

Currents

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

Megwa Ezhiweback



Namehine-Gjizis (Sucker Moon)
April 2009 Vol. 6 Issue 4



ALSO IN THIS
PUBLICATION

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OGEMA ROMANELLI

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Kudos continue to come in to LRBOI Tribal Health for the Diabetic Health and Exercise Video, See the comments on page 19

Candidate messages

Beginning on page 4, your General Election candidates have submitted their messages to you, the Tribal Citizens who will be voting in the General Election in this month. All candidates were given the opportunity to submit new articles or to re-run previous ones as they deliver their message. Watch the May Currents for election results.

*Office of Public
Affairs*
Contact Information
1-888-723-8288
1-231-398-6840

Community Center getting closer!



The new Community Center out by Aki is getting closer to completion and should be ready by May. If you drive past it you will see beams in place. This is an exciting project for the tribe! Watch the Currents and the Rapid River News for updates as we get closer.

Rapid River News!

Your tribal Public Affairs office is gathering e-mail addresses of members as part of a communication improvement effort. Please make sure and send your e-mail to the director (Glenn) at gzaring@lrboi.com and copy (cc) to the administrative assistant (Angela) at aeagle@lrboi.com. The list will remain confidential and will just be used to send you tribal information on a timely basis.



Ahjani Yepa Sprague in DC

Tribal member Ahjani Yeba-Sprague, a Michigan college student took Washington DC by storm in her message for climate protection here in the United States. See the article and read her speech on page 27.

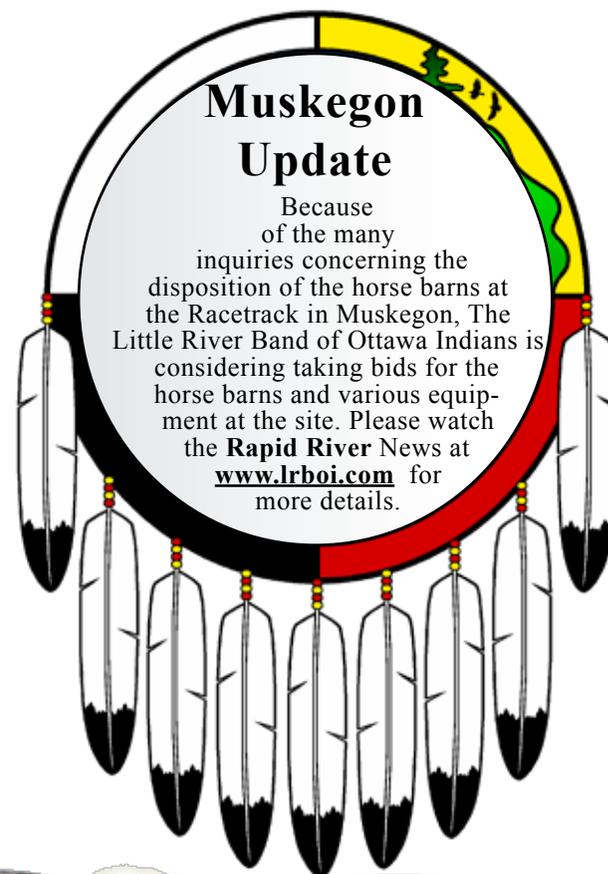


Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
375 River Street
Manistee, Michigan 49660

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There are continued reports on our Muskegon casino project in the news. Recent court rulings have kept people guessing and speculating about our chances for a second casino. Our efforts are still on time and moving forward. Our Little River Casino/Resort has recently made the change to all Ticket-In/Ticket-Out slot machines, (TITO). This has been a controversial subject for some time because we were one of only a few casinos that still used coin slot machines. I, personally, liked the sound of the coins but for efficiency, it is said that TITO is better for profit margins and staying current, we will be monitoring the change. Most of our government employees have returned to a 40 hour work week after almost three months of being on reduced hours. Along with the return to 40 hours, Tribal Council gave the go-ahead to have an organizational assessment done within the next several months which should re-evaluate positions and structure, to ensure that our government is working with the most efficiency. Until next month...



Aanii, Spring is on its way, finally, as well as our Annual Spring Membership Meeting on April 18th this year. The Ogema's Meet and Greet will again be held on Friday evening, April 17th from 6-8 PM. At our Fall Membership Meeting, workshops were held by several governmental departments, to give members a more in-depth explanation of departmental services and projects being worked on; those workshops were well received by those people who attended them. Workshops will again be held at this Spring Meeting on Saturday morning. Look for more information in this edition of the Currents. The 2009 Election is proceeding on past the Primary and onto the General Election to be held in April; I wish the candidates well. The new community center is taking shape at the entrance to Aki and should be completed with the next couple of months. It is my understanding that this project has been in the works since approximately 2002.

Government Closes for the following Holidays

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



Some areas of the government will continue to be available on these holidays, such as Public Safety.

Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of the Government facilities.

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

Gzhiijwang Ziibi Dabaadjimowin
Gdanimikaago ... Mino Enuhkummegud
Government news you can use
Rapid River News!
March 16, 2009 From L.R.B.O.I.

Rapid River News expands!

For some time now, a weekly e-Newsletter from Public Affairs has been going out to government offices of all branches of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and then posted to the Web. The newsletter is called the Rapid River News.

The RRN (as we call it) contains tidbits of information from various departments and tribal activities as well as notices of events. A lot of times the information in the RRN doesn't make it into the Currents because of timing and space issues.

In this age of advanced electronic communications, Ogema Romanelli has asked that the Rapid River News now be made available to tribal members as well.

The Office of Public Affairs has begun gathering e-mail addresses from our tribal family and assembling an e-group to receive the RRN on a regular weekly basis. If you are interested in receiving this e-newsletter, please be sure to send your e-mail address to Public Affairs at aeagle@lrboi.com and gzaring@lrboi.com. To respect your privacy (and cut down on spam) your list will not be given out for any other reason than for this communication from your tribal government.

NEWS FROM THE DESK OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL RECORDER FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY-2009



Weekly listing of work sessions are held by Tribal Council for the Tribal Council agenda, the purpose is to work out issues prior to being voted on at the Tribal Council Meeting on Wednesdays. All Work sessions are open to tribal members. Work Shops are listed below on the calendar for the month of June.

Workshops that Tribal Council did have for the since I become Recorder they was nothing in the office prior to me taking the Recorder position of what the past workshops have been for month of February:

- **Cooperative Agreement w/ the State:** Discussion on agreement between the Tribe and State for the the Sex Offender Registration.
- **Agenda Review:** Going over agenda items for Wednesday's Tribal Council Meeting.
- **Union Meeting:** This meeting was called for closed due to Union Issues.
- **Insurance Issue:** Finding an agent of record for the casino.
- **Forensic Audit:** Releasing the Forensic Audit to the membership.
- **Cadillac Insurance:** For agent of record.
- **Payout to the Board of Directors:** After they were reinstated by the Ogema a payout was given to two board members.
- **Agenda Review:** Going over agenda items for Wednesday's Tribal Council Meeting.
- **West Shore Hospital:** Get some kind of working relationship with West Shore Hospital.

Agenda Review: Is the Monday before a scheduled tribal council meeting which is scheduled at 1:15 P.M.

I am going to recap a portion of agenda items from when I became the Recorder as anything before me becoming the recorder there is no attendance records available in the recorder's office. All the files are in the recorder's office and you are welcome to come in a view them. -

2-1-1 Manistee County, 4-Day Work Week, Adam Walsh, Aflac, Agenda Reviews (34), Artwork at Casino, Atwell Hicks-Company, Audit for Casino, Background checks,

background investigator, Beam Giveaway, Bereavement, BIA Roads, Board Of Director(7), Brick purchase for the Manistee High School, Budget & Appropriations Ordinance, Budget for 2009 Casino & Government, Budget Meeting with Casino, Budget Process 2009, Bull Property Building, Bull Property, Call Center, Casino Budget-2009, Casino Employee Manual, Cell Phone abuse, CFO Position, Chemical Dependency, Chief/Leg Attorney Contract, Closing Enrollment, Club Keno(7+ meetings), Commerce Commission(4), Committee & Commission(2), Community Center workgroup(8), Compact Amendment to Muskegon Casino, Compensation & work hours for Tribal Council, Concert Tickets, Conference call Riaz, Constitutional Changes (3+ meetings), Contract Corporate Express, Contract health, C-store, Dan Taylor Contract, Deer tags, Diversity Network, Docking of Boats, Donations, Drummond Woodson Bill, Durant Roll (Red and Blue Checkmarks), East Lake Communication, Elder Meals (2), Elders Survey III-2008, Election Ordinance, Eligibility @ Aki, Pick Logo for new Theater, Eliminating Legal Assistant Attorney(2), Employee Issue with misinformation, Encompass Group, Enrollment Audit, Enrollment Commission, Enterprise License, Ethics Ordinance, Fire Protection, Public Safety, Fisherman business, Fishing Boat Issue, Fishing Consultants, Fishing Issue, Fishing Steel Issue, Fishing update, Food for Employees at casino, Frankfort Boat, Gaming Commission Forensic Audit, Gaming Dept Director issue(2), Government Efficiency, Harbor Springs School, HIP Project(BIA), Housing Regulations, Homeowners initiative, Homeowners Initiative, house of Flavors, Housing Commission Regs, Housing Department, Human Resource Audit, Hylatt Group (Insurance), Indian Preference, Interview Chief Attorney, Interview Chief Leg Council, Job Description Policy, John Concannon Issue, Kellogg Foundation, Kern Valley, Land Records, Larry meeting on Casino Property, Legal Reform Act, Legal Review/Contracts, Low Energy Asst, Madigan Pingatore Insurance(4), Manistee Medical Facility, Manistee School Track, Mark Wilson Contract, Mary Lindeman Lobbyist, Master Agreement, Master Contract w/ Muschigon Construction, McGladrey Workshop, McGladrey, Meet with Joe Martin, Meeting Procedure Ordinance(5), Meeting with Judges, Meeting with Ogema, Member Asst Program Ordinance, Member issue with council, Merit Increase, Michigan Gaming Board, Muchmore & Smalley, Muschigan Insurance, Muskegon Shoreline, national City Bank, Native People Workgroup, Natural Resource, Negotiations Representative of Sovereign Immunity Ordinance, Net Removal, Northwestern Bank, Northwestern Bank, Ogema Vito, Ogema/Council Update(13), Organ donor, Personnel Policy, Pharmacy Project, Pharmacy Project, Prosecutor position, R. Clark Road

Inventory, Raymond James, Reemployment, Release closed session material, Reservation Restoration, Revisions of the Revenue Allocation Plan Ordinance(8), Right to work, Rossman Group(2), Ruling w/Chapman VS/Tribal council, Section of Grand Mentoring program, Sgt. Overtime, Signature Authority, Small Business Loan, Sovereign Immunity Ordinance, Stetson Report, Strategic Plan, Submission to newsletter, Succession of Constitutional Office Ordinance-2008, Suing tribe and then getting rehired, Supplemental Appropriation, Tax Ordinance, Telecommunications, Topics of importance, Travel Budget, Travel Regulations, Tree Removal, Tribal Council Budget, Tribal member Insurance, Tribal Ordinance Enforcement Act, Tribal Prosecutor, Tribal State Tax, Trust Application, Union Issues, Utility water and sewer rates, Vincent Adamczak, Wage Grid Presentation, Wage Grid, Water Feature, Wells Fargo, Whistle Blower (2), Whistleblower Ordinance, Wind Study Tower, Work hours for council, Work shop for member, Workers Compensation,

Just a reminder that tribal council has their meetings every other week so the minutes will only be for every other week when we have a meeting so all of 2008 open session minutes are all caught up now the tribal council Executive secretary is now working on 2009 which leaves us with only the month of January that the girls are working on currently.

Thank you,
Kimberly Alexander
Tribal Council Recorder

Happy Easter which is approaching soon and then spring will be here!



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 – Binojeek

Michael J. Ceplina



Boozhoo

Here are some of the things that I would 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 hrs 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 also work on getting a new casino up and running.

I believe that this would help all tribal citizens. I would work on getting incentive programs for our youth-education is our mure. Consider investments into renewable energy such as in 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 that this is our land and always was. We need signs up letting people know that they're 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 our reservation such as gas, oil, salt etc. I'm not from the Manistee area so I know how it is to live outside of the area.

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

Respectfully,
Michael J. Ceplina
VoteforMike@hotmail.com

Elaine J. Porter



Please forgive me if I should offend anyone, as that is not my intention. Following is a partial list of things I bring to the office:

Education,

- *Training in Tribal Law
- *Reading and understanding financial information
- *Experience
- *Traditional values

Each are very important to all of us, as it helps determine who we are.

As your representative I will begin by coming to your area as often as possible to listen to you. I cannot represent you very well if I don't know what it is that you need or what you think. I truly believe that by listening to what all of our Elders are saying, not just the few vocal ones, would be a good guide line and a good thing.

We need to support our youth through these trying times. Their education, health and welfare are of utmost importance.

Cultural training should be of high importance, following the Seven Grandfathers: Truth, Love, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, Respect, and Bravery.

I do not lie, steal, use drugs and I have not been convicted of any crime or felony. While working for a cause greater than myself, I will not promise more than I can deliver.

I have nothing to personally gain but to do a good job. I have an honest, open and fair mind. I can take a balanced approach to all issues, working for the good of the Tribe and all Tribal members. As a team player, I can work with others and respect all ideas.

I will take the time to fully represent all tribal members. Traditional values need to be brought back such as smudging before Council meetings. Youth involved with government and Elders, these things will help them be aware of Tribal issues and prepare them for the future leadership of the Tribe.

I can be reached by phone at (231) 826-3505 or cell (231) 357-8672 or by email at aankwadquay@yahoo.com. Miigwetch, Elaine Porter.

Virgil J. Johnson



Aanni Kchii Miigwetch for all your support in the Primary Election. We still have much to do before the General Election. I invite you to check out my Web Site WWW.virgilforcouncil.com. I also invite to give me a shout on the Toll Free number 877-398-2840, so we can talk about the issues.

From the teachings I've learned that being humble is the foundation in which all the grandfathers rest on. I believe the next most important teaching is Respect and I take this very serious.

With these two teachings, I feel I can better serve you and move our ideas forward. Here are some of the changes I believe in;

- All registered voters have a voice for all candidates.
- Background disclosure for all candidates prior to an election.
- Economic development in the Muskegon area.
- Legislate sound laws for our enterprises.
- Legislate Sunset clause for enrollment.
- Community service for higher education.

Give me a call 877-398-2840 and tell me what you think.

Here I'm 61 years old and thinking I've pretty much have seen it or heard it all before. However, Mr. Sam from Ann Arbor Michigan confronted me with a question that ended up having a profound impact on me. The question was "An oak tree and a willow tree were in a heavy snow storm. Which one would break first?" After some careful thinking I told him I could make an educated guess but would rather not. He recommended that I ask two elders this question and get back with him.

The next day I asked an Elder and a man with many gray hairs. To my surprise I got two different answers.

After listening to their explanation I went with the one that made the most sense to me. During the snow storm the weight of the snow on the oak tree which is rigid and strong would not allow for it to flex thus it would break, where the willow was flexible. From this story two core concepts can be easily drawn;

1. We have to listen to our citizens for methods to solving problems and solutions to the problems.

2. In life we are faced with many storms. The key to surviving is to be flexible enough not to break but support the burden place upon us.

Kchii Miigwetch Mr. Sam for your insight and support.

I'm looking forward to serving you but I need your vote to make this happen.

Kchii Miigwetch
Virgil Johnson (Turtle Clan)
Candidate for At Large Seat

Tribal Appellate Court Judge

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.

Daniel T. Bailey



To begin with, I would like to thank all those who showed their support and confidence in me by their vote for me in our primary election. I would also like the opportunity to show those who have not yet voted or decided who to vote for in the General Election by seeing who I am at www.myspace.com/votebailey.

In recent times some information has been passed onto me that I feel is important to share. Within the past few weeks I've been contacted by different tribal members and asked my opinions on fellow candidates, they offered

comments that I felt were negative. I responded to them and now publicly, that I feel each of the candidates are nice people and that I will not participate in negative talk or mud-slinging. I think we've all had enough of that during the recent presidential elections.

We are one tribe and need to stand united, even during elections. We as a people are given an opportunity to make a choice on who will best represent our tribe and its future. Don't take this task lightly. During these economic struggles we need representatives that see beyond their own financial benefits and make the choices that are best for our people. I am one of those representatives who will put my money where my mouth is. For further details go to www.myspace.com/votebailey.

I, Daniel Bailey am a man of integrity and honesty. The past two issues of *Currents* have given you a glimpse of what I have done for you in the past, I have served this tribe, my people, with great honor and pride. My past involvement will provide you with voting confidence that if chosen; my service to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians will continue to be done with the greatest respect for you and our Tribe. As many already know, I, Daniel Bailey, am a full blooded Tribal Elder and feel it is my duty to serve you while honoring this great Tribe.

I have been your Chief Judge for approximately 10 years.

If something is not broken, why fix it? When something works, why change it?

With True Sincerity,
Daniel T. Bailey
Chief Judge
Tribal Court

John Gregory Kelsey

JOHN KELSEY: THE ONLY CANDIDATE FOR CHIEF JUDGE WITH A LAW DEGREE.



Bringing change to our tribal courts is very important to John Kelsey. Many of our current cases would never be heard in mainstream, non-tribal courts because of their ridiculousness. Under our current system, meritless cases are brought to settle personal scores, thus ruining the reputations of others.

John has defended tribal members who've been on that short end of the stick. For him to run for chief judge, he gave up his tribal membership -- and per cap -- because his opponent's poorly drafted constitution prevents young tribal members with law degrees from running. John's sense of integrity led him to forgo money for the sake of reforming LRBOI's courts for all tribal members. A few ideas include putting court opinions online to ensure transparency in the courts and creating a viable citation system. John plans to adhere to the law in a way that is currently lacking in our current system rife with off-the-cuff rulings by our current Chief Judge.

His degrees come from the Ivy league Dartmouth College and the University of Wisconsin Law School. Visit vote4kelsey.wordpress.com for more information including John's resume, work samples and proposed ideas. John can also be reached at 216-509-3642 or jgk@alum.dartmouth.edu.

Jonnie J. Sam



My name is Jonnie Jay Sam, known to most as Jay Sam (tribal citizen #0145).

I would like to say thank you all the citizens of the Tribe for voting in this election. Voting is the way you, the citizens, take responsibility for your government. Please forgive my reiterating in this message and its brevity.

I have served the Tribe for a long time. I have served as Ogema, and accept the responsibility for what occurred then (circa 2002) as I believe responsibility is a key to good government. I am a college graduate (Central Michigan University, Bachelors of Science in Political Science: American Government/Administration) and the Michiagn Judicial Institue's Judges' training.

I have served as the LRBOI Associate Judge, the first and to date only full time judge for over four years. During this time I also served as Court Administrator, drafted first draft of the Court Rules using the Mich. Court Rules, Federal Court Rules and the Mich. Indian Judicial Assoc. model rules as the base. The final rules were amended and adopted by entire Judiciary, including two very experienced Judges/Attorneys.

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

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

In closing, I say again - Please vote. Thank you.

Office of Tribal Council – 9-County

Kimberly M. Alexander



March 8, 2009
Dear Tribal Citizens:

My name is Kimberly Alexander and my native name is No-Din-Ainz which is Calming Breeze and I originate from the Bear Clan. It has been my pleasure to represent you as your nine county representative to tribal council.

Kimberly Alexander for Tribal Council and remember to vote by April 24th, 2009. It is your opportunity to have your say.

During my 1st term we have seen many positive changes to our Tribal Nation I am proud of

- * Helped institute the Per -Cap Program.
- * Greater over sight of how the tribes money is spent by the casino.
- * Saving a million dollars on the casino expansiowhile serving on the last Developmental Committee Group which consist of Don Koon, Norbert Kelsey , Loretta Beccaria, Pat Ruitter and Myself .
- * Implemented an elders supplemental Insurance.
- * Put the employees from 32 hours back to 40 hours a week.
- * Better accountability of records for the recorders office.

At this time I am working on a Blue Cross and Blue Shield card for all members and a pharmaceutical card as well for tribal citizens who do not access the tribal clinic. The Tribal clinic would still be accessible and funded through grants. I would make sure the tribe received its share of the economic stimulus money and that it does not just go to the state, and continue to implement tribal laws and make it more strict financial accountability of all tribal government and casino operations.

I am proud to run for the Tribal Council in the nine county area and it would be an honor to serve you for another term.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Alexander

Bill Anderson

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of the people who voted for me in the primary election. I truly appreciate your support.

Communication – Internet web sites, e-mails, etc. are useful tools but do not reach the entire membership. Call me old fashioned, I believe our newspaper is still the best tool for information to reach everybody. However, there are limitations of what can and cannot be printed. Such as, court rulings, past and present business

ventures. There needs to be legislation to establish public information guidelines.

Constitution- The membership should have full input on this issue. I think there are solvable solutions to this document without re-inventing the wheel. In the meantime, we need to assure that the one we have is followed.

Muskegon Property- Yes, I am for gaming in Muskegon. We need to establish a casino in that region to be competitive. However, until that comes to fruition, there could be uses for that property such as, fairs, festivals, summer concerts, etc. to offset property upkeep and taxes.

Experience- Since opening, my restaurant in downtown Manistee two years ago, several other restaurants and retail shops have come and gone in this volatile economy. I have survived by using business skills that I have developed with over 20 years of management experience. Not to mention a strong work ethic and financial responsibility.

Attendance- I believe as Council members, we set an example for tribal employees and for our tribal children. I will work a full week and attend all assigned liaison meetings.

Work Environment- Most importantly for our tribe to move forward with critical issues, we need a professional work atmosphere. No personal

agendas, grudges, or chips on our shoulders. We need ability to work cooperatively with each other even if we disagree.

I'd like to close this article with a quote from retired general Colon Powell.

“Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand.”

Your vote can change the future of our tribe. Thank- you

Phone# 231-398-0435

Harold Battice Jr.

Harold J Battice II
Tribal Council, 9-County
e-mail: hbattice@hotmail.com

Many know who I am and what my accomplishments are. I hold an Associate of Arts Degree and an Associate of Science Degree from Muskegon Community College where I majored in business. And, attended the Seidman School of Business at Grand Valley State University majoring in Finance before coming to the Little River Casino. I worked

for the Oceana County Inter-tribal Council and participated with the Michigan Indian Employment & Training Services. I worked at the casino for 8 1/2 years as a Security Officer and RV Park/Hotel Supervisor. I had the opportunity to participate and complete the Leadership Development Program at the casino. I also attended many of the workshops for leadership training that was offered during the years I was employed at the casino.

Many challenges face the tribe constantly and competent individuals dedicated to the preservation of our culture must make difficult decisions. Our leaders must possess the ability to manage tribal finances and address critical issues without jeopardizing the tribe's future. We must strengthen our economy and depend less on support from the Federal and State Governments. Now, financial sovereignty is more important than ever with the problems of the world economies. We must invest wisely and cut wasteful spending by our tribal government and our enterprises! Our leaders need to preserve the future by first satisfying the needs of

the membership today.

A strong leader will know the right road to take today for a better tomorrow. I believe that everyone should be responsible for his or her actions, and should be held accountable for those actions. We must all work together for a stronger future. A vote for me is a vote for the membership. Miigwech!

Austen J. Brauker



If you really want a competent and honest person to make decisions for the best interest of the tribe, then vote for me.

If you want someone with business sense, an education and the ability to use it, then vote for me.

If you want someone who cares about our tribe and our traditions, then vote for me.

If you want someone who is diplomatic, creative, assertive and gets things done, then vote for me.

If you want someone with a

backbone who stands up for our rights without being offensive or combative, then vote for me.

If you want someone who has experience dealing with the public and can handle the pressure of politics, then vote for me.

If you want someone who is a husband, a father and grandfather, then vote for me.

If you want someone who will put the needs of the people first and treat all tribal members equally, then vote for me.

If you want to see us blossom financially from sound and lucrative investments, then vote for me.

If you want to see this tribe stop the infighting and move forward to be a proud and respectful nation again, then vote for me.

If you want someone who can think outside the box and isn't afraid to use their brain, then vote for me.

If you want someone with the commitment it takes to write novels and plays, paint huge murals, play many different musical instruments, build custom homes, raise a family, and be able to do just about anything that he sets his mind to, then vote for AUSTEN.

If you want someone who believes in our sovereignty and exercises his treaty rights as a tribal member by hunting and fishing to feed his family, then vote for me. If you want a problem solver and a Peacemaker, then vote for me.

I will make things better for our tribe by carrying out the will of the people and serving their needs first. I will stand proudly and fight for all of us to have a better life as a tribe. If you want more of the same, if you want bickering, slander, pettiness and people who want to serve themselves, then vote for someone else.

If you're tired of the way things are going and want someone to truly represent you... **vote for AUSTEN J. BRAUKER. It's time for a change.**

Pamela S. Medahko



From My Corner of The Sky The challenges we face are real and everywhere we look there is work to be done. Our nation needs to proclaim an end to the discord which has sapped the confidence throughout our Tribe that has far too long strangled our politics.

The recession and the state of our national economy is affecting Indian Country. Job loses are large and widespread across the nation. When there's smoke, there's fire. The state of our own sovereign nation's economy calls for action.

The values upon which our success depends on, lies within the Seven Teachings gifted to us from the Seven Grandfathers. Our Ancestors faced perils we can scarcely imagine, as they carved the way for us. They knew the true meaning of these teachings.

We are now the keepers of this legacy. Guided by these teachings, we can meet new threats that demand even greater effort -- greater cooperation and understanding.

There was a time when Little River had the reputation of being a Leader among Tribal Nations. We stood out in the front lines and approached issues/concerns with fervor and dedication. We led the battle during the great debate of Proposal I. When three other Tribal nations joined forces we were unbeatable. (Proposal I appeared on the November 2004 statewide ballot in Michigan, where it passed with an over-whelming 58.3% of the vote. It was an initiated constitutional amendment. It required voter approval for new gambling outlets in the state, exempting Indian tribal gaming and three casinos in Detroit). In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned. During the next four years, let us earn

this greatness!

Let our children remember that when we were tested, we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back, nor did we falter. Our Ancestors gave us exceptional examples on how to lead, especially in the midst of adversity.

Strength, without a doubt, is needed for an uncharted journey, but 20 people of strength know it is within their journey where they will become even stronger. Let us lead as our Ancestors did, with a humble dignity of strength.

If my visions or service endeavors resonate with your own hopes/dreams, please consider casting your vote for me. Megwetch!

For updated campaigning blogs visit: www.myspace.com/mycornerofthesky

Candace Chapman



I thank all of you who entrusted your vote to me. I am truly grateful and welcome the prospect of uniting our voices to move forward in a positive way. We can, and will continue working together to ensure a positive change for our people.

Today's economy and the impact it has had on our Tribal Enterprises, obligates us to proceed with extreme caution in order to strengthen our opportunity for prosperity. However, we can continue to maximize our resources, and solidify methods of supporting our children by finding ways to provide sustainable assistance to help offset the financial burdens faced by our Tribal Citizens.

Further, our future prosperity depends on our ability to identify, strategize and implement legislation that will secure stability in these processes during this most crucial point in history.

The decisions we face will play a key role to a successful future. Good intentions are a great start and we can certainly thrive once again; however we will need an unwavering commitment from proactive leaders, who possess the knowledge and experience to:

1)effectively evaluate financial information

2)identify and assess overall efficiency and

3)bring forth viable legislation to secure solid business practices for the Tribe.

These items are only the beginning of what it takes to establish a solid foundation. It's also imperative to recognize the importance of each branch of government and understand the role they play in securing a steady and productive future. To maintain the Tribe's best interest, one must be willing to work diligently, collaboratively and with integrity when making decisions on behalf of our people. The actions of our Elected Officials speak volumes, as character reflects leadership. Honor and accountability are essential.

I possess the skills necessary to move us forward. I have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of working with you to strengthen them. I understand the importance of accountability and what it means to work hard to acquire desired results. I assure you that I will always remember that the position I seek is one of service. Be it man, woman or child, whether near or far, I recognize that each decision made impacts us all.

Once again, I encourage everyone to contact our candidates directly, as this will help to ensure the receipt of accurate information. I humbly ask for your continued support.

Thank you for your consideration.
231-773-1840

Steve Parsons



First, I would like to thank those who voted for me during the primary election. Your support and encouragement has meant a great deal to me and I do appreciate it.

As I have stated in previous articles, the current economic crisis presents unique and serious challenges for our Tribe and our elected leadership.

Tough times, such as these, call for renewed and vigorous commitment and hard work. The decisions we make and the priorities we set now will establish the direction for our Tribe for years to come. After all, it is because of the hard work and sacrifices of previous

generations that we are in this place today. As these previous generations accomplished what others believed 'impossible', we also have been given the same opportunity today. I am confident that in working together, supporting one another and laying our self-interests aside, we also can accomplish remarkable things.

Coming together—elected officials, employees and fellow members alike—to work for the betterment of our Tribe requires the willingness to forego political agendas, roll up our sleeves and get to work. If I am fortunate enough to be re-elected, I will continue to work openly and candidly with my fellow Councilors and the Ogema to find solutions to these challenges and continue to move our Tribe forward in a good way. This requires us to examine and address a number of critical issues.

We must honestly and seriously examine the organizational structures of the Tribal Government and Casino operations and make whatever changes are necessary to maximize their effectiveness and efficiency. The recent decline in casino revenues and gaming revenue distribution to the Tribe make this our number one priority. Given this situation, our per capita payment rate must remain at its current level for the foreseeable future.

We must renew our commitment to economic diversification by continuing to develop and support Tribal enterprises, such as our two most recent successful

Tribal businesses—Muschigon Construction Company and the Little River Trading Post. Businesses like these provide additional revenue to the Tribe, and more importantly, training and employment for Tribal members.

We must work to continue and strengthen programs that provide vital services to our membership, including: affordable housing, education, employment & training, health care, and family services, to name a few.

In the spirit of cooperation and progress, I humbly ask for your vote.
Miigwetch.

Janine M. Sam



When I worked as your representative before, I sponsored the Energy Relief Program and Gas Card benefit. I helped to create our current Education Programs. Helped to expand healthcare benefits outside of the 9 Counties, helped vote the Elders Insurance Program into place. There are many other positive contributions that could be listed, but it all boils down to one thing: **SERVICE**. I am experienced in Tribal Government, I have an open mind, and I care deeply for our Membership.

If I am elected, I pledge to you:

1. I won't waste time undermining others, I will focus on being a team player to find ways to stabilize our Tribe's economy.

2. I will focus on creative improvements in operations, cutting costs while preserving services to Membership when possible. When it's not possible, I'll tell you why, not make excuses.

3. I will read all the financial statements, when things don't look right, I will take the time to get to the solution, rather than pointing fingers and placing blame.

4. I will work with all members of the Tribal Council and Ogema, rather than use personality conflicts to justify not doing my job. It is time to stop petty squabbles, while the Membership suffers from inaction and miscommunication.

5. I will work to adopt budgets that reflect the priorities of the People, using the funds allocated to Government in the Revenue

Allocation plan to the best purposes for new enterprises, education, healthcare and services. The Revenue Allocation Plan is not just about Per Cap, it sets priorities in funding for the future, too.

6. I will work for the Elders as if they were my own parents; the future I hope for my children, I will work to create for all children. We are Anishinaabek, this is as it should be.

I support another gaming enterprise in Muskegon. I support renewable energy, not just using it, but also possibilities of manufacturing those new technologies. We have advantages on our Trust lands, we need to use them! Why just use windmills or solar energy, why not manufacture their components? I believe we need to protect the Water, and be leaders in conservation of Mother Earth.

If you want to vote for a person that cares about the Members, and has the experience necessary to create positive changes, I would appreciate your support in the General Election.

Miigwetch.
Janine M. Sam

Melissa Zelenak



Did you know that 2048 election ballots were mailed to members who didn't vote in the Primary? This cost the Tribe a lot of time and money, plus the needed input from so many important people. 2048 votes will make a **HUGE** impact on the General election. Do you want only 130 or so people putting someone into office who you think ineffective, untrustworthy or unskilled? I sure don't, and I hope you don't either.

I've shared information/goals at www.MelissaZforLRB.com and in some

cases there isn't much difference between me and other candidates. What is different about me is the fact that I don't have a questionable and/or criminal background, I haven't been in Tribal Court 6,7 or 8 times and haven't blatantly ignored the Constitution. I do hold people accountable, keep membership informed of my actions, have experience with Tribal laws/government, keep a positive can-do attitude, practice good work ethics and believe that our culture is way more important than money.

Look ahead 20 years...are we giving our kids today what they need to keep our Tribe strong when we're Elders? Or do they see the constant in-fighting, gossip and rumors and learn by example that it's okay to hurt people?

Fairness isn't about everybody getting the same thing or amount, it's about each one getting what they need to be successful. We all must work together for financial security, healthy natural resources, safe housing, quality medical care and top-notch education. Only membership knows what's best for this Tribe, and for me I know it's best to listen to membership.

As your Councilwoman I promise you'll know my work product, can trust my education and rely on my experience. I will share the success I'll achieve and the mistakes I'll make. My door, phone line and web site will be always open for us to talk. Without your input, government officials shouldn't act.

To the 2048 people who didn't get to vote, I beg you take action and put experienced, educated, new candidates into office who'll truly help our Tribe in the long run. Please consider who goes to Washington DC or Lansing to represent us.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support. To get a copy of my "You CAN Get Involved" brochure which provides basic steps to help membership begin to learn about Tribal government, please call 231-350-1778 or see www.MelissaZforLRB.com
God Bless Us All.

Sandy Lempke - Mezeske

This is the candidates' last submission to the Currents before the ballots go out and I would like to leave you with some of my thoughts for the Tribe.

This campaign has been difficult for everyone, including for you the membership. I myself find it hard to make voting decisions. Voting is one of the most important rights that we have as members. It is a right that makes a significant impact on the future of our people. Throughout the last few elections the number of members that cast their ballot was

low compared to the number of members that can vote. In conversations I have had with members in the outlying areas I have been told that members often don't know the candidates or feel that their vote won't make a difference. But the overwhelming response is that members that don't live in Manistee or the 9 county feel left out. That feeling of being left out leads to frustration and that needs to change. As members of this Nation, we are all important.

Many candidates past and present speak of the lack of communication and I agree that the Tribe needs to be better at it. But first we need to identify what information you want to hear. Just for starters I believe that each member should receive an Annual Report that provides detailed financial and programmatic information. Quarterly reports should be posted. We need to be informed of events and happenings in the larger Indian Community, as many issues/court cases other Tribe's face are extremely important to us. We need to be informed of issues that could ultimately affect our status as a sovereign Nation. I cannot stress the importance of having a Strategic Plan prepared with the input of all members.

Currently we are merely a ship without a rudder, aimlessly floating around because we have nothing to guide us in the right direction. A Strategic Plan is the rudder, it is the document that guides decision making and planning for the future.

There is so much fighting going on now. Not just everyday conflicts, but downright contempt and open hostility. I fear that if this doesn't stop, we will be in jeopardy of losing our status with the federal government. We must begin to heal as a Nation. Please VOTE!

Sandy Lempke-Mezeske,
Outlying Candidate
Sandy_for.change@gmail.com
231-477-5636(h) 231-239-1808(c)
Read and post to my blog site <http://sandyforchange.blogspot.com/>

Rick Sprague Big Thunder

Why you should Vote for Rick Sprague Big Thunder?

A fresh voice with experience not recycled slogans and unfairly biased opinions

I am able to work with others for the common good to get things done.

We need Transparent Tribal Government so that we as citizens can be better informed as citizens/members. We need accountability and minutes that will be made available not endless rational why this is not so. This

is possible and achievable, why can't our Gov do this now?

I will advocate for transparent Government This is not the only reason we need change, we need to change the current leadership trend that presented to us their changes for our constitution The September 2008 Currents is but one example of current councils out of step approach to fix our Government.

They would:

Eliminate the Ogema's position; restrict the opportunity to run for office to one hundred miles from the Gov office, Change the blood quantum that would divide families in the same household.

They also believe that it's ok to eliminate our youngest citizens, those under 18 from inclusion in a Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP).

I support the three branches form of Gov because this helps ensure that we have a check and balance to our system of Government.

I am 48 years old and have served on several organizations councils/boards where I worked within the Public Department of Health and Social Services and Indian Health Service. I have experience and ability to work

with others and will be a clear and fresh voice for change.

I have nearly 3 years experience in casino work and several years of service on different boards and organizations and have firsthand experience of what works.

I will promote fully fair and open preference employment.

I fully support a process that will open the records to past closed session minutes not withhold them.

Enrollment records and requirements need to be the same for all applicants not biased opinions

Now that Tribal Government has reduced the overall budget we can proceed on new spending with caution not waste.

As elected council from outlying district I believe that information is greatly wanted and needed we should not have to badger council for this requirement

Rick Sprague #2175
phone: 616 304-6309
8499 E.M-71 lot A
or littleliverdad@yahoo.com
Durand Mi 48429.

Norbert J. Kelsey



I am an outspoken advocate for residents outside the often-privileged service area. This makes me unpopular in Manistee, but I continue to hold my beliefs. There are areas our tribe fails and I won't hold back saying so. For this, I have faced excruciating recrimination, being accused of terrible misdeeds. I've been chastised for allegedly sharing closed session information with you. It's easy to hide behind the cloak of closed session. We need transparency

so you see what officials do. Some items must be closed but more should be public. Secrecy breeds deceit. I encourage openness in government, and will take the rebukes of those who decry that too many members have too much information. That's the only way it works! I'll continue to do everything in my power to see you are informed. This is not a secret society or private party- this is government by representation. I cannot represent you if you don't know the issues.

I vote against measures which exclude outlying members. I support constitutional amendment for all of us to vote for all elected positions so the loud voices of the few that aren't continually allowed to drown out the voices of many.

I vote against spending that will take hundreds of thousands of tribal dollars – our dollars-to provide minimal benefit to a select few. I ask- how have you benefited from hundreds of thousands spent constructing a shooting range for the bloated safety department? From thousands spent in feasibility studies for a pharmacy in Manistee? From faltered private business paid for with your money? I say they are programs

we shouldn't support, positions we shouldn't fill, and jobs that aren't necessary. It isn't perfect, but if we can't provide fairly to everyone, per capita seems the solution. I will fight for the 50% you voted for.

We cannot expect families to uproot, giving up livelihoods, homes, retirement, for low paying jobs here at our casino- just to receive services that have every right to expect wherever they live. But there are those who believe that. Seems the best jobs at our casino are reserved for members of families who think of themselves as the nucleus of our tribe anyway. That isn't fair and I will continue fighting to ensure that all have a voice and all have a share, no matter whom or where we are. Please consider voting for me. Thanks

Office of Election Board

Duane Battice



Aanii my fellow Little River tribal members,

My name is Duane Battice. I am a candidate for a seat on the Tribal Election Board. I have been married for 6 years and have 2 wonderful children. My son Dakota is 6 and my daughter Alleah is 2.

I have an Associate Degree in Computers for Business and also in Computer Networking. I hope to continue expanding my knowledge. I have attended the Spring and Fall membership meetings for many years.

I have listened to the tribes issues. Through my dedication to the election board, I will try my hardest to shed more light on the issues at hand. Through this I hope to be a part of the resolution to the many issues that afflict our tribal members. One of the issues I speak of is the over expenditure of the tribes money. If elected, I will devote my time to the election board in order to strive to find places to trim the election board's budget appropriately.

I am an honest straight forward person. I do not intend to make promises I cannot keep. I am very devoted and detailed oriented. I feel I have the experience needed to maintain the standards expected by our tribe and give you the results that you are looking for.

Migwetch,
Duane Battice

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

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

Bernedene Crampton MPA



Bernadene Crampton
ndizhinikaaz.
Muskegon ndoonjiba.

I am a retired child welfare worker. During my career in this field, I have been involved with Native families to preserve the integrity of the Anishinabek in general.

It has always been important to me to improve the conditions that caused the families to come into the state child welfare system. My goal has been to support the family so that there is little cause for future involvement with the Child Protection Service.

Social work was my secondary goal in life. I had changed my educational pursuits from social work to public administration in later years. However, although I did complete the public administration program with a Masters, I returned to child welfare in the end of my employment career.

Today, I am still involved in helping people help themselves.

I have been encouraging our young tribal members to pursue their education so that when the economy changes, we will have the people to ready to step into the top positions in our tribe and be prepared to meet the challenges of these positions.

No longer will we have to rely on outside people to run our business. We will have attorneys, accountants, computer experts within our own tribe who, hopefully, will our best interests in their hearts.

We will have social workers ready to carry on our own traditions of our people helping our people.

We will have our own people with expert skills in problem solving, open communications, economic development, etc.

Together, these young people will have the teamwork skills to work in harmony to

change our history of bickering, name calling and mud-slinging.

Of course, it will also take education in our way of life and dedication to our culture to make these changes possible.

We need people who will carry on the traditions our ancestors fought so hard to maintain against all odds to destroy our way of life to teach the young people.

We have these people with us. I have met so many people with knowledge to pass on to listening ears and open minds.

We have the culture camps, spiritual people and cultural classes open to anyone who chooses to engage in these pursuits. We need to keep these alive and well, if we are to succeed to a future.

Then, those of us at retirement age can relax and enjoy our last years in peace.

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

Nancy Kelsey



Nancy Kelsey, 26, is a proud Anishinaabe kwe. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Nancy always had an interest in serving others. From being a regular church lector as a child to founding a church youth group in high school and volunteering with the elderly, she has had a firm belief that it is every person's

duty to serve others. While at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., Nancy led service trips throughout the country to locations including two Indian reservations. From freshman to senior years, she was an officer in the student Native American Association among other organizations. She is also the recipient of Creighton's distinguished Outstanding Student Leader award in 2004, which is also when she graduated with a B.A. in journalism. She went on to work at the largest newspaper in South Dakota called the Sioux Falls Argus Leader and simultaneously mentored a youth in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program.

After about a year, Nancy went on to join the AmeriCorps volunteer program teaching Lakota high schoolers English and journalism at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. She was in the program for two years before attending graduate school at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She writes for ReZnet, a national Native news network, and Native American Public Telecommunications' website. She has also had six reporting internships nationwide.

She currently lives in Lincoln, Neb. and will complete the journalism M.A. program in 2009. In her free time she enjoys reading, writing,

traveling, engaging in political discussions, volunteering and learning about other cultures.

So please vote for Nancy Kelsey: ethical, independent-thinking, fair.

Tribal Appellate Court Judge (Tribal Elder)

Marcella Leusby



Marcella Leusby
7435 North Skookum Road
Luther, Michigan 49656
leusbymarcella@hotmail.com

Running for Office of Tribal Appellate Court Judge (Tribal Elder)

My mother Alice Pete Moore raised me on the principle that in order to gain respect you have to give respect. Some on the campaign train seemed to have forgotten this. By the choices we make in our lives reflect on who we are and where we come from. I plan on using my teachings to reach others, to dedicate myself to our people, to give our tribe complete loyalty, to the best of my ability. Every tribal member is entitled to courtesy and to be informed. Honor is earned, not bought. By these choices I make I would appreciate your vote as Tribal Appellate Court Judge, Tribal Elder.

Elder Marcella M. 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

Martha Kase



I will be 62 on April 19th and according to the constitution I qualify to hold the elder seat in the appellate court. I believe our judicial system holds the elder seat with high respect to our traditions. There were times in my life when wisdom came from a child because I was open to hear their voice. After all, that's when I learned to love unconditionally. As a mother, auntie and grandma I've had children remind me I was never too old to love like they do. They have a lot of wisdom and that's why I will always hear their voices.

As far back as I can remember I was told if someone older than myself needed a place to sit I was to give them my seat. I am now almost 62 years old and I find myself closer to the front of the food line. When we were at fishing camp I was told don't play with the fire: "you're going to get burned!" I played with it anyway. I sure learned to respect fire after getting burnt, I know now that there are many things in this world that can burn me if I don't give proper respect and care to them. I remember fire the most because it can keep me warm, give me light and a hot meal but I also learned real quick that it could destroy me.

I have put my own life in jeopardy protecting loved ones more than once. I didn't know where the courage and bravery came from and it even scarred me. Other times I was so weak and broken that I was carried until I could walk again. I was given the courage and the bravery I needed to heal. It can be a painful journey confronting the truth but well worth the freedom. As a counselor for the past fifteen years I have been

passing along these gifts so others could be free. I know today where it all came from. It's beyond my understanding how it works but I know it does and I am grateful.

I know it's hard to vote for someone you don't know so I thought I would share with you on a more personal level of who I am. I know I will bring honor and dignity to our courts so please vote me Martha Kase

Grandpa Thomas

Standing majestically like a king's castle this simple man's cabin stood out from within the woods, above the busy main road like a lighted beacon in the black starless night to those seeking refuge from the wear and tear that everyday living could bring. The late summer season was still being heated with a hot sun that refused to be washed out by cooling night time storms. Bolts of lightening and torrents of rain crashed down, beckoning to the next season for an exchange of power.

The simple rustic cabin became my refuge during my early impressionable years. Now these memories are vividly recalled—transporting me to that happy, carefree childhood era—where the lightening was magic in the sky and the night rains pelted upon the tin roof in a relaxing rhythm that lulled me into a restful dream—filled sleep.

Upon awakening I welcomed the cool morning air pressing against my face. With anticipation of being warmed by the wood-burning stove I stayed cuddled within the cozy comfort of my blankets until my Grandpa Thomas stoked the fire to a roaring blaze. The small cabin warmed quickly. I hurriedly dressed into my play clothes of long pants and a shirt—the same sensible attire my Grandpa Thomas and my two brothers wore. The daily race to the outside toilet between me and my two brothers began as soon we were warmed enough to dress.

Water was heated and waiting for us to use for cleaning our faces and hands. We would then do our best to make up our folding beds that were to be stored later in an out of the way corner. Our part of the finished product usually resembled a body still lying under the blankets. I believe now that this was just a ploy Grandpa Thomas used to keep us occupied and out of his way. While we were kept busy turning blankets into ghosts and laughing at each other's attempts to be scary, Grandpa Thomas often cooked a simple breakfast of fluffy, kid-sized pancakes on top of the wood-burning stove's griddle. An alternate breakfast of oatmeal topped with cinnamon and brown sugar was a special treat saved for the days when we were allowed to join Grandpa Thomas at his cemetery caretaker job located across the street from the cabin. We kids each contributed small efforts to bring order and beauty to an often forgotten part of the world. We raked, pulled weeds, and picked up wind blown litter in between wrestling or chasing each other like playful puppies.

The cabin sat atop a hill facing the main road. A spring fed creek that wound along the bottom left side was where we were required to go for water. Fetching buckets of water was a big chore for a small child with limited strength. It sometimes seemed like a lost cause. Filling the water to the brim always meant sloshing and spilling out most of the cold refreshment as we struggled to reach the

top of that long hill. My brothers were encouraged in their efforts by being told that hauling these heavy buckets would buildup muscles and make them into big men.

What a treat that cold water was once it arrived and was stored in small barrels. We especially enjoyed pouring out a pitcher of it for the exclusive use of drinking. This pitcher was partnered with a stainless steel ladle. We would dip the ladle in the pitcher, drawing out the thirst quenching refreshment. With an exaggeration of dieing from thirst we took turns drinking more than we needed. This became known as getting a dipper of water.



This cabin with no electricity, no indoor plumbing, no regular heat and no running water became my sanctuary. I loved it then as well as now because of the love I was given from that gentle old man.

The ideal of living off the land—hunting, fishing, or trapping for your food—was a necessary reality for my Grandpa Thomas who chose to live in the game filled woods on the outskirts of the small rural town of Custer, Michigan during a period of adjustment for many of North America's displaced Indians such as himself. His home was often the center place for people to come to barter. Looking back it seems to me that those days which I cherish for the loving-carefree-happy-times-must have been quite a struggle for him as he tried to maintain his quiet simple life with the added responsibility of caring for three small children just barely of school age.

The summer season soon stepped out of the limelight giving way to autumn's passionate glory as seen through the colorful changes of each tree and plant. Bright crimson, vibrant yellows and deep shades of tangerine replaced refreshing shades of summer green.

Like the seasons, life with Grandpa Thomas was also changing. The excitement of the start of school was soon replaced by another exciting moment for me—the day my parents returned to reclaim us. Although the reunion was an exciting and festive occasion for all of us the thought of leaving that special haven and the quiet man who loved me brought sadness to my young heart. As we stumbled our way through the tearful goodbyes with hugs and kisses I was often reassured of being able to return the next summer. That summer dream however, was never realized. Grandpa Thomas passed away soon after that, leaving behind these childhood memories along with childlike hope for a future in an idyllic world.

A cabin quietly tucked between the shade of tall trees—home—along with a desire to keep things in life simple and to share love with people; these are the ideals one gentle man passed on to me. I now desire and try to pass these ideals along to many others as best I can, hopefully building a brighter future for everyone.

Georgiann (Trevan) Paynter

"Silence and self-control permeate the entirety of our lives."

--Larry P. Aitken, CHIPPEWA

The Creator gave us all the Red Road and on this Red Road we are required to think and act in a spiritual way. To make sure I conduct myself according to the Red Road, I must make sure I develop my self discipline. Self control works best when we pray for the courage and power to do the will of the Great Spirit. We are here on the earth to do the will of the Great Spirit. Sometimes, we must battle ourselves to do this.

Great Spirit, help me to have my self-control guided by spiritual ways.



Food Distribution Program (FDPIR) was created by congress in 1977 Food Stamp Act as an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for Indian Reservations. The program offers commodity to low income Native American households. No household may participate in both the Commodity Food Program and 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.

USDA Income
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Commodity Department serves 13 counties: Benzie, Grand Traverse, Lake Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Wexford.	Net Monthly Income Standards October 1, 2008 & October 1, 2009
	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

Yvonne Theodore, George Lawrence, Laurie Jackson
1-888-723-8288 ask for Commodity Program
Office # are 231-398-6715 or 231-398-6716

Office hours
are 8:00 A.M
- 5:00 P.M
Lunch hour is
12:00 1:00

So... what should we do?



Ready.

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed



Emergency Preparedness for all of us
There is a lot of news these days concerning Emergency Response, Preparedness and Planning, usually associated with stories about FEMA and disasters like Hurricane Katrina. The last few years, your tribal government has been

paying a lot of attention to the subject so that we can protect the tribe's members, assets and future. The tribe is now compliant and working with the US and state (Michigan) governments through several systems. We have even built a team of trained employees who will respond if and when some disaster occurs that affects our tribal reservation and population area. Their training continues and will do so into the future.

The question you should ask is what should I do? What should I do for my family, my community and my neighborhood if you don't live 'On the Rez'? There are numerous programs out there touting various kits, training, ideas and groups. Most of them offer good ideas but some are just trying to get you to buy something. Your Tribal Emergency Planning team would like to direct you to a website that has some excellent ideas which you can use. Their information is free. Just go on the internet to www.ready.gov and you will find a site sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This site tells you about what kits to put together just in case they are needed and what steps to take ahead of time that would help you and your family if a disaster were to occur. If you don't have access to the internet, go to the library or ask your children. Also look into local organizations such as the Red Cross or Citizen Corp for information. Thinking ahead will help you to avoid problems in the future or mitigate their effect on you and your families.

Maajiidaa Rocks in Seattle

The recently release Exercise DVD from the Tribal Diabetes program is continuing to receive rave reviews across the country. This e-mail came in at the end of February.

From: Victoria Ugartechea
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 4:20 PM
To: Holly Davis
Subject: Maajiidaa DVD

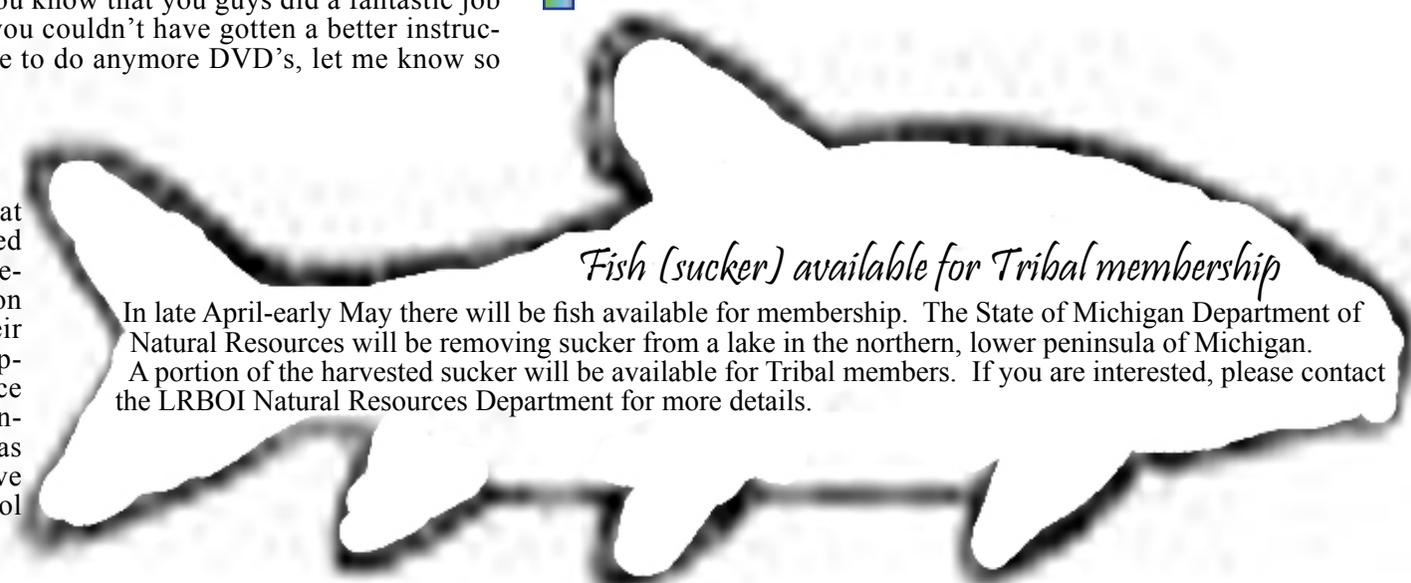
My name is Vicki Ugartechea and I work at the Seattle Indian Health Board as a Healthy Heart Recruiter. A co-worker was in Washington DC for the SDPI conference and obtained the DVD "Maajiidaa". I teach exercise to our elders 1 day a week and I brought in the dvd and everyone loved it. We only exercise for 1/2 hr and since that 1st time I brought it in, everyone wants me to bring it every week until we go through the whole DVD. They love the native music; they think the instructor is just adorable; and they like that there are all shapes and ages doing the exercises and that is outside. We(our diabetes dept.) love this DVD so much we are looking into having someone copy them for us and we can distribute them to our diabetes and Healthy Heart clients. 3 people have asked where they can purchase it (me being 1 of the 3) and that was my reason for contacting Holly Davis I just wanted to let you know that you guys did a fantastic job in the makings of this DVD and you couldn't have gotten a better instructor to lead it. Please, if you decide to do anymore DVD's, let me know so we can check them out!

Thank you,
Vicki Ugartechea

Diabetes Education Department at the Health Clinic. was also called from the Winnebago tribe in Nebraska inquiring about duplication of the DVD to distribute to their members. The DVD may be copied as there is no copyright since this was grant funded. Our intention with the diabetes grant was to allow distribution to all Native Americans to help prevent/control diabetes.

Fish (sucker) available for Tribal membership

In late April-early May there will be fish available for membership. The State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be removing sucker from a lake in the northern, lower peninsula of Michigan. A portion of the harvested sucker will be available for Tribal members. If you are interested, please contact the LRBOI Natural Resources Department for more details.



PROGRAM WORKSHOPS TO TAKE PLACE AT MEMBERSHIP MEETING APRIL 18TH

The Ogema's Office has organized workshops for the morning of the Spring Membership Meeting. The workshops will take place at the Three Fires Conference Center in two of the conference areas. A flyer of these events will be mailed to each head of household prior to the membership meeting and will be available at registration. The flyer will list the description of the workshop, times and location. Workshops will start around 8:30 am and run until 11:50 am at which time lunch and the official Membership Meeting will commence. The workshops are intended to give the visiting membership information about tribal services. We are excited to have Jay Sam of the Tribal Historic Preservation Department presenting our history and tribal history book just released. This workshop will be presented during two sessions on this day to give everyone an opportunity to attend. We hope you can attend the informational workshops and enjoy in the fellowship of the Membership Meeting. Some of the workshops to be presented will be:

- Tribal Historic Preservation workshop and presentation of Tribal History and the distribution of the book "Our People Our Journey" The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians 1615-1994.
- Home Ownership Incentive Program Workshop – presented by the Housing Department
- Income Tax Workshop – Presented by a representative from the IRS.
- College Preparation Workshop- Presented by the Education Department
- Leasehold Mortgage Program – Presented by the Housing Department
- Basic Household Budgeting – Presented by the Members Assistance Department
- ICWA Workshop – Indian Child Welfare Act – Presented by the Family Services Department
- Tribal Tax Office – Presented by the Tribal Tax Department
- Tribal Workforce Development – Presented by the Commerce Department
- Legal Assistance Services – Presented by Members Legal Assistance Department

Submitted by: Lee A. Iverson Members Assistance Coordinator

Program Services Reference Sheet

Family Services

Ext. 6726

Individual and Family Self-Sufficiency Education and Assistance
Family Counseling
Family Violence Prevention
Indian Child Welfare Intervention & Reunification Elder Services
Family Counseling

Members Assistance

Ext. 6731 or 6733

Low Income Energy Assistance
Food Assistance
Rental & Mortgage Assistance
Per Capita Information Services
Referral Services available
(Grant Funded Programs available to 9 County Service Areas)
LIHEAP
Well and Septic Program

Health Clinic Contract Health Services

Ext 6601

Family Physician, Medical Services,
Community Health Resource, Diabetic Education, Health Nursing
(Limited Health Benefit Programs)

Contract Health Services (CHS) for the 9 county service area

Extended Health Assistance Program (EHAP) outside the 9 county service area
Counseling and Referral for Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Education

Ext. 6735

Michigan Tuition Waiver
Adult Education Incentive Grant, Higher Education Program,
Book Stipend Program
Vocational Education Assistance Program
Activities Assistance, Senior (High school) Expenses, Drivers Training Assistance and 11th/12th Grade Laptop Computer Program
School Clothing Assistance
JOM/Student Services

Commodities

Ext. 6715

USDA Commodities Distribution

Enrollment

Ext. 6720

Enrollment Processing
Address Changes
Bereavement Program Judgment Funds
Tribal Directory Information
Per Capita Beneficiary Form

Housing

Ext. 6722

Aki Elder Housing,
Leasehold Program,
Homeownership Incentive Program,
LRBOI Rentals and Low Income Rentals,
Transition Housing

Tax Dept.

Ext. 6874

Tax-exempt Motor Fuel Program,
Tribal Tax Licenses,
Tribal Business Licenses Tribal Certificates of Exemption for Resident Tribal Members/Tribal Entities, and for Commercial and Subsistence Fishers

Commerce

Ext. 6879

Small Business Loan Program
Tribal Owned Economic Development
Tribal Member Owned Economic Development
Tribal Title Office
Work Force Development

Legal Assistance

Ext. 2234

Preparation of Wills, Durable Power of Attorneys, Medical Power of Attorneys for members residing in Michigan. Guardianship of minor children for all tribal members.
General Information: Giving advice, make referrals, assistance with drafting documents to be filed in court cases and advising on what to do in a court proceeding. Can represent low income elder in tribal court in civil matters that do not involve the tribe. Cannot represent any tribal member in any type of case (civil or criminal) in state court.



Anishnaabek Healing Circle program marries western, traditional approaches in dealing with substance abuse among Native Americans

Steve Begnoche - Managing Editor
Friday, March 6, 2009

MANISTEE — In a humble office on Ninth Street on the south side of Manistee, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians operates a clinic housing the Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health program.

There tribal members or other Native Americans may receive a variety of substance abuse, mental health, and prevention services care options, both western and traditional.

For several years the state-licensed program has been offering a visiting traditional healer among its services, including its substance abuse outreach program which recently has become part of the Anishnaabek Healing Circle program through a federal Access to Recovery grant.

According to those close to the program, it is only natural for Native Americans to include traditional healing and a medicine wheel approach in their walk to wellness.

For some Native Americans, the journey to ending substance abuse may include a journey to finding out who they are and how to live in two worlds — a non-native one, and their traditional world. Some succeed better in both worlds by learning about and reconnecting with their native culture, the clinicians say.

According to Jessica Burger, clinic director, and Dottie Batchelder, chemical dependency counselor, the treatments and techniques of western medicine, such as the 12-step program of Alcohol Anonymous, often work and are a beginning point for native Americans who come to the clinic.

Eventually many also choose using the older medicine wheel philosophy of the Anishinaabe which addresses the whole being — emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual — in a holistic way through their native culture. Each component in this ancient philosophy is unique and important in and of itself, but all four need to be complete and connected to form the whole. If one is missing, the whole — the circle — isn't formed.

A substance abuse situation is seen as an extension of the whole person. The individual is guided to help see that resolving the issue is in his or her own best interest out of respect for himself, respect for others and the world, Burger explained.

Engaging in their culture can help Native Americans bridge the gap in the background, helping them really know who they are.

“Not all clients are to that point where they are into the cultural. A lot of them are just starting to learn their own culture as they are starting to come back into the area,” Batchelder said. “And sometimes our program is where they are getting that first contact through the traditional healer and medicine wheel — the different exercises, different teachings we are able to do through their therapy.”

For such a person, what starts with and may include the AA 12-step program, could grow into a search for identity including a native American name and an embracing of their native culture.

The traditional healer — a person trained by elders in the ways of healing and acknowledged by the community as such — is available on a monthly basis to help with that journey. A healer can address the variety of issues from a native perspective. A healer may work with a person's mental state, may further one's journey to learn the culture, may employ herbal remedies and or ceremonial approaches.

“I think we've found that the ones who are more involved in their culture, their Native American culture seem to have a better chance for recovery because it's a holistic approach that includes a lot of spiritual,” said Sujean Drake, chemical dependency and mental health counselor.

A DIFFERENCE IN APPROACH

Burger describes the western medicine approach as more theoretical than the native medicine approach. Western medicine often classifies an individual as having primary and secondary issues. Yet, western medicine, she said, also looks at mental, emotional and physical components with the fourth component being social.

The medicine wheel and traditional healer, on the other hand, are more forgiving to the person's progress, she said. All aspects of a person's being are seen as the person — there isn't a primary and secondary issue — it's all the person. The medicine wheel philosophy shows how lifestyle choices are disrespectful to the individual, others, the Earth and the Native American culture based on the seven Grandfather Truths — teachings about wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility and truth. “It's real effective in the Native American community because it is something they are familiar with, that most folks have been brought up with, and if they haven't been brought up that way, as they come back into their native communities, they want to learn those ways,” Burger said. “So that's just a logical step to help them bridge that gap. Maybe if they've not been raised within their community, it helps them find their comfort zone to help them function in their community better.”

But it isn't always easy for one learning the traditional culture while dealing with mental health or substance abuse issues.

LANGUAGE and fitting in

English words shared by the cultures sometimes don't fully translate the native language meaning, Burger said.

She used the word “respect” as an example.

“I think there's a little more difficulty there because sometimes a notion of respect in an Indian community can be different than a notion of respect in a non-Indian community. They're very similar, but the respect applies to yourself, to your surrounding community members, to your family, to the environment. It's much broader.

“It always starts with the individual and then how the individual interacts with the community and the world at large and that's a very different concept. Not everything in this universe revolves around me, though I'd like it to,” she said with a laugh. “We revolve around the rest of the universe. It's a much broader aspect.”

The Little River Band has a language instructor

for those wanting to learn Anishinaabemowin. Learning about their culture can help a Native American living in a non-native society.

“They find a self identity by learning more about their cultures and fitting in,” Drake said. “A lot of our clients that have not been raised in the culture feel left out, and once they learn about their culture, they want more and more of it because they fit in. And they build a self respect so they can use that respect in their social interactions, too. I think that is why recovery is much better, easier for them.

“You can't respect someone else if you can't respect yourself. So that is where it all begins, learning you're OK and that being native is something to be proud of.”

For a Native American or one of mixed heritage like herself, Burger said, “sometimes it can be a real challenge where you fit in.

“External society will classify me,” she continued. “I don't need to classify myself. A lot of people take a long time to reach that level of understanding. So in this program, that's a real important component in the approach to counseling. That's where the medicine wheel piece fits in so they understand where they fit into their own community and certainly how that interacts with the external community — and I say external because there is a different view between non-native and native communities. On a lot of different things, we just have a different point of view, which is OK.”

RESPECTING DIVERSITY

The program, she said, respects diversity.

“A native person will sometimes respond to the (AA) 12 steps very nicely, especially if they were not raised in their native culture,” Burger said. “That makes sense to them. But somewhere along the way they will start to ask questions and they will want to incorporate more of their native culture.

“These two ladies handle that very well in their counseling structure,” she said, indicating Batchelder and Drake. “That is when we call in the traditional healer.”

The traditional healer, like their western counterparts creating a treatment plan, will take the individual's needs into account in determining an approach.

“They really kind of evaluate where that person is. They know. The traditional healer will know the first time you sit in the chair, how far they can go with you, or what you will be receptive to,” Burger said. “Sometimes it's discussions, relating stories about why something is a certain way and how a certain behavior should be approached. Sometimes they use a lot of herbal medicines that might help a person through a physical ailment or some other problem they're having. Sometimes they teach them how to pray, and they may teach them to pray in their own language. And they may gift them with an object or an article they need to assist them through that process.”

Look for the continuation of this article in the May Currents



DBAADENDIZWIN

"Humility" ^{By} Patrick D. Wilson



Binenhshinh
"Bird Clan"

In Peacemaking "Humility" it comes to us in two ways. The first way we experience humility is by knowing that not all problems or issues can be fixed. Second, as Peacemakers we guide the participant to understand being respectful and not putting themselves above others, is a step towards being humble. When the participant is being humble they are ready to hear the other person's side of the issue. This is yet another way to open the door towards healing and reaching an agreement.

Peacemaking is always looking for new volunteers to become Peacemakers. Individuals want the best for our Tribal Members. The Peacemaking section has put together a training program to guide our new peacemakers, and we also have a stipend, for Peacemakers.

Take the first step by writing a letter of interest and send it to the Patrick Wilson Peacemaking/ Probation Department 3031 Domres Rd. Manistee, Michigan 49660. You can also email your letter to pwilson@lrboi.com



A Maker of Peace

By Austen J. Brauker

The process of making Peace is not an easy one. It can be very difficult to confront our interpersonal problems, but even more difficult to find a healthy and healing way to solve them. This is the hard part. This is the part where we might have to look at our own involvement in the problem and listen to the way that another person feels. Peacemaking is a way to use our traditions, combined with modern methods of dispute resolution, to benefit all parties involved. Whether it is a huge problem or just a small disagreement, Peacemaking provides a safe place to bring those differences to the table and attempt to share together in shaping a solution that both parties can eventually agree upon. The good thing is that when we can learn to communicate with other people, to listen to their side of the story and to use empathy, we are finding a way to gain tools that will help us reduce problems in the future. Each conflict can be looked at as an opportunity, a way to develop skills and look at new ways to deal with other people in our lives. Peacemaking becomes part of a person's character and radiates to others as we learn to practice these principles in our daily routine. You can tell the difference in a person who seeks to solve problems through peaceful means and those who just want to argue, cast

blame, throw mud and insult one another. When you practice Peacemaking it brings a sense of calm that allows you to attempt to resolve situations through communication, acceptance and respect. Each time we use these methods we are becoming stronger as individuals and as a Tribe. Peacemaking is all about healing and trying to make the best of a volatile situation. It takes a lot of work to make healing become a part of your life instead of walking around causing problems. Peacemaking helps. Peacemaking becomes a part of you. You learn how to present your needs to others without devaluing their needs in the process. It is okay to have differences. Everyone has an opinion. That is not the problem. The problem comes when we refuse to let others have an opinion that might be different from our own. In most situations there is no black and white, no right or wrong answer. The Peacemaking process teaches us how to allow these different opinions without becoming angry, making petty threats or cutting someone else down. It is about solutions and finding the paths to reach them. Listening is one of the key components to this. We have to be able to see where another person is coming from, allow them their own position on the issue and then respectfully be able to express our own views without attacking the other person personally. If

we look at the bigger picture, all of us are family. Families have conflicts. It is the way that we deal with these conflicts that is important.

Ask yourself: Am I a person who creates problems or a person who solves them? Do I engage in talk or activities meant to be combative and hurtful or do I use my words and deeds to help, heal and benefit my extended Tribal family? Do I build or demolish? And finally, ask yourself: Do I make our community a better place from what I say and do?

Our path in life gets narrower as we realize that certain things we do each day might have to be changed, that certain ways we treat one another are not something to be proud of, but at the same time, another part of our life opens and gets wider. In this area, we feel the joy of leaving the world a better place by our having been in it. We see the smiles and happiness that we share with others as we walk our path of life. Within each of us is the power to create or to destroy. It is all in how we choose to be. This decision is up to us. Try to make the right choices. Be a healer instead of a destroyer. Walk a path you can be proud of, for your children are learning from each step they watch you take. Walk in balance and beauty. Become a maker of peace.

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Peacemaking/ Probation Department

The Peacemaking/Probation Department is looking for volunteers to participate in a Peacemaking Talking Circle. The goal of this talking circle is to help our fellow Tribal Members to understand that their actions affect the whole community. By becoming part of the talking circle you will be helping out our young people. Helping them to understand, and take responsibility for their actions. By participating in a Talking Circle you will also be carrying on our Cultural Heritage. The Anishinaabek have conducted Talking Circles for thousands and thousands of years. There are Sharing Circles, Healing Circles, and Peacemaking Circles.

Wegnesh(what)

Aanii pfish (where)

Wenesh (who)

Wenesh pii(when)



Peacemaking Talking Circle Meeting

**Justice Center, 303 Domres
Dr. Manistee, MI.49660**

**Adult Mebers of the Little
River Band of Ottawa Indians**

March 30, 2009 Time: 5:30 pm

The meetings will be held the laast Monay of each month

If you are considering joining us on March 30th, Please let Pat Wilson or Austen Brauker, know, or if you would like more information. We can be reached at (231) 398-2239 or (231) 398-2240, or by email: pwilson@lrboi.com , abrauker@lrboi.com
Mnagiihghat Nangwaa, Miigwech

The future meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of every month, and new locations will announced. This event is sponsored by the Peacemaking/ Probation Department

New Resource to Help Older Adults Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



Contact: Enesta Jones, 202-564-4355 /7873/
jones.enesta@epa.gov

Do you know how to tell the difference between carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and the flu? The answer to this and other questions about preventing carbon monoxide poisoning can be found in a new fact sheet developed by EPA.

Symptoms could be the result of CO poisoning when you feel better when you are away from home or the symptoms occur or get worse shortly after turning on a fuel-burning device or running a vehicle in an attached garage.

Carbon monoxide, an odorless and colorless gas, is the most common cause of poisoning death in the United States. Unintentional CO poisonings are responsible for about 500 deaths and 15,000 visits to the emergency room each year. Carbon monoxide poisoning can be prevented by installing a carbon monoxide alarm, yet less than one third of homes have them installed.

Everyone is at risk of being poisoned by CO exposure. Older adults with health conditions such as chronic heart disease, anemia or respiratory

problems are even more susceptible. Devices that produce CO include cars, boats, gasoline engines, stoves and heating systems. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces.

An easy way to remember how you can prevent CO poisoning are the letters I CAN B.

- * Install CO alarms near sleeping areas.
- * Check heating systems and fuel-burning appliances annually.
- * Avoid the use of non-vented combustion appliances.
- * Never burn fuels indoors except in devices such as stoves or furnaces that are made for safe use.
- * Be attentive to possible symptoms of CO poisoning.

This is the 8th fact sheet in a series of educational information for older adults and their caregivers about preventing exposure to harmful environmental hazards.

More information on preventing carbon monoxide poisoning:

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/factsheets/pcmp/index.htm>



BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION
YOUTH LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE
At Haskell Indian Nations University
June 15 through 19, 2009

Program Overview:

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is sponsoring the Youth Leadership Challenge 2009. The program will provide a rigorous schedule of instruction, events, challenges, recreation and social activities that are designed to create awareness and improve the knowledge base of young tribal members in the unique Nation to Nation relationship that Indian Tribes have with the United States Government. Participants will receive instruction from tribal leaders and other experts in the field based upon a curriculum that will provide knowledge and information on the historical, political, legal and social development of tribal governments as the instrument to carry out this nation to nation relationship. Activities that enhance knowledge and promote problem solving skills will be integrated into the program.

Competition between groups and evening social activities will provide motivation and foster communication and sharing among participants and facilitators. Follow up challenges, projects, and activities will be continued throughout the year for participants completing the challenge.

Eligibility Requirements:

The program is open to American Indian/Alaska Native students who will be entering their sophomore, junior or senior year during the fall of 2009. Students from all BIE operated and funded schools are welcome to apply. Schools, community and tribal organizations are encouraged to sponsor students to attend the challenge. Food and lodging will be provided. Travel to and from Haskell will be the responsibility of the participant or the participant's school or sponsoring organization. Students should plan to arrive on campus anytime after noon on Sunday, June 14, and depart for home Saturday, June 20. A total of 150 to 200 applicants will be approved to attend the challenge. Students

that demonstrate leadership skills and those that need a little motivation are encouraged to apply. Students will need to complete the following check list, to apply.

1. Youth Leadership Challenge Program application
2. Recommendation forms completed by a teacher and school counselor.
3. A **250 to 300 word essay** (Written or Typed) identifying the four major areas (economic development, education, social programs, cultural activities, etc.) that the student's tribe is involved in that have a positive influence on their lives. The essay should also identify the top four challenges that the student feels his/her tribe faces and recommend solutions to those challenges.
4. Verification of Enrollment in grades 9 through 11. (for example, the student's Report Card or a letter from the school administrator)
5. Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) or letter from tribal official verifying eligibility for tribal membership.
6. A parent's or guardian's signature on the application
7. A recent photograph and shirt size
8. A list of any medical conditions and medications that may present challenges to participation in some activities

The application and supporting materials must be received by May 1, 2009. Applications must be complete to be considered. Applicants that are selected will be notified no later than **May 15, 2009.** Please submit applications to: **Stephanie Birdwell, Deputy Director, Policy and Post Secondary, Bureau of Indian Education, 1849 C Street, NW ; MS-3609 MIB Washington D.C. 20240** . If you have any questions about the Youth Leadership Challenge, please contact Ms. Birdwell at: 202-208-4397 or via e-mail at: sbirdwell@bia.edu.

Attention Aki Maadzwin Lot Owners



Muschigon Construction, LLC
is now available to construct
your new turn key home.
Muschigon
Construction offers a
variety of
pre drawn custom home plans.

294 River Street
Manistee, Michigan 49660
Phone: 231-398-0800
Fax: 231-398-0802

Let us help you through the whole construction process from pre planning to the final finish, including financial assistance. We can make building your new home a wonderful experience. Trust Muschigon Construction... Your project* Construction Company
ISO: Information available on Section #184 Indian Home Loans.

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

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

Geronimo Descendants Push for Return of Indian Chief's Remains



By Amanda Scott
Washington
19 February 2009

Geronimo (Photo - US Archives)

Descendants of the Apache chief, Geronimo, have announced a lawsuit to reclaim the remains of the famous Indian leader from a U.S. military burial site as well from the reportedly hidden tomb of a secret Yale University society.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. federal court this week, marks the 100th anniversary of the Apache leader's death during the Indian wars. The suit, filed by 20 of Geronimo's blood relatives, names U.S. President Barack Obama and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates among its defendants saying that they are responsible for keeping Geronimo's remains at an army base in Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Geronimo's great-grandson Harlyn Geronimo, who is leading the efforts, has asked that the remains be released and returned to Geronimo's birthplace in the southwestern United States for a traditional Apache burial. "If our remains are not properly buried, in our tradition, the spirit is just wandering until a proper burial has been performed. The only way to put this to a closure is to release the

remains and his spirit so that he can be taken back to his homeland on the Gila Mountains (Arizona-New Mexico)," he said.

The lawsuit also names the secret Yale University student society, Skull and Bones, in its case. The descendants cite long held claims that in 1918 three members of the group took bones and other items buried with Geronimo at Fort Sill and are holding them at the organization's headquarters in the eastern state of Connecticut.

Prescott Bush, the grandfather of former U.S. president George W. Bush was allegedly one of the men accused of stealing the items, but officials at Fort Sill have dismissed speculation that the grave was disturbed.

The group's lawyer, former attorney general Ramsey Clark, says the lawsuit will allow them to find out if the bones are in the group's possession. "It's a good time for them to come forward say yes, or no. If the answer is no then give us the evidence," he said.

Harlyn Geronimo says that he hopes the request for his ancestor's repatriation is taken under serious consideration by U.S. authorities. He says he has previously appealed to former President George W. Bush for help in the effort, but never received a reply. "I hope the people we actually filed on will take this seriously. I believe it's on their lap at this time to seriously consider our request to release the remains and perform our correct burial in the Gila wilderness," he said.

Geronimo was one of the last Native Americans to lead warriors in the fight against Mexican and American expansion into Apache lands. In 1886, he surrendered to the U.S. military on the understanding that he would be allowed to return to his homeland and tribe.

However, Geronimo was held for more than 20 years as a free-range prisoner of war in Fort Sill until his death from tuberculosis in 1909, at the age of 90.

Important Notice for College Students!

For the 2009 Calendar year there will be NO summer scholarships available. You will be able to apply for and receive a scholarship award for only two (2) semesters during 2009. The Book Stipend is still available for summer. You will be able to apply for and receive a book stipend award for three (3) semesters during 2009. Obviously not all colleges follow the same schedule. To clarify, the fall semester generally runs from late August or early September until December- we refer to that semester as "fall", although your school might refer to it as "autumn". The semester that generally runs from January to late May or early June is referred to variously as "winter" semester or "spring" semester- we refer to that semester as "winter". Any other semesters are considered summer for LRBOI purposes. Schools may refer to them as Summer I and Summer II, Summer, or Spring and Summer. Generally those are semesters or terms which fall somewhere in May through August, and usually, though not always, are shorter semesters.

If your school is on a quarter system, you have 4 quarters generally of equal length. In this case, you can receive a scholarship for fall semester and winter semester only. There will be no scholarship for spring or summer semester. However, the College Book Stipend is still available for summer. If your school is on a quarter schedule or if your spring and summer semesters are short semesters, you will need to combine the two. For example- if you are taking 6 credits in the spring semester and 6 credits in the summer semester, you will apply for a single book stipend for 12 credits. Schedules for both semesters/quarters must be included.

In addition to the cut of summer scholarship funding, the College Laptop program has been cut for 2009 as well. It is hoped that these are temporary cuts and that, provided the economy improves, they will be back in the budget come 2010.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Yvonne Parsons in the Education Department 231-398-6735.

This is a public notice to interested parties. The following deceased individuals were eligible to receive a percapita 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 7th Street Muskegon, MI. 49441	
Kaileigh Ann Waskiewicz	18785 8th 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 auction will be brought in Tribal Court to determine who is lawfully entitled to claim payment. This process will be in place until a different process is adopted.

Congratulations!

Raven Lewis's pottery piece entitled "Ocean Deep" was recently selected to be in an area regional art competition... 11th Annual WSCC Regional High School Art Competition. The piece will be on display between March 9th and March 27th.

Congratulations on your artistic talents ~ Love Mom

Birth Announcement



Katelyn Nicole Verdi
was born to
Jason Verdi and Jessica Colwell
on
February 17, 2009
she weighed 5lbs 8oz.
and was 17 3/4" long

Happy 13th Birthday to Swan Lewis,
which was on March 16th
Congratulations to you for remaining on
the honor roll every
year since I have known you, hehe and
sharing your humor with me.
Sorry I missed the date to get your
announcement in the paper.
I love you and I am looking forward to
all your teen years.
Love, Mom



Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary
on April 30, 2009 for Betty and
Fran Lamorandier and a Happy
Wedding Anniversary for
Sue & Bob Ingram on April 30,
2009

All our Love Gail and the Family



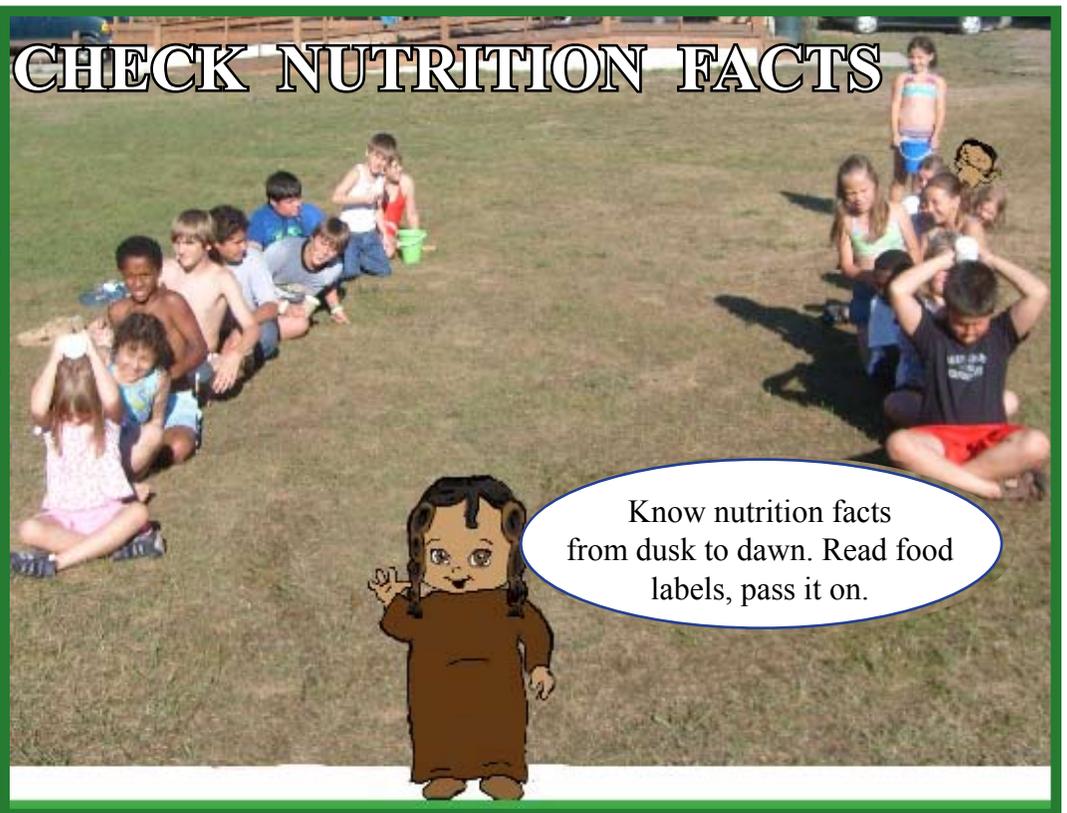
Happy 16th Birthday to Raven Lewis, April
22nd You continue to
amaze and inspire me. Wishing you another
great year with all the
happiness you can take. Love, Mom

Diabetic Health

Starting at the top of the food label, here is what you will learn about the product:

- **Serving size:** Tells you the quantity of the product the nutrition information is based on. That small candy bar might be 2 servings instead of one and you will need to adjust the calories.
- **Servings per container:** Tells you how many servings you should get out of the package.
- **Calories per serving:** Tells you the calories in each serving, not the whole package. Multiply the number of servings per container by calories per serving to obtain the total calories per container.
- **Calories from fat:** Tells you the amount of fat calories there are per serving. Choose foods with less than 30% of calories from fat.
- **Total fat:** Shows how much fat is in one serving.
- **Saturated fat:** This type of fat can cause arteries to clog. Choose foods with 2 grams or less of saturated fat.
- **Cholesterol:** This fat comes from animal fat (meat and butter.) Choose foods with 100 milligrams or less.
- **Sodium:** Look at the daily value. If the daily value is 5% or less, the food is low in sodium. Sodium should be less than 2400 milligrams per day.
- **Total carbohydrate:** Carbohydrates are the bodies' main energy source and include sugars and fiber. Carbohydrates should be about 55-60% of total calories.
- **Dietary fiber:** Fiber helps cleanse the body and is beneficial to your health. Fiber should be around 20-35 grams per day.
- **Sugar:** Offers no nutritional value and is an empty calorie. Choose foods with the least amount of sugar.
- **Protein:** Helps build muscle and should be about 10-15% of total calories.
- **Daily values:** Tells an estimate of how the food meets the daily requirements of each nutrient based on a 2000 calorie diet.

CHECK NUTRITION FACTS



Know nutrition facts
from dusk to dawn. Read food
labels, pass it on.

Nutrition labels on food products hold the answers to how healthy the food is. Taking the time to read food labels will assist you in making healthy choices and eating the correct amount.

POWER SHIFT 09

Michigan, Statewide—12,000 American college students including 420 student leaders from across the State of Michigan gathered in Washington DC recently to demand that the President and Congress pass bold federal climate and energy legislation in 2009 that dramatically reduces carbon emissions, creates millions of green jobs, and transitions the nation towards 100% clean energy.

Monday, March 02, 2009 Ahjani Yepa-Sprague, a Tribal member from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and daughter of former Ogema Lee Sprague, spoke at the rally about the 8 coal plants Michigan is facing.

Sprague, who is a member of the Michigan Students Sustainability Coalition (MSSC), said: "Tribal Peoples in Michigan, my Nation, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians are under threat from 8 proposed coal fired power plants, more than any in the United States."

Many of the students were wearing green hard hats to represent the "Green Collar Jobs" they are sure will bolster the economy while protecting the environment. Power Shift represents a paradigm shift away from expensive, polluting fossil fuel energy systems to clean, renewable energy solutions.

The website for Power Shift 09 is www.powershift09.org. The student activists are making sure the politicians in DC understand that the youth climate movement isn't going anywhere

and is only gaining in momentum and influence; this is one of the largest student environmental rallies in history. Kudos to Ahjani Yepa-Sprague for bringing Tribal Environmental Justice issues to the forefront and for stepping forward and making a difference.

(See the accompanying article for Ahjani's speech)



Press Release March 2, 2009 Washington DC Capital Climate Action

Ahjani Yepa-Sprague

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians / Jemez

We are here today, as the future leaders of the First Nations to ask that the US Congress stop burning coal to provide energy to the Capital. Coal Plants are responsible for CO2 emissions, a major green house gas and the cause of Global Warming.

Tribal Peoples in Michigan, my Nation, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians are under threat from 8 proposed coal fired power plants, more than any in the United States.

Global Warming threatens to change our natural world beyond the memories of our peoples. This Capital Coal Plant needs to stop burning our way into the future. Emissions from Coal Fired Power Plants, Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 and 10.0) are especially hard on our Elders and our children. It is our responsibility as Young Leaders to protect them.

CO2 emissions from these coal plants are threatening our ways of life. Changing water levels causes interruptions in the natural cycle and invasive species threatens our tribal life ways.

The Air, Water and Mother Earth are sacred to our people, whatever we do to her, we do to ourselves.

Mercury from Coal Fired Power Plants, like this one, is of special concern to children and women of childbearing age like me and many women who are here today at the Capital Coal Plant. Mercury is a neuro toxin that harms the development of our children. The risk for women is the impact that mercury has on our babies in the womb. Additionally, children who eat mercury-contaminated fish are at risk for decreased brain function.

Tribal life ways have had to be altered because of the existing Mercury in the lakes and streams in Michigan. Further, no formal government to government consultation was conducted between the Federal Government, the State of Michigan and the Tribes.

Every inland lake in Michigan is contaminated with Mercury. Our children can no longer eat the fish this is the first generation in the history of our peoples that our children cannot eat fish given to us by the Creator to live and provide sustenance.

The US Congress and the President need to understand that Tribal communities in Michigan and around the World are threatened by the pollution and harms caused by Coal Plants.

The US Congress must stop burning Coal NOW Stop Coal NOW.

In 2007 the Supreme Court ruled CO2 is a pollutant under the Clean Air Act. Further, In a 5-to-4 decision, the court found that the Clean Air Act expressly authorizes the EPA to regulate carbon dioxide emissions, contrary to the agency's contention, and that if the agency still insists that it does not want to regulate those emissions, it must give better reasons than the "laundry list" of invalid considerations it has offered so Without the before mentioned consultation with the state and tribes the EPA's Indian Policy, which has a federal trust responsibility to the tribes, is called into question. Hiding under the auspices of newly appointed state regulations which were harbored and pushed through via non-disclosure and lack of proper consultation with the tribes, is a woefully inadequate recognition of all Tribes sovereignty.

By Ahjani Yepa-Sprague:
Grand Rapids Community College



**Saturday,
April 4, 2007**

**11:00 am at
Gathering
Grounds
Pavilion**



**Any questions
call
United Natives
Community
Group
Debra Davis
At
231-398-6724**

**Golden egg
prize
Awarded for
each age group
(0-2, 3-6, 7&up)**

**Bring a dish to
share for a
pot luck meal**

**50/50 raffle &
door prizes**

**All children
must be
accompanied
by an adult**



*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!!!
Miiqwetch
Little River Trading Post*



The Warriors Society is gathering photographs of members to be used when their office opens.

Please send photos of our Warriors either in uniform or in civilian dress to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Warriors Society, 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660.

Currents

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

Megwa Ezhiweback



Namehine-Gjizis (Sucker Moon)
April 2009 Vol. 6 Issue 4



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Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
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If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call
Michelle Lucas at 1-888-723-8288 ext 6804.

Discounts Valid
May 9th 2009
thru October
12th 2009

Note:

Your Tribal I.D card or Employee I.D. card must be presented at the ticket counter at the time of payment, in order to receive your discount.

Education MSU

The College of Agriculture & Natural Resources is sponsoring a Pre-College Leadership Program Summer Retreat for Native American Youth, grades 8-12 on July 19-24 at no cost. Participants must arrange for their own travel to and from East Lansing. Applications are available--contact Stephanie Chau at (517) 353-1822 or email chaus@msu.edu. Interested youth should apply as soon as possible, as there are only 30 spaces available.

Access to Homeownership Initiative

HOMEBUYERS EDUCATION

Contact:

Chad A. Gehrke
231.398.6708

Or

Denise L. Lewis
231.398.6730

The Housing Department has started up two new programs to assist prospective homeowners with down payment and closing cost assistance. Classes for the (HI 600) are required to access these funds.

The Homeownership Initiative Program (HI 100) is a tribally funded program and is open to all Tribal Members, nation-wide. The maximum a family can receive is based on a percent of the mortgage with a limit of \$5,000.00 per family.

* The Homeownership Initiative Program (HI 600) is a grant funded program and open to Tribal Members who live in the State of Michigan. The maximum a family can receive is based on a percent of the mortgage with a maximum limit of \$12,000.00 per family. It is income based on family size and successful completion of the educational component of the program.

* Classes for the (HI 600) are required to access these funds.
For details on these two programs please call 1-888-723-8288

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