource database that enables the Tribe to identify vendors who can supply products and services for the Tribe’s needs. The database is organized by service and product categories, so it is important that vendors describe their products and services.

The Tribe gives preference to Native American owned and operated businesses. Indian preference will be given only to bidders who provide proof of preference status to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indian’s Purchasing Office. For complete information on how you can receive certification for your business and have your business listed in the Tribe’s vendor database, please contact the Little River Band of Ottawa Indian’s Purchasing Office.
Just over a year ago, the President and First Lady sat in a small classroom on the Standing Rock Sioux Nation in North Dakota with a group of six Native American youth. When they left that room, the President and First Lady were moved and inspired. Hearing the stories of hardship the youth had to face and overcome, and the trials that so many other Native children face, the President asked his staff to find new avenues of opportunity for Native youth. The Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) Initiative was launched on the heels of this visit.

The Gen-I initiative focuses on improving the lives of Native youth through new investments and increased engagement. This initiative takes a comprehensive, culturally appropriate approach to ensure all young Native people can reach their full potential.

On Thursday, July 9, we were incredibly proud to welcome more than 1,000 Native youth from all over the country — representing 230 tribes from 42 states — to Washington, D.C., for the first ever White House Tribal Youth Gathering. First Lady Michelle Obama spoke to the youth about their promise and their important role as leaders — making sure they know they have allies at the highest levels.

"Everyone in this room has your back. Everyone who's speaking at this Summit — all those Cabinet Secretaries, all those powerful people who have come here for you — they have your back. And you definitely have a President and a First Lady who have your back." — First Lady Michelle Obama

The Tribal Youth Gathering brought Native youth together with members of the Cabinet, senior White House officials, federal agency staff, and nonprofits. Native youth were encouraged to take action and to value their voices and perspective.

The gathering wasn’t just about listening. Rather, it was about spurring action and change. Every participant completed the White House Native Youth Challenge, creating a project designed to spark positive change within their communities. The ideas we received were moving and innovative, providing a small example of the desire of so many Native youth to help their communities succeed. One student wants to teach young girls in her tribe to sing Native songs using hand drums — creating opportunities to learn about their history and culture. Another aims to teach his Tribal elders about technology — helping them access programs and resources. And one student plans to have 100 Native students write letters of hope with stories of overcoming obstacles to raise awareness about suicide prevention. This kind of leadership at such a young age gives us great hope for the next generation of Native leaders.

Secretary Burwell, Attorney General Lynch, Secretary Jewell, Secretary Castro, Administrator McCarthy, Cecilia Muñoz, Director of the Domestic Policy Council, and Senator Heidi Heitkamp joined youth to discuss healthcare, public safety, and youth opportunity. In conjunction with the Youth Gathering, the Administration announced commitments to continue supporting Native youth, including through higher education grants, health and mentoring initiatives, and expanded economic opportunity. Youth also took part in a technology innovation fair. The reception featured a panel discussion with Native basketball player Jude Schimmel and a performance by Canadian music group A Tribe Called Red.

At the conclusion of the gathering, Native youth were empowered to use the networks they built with peers to better their local communities. Native youth were also encouraged to connect with each other through the National Native Youth Network — a White House effort in partnership with the Aspen Institute’s Center for Native American Youth and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

This gathering was planned and implemented with the help and input of Native students — and it showed. The discussions were honest and substantive. Students were engaged and eager to offer their thoughts. Friendships were made and bonds forged. And a federal commitment to Native youth was renewed.

The day after the Gathering, the National Lieutenant Governors Association passed a resolution supporting the White House’s recently launched Gen-I State Challenge to Support Native Youth. The resolution was sponsored by Lt. Governors from Montana, Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana, Washington, Alaska, Pennsylvania, and Michigan and asks state leaders to:

1. Convene a meeting with tribal leaders and others to discuss ongoing initiatives and areas in which they might be able to collaborate and form partnerships to improve the lives of Native youth.

2. Draft a report outlining recommendations for expanding Native youth opportunity.

3. Publish and share the report.

4. Take action by announcing an intent to implement at least one specific recommendation made in the report.

The White House encourages all governors and lieutenant governors to consider taking the State Challenge and to join the Administration as we continue to work to expand opportunity for all young people across the country. The week following the Tribal Youth Gathering, the President traveled to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to launch ConnectHome, a new initiative with communities, the private sector, and the federal government to expand high speed broadband to more families across the country. During his visit, the President highlighted the connectivity struggles of Gen-I Youth Ambassador Kelsey Janway of the Choctaw Nation, and prior to his remarks, he met with youth from the Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Muscogee (Creek) Nations where the youth discussed issues important to their families and communities.

Raina Thiele is Associate Director of White House Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement. Tracy Goodluck is a Policy Advisor for the White House Domestic Policy Council. Alison Grigonis is Senior Director in the White House Office of Cabinet Affairs.

Link to OMB’s Native Youth Priorities for the FY 2017 Budget: https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2015/m-15-17.pdf

https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/07/16/white-house-launches-state-challenge-support-native-youth

The White House Launches the “State Challenge to Support Native Youth”

Posted by Jerry Abramson

Today, the White House is launching the State Challenge to Support Native Youth, a part of the Administration’s Generation Indigenous Initiative.

President Obama launched the Gen-I Initiative at the 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference to focus on improving the lives of Native youth. Through new investments and increased engagement, this initiative takes a comprehensive, culturally appropriate approach to ensure all young Native people can reach their full potential.

The initiative includes a National Native Youth Network in partnership with the Aspen Institute, a demonstration program called the Native Youth Community Projects, administered by the Department of Education, a restructuring of the Bureau of Indian Education, a Cabinet Native Youth Listening Tour, and the first...
We encourage all Governors and Lieutenant Governors to take the State Challenge to Support Native Youth and become a part of Generation Indigenous. We’d like to thank the National Lieutenant Governors Association for passing a resolution on July 10 supporting the state challenge and we applaud the work of those who worked hard to make the resolution a success.

Who can take the White House State Challenge to Support Native Youth? Governors and Lieutenant Governors from States across the country can take the challenge to support Native youth.

Steps for Completing the State Challenge:

1. CONVENE: Within 60 days of accepting the Challenge, convene a meeting with tribal leaders in their state, as well as urban institutions and organizations, to discuss ongoing initiatives and areas in which they might be able to collaborate and form partnerships to improve the lives of Native youth and their systems of support.

2. PLAN: Within 60 days of the convening, and with the benefit of the input from participants, draft a report laying out concrete proposals for creating and advancing initiatives that would expand opportunity for Native youth. These proposals could range from gathering data that could help inform state policy recommendations, to expanding access to internship and mentoring programs, to improve educational opportunities for all young people, to convening a youth summit or roundtable to discuss these important issues.

3. PUBLISH & SHARE: After drafting the report, be active in sharing your work to inspire other state leaders to partner and work more closely with tribal governments to support Native youth. Document policy improvements, structural support, best practices and success stories to share with stakeholders and other leaders through state and national forums.

Some specific actions to highlight your efforts might include:
- Posting your commitment and efforts using the #GenI hashtag
- Sharing your report and progress through social and traditional media

4. TAKE ACTION: Within 60 days after releasing your report, announce your intent to implement at least one specific recommendation it made. This can be another opportunity to share your work and progress with the public and other state leaders.
Tax Exempt Purchases for Resident Tribal Members

The implementation date for the Tax Agreement was April 1, 2004. Consistent with the Tax Agreement which recognized the Tribal tax exempt status of the Tribal government and Resident Tribal Members, the Tribe has chosen to authorize Tribal Members to use Tribal Certificates of Exemption for Sales and Use Tax for specific purchases listed below. A Tribal Certificate of Exemption must be presented to the vendor before purchasing the item. No refunds will be allowed for taxes on the purchase of the items covered by Tribal Certificates of Exemption. Certificates must be issued by the Tax Office located in the Governmental Center. Normal business hours for the Tax Office are Monday through Thursday from 7 am to 3 pm.

Items covered by the Tribal Certificate of Exemption:
- Motorized vehicles (cars, pick-up trucks, recreational vehicles, boats, motorcycles, snowmobiles)
- Modular or Mobile homes
- Construction materials for affixation to personal residence
- Tangible personal property for treaty fishing

The Tax Agreement requires that Resident Tribal Members follow certain procedures and file certain forms to receive the exemption. A Resident Tribal Member/Tribal Entity Claim form must be completed and submitted to the Tax Office before the Tribal Certificate of Exemption for Sales and Use Tax can be issued. Application forms are available on the Tax Office page of the LRBOI website under “Resident Tribal Member Information” or they can be picked up at the Tax Office. Application form must be completely filled out, signed and returned to the Tax Office before a certificate will be issued.

Joint Purchases – A Resident Tribal Member shall qualify for a 50 percent exemption on purchases that are made by a Resident Tribal Member, or their non-Resident Tribal Member spouse, and exclusively titled in both their names.

NEW: Resident Tribal Members will be required to provide Proof of Residency when requesting a Tribal Certificate of Exemption.

Resident Tribal Members must plan ahead and get their paperwork completed in advance to insure that they receive their Michigan sales tax exemption at the time of purchase. No refunds are allowed on sales or use tax paid at the point of sale.
Currents 20
Minoomin Giizis (Rice Moon)
August 2015 Vol.8 Issue 14

Commodity Department
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 September 30, 2014 & October 1, 2015

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<th>Household Size</th>
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<td>$1,128.00</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>$1,805.00</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>$3,224.00</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>$3,562.00</td>
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For each additional member add $339.00

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 231-398-6716 or 231-398-6715

Every Wednesday, in August 12-1:00 At the Pow-wow grounds There will be fun and Prizes. Healthy snacks will be provided by the Commodities Department, Laurie Jackson. We will be reading and telling exciting stories.

For more information
Contact Education Dept. Deb Davis 231-398-6724 and Laurie Jackson 231-398-6716
If weather is bad we will meet in government center basement

For AUGUST 2015 Docket
(Subject to additions or deletions)

Key:
CO Cora Offense/Conservation
CS Child Support
CT Civil Ticket
DM Divorce with children
DO Divorce w/o children
EA Enrollment Appeal
EB Election Board Appeal
EM Emancipation of Minor
FJ Foreign Judgment
FSJ Foreign Support Judgment
GA Gaming Appeal
GC General Civil
GM Guardianship of Minor
GR Employment Matter
NA Neglect Abuse
NC Name Change
PF Probate
PPO Personal Protection Order
TA Trust Access
TM Tribal Misdemeanor
WC Workmen’s Compensation

Monday, August 24, 2015 Judge Bailey

10a.m. LRB v. Gunderson 14207PF Show Cause
11a.m. Neglect/Abuse 11223NA Closed Hrg.
1:30 p.m. Doe v. Lakso 14217GC Trial
Elders need be aware that Medicare open enrollment begins October 15th through December 7th, and during this time enrollees can switch from original Medicare, pick a new Medicare Part D drug plan, or a new Medicare Advantage plan which is managed by private health plans that have contracts with Medicare.

There is help to assist you in navigating through the maze of Medicare information! You are welcome to bring your spouse and a family member or caregiver to this event.

**What you should bring with you:**

- Medicare card (Red, white, and blue) and their Medicare prescription drug card.
- Proof of income and assets, to include funds distributed to them by tribal government.
- List of medications, to include the name of each one, whether it brand or generic, the dosage, and frequency. Also, they need to provide the monthly usage amount of the medication if it is not taken in oral form, such as insulin, nasal sprays, etc.

**Outreach assistance is available:**

Muskegon Office (1101 West Hackley) – Friday August 21st 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
Manistee at Aki Maadiziwin (2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung) – Monday August 24th 10 am to 4 pm
~Refreshments and Lunch will be served at both sites~

**Contract Health Services staff will be available for assistance on both dates.**

Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) Counselors will be available to assist with:

- Identify resources for prescription drug assistance
- Explain Medicare Health Plan Options
- Understand doctor bills, hospital bills and Medicare Summary Notices,
- Understand Medicare/Medicaid eligibility, enrollment, coverage, claims and appeals
- Enroll in Medicare Savings Programs
- Review your Medicare supplemental (“Medigap”) insurance needs, compare policies and pursue claims and refunds
- Explore long term care financing options, including long term care insurance.
- Identify and report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse.

If you cannot attend on the dates above or have family in need of services, please let them know that they can work with a MMAP counselor by calling 1-800-803-7174 or they may also contact Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Certified MMAP Counselors by calling toll free 888-723-8288 and ask for:

Linda Wissner, Program Specialist - Members Assistance Department
Noelle Cross, Elder Meal Program Administrator - Members Assistance Department
Jason Cross, Case Manager - Family Services Department

Please contact Members Assistance Department if you have any questions at 888-723-8288.

Event sponsored by the LRBOI Members Assistance Department, funded by a grant award through Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Medicare Beneficiary Outreach and Assistance Program for Title VI Native American Programs.
A surprise inspection of the tribal substance abuse program was conducted on July 8th at the Government Center in Manistee. Counselor Dottie Batchelder handled it in beautiful form and the program is once again licensed by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs for the State of Michigan. Congratulations to Dottie for another job well done!

Great Job!

Elizabeth Johnson, August 21st

Charity Golf a Success!

The event was another success. We raised approximately $56,000 this year in total proceeds. We had 144 golfers, over 50 vendors and 25 volunteers on the day. The weather was perfect! Proceeds once finalized will benefit the following:

- Manistee Saints/Reitz Park
- ARC of Manistee
- Circle Rocking S Children’s Farm
- Area 24 Special Olympics
- Mona Shores Youth Baseball and Softball
- Indian Village Youth Camp

Congratulations

Tribal member Arthur Magnuson Jr. and his wife Faye have reported to the Currents that their Granddaughter Alison Grigonis (Pokagon) has been named senior director for the Office of Cabinet Affairs, serving as liaison between the president and his cabinet, coordinating communications, policy and logistics and managing issues that involve multiple federal agencies.

Grigonis works on Indian affairs as well as issues related to the departments of Education, the Interior, Health and Human Services and Transportation along with EPA, HUD, NASA and the Social Security Administration.

Born in Muskegon, Grigonis grew up in Sand Diego, California. In 2006 she received a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2010 she earned her law degree at the UCLA School of Law.

Charity Golf a Success!

Marie Cecilia Jetton-ba August 6, 2015- July 31, 2015

Marie Cecilia Jetton, 89, of Orange, passed away Friday, July 31, 2015 at her residence. Graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, August 6, 2015 at New Hope Cemetery in Shelby County with Bro. Sean Foreman officiating. A visitation will be held prior to the funeral service at Watson & Sons Funeral Home in Center, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Mrs. Jetton was born December 12, 1925, in Flint, Michigan, to Paul Aikens and Mable Medacco Aikens. She was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Orange. She is survived by:

Children:
- Roxann King of Wills Point, Texas
- Pauletta Terrance of Nashville, Tennessee
- Kelly Foreman of Orange, Texas
- Larue Jetton and wife, Maria, of Nashville, Tennessee
- Grandchildren:
  - Danna Crow and husband, Don, of Wills Point, Texas
  - Phillip King and wife, Deena, of Wills Point, Texas
  - Stormy Terrance of Nashville, Tennessee
  - Cecilia Ladner and husband, Ondie, of Pass Christian, Mississippi
  - Michael Foreman II of Orange, Texas
  - Sean Foreman and wife, Heather, of Orange, Texas
  - Christy Kelley and husband, Jeremiah, of Nashville, Tennessee
- Carl Jetton of Orange, Texas

Great Grandchildren:
- Kathleen Burgess and husband, Travis
- Daniel Crow and wife, Brittnex
- Caden Beckham
- Jason Malley and wife, Ashlee
- Paige Malley
- Kaden Malley
- Brooke Ladner
- Dorian Smith
- Anthony Kelley
- Breeana Kelley
- Isaiah Foreman
- Jenna Minyard
- Hunter King

Preceded in death by
- Husband: Duel Larue Jetton
- Son: Carl Popham
- Parents: Paul Aikens and Mable Medacco Aikens 13 Brothers and Sisters
## Events and Directory

### Coming up at LRBOI:

- **September 17th, all day**
  - Enrollment Directors and Assistants Meeting at Casino
- **August 8, 2015**
  - Elder Committee Meeting
    - 12 Noon
- **Elders Meal**
  - Aki Community Center
    - Mon-Thur 12pm
- **Language Class**
  - Every Friday
    - 10:30am
- **2016 Membership Meetings**
  - April 9, 2016 & October 8, 2016
- **2017 Membership Meetings**
  - April 8, 2017 & October 9, 2017
- Call Little River Resort Hotel in US Toll-Free:
  - 1-888-568-2244
  - or Local 231-723-1535

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<tr>
<th>Departments</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Director or main phone numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Government Center—Main Entrance</td>
<td>231.398.6868</td>
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<td>Be-Da-Bin</td>
<td>Government Center—Clinic entrance</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Commodities</td>
<td>Aki Maadiziwin Community Center</td>
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<td>Courts</td>
<td>Justice Center on M22</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Enrollment</td>
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<td>Fitness Center</td>
<td>Government Center—Lower Level</td>
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<td>Family Services</td>
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<td>Gaming Commission</td>
<td>Old Casino Building</td>
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<td>Health Clinic</td>
<td>Government Center—North End</td>
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<td>Historic Preservation</td>
<td>Government Center—Lower Level</td>
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<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Government Center—Main Entrance</td>
<td>231.398.6859</td>
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<td>Members Legal Asst.</td>
<td>Justice Center on M22</td>
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<td>Government Center—Main Entrance</td>
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<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>9th Street Offices—Manistee</td>
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<td>Peacemaking/Probation</td>
<td>Justice Center on M22</td>
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<td>Planning Department</td>
<td>Government Center—Main Entrance</td>
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<td>Prosecutor</td>
<td>Justice Center on M22</td>
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<td>Government Center—Main Entrance</td>
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<td>Public Safety</td>
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<td>Tax Office</td>
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<td>Utilities/Waste Water</td>
<td>Dorrz Road (near Aki Maadiziwin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work Force Development</td>
<td>Government Center—Main Entrance</td>
<td>231.398.6842</td>
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Notice to Boaters

**Fall Salmon Harvest in Streams and Rivers**

Many opportunities exist for the harvest of salmon in the streams and rivers of the 1836 Ceded Territory, including hook and line, spears, bows and hand nets. These opportunities are similar to past years and your Tribal ID card serves as your fishing license.

**All Streams and Rivers except the Little Manistee River:**

**Hook and line, spearing, bowfishing and handnet techniques may be used.**

For hook and line fishing:
- No permit or harvest reporting card is needed.
- 5 fish per salmon species per day, all must be at least 12 inches long.

For spears, bowfishing and handnets:
- Permits are not required but a harvest reporting card must be acquired from the LRBOI Natural Resources Department and must be returned within 7 days of harvest.
- 5 fish per salmon species per day, all fish must be at least 12 inches long.
- Spears are not allowed in 4 Upper Peninsula streams - Chocolay, Mosquito, Big Two hearted and Little Two Hearted. All other methods are allowed.
- Atlantic salmon shall not be speared in the Torch Lake watershed.

**Chinook Harvest on the Little Manistee River:**

The Little Manistee River is an egg-take and salmon harvest facility operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The weir is used to block Chinook salmon so eggs can be collected. The eggs collected at the weir are sent to State Fish Hatcheries where they are raised and stocked all over Michigan. Eggs are also supplied to other states. In the 2007 Inland Consent Decree the State and the Tribes agreed to protect the Chinook salmon in the Little Manistee River during egg collection while maintaining opportunities for Tribal harvest. Regulations and opportunities for the Little Manistee River Chinook salmon harvest are presented below:

- From September 1st to November 14th, spears and bows may be used to harvest salmon from 300 feet below the weir to the south end of Manistee Lake (See fishing regulations Table 6, Note 3 for specific locations). Hook and line may not be used in the Little Manistee River below the weir to harvest salmon during this period.

- Permits and harvest report cards are required and can be acquired at the LRBOI Natural Resources Department. Permits must be requested at least 8 hours prior to the time of harvest. Harvest report cards must be returned within 7 days of harvest. You must carry your permit with you when bowfishing, spearing, or netting.

- There are weekly quotas established and permits will be allocated until the quota is met for the week. Total allocation for the 2015 season is 57 fish for all five 1836 Treaty Tribes. Permits will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

- If/when the Michigan Department of Natural Resources meets its Chinook salmon egg take goals for the year there will be no quotas.

- Hook-and-Line fishing is closed in the southern end of Manistee Lake from September 6 through October 15 (See Fishing Regulations 6.04.G).

- Hook-and-Line fishing, bowfishing, spearing, and hand netting are allowed above the weir (no permit needed, you do need to fill out a harvest report within 7 days).

Please contact the Natural Resources Department for more information: (231) 723-1594.
## Elders

John Bailey  
Renetta Barnette  
Sylvester Battice  
Gertrude Behling  
Karol Chabot  
Pauline Cooper  
Priscilla DiPiazza  
Arlene Dixon  
Leo Ennis

Yvonne Eloyse  
Ruth Garretson  
Joyce Genia  
Sharon Gray  
Theresa Hillger  
Bruce Hinmon  
Ronald Lilleberg  
Edward Mitchell  
Sherman Moore

Dorothy Patnode  
Elaine Porter  
Richard Rittenhouse  
William Sikorski  
Roberta Tate  
Anna Taylor  
Constance Terrell  
Joanne Treml  
Shirley Witkop

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### Aki Community Center Elder Meals Menu 2015

**Tip of the Month—Practice Portion Control**
1 hamburger (without bun) = a deck of cards  
1 cup fries = about 10 fries  
4 oz nachos = about 7 chips  
3 oz meatloaf = deck of cards  
1 cup chili = baseball  
1 sub sandwich = about 6 inches  
1 burrito = about 6 inches

**ACTIVITIES:**
- **Mondays—Language Class**  
- **Wednesdays—Wii Bowling**  
- Other Activities: Birthday of the Month & BINGO
  Meals served at Noon—Monday thru Thursday
  No Charge to Elders, Spouse and Handicap/Disabled individuals who reside with Elder.  
  Guests Meals are $6.00

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<td>OFFICE CLOSED Labor Day</td>
<td>BBQ Chicken Baked potato Green Beans Tapioca</td>
<td>Taco Salad Rice Dessert</td>
<td>Chicken Pot Pie Desserts</td>
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<td>Elder Committee Meeting lunch is served at noon.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spaghetti Garlic Toast Dessert</td>
<td>Beef Tips &amp; gravy Veggies Dessert</td>
<td>Pulled Pork Sweet Potato Veggies</td>
<td>Salmon Patty Rice Veggie Jell-O</td>
<td>Muskegon Meal Please RSVP With Noelle 231-398-6886 Lunch served at Noon</td>
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<td>Language Class</td>
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<td>OFFICE CLOSED Reaffirmation Day</td>
<td>French Dip Potato Wedge Green Beans</td>
<td>Beef Stew Potato Veggies</td>
<td>Chili Cornbread Dessert</td>
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<td>Breakfast !! Language Class</td>
<td>Goulash Cauliflower Fruit Crumble</td>
<td>Chicken Wild Rice Peas Sherbet</td>
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<td>Menu subject to change with out notice. Meals meet 1/3 of the RDI based on a 1600 to 2000 calorie diet.</td>
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Allen Rodney LaCroix- Ba

Manistee, Michigan - Raymond Zeeryp Jr., of Manistee and formerly of Marion passed away unexpectedly, Saturday, May 16, 2015 at his home. He was 68. Raymond was born on March 11, 1947, in Highland Township in Osceola County, Michigan to Raymond and Violet (Green) Zeeryp Sr.

Ray was a member of the Moose Lodge in Evart, of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Manistee, and a member of the Warrior Society at L.R.B.O.I. He was proud of his Native American Heritage and made his home among the tribal housing in Manistee. Ray was also a veteran and served his country with the United States Army.

Raymond is survived by a loving family; his mother, Violet Zeeryp, his sister, Margaret Ann Scott of Cadillac, sister, Delores (Raymond Blake) Jenkins of Marion, brother, Ron (Nancy) Bush of Athens, TX, sister, Marcella (Rev. Dan) Wing of Luther, OK, sister, Margie (Eugene) Harris of Lakeland, FL, several nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles, as well as many other loving family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by her father, Raymond Zeeryp, Sr. and three brothers, Albert, Roger, and Randy

Allen Rodney LaCroix, 37, was born on July 18, 1978 to Morris and Sheila (Jarman) LaCroix in Sisseton, South Dakota and passed away July 21, 2015, at home, in Manistee, MI.

Al had a big smile, a big generous heart and his six year old daughter, Marie Lynn was the joy of his life. He enjoyed taking long walks and sitting around the bon fire visiting with family and friends. Friends and community members from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians honored Allen with a traditional sacred fire in Manistee. He was baptized at St. Matthew’s Catholic Church and his sponsors were Vernal and Mary Donnell. He attended elementary school in Warner, SD. It was a close-knit community where he enjoyed playing baseball on the local team. This is when he began his love of baseball card collecting. He graduated from Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando, FL. He then served his country in the US Navy after completing basic training in Great Lakes, MI and was stationed in Spain and California, moving back to Sisseton after his discharge. He moved to Onekama, MI after his father’s death to be near his sister Dawn. He completed his AA degree in Business with Honors and was working toward his BS degree. Prior to his death he worked as a security guard at BDR Rehabilitation Center in Manistee, MI.

He is survived by his daughter Marie Lynn LaCroix, Manistee, MI; mother Sheila (Peter) Faber, Snohomish, WA; grandparents Allen and Charlotte Jarman, Peever, SD; sister Dawn (LaCroix) McGrady, Onekama, MI; brothers Michael Quinn, Portland, OR, Peter E. and Daniel Faber, Snohomish, WA; step-father LeRoy Quinn Jr.; nieces Sierra Hull, Katelyn and Ashley McGrady; nephew Rusty McGrady and Matthew Hull; brother-in-law Barry McGrady, Onekama, MI and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father Morris LaCroix, and grandparents, Norris and Marion LaCroix.
The Little River Casino Resort is providing monthly updates on the exciting renovation currently taking place in Manistee. Here is the August update:

“The summer certainly is flying by and our Big FUTURE renovation is flying along as well. Isn’t it exciting?

Our new pylon road-sign is currently being built and scheduled to arrive late this summer. Can you just see how great it will look?

In progress, we have the Spa & Salon Construction. This new building will house an indoor and outdoor pool as well as a full service salon and spa. These elegantly casual amenities are scheduled for completion in December. Just in time to get relaxed and beautified for the holidays! Doesn’t that sound like a great gift to give?

Also in progress is the old 2020 room, which is becoming a women’s restroom. Just to the other side of this renovation construction is the old popcorn area, which is being renovated and will include new office space for Marketing’s Tour & Travel department. Won’t that be nice for our guests?

Around the corner, the Sports Bar renovation is scheduled to begin on August 20. External construction will begin that day and the internal construction will begin in September. Our Grove will be open for the Labor Day holiday. Can you envision enjoying a great burger while watching your favorite team?

The buffet will receive a renovation face-lift and that is scheduled to begin on September 15. We will relocate the buffet to a temporary location in our conference center. Look for more news on the specifics in upcoming WAVE newsletters.

Are you excited about the renovation, team LRCR?
Are you ready for our Big FUTURE?”

Other Upcoming Items, Dates & Announcements
(For details, see previous Rapid River News, Facebook or Currents issues)

- **Drum Class!** Drum Class Tuesday evenings at 5:30 at the Community Center. See page 4
- **MC Child Advocacy Center Fundraiser!** August 13th at St. Joseph Parish Center for the “Chow Down for Children!”
  5:30-7:30 p.m. for Jerry Zupin’s 3 Meat Dinner with his ‘Famous Chicken’ $10 for adults, $5 children under 12, children under 4 are Free.
- **Elders Medicare Outreach** (see page 3)!
  - Muskegon Office (1101 West Hackley) – Friday August 21st 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
  - Manistee at Aki Maadiziwin (2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung) Monday August 24th 10 am to 4 pm
- **Membership Meeting Dates for 2016-2017:** (Call the hotel at Ph: (231) 723-1535 or Toll Free at 1-888-568-2244 for reservations)
  - 2015—Fall meeting, October 10, 2015
  - 2016 – April 9, 2016 & October 8, 2016
  - 2017 – April 8, 2017 & October 7, 2017
- **Annual Elder Conference** is November 7th & 8th and Christmas Party December 5th
THIS POLICY IS EFFECTIVE AS OF
November 13, 2013 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Severe Weather Policy

It is the policy of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians to maintain safe operations at all times, including those instances when inclement weather may impact Tribal Operations.

The following describe the Severe Weather Policy of the Little River Band Tribal Government Operations.

Severe Weather Condition Descriptions

- Severe Weather Conditions: are defined as heavy snow or ice accumulations, flooding or tornado damage that significantly effects normal operations.

Notification Process

LRBOI government offices closure policy is shown on page 2 of this notice. Severe weather affecting tribal operations will be announced via text messaging (NIXLE*) and it is announced on the following TV stations and radio stations as well as NOAA radios:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Names/Website</th>
<th>TV STATIONS</th>
<th>RADIO STATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 &amp; 10 7 &amp; 4</td>
<td>ABC 29/8</td>
<td>101.5 FM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CBS 9/10</td>
<td>106.3 &amp; 1450 AM</td>
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<td>NBC 7/4</td>
<td>WKLA</td>
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Pay Practices during Severe Weather Closing

If LRBOI is officially closed by the Order of the Tribal Ogema, full time and part time employees will be compensated at their regular rate of pay. Temporary employees will not be compensated.

The following procedures also apply to all government offices; The Little River Band Tribal Government Offices located within the 1836/1855 Treaty Reservation Territories located in Manistee, Michigan and the Southern Service Area Satellite Office located in Muskegon, Michigan.

Please note that closure of either set of offices is dependent upon the weather only in their specific area and is not influenced by conditions at the other offices and is dependent on the status of the Manistee and Muskegon Area Public Schools systems, however, and independent of each other.

INCLEMENT OR SEVERE WEATHER CLOSURES; DELAYS

1. Tribal Government Offices.
   a. School Delay: If Manistee Area or Muskegon Public Schools are delayed due to inclement or severe weather then employees of their respective Tribal Government office will be expected to report to work on time or utilize Paid Time Off (PTO) to compensate for late arrival.

   b. School Closures: If Manistee Area or Muskegon Public Schools are closed due to inclement or severe weather then employees of their respective Tribal Government office will be expected to report to work. Employees may elect to invoke PTO or Annual Leave for the balance of the 8 hour day should they determine not to report to work, and must report that request no later than 30 minutes prior to the normal starting time of their regular shift as per the Government Employee Manual.

*To receive text information from the tribal government, text LRBOI to 888777 to activate your account.