

Currents

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Megwa Ezhiweback



Mndoo-Gizis (Spirit Moon)
February 2009 Vol. 6 Issue 1



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SUBMISSIONS

Budget Cuts at Tribal Government

Shrinking revenues and demands of Per Cap have hit the tribal government hard for 2009. Hours, salaries and benefits have been cut to deal with the situation. See page 2 for details.

Primary Candidates Forum



A forum hosted by the Office of Public Affairs and the Election Board was held at the Three Fires Conference Center following the Elders meeting on January 3rd. Over 30 candidate spoke to tribal citizens and then had a meet-n-greet for more personal conversations. See page 3 for pictures and more details.



Sobriety Jiingtamok



Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health held the 2nd Annual Sobriety Jiingtamok at Manistee High School New Year's Eve. This fun and safe event was well attended. See page 28 for pictures and details.



Tribe/County Road Agreement

LRBOI Planner Dan Shepard working with County and Federal officials have reached an agreement that could bring up to \$1 million dollars to the county for road improvements. See the details on page 2.

*Office of Public
Affairs*

Contact Information

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The 10th of January the headline in the Manistee News Advocate read, "Road Commission approves agreement with Little River Band."

The Manistee County Road Commission voted 4-1 to enter into an agreement with the tribe that could bring federal funds to this area for improvements to roads and infrastructure that lead to tribal property.

Tribal Planner Dan Shepard brought this issue forward to the MCRC for their consideration recently. He also had requested that the BIA representative come and assist in making a presentation to the MCRC in order for them to become familiar with the programs that the Tribe and BIA have in place. Shepard held the workshop in the Dome Room at the tribal government offices where many of the affected parties gathered to discuss the ins and outs of the agreement.

Several counties have already entered into similar agreements with tribes in other locations around the state of Michigan who has also agreed to participate in this program. Shepard reported to the *Currents* that LRBOI is also looking into similar agreements with other counties in the tribal 9-county area.

MCRC Commissioner Jerry Peterson said that, "The federal government allots a portion of money

to the BIA that is dispersed to tribes throughout the United States to spend on roads, bridges, culverts and infrastructure transportation-type things."

Peterson added that, "the tribe, in order to get a piece of that money, has to list roads that they put into their inventory that would fall under the

they go through tribal territories, or they own tribal land somewhere in a five-mile radius around that land."

Under the plan, it was reported that the tribe will receive about \$2,900 per lay mile and it could bring in about \$700,000 to \$1 million in funding the 200 or so roads that could end up in the tribal/county inventory.

Shepard will have an expanded look into the issue in the next edition of the *Currents*.

By currents staff



L.R.B.O. Planning for L.R.B.O.I. Roads

guidelines. The federal government allows them to use our public roads as roads for their inventory if

Cutbacks at LRBOI Government

Hours, Programs and Salaries Cut

Reduced revenues from the Casino and the costs of Per Cap have forced the Tribal Government to greatly reduce their 2009 budget, impacting all programs.

Realistic expected revenue projections from the Casino were finally made available in mid-December. Government CFO Steve Wheeler and Budget Manager Bob Davis worked feverously examining every aspect of the budget and made their recommendations to Ogema Romanelli, who reluctantly accepted them and authorized that they be forwarded to Tribal Council. At the last meeting of Tribal Council, the 2009 Budget was approved by Resolution #08-1217-435. In this resolution, Council made some additional cuts to Tribal Activities; Sponsorships and Donations; Advertising; some Licenses, Fees and Permits; Books and Reference Materials; Small Equipment and Furniture; some phones and pagers; Uniforms and some Stipends.

Increases were authorized by Council for some other Stipends; some Legal Licenses, Fees & Permits; Capital Outlay (in Commerce) and increased travel for the Prosecutors Office. In addition, Council increased funding to pay for costs associated with expenses incurred by the Tribe related to litigation for Kern Valley and increased funding for License, Fees & Permits to pay for the annual license of two Certified Public Accountants for the Government Business & Accountability Office. See the website at www.lrboi.com to view the full Resolution.

Overall, government salaries were reduced by 20%. In addition, there will be no more tribal matching on contributions to 401k programs for employees. Travel and Training expenses were almost totally cut and Government hours were cut for all but a few essential departments to 32 hours meaning that offices are open from Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

P.I.L.T. payment made to County

In a brief ceremony at the office of Ogema Larry Romanelli on January 6th, Casino General Manager Michael Garrow presented a check for \$968,266.28 to Alan O'Shea, the Chairman of the Manistee County Commission and a member of the Manistee County Revenue Sharing Board.

The check is the second of two payments which represent 2% of the electronic gaming revenue generated at the Little River Casino Resort in 2008. These payments are a result of the negotiated compact between Michigan and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians which allowed the tribe to build the Little River Casino Resort. This payment is called *Payment In Lieu of Taxes* or P.I.L.T.

The funds are distributed by a Revenue Sharing Board made up of three individuals representing the governmental units directly impacted by the Casino Resort. The three are the county, city of Manistee and Manistee Township. The primary recipients of the monies are schools and public safety with a variety of other uses throughout the years following the establishment of the casino enterprise. Funds have paid for everything from School Buses to recreation and are a major source of funding support for county activities. Prior to the building of the casino, the acreage was an orchard that generated a reported \$14,000 a year in taxes. The Compact was renewed recently and extends for another 20 years. The other part of the compact has a 6% payment from the Little River Casino Resort to the State of Michigan. Prior to negotiations (Club Keno) over the last several years, the casino had been paying 8% of electronic gaming revenues to the state and 2% to the local units of government. The tribe does not pay regular business taxes on the casino property as it is designated Tribal Trust Land.

On Saturday the 3rd of January, a Candidate Forum was held by Public Affairs (with the Election Board) at the Three Fires Conference Center. The forum was held to allow Primary Candidates the opportunity to address assembled Elders and other tribal members. That Saturday was the first Elders meeting of 2009.

Over 30 of the 54 Primary Candidates addressed the assembled tribal citizens, bringing their concerns, hopes and criticisms to the front. Each candidate was given 3 minutes to introduce themselves and make their opening comments. This time frame was set given the large number of candidates. The rest of the time was devoted to a meet-n-greet which allowed citizens to speak to the various candidates.

Some of the issues which came up were alleged corruption, preference issues, questions over performance by elected officials and employees, needs of our people (young and old) and the desire to plan for sustainability of the tribe in the future.

There were also a number of calls for honorable representation of the tribal people.

A few individual candidates are holding their own 'forums' at various times and places

All candidates have been invited to submit yet another 200 word article for the *Currents* which would appear in the February issue (distribution about the 20th of January). This is timed to allow two articles to appear from each candidate prior to the Primary Election on February 13th.

For the General Election, all candidates will have two opportunities to submit 400 word articles concerning their campaign to the newspaper. Again, these will appear prior to the General Election.

A Candidate Forum for General Election Candidates is planned in Manistee, but the date has not been confirmed at the time of the printing of this issue.. Due to travel budget cuts, the Public Affairs Department has not scheduled any forums outside of the Manistee area.



throughout the region and into Wisconsin. Many have also established websites.



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Election Board Announcement

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Election Board would like to inform our members that the Chapter two regulations for the registration process are up for public comment at this time. Please see them for the proposed changes. They have not been adopted as we are still coordinating the process with the required entities. It will not be implemented for the Primary or General Election 2009.

Further notification will be sent to the membership directly when the changes are to occur. As this is a very detailed and lengthy process, our goal is to have it in place by the end of 2009.

We hope this clarifies any confusion for this election period. We will keep you updated as the necessary steps are taken to bring this change about.

Sincerely, the Election Board



Government Closes for the following Holidays

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

Some areas of the government will be continue to be available on these holidays, such as Public Safety. Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of the Government facilities.

It's always a good idea to call first if you are not sure. Just use the toll-free number of 888.723.8288.



Attention all Tribal Members

If you are interested in joining any of the following Commissions or Committees please submit a letter of interest to the Ogema's office with a copy going to the Tribal Council.

- 2 seats – Commerce Commission
- 2 seats – Gaming Commission
- 1 seat - Health Commission
- 2 seats – Binojeeuk

Michael J. Ceplina



Boozhoo

Here are some of the things that I would like to work on if elected to tribal council.

Listen to tribal citizens. I believe that the tribal council position isn't a part time position. I would work at least 40 hours a week. And be available after work if needed to listen to tribal citizens. I think we need to change the constitution that should be a priority. For all of council. I would work on getting incentive

programs for our youth-education is our future.

Consider investments into renewable energy such as windmills and solar power to save the tribe money and make money. I would also look into having the Manistee National Forest put into trust for the tribe.

I believe this is our land and always was. We need signs up letting people know they are entering the reservation. We need more reporting of financials from current investments, the construction company, trading post, casino and any future investments. I would also look into all the minerals that are being taken from the reservation such as gas, oil, salt, etc.

If you want a change vote for me and I'll work for all tribal citizens.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Ceplina

VoteforMike@hotmail.com

Bob Davis

Aanii, my name is Bob Davis. I just turned 55 this past October. I've been married for the past 20 years and have 2 daughters. I moved here in 2000 to take a position as the Director of Operations for Tribal Government. I left that position in 2003 and returned to work for the Tribe in 2007 at my current position as the Budget Coordinator.

I have never run for an elected position before – I felt that I could better serve the Tribe through my work in Government Operations. When I moved here, I believed that if I did good work during the last third of my working career, many people might benefit. Now, I believe the Tribe has reached a very critical moment. I also believe we would all agree that we need to sustain what our ancestors fought for. My experience in Tribal Government and my educational qualifications lend themselves to strong leadership that is needed to weather these hard times. I'm asking for your vote. Please log on to my blog at <http://bobdavis-atlarge.blogspot.com/> or send me an email at rawdavis@live.com to view my perspectives on Tribal issues. I want to talk with you!

Miigwetch

Advertisements

Tresa L. Hunley (McCaslin-Shawnoskey)

Aanii.

Because of the Tribes current circumstances in all areas, including but not limited to the government, current litigations, legislation, enforcement or lack of, and it entities it is vitally important to vote to balance seven grandfathers or some call

Noah's seven laws. Vote a team that will put words into action.

In the past positions I averaged 50+ hours (salary) trying to create positive changes, often with no assistance, only verbal support.

Often I worked alone on projects because any request for assistance often left me standing with only their verbal approval. So the great ideas went in boxes I have carried with me for 9yrs waiting for the right time. Now is that time!

After I spoke at the forum a nine county candidate summed up my words "Stop Crime -2009!" Being a Crime Victims Advocate (we have never had one Council to date) I also think of the victims. We have all been victims at some point bring us the gift of wisdom. If you elect me I would like to unite and unify those gifts moving us into prosperity, inner peace, and a Tribe we can be proud to call our own. Pride as a people matters!

Virgil Johnson



Aanni

Just a reminder, my web site is www.virgilforcouncil.com and you may call me on my toll free number: 877-398-2840. The web site will give you better insight of my experiences along with my values. From the 7 Grandfathers' teachings, Humble is the most important. With this it makes one respect others and listen to them with an open mind. We have many issues at hand to

discuss, but I'm limited to 200 words.

Let me point out few that come to mind:

- Sunset Clause to enrollment.
- All tribal citizens have a voice in election all council members.
- High priority for Muskegon Casino.
- A second Trading Post in the Muskegon area.
- Casino reform in operational guidelines.

To move forward on these issues and more there must be a close relationship between the Legislative branch and Executive branch of government. There needs to be legislative rules and regulations that will insure honest, economical reform with minimal risk in our enterprises. Don't confuse this with micro management. You can clearly see what's happening in the stock market because of lack of oversight (regulations) we need council members with experience to handle these challenges and I'm that person.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Miigwech, Virgil Johnson

Karen Love



My name is Karen Love. I am running for the Tribal Council At Large seat. As your councilor I will bring honesty, integrity, credibility, and diligence to provide responsible leadership and a strong sense of duty to all tribal members. I will have no personal agendas or objectives and will devote my full energy to providing relevant information and resolutions on issues and problems that impact the quality of life for all tribal members.

I will work diligently with other councilors and **all** tribal members to move this tribe in a positive direction, so we will be able to realize the rewards of a financially sound enterprise and continue our legacy for our children. I will strive to make changes to impact the availability of financial records, improve communication to our members, and a commitment to manage tribal funds in a responsible manner. I will be responsive to the concerns of all the members and together we can make a difference.

I have a Bachelors Degree in Business. Recently retired from the Dept. of Corrections with 28 years of state service as a Unit Manager. My career has given me experience in problem solving, formulating budgets (and adhering to them), and negotiation. Thank you for your support.

Larry Olson



Aanii,

The sitting council has had its chance to serve its citizens and they have failed poorly. There are council members that say that their voting records speaks for it's self, the problem is, is that by being out voted they have not accomplish nothing. These same council members voted to give their self an \$14,000 a year pay raise, with five years RETO-PAY to them self and previous council members. It's time to replace them with new blood and new ideas. One's who is leaders and not followers

and one's who are not afraid of taking on the so called Manistee 500. We need leaders who will make changes in our government, changes that will serve all citizens and not just a selected few.

If elected, these are a few issues i will conquer:

- Totally re-write the constitution.
- Eliminate unnecessary jobs at the casino and government.
- Re-evaluate and cut wages at the casino and government.
- Promote and enforce tribal preference hiring (It's the law).
- Stop the censoring of the council minutes and The Little River Current.
- Raise your Per-Cap.
- Improve the living for our Elders and Children.

Miigwetch,
Larry Olson

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Shannon Paul Crampton



Aanii~

I want to thank my fellow tribal members for your support over the last 4 years and hopefully I've made you proud, as it has been an honor to serve you. I stand proudly on my voting record and representation of all members. I have fought very hard to keep my campaign promises and have achieved almost all, yet I am part of a body where majority rules.

The problems that exist in this tribe are known to all council and the Ogema the only thing lacking is the will to confront them. These problems continue in my opinion due to personal bias.

The number one problem is lack of communication to all the membership and the fact that the tribe is operating on a plan that was structured for a tribe with a centralized population.

I have stood accountable before you at all membership meetings in hopes of showing you leadership by example. I plead with the membership to read the minutes and judge me on my actions and not let the words of others with ulterior motives define me.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 231-264-6725

Respectfully~
Shannon Paul Crampton

Rita A. Gale



Boozhoo,

My name is Rita Gale. I am running for the tribal council seat at-large.

My Indian heritage comes from the LaHaye – Medacco bloodline.

I believe I can make a difference and create change that is desperately needed for our tribe. We need someone on our council who is willing and able to stand strong as an individual, and not become the puppet pulled

by the strings behind the scenes. I am this person. I will stay true our tribal community and put our members first at all times.

I want tribal members to feel confident presenting their concerns to me; knowing that their issues will be taken seriously and their voices will be heard. I believe the tribal members should be informed of situations and events prior to the issues going to vote. No member should feel as though they are outsiders.

If you vote for me, you will be making the right choice for change. I promise to bring truth, honesty, loyalty, and goodness to our tribal community. Let me become "your voice".

Megwetch,
Rita A. Gale

Office of Tribal Council - At-Large

Elaine Porter



1 I have nothing to gain personally but do a good job representing you. 2. I have an open, honest and fair mind. 3. Can take a fair approach to all issues. 4. Will work for the good of the tribe and all tribal members. 5. Will work with others and respect their ideas. 6. Let the elders know that I am concerned about their needs and then listen when they tell me what their needs are. 7. Our youth are the future of our tribal government, jr. council. 8. Support for cultural activities such as gatherings. 9. Government issues, Indian health, housing, employment, casino regulations, laws of the tribe and federal. 10. I will give a full day's work, honor and respect to the office. Thank you. megwetch.

Elaine Porter..

Kimberly Alexander



My name is Kimberly Alexander. I am currently the nine-county representative to the tribal council.

During my term as your representative there are many accomplishments that I am proud of. These include legislation that I sponsored which has allowed tribal elders to obtain supplemental health insurance. I worked with tribal council to bring the per-cap plan to the membership.

During my term I have strived to be a steward of the tribes finances as well as its natural resources. I have pushed for greater accountability of the tribes money through third party audits, and strict budgeting that includes all the departments and the casino submitting modified budgets which show cuts in operating capital. I support continued tribal sovereignty through self-regulating members hunting, fishing, and gathering rights without state interference.

If given the opportunity to continue serving the membership I would like to bring forward a prescription drug plan for all tribal citizens and human resources legislation which eliminates bias and favoritism in the hiring of tribal members.

I look forward to your vote as your candidate for tribal council of The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. If re-elected, I will continue to serve the citizens with dedication.

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Bill Anderson



Aanii, my name is Bill Anderson (born Bill Sikorski). I am a 42 year old resident of Manistee. My wife and I moved here 2 years ago from Paw Paw, Michigan. Since relocating, I have opened and operated the Port City Grille in Downtown Manistee. Previously, my employment consisted of being part of a management team for a restaurant group in Southwest Michigan.

Here are three issues that are hot topics for Tribal citizens that need to be addressed:

- Constitution – the most I hear is quorum requirements for vote
- Commitment – Tribal Council is a full-time paid position. It requires full-time attendance.
- Muskegon Casino – If planned right, can be a very profitable venture for the Tribe.

There are many more issues that need to be addressed. Such as accurate communication to Tribal Citizens! With the right cast of Tribal Council, these issues could be resolved in a timely manner.

I look forward to and encourage you to call me and discuss your concerns. I can be reached at 231-398-0435. If I am unavailable at that time, please leave a message and I will return your call.

Sincerely,
Bill Anderson

Austen Brauker



I would like to explain my political platform and why I am a qualified and suitable choice for Tribal Council. I believe that our elected officials should be held to a higher standard and be accountable for their behavior while serving the people. They should make impartial decisions based on the greater good of the tribe and not on personal agendas. Some of the issues that I view to be important are: reservation restoration, freedom to information, transparency of Tribal Council, maintaining three separate

branches of government, to diversify tribal investments, give key positions to tribal members, improving elders and youth programs, carefully amending the constitution, increasing the number of grant funded programs, promoting tribal identity and cultural traditions, supporting tribally owned businesses and holding them financially responsible, prosecuting illegal activity at all levels, improving public relations at a local, state and national level, establishing a youth council to prepare future leaders and ensuring that membership can influence tribal policy through quorum votes at membership meetings. I will act responsibly with the best interest of our nation at heart, without bias or unethical practices, continuing to improve life for every member, no matter who they are or where they live.

Mack Brushman



I keep looking at the calendar shocked that it's 2009. In the last decade what have we ultimately accomplished? I'm not looking at specific benchmarks but rather how well the tribe has served its own citizens. Every time an election comes up we figuratively throw our shoes at past mistakes. We keep fighting yesterday's battles without thinking about the future. By 2019 I envision a larger landBASE and therefore a greater netWORTH. I want to see the ratio of members with degrees to those without, go up. Most importantly I want citizens to be

happy because that is my ultimate benchmark. We should increase current educational incentives and aggressively recruit members to go (or go back) to school. We can scale up our investments here like we have at the casino and government. Because of the economic downturn this is an opportunity for our tribe to catch up and get ahead. We need to be creative with our unique resources and advantages for the benefit of the "Indians" in our title: "the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians" Vote for me Mack Brushman; the tribal council candidate who's running toward the future yet not from our past.

myspace.com/mackbrushman

Jon Burmeister

Good Afternoon. This is Jon Burmeister writing to you from Muskegon where my family and I have resided for the past 38 years. I am looking forward to being elected as your next council member from the nine county area. My experiences are, supervision, budget control, people skills, communication and working within a time line.

A couple of the things I feel strongly about are communication between council members. To be a reliable council they need to communicate more with each other and work together for a more positive change.

Communication to the tribe by providing info through the Currents or the website. I don't feel either of these are used to their full advantage and could be a great tool.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns that you feel need to be addressed. By phone, 231-903-8543 or by email eed78@msn.com and I will get back to you in a timely manner.

If any member would like to meet with me please feel free to contact me and we can set a time and place to meet.

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Stan Bray



My name is Stan Bray and I have submitted my declaration of candidacy for a position on the tribal council. I am seeking a seat in the Nine County District. I have been a tribal member since Dec. of 1997. I am the grandson

of the late Anna (Pabami) Bray. My grand mother's ancestors are the Cogswells on her mother's side and the Kelseys on her father's side. I am a tribal elder and a member of the Warrior Society. Since becoming a tribal member I've seen a lot of good ideas go by the way side and some not so good ideas initiated. It would seem to me that the tribal council would be conducting business as a business. I might be missing something here, because I've never seen or heard of a business plan for the tribe. Nothing appears to be projected out in a five year plan or any long term goals.

My experience background is not from a political point of view, but my background does include management skills and a unique ability to fix things. I have a fresh mind and a huge desire to help make a difference.

Stan Bray
6464 E. Carrigan Dr.
Newaygo, MI. 49337
Snapon1@hughes.net

Candace Chapman



I possess an A.A.S. Degree from Muskegon Community College with a background in business and criminal law. I have worked diligently for our people since 1999. In addition to serving as an Enrollment Commissioner and Education Committee Member, I first assisted our people as Community Relations Coordinator. I now serve in Muskegon as an Intake Specialist.

Communication, accountability and solid business practices are still in need of immediate attention. Strong leadership and commitment that does not waver to politics is required. Timely research, assessment and implementation of incontrovertible legislation are crucial to setting the precedent for undeniable accountability. Securing irrefutable communication for membership is key. It's going to take more than just words to make things happen. One must invest quality time, great effort and possess the necessary skill and mindset to create responsible legislation. I am up to the task.

My experiences have allowed me to identify governmental shortcomings and more importantly the needs of our people. I am skilled at composing policies and procedures, and dedicated to achieving results. I vow to ALWAYS remember that the position I seek is one of service and not merely stature. Together we have a voice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alex David Cogswell



Greetings: Tribal Members:

My name is Alex Cogswell. I am a Native man – upright, independent, fearless and for Native people.

Preference employment with our current leadership does not exist. As of January 2008, our hiring was at 18%. December 10th, 2008 it was 9%. This is a crime against our Nation of people.

If you are Non Little River Band member, and/or spouse of, or in any way family to our Nation and you are employed by Little River **you are a guest in our home.** You must be professional and polite at all times or I will make you leave immediately upon successful completion into Council office. The crimes will stop! We are a clean and pure nation of people. We have received a divine inheritance from our Creator, yet another is eating our bread. The law must live. The finance that is generated from our Government and Casino **will** return back to our Nation of people. It takes finance to uplift and improve a nation. There is one aim, one direction, one destiny, one Little River Band, One Creator. What will be is in your hands on Election Day. Vote Alex Cogswell, Sharron Detz, Chuck King. Servant, Alex

Bradley J. Compeau



Aani, I have been working at the casino for nearly a year, partly for the casino and currently for the government. In my time here as an employee of the casino and the government I have seen and heard disturbing things that have hurt the reputations of the tribe and the casino. Some of these rumors are just that, rumors, but others are accurate.

The only truth is that certain individuals have stolen from our tribe and the casino, thus they have stolen from you and I, and this needs to end now. The time of looking the other way needs to stop here before the tribe and its enterprises fall into ruin. The millions of dollars that are lost have left the tribe poor and the casino in disarray. The recent layoffs, due to lack of funds, has hurt not only those workers that are lost, but our local economy as well. Local business owners I've spoken with are afraid that they will have to close down due to bad economics. Manistee and all of its' people, tribal or not, are in trouble. We need to reinvest into our town before it's too late to turn it around.

Advertisements

Sharron Detz



No more crime in 2009!

Tribal Councilors are elected to make the laws for our tribe. Immediately upon election, we will **DEMAND** an ordinance that holds Tribal Councilors accountable for a mandatory forty-hour workweek. If they choose to work 8 to 10 hours a week, that is the amount of hours that they will be compensated for.

Preference Hiring is mandatory!

If tribal members are not qualified, train and educate them pursuant to our Ordinance. Our priority is to have a mandatory meeting with all of the directors to instruct them on this ordinance. These directors will be mandated to follow this law. If preference is not followed, they will lose 15% of their salary. In six months, when we go through this once more and if the policy still is not being followed, they will lose 15% more of their salary. This will continue until they learn that they are working for all Little River Band members! We want our Government & Casino back. www.sharrondetz.com

Where is the language for preference in our Ordinance during layoffs?

We are not irrevocably bound to the past Government. We **CAN** change and it will be through **YOUR** vote that we will change.

Gary Paul DiPiazza



Boo-shoo Menn Wah

I would be a good tribal counsel candidate for all the members. I would stand accountable for my actions. I will be there to take your thoughts, ideas and concerns to stand on your behalf. I will be available to anyone who wishes to contact me at anytime. I am willing to devote my entire time and effort to making us more self-efficient and profitable tribe. I

will bring us into the 21st century of technology. At this moment I already have a working solar energy producing prototype that produces enough energy to pump over 600 gallons of water for my garden a day.

I have knowledge of wind power, solar energy, hydrogen generation and thermo geo heating.

My goal with alternative energy is to produce a low cost system that will heat and power your dwelling as well as offering employment opportunities for our members.

Feel free to e-mail me at

luvmy59tbird@comcast.net

http://www.myspace.com/gary_dipiazza

Miig-Wetch Gary Paul DiPiazza

Chuck King

Hello,

My name is Chuck King and I am running for Nine County Tribal Council. I am a Tribal Elder of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and grandson of Anthony- Alvinia Chingman of Pentwater Michigan. I was born and raised in Lansing Michigan where I attended Lansing Community. After relocating to the Manistee area, I attended Westshore Community College in Scottville majoring in Criminal Justice Business Management. I currently work at Little River Casino- Resort in the hotel as a Guest Service Supervisor. I have worked in various fields in Law Enforcement throughout my lifetime. I retired as corrections officer for the State of Michigan serving 20 years. I have held several positions with the State of Michigan, Sexual Harassment Coordinator, Prisoner Programs Counselor, Policy-Procedures Committee, and Michigan Corrections Organization Representative.

I have new ideas and great expectation to excel the tribe to new heights. If elected to serve on the Tribal Council I would work to bring CHANGE to the resources for the tribe and to preserve the life of Little River Band of Ottawa Indians for years to come.

CHANGE- Casino- Health Care- Assistance (Elders, Members, Children)- Natural Resources Preservation- Government Reform- Education.

Don Koon



Boozhoo

My name is Don Koon and I am currently the Tribal Council Speaker. I am honored to have served the people of this tribe for the last few years, the last two as the council speaker nominated by the rest of the council. After reading the other candidate submissions, I must offer some food for thought. It takes a majority vote of the council to make anything happen, no one person can change things by themselves. How many of the candidates running have a clear understanding of tribal ordinances and policies that govern the operations of our tribal government? My intent is not to discredit any of the candidates, but the voters need to ask these questions. I have brought many good things to the table during my term, and I have many more things I will bring forward for the good of ALL tribal members. I have strived to bring unity to the council. We need to work TOGETHER not with separate agendas. The goal is to move this nation forward, not focus on things of the past. I respectfully ask for your vote, and if elected I will continue to work for the future of this tribe.

Advertisements

Pamela S. Medahko



Elections are right around the corner and once again you will make a choice on the candidate you wish to represent you.

Throughout time, every generation has had to “stitch our culture” back together due to deception and betrayal, which unfortunately affected our values and tradition. This struggle has touched each and every one of us. These life lessons have taught us that a Tribe is bereft without principles, integrity, and ethics, and also breeds an infectious nature that needs to end.

What truly shapes a person’s ambition? Has their life been ordained by reason without relinquishing principles? Are their choices/decisions unselfish and propelled by service to others?

New laws need to be implemented that are currently not in place for our courts to prevent defaulting to Michigan laws, our sovereignty should be embraced. Tribal property should be put in trust, which would save a substantial amount of taxes we pay each year. Economic diversity is essential. We need to better care for our Elders on many levels. And lastly, we need to effectively clear a path for our future generations of Tribal citizens and descendants.

Blessings,
Pamela Medahko
Bear Clan

Steven W. Kequom



Boozhoo, my name is Steve Kequom. I live in Muskegon and am a US Marine Veteran. I believe elders are the essence of who we are. They are the backbone of our tribe and it is essential that we meet their needs. They should not struggle and lack for necessities. Safe and affordable housing should be a reachable goal for all of our people. No Tribal member should worry about where to lay their head or get a meal. Education should be encouraged as it is the key to development and advancement. We MUST become united or we will be defeated!

“Every struggle whether won or lost strengthens us for the next to come. It is not good for the people to have an easy life. They become weak and inefficient when they cease to struggle. Some need a series of defeats before developing the strength and courage to win a victory.” As quoted by Victorio, Apache 1820-1880, “we do grow strong through our defeats, but...”

I believe we have been defeated long enough. It is time for us to develop strength and courage to stand up for what is right.

Steve Parsons



My name is Steve Parsons and I am running as a nine-county representative for Tribal Council. As I had mentioned earlier, the country and our Tribal nation are feeling the effects of the recent economic crisis. Casino distributions to the Tribe decreased significantly during the last quarter of 2008, and there is a projected 7 million dollar shortfall in Tribal distributions in 2009.

As a result, major reductions were made to the Tribal operations budget, including reducing all staff to 32 hours per week until further notice. Very few people anticipated this situation and no one is happy about it, but, nonetheless, this is where we find ourselves. It is critical that the Tribal Council and Ogema work together on the following issues:

- Honestly and seriously examine the organizational structures of Tribal Government and Casino operations and make whatever changes are necessary to maximize their effectiveness and efficiency.
- Renew our commitment to economic diversification by continuing to develop and support successful Tribal and Tribal member businesses.
- Continue programs that provide assistance to those in our membership who are most in need, and develop innovative ways to provide additional support whenever possible.

I would appreciate your support. Miigwetch.

Janine Sam

Boozhoo:

CHANGE! It is always the theme of election season. How to accomplish change, in the best interest of the Tribe and its Members is the task. It is a task that many candidates will claim they will bring, but few will actually see through. Bringing change is one thing: managing, growing through change, is something different.

People will ask you to review voting records, their own voting records or some one else's past voting record. ATTENDANCE records are as important Voting records on any issues at Tribal Council. COOPERATIVE SPIRIT is critical to getting things done. It requires interaction and meaningful discussion among Leaders that are elected-as well as the constituents they represent.

I served as a Council Member in the Past. In the past, I created programs that helped all people, no matter where they lived. I know what it takes to stay in the room and represent all people, when others would choose to walk out or not show up. The only "promise" I can make is the one that I have always kept: I will remain a dedicated public servant of the people, committed to improving the lives of LRBOI citizens. Miigwetch, Janine M. Sam

Advertisements

Ed Walters

Aanii

We as a nation are in a similar predicament the U.S. is now mired in. Confidence in our government and leaders are very low. This is because of a past record of poor and unregulated decision making. We as a nation desperately need a new course. Our economy is in horrible shape and will only get worse before it gets better. Most economic measures are at or near the worst marks ever. This new course must start at the government level.

Critical areas that need addressing:

- Develop an economic plan that benefits members to survive these times never before seen.
- An examination of our organizational structure. A focus on employing the vast talents of our membership. We must work together as a nation.
- A focus on job development and training, education, and health care.
- How, where, and why is our money spent.
- Transparency.

I do not have an extensive background in tribal affairs, but I do bring an extensive experience in corporate business. I also know that to get things accomplished the council must put aside all biases and work together. Change doesn't happen overnight, but it can begin with your vote. Megwetch

Melissa Zelenak

Vote for Melissa Zelenak and know that:

- I will **never support** decreasing funds for elders and education.
- I will **develop effective procedures** to keep membership informed of council activity.
- I will report violation of tribal laws and **vigorously pursue maximum prosecution** for lawbreakers.
- I will **push for 100% compliance** of gaming regulations.
- I will encourage every citizen to become involved in tribal affairs and **help them learn and work successfully** with government.
- I will **attend every meeting** that I am the tribal council liaison for.
- I will **return messages within 24 business hours**.
- I will post a **full report of my work** via the web site I built and consistently maintain myself.
- I will not point fingers or **wrongly persecute** the innocent.
- I will find ways to help **reduce waste and increase revenue** for the tribe.
- I will work to create an **ethics committee to support and enforce compliance** of Tribal Council and Ogema Ethics Ordinance 06-100-01.
- I will **never forget** who I work for.

Thank you everyone for your consideration. Please let me solve problems and honor me with your vote.

www.MelissaZforLRB.com

231-350-1778 7am-8pm

God Bless LRB!

MARY BOWER



438 Reynolds Road
Interlochen, MI. 49643
(231) 275-3941
Aanii/Boozhoo,
I descend from: Grandparents John and Sarah (Hall) Sikorski of which Sarah was the daughter of Eddie and Martha (Bailey) Hall; Parents are Dean and Nancy (Sikorski) Bower; Nancy is the daughter of John and Sarah (Hall)

Sikorski.

Here are a few of my concerns:

- * I believe all elected officials should have to work everyday just like all other employees of the government.
- * I believe Tribal members need to be more informed on Tribal issues.
- * I would work on getting mortgage assistance for down payments, no matter where you live.
- * I feel it is time to help our descendents by allowing funding for school clothes, class rings, drivers training and job training.
- * I would work on getting insurance for all Tribal members so you could see any doctor you want and not have to rely on the Health Clinic.
- * I believe the Tribal Constitution needs to be amended and this should be done by the membership.

Since I have worked for Tribal Council since 2003, I feel I'm very knowledgeable and aware of the Membership's needs.

Chuck Fisher



CHUCK FISHER is a former Little River Tribal Council Member and very well-qualified to receive your out-lying vote in the upcoming tribal election. As a child, he lived in the Manistee and Freesoil areas, but the family had to move to an urban area (Detroit) in order to make a living; they regularly returned to the general area over many years and eventually again made it home while the Tribe was seeking federal reaffirmation. Out-lying area tribal members have the right to expect their representative to work in their interests every day and attend all of the Council's work sessions and meetings – actually, this must be done in order to truly advocate for those who have a limited voice in tribal affairs. As a college graduate with a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology (and graduate school work in social work, applied sociology, grant-writing, gerontology and research), Chuck's educational background and years of experience working for the Tribe uniquely qualify him for this important trust. This background has also helped prepare him to meet the many, many challenges that face the Tribe, the outcomes of which will have great impact on the well-being of the Tribe and all tribal members/citizens.

Advertisements

Norbert Kelsey

Thank you...the outlying members. As your current council representative, I believe I have responsibly and enthusiastically represented your interests. I still believe in fiscal attentiveness in our tribal matters. I still believe I can effectively forward those views.

Some say they can faithfully advocate for you in council that is not possible as they are of the belief that if you possess a high tribal number or don't live in Manistee proper, that you don't deserve to share. This is erroneous thinking. They are of the families with the best jobs, the best wages and they are vested with 9-county. A few say they want to represent you. I say they can't!! It's not possible. I can say these are not my families and I have **no** family members working at the casino or tribal government.

I will remain:

- a. committed to outlying members' interest
- b. accessible, by phone, email, etc.
- c. committed to cutting lavishness expenditures (i.e. premature purchase of racetracks with no game plan)
- d. down to earth in philosophy

Please consider me to continue as your elected rep.

Thank you so much
Norbert Kelsey

Margery Lutz



Biography of Margery Lutz

I want to encourage you to vote for my Mom and Tribal Elder, Margery Lutz, in the upcoming election for the following reasons:

First, she would be extremely honored to represent you and will work hard on your behalf to make our tribal government the best that it can be. She will put aside personal interests and do what is best for the majority of members.

Secondly, she already has a record of service on the Elders Committee for 8 years and the Enrollment Commission for the past 5 years. Her commitment has meant a 95 mile commute to meetings and overnight stays in Manistee when the roads are too bad to get home.

Thirdly, Margery Lutz is proud to be a ¾ blood Grand River Ottawa Indian. She has preserved Indian ways by making Pow Wow dance regalia including my Jingle dresses.

Fourth, my mom is honest and ethical. She has never been in trouble with the law.

In closing, my Mom would bring her values of HONOR, HARD WORK ETHIC, PRIDE and HONESTY to the position of Tribal Councilwoman if elected.

MEGWETCH, Brooke Cook (Tribal Member and Daughter of Margery Lutz)

Sandy Lempke-Mezeske



Aanii,
My name is Sandy Mezeske Tribal Elder & current Election Board Member.

My past work history has been a nurses aid, waitress, factory worker, and until recently Security Senior Manage at LRCR. My education includes a high school diploma, some college classes through LRCR.

If elected, I believe the following needs to happen within the first six months in office in order to create a working environment that will allow the necessary positive changes

- Training for all elected officials within the first few months in office on ethics, tribal laws, ordinances, policies & procedures. Basic financial management.
- Establish a meaningful working relationship with the Ogema with discussions on what our roles truly are.
- Work with the Ogema, Tribal Court, Staff and most importantly membership to create a Tribal Strategic Plan that is adopted and implemented.
- Review existing Tribal Ordinances to ensure that they are up to date & fair. For example, the Tribal employment preference policy that I believe needs to be rewritten with ramifications for not adhering to the policy.

In closing, I have my own email group if you would like me to add you to my email group please email me at sandy.for.change@gmail.com
Phone# 231-477-5636
Miigwetch,
Sandy

Rick Sprague Big Thunder

Communications

Aanii,
I am of the belief that council is wrong when they exclude our youngest in their revenue allocation plan, per-cap.
I do not support current councils plan to deny us all freedom of access to our government.

Information. (Old closed session minutes, etc.)
I strongly disagree with current councils plan to sell the just purchased land parcels in Muskegon.
We need positive change in the way government is structured. I support three (3) branches of Government as a way to ensure balance in how we govern.
I believe in Jesus Christ as my personal savior and I hold traditional values dear.

I am against any constitutional change that limits the right of individuals and or diminishes freedoms.
I fully support tribal preference in the hiring of employees in government. And for profit enterprises.
A VOTE FOR ME IS A VOTE FOR CHANGE
Rick Sprague Big Thunder #2175

Advertisements

Office of Tribal Appellate Cour Judge (Licensed Attorney)

Melissa L. Pope

Melissa L. Pope is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan. She has served in the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Court as a Special Chief Justice and as a Visiting Judge of the trial court. Melissa has been involved with the American Indian Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan since shortly after the Section was established. She has served twice as the Chair and is currently the Secretary-Treasurer, as well as the Editor of the Section's newsletter.

Melissa is an Adjunct Faculty at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law where she teaches the American Indian Law class and the practicum. In the winter term of 2008, her American Indian Law Practicum students worked with the LRBOI Tribal Court to assist the Court with drafting rules of evidence and jury procedures. She previously taught the Federal Indian Law class and the seminar at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Melissa is the former staff attorney at the Women's Survival Center of Oakland County where she represented indigent victims of domestic violence in family law matters. She currently works with victims of hate crimes at the Triangle Foundation.

Here's how you can educate yourself to become a responsible voter.



Study the difference between the primary competing forces at odds in nearly every election: What are the benefits and drawbacks of each? Where have these systems succeeded and failed?



Go to the official websites of the major candidates for this election. View them as if they were applying for a job in your living room. Scrutinize their resume. What are their qualifications? Their job experience? Their education? Their references?



Look at the major policies that each candidate wants to implement. Scrutinize the problems that they are trying to address, one by one. How was the problem created? Is their policy truly going to fix it, or make it worse? (If you're not sure, look for instances where this policy has been used in the past? Did it succeed or fail? Did it encroach on liberties? Did it make people more dependant on the government? Was it a short-term solution with long-term drawbacks?

Listen to opposing viewpoints. There are two sides to every issue, and both deserve a chance to make their case. Consider yourself as in a courtroom, listening to the evidence presented by both sides before coming to a verdict.



Do the candidates actually answer the questions posed, or do they just launch into their talking points? Take notes as the candidates put forth their ideas and proposed policies. Afterwards, do a little research into these proposals. Have these ideas ever worked? What were the long term results?



have confidence in your own!
VOTE! That's right, all of this is worthless unless you actually cast your educated vote. Brave men and women have fought and died for your right to live in a free society where your voice is heard and your vote counted. Millions around the world long for this basic right in vain, and would gladly trade places with you!

Don't waste this precious opportunity to make a difference!

Information gathered from Ehow.com

Daniel T. Bailey

Aanii,

My name is Daniel Bailey. I am a full blooded Little River Band Tribal Elder and have been your Chief Judge for approximately 10 years. I am asking for your support in the upcoming election for Chief Judge.

In the past you have trusted me to not only be your Chief Judge but to help seek Federal Recognition. I went to Washington DC to meet with Senators and Congressman, I have spoken for you at two Senate select committee Hearings. And you trusted me to represent you at the meeting with President Bill Clinton for the signing of our Federal Recognition Bill.

One of my main goals in serving the Tribe has been to walk as a man of integrity in the courtroom as well as in my private life.

In honoring my responsibilities as a Judge I've had to sacrifice being at many Tribal functions so as not to see or hear something that may come before the court. .

I am a Judge 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is not something I take lightly. I am committed to YOU the people.

Respectfully,
Chief Judge Daniel T. Bailey

Gregory Kelsey

Hello. I'm John Gregory Kelsey, and I want to be your Tribal Court Chief Judge. I attended the University of Wisconsin Law School and Dartmouth College.

I'm licensed to practice law in Wisconsin, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, LRBOI Court, and other tribal courts. I practice exclusively in Indian law. I've also worked on workplace discrimination, employees' benefits, and workers' compensation cases. I've done criminal work, litigated appeals, and worked on enrollment issues.

Hopefully you've never had to encounter our Tribal Court, but those who have can easily recognize that there is something very wrong with the system.

Here's what I'd do to fix our courts:

1. Base court opinions on the law. Judges must know how to look up and apply the law.
2. Judges must be in the office more than once a week. They must be accountable for their time.
3. Opinions must be posted online. Members outside of Manistee have every right to know what their Court is doing.

In sum, if you want decisions based on the law as well as transparency and accountability in the Court, please vote for me. I can be reached at 216-509-3642 and at vote4kelsey.wordpress.com.

Advertisements

Jonnie Jay Sam



My name is Jonnie Jay Sam, known to most as Jay Sam (tribal citizen #0145). I have served the Tribe for a long time in various forms since the 1970's. I am a college graduate (Central Michigan University, Bachelors of Science in Political Science: American Government/Administration) and the Michigan Judicial Institute's Judges' training.

In the past I served as the LRBOI Associate Judge, the first and to date only full time judge for over four years. Also I have served as Court Administrator, drafted first draft of Court Rules from Mich. Court Rules, Federal Court Rules and the Mich. Indian Judicial Assoc. model rules. Final Rules amended and adopted by entire Judiciary including two very experienced Judges/Attorneys.

Member of the Michigan Indian Judicial Association, National American Indian Court Judges Association during tenure at Court. Developed Court's use of Westlaw, Findlaw and use of the American Indian Law Reporter as opinion registration site.

I have the intelligence, and the experience having done the job before to provide a fair, just and responsible Court for my fellow citizens.

Please vote.

Peggy J. Vriesman

Hello, my name is Peggy Vriesman and I am running for Chief Judge in our 2009 Election. I am a resident of Bear Lake in Manistee County. I moved here, with my family, 6 years ago to become involved in my tribe.

I firmly believe that justice is blind. When a case comes to court, it should be looked at through the facts, period.

I am married and have raised 5 children. I am currently working for the tribe in the Natural Resource Department and am attending college at West Shore Community College. I will graduate in May with my Associates Degree and plan to continue my education at Ferris State University in the fall.

If you choose to elect me to the tribal court, it is my pledge that every person will be treated fairly, and with dignity.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Peggy J. Vriesman

Marcella Leusby

Boozoo,
 My name is Marcella Leusby and I am the daughter of Alice Pete Moore. I am running for the seat Office of Appellate Court Judge (Tribal Elder).

I was one of the first council members to volunteer my time to help get Little River Band started. Along with Bonnie Kenny, Margaret Chandler, Dan Bailey, Connie Waitner, Katie Glocheski, Mark Dougher and Anne Avery, we are proud of the fact that we helped our tribe become federally recognized. It took a lot of hard work, love and determination but we never gave up. On August 3, 1994, we finally got word that that the House approved our Bill and it was going to the President to be signed! That was the beginning. Dan Bailey was quoted as saying "The wait continued through generations, but we didn't give up."

In the midst of today's challenges we still are not giving up. We need strong, moral and positive leadership. We must come together as a family and a nation. We have won a marvelous victory; don't let it go to waste. Let us lead our children into the next millennium with a future of hope and kindness, not with hatred and disgust.

Megwetch,
 Marcella Leusby

Joseph J. LaPorte



To all
 My education and 35 years experience in Law Enforcement lends some credibility regarding my ability to be your next Appellate Justice.

I have testified, prepared documents and understand the court system. I have been involved in both civil and criminal cases in Federal Court, State Court and Tribal Court.

Throughout my career I have lived by the philosophy that everyone should be treated equally and fairly no matter whom they are, what family they belong to, or their affiliations. Each person deserves the right to be heard and deserves the right to appeal a decision if they so desire.

Each appeal needs to be looked at very carefully with a fair and just decision being handed down based on the facts and merits of the case in an expeditious manner.

As a working Police officer I have always respected every citizen's Constitutional rights and will continue to do so after I am elected.

I will see to it that everyone is treated with respect and their cases handled in a very professional manner in a timely fashion.

Respectfully,
 Joseph J. LaPorte

Advertisements

Martha Kase



My family and the community near Custer gave me a strong foundation for the life ahead of me. On April 19, 1947 I was born to Mr. Jacob Micko and Mrs. Marion Wabis Micko. I was raised with my five sisters who were among my first educators. As a young person I didn't always know what was bad or good for me, but I was allowed to make my own choices. There were al-

ways consequences to my actions but I was always given the love and respect of the community.

I am committed to serve the people of my ancestry and the legacy that was handed down to us. I've advocated for Indian people as a Chemical Dependency Counselor in the criminal justice system. I have advocated for children in court as an Indian Child Welfare Worker. I've been a Liaison with the Department of Social Services helping Indian families in need of food, shelter and clothing. As a Community Health Representative I tended to the sick and elderly.

I have put down some tobacco before writing this and now I humbly ask that you vote for me Martha Kase to hold the Elder's Seat of our Appellate Court
 Wiingazin

Office of Election Board Berni Carlson

Aanii,

My name is Berni Carlson and I currently hold the secretary position for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Election Board. I am happily married and have 4 beautiful children. I am a nurse and have owned and operated my own business, Carlson's Child Care LLC for the past 19 years.

As a board member I have spent the past 3 1/2 years working for YOU, the members of our tribe. Many positive changes have been made and brought in to action for this tribe through hard work and dedication. Sometimes problems occurred, yet we as a team ALWAYS worked hard to fix each an every one.

Recognizing error, being able to problem solve, continuing to listen to our members and implementing the necessary changes are the goals I have strived for as a board member, and will continue to do, always giving my best.

I have been BLESSED to be able to stand before you and help make these changes happen.

Fairness, honesty, integrity, and dedication are the qualities I have up held during my term and I am asking for your vote and support so that I may continue to make positive changes our members are seeking and so desperately need.

Megwetch, Berni Carlson

Nancy Kelsey

Hello. My name is Nancy Kelsey and I am running for the election board. I am working on my M.A. in journalism at the University of Nebraska. I will graduate in May. Before that, I taught high school English on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. I have also worked as a reporter at the Associated Press in Boston and the Seattle Times.

Below are a few goals if I'm elected:

1. Primary elections must be eliminated. No family should have the opportunity to put into the mix as many candidates as they can and vote twice to see what sticks. That's unfair to the membership - especially those not in Manistee. It is also a waste of money.
2. Keep posted hours. Currently that's not the case. This irresponsibility has prevented members from getting on the ballot. Accountability is key to maintain neutrality.
3. Per cap is expected to decrease. Thus the LRBOI has an obligation to decrease costs everywhere. The election board is no exception. That's why I would limit the use of lawyers as much as possible.
4. Reevaluate voter registration with nine county and outlying input.

Questions? Please call 402-203-0564 or visit www.vote4kelsey.wordpress.com.

Alesia Condon

My name is Alesia Condon. I was born and raised in Muskegon, where I currently reside with my husband and son. I have a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Michigan.

For the last 4 years, I have had the honor of serving on the Little River Election Board. During that time, the Election Board has accomplished many things. The Board reversed the fines levied against Tribal members from the 2004 Recall and reimbursed those Tribal Members who paid fines. The Election Board Regulations were completely revised and written as one document. The language of the Regulations was written so all members could understand it. The Board is currently working on a voter registration process.

Though the office of Election Board is not a full time position, I and the rest of the Board members have made ourselves available to the membership on a full time basis by providing our own personal contact numbers on the office voicemail. That is the commitment I have made to the Tribe and, if re-elected, it is a commitment I will continue to make for the future of our Tribe.

Thank you,
Alesia Condon

Advertisements

Bernadene Crampton

Bernadene Crampton ndizhinikaaz. Election Board Candidate. I have two concerns with this position. There are many concerns expressed by others. The other concern that should be worked on is all Tribal members voting for all open positions. My position on this is that I am in total agreement. However, this is not an Election Board responsibility. The other concern is possible registration of voters.

It can be very costly for candidates running for office – postage stamps, copying, envelopes – to name a few expenses.

This can be solved by having Tribal sponsored Meet and Greet Get-Together in, at least, Manistee, Muskegon and Wisconsin. Currently, there is one scheduled in Manistee and during the last election, there were meetings in Manistee. This should be expanded to include as many Tribal members attendance as possible.

Questions and answers are imperative to obtain the Candidate's responses and holding them responsible for their words. It would be best if these meetings were recorded and the video available for viewing to Tribal members.

Nancy Kelsey, another candidate expressed an idea I have been speaking about for years. We have too many attorneys (outsiders) running our Tribe. It is time we took responsibility for our own actions.

Diane A. Lonn

Anii

My name is Diane A. Lonn; I am running for a position on the Election Board. My Grandfather was James Koon and my Great Grandfathers were Joe Koon and Pete Espiew. I am married and have three children, as well as five active grandchildren, all girls.

I have worked as the Enrollment Officer for the tribe since 1993 when we only had three employees, in 1999, I moved to the casino and worked for the General Manager there, then in 2004, I returned to the tribe and the position of Enrollment Office. I am continuing my education, and will soon receive by Bachelors in Business Administration from Ferris.

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

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

Diane A. Lonn

A Survey of Elders III

Sponsored by
Family Services Department,
Members Assistance Department and
Tribal Health Clinic

ABOUT THE SURVEY

MSU Extension has asked our Tribe to participate in the survey project by National Resource Centers on Native American Aging (NRCNAA). The data is for a needs assessment of the Elders. Results of the survey will be used to document and plan for action to address:

- General Health Status
- Activities of Daily Living
- Visual, Hearing, and Dental
- Tobacco and Alcohol Use
- Nutrition, Exercise, and Excess Weight
- Social Support, Housing, and Work
- Assisted Living Needs
- Long Term Health Care
- Family Help and Care
- Needs and Services – i.e. legal assistance, senior center programs etc.

Who is the NRCNAA?

The National Resource Center on Native American Aging was established in 1994 at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. As a result of a Cooperative Agreement with the Administration on Aging, within the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the resource center's purpose is to work closely with local service providers throughout the nation to address the needs of American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian elders.

Who will conduct the survey?

Surveys will be conducted by department staff and volunteers. The interviewers will be trained how to conduct the survey and to best explain the process to the Elder.

Are you required to participate in the survey?

No, The participation in this survey is completely voluntary. It will be greatly appreciated if our elders participate in this important fact finding data collection.

How long will the survey take?

The survey can take up to a half an hour or less. The first page of the survey is attached to view. There are a total of 67 questions that will be asked.

What is the assessment used for?

The goal of the Tribe is to utilize the needs assessment information to support grant opportunities, assess our current programs to identify how we may strengthen them and for advocating and creation of programs to assist our Elders with the unmet needs identified.

Do I have to give my personal information such as name, social security number etc?

No, the survey answers are the only information that will be used in the needs assessment. Responses and results of the survey are completely confidential, since there are not any names or identification numbers on the surveys. There will be a list of Elder names on file but this information is only to track who has participated in the survey so we don't double any data and this information will be kept with the tribe. Only the survey itself will be sent to NRCNAA for processing of the report.

Will I get a copy of the survey results?

Yes! Upon the completion of the survey process the NRCNAA will compile the data and summarize the results in a report format. This report will be sent to the departments involved in the project and the Tribal Council.

Seasoned firewood
\$145 a cord
Cut split and delivered
Call Justin
231-690-7639
or
231-723-0661
Accepts Tribal member
Home heating assistance orders

We need 59 surveys to complete the minimum 250 required for the analysis.

If you are a Tribal Elder age 55 and older have NOT already completed the survey at either the Elders Conference in 2008 or the Muskegon Elders Day on December 21st and would like to participate please contact us and we will schedule a time to do the survey over the phone. For participating in the survey we will send you a gift and a certificate of participation as a token of our appreciation for your time and interest.

Please contact the Members Assistance Department at 888-723-8288



Valentine Craft



Salt dough is a really fun medium and you can make so many things from it! Try these adorable heart-shaped magnets for the refrigerator and pins to give as gifts.

What you'll need:

- 1/2 cup salt
 - 1 cup flour
 - 1/2 cup water
 - Wooden spoon
 - Rolling pin
 - Extra flour
 - Heart-shaped cookie cutters
 - Magnets
 - Pin backs
 - Hot glue
 - Acrylic paint (pink, white, red, light blue, yellow, white, pink, silver)
 - Pink and orange glitter glue
 - Gold glitter paint
 - Toothpick
 - Paint brush
 - Acrylic sealer
 - Wax paper
 - Cookie sheet
- How to make it:

Preheat the oven to 250 degrees F.
 Mix together, salt, flour, and water until dough is formed.
 Knead the dough on a floured surface until the mixture is elastic and smooth. If dough is too sticky, sprinkle with flour and continue to do so until stickiness is gone. Do not add too much flour as this will dry out the dough and cause it to crack before it's baked.
 Roll out the dough to about 1/4" thick with a rolling pin that has been dusted with flour.
 Use different sized heart-shaped cookie cutters to create as many pieces as you like.
 For smaller children, use a single shape to make it easier at painting time. For older children, you can double up and even triple some of the hearts for a 3D affect as we did (see photo).
 Place all hearts onto an ungreased cookie sheet and place into the preheated oven.
 Bake for 2 hours.
 Remove from oven and allow to cool completely.
 Paint with acrylic paints, glitter glue and/or glitter paint and spray finished projects with acrylic sealer.
 To write the words on the conversation heart pins, use a toothpick dipped in white paint.
 Hot glue a round magnet to the back of larger hearts to hang on the fridge, and a pin back to the conversation hearts.

Tips:

To make 3D polka dots, simply roll salt dough into small ball shapes and place on top of heart before placing into oven.
 Parents should not allow small children to handle a glue gun as burns can occur. Older children should be closely supervised if allowed to handle it themselves.
 Salt dough will not keep for later projects as it gets hard and cracks. Depending on how many hearts you plan to make, you can either halve the recipe or double it.

Word Scramble

Please unscramble the words below

1. dynac _____
3. cnagir _____
5. dCpiu _____
7. lofwrse _____
9. itgf _____
11. earht _____
13. elvo _____
15. inkp _____
17. sesor _____
19. elvnetani _____

2. adcr _____
4. lceotacho _____
6. stefa _____
8. efridn _____
10. ahyp _____
12. snkiden _____
14. imne _____
16. edr _____
18. weets _____

I'm happy you're my
 Valentine
 I hope that
 you can see,
 I'm really glad to
 have you as A part
 of my family!

STALKING: KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

Little River Band of Ottawa Indian Launches Community Stalking Awareness Campaign

For Immediate Release Contact:

Denise Anderson
231-398-6736
danderson@lrboi.com

CITY/STATE—During January 2009, communities across the country will observe National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a crime that affects 1.4 million victims a year. This year's theme, "Stalking:

Know It. Name It. Stop It." challenges the nation to combat this dangerous crime by learning more about it.

Stalking is a crime in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. One in 12 women and one in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetime, for an average duration of almost two years, and most victims are ordinary Americans.

*1 Victims may experience psychological trauma, financial hardship, and even death.

*2 Eighty-one percent of victims stalked by an intimate partner were also physically assaulted by that partner,

*3 and seventy-six percent of female homicide victims were stalked

prior to their death.

*4 Yet many victims underestimate the seriousness and impact of the crime. At first, they may view stalking as "creepy" but not dangerous. They may think that ignoring or confronting stalkers will stop them. But stalkers almost never stop, and confronting a stalker may escalate the violence.

Even when victims see the danger and report the crime, stalking may be hard for authorities 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. Stalkers may use a range of devices—such as computers, Global Position System devices, or hidden cameras—to track their victims' daily activities. Stalkers fit no standard psychological profile, and many have been known to follow their victims from one jurisdiction to another, making apprehension by the authorities even more difficult.

By learning more about stalking, communities can support victims and combat the crime. "If more people can recognize stalking," said Denise Anderson, "we have a better chance to hold offenders accountable. Knowledge can help communities support victims and prevent

tragedies."

For additional resources to help promote National Stalking Awareness Month, please visit

<http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org>

and www.ovw.usdoj.gov.

*1 Tjaden and Thoennes, "Stalking in America," (Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, 1998).

*2 Mullen, Pathe, and Purcell, *Stalkers and Their Victims*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

*3 Tjaden, "Stalking in America."

*4 MacFarlane et al., "Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide," *Homicide Studies* 3, no. 4 (1998): 300-16.



Per Capita Payment Services

Direct Deposit it is safe, it's quick and it's convenient! As a service to the membership the Tribe has direct deposit available for Per Capita payments.

What are the benefits of direct deposit?

- Through direct deposit the funds are available the date of the per capita disbursement.
- It is one less thing to worry about because it is the safest way to receive your payment.
- It is an easier and more convenient way to receive your payment.
- There are no checks to be lost or stolen.
- It saves the cost incurred due to a stop payment and reissue in the event a check is lost or stolen.
- If you are not able to make it to the bank to cash a check, you will receive the payment safely in your bank account through direct deposit.
- If you move, you have access to the payment through a bank debit/credit card. (Address must remain up to date with Enrollment Department to receive payment)

For more information about direct deposit contact your bank. It truly is a convenient service that is safe, secure and saves time. If you would like a direct deposit form mailed to you please contact the Members Assistance Department by calling 888-723-8288. The form is also available online at www.lrboi.com

The form must be received 30 days prior to a disbursement. Forms received after this period may receive direct deposit the following quarter. Distributions are scheduled to be made on the first day of each fiscal quarter.

Miigwech!

Lee A. Iverson

Members Assistance Coordinator



Aanii,

Just a friendly reminder, We now have Tribal Logo wear in stock and all sizes. Polos, jackets, fleece wear, sweaters, hoodies, hats of all sizes styles and shapes, including the Camo line!!!! Come and check out whats new at the Trading Post and while your here grab your gas and a pop for the road. Guarantee you'll get a welcome, smile and a thanks for stoppin in.

See you soon!!!

Miigwech

LittleRiver Trading Post

MALES			
Age	S	M	A
2	1000	1000	1000
3	1000	1400	1400
4	1200	1400	1600
5	1200	1400	1600
6	1400	1600	1800
7	1400	1600	1800
8	1400	1600	2000
9	1600	1800	2000
10	1600	1800	2200
11	1800	2000	2200
12	1800	2200	2400
13	2000	2200	2600
14	2000	2400	2800
15	2200	2600	3000
16	2400	2800	3200
17	2400	2800	3200
18	2400	2800	3200
19-20	2600	2800	3000
21-25	2400	2800	3000
26-30	2400	2600	3000
31-35	2400	2600	3000
36-40	2400	2600	2800
41-45	2200	2600	2800
46-50	2200	2400	2800
51-55	2200	2400	2800
56-60	2200	2400	2600
61-65	2000	2400	2600
66-70	2000	2200	2600
71-75	2000	2200	2600
and up	2000	2000	2400

DAILY CALORIE NEEDS ARE BASED ON AGE, GENDER AND ACTIVITY LEVEL

(S)=Sedentary
(M)=Moderately Active
(A)=Active



Activity levels and different ages: check your food intake patterns and gages.



FEMALES			
Age	S	M	A
2	1000	1000	1000
3	1000	1200	1400
4	1200	1400	1400
5	1200	1400	1600
6	1200	1400	1600
7	1200	1600	1800
8	1400	1600	1800
9	1400	1600	1800
10	1400	1800	2000
11	1600	1800	2000
12	1600	2000	2200
13	1600	2000	2200
14	1800	2000	2400
15	1800	2000	2400
16	1800	2000	2400
17	1800	2000	2400
18	1800	2000	2400
19-20	2000	2200	2400
21-25	2000	2200	2400
26-30	1800	2000	2400
31-35	1800	2000	2200
36-40	1800	2000	2200
41-45	1800	2000	2200
46-50	1800	2000	2200
51-55	1600	1800	2200
56-60	1600	1800	2200
61-65	1600	1800	2000
66-70	1600	1800	2000
71-75	1600	1800	2000
76 and up	1600	1800	2000

Food Intake



Calorie needs are based on gender, activity levels and age. To determine the calories and amount of food you need to consume from the food pyramid you must identify your activity level:

Sedentary=less than 30 minutes a day of moderate physical activity in addition to daily/routine activities.

Moderately Active=at least 30 up to 60 minutes a day of moderate physical activity in addition to daily/routine activities.

Active=60 or more minutes a day of moderate physical activity in addition to daily/routine activity.

Based on your age and gender, review the above chart to determine your daily calorie needs. Once you know your calorie needs, look at the chart Daily Amounts of Food from Each Group. This will tell you the total amount of food you need to consume daily from all food groups.

Discretionary Calorie Allowance=additional calories allowed after accounting for the calories in all the food groups. Try to choose foods that are low in fat and sugar for your discretionary calories.



Elders and Youth

By Austen J. Brauker



It is said that a Nation can be judged by the way it treats its children. I would add that another factor to determine this would be in observing the way a Nation treats its elders. This is a very telling indicator, especially if we can become self

reflective and judge our own actions based on this same criteria. As Native people, we have a proud history with regard to the treatment of the elders and youth within the traditions of our culture. Our elders have always been revered for their wisdom and experience. They were held in a position of honor. They were relied upon to help make important decisions, to share their knowledge with others and to help determine the course of the tribe as a whole. They were protected and never went hungry. People listened to what they had to say. Their words were important and their venerated views were listened to by the rest of the tribe with the utmost respect. No one dared treat them harshly or in a rude manner. The term "elder abuse" was not part of the traditional vocabulary. It was virtually an unheard of act that went against our sacred spiritual teachings. To treat an elder poorly was something that simply was not tolerated by the rest of the tribe. It is hard to maintain these traditional principles in a society where the accepted way to treat elders is much different than the values system that we once had. The dominant culture of a nuclear-family-world has had a dramatic impact. Even the Anishinaabe have slowly absorbed some of these negative traits and dropped some of the old practices by the wayside. It has been a survival mechanism to assimilate and to adopt some of the norms of the foreign cultures as they influenced the America's with cities, radio, television, new governments and religions, boarding schools, industrial machinery and a system of unchecked capitalism. We can never go back to the way things were before the European conquest, but we can look back to those good teachings that were beneficial to our people and try to reincorporate them into our daily lives. One of the teachings that should be reconsidered is the way we treat our children and elders. There is a lot to be learned from a culture that does not let their members starve while others are feasting with more than they can use. Even if you didn't like someone, it was against traditional values to let them be cold and hungry or go without. Acceptance and tolerance allow us to practice the actions of kindness and sharing because, when we do these things, we are teaching others how to do it as well. A simple act of kindness or sharing has a positive ripple effect that extends outward and sets an example of how to be for others who witness this benevolence. Our children watch us and learn from our behaviors. When they see us being kind, they will learn how to act that way themselves. When they see us being mean, holding grudges and seeking out revenge,

they will learn to act that way too. Our example is more powerful than we sometimes realize. The steps we take today are the steps our children will likely repeat in their own lives. They will be imprinted by the actions of their parents and will tend to adopt those same ways as they mature and are faced with the same problems. Somewhere inside them remains that distant shadow of a childhood memory, reminding them of what their own parents did when confronted with the same life situations. The wisdom of our elders says that we not only think of how our actions will affect our children, but their children too, and the grandchildren ahead of us for seven generations. Even though it may be a harder task in this day and age, this teaching is something that we all could consider when we make our ripples in life. We are a people who are part of two Nations, one that we belong to tribally, and one that we belong to as part of the greater modern society. We are of the Odawa Nation as well as the American Nation. Both Nations have an established general collective of ideas that we refer to as our cultural norms. These two, sometimes different, views about caring for our elders and our children can often be at odds with one another. The differences can create a cognitive dissonance within our thinking as we try to figure out the proper paths to take in our lives. Life can be a hard road and though it can be stressful to walk in two worlds, we are blessed with a wealth of cultural knowledge that some people do not have. We can look at the modern society's beliefs and contrast them with our older, traditional beliefs. We can compare them and decide which way seems more right for us as individuals and for our people as a whole. Through prayer and meditation we can tackle these difficult dilemmas, asking ourselves one of the most important questions: "How should we treat our children and our elders?" Traditionally we lived in extended families where many people interacted together to make sure that those who could not take care of themselves were taken care of. Children were taught collectively and with a lot of help from "Aunties" and "Uncles" who often were not even blood related. In this same way, all elders were considered to be our "Grandma's" and "Grandpa's." In contrast, today we are often taught to frown upon the aging process. We are trained to fear it and do whatever it takes to keep ourselves looking young. We may have forgotten that the grey hair and wrinkles that come with age are marks of honor and signify wisdom. It is not something to run away from, but something to be accepted and embraced as we move into that stage of the circle. It is an integral and necessary part of the life cycle. It is something that our children must learn from. It helps them understand aging and death and how not to fear it, how these phases are all a necessary part of life. Our nation can be judged by the way we treat our elders. Do we take care of them? Do we listen to them? Do we make sure they are never hungry or cold?

We are a tribe, not just separate little pieces that

are unrelated to one another. It is our duty to carry on the responsibility of looking after our old and young. Modern society tends to chop up our families into little fractions. It leaves us divided, weak and alone. It sentences our elders to facilities where they are taken care of by paid strangers. Economic pressures and lack of a tribal support system make this, sometimes, the only available option for families with limited income. Tribal support systems and the utilization of traditional values make it harder for things like this to happen. The story is similar with the education of our youth. Public schools take our children away and teach them according to their own beliefs and methods. We lack the tribal support systems to educate our own children, or at least have a meaningful input toward their education, partly because we are kept separated and parceled into small controllable nuclear-family units. It is an effective tactic known as divide and conquer. Sometimes we have no idea what is being taught to our own children while they are away from our houses. We do not hear the conversations that accompany the paperwork our kids bring home. We do not see the social interaction that occurs when kids are having classroom discussions or roaming through the halls. It is extremely hard for a family unit that has been systematically fragmented to be strong and stand up for their rights. Tribal unity can help us to address some of these situations and provide better care for our members. A tribe gains strength when it bands together and looks out for its own people, starting with our children and our elders. It is a duty of the adult men and women to make sure that this happens. The Peacemaking/Probation Department seeks involvement from our community to help rebuild ourselves in this modern age. You are vital to that cause. We must learn to walk in balance through this changing world without losing sight of the traditional values that have given us strength in the past. There is a need for us to come together. We are asking for input from you, all members of this nation, to be involved in securing a future for our greater good, to band together and support one another in this difficult life journey. Everyone has something to offer and together we can help each other through life's difficulties by providing support and direction, sharing our teachings and values, being there for one another and moving forward into this new millennia. As a tribe we have survived many hardships for thousands and thousands of years. We will continue to survive if we join together and share our abilities, helping those in need. You can be a part of this by becoming a Peacemaker and sharing the gifts you have with others. Remember that we are all important and necessary parts of the great Odawa nation. Like the different seeds in a rattle, all together we make one sound.

Thank you.

Austen J. Brauker

Peacemaking/Probation Department

Traditional Teachings and the Peacemaking Process

The Peacemaking/Probation Department is starting a series of articles to show how our values and teachings are an important part of the Peacemaking process. We will be covering topics like; Balance, the Seven Grand Father Teaching, Talking Circles, and Story Telling used as a teaching tool. These teaching were given to all of us. With that said we start this series out with "Balance."

When you speak about balance, one can envision what appears to be a mystical state of being, or an elusive, unobtainable goal. To understand "balance," lets start out with what balance is not. It is not being perfect, having no worries, or being able to skirt the issues at hand. No, those things are not balance.

Balance is the understanding of who you are as Anishinaabe, where you fit in with the world. Being at peace with ones self, Spiritually, Mentally, Physically, and Emotionally. Being in balance is a journey of self discovery, and applying the Seven Grandfather Teaching to your life.

I asked Kenny Pheasant what being in balance meant to him, this is a small part of what he wrote; "So living in balance to me is living a life that is real to us and living out the purpose that our creator has given to us and living out the teachings that have been given to us especially the seven grandfather teachings. ..." As you can see Kenny has pointed out the two important concepts, finding your purpose in life and following the teachings of our ancestors. Kenny also gave us a definition of what "Anishinaabe" means, "The first part of our word "Anishin" means good "aabe" means "being" as in human

being. We are "good beings". The reason I am pointing this out is that all Anishinaabek are good people. It is their actions that sometimes are considered bad.

Jay Sam wrote this, "Being in Balance to me means having the aspects of my life: family, work, social activities, spiritual beliefs/activities all coordinated or equally happening so no one aspect dominates others. Balance applies to all things." Jay added another important concept; that all thing in your life need to done equally and that no part of your life should take over the other parts. Jay then paraphrases a movie line; "balance is like a cookie – flour, milk, salt, shortening, chocolate and maybe a few nuts in the right combination makes a cookie, too much of one ingredient makes something else. Once you know the recipe for your life, keeping the ingredients in the right proportion is the key." The wisdom in this "paraphrased movie line" as I understand it to be is, "Once you understand what being in balance means to you, you then need to continue to work on your beliefs and teachings.

When we conduct a Peacemaking session using the many different mediation techniques and traditional teachings we seek to reach a balance within the two party's relationship. By applying the Seven Grandfather teachings to the process of Peacemaking, you can see what part of their relationship is out of balance. The idea is to bring the participants together, get them to talk and identify their problem, issue, concern. Once we identify the "problem" we can start to work on the participants' interaction between each other, by finding out how each feels about the

incident that got them to Peacemaking. We then look for common ground in which to build from. Finally we develop an agreement; one that both participants feel will start the healing process, rebuild and restore their relationship. There by bringing their relationship back in to "balance."

The Peacemaking/Probation Department has an ongoing mission of recruiting volunteers to become Peacemakers and for Tribal Members to join in with our Peacemaking/Probation Talking Circle. For more information; Please feel free to contact Austen Brauker; Phone: (231) 398-2240, Email: abrauker@lrboi.com or

Patrick D. Wilson;
Phone: (231) 398-2239,
Email: pwilson@lrboi.com

Article I

By: Patrick D. Wilson



February Is Responsible Fatherhood Awareness Month

Proud Fathers-Proud Parents



Nurturing Men- Thriving Children-Healthy Families

Hey Dad! What do you want your relationship with your child to look like 20 years from now?

What are you doing right now to achieve that relationship?

Be the Best Dad You Can Be-Be Interested, Be Involved!

Responsible Fathers are Men Who:

Put their children's interest before their own.

Serve as role models to their children (leading by example).

Separate other relationship issues from their relationships with their children.

Play as active role in their child's emotional and academic development.

www.michigan.gov/dhs

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 commodities to low income Native American households. No household may participate in both the commodity food program and food stamp 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.

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

New USDA Income

Food Distribution Program On Indian Reservations
Net Monthly Income Standards
October 1, 2008 & October 1, 2009

Household Size	Income Limits
1	\$ 1,011.00
2	\$ 1,311.00
3	\$ 1,611.00
4	\$ 1,914.00
5	\$ 2,239.00
6	\$ 2,564.00
7	\$ 2,864.00
8	\$ 3,164.00

For each additional member add \$ 300.00

Office hours are
8:00 A.M - 5:00 P.M
Yvonne Theodore, George Lawrence,
Laurie Jackson
1-888-723-8288 ask for
Commodity Program
Office numbers are:
231-398-6715 or 231-398-6716

Different from the Old Boss

By Troy Doney, Indianz.com 12-17-08

I was wondering whether or not President Elect Barack "Black Eagle" Obama was going to start showing American Indians some attention in his transition team. I was happy to read in [Indian Country Today](#) that President Elect Obama has created a new position, called "First Americans Public Liaison." The position sounds like something of a Press Secretary/Ambassador, but not much is known about what the position will actually do. Showing that this isn't a hollow gesture meant to appease Native supporters, Obama has actually picked a Native to be the First Americans Public Liaison. It's a pretty novel idea as far as Washington policy toward Natives goes. Wizipan Garriott, of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, apparently cannot comment on the news of his new job. But the phrase "aimed at honoring a nation-to-nation relationship with tribes" keeps popping up.

This is really good news for Natives. The policy of the previous administration left, um, [something to be desired](#). As [Jesse Jackson put it](#), "The President explained. You just didn't understand. Sovereignty is sovereignty. You understand? It's like in sovereignty. If you are on a reservation, you have been soverized. Your Ph.D. is in soverbication. You understand? I don't think you understand." Cheap shots aside, Natives haven't been very high on the list of things that Presidents care about much over the years. Obama seems to have a different priority list. First Americans Public Liaison, for as little that is known about it, hints at a more informed, far less indifferent approach to relations between the Federal Government and Tribes. Wizipan Garriott looks like one hell of a selection, too. Garriott, 28, was the director of the native vote outreach for the Obama Campaign. I have one of those nifty "First Americans for Obama" signs up in my window, in fact. Garriott, or Wizi as his friends call him it seems, has a [blog](#) on the Community Blogs on the Obama site. It hasn't

been updated in a while, but the background is good for anybody curious about what "Wizi" has in mind. The post on the Indian Health Service is a must-read. Indian Country Today gives a better summation of First Americans Public Liaison Garriot. It's just pleasing to see a more nuanced policy towards Natives in action. And before I forget: Congratulations, Wizipan!

Comments or thoughts.

Hello, we, the Health Commission would like to hear from you.
Please take a moment to give us your thoughts/ideas of what you think of the clinic.
We want to know what you think: the good and the bad. Thank you

Please email to: healthcommission@lrboi.com
or mail to:
Health Commission
PO Box 119
Manistee, Mi 49660

Venison processing wrapped and ready for the freezer!

Custom salamis and sausages

Don Koon
1-231-690-8153

Tax Exempt Motor Fuel Quota

Notice to Tribal Members: Effective January 1, 2009 the tax-exempt motor fuel limit is 125 gallons per Tribal member. Tribal Members are responsible for keeping track of their gallons. Penalties will be applied for over-limit purchases.

Reminder: For RTM's purchasing personal use vehicles

Resident Tribal Members must contact the Tax Office for a Tribal Certificate of Exemption **before** purchasing a vehicle tax-exempt. There are no provisions for receiving a refund after the sale is completed. If you sign a contract that includes Michigan sales or use tax, it will be a taxable purchase. Application forms are available on the Tax Office page of the LRBOI website under "Resident Tribal Member Information".

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 has mailed the 2008 form to all Tribal members that lived within the Tax Agreement Area during 2008. Call the Tax Office at 231-398-6874 if you were a Resident Tribal Member at any time during 2008 and did not receive Form 4013 for the Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit.

Free Tax Preparation Sites

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

Medicare info from Tribal Health

Medicare is our country's health insurance program for people age 65 or older. Certain people younger than age 65 can qualify for Medicare, too, including those who have disabilities and those who have permanent kidney failure or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease). The program helps with the cost of health care, but it does not cover all medical expenses or the cost of most long-term care.

Medicare is financed by a portion of the payroll taxes paid by workers and their employers. It also is financed in part by monthly premiums deducted from Social Security checks.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is the agency in charge of the Medicare program. But you apply for Medicare at Social Security, and we can give you general information about the Medicare program.

More detailed information about what Medicare covers is available in the publication *Medicare & You* (Publication No. CMS-10050). To get a copy, call the Medicare toll-free number, **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**, or go to www.medicare.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call TTY **1-877-486-2048**. If you are signed up for Contact Health or the Extended Health Assistance programs, and are eligible to receive Medicare, but have not enrolled call us at **888-382-8299**; WE CAN HELP!

Submitted by Jessica Burger
Director - LRBOI Tribal Health



Medicare has four parts

- Hospital insurance (Part A) that helps pay for inpatient care in a hospital or skilled nursing facility (following a hospital stay), some home health care and hospice care.
- Medical insurance (Part B) that helps pay for doctors' services and many other medical services and supplies that are not covered by hospital insurance.
- Medicare Advantage (Part C) plans are available in many areas. People with Medicare Parts A and B can choose to receive all of their health care services through one of these provider organizations under Part C.
- Prescription drug coverage (Part D) that helps pay for medications doctors prescribe for treatment.

This is a public notice to interested parties

The following deceased individuals were eligible to receive a per capita distribution and did not designate a beneficiary:

Name:	Last known address:			Date first published:
Jason Loomis Dixon	3103 Clayward Drive	Flint, MI	48506	
Raymond Paul Carey	2865 Valk Street	Muskegon, MI	49444	
Rodney James Genereaux	2706 Riley S.W.	Wyoming, MI	49509	
Lawrence Ray Medacco	1637 7 th Street	Muskegon, MI	49441	
Kaileigh Ann Waskiewicz	18785 8 th Avenue	Conklin, MI	49403	

Persons with an interest or claim on the per capita distributions of the above named individuals should contact the LRBOI Enrollment Department to file the appropriate paperwork. After publication for three months an action will be brought in Tribal Court to determine who is lawfully entitled to claim the payment.

This process will be in place until a different process is adopted.



Mrs. Nicholas Bailey Compiles List of Indian Names for Michigan Towns

A list of Michigan towns, their Indian names, with their meaning has been compiled by Mrs. Nicholas Bailey of Amber Township. A Native American from Western Michigan, Mrs. Bailey has confined her list to that part of the state which she knows best:

Sleeping Bear – A hump on the sand dunes, as legend tells it; the mother bear lies lamenting her two lost cubs at sea.

Platt Bay - n sig mi oon: a place of the three lakes.

Cyrstal Lake – Tick mago n bisz, White fish lake.

Frankfort – Keshie say ing; swiftly running creek.

Herring Lake – Kay wiss koning.

Arcadia – Pukyuk keeng; land of the thach roofing. (Indians used to go there to gather their summer roofing, cattail leaves.)

Pier Port – Dwodnock; between hills and sloping to the water.

Onekama – placid waters.

Manistee – Num nit tigoon; a place where the logs floated together.

Brethren – milk o see bee waing; Bear creek.

Hamlin – Nay downg gah; sand dunes.

Ludington – Neend dibe kagoning; glistening skulls of men.

Pentwater – Macatawa gummee; black water.

Hart – Boo togoning; grist mill.

Crystal Valley – Oweesh tah yahining; black smith.

Shelby – Ma tigaoonong; place of Mr. Wood.

Cob Moosa – near Elbridge east of Hart, Oceana county – name of Chief who founded this reservation.

Montague – Wab gon keeshk-bogo; clay eroded by water.

Fremont – Ah gwas a goon nibissing; dead head lake.

Muskegon – Muski goon; cranberry marshes.

Grand Haven – Wash tonnoong.

Holland – Ahn i mah nong; Place of Dutch people.

Hamilton – Weec a quo dang; land of the thickets.

Allegan – ge boc o I goning; dam.

Grand Rapids – Bock ting; cascades.

Lowell – Cab bogwashies nong; shallow waters. Cahb bog washie nong.

Portland – Meshe mini conning; Thorn apple.

Big Rapids – gitchi bock o ting, larger cascades.

Baldwin – Seew togning; salt.

Kalamazoo – boiling springs; likening the springs to a boiling kettle.

Traverse City – Wee quet toong; bayou or bay.

The primitive Indians had no written alphabet. Early missionaries or preachers, wishing to educate the natives listened closely to the sound of their spoken language and wrote it just as it sounded. Bibles and religious songs were thus written and taught back to the Indians so that they might learn to read. Cotton Mathers and Joseph Smith were among these religious leaders.

Mrs. Bailey has added an Indian Bible written by Joseph Smith to her collection at the Mason County Historical society museum. There is also an Indian – English hymn book which was used by the pioneers along the claybanks south of Ludington who worshipped with the Indians at the Jeremiah Phillips home.

From the Ludington Daily News, Feb 25, 1956.

(Editors note: This article was typed and submitted to the Currents by Barbara Madison, the author of the 2008 series of articles on the Durant Roll as she thought the readers would enjoy it. As Editor, I met Barbara this summer and asked if she could provide some information to the membership on the background and history of the Durant Roll for our newspaper readers which resulted in the series of articles. Ms. Madison was not contracted nor compensated by the tribal government for any of her articles which were run, as submitted, by Ms. Madison.)
 Glenn C. Zaring
 Director- Public Affairs



Natural Resource Department

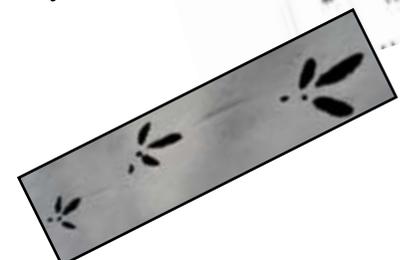
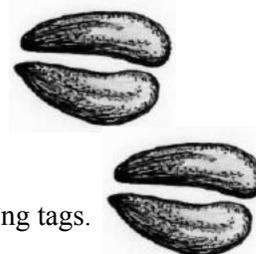


HUNTING TAGS

The Natural Resource Department is asking all hunters to return their hunting tags used or unused. The tags include deer, turkey, elk and bear. Returning your tags will be a big help in keeping the Department's data accurate. Either drop off your hunting tags at the office or mail to the following:

LRBOI Natural Resource Department
 Atten: Bonnie
 375 River Street
 Manistee, MI 49660

The Department appreciates the hunters that took the effort to already return their hunting tags. Thank you for your cooperation.





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Tribal Government Internships

Tribal Members interested in doing an internship with the L.R.B.O.I. Tribal Government Office please contact:
Human Resource Director
231-398-6706

Health Commission Position

The Tribal Ogema is seeking Tribal Members interested in serving on the LRBOI Health Board.
If interested, please submit a letter of interest to the Tribal Ogema's office.



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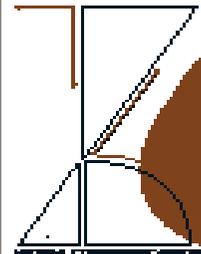
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Muschigon Construction Board Openings

The Tribal Ogema, Larry Romanelli, is seeking Tribal Members interested in serving on the Muschigon Construction Board. One of the vacancies requires 2 years of construction project management experience. There are currently two seats open on the board. If interested, please submit a letter of interest to the Tribal Ogema's office.

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Birthday Wishes

Happy Birthday to Russell Morris
and Suzie Ingram.
-With all our love Gail and the Family.

Happy Birthday

Jerry

August 27th

Love

Mom and your 4 sisters

Peggy, Nancy, Donna, & Jane

Happy Birthday to all my January kids...
to my granddaughter Kianna Milk on January 26th
to my son Wabanung Bussey on January 21st
and to my son Akisa Milk on January 30th
My nephew Don Underwood on January 3rd
& my great-nephew Kiedis Underwood on January 15th
you, my other kids & grandkids are all
what make life worth living.
I love you (grandma, auntie, Great Auntie,
Mom) Karen Lewis

"Always remember that the Great Mystery is
good; evil can come only from ourselves!"

--Grandmother of Charles Eastman. SANTEE SIOUX

The Great Mystery is love, good and principle. He is a guiding
Father. He doesn't play games. He knows only how to love.
Sometimes, when things go wrong, we blame Him or others.
Usually, if we are honest, we can see how decisions or things done
in the past put us in a position to be hurt. It comes back to us.
When this happens, it is not something the Creator caused, but
something we, ourselves caused. Most of our problems are of our
own making. When this happens, we should correct what we've
done, ask the Great Spirit for forgiveness and pray for guidance in
the future.

Mrs. Daisy Sprague



SPRAGUE (CHIVIS) - Mrs. Daisy Sprague (Chivis), aged 83, walked on to her creator Tuesday, January 6, 2009. Surviving are her son, Terry (Ruth Ann) Chivis; four grandchildren, Mon-ee, Otetwin, Andrew and Erica; three great grandchildren, Onyleen, O'felia and Owyn; two sisters, Irene Wesley, Marian Wesley; one brother, Henry Medawis Jr. and wife, Melva; several nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry, parents, her daughter, Pammy Sue Schrubbe and six siblings. Tribal member of Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi. Daisy was a retiree of Amway Grand Plaza. A Funeral and Committal Service was held Friday 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. The family received visitors Thursday 6 to 9 p.m. at the Arsulowicz Brothers, West Mortuary, 585 Stocking NW. Contributions in Daisy's memory will be appreciated. ARSULOWICZ BROTHERS, WEST MORTUARY
www.arsulowiczbrothers.com

Delta Epsilon Iota

University of Michigan

Chelsea Bromley selected for Delta Epsilon Iota



Chelsea Marie Bromley, daughter of Jessica Burger was recently selected by the Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society for membership in the DEI Chapter at the University of Michigan. Chelsea's grandparents are Pat and Kathy Bromley and the late Jonnie and June Sam. DEI membership is comprised of outstanding scholars attending many of the finest colleges and universities in the country. Chelsea plans on attending Law School at U of M and hopes to practice Federal Indian Law and Constitutional Law.

Happy Valentines Day
to all L.R.B.O.J
~ Love Angela Eagle
and Kids

Thank You

Thank You

I would like to send out a special Thank You to Sandy Chandler and Melanie Ceplina for donating their extra PTO and Vacation hours they could not carry over to this year. That just goes to show there are still people out there that care for one another.

Thanks again
Mary Bower

Thank You

Thank You

Congratulations



Congratulations to my husband Tahca for completing his first semester with a PERFECT 4.0 in all four classes! Tahca currently attends NMC and his enrolled to receive his Associate's in Automotive Technology. Tahca, I know this is just one of many great accomplishments you will have through out your life, I am so excited for you babe I never had any doubt that you would do awesome in school!
Love always, your Wife



Tahca Milk

Congratulations to my son Tahca for your success in college. Tahca lives in Peshawbestown with his wife Dana & 3 daughters and is attending NMC studying Automotive Technology & has a straight 4.0 for all classes his first semester. I am so proud of you and have always had faith that you can accomplish anything you set out to do. Much love to you, Mom

Employee Luncheon

The tribal government employees couldn't have a Christmas Party this year due to budget issues so the monthly luncheon was turned into a holiday celebration. The December party is always hosted by Tribal Health and they do a wonderful job of feeding everyone and arranging decorations and games.

There were party hats, leis, decorations and music which really helped to make it a festive occasion. Plus there was a delicious assortment of food and desserts so that the employees all could feast.

After eating, Director Jessica Burger organized team games where groups of three employees had to identify subjects drawn by one of their team members. The games really demonstrated the 'Artistic' abilities of everyone. It was a lot of fun.

After the games, prizes were handed out to the team players. Congratulations once again go out to the Tribal Health Department for living up to their reputation of holding outstanding luncheons for their co-workers.

One down note was sounded when Bill Willis from the Ogema's office announced that due to the budget issues caused by shrinking revenue from the Casino and requirements of Per Cap employees were going to be going to 32 hour weeks for 2009. Bill announced that it was the hope that this reduction would only be temporary.



Currents

You can find this and many other issues at lrboi.com

Megwa Ezhiweback



Mndoo-Güizis (Spirit Moon)
February 2009 Vol. 6 Issue 1

New Year's Jiingtamok

The gymnasium at Manistee High School was a beautiful place New Years Eve as Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health held their 2nd Annual New Years Jiingtamok...A Celebration of Life in Sobriety!

As you first walked into the quad at the school, you were greeted by the smells of some good food and the sounds of families bringing in the new year. At the sign-in table you received your Happy New Year necklace and a party hat. After the feast, everyone headed into the gym where the actual Jiingtamok would take place.

From the first sounds of the drums (Host drum, Southern Straight, co-host drum Northern Bear) warming up, you knew you were in for a great celebration of welcoming in 2009. Then prior to Grand Entry, Master of Ceremonies Joe Martin started calling for the dancers to get ready. As the regalia was donned, dancers of all ages started lining up to smudge before entering the dance circle, smudge was offered by Jonnie "Jay" Sam, the Arena Director.

The sound of the drums echoed back and forth through the gymnasium and through the hearts of everyone present. As the colors were presented by Head Veteran Frank Pearo, Bill Memberto - LRBOI, Alice Wilson - LRBOI, Glenn Butchmiller - GTB, Bob Sharlo - LCO-OJEBEWA, Al Pedwaydon, GTB, Terry Rose - LRBOI and Dan Bissell LRBOI carried Killed in Action Eagle Staff.

Invocation in the language was given by our very own Terri Raczkowski from the Tribal Historical Preservation Department. Moccasin Sound sang an honor song for our own LRBOI Jr. Princess Hannah Sandel.

We had a great line up of Head Dancers ~ Kci miigwech ~ Head Male Dancer: Marty Wabindato Head Female Dancer: Teresa Johnson Jr. Head Male Dancer: Andre Neebnagezhick Jr. Head Female Dancer: Swan Lewis .

After much dancing and many smiles, we were close to welcoming in 2009. Just before midnight we all entered the dance circle for the last dance of 2008. Just before the giveaway MC Joe Martin offered a prayer in honor of the New Year. Miigwech to Tribal Historical Preservation Department for the giveaway gifts. It was truly a celebration to remember.

Lastly, a kci-miigwech to the volunteers: Kathy Sam, David Roskoski, Kevin Streeter, Kathy Gibson, Brian Gibson, Joselyn Cabarrubia, and Jalissa Cabarrubia.

