

# Currents

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*Megwa Ezhiweback*



*Bashkakodini-Giizis (Freezing Moon)*  
November 2010 Vol.7 Issue 11



ALSO IN THIS  
PUBLICATION

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- P.19- PRINCESS

*Office of Public  
Affairs*  
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## Election 2011 Declared!

The Tribal Election Board has officially declared the next election for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Offices to be elected include, Tribal Ogema, four Tribal Council seats, two seats on the Election Board and one Appellate Court Judge. See page 2 for details and dates!

## FEMA and NNALEA

Tribal representatives worked with FEMA and the National Native American Law Enforcement Association this month to better improve relations and ability to respond and help tribal nations. See the articles inside.



The Fall Membership Meeting was held October 9th at the Little River Casino Resort. See the full article and photos on page 20



*Gaa' Čhíng Ziibi Daáwaá Aníshinaábek*



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS**  
**ELECTION BOARD**  
**375 River Street**  
**Manistee, MI 49660**  
**(231) 723-8288**

## Announcement of General Election

Date of Election: April 29, 2011

Offices to be Elected: Office of Tribal Ogema  
Office of Tribal Council – Nine County District (three seats)  
Office of Tribal Council – At-Large District (one seat)  
Office of Election Board (two seats)  
Office of Appellate Court Judge (one seat)

Procedures for Establishing Candidacy

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

*For Candidates for the Office of Tribal Council – Nine County District and At-Large District* – To run for the Office of Tribal Council in the Nine County District or the At-Large District, a Tribal member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

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

*For Candidates for the Office of Appellate Court Judge --* To run for the Office of Tribal Appellate Court Judge, a prospective candidate must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar, below.

### Election Calendar

Declaration of Candidacy Packets available.....	November 1
Declaration of Candidacy Packets due.....	December 3
Slate of Candidates certified.....	December 10
Last day to withdraw candidacy.....	December 17
Ballots mailed out for Primary.....	January 10
Ballots due and Primary Election Day.....	February 11
Deadline for Primary Election Challenges.....	February 18
Ballots mailed.....	March 28
Ballots due and Election Day.....	April 29
Deadline for petitions for recount.....	May 6
Deadline for election challenges.....	May 6

The Primary Election will be conducted by secret mail ballot. The homes of registered voters shall be designated as polls for voting purposes. You must be a registered voter with current mailing information on file with the Enrollment Department to receive a ballot. The ballot counting will be held at the Little River Community Center on U.S. 31 in Manistee, MI. Ballot counting process begins at 12:00 pm.

The General Election will be conducted by secret mail ballot and a central polling place. The homes of registered voters shall be designated as polls for voting purposes. You must be a registered voter with current mailing information on file with the Enrollment Department to receive a ballot. The central polling place will be located at the Little River Community Center on U.S. 31 in Manistee, MI. The hours for the polling place will be 10 am until 6 pm on April 29, 2011.

A copy of the Election Board Office Hours from November 1, 2010 through December 3, 2010 will be posted on the Little River website (lrboi.com) and on the Rapid River News.

**Please note:** In accordance with the Election Board Regulations chapter 2, section 1(d): “If Voter Registration Form is not received by the Election Board 56 calendar days before an election, the eligible voter will not be registered to vote in that election.”

Deadline for voter registration applications to be in to the Election Board are:

**December 17, 2010 for the Primary Election (if necessary); and**  
**March 4, 2011 for the Regular Election.**

The Election Board is not responsible for the failure of an eligible voter to complete the registration requirements by the prescribed deadlines.



Aanii:

It is October 4<sup>th</sup> as I write this and by the time you receive your Currents, the Fall Membership Meeting will have taken place on October 9<sup>th</sup>. I am excited about the possibility of the citizens having the ability to attain a quorum for the first time in many years if I am understanding it correctly. I am also apprehensive of being able to conduct the meeting properly in accordance with our Constitution and meeting rules and regulations. I have been studying and hope it works out well. I will do my best. Having the ability to possibly have a quorum also puts additional pressure on our Election Board primarily, and our Enrollment Department. We have held meetings to go over all possible scenarios. I want to thank our Election Board for creating this opportunity for our citizens and our Enrollment Department for all their hard work in making it happen. Miigwetch.

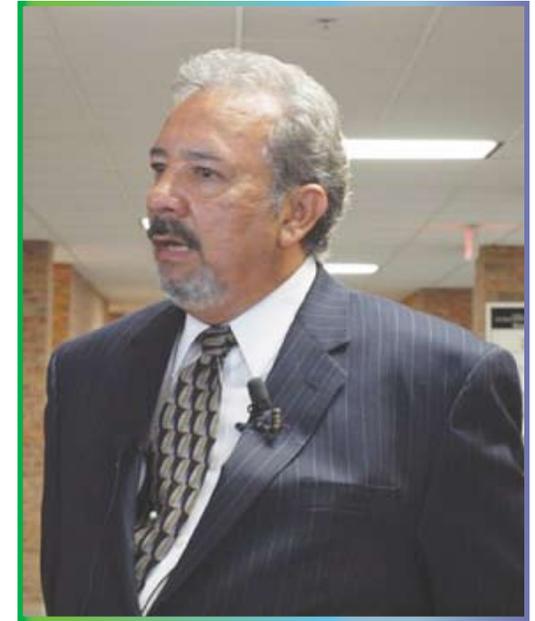
On September 11<sup>th</sup> I attended a meeting in Milwaukee Wisconsin initiated by Tribal Council. It was nice to have a chance to visit with citizens from the area and hope I answered some questions in the short time we had.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> I again attended the Sturgeon Release at Rainbow Bend here in Manistee. There was a huge turnout, larger than last year. I want to thank Director of Natural Resources, Jimmie Mitchell, Stephanie Ogren, and Marty Holtgren along with many others in the department that make the event successful; Bonnie Harnish, Jeremy Howe just to name a couple. It is nice to see community outside the Tribe also expressing interest.

Our Muskegon project remains in a holding pattern and hopefully after the State Elections are over things will begin moving again. I have received calls regarding the possible sale of the remaining barns/buildings or earth; nothing more is being sold from the property at this time. If anyone notices any large trucks or equipment on the property, please notify the Ogema's office immediately. Thank you.

Enrollment Department Director Diane Lonn provided the latest enrollment statistics as follows as of October 4<sup>th</sup> 2010; total membership 4,048; total elders 885; total adults (18-54) 2,681; total minors (0-17) 482; in Michigan 2,735; outside Michigan 1,258; 9 county 1,780; outside 9 county 2,268. Thanks Diane.

Until next month....



REMEMBER:  
DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU THINK.

## Manistee Chamber success!



Manistee  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We Mean Business!

For years the LRBOI tribal government, through several departments and the casino have supported the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce as it has moved forward with its mission to serve the County business community including many tribal interests. The tribe has had various directors and employees serve on the Board of Directors for the Chamber and numerous committees within the organization.

Almost three years ago, the board determined that the chamber needed to move in a new direction and a Strategic Analysis Committee was formed to study the situation and then prepare a Strategic Plan. Representing the tribe was Glenn C. Zaring, the Director of the Office of Public Affairs.

After almost a year of study and planning, a new Strategic Plan was developed and adopted. Now, three years later, this plan has borne fruit.

At the close of the Chamber's 3rd Annual Business Expo (at the Little River Casino Resort) October 6<sup>th</sup>, Executive Director Melis-

sa Reed announced that the Manistee Chamber has been chosen as one of two finalists for the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals Outstanding Chamber of the Year award.

Reed said, "Never in 94 years have we been named as a finalist for this award. To be a finalist with that many chambers is a huge statement about how hard the chamber is working on behalf of our members and the community."

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Regarding the tribal involvement, Reed said, "The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and its related commercial enterprises – most especially the Little River Casino Resort – has been essential to the Chamber's reemergence as an advocate for business in this area. 'Chamber' is a collective noun and the time and resources of the Tribal government made our collective voice that much stronger."

Currently a number of representatives of the tribal community serve with the Chamber including Board Member Robert Memberto (Commerce Director); Anna Detz (Casino Sales) Chamber Ambassador and Glenn Zaring, Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee.

Ogema Larry Romanelli had this to say about the activities of government employees with the Chamber, "As a businessman myself, I value the contribution of the Chamber of Commerce to the overall health of communities. The tribe has been blessed by having some extremely valuable and talented employees willing to step up to the plate and work with the chamber here in Manistee. This recognition shows that their work has been good for the tribe and the whole community."



## Recorder's Report to Membership October 2010

**Gaming Board Appointments:** The Tribal Council confirmed nominations for three nominations to the Gaming Board of Directors. The names were submitted by Ogema Romanelli for approval during the month of September. Mr. James Wabindato, Mrs. Rose Ludden, and Mrs. Elaine Porter were all confirmed, although Mrs. Porter was the only nomination to be unanimously supported by Tribal Council. Mr. Wabindato and Mrs. Ludden were confirmed after the Tribal Council reconsidered the motions during which both nominations failed. Councilor Virgil Johnson and Councilor Janine Sam were not confirmed by the Tribal Council for the two positions reserved for Elected Officials. Both Councilors were nominated by Ogema Romanelli during the same meeting. There continues to be an internal dispute between members of the Tribal Council and Ogema regarding whether or not the Board should have Elected Officials serving on the body for the Casino. During the Elders meeting of October 2, the Ogema and one member of Council that was present voiced that they do not believe Elected Officials should hold seats on the Board for the Casino. This issue continues to be one of dissention, as there are other members of Tribal Council that believe in order for the operation of the Enterprise to be closely tied to the government operation, the service of Elected Officials on this board is a necessary component to align the Casino operation with the Government's goals and objectives for the enterprise. The Tribal Council took action to adopt emergency amendments to the Gaming Enterprises Board of Director's Act of 2010, to ensure that the three seated at large Board members could continue to meet and address the business of the Casino operation. As of this publication, the Ogema was contemplating new council nominations to the Elected Official positions. The Ogema has declined to serve a position as allowed by the new Tribal Law on this particular board. The Tribal Council anticipates a final resolution regarding board appointments in the upcoming weeks.

### **FY 2011 TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS BUDGET SUBMITTED:**

The Ogema submitted the first draft of the proposed budget for FY 2011 to the Tribal Council by the September deadline. An overview of this budget is provided in this Recorder's Report, but it is a limited overview. During its meet-

ing on September 29, 2010, the Tribal Council adopted a response to the Ogema, detailing 31 questions, or issues that the Council would like to see clarified or corrected with the next budget submission. Final action to accept the FY 2011 Tribal Government Operations Budget usually happens in December, prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year.

The FY 2011 Tribal Government Operations budget was submitted with projected total revenue of \$46,384,376.00, and total expenditures of \$46,328,855.00. Comparing the FY 2011 budget submission with the numbers submitted for FY 2010, the original budget submitted last year included total revenue of \$40,084,656.00, with total expenditures of \$39,654,933.00. In April of 2010, the Little River Casino and Resort adopted a new plan for FY 2010, resulting in a change to the revenue projections, resulting in an increase to Tribal Government. During FY 2010, gaming revenue was originally forecast at \*\$24,945,000.00, but was later re-forecast to approximately \*\$34,385,000.00. (\*These numbers are rounded for the purpose of this overview.)

### **Comparing the Revenue numbers:**

The FY 2011 Tribal Government Operations budget as submitted is premised on projected gaming distribution to the Tribe of \$32,861,113.00, which represents a slight decrease from FY 2010 re-forecasted distribution of \$34,385,000.00, or change of -4.4% from one year to the next.

There is also a projected decrease in the amount of gaming tax payable to the Tribe by -10.8%. In fact, the first draft budget submitted for next year is showing decreases in all revenue sources, including grant funds. The budget submitted for FY 2010 included grant revenues of approximately \$9,183,221.00. The FY 2011 budget submission includes \$8,642,002.00 of grant dollars, representing a decline of -5.9% in grant funds. Keep in mind that the original budget submission for Tribal Government last year (for FY 2010) included a projected gaming revenue of \$25,201,105.00, so the revised plan from the Little River Casino and Resort was substantially more accurate than the first estimates provided last fall. However, overall numbers trend to a reduction in available revenue for Tribal Government.

### **Comparing the Operating Expenditures numbers:**

The FY 2011 Tribal Government Operations budget as submitted includes planned expenditures of \$46,328,855.00. Compared to last year's (FY 2010) original budget submission, which included \$39,654,933.00 expenditures, there appears to be an increase in planned government spending of 17%. It appears that the increase in government spending can be attributed to new positions slated to be added to the Tribal Government, as there are 20 new positions planned within the FY 2011 budget. These 20 new positions do not include any of the proposed positions that the Ogema had previously voiced that he wanted in the budget for FY 2010. A substantial number of the new positions proposed are within the Health Division of Tribal Government Services. Please be reminded that these positions are proposed only at this time, and are not yet approved by Tribal Council to add to government staff. These numbers are inclusive of per capita distribution and charitable contributions, which will be addressed later in this report.

The Tribal Council meeting report for September is included on separate page, due to space concerns. Please be reminded that the budget overview is based on the current draft submitted, and is not the final approved numbers for next year. The Ogema may change the submission prior to the end of the year. If you would like additional detail, please contact the Finance Department or the Tribal Council Office. The entire Budget is too cumbersome to reproduce, however, members are free to view a copy in the Council office during normal business hours.

As fall time is upon us, we remember all of those that have walked on. Hopefully, your thoughts and hearts will be warmed by their memories, even as the evening air cools with each day.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janine M. Sam  
Recorder

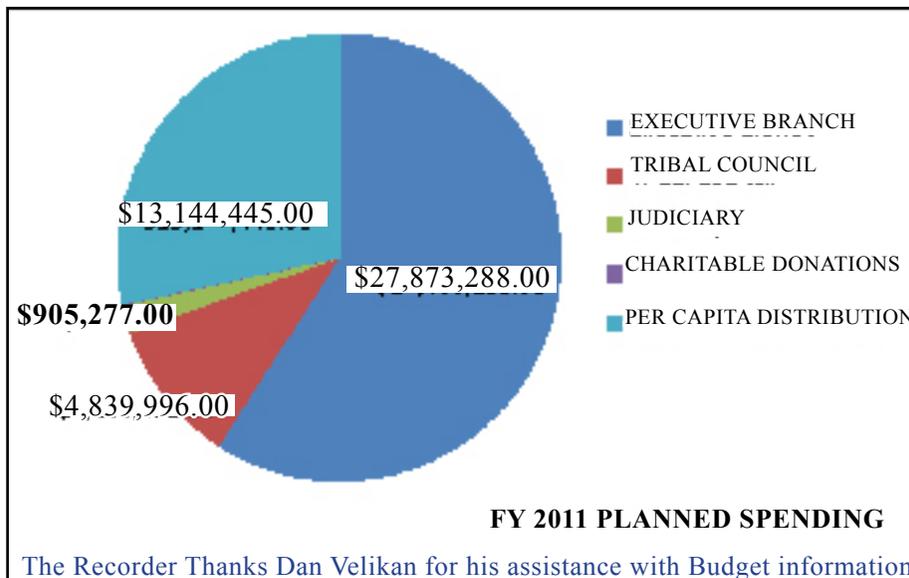
## LRBOI Tribal Council Work Session Attendance

DATE	WORK SESSION	STEVE PARSONS	JANINE SAM	LORETTA BECCARIA	CANDACE CHAPMAN	VIRGIL JOHNSON	SANDY MEZESKE	PAT RUITER	LEE SPRAGUE	ROBERT WHITELOON	TTL
9/7/2010	OGEMA/ TC MEETING	*	+	X		+	X	*	+	X	8
9/7/2010	CASINO FINANCIALS	*	+	X		+	X			X	6
9/7/2010	AGENDA REVIEW	*	+	X		+	X	*	+	X	8
9/14/2010	GAMING BOARD ACT	*	+	X	*	+	X	*	+	X	9
9/14/2010	SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY	*	+	X	*	+	X	*	+	X	9
9/17/2010	CONSTITUTION CHANGES	*	+	X	*	+	X	*			7
9/17/2010	LAND TRANSFERS	*	+	X	*	+	X	*			7
9/20/2010	GAMING BOARD ACT	*	+	X	*	+	X	*	+	X	9
9/20/2010	GOVERNMENT FINANCIALS	*	+	X	*		X	*	+	X	8
9/20/2010	MOU- MCRC	*	+		*				+		4
9/22/2010	PAYROLL BI-WEEKLY	*	+	X	*	+	X	*	+	X	9
9/22/2010	GAMING ORDINANCE	*	+	X	*	+	X	*	+		8
9/22/2010	COMMISSION ORD.			X	*	+	X	*	+		6
9/23/2010	INDIAN PREFERENCE	*	+	X		+	X				5
9/24/2010	FY 2011 BUDGET	*	+	X	*	+	X	*		X	8
9/27/2010	FY 2011 BUDGET	*	+		*		X	*		X	7
9/27/2010	GAMING ORDINANCE	*	+	X	*	+	X	*	+	X	9
9/27/2010	AGENDA REVIEW	*	+	X	*	+	X	*	+	X	9
9/28/2010	FY 2011 BUDGET	*	+	X	*	+	X	*	+	X	9
9/28/2010	OGEMA/TC MTG	*	+	X	*	+	X	*	+	X	9
<b>20</b>	<b>TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	

The Chart below is intended to represent broad categories within the FY 2011 budget. Please note that the allocation for Economic Development has been included in the Executive Branch allocation below. The projected reserve under the Revenue Allocation Plan for FY 2011 for the Economic Development function is \$2,530,306.00. The overall allocation for Reservation and Economic Development within the FY 2011 budget also includes planning, and BIA roads funding, which is separate from the revenue allocation under the BIA approved plan.

### How much is allocated to which Branch?

During FY 2011, the Executive Branch has budgeted spending at \$27,873,288.00. The Judicial Branch has budgeted spending of \$905,277.00. The Tribal Council has budgeted spending of \$4,839,996.00. The allocation for Tribal Council includes the allocation for Gaming Regulation (Gaming Commission Staff) budget at \$2,467,012.00. Obviously, there are many functions and sub-accounts within each allocation, but overall, these numbers make up the division of the funds between the three branches.



### Per Capita Projection & Charitable Contributions

The FY 2011 budget includes allocations of \$13,144,445.00 for per capita distribution, and the reserve for charitable contributions is estimated at \$32,861.00. These figures are projections at this point, but appear to be sound estimates regarding the annual payout based on the initial gaming revenues expected. Please keep in mind that these numbers are adjusted up or down based on actual performance of the Resort.

## LaPorte receives NNALEA award

One of the highlights of the 2010 National Native American Law Enforcement Association conference was their annual awards dinner which recognizes outstanding contributions to the Native Law Enforcement community in the country.

This year's dinner was held at the Top of the Riv at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas on September 16th.

At the dinner, former Little River Band of Ottawa Indian Tribal Public Safety Director Joseph LaPorte was recognized as the 2010 Law Enforcement Professional of the Year for his "distinguished leadership" of the tribal department. In his acceptance, LaPorte lauded LRBOI Ogema Larry Romanelli for his vision to have he and other tribal management participate on outside boards which, "...contribute to the good of all Native American people across the nation."

Other awards presented included:

- Chief of Chiefs - Lifetime Achievement Award to Joe Shirley Jr., from the Navajo Nation
- Chief of Police of the Year to Stan Kephart, Salt River Police Department
- Law Enforcement Professional of the Year to Gary L. Van Horn from the Department of the Interior
- Strength Award to Jefferson Keel, Lt. Governor of the Chickasaw Nation and President of the National Congress of American Indians
- Unity Award to Chris Chaney, Office of Tribal Justice, U.S. Department of Justice
- Government Liaison Professional of the Year to James Hagy, Department of Homeland Security.



LaPorte also presented opening remarks at a working luncheon for the gathered officers where he made sure to thank the LRBOI officers and staff for their work and support over the years.

The theme of the 4 day conference this year stressed cooperation between the Federal agencies and full, respectful cooperation with the nation's Native American Law Enforcement professionals.



## NNALEA Mission

The National Native American Law Enforcement Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 in Washington, D.C. and incorporated under the State of Delaware. The mission of NNALEA is to promote and foster mutual cooperation between American Indian Law Enforcement agencies, their officers, agents and other personnel, tribes, other federal agencies, private industry and the general public.

NNALEA strives to:

- Provide media for the exchange of ideas and the new techniques used by both criminals and the investigators
- Keep the membership and public informed of current statute changes and the judicial decisions as they relate to the law enforcement community
- Establish a network and directory consisting of Native American enforcement officers/agents/employees
- Provide technical and/or investigative assistance to Association members within the various aspects of law enforcement investigations
- Promote a positive attitude towards law enforcement in the American Indian community and other communities
- Provide a support group of Native American officers/agents/employees in the field through the utilization of a national network

The above information provides an overview of NNALEA.



## LRBOI

## Representation

Three government employees from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians attended this conference at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas along with 500 of their counterparts from Tribal Law Enforcement and Emergency Management. TPD members Lt. David DeForest, Sgt. Vance Bates and Public Affairs Director Glenn Zaring (all NNALEA members) participated in numerous seminars and classes dealing with a variety of topics including emergency management, investigative advances and techniques, management issues and especially integration into the larger Law Enforcement community of the nation.

Zaring also participated in and contributed to the panel discussion concerning interagency intelligence sharing through the LEO system and the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) where he assists as the Tribal Community of Interest Portal Administrator.

Federal agencies such as the FBI, Border Patrol, ICE, Secret Service, BIA, Department of Justice and a number of others participate in the NNALEA conference because it presents a prime opportunity to focus upon tribal issues and concerns.



Pictures were taken by: Tara Chivis

By KEN GRABOWSKI (with notes by LRBOI Public Affairs)

Associate Editor



MANISTEE -- The skies may have been overcast and gloomy on Saturday afternoon, but to the several hundred people that gathered on the shore of the Big Manistee River at Rainbow Bend for the release of the Little Band of Ottawa Indians 'Nmé' (lake sturgeon) Stewardship and Restoration Program release, it was the most beautiful day of the year.

For the past seven years, this tradition has been taking place under the guidance of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Natural Resources Department. This year, 74 lake sturgeon that the tribe's natural resources department have been raising were released into the Manistee River.

The natural resources department developed the Sturgeon Stewardship and Restoration Program because they knew the population of this fish was so low. It is thought that the Big Manistee River Watershed may have once been home to one of the largest populations of sturgeon in the Lake Michigan Basin.

Tribal officials were concerned over the reduced run of the sturgeon. They feel that a healthy population of these fish are an important part of the Anishinaabek culture, the cultures of all the people of the Great Lakes, and the integrity of all the species contained in the Big Manistee Watershed.

However, the Saturday event was much more than just a simple fish release. It was a day filled with a blend of ecology, tradition, stewardship, family and the environment. The sturgeon carry special meaning for the tribal Ogema (President) Larry Romanelli. He pointed out that this release ceremony was an opportunity to share their culture with the community.

"This is so exciting for me," said Romanelli. "Last year was the first year I took part, and there is just something about holding that fish in my hand knowing it has the possibility of being in existence over 100 years from now. When I put it in the water it was breathtaking to know that I'll be here for another 20 or 30 years, but that fish could go well beyond that time."

The Little River Band has been a nation for a long time, and what we are trying to do is reconnect with our culture and this is a perfect example of it." Little River senior inland fisheries biologist Marty Holtgren said Saturday's ceremony was a really special time for the many families. Both young and old came for the opportunity to release one of the 74 sturgeon.

"Once again we have a very nice turnout today," said Holtgren. "I think that the sturgeon are a fish that captures people's attention, because they can grow to be six feet long. They look like a dinosaur, and people never forget them after they see one."

Holtgren said it was back in May when members of his staff worked for a month straight between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. to capture the then one-inch long fingerlings. They were placed in rearing tanks located in a trailer at Rainbow Bend specially designed for this project. "About five months ago, we caught these little one-inch long sturgeon with our own hands, and at that time they had little chance for survival," said Holtgren. "We know that they now have a better than 50 percent chance of survival, and that population is on its way to rebound."

Holtgren said the rearing tanks were specifically designed to bring in water from the Big Manistee River. He said this kept them growing at better pace in water temperatures and the Sturgeon imprint on the specific water chemistry of the Manistee River to guarantee that some day they will return to their river of origin to spawn.

The process is something that Holtgren said his staff put in a lot of work and time on during that five-month span. However, he added that it is very rewarding, and something the staff carry a strong passion for doing every year.

"It is always a lonely day when we shut off the electricity in the trailer and release the fish," said Holtgren. "Unlike some hatcheries where you have hundreds of thousands of fish, my staff can identify every one of those fish."

Romanelli said that he and the tribe are very proud of the efforts of the natural resources department.

"We appreciate the Natural Resources Department, and all that they do throughout the year," said Romanelli. "They are so good at their jobs that they are recognized by the State of Michigan, and it really is a credit to (department head) Jimmy Mitchell and his crew."

The fish are also being tagged before they are released each year and Holtgren said some of the previous ones have been turning up in various locations of Lake Michigan. "I have received a couple of calls from people saying I think we have captured one of your fish," said Holtgren. "There was one in Ludington (about two feet long) and another one in Grand Haven."

Since they began the program the group has doubled the population of these sturgeon. What is more important is they have put that population on solid ground. "We have released over 300 fish and that is exciting to us, because we have already doubled that population."

One of the many things that Holtgren is excited about the program is the way the public has embraced it. Several hundred area residents took part in this year's event to either release a fish or watch someone else do it.

"The first year we did this there were only about 30 people here," said Holtgren. "It has really grown and now we have the community excited about the sturgeon and the watershed. The thing that impresses me is when you look at that fish you see nothing like it. It is one of the most unique things you will ever see. The other thing that makes me so

proud is when you see the fish and community ecosystem it created here."

The program has required a cooperative effort from the United States Forest Service, the Michigan Resources and Environment and the Little River Natural Resources Department. Manistee ranger Jim Thompson from the United States Forest Service said his agency is happy to be part of the program.

"I have been to quite a few of these, and it seems like more people show up every year," said Thompson. "It's really pretty spectacular that these fish live for 100 years. These folks' great grand kids will be able to enjoy these fish."

Thompson said this program is just one that his agency works with in a cooperative venture with the Little River Band Natural Resources Department. "We cooperate on deer, bear and bobcat programs, so we really appreciate the job the Little River Band does here," said Thompson.

Natural Resources program director Jimmy Mitchell said he was proud of the efforts of the staff.

"Overlooking this, I realize how much work goes into this thing," said Mitchell. "A lot of effort and sacrifice goes into it because it is no easy task. They are out night after night not seeing anything until the first one is found and then the rush is on."

Mitchell said he was happy they selected the sturgeon program years ago. "People often ask why these sturgeon, and how come you are not focusing on something else?" said Mitchell. "Well, they kind of picked us. I think the time came when it was time to get better and there were a lot of things that appealed to us."

"When we negotiated the 2007 consent agreement with the state of Michigan this project was already underway. That gave the tribe the ability to prove they could co-manage along the state, the federal government and the other folks who are working very hard to manage this massive ecosystem to preserve and make sure it lasts for generations to come. So it was important for us to get that co-manager position because we understand it needs a lot of hands to get done," added Mitchell.

The occasion was also marked with ceremonial drum and pipe ceremony before families had the opportunity to release the small sturgeon into the river for what could possibly be the start of a century long journey.



# Annual 'Nmé (Lake Sturgeon) Release





Please welcome Martha Howell to the Currents staff. Martha is an LRBOI tribal member who recently completed her degree from Central Michigan University in Journalism. She will be reporting and photographing tribal events

The Natural Resources Commission and Natural Resources Department have worked together on developing regulations for sturgeon harvest on Black Lake for this December. The Natural Resources Department secured in the 2007 Consent Decree sturgeon harvest opportunities for LRBOI membership in the Black Lake (Cheboygan County) system. The LRBOI has taken a leading role in sturgeon management in Michigan and will continue to work towards sturgeon restoration and harvest management.

Below are the regulations for this December's harvest. Please contact the Natural Resources Department if there are any questions: 231-723-1594.

#### 2010 Harvest Guidelines Proposal

- 1 fish quota for entire lake for 2010, after fish is harvested all other licensed anglers will be notified and fishery closed.

Only one fish total can be harvested regardless of the number of licensed anglers.

- Season: December 4-5 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day (or until 1 sturgeon is harvested and season will be immediately closed).
- No minimum size limit.

- Method of harvest is a spear, hook and line, or bow. Snagging is not allowed.

- Angler must possess a Special Use Permit in order to fish. This permit must be acquired from the Natural Resources Department by November 15th.

- Angler registration is required at Black Lake and LRBOI Natural Resource Department (NRD) staff will be located from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on December 4th and 5th at Onaway State Park entrance to register anglers. If a sturgeon is harvested on December 4th there will be no registration on December 5th.

- Anglers may be given a shortwave radio or be notified of other means to contact the LRBOI NRD staff present at Black Lake. After an angler harvests a sturgeon they must immediately contact the LRBOI NRD staff.

- Mandatory registration of harvested sturgeon is required immediately with a LRBOI NRD field staff.

- Registration of fish will include examination of fish by LRBOI NRD personnel.

- When the 1 fish quota is reached, anglers will be alerted by Tribal NRD personnel.

- Tribal Law Enforcement will be talking to anglers during each fishing day, regardless of time.

## Muskegon Four Season's Kateri Circle Gathering for 2010

*Dates and Times for coming events—Patti Wlodkowski 755-4865*

**Halloween Gathering Oct. 17, 11 am – 4 pm costume party**

**Ghost Supper Geba-geshick Nov. 7, 11 am – 4 pm**

**Christmas Gathering Dec. 19, 11 am – 4 pm**

*Times for the Gatherings held at ST. Thomas Hall*

*3252 Apple Ave. Muskegon, Michigan { M-46 }*

*The Time for the Summer Gathering will be 10:30 am to 3 pm*

*Which will be held at Krause Park { End of Sherman blvd. }*

*For all gatherings it is requested that those attending the POTLUCK*

*bring a dish to pass .... We try to eat at noon for all gatherings*

*For Easter –Halloween and Christmas gatherings we would like donations of candy so we can make up goodies bags for the children, with the extra going to everyone*

*Any person who wishes to sell their hand made items at our gatherings is*

*welcome to do so , but you are responsible for your own items.....*

*If you would like to volunteer we always need help on set up and clean up*

*Four Season's Kateri Circle Leader Patti Wlodkowski -755-4865- Musk*

*Debra Gutowski - Director*

*Native American Ministry*

*360 Division Ave. S*

*Grand Rapids, Michigan – 616-514-6065*

## “LRBOI Deer Check Station is in Eastlake at the Big Blue building”

The LRBOI wildlife check station is open 8-5 Monday-Friday. Closed on Tribal holidays and weekends.

There is typically someone here at all times who can check animals.

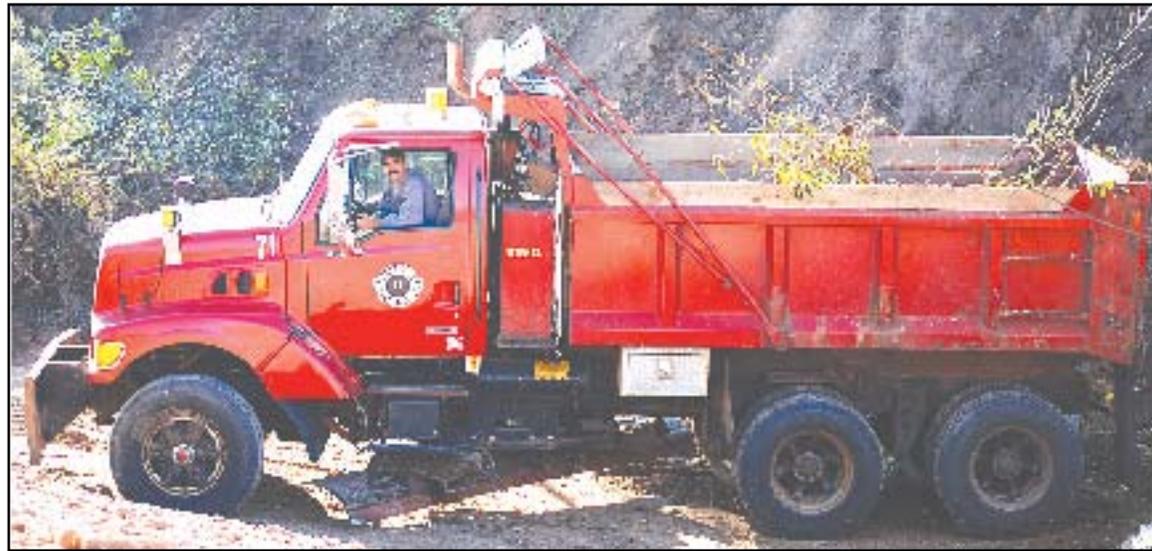
We check Deer, Black Bear, River Otter, Bobcat, and Elk.

Tribal members whom bring their deer in to be checked will be given a Tribal 2010 successful hunter patch.

We will also check State hunters and have 2010 State patches available for them.

If members have questions or concerns about a harvested animal, besides what is listed, they can bring it in and we can examine it for them.

The long-awaited construction on Domres Road leading to the Tribal Justice Center has begun. Tribal Planner Dan Shepard announced that the project was beginning. The project involves cutting the hillsides down and moving the road over about five feet to allow for proper construction. This project has been in the works for some time and will be very much appreciated by those who work in or visit the Justice Center. Next month, Currents will have photos showing the progress of the project.



Come see the true culture  
of our people

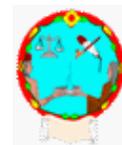
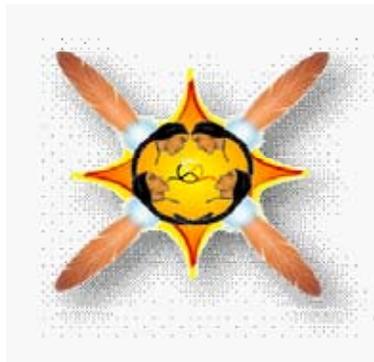
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Patrick D. Wilson,  
Peacemaking/Probation Supervisor  
Phone: (231) 398-2239  
E-mail: pwilson@lrboi.com

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
PEACEMAKING/PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
"Odenaang Enjinoojimoying"  
3031 Domres Road Manistee, Michigan 49660

Austen Brauker,  
Peacemaking/ Probation Assistant  
Phone: (231) 398-2240  
E-mail: abrauker@lrboi.com

## *Come out and join us for our monthly Peacemaking Talking Circle*



Aanii piish (where) ... Justice Center  
Wenesh pii (when). October 25th at 5:30  
NOTE: The meeting is the last Monday of every month.

*Attention all Tribal Members*

Gaming Commission	2 openings
Health Commission	2 openings
Binojeeuk	2 openings
LRCR Board	2 openings

Anyone interested in serving on any of the above commissions need to submit a letter of interest to the Ogema office.

*Letters of interest will be kept on file for one year*



**Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP**  
Attorneys at law

The law firm of Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP is pleased to announce the addition of John F. Petoskey as a new Partner in our Law Firm, as well as the opening of our new office in Michigan to provide enhanced service to our valued clients.



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Cell: 231-631-8558  
Fax: 231-271-6391  
Email: [jpetoskey@ndnlaw.com](mailto:jpetoskey@ndnlaw.com)  
**www.ndnlaw.com**

Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP is a full service law firm that limits its practice to Indian tribes and Native American organizations throughout the U.S.

## Hunters Safety at L.R.B.O.I.

On September 17 & 18, 2010 There was a free hunters safety course taught at L.R.B.O.I. Justice Center. Attending were men, women, young boys, young girls, teens. It was nice to see how many families attended together. The Tribal Conservation Officers made the time bearable for everyone even the young children. Each of us had a chance to read aloud and kept us interested. They were very good at explaining how to be an ethical sportsman. The following day we had out class time, where we learned how to call for help if we needed it, we learned how to perform basic first aid. We were shown what the guns looked like and were taken outside to shoot a couple guns, to practice tracking a shot deer. We were able to practice shooting a bow and arrow. It was wonderful to see the everyone being supportive and more importantly respectful of the weapons and each other.

I went to the Michigan DNR website and here is some more information I found:

### HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION

You must take hunter safety if you were born after January 1, 1960. A hunter safety certificate or previous hunting license is required to purchase any Michigan Hunting License. Hunters anticipating an out-of-state hunting trip need to obtain a certificate prior to their trip, most states require hunters to carry their certificate when hunting and need it to purchase a license. The hunter safety course is NOT the equivalent of specific gun safety course and does NOT meet the requirements for Concealed Weapons permits. Please visit the Michigan State Police website for information on Concealed Weapons Permits.

### Online Hunter Safety Courses

After taking the online course, you are required to attend either a home study class or the field portion of a regular class and take the student examination in order to receive your hunter safety certificate. You will need to pre-register for a home study class or the field portion of a regular class before taking this online course. Upon passing the online Pre-Certification Exam, you will be eligible to complete the skills/field portion of instruction and take a written examination without attending a classroom course. The on-line classes can be found at:

Today's Hunter in Michigan Online Course  
[www.hunterexam.com/usa/michigan/](http://www.hunterexam.com/usa/michigan/)

### HUNTER EDUCATION HOME STUDY

Some of the hunter safety classes offered are home study. A student taking this type of class will be required to study the class materials independently, prior to the scheduled field day. During the field day

a final examination will be given. The student will need to pre-register for this type of class. Many home study classes will utilize the on-line course.

### INTERNATIONAL BOW EDUCATION PROGRAM (IBEP)

Is required to purchase archery permits in many other states. For further information, visit their website at [www.ibepmi.org](http://www.ibepmi.org).

### TODAY'S BOWHUNTER IN MICHIGAN ON-LINE COURSE

The Today's Bowhunter course is the official online bowhunter education course of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Michigan accepts an independent study method that involves a two part process: This online course, followed by; Field Day instruction and testing by certified bowhunter education volunteer instructor (classes can be located at the top of this page). You will need to pre-register for a Field Day before taking this online course. Upon successful completion of the Field Day Qualifier Exam you will be eligible to complete the Field Day portion of instruction without attending a classroom course. The online course can be found at [www.bowhunter-ed.com/mi](http://www.bowhunter-ed.com/mi).

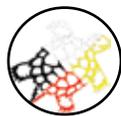
### SNOWMOBILE SAFETY EDUCATION

A person who is at least 12 but less than 17 years of age operating a snowmobile without direct supervision of a person 21 years of age or older must have in their immediate possession a valid snowmobile safety certificate.

A person who is at least 12 but less than 17 years of age may not cross a highway or street without having a valid snowmobile safety certificate in their immediate possession.



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@ 231-723-7250

email:

[ymskigwaasange@yahoo.com](mailto:ymskigwaasange@yahoo.com)

## Tribal Govern- ment Internships



Tribal Members interested in doing an  
internship with the L.R.B.O.I. Tribal  
Government Office please contact:  
Department of Commerce:  
231-398-6806

## Government Closes for the following Holidays

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

Some areas of the government will be continue to be  
available on these holidays, such as Public Safety.  
Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of  
the Government facilities. It's always a good idea to call  
first if you are not sure.

Just use the toll-free number of 888.723.8288.

MoonBear  
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[moonbear@cbpu.com](mailto:moonbear@cbpu.com)

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Office 231-788-2123

The Warriors Society is  
gathering photographs of members to be  
use when thier office opens.

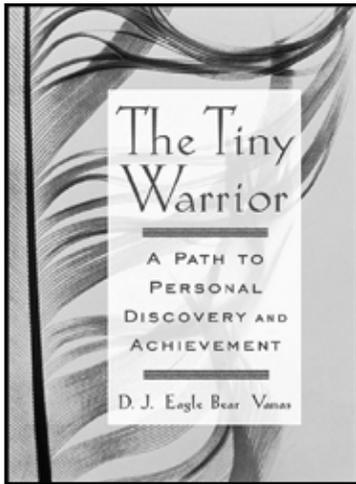
Please send photos of  
our Warriors either in  
uniform or in  
civillian dress to  
the address below



## WARRIORS SOCIETY

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians,  
Warriors Society,  
375 River Street, Manistee, Mi. 49660

D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas (Odawa) is a nationally acclaimed motivational storyteller, leadership expert and author of the celebrated book, *The Tiny Warrior: A Path to Personal Discovery & Achievement* which is printed in six countries. D.J. inspires others to apply the principles of the Native American warrior spirit in business and life. He can be reached at (719) 282-7747 or at [www.nativediscovery.com](http://www.nativediscovery.com)



I hear answers related to fear, desperation or statements such as “I’m just trying to hang on.” If this is the fuel you rely on, it’s akin to fueling up an F-16 fighter jet with... mud. Those of my friends who fly F-16s will tell you this is not only a poor way to hit peak performance, you can’t even get off the ground. Driving ourselves with negatives (fear, doubt, etc.) can work in the short term as any one who has been chased by bees or who has accomplished a deadline because their job depended on it can tell you. Unfortunately it’s the worst way to motivate ourselves in the long run. It’s unsustainable because it depletes us over time, leading us to burnout.

Motivation. Inspiration. Drive. Where do you find yours? Many people find it in goals such as a promotion, retirement, the next vacation or getting an A in class. Though these are good, I humbly suggest going deeper. The deeper sources of fuel are found in our values – faith, family, the joy in serving others, etc. These are like internal nuclear power, sustaining us throughout our lives. When I hear people say they do their job to “serve my people” or “get

everyone home safely” or “fulfill their faith” then I know those people are in good shape. You can also see that glint in their eyes and a grin as well, evidence of that internal fire.

When you get down to it and ask that vital question, “What really drives me?” you’ll quickly realize what really drives you is not the paycheck, fear of the boss or access to free coffee. Money is simply a resource, a tool. It definitely helps make life easier, but beyond supplying the basics (food, shelter, etc.) the studies show that money as a source of happiness has diminishing returns after that threshold is reached. Instead, it’s that deep, enduring stuff that really keeps us going – and growing. With it, we are in alignment and without it, no amount of money or accomplishment will satisfy us.

When we get confused or stressed, we can forget the sources that drive us and go into reaction mode. Find (or re-find) your fuel and you’ll be powering yourself through the barriers and realize you’re not only more excited about where you’re headed, but you’ll be getting there much quicker too!

At the end of the day, what really drives you to do what you do on a daily basis? Motivation is not something given to us by others through a book, a movie or from a speech (although those things can definitely lead us to trigger our own). It is an internal fire that excites us, constantly reminding us of why we’re doing what we’re doing – and why it matters. This is a critical component in moving ourselves forward in our lives and careers yet so often the answers I hear back from this question are dismal – or outright

## Positive Indian Parenting

*Honoring Our Children by Honoring our Traditions*

*Who:*

*Tribal Parents, Grandparents, and any caregivers of Tribal children*

*What:*

*Positive Indian Parenting Program*

*Where:*

*Manistee - Former Community Center  
1762 US-31 S. Manistee (across from KFC)*

*When:*

*Every Thursday starting September 23 through November 11  
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm*

*Sponsored by LRBOJ Family Services Department*

*Need more information?*

*Call:*

*Kathy Lagerquist 231-398-6705 \*Shelly Kequam 231-398-6707*

*Supper will be provided*

## Charity Golf Outing



The check presentation for the Little River Casino Resort Golf 2010 outing was recently held at the Casino. The charities split \$36,000 raised at the charitable event held at Manistee National Golf and Resort. Pictured Left to Right: Tom Davis, Breanna Jadus (MC Habitat for Humanity), Bob Grabowski (Special Olympics), Cameron Clark (Casman), Richard Blumenstein & Dave Kott (Little Mary’s Hospitality House), Mark Fedder (MC Historical Museum), Beth Peplinski (MC Family Advocates), Chad Eckhardt

## Tax-Exempt Quotas

Tax-exempt motor fuel monthly limit is 175 gallons per Tribal member.  
Tax-exempt cigarette monthly limit is 20 packs per Tribal member.

### New procedures coming for tax-exempt purchases at Little River Trading Post

Watch the Rapid River News and notices at the Little River Trading Post for more information as it becomes available.

## Energy Efficiency Tax Credits

Tax credits are available to taxpayers who purchase certain energy efficient products. The federal tax credits are scheduled to end December 31, 2010. If you made qualified energy efficiency improvements during 2010, ask your tax professional about claiming the credit on your federal tax return. More details on the federal energy efficiency tax credit are available online at: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

A Michigan Energy Efficient Qualified Home Improvement Credit is available for qualified improvements from 1/1/2009 through 12/31/2011. This credit is only available for Michigan taxpayers whose adjusted gross income is less than \$37,501 for a single filer and \$75,001 for a joint return. To find information on Michigan and other state incentives, go to [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org).

A new nonprofit organization called "Michigan Saves" is dedicated to making energy improvements easy and affordable. Michigan Saves works with a network of partnering lenders to offer the Michigan Saves Home Energy Loan Program and is designing additional financing programs for commercial, institutional, and renewable energy projects. Michigan Saves provides lenders default support and maintains a network of authorized contractors that promote Michigan Saves loan programs to customers.

Currently the Michigan Saves Home Energy Loan Program is only available in 36 counties; mostly located in southern lower Michigan. If you're interested in financing energy efficiency improvements to your home, watch for an expansion of this program in 2011.



## Gossip, Rumors and all the Drama

Gossip gives us an inspiration of talking at the backs of others. These others may include our Relatives, Friends, or any of our Elders. Idle talking at the backs of others is not a good and a Respectable habit and hence, which leads us into such wasteful work.

The word Gossip may refer to the act of spreading news from person to person, especially rumors or information. The news usually spread through the act of Gossiping. While gossip forms one of the oldest (still) the most common means of spreading and sharing information, it also has a reputation for the introduction of Errors and other variations into the information thus transmitted. This word, derived from Gossipy originally meant the conversation of close friends.

It is usually idle talk about someone else behind their back. And all who tolit added something new, and all who heard it made enlargements of it, Piece Flipped and Turned and Twisted.

Truth is not exciting enough to those who depend on the characters and lives of their neighbors for all their amusement. We cannot control the gossip and rumors of Evil Tongues of others; but a good life enables us to disregard them.

A cruel story runs on wheels and every hand oils the wheels as they run.

Tribal Member,  
Jerry Ramsey Sr.

## "You will only get back what you give out."

--Joe Coyhis, STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE

The Great Spirit created a system of balance and justice. This law says, if you treat others with respect, you will be treated with respect. If you gossip about no one, no one will gossip about you. If you are fair in all of your dealings, you can expect the same.

If you share with others, others will share with you. If you judge others, others will judge you. You will always get back what you give out. The original teaching talks about being a giving person. A giving person will constantly be on the receiving end.

*My Creator, help me to be a giving person today.*



As always happens when FEMA representatives are around, one question asked was, "...if we are any better prepared than we were for Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans?" Dworak answered and said that the emergency response structure is much better, improved lines of communication have been established between all agencies and FEMA has even gone as far as to have Advance Teams that go in to parts of the country where it looks like a disaster 'might' occur. These deployments most recently have included one for Hurricane Earl which just went up the East Coast of the country.

Also attending the conference was Susan Conradson, an Environmental Engineer with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. She offered local information and insight into programs which might be used to help protect the tribe and its' region.



Extensive grant information was shared at the meeting as well. There are numerous grants and programs available for both governments and the private sector. The tribal Grants Administrator and members of the TERT are reviewing the opportunities to see what can be brought into play for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians citizens and organization. Other participants in the conference included the Emergency Management Coordinators from Manistee and Mason Counties, Lt. Ken Falk and Liz Reimick; Suzanne Pate from Consumers Energy (Tippy and Hodenpyl Dams on the Manistee River); the Emergency Services Coordinator for the American Red Cross, Wally Taranko; Bear Lake Fire Chief Bruce Grosso and Roger Elbers, Manistee County government.

## TPD Grants bode well for tribe

This month of September brought some wonderful news for the Tribal Public Safety Department of LRBOI. Both a COPS Hiring Program grant and a Department of Justice, Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) grant were announced. In an amusing twist, the CTAS grant was announced following one of the working luncheons at the recent National Native American Law Enforcement Association convention in Las Vegas. As the Vision for Tomorrow luncheon concluded on September 16th, the luncheon host, Ondray T. Harris (Director, Community Relations Service for the Department of Justice) had everyone stay in the conference luncheon hall until 1:30 p.m. Las Vegas time. With some awkward small talk and a few jokes, Harris killed time until 1:30 and then announced that the CTAS grants were being announced in Washington D.C. and that he could finally let out the information to the 500 tribal Law Enforcement officials at the convention. Assistants in the hall passed out a complete listing of the grants at that time.

From Michigan, LRBOI received \$250,296 in a COPS grant; LTBB got \$189,326 (also COPS); Bay Mills received \$183,057 (COPS) and \$230,650 (BJA grant to develop and enhance the operation of Tribal Justice systems); Hannahville, \$36,299 (COPS) and \$295,474 (Tribal Governments Program); Keweenaw Bay \$150,000 for their correctional facility program, \$288,628 (COPS), \$500,000 New Violence Prevention and Rehab project and \$300,00 for Sexual Assault Services; Match-E-Be-Nash-She Wish Pottawatomi received \$171,492 (COPS); Nottawaseppi Band \$417,469 (COPS); Pokagon Band \$46,860 for correctional facilities; Sault Ste. Marie \$499,995 (Alcohol and substance abuse program), \$282,078 (COPS), \$897,592 (OVW tribal government program) and \$300,000 for Sexual Assault Services programs.

The following week, Lt. David DeForest from Little River was notified that the tribe received yet another grant in the amount of \$143,463 to fund an additional Conservation officer for the next three years. This was announced along with some other grants that allow for the hiring of 45 additional officers in the state of Michigan. Our tribe was the only northern tribe in the state to receive this grant. LRBOI has had a noticeable presence on the national scale on three fronts in recent years, Law Enforcement, Tribal Health and Human Services and Emergency Management (FEMA). This presence signifies to Federal agencies that we are progressive and serious about our governmental responsibility and helps the various tribal departments to receive ever-increasing grant support.



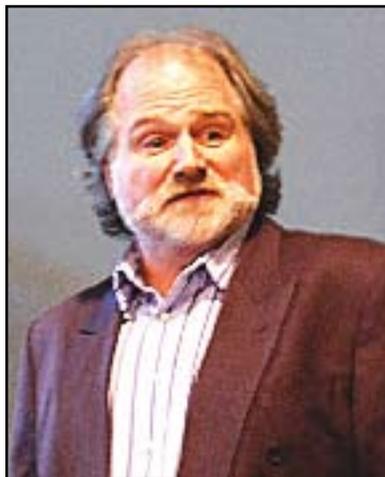
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan The Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways awarded over \$16,000 to twenty-four North American Indian artists during a very well attended VIP Preview event in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall on Friday, October 1. Shirley Brauker was recognized as this year's second place winner for her contemporary pottery piece entitled, "Midnight War Pony."

The Indigenous Peoples Art Market was held in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall on Oct. 2 & 3 and was free and open to the public. Nowhere else in Michigan did the public get the chance to purchase artwork from such a diverse gathering of some of the most renowned North American Indian artisans on the continent. The event is known as one of the finest North American Indian juried art shows and art markets in the country. Fifty-three North American Indian artists representing categories such as jewelry, pottery, sculpture, paintings, drawings, graphics, baskets, and diversified art forms displayed and sold their work throughout the weekend. The artists featured come from tribes including the Ojibwe, Navajo, Miami, Mohawk, Ho-Chunk, Iroquois, Potawatomi, Oneida, and more. "It is an honor to be part of the Ziibiwing Center's Art Market. This is my fourth year of attending as an artist. I look forward to meeting the staff that works so hard to make this show possible for us. 2008 was successfully held in the casino which I thought was the best show ever. It was very well organized..." says Herbert Joe of White Lake, Mich. commenting on the previous Indigenous Peoples Art Market.

On both days there were artist demonstrations, song and dance exhibitions, a children's activity area, and many opportunities to interact with the artists. The Art Market was open from 11am to 9pm on Saturday, October 2, and 11am to 3pm on Sunday, October 3. The 8th Indigenous Peoples Art Market was also free and open to the public.

The Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. is the Midwest's Premier American Indian Museum. Established in 2004, the Ziibiwing Center is a distinctive treasure created to provide an enriched, diversified, and culturally relevant educational experience through its award-winning Diba Jimooyung (Telling Our Story) permanent exhibit, changing exhibits, research center, Ojibwe language immersion room, and gift shop. The Ziibiwing Center is a non-profit cultural center and museum belonging to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan who also own Michigan's only four diamond casino resort, the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, and the Saganing Eagle's Landing Casino located in Standish, Mich.

## It takes a village



Martha Howell  
Currents Reporter

It takes a village...really! That was the message Jerry Johnson expressed during Tuesday nights Recovery Celebration held at the Aki Maadiziwin community center.

Johnson has worn various hats over the years; student, minor league baseball player, addict, fine art photographer, horse enthusiast and college professor. His life has been an unplanned journey that has taken him down many roads, some dark and mysterious, but they have led him to the path he walks today.

Johnson holds a doctorate of Sociology from Western State University and is currently teaching graduate students at Grand Valley State. It has been 29 years since Johnson had the revelation "Go die, or get better". He chose to get better and to share his personal story of recovery to enable others to keep striving for success in their lives.

"The secret is people, encouraging people, any people, just people who aren't associated with getting high" said Johnson.

A strong social network is vital for anyone who is in recovery. An individual must choose to get help but they need support from their families, clan and nation also. Johnson stressed that while people are recovering from addiction relapse is reality.

"Don't make people feel bad about a relapse. It is not always intentional" Johnson said.

Support them, love them and they will make through one day at a time.



**A Survey of Elders**

The Tribe is conducting an Elder Survey. Elders interested in participating in this survey are asked to contact the Members Assistance Department. For participating in this survey the Elder will receive a gift of appreciation (\$10.00 gift card) and a certificate of participation.

The purpose of this project is to assist tribes, villages, and homesteads in creating a record of the health and social needs of their elders. This survey is a required submission for the Elder Meal Program grant application to help tribes with data needed for their Title VI nutrition and care giving grants awarded from the Administration on Aging (AoA) and can also help with tribal planning, long-term care discussions, and grant-writing. The survey information also compares the Native American elders to the general U.S. population to determine the extent of existing social and health differences.

The information is confidential and the survey instrument does not identify your name but will ask for your zip code for demographic data. Time to complete survey is about 30 minutes.

Departments assisting Elders with the Survey are the Members Assistance Intake Clerks, Family Services, Clinic CHR's

The Members Assistance Department will have a booth available at the Elders Conference November 6th for Elders interested in completed the survey at that time.

If you have any questions please contact the Members Assistance Department at 888-723-8288

**What is the Elder Meals Program?**

The Elders Meal Program is a program that provides a nutritious meal, social interaction and supportive services to Elder Tribal Members. Each meal served provides at least one third of the daily recommended dietary allowances established by the Food and Nutrition Board, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences as well as the Dietary Guidelines for Americans issued by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**How does the Elder Meals Program benefit our Elders?**

The Elders Meal Program is more than "just a meal". It gives our Elders a chance to socialize with other Elders in the community, educate themselves on various subjects essential to a living a healthy lifestyle, while enjoying a nourishing meal.

Evidence based data increasingly supports that good nutrition is essential for health and quality of life. For older adults, adequate nutrition is especially important because of their increased vulnerability to chronic disease.

Five of the top chronic health conditions identified in the most recent Elders Needs Assessment are high blood pressure, arthritis, diabetes, depression and osteoporosis; all may be prevented, delayed or managed through improved nutrition services.

**Where and When?**

The meals are served at the AKI Community Center every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The monthly menu is publicized in the tribal Currents newspaper, the online Rapid River News, Posted in all buildings and is available at the meal site.

Lunch is served at noon.

**Do I qualify?**

All tribal Elders and their spouse qualify for this program, as well as handicapped family members who reside with a tribal Elder. An intake form usually takes about five minutes to complete and only has to be done one time. You can complete this during registration at the lunch, or over the phone. (Please call the Members Assistance Department toll free at 888-723-8288 anytime during normal business hours)

We also serve meals to any guest who may be interested in attending for a nominal charge of \$5.00 per meal.

If you have any questions, or would like more information on this wonderful program feel free to contact:

Noelle Cross  
Elder Meal Program Administrator  
Members Assistance Department  
(231) 398-6886 or Toll Free 888-723-8288  
Mailing Address: 375 River Street Manistee, MI 49660  
Office location: Aki Community Center 2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung Manistee, MI 49660  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Happy Birthday Melissa Patricio, Brianna Patricio. Luv you 2 girls, always Dad

**Grandmother Teachings**

*Have respect*

*Listen to your elders*

*Share*

*Listen*

*Be clean*

*Have humor; don't be too serious*

*Behave or people will talk*

*Know your relatives*

*Acknowledge relationship*

*Refrain from alcohol and drugs. Not good for you.*

*Watch out for "men". Some have evil thoughts/intentions*

*Come in at dark, Don't wander too far away from home*

*Be humble.*

*Take courage*

*Stand up for your beliefs*

*Help one another; don't wait to be asked*

*Get along/don't fight*

*Know your language*

*Women are Sacred; women extend our generations*

*Watch your children closely; don't hit your children*

*Feed people*

*Bring people together for comfort*

*Know your roles & practice them*

*Work hard*

*Pray & know the Creator*

*Submitted By: Patrick D. Wilson*



Princess Miss Katie Crawford representing the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in the Scottville Harvest Festival Parade September 18 2010. She was there showing the future generations of young ladies that it is important to keep the culture and traditions alive, like “Then and Now”. As she waived to the crowds she was applauded and treated with upmost respect as she passed by. She is preserving her tradition and strengthen our communities of “Then and Now” the theme of this year parade. A special Thank You to Curtis Williamson from Northern Classic Car Sales 4413 W. U.S. 10 Ludington MI. for providing the car she rode in.



## One of original Navajo Code Talkers dies in Ariz.

(Associated Press) WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Allen Dale June, one of the 29 original Navajo Code Talkers who confounded the Japanese during World War II by transmitting messages in their native language, has died. He was 91. June died of natural causes Wednesday night at a veterans hospital in Prescott, his wife, Virginia, told The Associated Press on September 9th.

In October of 2009, two of the Navajo Code Talkers, Bill Toledo and Frank Chee Willetto visited the Manistee area when they came with a contingent from the Fire Rock Casino to accept a custom made motorcycle from Don Stone of Good Thunder Motorcycles. Stone had contracted with the Navajo Code Talkers Association to create a special bike for auction. The proceeds of the auction would go to help build a Museum and Veterans Center. (see photos)

The Code Talkers took part in every assault the Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. They sent thousands of messages without error on Japanese troop movements, battlefield tactics and other communications critical to the war's ultimate outcome.

Several hundred Navajos served as Code Talkers during the war, but a group of 29 that included June developed the code based on their native language. Their role in the war wasn't declassified until 1968.

June, who attained the rank of sergeant, received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2001 along with other members of the original Code Talkers.

With his death, only two of the 29 are still living.

“The Navajo Nation lost a great warrior,” Tribal Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan said in a statement. “His unique service to his country brought positive attention to the Navajo Nation. He will be missed.”

June first tried to sign up for the Marines in his hometown of Kaibeto on the Navajo Nation, but a recruiter told him he was too young. He then traveled to the reservation town of Chinle to enlist — because he figured people there wouldn't recognize him — and he could lie about his age and forge his father's signature, Virginia June said.

Even after the code was declassified in 1968, June said little about his role as a Code Talker because he viewed it as bragging, his wife said. Anyone who saw him in the past several years might have been able to guess he was a Code Talker, as he wore a red Navajo Code Talker cap with his name



on it wherever he went and a black leather jacket with “Marines” written across the back. He completed his look with a bolo tie that had a large turquoise stone.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians joins in celebrating the life and service of Allen Dale June.

# Currents

You can find this and many other issues at [lrboi.com](http://lrboi.com)

Megwa Ezhiweback



Bashkakodini-Giizis (Freezing Moon)  
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## Annual Fall Membership Meeting



Tribal citizens from across the United States converged at the Little River Casino and Resort over the weekend for the annual fall meeting and ceremonies.

A beautiful sunrise Thursday morning welcomed citizens to the festivities as the sacred fire was lit in the lodge at the gathering grounds.

Fire-keeper Phil Memberto and a small group of local citizens gathered to offer prayers, sing and enjoy one another's company in a good way.

The Historic Preservation Committee scheduled many traditional cultural teachings to coincide with the Citizen Meeting but due to lack of citizen participation most events were cancelled. However, local fire-keepers were at the lodge round the clock ensuring the sacred fire did not go out until sunset Sunday evening. Chi-miigwetch to all the guys who worked hard over the weekend tending the fire.

For the majority of citizens the official start of the weekend was LRCR Warehouse Sale on Friday evening. The Dontz Road warehouse was a buzz of activity where citizens got first dibs on items such as office equipment, home furnishings and linens.

The Ogema Meet and Greet took place in the Odawa room at the casino on Friday evening. After citizens got their fill of shopping at the warehouse sale they began to trickle into the meet and greet. Many questions were asked by citizens with the main concern being voter registration. The biggest concern of citizens was the intent of voter registration to which they did not receive a clear answer by members of the election board. The Meet and Greet discussion got heated at times with more citizens asking questions at that time than during the Citizen Meeting Saturday afternoon.

Early Saturday morning citizens arrived at LRCR to check-in and register for the main event. Each government office had a booth where citizens could mingle and receive literature concerning the government departments and get to know the people who run our government daily.

The event center was just about at capacity Saturday afternoon as our Ogema Larry Romanelli welcomed everyone and the Citizen Meeting began. The local community drum group, "Swirling Wind" kicked off the meeting singing traditional songs.

Romanelli updated citizens on current

projects concerning the tribe addressing issues such as the Sturgeon release and the Muskegon Project, which is currently stalled in legislation. He did ask that if anyone in the Muskegon area observes trucks moving in and out of the property to contact the tribe and report it.

Elder Ron Pete updated citizens on activities sponsored by Elders committee such as the trip to GTB and the 23rd Michigan Indian Family Olympics that were held in July at the Isabella County Indian Reservation. During the update, Tribal citizen Cornelius Deverny was clearly distressed over misinformation concerning the bus trip to the Family Olympics. Elder Pete clarified for citizens that the bus took Tribal Members only!

Lunch appeared to be the highlight of the day for many citizens as they enjoyed a menu of roast beef, chicken, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, salad, and a variety of pie.

As the afternoon continued; chief finance officer, Steve Wheeler, reported that the 2009 Audit was unqualified and there were no audit findings. Wheeler also reported a cash increase of over \$10 million.

LRCR general manager, Tom Davis was pleased to inform citizens that casino revenue is up 8 percent and distribution to the tribe is up 21 percent. Davis spoke about exciting changes coming to the resort such as High Stakes Bingo, Mechanical Bull slots and the Jungle room. "To utilize existing space and maximize every square inch of the building" he said. Davis also reported that the casino currently employs 86 tribal members which is a 2 percent increase from when he started working at the resort.

During the meeting 121 gifts were given away to citizens who were lucky enough to have Ogema Romanelli draw their name from the box.

Only a handful of citizens stayed until the Q&A session when Ogema Romanelli moderated the discussion concerning the topics of:

Q: Having the event center open for the entire day for future meetings?

A: "No events will interfere with meetings ever again" said Tom Davis.

Q: Clarification of terms "member" and "citizen"?

A: There is no difference but people should refer to themselves as tribal citizens instead of members because the tribe is not a "club".

Q: Are descendants of 1/4 and 1/8 going to be enrolled in the tribe?

A: That is only a rumor.

Q: Are Health services and more cultural events going to be offered in the Muskegon area?

A: No answer was given about Health services but information about the Kateri Circle was made available to citizens seeking cultural events in Muskegon.

Q: Why doesn't the tribe offer reimbursement for Diabetic testing strips?

A: No answer because the position of Director of Health is vacant.

Q: Why were travel expenses cut for Tribal Council which prevented them from attending events and conferences with a result of possible loss of future funding?

A: "Council does need to attend events on self-governance

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Or Current Resident

because grants might fall by the wayside in the future" said Bob Whiteloon.

A Statement was made concerning opening up Tribal council meetings so only contracts and legal issues are discussed during closed sessions. Near the very end of the meeting everyone who remained in the audience was invited to come to the ceremonies across the street.

The meeting ended an hour earlier than scheduled since there was a lack of registered voters in attendance and thus no quorum.



Article and photos by: Martha Howell