



Megwa Ezhiweback

Mkwa-Giizis (Bear Moon)
February 2010 Vol. 7 Issue 2

ALSO IN THIS PUBLICATION

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- P.3-6- COUNCIL NEWS
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Director LaPorte on assignment in DC



“Joseph LaPorte, public safety director of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, has been named to serve as the first tribal representative on the federally managed Interagency Threat Assessment Coordination Group (ITACG). The one-year assignment will add great value to our Homeland Security structure.”

See Page 9



Office of Public Affairs

Contact Information
1-888-723-8288
1-231-398-6840



Tribal Member, Council Member, Warrior and Elder Robert Hardenburgh walked on December 15th, 2009. For related stories on his passing, see page 31.

Mezeske appointed to Council

Tribal Elder and long-time employee Sandra Mezeske has been appointed to fill the Tribal Council seat of Robert Hardenburgh who walked on in December.

Ogema Larry Romanelli, under the authority of Tribal Constitutional rules, made the nomination of Mezeske on the 4th of January after extensive review over the holidays. Romanelli said that, “I had approximately 7-8 different candidates who each brought excellent skills and knowledge to the position. It was a difficult choice but I am comfortable that Sandy comes to the position with the best wishes of all tribal members in her heart. Her experience with Little River gives her intimate knowledge of our operations and enterprises and that knowledge will enhance her contributions to our government.”

Mezeske was sworn in by Chief Judge Dan Bailey in a ceremony following the opening of Council session on January 6th. She was then greeted by Speaker Parsons and by Ogema Romanelli and welcomed to her seat. Council took a short recess to give well-wishers the opportunity to speak with Sandy.

Election Proposed Regulations

The Tribal Election Board has posted new proposed election regulations for your consideration. See Page 8



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians 2010 Annual Goonignebig Tournament

To register, please call
1-888-723-8288, ext. 6895 or email Vchandler@lrboi.com
Wenesh pii: Saturday, February 13, 2010 Start time 9:00 a.m.
Aanii piish: LRBOI Community Center
2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung, Manistee, MI

Everyone is invited to attend and participate.



Sponsored by: Tribal Historic Preservation Department

Competitors MUST be registered
* All children MUST be accompanied by an adult at all times
* Registration closes at 9:00 a.m. on February 13, 2010
In order to guaran-tee a correct t-shirt size, participants MUST be pre-registered no later than February 3, 2010

Aanii:
The holidays are behind us along with the year 2009. I hope everyone had an enjoyable amount of time to spend with friends and family. As I look to the new year, I wonder what 2010 will bring?

In December of 2009, Tribal Councilor Robert Hardenburgh walked on. I want to express my gratitude to his family for his service to this Tribe. He has been active in the Tribe over the years in various capacities. To his family, Kitchi Miigwetch.

I have appointed Sandy Mezeski to fill the remainder of Bob Hardenburgh's term of office. Tribal Council voted to confirm the appointment at the January 6th meeting. The choice was a difficult one as there was a list of candidates to consider, each individual had their own set of strengths. I would have preferred an election but per the Constitution, an appointment was necessary.

There were several factors I took into consideration in my choice, which included looking at backgrounds, trying to understand tribal member's preferences by evaluating the last election results. I also took into consideration who expressed interest in running for office in the last election and finally, asking the creator for guidance. Of those who were not chosen, I believe they each have something to contribute to this Tribe as well.

For now, the changes to the Casino Board of Director's has not taken place. Council and Ogema have had some discussions and the Council sent the Ogema a draft letter which contained information as to the reasoning why they were considering placing council persons on the Board.

I had some concerns with sending out the draft for the fact that I believed it contains some inaccuracies; I also believe that some information contained in the draft has already been put out to the membership over the past several years. I do not have a problem with them explaining their position, I just would have preferred to do it by

mailing it to each member. A forum between Ogema and Council with the membership being invited to attend is something I would not be opposed to. I will not respond to what I believe are inaccuracies in this publication preferring to do it in a member only forum or by mail. Their position paper is contained on following pages in its entirety.

Most of the tribes of Michigan have agreed to give support to the effort of keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. The belief is there will be a huge cost to pay if the carp are allowed into these waters. Several other States have joined in the effort. Let's hope it is not too late.

As I think about what will happen in 2010, I believe there are many efforts that began in 2009, that will be realized in the coming 12 months. Until next month...

"If you limit your choices only to what seems possible or reasonable, you disconnect yourself from what you truly want, and all that is left is compromise."

White House Tribal Nations gather



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Ogema Larry Romanelli was in Washington D.C. early in November for an historic conference with United States Officials.

President Barack Obama, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Cabinet Members hosted the White House Tribal Nations Conference to ensure that American Indians and Alaska Natives have a hand in the development of the policies that affect Indian Country. The Conference was held today in the Sidney R. Yates Auditorium at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

More than 400 tribal leaders of the 564 federally recognized tribes attended the event, each looking forward to voicing concerns and also their thanks to the Conference hosts.

Secretary Salazar welcomed Conference attendees. Salazar stated:
We recognize that the federal government's history with Indian nations is long and troubled.

We live with a legacy of injustice. But today, we also live in a moment of great opportunity." This historic gathering was meant to be the beginning of an ongoing discussion so that the "First Americans" can "decide the future" that they will build toward.

Introduced by the President of the National Congress of American Indians, Jefferson Keel, President Obama approached the podium to great applause. His speech is available on-line at the White House website. President Obama signed a memorandum that requires each Cabinet agency to compose a

detailed plan within the next 90 days. Each plan will outline how the agency will implement President Clinton's executive order, issued many years ago, to establish collaboration between the federal government and the tribal nations. President Obama told attendees that as long as he is in the White House, "you will not be forgotten."



Following President Obama's speech, a Q&A session followed, during which Wilfred Cleveland of the Ho-Chunk Nation in Wisconsin referred to the President as "he who cares."

During three panel discussions (Economic Development, Natural Resources, Energy, Environment and Agriculture; Public Safety and Housing; Education, Health Care and Labor), all moderated by Secretary Salazar, attendees shared concerns and asked questions.



AIR spoke with Vice Chairperson of the Cherae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Shirley Laos. Trinidad Rancheria has concerns about Health Care as their tribal members are once again without insurance. Vice Chair Laos expressed that the Conference is a "great opportunity" as the Trinidad Rancheria met with Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Larry EchoHawk a total of four times, but after today, has been able to meet with Secretary Salazar and others.

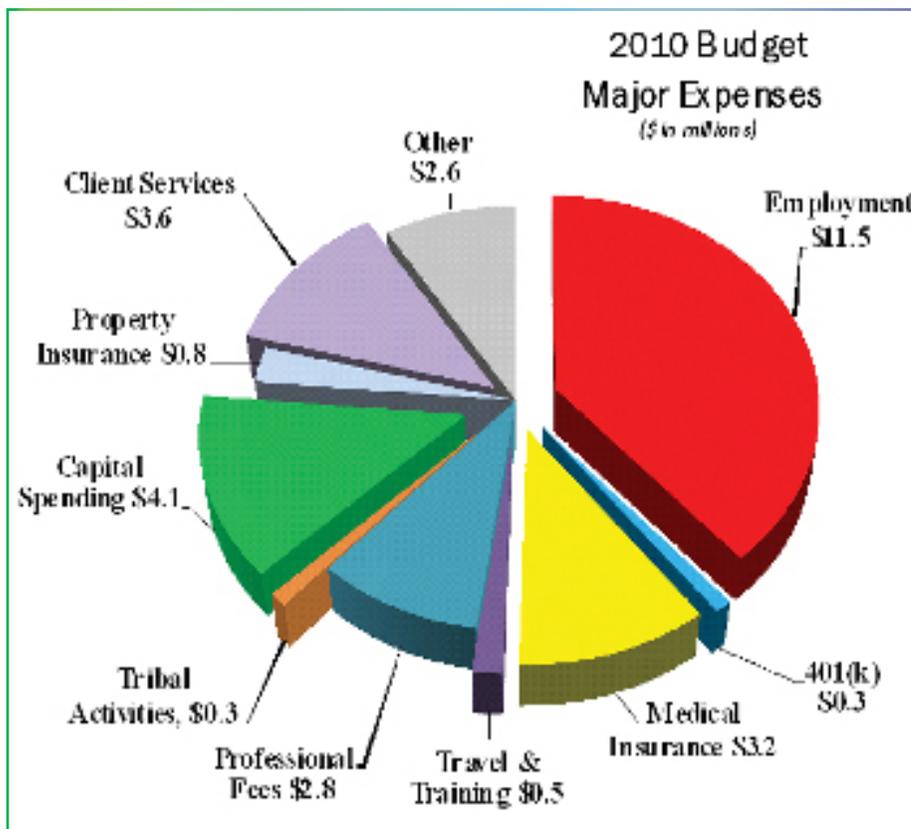
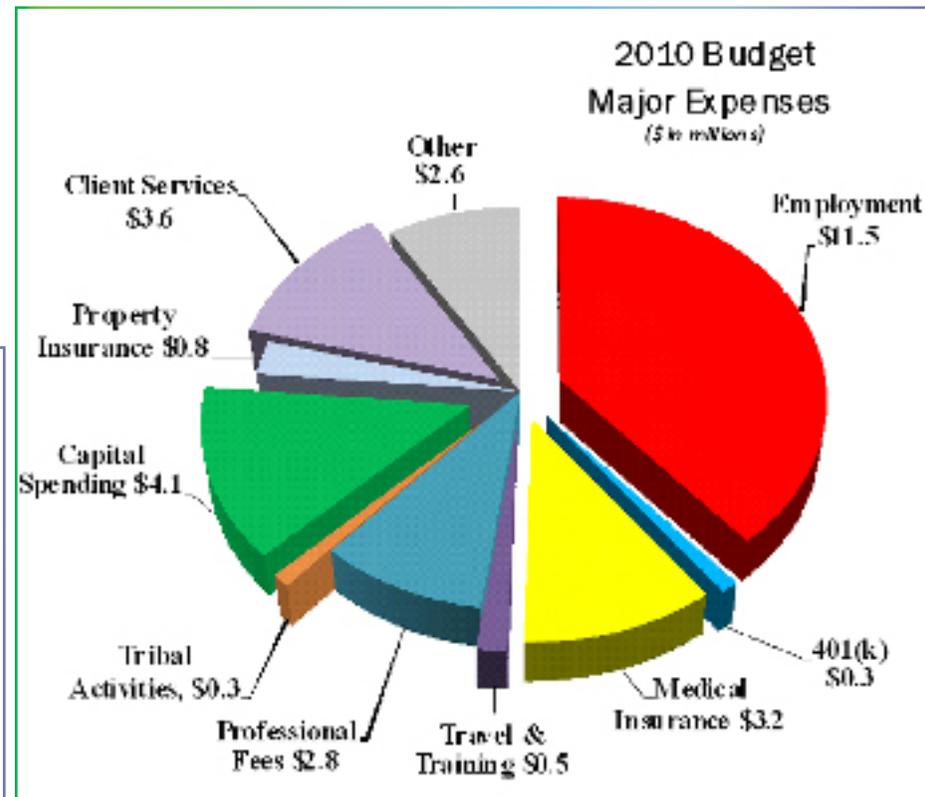
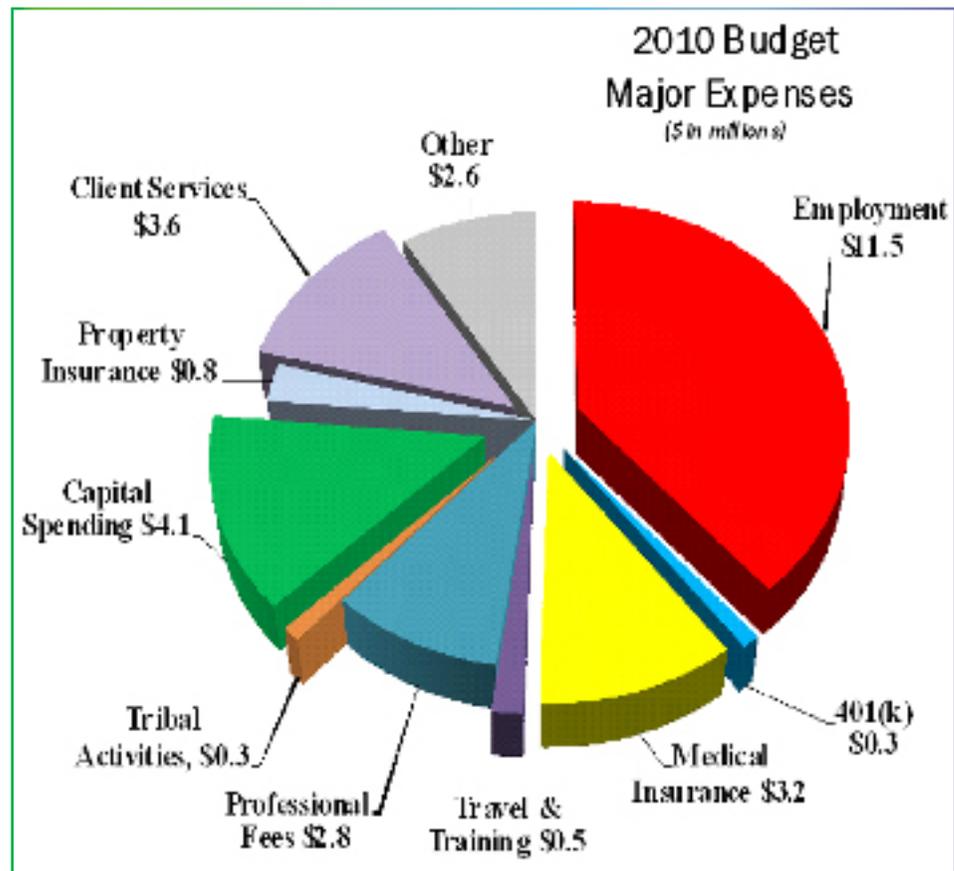
In his closing remarks, President Obama reaffirmed that this is the "beginning of a process" with which he and his team will follow up. He stated:

I want you to know that, as I said this morning, this is not something that we just give lip service to. And we are going to keep on working with you to make sure that the first Americans get the best possible chances in life in a way that's consistent with your extraordinary traditions and culture and values.

Ogema Romanelli had this to say about the visit to Washington: (insert quote)
(Some of the material for this article was from Cerissa Hontiveros at the AIRblog)

Recorder's Report to Membership for Dec/Jan:

FY 2010 Government Operations Budget Adopted: The Tribal Ogema submitted the Government Operations budget for FY 2010, which was acted on during the month of December by the Tribal Council. The Ogema's original submission included some components that the Tribal Council was not completely comfortable authorizing, therefore, a compromise was reached between the Ogema and Tribal Council. The main issue in the budget was the Ogema's inclusion of 9 new positions within Tribal Government operations. The Tribal Council agreed with a couple of the positions, however, was reluctant to authorize all 9. Therefore, the Ogema modified the budget submission to move the funding for those positions to a line item that in essence results in the positions being on hold at this point. Most of the positions are a result of the recommendations from the operations study commissioned in 2008 that was carried out in 2009, by Osiyo. The Tribal Council did approve the budget including a reserve of funds for those positions, in the event that the Ogema and Council reach agreement that the positions are necessary for government and authorization is adopted to post and fill the positions. At this point, final determinations have not been made, and the Council and Ogema are continuing to cooperatively discuss which recommendations of the Osiyo group should be fully implemented. The breakdown of funding contained in the FY 2010 budget includes:



The Recorder thanks Dan Velikan, for preparing the graphs in this report.
Detailed budget information including departmental breakdowns may be obtained from the Executive Branch

Casino Board of Directors – Law Still Under Review: A prior Recorder’s report included information regarding the changes in legislation that will create a new law that governs the Casino Resort operation. The Tribal Council did receive many comments regarding membership’s opinions regarding Tribal Council members being seated members on the Board. In December, the Tribal Council adopted a position statement during open session, that was originally scheduled to release on December 3.

The Tribal Council had provided the position statement to the Tribal Ogema, and the Ogema did object to its release. The Ogema cited his concerns that if the position statement was published, it may harm future projects or call unwarranted attention to matters that are otherwise not public discussion, and the Ogema voiced his opinion that

he did not agree with the release of the position statement. At that time, the Tribal Council agreed to withhold the publication in light of the Ogema’s concerns, pending the closure of the public comment period on the new Law, which ended at the end of December.

There are members of the Tribal Council that believe the citizenry should be informed about the factors that lead to the Tribal Council’s decision to rewrite the law, and change the composition of the Board. Those factors remain unchanged, and in reality, an additional event happened that had the potential to compromise the Tribe, and its Casino operation, during the month of December. The event was “corrected”, but again, the position of the Tribal Council is that the event should not have occurred. The Tribal Council has heard the concerns of membership regarding the number of

Council members being considered to serve on the Board of Directors, and the Speaker did announce during the first meeting in January that:

The Tribal Council is considering re-writing that portion of the Ordinance that mandates Council member appointment to the Board, specifically by reducing the number of Councilors that would serve on the Board of Directors. It is expected that the Ordinance will be considered for final adoption with that portion revised.

At this point, the Law must be reconsidered in light of the public comments received. Potential modifications are being drafted, to include the revisions announced by the Speaker.

The position statement previously adopted by the Tribal Council appears below:

TO: Citizens of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
DATE: December 3, 2009
RE: **NEW ENTERPRISE BOARD ORDINANCE-CHANGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACT**

The Ogema publicly sent a statement through the Little River Currents to the Tribal Membership regarding his opposition to the legislation that reforms the current Board of Directors that over see the Little River Casino Resort. The Tribal Council feels the Membership deserves to hear at least a portion of the reasons behind why your Tribal Council believes it is critical for the Government to take back control of its own enterprise. Listed below are five (5) main important areas. However, this brief notice cannot fully express all of the considerations that have gone into the months it has taken to create this DRAFT legislation. The Tribal Council appreciates all comments received to date, and hopes that Membership appreciates some of the factors that influenced the changes proposed as noted:

- 1. Forensic Audit:** Insufficient self policing mechanisms into Board Activity resulted in the discovery of questionable expenditures and credit card charges by Member’s of the Board. This activity established the need for the Gaming Commission to invest thousands of dollars to conduct a Forensic Audit. To date, no corrective measures or new policy considerations have been sent through for Tribal Council approval to strengthen controls on Casino expenditures, just verbal assurances that “it won’ t happen again.” Tribal Council does not feel that verbal assurances are sufficient, and there has been no directive issued by previous “overseers” to mandate improved internal controls.
- 2. Spending:** A decision by the Board was made to spend \$4 million on TITO (ticket in/ticket out technology for the slot machines) that resulted in a violation of the Loan Covenants on behalf of Little River Band to its Lenders for the current Casino loan. As a result of that loan violation the Tribe had to obligate \$6 million dollars in TRIBAL money (not Casino funds) to banks for the remainder of the Loan, until the balloon comes due in 2011. The Tribe also was charged an increase of (.75) points on interest for the remainder of the term of the loan, resulting in additional interest cost of nearly \$850 thousand dollars. The impact of the decision made by the Casino Board and its manager had a negative impact to the Tribe. The increased interest costs come directly out of Casino operations, so the distribution to Tribal Government will be reduced, in essence, decreasing monies available for distribution to government operations and member per cap. Although the penalties imposed are far less than what it would have taken to pay off the balloon, currently \$25 million dollars, jeopardizing the Tribe’s financial standing could have and should have been avoided through proper financial review and analysis by responsible parties-ULTIMATELY THE BOARD.
- 3. Missed payment:** The Little River Casino Resort failed to pay its National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) assessment (dues) on time. The result is a violation of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, which

places the operation of the Casino at risk. The penalty for this violation could have cost the Tribe up to \$25,000.00 per day for each day the payment was overdue, up to and possibly including temporary closure of the Casino. Standard operational issues such as this should never create the risk of facing a closure of the Casino due to "oversight."

4. Distribution to the Tribe: The Little River Casino Resort has failed to manage its distributions to Tribal Government in an appropriate manner. The distributions to Tribal Government have been inconsistent, untimely, and inaccurate. In some months the Resort overpaid on distributions while in other months, no payment was received at all. Specifically, due to a miscalculation of cash flow that resulted in an overpayment on a distribution, along with a decision to spend capital on "property improvements" that were not properly identified in the LRCR capital budget, the Resort had to seek an approximately \$5 million "loan" from the Tribal government. This decision nearly resulted in the Little River Band missing its mandated payments to the State and Local Governments under our Compact Agreement. Again, that impact is on the Tribe, not the Board who oversees our gaming operation.

5. Employment: The Board authorized a "lay-off" without the ability of a call back for 100 positions, resulting in multiple lawsuits and claims against the LRCR, **without notifying the Ogema or Tribal Council**. After this massive job elimination, other employment decisions have been made that have resulted in additional claims as well. The final costs associated with these claims are still undetermined. There have been settlements authorized for some of these cases, while others are still ongoing. Although a final tabulation of costs associated with these law suits cannot be made until all claims are resolved, decisions made, up to and including the Board's involvement, have definitely had a negative impact on the Tribe. The Council questions leaving this Board empowered the way it is under current legislation, when this body has done little to protect the Casino Resort from further litigation.

The Ogema publicly declared that he does not support serving as the Chairman of the Board, citing a potential conflict of interest. It is difficult to ascertain where a conflict of interest exists given that Article V, Section 5 (a) (8) of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians' Constitution clearly states the Ogema is to "manage the economic affairs, enterprises, and other interests of the tribe". The proposed legislation only clarifies his management role by defining specific obligations as the Chairman of the Board, strengthening direct involvement, along with accountability. Numerous meetings occurred between the Ogema and Tribal Council to address ongoing concerns with regard to the decisions that were being made at the LRCR by the Board of Directors. The Ogema deemed it necessary to intervene in Casino operations and called an emergency meeting of the Tribal Council to deal with matters which are clearly the responsibility of the Board of Directors under current Tribal law. The Ogema completely overlooks any of the additional changes proposed to increase accountability, reporting and other control mechanisms to protect the Government's primary source of revenue. The Ogema, along with some of the Membership, focus on only one factor, Council Members being on the Board. The Council asks that after reading this letter, and being aware of what has come to the surface, should the Council just turn a blind eye to these issues and let the operation continue as is?

Members must also be aware that a professional management company comes with a steep price and without a sense of personal investment. This would literally cost the Tribe millions without alleviating any of the issues at hand because the fact remains that as a government enterprise, the Little River Band and its Leadership is ultimately responsible and accountable for the decisions made within the LRCR.

Council Members are ELECTED by the people for the purpose of adopting legislation. That includes legislation to correct what it is believed to be GRAVE risks to the Casino Operation. The composition of the new Board is not set in stone however we must take into consideration that Tribal Council and the Ogeema are the voices of the Membership. When it comes to the creation of legislation, it is incumbent on the Tribal Council to enact measures to solidify our fiduciary responsibility. By placing elected officials on the Board, the responsibilities are shared and Members would have a direct voice in who will run the enterprise, rather than the Indirect voice under current law, which runs the risk of continuing current practices.

In closing, we must emphasize that the additional changes to the law require greater detail in reporting, increased accountability, and a consistent use of authority delegated to the Board. The last three pages of the new ordinance are critical in establishing long-term accountability and structure. The changes requiring reports and fiscal management are designed to ensure that the Board is directly accountable to the Tribe for the operation of our Enterprise.

Janine M. Sam
Tribal Council Recorder

Stephen Parsons
Tribal Council Speaker

Virgil Johnson
Tribal Councilor

Unavailable for
signature - (S)

Loretta Beccaria
Tribal Councilor

Robert Whitelcon
Tribal Councilor

Robert Hardenburgh
Tribal Councilor

Unavailable for
signature - (R)

Candace Chapman
Tribal Councilor

Norbert Kelsey
Tribal Councilor

Did not sign when
presented for signature - (N)

Pat Ruitter
Tribal Councilor

Respectfully submitted,
Janine M. Sam
Tribal Council Recorder



Support the



Trip to Washington DC.

By Austen J. Brauker



Washington DC was full of Indians. There were four tipis set up in front of the White House. Tribal leaders had gathered from across the country to meet with President Obama, an unprecedented event, and

amidst it all, the Office of Juvenile Justice Tribal Youth Program held its new grantee training meeting. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians was one of these new grantees. Other tribes came from many different places, from all across the country, and as far away as Barrow Alaska. Pat Wilson and I were proud to attend this event, to represent our tribe, our department, and our program called Indian Village Camp. I learned that receiving this grant was a great fortune for our tribe, since it was an extremely competitive grant, with many tribes submitting program requests to be awarded this funding. Only the best were selected. Our Indian Village Camp program is indeed a good program and will be a great opportunity to provide needed services to at-risk and court involved youth.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with this program, I will give you a brief synopsis of what it entails. Indian Village Camp is an intervention for kids who are getting into trouble. It is a short duration "wake up call" for kids, an attempt to get them back on the right track and to help them make better decisions in their lives. Evidence based statistics have shown several factors that are helpful in this process and we are combining them into something of our own that will suit our own area and population. We will rely on:

- 1). Positive leadership/Role Models
- 2). A wilderness therapy based program structure and
- 3.) All of these skills will be presented from a cultural perspective.

The camp will be four days long and take place four times a year. During their stay, youth will be taught self-reliance survival skills to build their self esteem, such as fire building, camp cooking, orienteering, plant and animal identification, tracking, how to secure food, water and shelter in a survival situation, simple wilderness first aid, and how to avoid dangers. We will be training adult staff to teach these skills from a cultural perspective so that a skill such as tracking is not just following tracks, but is a metaphor for a person's own impact on the people and the world around

them. The fire is not just a fire, but represents the kindling of that spark of spiritual connection within the youth themselves, about nurturing the spirit and learning to take personal responsibility for what they do. A plant or animal can be a way to show them the interconnectedness of all life and our dependence on the natural world for our survival, how we are call connected to the living web. Learning orienteering is not just about being physically lost, but being lost emotionally or culturally lost as well, and that there is always a method to help you find your way down the path of life.

We intend to make the youth live in traditional dwellings that will be made from bent and tied saplings, though they will be covered with canvas. They will learn to act as a group while making their own meals over a campfire. They will delegate duties and responsibilities amongst themselves and use the traditional talking circle to address issues and concerns or express their personal feelings. This program does many things, such as, immediately removing them from what might be a negative home environment, showing them that there was once a harder way to live than what they might currently have, exposing them to nature, making them more self accountable and more responsible for their own needs and actions. We hope to connect them to the cultural ideals of their ancestors, and make them do some hard work and physical activity, such as hiking and various camp duties. We intend for this program to be accessible and inclusive so we are opening admissions to all tribes in the state, all descendants, and even to non-Indians with special circumstances, such as coming from a home with an Indian parent or similar situations. This program, including travel to training sessions such as the one in Washington DC, is entirely grant funded and is being implemented at no cost to the tribe. In fact, the program will be free for the first three years to all participants. Hopefully, this will establish our credibility for a time in the future when the program becomes financially self-sufficient and can eventually be financially self-sustaining. We have established an advisory board made up of various professionals and tribal leadership from different perspectives to help shape the direction of Indian Village Camp. We welcome anyone to contact us to participate from the community level as volunteers and adult leadership. We will be training people to be the onsite service providers. The grant will provide a stipend payment for those leaders who act as staff members during the camp sessions. We are recruiting people with knowledge of our native culture, people with experience working with youth and/or experience with camping and wilderness survival. All adult leaders will go through a background check and provide references as to their abilities and personal character. Personal character and integrity are the most important things we are seeking, more important than having any wilderness or cultural knowledge, we will train people on those things,

but we must make sure that all camp staff are held to a high standard of integrity, and will be positive and effective role models. I have personally spent over a year on this project, hammering out the details and looking for holes that could cause problems. During this process, I have based our program on successful, preexisting wilderness programs, using the best parts from their programs to make sure we can provide safe and helpful services, have formal policies and procedures in place, and that we are protected legally from injuries, accidents or other problems that may arise. We are working closely with public safety so that there will be much police involvement and competent supervision. We have a strict screening process for the youth as well, and any youth with mental health issues, a history of violence or pre-existing medical conditions will not be allowed to participate. We have developed intensive waivers, release forms, and approval criteria that must be adhered to before we will accept any youth into the program. Anyone wishing to review our existing policies and camp procedures can do so at any time by contacting me, Austen, at the Peacemaking Department.

Please consider becoming involved with this project as a volunteer or staff member! It is a great opportunity and we have many talented and experienced people within our community who can make it even better with their input. Staff training sessions will begin in the spring. Even if you have no previous outdoors or camping experience, we can train you! Contact Peacemaking at 398-2240.

I am also very pleased to report that we are much farther ahead with our project than many of the other OJJDP-TYP attendees. Some are still planning their programs, while we are already looking at staff training and full program implementation sometime in 2010. Upon completion of some strategic planning requirements and another meeting with the Department of Juvenile Justice people in January, we will begin moving forward at full speed. I am proud to be a part of this project and thank all of the others who have been involved with us. Thank you.

Austen J. Brauker
Peacemaking Probation
Department



On Thursday December 3rd, key staff met with the Ogema and Tribal Council for a review of the progress to date on the Organization study designed to improve government services. The Osiyo-consultant driven process has been very beneficial in identifying challenges and possibilities that will help our government and tribe to move forward.

Ogema Romanelli and Council Speaker Parsons opened the meeting with a review of their original thoughts concerning the process, needs and possibilities for the organization. Their findings are what set the original tone for the entire process and were arrived at through joint meetings between the Ogema and Council. Council members also in attendance at the meeting included: Council Recording Secretary Janine Sam; Candace Chapman, Loretta Beccaria; Bob Whiteloon and Norbert Kelsey.

Next, Leigh McGee (Osiyo facilitator) presented representatives of the governmental staff workgroups that have been studying the structure. The various departments that make up the Tribal Government have been brought into these three workgroups based upon their primary services.

Citizen Services is the group of departments that provide direct services to the tribal citizens. They are focusing upon a mission that states, "Citizen Services empowers tribal citizens by offering holistic teachings and tools promoting self-sufficiency." Their strategic initiatives include:

1. Utilizing the highest standards of communication, cooperation and collaboration;
2. Utilizing advanced technology to streamline services;
3. Providing access to service opportunities;
4. Using innovative approaches to improve quality of services.

Sovereign Services is the group of departments that collectively secure and promote tribal sovereignty. Their stated mission is, "Sovereign Services preserves, promotes and protects the sovereign will and heritage of our Nation." Their initiatives include:

1. Through responsible stewardship, we enhance the greater good of all;
2. We will provide the technical, administrative and legal resources to build capacity for the government and community;
3. We will enhance the community by addressing needs through collaboration, education and allocation of human and financial resources.

Operational Support Services are the behind-the-scenes departments that provide essential services that enable the entire government structure to function. Their mission statement is, "Operational Support proactively provides a foundation of resources to achieve our shared Tribal Vision." Included in their initiatives are:

1. We will build sustainable customer friendly practices and processes;
2. We are active trustees of the physical and financial resources;
3. We utilize communication practices that promote integrity, accountability, timeliness and transparency."

Throughout the entire process, the key theme was the focus upon improving services to our tribal citizens. Key topics being discussed included how can the government improve the availability of services, guarantee the sustainability of the tribe into the seventh generation and the preservation of our tribal culture.

The workgroups have spent quite a bit of time studying the structure of the government and now are going to be focusing on Cross-functional groups to identify ways to avoid duplication of services and overall improvement of communication both internally and externally.

Tribal coordinators Melissa Waitner and Lee Iverson wanted to give recognition to some of the staff who willingly and without hesitation volunteered to represent the rest of us. They include:

Citizen Services:

- Mission – Holly Davis
- Initiative #1 – Bill Memberto
- Initiative #2 – Amber Moore
- Initiative #3 – Diane Lonn
- Initiative #4 – Dottie Batchelder

Sovereign Services:

- Mission – Frank Beaver
- Initiative #1 – David Deforest
- Initiative #2 – Archie Martell
- Initiative #3 – Jay Sam

Operational Support Services:

- Mission – George Le Vasseur
- Initiative #1 – Ben Hamilton
- Initiative #2 – Steve Wheeler
- Initiative #3 – Peggy Ducey

Remember we only state the Initiative and Goals. I have a copy of the PowerPoint for each of the presenters....may the force be with you!!!!



Muskegon Four Season's Kateri Circle Gatherings for 2010

Dates and time for coming events --- Patti Wlodkowski leader-755-4865 -Muskegon Valentine Gathering –Feb. 7, 11am to 4pm
 Easter – March 28 , 11am to 4 pm –Potluck
 Summer gathering August 8, 10:30 to 3pm
 Krause Park end of Sherman Blvd- Potluck
 Halloween Gathering Oct.17, 11am to 4 pm
 Ghost Supper Nov. 7 , 11am to 4 pm
 Christmas Gathering Dec. 19, 11am to 4 pm

Times for the gatherings held at ST. Thomas Hall are 11am to 4pm.
 The time for the summer gathering will be 10:30 – 3pm
 Which will be held at the Krause Park { End of Sherman }

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 Valentines--Easter-Halloween and Christmas gatherings we would like donation 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 gathering is welcome
 To do so . but you are responsible for your own items....

Election Board

Aanii Members,

The Election Board has recently posted revised Election Board Regulations for public comment. The draft of the Regulations can be found at all Little River Buildings, as well as on the LRBOI website.

In addition, the Election Board will be having community meetings in February to discuss the changes with Tribal members. These meetings are open to all Tribal members.

Election Board Community Meetings will be held on:

Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 2 pm at the new Little River Community Center in Manistee.

Saturday, February 20, 2010 at 2 pm at the Muskegon Satellite Office in Muskegon.

Other community meetings may be set up in February. The dates, times and locations will be posted on the Rapid River News, as well as announced at the scheduled meetings.

Thank you,

Little River Election Board



Tribal Public Safety Director Joseph LaPorte is off on a very special adventure in Washington D.C. It was officially announced on December 4th that LaPorte is being given temporary duty in the nations' capital to work on a very important project in Indian Country. The announcement was made with the release of this Press Statement, crafted by the Tribal Public Affairs Office and the Department of Homeland Security.

Here is the statement:

JOSEPH LAPORTE OF LITTLE RIVER BAND

OF OTTAWA INDIANS NAMED TO ITACG Will Be First Tribal Representative on Federally Managed Group

MAINSTEE, Mich. – “Joseph LaPorte, public safety director of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, has been named to serve as the first tribal representative on the federally managed Interagency Threat Assessment Coordination Group (ITACG).

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security sponsors the ITACG, which is detailed to the National Counterterrorism Center. The ITACG provides advice, counsel, and subject matter expertise to the national Intelligence Com-

munity regarding the operations of state, local and tribal officials, including how such entities use terrorism-related information to fulfill their counterterrorism responsibilities and to protect their communities.

The ITACG consists of federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement officers, first responders and intelligence analysts, who facilitate the increased sharing of terrorism, homeland security



and weapons of mass destruction information between the United States Intelligence Community and its state, local, tribal and private sector partners.

“Joseph LaPorte’s appointment is indicative of the Department of Homeland Security’s commitment to ensuring that the tribal sector is part of the Information Sharing Environment within the Intelligence Community,” said DHS Acting Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis Bart R. Johnson.

“Since being established in October 2007, the ITACG has been an indispensable part of the National Counterterrorism Center’s (NCTC) information sharing mission supporting non-Federal law enforcement and homeland security communities,” said NCTC Director Michael E. Leiter. “NCTC is extremely fortunate to have Joe LaPorte on the ITACG team. I look forward

to drawing upon his unique background and experience as we advance critically important information sharing requirements with our partners.”

After a one-year assignment to the ITACG, LaPorte will return to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. LaPorte’s appointment to the ITACG detail is expected to add great value to the law enforcement and homeland security officials working to coordinate federally disseminated analytic products to the state, local, tribal and private sector consumers, who play a critical role in protecting the nation’s homeland security.

LaPorte has been very active in law enforcement and currently serves as the Chairman of the Indian Country section for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and serves on the COMMTECH board for the Department of Justice.”

Ogema Romanelli, in speaking of the assignment said that, “This is an honor not just for Joe but for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and for all tribal people across America. It also indicates that the Federal government recognizes that the indigenous people of our country offer talents and abilities that can be crucial in helping to secure the land for all of our people... Indian and non-Indian alike.”

While LaPorte is on assignment in D.C., Tribal Police Lt. David DeForest will be in full command of the Public Safety Department.



A new ‘Gavel’



There was a special presentation to our Tribal Justices on December 3rd! Former Ogema and current Peacemaker Patrick Wilson presented a new ‘gavel’ to the judges for the tribal court room.

The hand-made oak ‘gavel’ started as an idea when Pat thought about having a gavel that would be more appropriate for a tribal court than a boardroom. The regular gavel was typical in style of what one is used to seeing in courts and meeting rooms across the nation.

Wilson took a 2 foot long piece of seasoned oak post and over a period of six months fashioned the beautiful one shown in these pictures by hand. He said it actually took about 3 weeks of actual work, a few hours at a time.

As a Peacemaker and former Ogema, Pat is always looking for opportunities to introduce ‘cultural’ elements into activities. That is why the design of this special ‘gavel’ is that of an Anishinaabek war club... sized down to a 14” length. The design shows a stylized eagle on the top, leading to the head of the piece. The ‘gavel’ is also designed to stay sitting upright so that when the judge reaches for it the ‘gavel’ will always be in the right position.

Thanks to Pat from all of us at Little River for this beautiful piece of art.



CDC in Atlanta



Cheryl LaPlaunt

Sault Tribe
Glenn Zaring,

The significance of this particular conference was that it was the first time that the CDC had ‘reached out’ specifically to the tribal community with their message. Many of the participants thanked the organizers for taking this step and there was general agreement to continue to collaborate on keeping our tribal nations informed and as part of the overall system.

A highlight for about 20 of the 60 participants was the opportunity to visit the CDC headquarters and take a tour of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) area. Of particular interest during the tour was that it was the first time many of the conference participants had ever seen a full-blown EOC, staffed and in action. It was an excellent example of the Incident Command System (ICS) in action.

Little River has their Emergency Planning group organized around this same ICS structure so as to handle incidents that might occur here in Manistee and on tribal lands. Our ICS team is integrated with the county and state Emergency Management System.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, commonly known as the CDC, held a recent conference with tribal representatives from across the country including four of the Michigan tribes, Little River, Hannahville, the Sault tribe and the Huron Potawatomi.

The two-day conference in Atlanta was primarily a Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training session (CERC). These trainings help groups to organize the flow of information during crisis or disasters for better communication with their public and citizens.

Government Closes for the following Holidays

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

Some areas of the government will be continue to be available on these holidays, such as Public Safety. Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of the Government facilities. It’s always a good idea to call first if you are not sure.
Just use the toll-free number of 888.723.8288.

Attention all Tribal Members

Commissions/Committees:
The following commissions have current openings.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Gaming Commission | 2 openings |
| Natural Resources | 1 opening |
| Binojeeuk | 3 openings |

All other commission seats available have been filled.

Helping out in Manistee

Eleven Tribal members and employees along with the St. Joseph Catholic youth group volunteered to serve dinner to over 200 people at the Manistee Community Table at St. Joe’s church on Tuesday November 17.

The Manistee Community Table serves free meals to anyone in the community each Tuesday evening at St. Joe’s church. The dinners are funded by donations and staffed each week by different volunteer groups from Manistee. The November 17 dinner was the second one staffed by the Tribe. In addition to the dinner volunteers the Tribe donated funds for the terrific desserts that were made by Deb & Krystal Davis, Kathy Gibson and Laurie Jackson.

The Tribe will again host the Community Table dinner on March 2, 2010. Donations of time or money are always appreciated.

United Way campaign wraps up at LRBOJ

The 2009 United Way campaign in Manistee has finished and between the Little River Casino and the Tribal Government, 275 employees signed up for regular contributions totaling \$18,401 for 2010 or about 19% of the total county goal.

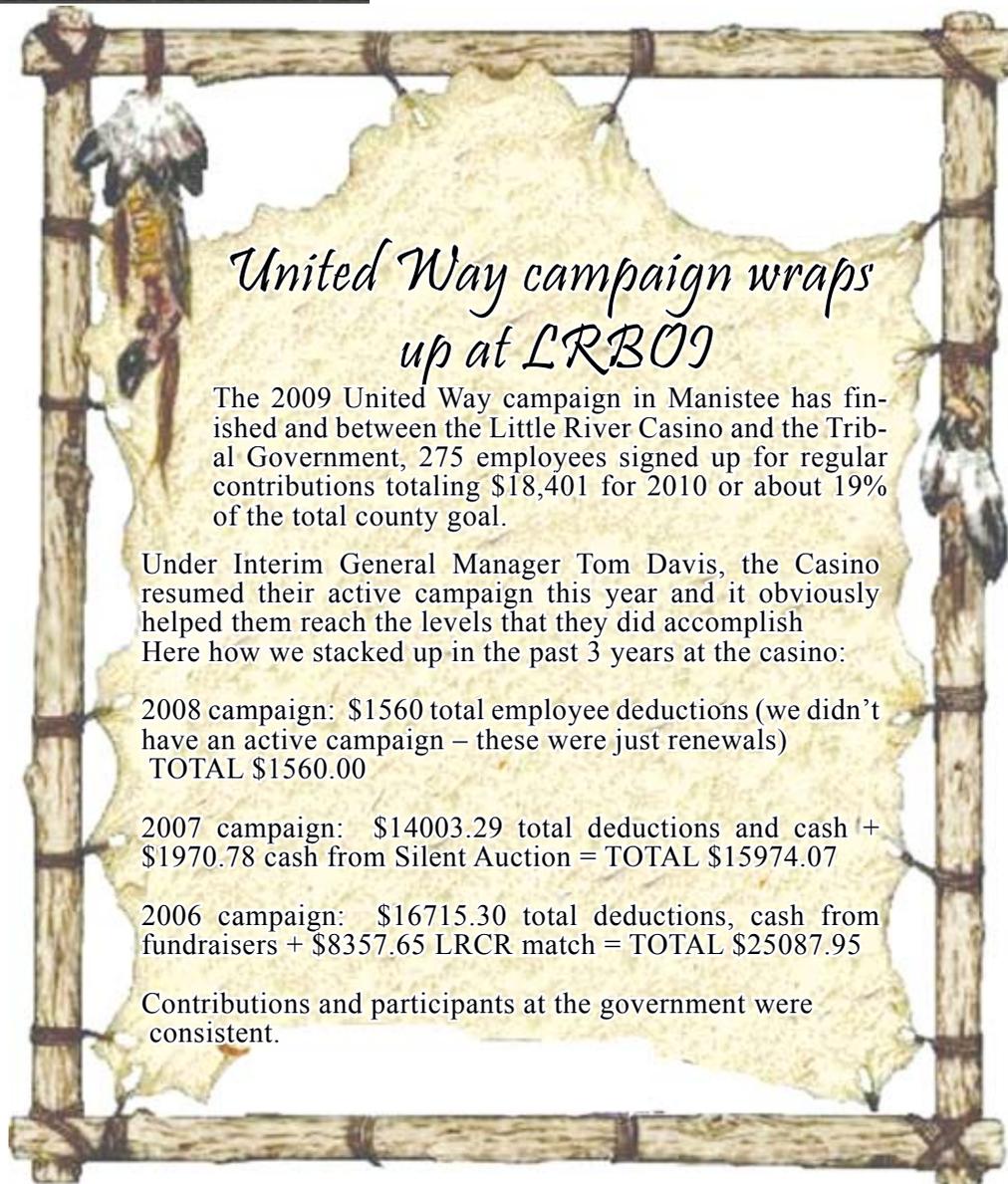
Under Interim General Manager Tom Davis, the Casino resumed their active campaign this year and it obviously helped them reach the levels that they did accomplish
Here how we stacked up in the past 3 years at the casino:

2008 campaign: \$1560 total employee deductions (we didn’t have an active campaign – these were just renewals)
TOTAL \$1560.00

2007 campaign: \$14003.29 total deductions and cash + \$1970.78 cash from Silent Auction = TOTAL \$15974.07

2006 campaign: \$16715.30 total deductions, cash from fundraisers + \$8357.65 LRRCR match = TOTAL \$25087.95

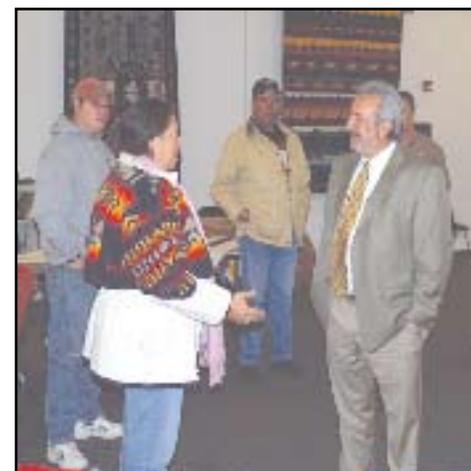
Contributions and participants at the government were consistent.



Tribal member Angela Kidder has been making quilts for some time now and at the November 18th Council session she brought in examples including a Star Quilt containing the Tribal Seal. This quilt was commissioned by Tribal Council Member Virgil Johnson.

Angela is former Ogema Lee Sprague's sister and has achieved some fame because she made the Star Quilt recently presented to U.S. President Barack Hussein Obama in ceremonies in Washington D.C.

Before the Council session, Angela had the opportunity to meet with Ogema Romanelli, Council member Johnson and other attendees. There she spoke of her work and life on the reservation in Montana where she resides with her husband and son.



Manistee Ford-Mercury is pleased to again offer Little River of Ottawa Indians Tribal Government employees and Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Members (including employee and member families) special discount pricing on new vehicles. New Ford and Mercury vehicles that are eligible for the supplier discount will be made available at that price. In addition, all parts and service customers will be given 15% off. This is valid on any non-sale or coupon related purchases. All customers must present their employee or tribal member identification prior to purchase.

**We look forward to assisting the entire
Little River organization!**

Make sure to visit

<http://manisteeFord.dealerconnection.com/>

**The Warriors Society is
gathering photographs of members to be
use when their 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**



by Austen J. Brauker

This gift was given to me on Friday morning, about 8:45 a.m. I am honored that this animal chose to come to me and make this sacrifice for my family and all those who accepted gifts of steaks over the past few days. Elk are beautiful creatures and I have the utmost respect for them and their medicine. I am glad they are being maintained here in the state of Michigan and that the foresight of our ancestors, thinking generations ahead of their own time, has secured these hunting rights for future tribal members. It is an important act to maintain our tribal sovereignty by exercising these hunting and fishing rights. Because of them I was able to take part in the following experience...

I went up to Pigeon River, without a guide, without much clue as to how to proceed, and all alone. Most people drive around and look from the car for tracks and then follow them, hoping to stalk one down, so this is what I did. The first day I followed some fresh tracks. There were five sets of them winding through the snow, so I picked the biggest prints and stuck to them. I watched how they were behaving by reading the signs and noting what they were doing as best as I could determine from the evidence they had left behind. Soon, I came upon blood, then shortly after, a pile of guts, clearly letting me know that I was too late with this bunch. Someone else had gotten there first. The second day I followed a single set of tracks deep into the woods. It was snowing huge slow flakes and a golden eagle buzzed over me while I crossed an open field. The tracks led up to the edge

of a river and then started up again on the other side. This one had gotten away too. I found some different tracks and followed them too. I was getting a bit disappointed because I was stalking so many tracks, trudging through the noisy snow, without ever seeing anything. Each time they were smarter than I. It seemed comical at some level. The Elk kept hearing me coming, crunching through the snow, long before I ever saw them. I could see by their tracks that they would run ahead and watch me from the next hilltop, slowly coming after them, and then bound away as I got close again. I wondered how it was possible to sneak up on one of these beautiful animals. How do people do it? (This is a good time for a hunter to put down some tobacco and ask for help, just for future reference) What was I missing? I kept at the task. I kept trying. I figured that the reason why 90% of the people who go hunting up here for elk will pay good money for a guide is because there is some secret, something I obviously didn't know. I finally figured out what it was. The secret is....be really quiet, don't give up, and try to shoot straight.

On Friday morning I was a little late getting into the woods. There was a continental breakfast at my hotel and the oatmeal and waffles took some extra time. I quietly got out of my car and headed to where I had seen some fresh tracks the day before. There were new ones all around, criss-crossing the same places where I had stood and scanned the tree line the previous evening. I was too late again! I followed these new fresh tracks anyway, thinking I had just missed them. There were two huge sets of tracks. Why oh why did I have to eat those extra waffles? They were surely long gone by now but I figured that I would follow them anyway, and hope for the best. I went about 10 steps and then would stop for a long pause. I listened for a minute or two each time, then took a few more slow steps. I went down one hill and into a valley. The tracks led me up yet another hill. As I neared the crest, I saw him. Its distinct rear end and characteristic "love patch" was facing me from directly over the hill. The animal turned and I instantly saw the antlers. It was a good sized bull. (Fortunately, I had one of the few, highly coveted bull tags that were given out). The bull elk turned in the morning light and was magnificent in his splendor. It was a glorious sight! Amazingly, I stayed strangely calm. I knew that this moment was meant to be. I slowly took four or five steps to a nearby tree, wondering to myself, where is the "buck fever" that I have had for deer that were less than half this size? I raised the gun. I was calm and my thoughts were almost completely blank. I just watched the beauty of the slow and powerful movements as it shuffled through the snow. I steadied against the tree and pulled back the hammer. I fired and the

hammer smacked against metal, making a loud noise, but there was no explosion, just a loud metallic "whack" that caught the elk's attention. The bull casually turned to look for what had made the sound, but thought nothing of it. My dumb "blank mind" and "clear thoughts" had made me forget to click the safety. So much for my moment of Zen! (There was a lesson for me in this somewhere). I pulled back the hammer, again, and this time clicked off the safety like I should have done the first time. I beaded down on him and took a slow breath. This time when I pulled the trigger there was the sudden crack of a 30-30 bullet. It echoed through the hills. The elk didn't move. I expected the big bull to fall down, but he just calmly turned and looked at me. He didn't even seem fazed. What the heck? Did I miss him? Was this gun sighted in wrong? What was going on here? I watched him. He started slowly walking toward the hills where the trees were thicker. He seemed to be going at an uneven pace, not as fluid as before. I was almost sure I had hit him. I remembered Sgt. Szynski saying that sometimes they will just look at you, even after a "kill shot". Indeed, this is what had happened, but I wasn't so sure. I also realized that the further away he went, the further I would be hauling his heavy body through the knee deep snow. What the heck, I shot him again. This time he flinched a bit. Not the reaction I expected, but he took a few steps and then fell down. He floundered a bit and then stood up again like nothing had happened, walking at least another 30 yards. I watched him through the scope. He finally fell down for good. He sat with his head up for about five minutes, while I got out some tobacco to put down on the ground and smoked a cigarette. I shed a tear or two for him in that quiet moment as we sat together and he died. His head finally fell to the side and I turned the opposite way, walking back to my car. I unloaded the 30-30 and prepared to carve up this enormous pile of meat. I was all by myself and the task was a hard one. He had to be cut into pieces. I skinned him and quartered him up, (more like "eighthed" him up), dragging back as much as I could pull at one time with some ropes that I attached to a tarp. It took all morning, I didn't have any food with me either, but then I found one of Deb Davis's homemade cookies and gave a big thanks to her for making such a wonderful treat, a good surprise to find in my pocket to hold me over. The bloody job took all afternoon, and finally, just after the sun had set, my eighth and final trip to the car was completed. I shut the hatch



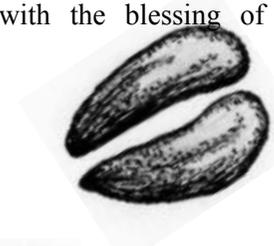
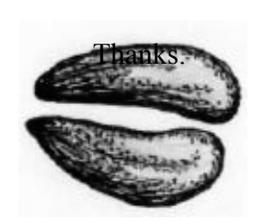
on the truck and headed out for the main road. It was a very emotional time when the realization hit me. It flooded in all at once. So many thoughts. Thinking of this powerful animal. The wisdom of our ancestors to secure these hunting rights for us future generations. Lots of personal reflection. Quiet. My uncle Al, who died of Cancer with one last incomplete wish, to go elk hunting with his friend from Alaska. I was doing this for him too. My family. Being able to provide this gift to them. My wife. Our love. The love medicine of the elk, and now I could wrap her in a new elk blanket a symbol of how much I love her. It was all so much that I began to cry a deep thankful cry, tears started streaming down my cheeks and I thanked like crazy in all directions for everything I could think



of. It went on like this until I hit the highway at Vanderbilt and realized I couldn't be doing this at 70m.p.h. on the highway. I pulled myself together. I made it home to Manistee and started cutting steaks that night. (Another step I am doing at home and by myself. Though-I did take the rib cages, the neck, and some miscellaneous cuts over to Don Koon to have some jerky and sausage made.) I am having the elk head mounted in a European style, which is just the skull and antlers together. This way I will have a bigger blanket to give to my beautiful wife. (Thank you Victoria! I love you!) I will have a feast of elk meat soon, to share with the community, probably in January.

I have gifts for those who contacted me in advance and believed that I could do this. Thank you. My freezer is full now. My family is taken care of for another season (or more!)with the blessing of wonderful tasty meat.

Thanks.



Venison and Wild Rice Stew

Ingredients:

- 3 ½ lbs. shoulder of venison, cut into 2 inch cubes
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2 quarts water
- 2 yellow onions
- 1 ½ cups wild rice, washed in cold water

Put the venison, onions and water in heavy kettle or Dutch oven and simmer covered, until venison is tender, approximately 3 hours. Then add the wild rice, salt and pepper.

LRBOI Natural Resource Department News
 We would like to take this time to thank Ted Theodore Jr. for coming to us in our time of need. Ted is very giving person and provided a deer for an elder he never met. Helping each other is what life is all about.
Thank you Ted!

Venison Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. ground venison
- 1 small onion
- 1 small can Cheddar cheese soup
- 1 small can cream of celery soup
- Frozen french fries
- Pepper

Dice onion and mix with ground meat and pepper to taste. Press into the bottom of a 9x9-inch pan. Mix together the two cans of soup, but do not dilute with water. Spread mixture over the meat. Cover entire surface generously with frozen french fries. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes or until done; fries should be golden and crispy.



Jimmie Vanas Elk.
It was shot December 19, 2009 in Montmorency County his Guide was Chad Sides.

Current Assistance Programs



Notice: Per Capita distribution processes has moved

The Members Assistance Department was notified by the Ogema's office that effective January 1st, 2010. Per Capita distribution services will be managed in the Enrollment Department. The Enrollment Department will be the contact for any Per Capita questions or assistance services such as direct deposit, payment distribution and all other per capita related items.

It has been a pleasure assisting the membership.

Miigwetch!

Members Assistance Department Staff

FY2010 Members Assistance Department Programs

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

*Food Assistance Program

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

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Amount of assistance: Up to \$300.00 per year; per household.

*Low Income Energy Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing an energy crisis. Assistance may be accessed once per year up to maximum amount not to exceed \$300. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Received a shut off notice from utility vendor
- Received a denial from an outside agency for utility assistance
- Amount of assistance: Up to \$300.00 per year; per household.

*Emergency Transportation Assistance

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

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

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household
- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG
- Vehicle ownership is in the name of the Tribal member or a residence verified permanent member of the household
- Vehicle areas in need of repair meet the scope of the program.
- Amount of assistance – Up to maximum of \$400.00 per household.

*Elder Chore Assistance Program

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

There is no income requirement for this program.

Elder must be a permanent member of the household and must provide proof of a permanent or temporary physical disability. Temporary disability shall be for no less than 30 days and shall be verified by documented evidence of temporary disability from a qualified mental health professional or medical professional. Permanent disability shall be verified by documented evidence from a qualified mental health professional or medical professional. The assistance for elder chore services are identified in the categories below;

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

scrubbing floors and walls, cleaning of appliances, washing windows, stripping and making of beds

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

Amount of Assistance – Up to maximum of \$400.00 per household.

*Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and experiencing a housing crisis. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. Program may be access once every two years. Eligibility Requirements:

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

HOUSEHOLD INCOME- (Tribally funded programs) – Household income eligibility determination is based on three (3) months income prior to application. Applicant must provide proof of income for three months. Applicant and/or permanent household member shall complete the zero income form for periods within the three months where there is no income generated. Income requirement includes all individuals in household age 18 and older.

Deductions from Gross Income: Child support paid out and unreimbursed medical bills.

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

~THE FOLLOWING ARE GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO THE NINE COUNTY SERVICE AREAS OF MICHIGAN~

NOTE LIHEAP funds are available in all counties of Michigan, for the counties outside of the Tribal 9 county service areas the local Department of Health and Human Services administers this program under their guideline rules. LIHEAP is also available in all states through their local Health and Human Services and Housing Authorities.**

*LIHEAP

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

This is a grant funded program to provide assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing a heating crisis and live in the 9 county service areas in Michigan. (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)

-Amount of assistance varies according to individual income level, number of family members and available funding.

-Priority is given to Elders, Disabled and Single parents of young children.

-Eligible if someone in the household is receiving SSI benefits or are receiving Food Stamps

LIHEAP –

Cooling Assistance LIHEAP Component-Tribal Elders

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

-Amount of assistance varies according to individual income level, number of family members and available funding.

-Medical condition and need for air conditioning must be certified and documented by medical professional.

- Assistance is available May 1, 2010 thru September 30, 2010.

REACH Program

The REACH program will be utilized to promote health and safety for low income households in need of assistance and education in reducing and controlling energy costs. Successful applicants will participate in a health and safety questionnaire and provide data for energy use and track the % of decreases in energy expenses over a 16 month period. The focus of the program will be promoting energy efficiency, education in conservation of energy and budgeting skills to reduce energy crisis. The program will promote Energy Smart Bulbs, Weatherization & Education, Energy Smart Appliances, Smoke and Carbon Dioxide Detectors and Fire Extinguishers. Eligibility criteria:

- a. Enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- b. Reside in the nine county service areas (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)
- c. Household income does not exceed program guidelines
- d. Home must be the primary residence of applicant – (Reside in year around)
- e. Ownership of home/site must be in the tribal member's name where applicable and/or must have a 12 month lease / rental agreement.

Well and Septic Program

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

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

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

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

Other Services:

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

Department Staff

Lee A. Iverson – Members Assistance Coordinator

Amber Moore – Intake Clerk

Linda Wissner – Intake Clerk

Office Hours Mon thru Thurs 8 am to 5 pm

Phone: 231-723-8288 or

Toll Free 888-723-8288

Wii bowling for Elder's

We are going to start this activity every Tues. and Thurs. starting Feb. 2nd and Feb. 4th 1:30-3:30 Aki Community Center. There will be refreshments, t-shirts and socialization/fun.

Get some exercise and beat the winter blues. If there is enough interest we will form a bowling challenge/league. Could you set up an advertisement—something that stands out to kick this off?

Anyone interested should contact Holly Davis at 231-398-6610 or Trish Snyder Community Health Rep. at 231-398-6629.

Thank you Holly

Purpose: This report is a summary and status of grants pending, approved or denied during FY 2009
Prepared by: Melissa Waitner, Grants Director
Date: January 2010

Project Title (Primary objective or brief description)	Funding Source	Project Director	Grant Amount	Match	Status
Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Stalking, Dating Violence, or Sexual Assault Program	DOJ-OVW	Bill Memberto, Family Services Director	\$250,000	No	Declined Combined with another opportunity
Aging Initiative Supplemental Funding for Indian Elders	MI-ITC	June Sam, Elder's Coordinator	\$9,500	No	Approved
To assist eligible low-income households in meeting their residential heating expenses.	DHHS	Lee Ivinson, Members Asst Coordinator	\$47,180	No	Approved
To provide financial support for the provision of Family Services, Child Welfare, Natural Resources, Great Lakes Assessment and Enforcement, Conservation Enforcement, Education, Public Safety.	BIA	Directors of Departments cited in "Project Title"	\$1,665,576	No	Approved
To provide financial support for the provision of Health Services Management, Contract Health Services, Community Health Services, Direct Care Services, Behavioral Health, and Health Planning.	IHS	Health Department	\$1,796,685 \$4,860	No	Approved
ARRA Roads Construction Grant	BIA	Dan Shepard, Planner	\$79,978	No	Approved
Tribal Roads Construction Grant	BIA	Dan Shepard, Planner	\$54,000	No	Approved
Integrated Tribal Resource Management Plan	BIA	Jimmie Mitchell, NRD	\$90,000	No	Denied
National Mentoring Program	OJJ - DOJ	Austen Brauker, Peacemaking/ Probation	\$250,000	No	Denied
To provide services aimed at preventing incidences of family violence, and related services for victims of family violence and their dependents.	DHHS	Family Services Department	\$26,592	No	Approved
Special Diabetes Program for Indians	IHS - DHHS	Holly Davis, Community Health Nurse	\$81,810	No	Approved
Family Preservation, Improving the Well-Being of Children Project Implementation	ANA - DHHS	Bill Memberto, Family Services	\$200,000	No	Denied
Native Language Preservation and Maintenance Program	ANA - DHHS	Jay Sam, Historic Preservation	200,000	No	Denied
To conduct baseline water quality assessment that will lead to Tribally determined water quality standards and protection. To investigate/remediate contamination in Manistee Lake to improve lake quality, and aquatic and wildlife habitat.	EPA	Stephanie Ogren, Aquatic Biologist, NRD	\$174,000	No	Approved
Tribal Resources Grant Program – training and equipment for Officers	COPS-DOJ	Joe LaPorte, Public Safety Director	\$187,366.21	No	Pending
Well & Septic Program for eligible tribal member households.	IHS	Lee Ivinson, Members Asst Coordinator	\$100,000	No	Approved
To provide food for low-income reservation households and Indian households living near reservations.	, USDA	Yvonne Theodore, Food Commodities Supervisor	\$101,895	\$34,594 Cash	Approved

Project Title (Primary objective or brief description)	Funding Source	Project Director	Grant Amount	Match	Status
To survey and inventory brownfield sites and to develop mechanisms to ensure that clean-up efforts will protect human health and the environment.	EPA	Rochelle Rollenhagen, Brownfield Coordinator, NRD	\$95,720	No	Approved
Transportation Planning Grant	BIA	Dan Shepard, Planner	\$35,000 \$1,264	No	Approved
Tribal Cemetery Planning Project	NPS	Dan Shepard, Planner	\$40,000	No	Denied
Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Program	DHHS	Lee Ivinson, Members Assistance	\$60,000	No	Approved
Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Fish Populations	GLFT	Marty Holtgren, NRD	\$52,800	No	Pending
ARRA Housing Formula	HUD	Frank Figgels, Housing	\$102,755	No	Approved
ARRA Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Grant	COPS-DOJ	Joe LaPorte, Public Safety	\$2,332,493.87	Yes	Denied
Grants to Indian Tribal Governments	OVW – DOJ	Bill Member to, Family Services	\$434,169	No	Approved
ARRA Food Commodities Program - Equipment	USDA	Yvonne Theodore	\$9,454	No	Approved
Elder's Congregate Meal Program	AoA	Lee Ivinson, Members Asst Coordinator	\$117,998	No	Approved
Governmental Complex Planning Project – Indian Community Development Block Grant	HUD	Mark Dougher, Consultant	\$600,000	No	Pending
ARRA Elder's Congregate Meal Program	AoA	Lee Ivinson, Members Asst Coordinator	\$11,500	No	Approved
ARRA Tribal Housing Project	HUD	Frank Figgels, Housing Director	\$2,000,000	No	Approved
Tribal Youth Grant for Indian Village Camp	DOJ	Austen Brauker, Tribal Court	\$170,000	No	Approved
Title IV B, Parts 1 & 2 to assist at-risk children	DHHS	Bill Memberto, Family Services Director	\$15,117	No	Approved
Air Quality Clean Air Grant	EPA	Jeremy Howe, Air Quality Specialist, NRD	\$121,596	No	Approved
Medicare Enrollment Assistance Program for Elders	DHHS	Gina Wright, CHS Supervisor	\$1,000	No	Approved
Rural Housing & Economic Development Grant for improvements to the Waste Water Treatment Plant	HUD	Gary Lewis, Utilities Director	\$300,000	No	Approved
ARRA Clinic Renovations	IHS	Brian Gibson, Maintenance Sup	\$44,573	No	Approved
ARRA Clinic Renovations	HIS	Brian Gibson, Maintenance Sup	\$276,000	No	Approved

Project Title (Primary objective or brief description)	Funding Source	Project Director	Grant Amount	Match	Status
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant – Governmental Complex Planning	DOE	Robert Memberto, Commerce Director	\$54,400	No	Approved
Sustain our Great Lakes Community Grant	Fish & Wildlife Foundation	Israel Stone, NRD	\$150,000	No	Pending
To assist the Tribal Housing Department provide services to eligible low-income households.	HUD	Frank Figgels, Housing Director	\$265,341	No	Approved
To assist the Tribe in developing an effective Emergency Management Plan that includes training and preparation for Pandemic Flu.	MI-DCH	Dan Velikan	\$46,116	No	Approved
Tribal Wildlife Grant	USFWS	Stephanie Ogren, Aquatic Biologist, NRD	\$200,000	No	Pending
Emerald Ash Borer Plan and Circle of Flight additional funding	BIA	Bob Sanders/ Israel Stone, NRD	\$25,000	No	Approved
National Responsible Fatherhood Capacity Building Initiative	National Fatherhood Foundation	Bill Memberto, Family Services Director	\$25,000	No	Pending
TOTAL PENDING			\$1,215,166		6 Pending
TOTAL AWARDED			\$ 8,329,079		28 Approved
TOTAL DENIED			\$3,362,493		7 Denied
TOTAL ACTIVITY			\$12,906,738		



SCOTTVILLE—One of the most striking characteristics of Native American poet, Joy Harjo, is her hands. True, her gentle voice draws listeners intimately into her compassionate words. Her subtle humor sneaks up and tickles. Her inner beauty shines. Yet, as the attentive audience watches and listens, her hands, decorated in twisting spirals of mythic images, reveal a message that guides her whole performance. On November 9, 2009, West Shore Community College honored Native American Month by

hosting a presentation by Joy Harjo. Harjo, a native of Oklahoma and member of the Myskoke Creek Nation, performed on the Center Stage Theater, reciting her poetry, playing her saxophone and Native American flute, and relating stories from her one-woman show.

Addressing the nearly full house, Harjo described DNA, the genetic blueprint for life. “DNA is spirals of songs, spirals of stories. That’s what’s in there....We are all trying to figure out the story and we are all part of the story.”

Harjo opened with a story of Myskoke Trickster Rabbit, who unwittingly creates chaos by constructing Clayman. In a quest for power, Clayman sets the Earth out of balance. Rabbit realizes his mistake as he notices he created Clayman with no ears and the golem cannot hear the cries of others. Harjo punctuated the analogy by playing a flute song, a musical prayer for Clayman and his misguided quest.

She then recited, “This Morning I Remember to Pray for My Enemies.” The short poem describes a quest of a different kind, a quest for connection of heart and mind, a quest that is the story of human spirit. “Poetry is singing on paper,” Harjo said. “I came to poetry through music.”

She played “Equinox,” a song she wrote for her saxophone and followed with an idea about gateways and openings. “These are places of huge change and chaos, places of great creativity.” She recited more from her play and told the story of Redbird, whose journey through change and

chaos transports the character through stars, into captivity, and finally to the knowledge that “there are some things that take an eternity to understand.”

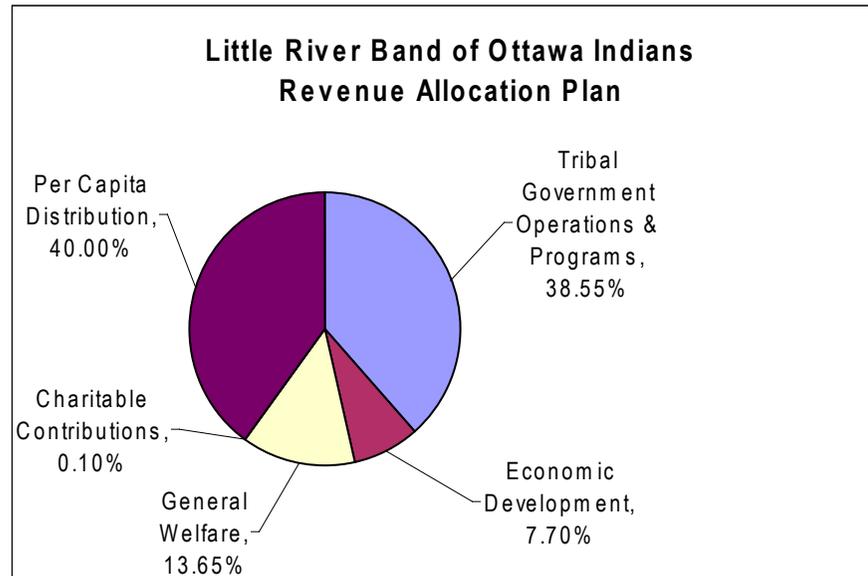
Harjo read one of her best known poems, “She Had Some Horses,” and shared a ceremonial poem she wrote for her granddaughter. She answered questions from the audience and said, “Poetry, music and song came into the world together and they always come back to each other.”

Themes of individual wandering, searching and struggling coil in and out of Harjo’s work, gently uniting the audience in their shared human quest. Her decorated hands represent the delicate, cyclical weaving of the human heart and the connection between spirit and creation. Like her words, her hands show passion for humanity and echo the spirals of songs and stories that make us who we are.



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Revenue Allocation Plan & Per Capita Question and Answers

The chart below illustrates the allocation percentages designated for each category per the Revenue Allocation Plan.



Per the LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS REVENUE ALLOCATION PLAN – Approved by Tribal Council Resolution 08-0123-20

Section 2. Purpose

2.02. The RAP shall allocate revenues generated by the Tribe's gaming enterprises towards the following purposes; the funding of tribal government operations and programs, providing for the general welfare of the Tribe and its members, the promotion of the Tribe's economic development, donations to charitable organizations and per-capita distributions to tribal members.

This document will be reviewed and updated as necessary. It is recommended that you review the tribe's website often for additions to the Q & A information.

Question and Answer – Per Capita Payments

**Brought to you by:
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Enrollment Department
375 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660
1-888-723-8288**

1. Q. Who is the contact for questions about the Per Capita payments?

A. The Enrollment Department will assist you with questions or direct you to the department or agency who can better answer your questions. Phone: 231-723-8288 or Toll Free 888-723-8288.

2. Q. How will the tribe know where to mail the payment?

A. The checks and check register for direct deposit checks are mailed to the last known address on file with the Enrollment Department. If you plan to move or have moved, contact the Enrollment Department for a Change of Address Form.

3. Q. What if I have a different address than what is on file with Enrollment?

A. If you have a different address than what is on file with Enrollment you must contact Enrollment for an Address Correction Form. If you have not



updated your information, this could result in a delay in receiving a payment. Returned UNDELIVERABLE mail is reported to the Enrollment Department. In the event a total of three (3) mailings of any kind are returned to the tribe, any further mailings stop until the member contacts the tribe to update their information.

4. Q. What if I do not receive the check in the mail or it is lost?

A. Contact the Enrollment Department to assist you.

5. Q. Are Per Capita Payments Taxable?

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

6. Q. Who is eligible to receive Per Capita Payments?

A. Per the Revenue Allocation Plan Section 8.03 Per Capita Distribution Eligibility subsection (ii) be enrolled in the Tribe no later than the last day of two fiscal quarters previous. For example, to be eligible to receive per capita distribution in the fiscal quarter four (4) of the fiscal year, a qualified tribal member would need to have been enrolled with the tribe by no later than the last day of fiscal quarter two (2) of that fiscal year.

Fiscal Quarters
(1) January thru March
(2) April thru June
(3) July thru September
(4) October thru December

7. Q. What are the age groups for Per Capita Payments?

A. Elders Age 55 and older and Adults Age 18 to 54. – Per the Revenue Allocation Plan Section 8.03 Per Capita Distribution Eligibility subsection (iii) - A tribal member's age, for purposes of per capita made pursuant to the Revenue Allocation Plan, shall be determined by the tribal member's age on the last day of two fiscal quarters previous. For example, (USING THE CHART ABOVE) to be considered 18 or elder age 55 in fiscal quarter four (4) of the fiscal year, a tribal member would need to have turned 18 or 55 no later than the last day of the fiscal quarter two (2) of that fiscal year.

8. Q. Are minor Tribal Members eligible to receive Per Capita Payments?

A. No- Tribal members under the age of 18 shall not be eligible to receive per capita distributions.

9. Q. What will the tribe do with Per Capita payments that are not claimed?

A. See Revenue Allocation Plan Section 8 (b) Use of Net Gaming Revenues: Individual Per Capita Distributions- Any net gaming revenues allocated for the purpose of funding per capita distributions that have not been expended on the last date of the fiscal year shall be reallocated to tribal investments.

10. Q. How are Per Capita payments disbursed by age group? Amounts illustrated below are an EXAMPLE and should not be misinterpreted as the amount that will be disbursed. Amounts will vary depending on net gaming revenues generated.

A. Payment amounts are determined by a point system. Adults age 18 to 54 receive 1 point and Elders Age 55 and older receive 2 points. **Example:** Using the chart below the calculation for Elders is the point schedule multiplied by the number of Elders (2 x 715=1430). From this number the Allocation Percentage is calculated by using the points divided by the total of both groups points (1430 / 3929 = .3639603 OR 36.40%). From this percentage the Revenue Share is calculated by using the Net Gaming Revenue multiplied by the Allocation % (\$2,500,000 x 36.40% = \$909,900.74). The Revenue Share is then divided by the number of Elders (\$909,900.74 / 715 = \$1,272.59)

-Example Only-							Quarter Payment
Net Gaming Revenue	Age Group	Point Schedule	Members	Points	Allocation %	Revenue Share	
\$2,500,000.00	18 to 54 Yrs	1	2499	2499	63.60%	\$1,590,099.26	\$636.29
	55 and Older	2	715	1430	36.40%	\$909,900.74	\$1,272.59
Total			3214	3929	100%	\$2,500,000.00	

11. Q. Can Per Capita payments be garnished?

A. Yes, Per Capita distributions may be withheld to satisfy any court ordered judgment obtained by the tribe against the qualified tribal member or to satisfy court ordered child support obligations. Any amount remaining after satisfaction of the court ordered judgment or child support obligation shall be distributed to the qualified tribal member in accordance with the provisions of the Revenue Allocation Plan.

12. Q. Can the payment be electronically deposited into a checking or savings account?

A. Yes, by completing the direct deposit form the payment may be deposited to the qualified tribal member's bank account. Contact the Enrollment Department to request the form and instructions. NOTE* If you plan to move you must update your address and the direct deposit form. Direct deposit forms that do not match the information on file with enrollment will have the direct deposit cancelled until information is up to date.



13. Q. Can state and/or federal assistance programs be affected by Per-Capita payments?

A. The Tribe cannot provide guidance for all the agencies that require you to report a change in income. We encourage you to contact the agency office for further information concerning your specific questions about income based assistance programs.

14. Q. Can a member refuse these payments?

A. If the Tribal member meets the eligibility requirements of the Revenue Allocation Plan they will receive per capita payments. Many agencies will count these payments as available income to you even if you refuse the payments. We encourage you to contact the agency office for further information concerning these payments.

15. Q. Will Per Capita payments be the same amount each time?

A. No. The payments will vary depending on the amount of net gaming revenues generated each quarter. The Revenue Allocation Plan allocates 40% of the net gaming revenues to per capita payments. The revenue allocation plan sets forth the amount the tribe can disburse to tribal members. The payments are made quarterly from the gaming revenues generated.

16. Q. Are the Per Capita payments considered income?

A. Many agencies count per capita payments as income. For further information contact the agency office with specific questions you may have.

17. Q. When are the Per Capita Payments made?

A. Per Capita payments will be distributed to qualified tribal members on the first day of each fiscal quarter. January 1st payment will be issued December 15th.

Fiscal Quarters
(1 st) January thru March
(2 nd) April thru June
(3 rd) July thru September
(4 th) October thru December

18. Q. When will the amount of a Per Capita payment be announced?

A. The amount will be announced on the main switchboard announcement at least four (4) weeks prior to a distribution. You can reach the message announcement by calling the tribe's main number (231)723-8288 or 888-723-8288 and listen to the directory prompt to the Per Capita Information extension. Due to end of the year close outs of accounting processes it is determined that the 2nd quarter announcements will be delayed close to the disbursement date. This announcement will be posted when it is available.

19. Q. Is there specific information on the date when I will be eligible for per capita payments?

A.

1 st Quarter - January-March (Distributed Dec. 15)	Member must be of age 18 and 55 by the last day in September prior to this disbursement.
2 nd Quarter - April - June	Member must be of age 18 and 55 by the last day in December prior to this disbursement.
3 rd Quarter - July-September	Member must be of age 18 and 55 by the last day in March prior to this disbursement.
4 th Quarter - October - December	Member must be of age 18 and 55 by the last day in June prior to this disbursement.

20. Q. Can I cancel a Direct Deposit request?

A. Yes, Direct deposit can be cancelled by submitting a Direct Deposit Cancellation form. Contact the Enrollment Department for this form to be mailed to you or download the form at www.lrboi.com.



First Saturdays in the months for the year to have them published as the Elders meetings in the community center. I would also like to have published the open BOD session this month from 4-5pm on Friday the 29th of January in the Grand River Room at the Resort.

Notice! Notice!

Undeliverable Addresses for Per Cap

The Individuals listed below do not have Current Addresses on File in the Enrollment Department for the Per Cap:

Bert William Tyler II
Jerry Scott Tyler
Luther Everett Freeman Teeters
Vincent Frank Adamczak
Philip Robert Memberto
Arlan Blackwolf Gonzalez
Verna Kae Wolfe
Todd Orval Stroh
William James Minaker
Amy Denise Kleeman
Randall Charles Cogswell
Allan Forrest Taylor
Raymond Lee Trevino
Thomas Edward Taylor
Mikes Wakefield Wilson
Mary Edward Raymo
Larry Fox
Stephen Allen Medawis
Johnathan Giltz

Adam D. Galbraith
Michael Antoine
Carol Soto
Juanita Antoine
Jessica Pete
Shandra Spencley
Alice Soto
Thomas Holub, Jr.
Jamie Magnuson
Norman K. McGinn, Jr.
Solomon Bailey
Jessica Barry
Daniele Mc Intyre
Yolandra Castillo
Edward Adamczak



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Email: aapaymen@nmu.edu - or - call: 906-440-5937

An on-line version of the survey is available at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DHJGP6K>

*A registered member of a federally recognized tribe in Michigan.

IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!

IMPORTANT! REMINDER!

As always, LRBOI Education Department will be sending out Student Services Registration forms this month. They are mailed in a bright, eye-jarring yellow envelope with "Education" stamped on them in red ink. That is so you can't miss it. Each packet contains a pre-addressed, pre-stamped return envelope for your convenience. Please note that the envelope will come addresses to the child, with his/her name on the envelope. Each year we have parents who tell us that they didn't get the packet because their child opened it and threw it away or lost it in their bedroom, or never gave it to the parents. Please keep an eye on your mail knowing that this packet will be arriving.

Many of you will have already received your packet as you are reading this article. If you haven't received it by the end of January, please let us know. Call Yvonne at 231-398-6735 or Deb at 231-398-6724.

It is extremely important that you get this form and submit it by the deadline date of February 19th, 2010 post-mark. Registration forms are due post marked by February 19, 2010. Receipt postcards (and emails if you include an email address) will be sent out on March 8, 2010. If you have not received a receipt postcard by March 19, 2010 NOTIFY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY. In extraordinary circumstances we can accept applications as late as March 25, 2010. Any application received after that date, NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON, WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED! There are no exceptions to this deadline. If you miss this deadline, for any reason, your child will not be eligible for the National City Bank Card. He/She will miss out on \$400. So be sure that you fill out the paperwork and send it in. You only need to fill it out and stick it in the envelope and throw it in a mailbox.

If you have recently moved and have not updated your child's address with the Enrollment Department he/she will not receive the registration packet. It is extremely important that you keep updating your child's address when you move. If you know of family members or friends who may not have received the packet because of an address problem or any other reason, please help them by reminding them that they should have received the packets.



The Michigan Indian Elders Association is again doing the "Incentive Program" for grades from K through 12. Students from K to 12 for perfect attendance, and 4 to 12 for straight A's. for the first two marking periods \$25.00 for either or all so if your student has perfect attendance and all A's for first two marking period for a total of \$100.00.

The Elder's office (231-398-6880 or toll free 1-888-723-8288) ask for June Sam, I will send you the information and application entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. April 12, 2010 at Robert Menards in Ishpeming, MI.



Native American veterans sought for 'Words of War' project

Story Published: Nov 6, 2009

Story Updated: Nov 6, 2009

Survey link: <https://www.psychdata.com/s.asp?SID=131021>

BOSTON – An anthropology professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston is inviting Native American veterans to participate in an anonymous online survey to track the relationships between Native American history, colonial wars, and U.S. military language in conflicts of the last 50 years.

Professor Steve Silliman of the university's Department of Anthropology, said the project, called "Terms of Engagement: Understanding the Words of War," is designed to study how military personnel use figures of speech to explain, describe, or get through times of conflict.

"We are interested in knowing how often certain phrases – such as those that refer to "the Wild West," "Indian country," or "cowboys and Indians" – were used in particular wars, who used them, and when. Many have studied the larger contexts of war or have made assumptions about those who fight in them, but few have studied directly the experiences and words of those who

participate in the military and how these relate to Native American history and culture today. We want to hear directly from the soldiers and officers themselves about their experiences," Silliman said.

Native American veterans or active personnel who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces from the 1960s onward can access and complete the survey online.

The survey should take between 10 and 15 minutes to complete, depending on the level of detail the participant wishes to provide.

Participation in the survey is completely voluntary and anonymous. Silliman is encouraging participants to complete the survey online since it will be faster and will save paper and postage costs, but participants may request paper versions by sending an e-mail to thewordsofwar@gmail.com.

By Gale Courey Toensing

Participants may choose at the end of the survey to be contacted for a follow-up interview, but this step is completely optional and entirely confidential.

Participation is "so important," Silliman said, "so that we may gather as much information as possible on the diversity or consistency of military language from the people who use it. The more responses we receive, the more representative our survey will be."

The information collected from the survey will be analyzed by University of Massachusetts Boston researchers and will not be published or presented in a way that would allow anyone to identify the individual participants. The project researchers have no affiliation, funding, or contract with the U.S. government.

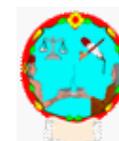
"The Warrior's Society website will soon be up and running. Please check the tribal site at www.lrboi.com for updates."

Come out and join us for our monthly Peacemaking Talking Circle

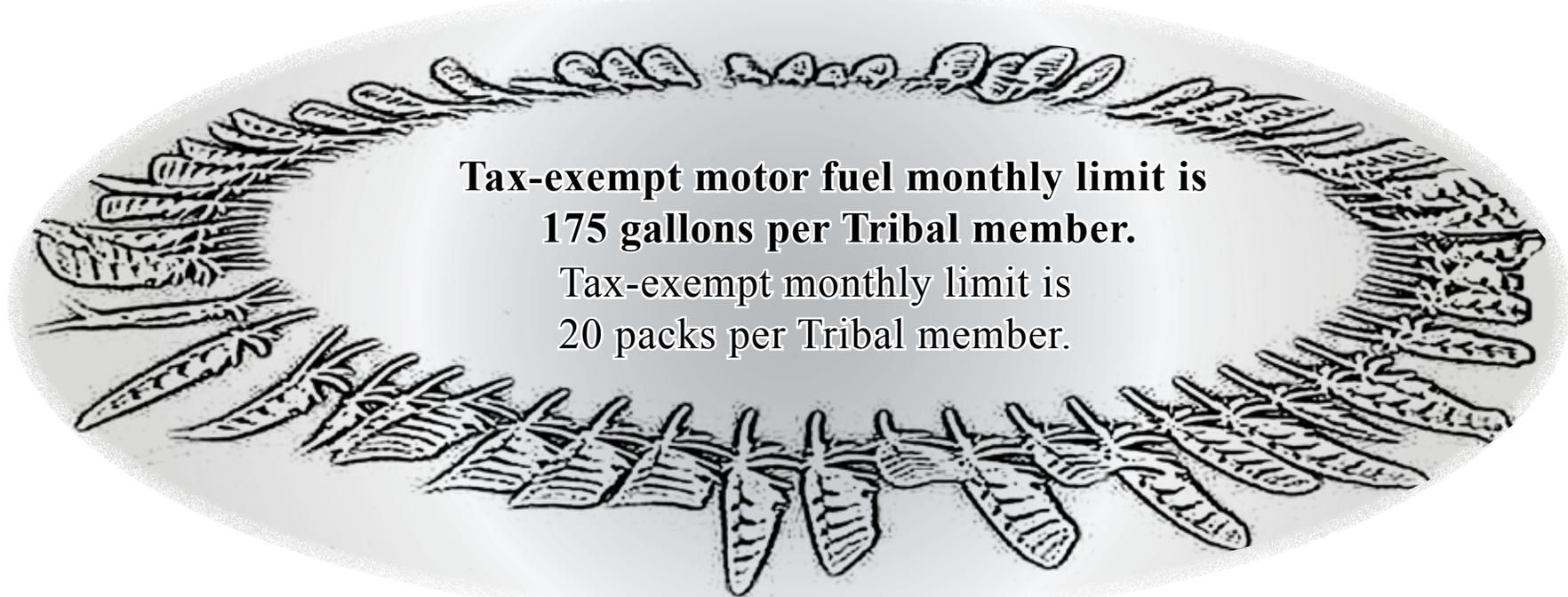
Patrick D. Wilson,
Peacemaking/Probation Supervisor
Phone: (231) 398-2239
E-mail: pwilson@lrboi.com

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



Aanii piish (where) ... Justice Center
Wenesh pii (when) February 22 at 5:30
NOTE: The meeting is the last Monday of every month.



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

New tax-exemption procedures are coming to Little River Trading Post

New software is being installed at the Little River Trading Post to calculate tax exemptions and compile records required for reporting. The new software will require Tribal members to swipe their ID cards instead of filling out logs. Once the software is installed, Tribal members will have to have their Tribal ID cards encoded before they can make tax-exempt purchases. Please watch the Tribal website (www.lrboi.com), the Rapid River News, and future issues of Currents for updates on this process.

Resident Tribal Members Can File For Annual Sales Tax Refund

If you are a Resident Tribal Member (living within the tax agreement area *and* registered with the Tax Office) you can receive a sales tax refund from the State of Michigan. There is no need to send in receipts. The refund is based on a percentage of the Resident Tribal Member's income. The Tax Office will be mailing Form 4013 to all Resident Tribal Members by the end of January. Call the Tax Office at 231-398-6874 if you are a Resident Tribal Member and do not receive Form 4013 for the Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit by the 1st of February.



Kateri Circle

"If you have one hundred people who live together, and if each one cares for the rest, there is One Mind."
--Shining Arrows, CROW

One of the principles of Community is Unity. The alignment of thoughts in groups of people will cause One Mind to form. One Mind is Unity. Each individual in the community must align their thoughts with what other members are thinking. If all the people think of helping one another, then the community will be service oriented and powerful results will be enjoyed.

Having our thoughts aligned within a group will cause our children to experience a positive environment. When they have children, the grandchildren will automatically experience these results also. My Creator, help me to contribute to positive group thought.

NIKE N7



Come see our display of NIKE N7 shoes at the Health Clinic. NIKE N7 shoes were specially made to provide proper fit for the Native American foot. The toe box is deeper to accommodate the wider foot. The shoes cost \$58.30 which covers the cost of shipping and taxes. The clinic has purchased eight pairs of NIKE N7 shoes in each style (there are a few new styles) and multiple whole sizes. We hope this will help people make their choice and have the proper fit when purchasing their shoes. If you would like to try on the shoes, please bring a pair of socks with you to the Health Clinic. Shoes may be purchased during normal business hours Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**This is the first time a price reduction has been applied to this exclusive first-of-its-kind performance shoe. From 1/11/10 to 3/12/10 there will be a 30% price reduction on the four original styles of Nike n7's. This will bring the cost down to \$40.80 a pair. The style are as follows Men's- Black on Black
White w/Metallic Silver
Woman's- White w/ Vivid Blue White w/Regal Pink (canvas)**

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moonbear@cbpu.com



"Tenting Tonight"



"Summer Clouds"

Tribal Government 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



CQPOLITICS

By Kerry Young, CQ-Roll Call Kerry Young, Cq-roll Call – Wed Dec 2, 12:02 am ET

American Indians may be the original Americans, but they have commanded little attention in Washington over the years, in part because of their small numbers and smaller incomes. Their influence reached a particularly low ebb after the fall of disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, convicted in 2006 for bilking tribes of millions in casino profits.

Yet, American Indians have been steadily and quietly building new clout on Capitol Hill. Aided in part by those same casino profits, as well as the shifting electoral landscape, American Indians have wielded growing influence in the past three election cycles -- both by making significant donations to candidates and, perhaps even more important, by turning out in much greater numbers to vote.

Indeed, the votes of American Indians were credited with helping at least two Democrats defeat incumbent Republican senators. In 2006, Jon Tester ousted Abramoff-tainted Conrad Burns in part by campaigning in Indian country. Increased tribal voter registration may have aided Al Franken's 312-vote victory in Minnesota over Norm Coleman last year, which helped give the Senate Democratic Caucus its much-coveted 60-vote majority.

As a result, American Indians are now in position, for the first time in decades, to make demands on Congress and the administration to address long-neglected problems in tribal communities where, as recently as nine years ago, 12 percent of reservation homes lacked adequate plumbing.

President Obama signed a law last month that contained the biggest spending increase for the Indian Health Service in 20 years, and he installed at its helm the first American Indian woman to hold that position. Obama also followed through on a campaign pledge to appoint a White House policy adviser for Native American affairs,

and he has pushed congressional leaders to make time in the legislative calendar for a bill that would beef up law enforcement on reservations.

"This has probably been the best year for Native Americans" in a long time, said Tom Cole, an Oklahoma Republican who is part Chickasaw and the only enrolled member of a tribe now in Congress. "Certainly, in my experience, I have never seen anything like it."

Not Only About Casinos The new-found political strength of American Indians grows out of a long history of political disenfranchisement. It was only in 1924 that Congress passed a law making clear that American Indians are U.S. citizens with full voting rights -- about a half-century after passage of a constitutional amendment for blacks and four years after one granting voting rights to women. That one federal law alone didn't prevent states and communities from creating barriers to voting by American Indians, and they -- like blacks -- were given additional protections in the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

There are more than 560 registered Indian tribes. While money from casinos has undoubtedly helped leverage their influence, fewer than half of the tribes are involved in gambling, so their clout appears to result mostly from a new focus on grass-roots organizing.

Analysts say the earliest sign of the voting power of American Indians may have been the defeat in 2000 of Sen. Slade Gorton, a Washington Republican who was regarded by many American Indians as having tried to weaken their sovereignty with a 1998 bill that would have permitted lawsuits against tribes in federal court. Analysts say votes from the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation probably helped South Dakota Democrat Tim Johnson keep his Senate seat in 2002.

These races "made more of a case for candidates to seek the vote of native people," said Manley A. Begay Jr., a senior lecturer in the American Indian studies program at the University of Arizona. "Candidates are beginning to say, 'I've got to court that vote.'"

Beyond providing margins in critical races, American Indians have sharply increased their contributions to political campaigns. Tribal campaign donations increased nearly sevenfold to \$11.4 million in the 2008 election cycle from \$1.7 million in 2000.

At the same time, Indians are more politically savvy, analysts say, because of improved education. The number of college and university degrees awarded to American Indians, including Alaska Natives, almost tripled from the mid-1970s to the mid-2000s, said Diane-Michele Prindeville, an associate professor at New Mexico State University. Many graduates have returned to reservations, she said, helping to provide a bridge between Indian communities and the wider political world.

"They've really become a whole lot more sophisticated and knowledgeable over time," Prindeville said.

'Enclaves of Lawlessness' Gains in electoral clout come at a time when Indians are increasingly concerned that they need help from Washington.

The Census Bureau in 2000 released the first poverty data for the country's 4.3 million American Indians, and it found 26 percent were impoverished, slightly more than the poverty rate for blacks (24 percent) or Hispanics (23 percent) and more than double that of the broad population (12 percent). Other statistics paint an even direr portrait of tribal life. Indians are 70 percent more likely than Americans overall to commit suicide, almost three times as likely to die from diabetes and more than six times as likely to die from alcoholism, according to the most recent numbers from the Indian Health Service.

Perhaps more disturbing are the crime statistics. American Indians are twice as likely to die from homicide as the population as a whole, and the Department of Justice estimates that one of every three Indian women will be the victim of rape.

One reason for the high rates is that crimes that take place on reservations often go unprosecuted. According to a 2007 Amnesty International report, an 1825 law and

the court decisions that followed sliced up responsibility for handling serious crimes on reservations into a patchwork, and it is often unclear whether federal, state or local authorities are responsible for prosecutions.

The result is what Jacqueline Johnson Pata, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians, calls “enclaves of lawlessness” on Indian lands. For fiscal 2003, for instance, Amnesty International estimated that federal prosecutors declined to pursue more than 60 percent of sexual violence cases filed involving Indian women.

David Lisak, a criminal psychologist at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, said the low prosecution rate creates a “free pass” for rapists on Indian reservations. Men from outside may seek out women on reservations, he suggested, knowing there is little risk of being caught or brought to justice.

As a senator who owes his election at least partly to American Indian votes, Montana’s Tester has used his seat on the Appropriations Committee to pressure the Justice Department to do a better job with prosecutions on reservations.

Legislation that would overhaul law enforcement on tribal lands is making its way slowly through Congress. The Senate Indian Affairs Committee approved a measure in September, although a companion House measure hasn’t advanced that far. Obama and Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. have both called on Congress to pass the measures quickly.

Johnson Pata credits the close relationship of the Senate bill’s sponsor, North Dakota Democrat Byron L. Dorgan, with Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada for some of the progress on Indian issues. “His seniority in the Senate helps elevate solutions to the challenges in our communities,” she said.

Dorgan’s predecessor as chairman of the Indian Affairs panel was Republican John McCain of Arizona, who helped expose Abramoff for overbilling tribes for dubious lobbying. Yet Indians appear to have turned away from McCain in the 2008 presidential election. Although exit polls did not have a

large enough sample to gauge how Indians voted nationally, results from reservation precincts suggested that Indian voters had a strong preference for Obama. For instance, three precincts in South Dakota’s Pine Ridge reservation went 89 or 90 percent for Obama.

Paula Mohan, an editor of the research journal *Indigenous Policy*, described the 2008 election as a political watershed for Indians.

American Indians also turned out to vote in unprecedented numbers for Obama, reflecting not only support for him and endorsement by American Indian lobbying groups, but also the increased political participation of many American Indians in general,” Mohan said.

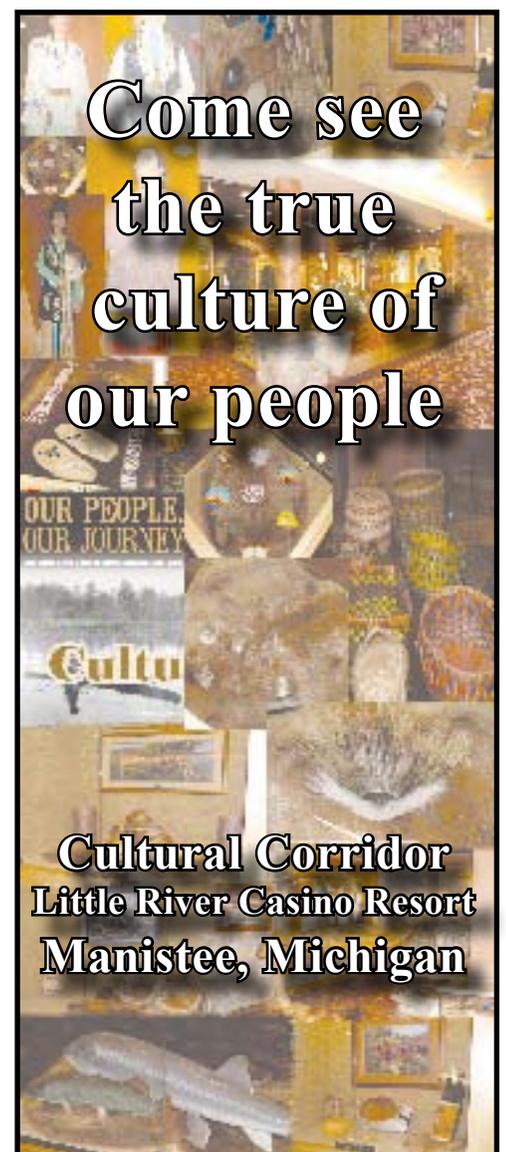
Obama seems to have taken notice. In early November, he held a high-profile White House summit with tribal leaders, less than a week after signing a bill to increase the regular funding for Indian Health Services by 13 percent to \$4.1 billion for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. And he quickly filled a post that more often than not lacked a Senate-confirmed appointee during the Bush administration -- assistant secretary for Indian affairs at the Interior Department. The Senate confirmed former Idaho Attorney General Larry Echo Hawk for that post in May.

While American Indian advocates say they are pleased with such changes in tribal fortunes, some with long experience worry that the attention may be fleeting, especially during hard fiscal times.

“Native Americans have the ability for the first time to sit at the table with competing interest groups,” said Diane Humentewa of Arizona, the first American Indian woman to serve as a U.S. attorney and who is now a principal with the Squire, Sanders & Dempsey law firm in Washington. But she said maintaining that momentum “is going to be the challenge, because of the fiscal situation that the nation is in at the moment.”

Editor: This subject concerning the ‘strength’ of the tribal nations working together was a topic of discussion at the 2009 annual meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan in Battle Creek.”

**Cabin fever reliever:
For more information contact
Holly Davis Community Health
Nurse 231-398-6610 or
Community Health
Representatives 231-398-6629**



**Come see
the true
culture of
our people**

**Cultural Corridor
Little River Casino Resort
Manistee, Michigan**



Did you make a New Years resolution to take better care of yourself?

Come Join the Diabetes Talking Circle

Learn:

- Myths about diabetes
- Diabetes prevention
- Diabetes risk factors
- Types of diabetes
- Eating healthy, dietary guidelines
- Reading food labels and shopping for healthy foods
- Healthy food preparation
- Traditional foods
- Routine medical care

This group can help support your desire to change your eating habits/diet, support a family member with diabetes, and assist you in making changes to be healthier.

Receive valuable information and share your stories.

Each participant will receive a t-shirt, notebook and multiple handouts to support changes in eating habits. Receive a food scale to assist with portion control.

Starting Tuesday February 2, 2010 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at the Tribal Health Clinic or Wednesday February 3, 2010 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Aki Community Center.

Classes run for 12 weeks. Snacks are provided.

For more information or to sign up for a class contact Holly Davis RN, MSN Diabetes Educator/Community Health Nurse 231-398-6610 or Teresa Johnson Community Health Representative at 231-398-6629.

The summer youth camp will be Aug. 2-13, 2010.
Thanks, Holly

Be Red Cross Ready

Winter Storm Safety Checklist

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

Know the Difference

Winter Storm Outlook

Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2 to 5 days.

Winter Weather Advisory

Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life-threatening.

Winter Storm Watch

Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 30 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.

Winter Storm Warning

Life-threatening severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately.

What should I do?



- ❑ Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing, wear mittens and a hat (preferably one that covers your ears).
- ❑ Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow.
- ❑ Minimize travel. If travel is necessary, keep a disaster supplies kit in your vehicle.
- ❑ Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or other local news channels for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- ❑ Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- ❑ Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.
- ❑ Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.
- ❑ Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.
- ❑ Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- ❑ All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside and kept clear.

Cold-Related Emergencies

- ❑ Frostbite and hypothermia are two dangerous and potentially life-threatening emergencies. Learn how to care for these emergencies by taking a first aid class.

What supplies do I need?



- ❑ Water—at least a 3-day supply, one gallon per person per day
- ❑ Food—at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food
- ❑ Flashlight
- ❑ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- ❑ Extra batteries
- ❑ First aid kit
- ❑ Medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)
- ❑ Multi-purpose tool
- ❑ Sanitation and personal hygiene items.
- ❑ Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- ❑ Cell phone with chargers
- ❑ Family and emergency contact information
- ❑ Extra cash
- ❑ Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- ❑ Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- ❑ Tools/supplies for securing your home
- ❑ Sand, rock salt or non-clumping kitty litter to make walkways and steps less slippery
- ❑ Warm coats, gloves or mittens, hats, boots and extra blankets and warm clothing for all household members
- ❑ Ample alternate heating methods such as fireplaces or wood- or coal-burning stoves

What do I do after a storm?



- ❑ Go to a designated public shelter if your home loses power or heat during periods of extreme cold.
- ❑ Avoid driving when conditions include sleet, freezing rain or drizzle, snow or dense fog.
- ❑ Before tackling strenuous tasks in cold temperatures, consider your physical condition, the weather factors and the nature of the task.
- ❑ Protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia by wearing warm, loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in several layers. Stay indoors, if possible.
- ❑ Help people who require special assistance such as elderly people living alone, people with disabilities and children.
- ❑ Check on your animals and make sure that their access to food and water is not blocked by snow drifts, ice or other obstacles. If possible, bring them indoors.

Caution: Carbon Monoxide Kills

- ❑ Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
- ❑ The primary hazards to avoid when using alternate sources for electricity, heating or cooking are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire.
- ❑ Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide.
- ❑ If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door.
- ❑ Call for help from the fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

Let Your Family Know You're Safe

If your community experiences a severe winter storm or any disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well Web site available through RedCross.org to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don't have Internet access, call 1-800-433-3338 to register yourself and your family.



For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit RedCross.org.

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Vegetables

Vegetables provide vitamins and minerals and contain a small amount of carbohydrate. Raw vegetables are a great source of fiber. Eat a variety of different colored vegetables to stay healthy. 1 cup of raw or cooked vegetables or vegetable juice or 2 cups of raw leafy greens is a 1 cup serving.





MANISTEE— The first winter snowstorm of the season couldn't deter the women of WERC, Manistee's Women's Economic Resource Center.

Despite community event closings and travel advisories, WERC women embodied their mission statement: To actively cultivate and support the professional development and leadership of women and girls in Manistee County and the surrounding area. They hosted the well attended December 9, 2009, luncheon with aplomb and aptitude, exuberant role models for those they hoped to inspire.

To help accomplish their mission, WERC President Vanessa Buhs said, "There have been lots of philanthropic donations." Indeed, the festive dining room sparkled not only with holiday décor, but also with women who browsed a stunning selection of donated business suits, part of the WERC luncheon agenda. Donated at no cost, over 140 brand-name business suits were on display and available for attendees to try on, admire, and acquire for a \$25 donation. 100% of the donations were slated for WERC and the group opened the sale to the public after the luncheon concluded.

The main event, however, was honoring local women.

Anna Detz, member of the WERC Board of Directors, described the event as a celebration for area women who have started their own businesses and succeeded in doing so. "We are try-

ing to promote the success of women in business," Detz said. Her sentiment was echoed by Buhs. "We feel that feminine entrepreneurship is a large part of the new economy," Buhs stated.

Deborah Nale, certified Business Consultant, agreed that this is a great time for people to pursue starting their own business. Nale works for Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center, which is housed at the Alliance for Economic Success. She said that she provides small business services for new and existing businesses. Because her work is funded by Federal and State monies, Nale offers business counseling and information gathering to the Manistee County area at no monetary charge. She said that the success rate of new businesses increases when using consultants and the MSBTDC has 150 such consultants throughout Michigan. "I would encourage anyone interested in exploring a business to do it," Nale said. Nale attended the luncheon because of the collaborative effort of MSBTDC and WERC in "bringing business education to the community" and because she had been active in helping the Featured Speaker launch her business.

That Featured Speaker was LRBOI Tribal Member, Debra Davis. Earlier in the year, Davis contacted Nale and together they created a business plan and found available resources to launch Deb's Creative Cookies. Nale compliment Davis' hard work and planning. "We completed the business plan in half the time due to preparatory research on Deb Davis' part."



MORE

Davis said she always knew she would own her a business, she just didn't know what it would be. When the tribe was forced to cut employee hours last year, Davis "really started" making cookies to supplement her income. She began to envision her business and started internet research of consumer buying trends. She found that, during the recession, people were buying comfort food.

"Do your research," Davis advised, "it is very important." Her lifelong goal of owning her own business and her creative baking merged with her dedication and investigation to become Deb's Creative Cookies.

Davis' daughter, Krystal, attended the WERC event with her mother. The two were excited to talk about the opportunity and Deb's Creative Cookies. Krystal said her mom was "really working hard." The hard work showed as people sampled a cookie after lunch was served and were able to buy some of the wonderful gift baskets Davis' brought.

WERC President Vanessa Buhs said, "We provide speakers who can provide inspiration, motivation and education for women in Northern Michigan." Braving the elements to speak at the WERC luncheon, LRBOI Member Deb Davis left no doubt she is one such woman.

For more information regarding WERC, visit manistee.werc.org or call 231-690-5885.

For more information regarding the MSBTDC and the Alliance for Economic Success, email info@allianceforeconomicsuccess.com or call 231-723-4325.

For more information on Deb's Creative Cookies, email d.dbra94@yahoo.com or call 231-510-2150.

Fruitport Township, county, Indian tribe set up account for casino-related expenses

By Eric Gaertner | Muskegon Chronicle
December 20, 2009, 7:42PM

FRUITPORT TOWNSHIP — Officials with Fruitport Township, Muskegon County and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians have agreed to establish escrow accounts to help pay for preliminary expenses for a proposed casino.

The agreement calls for escrow accounts up to \$50,000 for Fruitport Township and \$30,000 for Muskegon County. The money in the accounts, paid by the tribe, is designed to offset the township's attorney and engineering fees and the county's attorney fees while negotiating a municipal services agreement.

The municipal services agreement describes the services — such as law enforcement, fire protection and public works — the county and township would provide to the tribe's property and what the tribe would pay in return. Officials

from the three entities said recently that they have made significant progress in developing the municipal services agreement.

The escrow agreement calls for the tribe to immediately deposit \$25,000 into the account established by the township and \$25,000 into the account established by the county. The township and county are to submit to the tribe itemized lists of their engineering fees and attorney fees to date.

The township board and a county board committee gave their support for the escrow agreement last week. The tribal council approved the agreement earlier this month.

Establishing the escrow account follows similar township practices in the past. Such an account was established when The Lakes Mall was proposed to cover similar expenses.

Fruitport Township Supervisor Brian Werschem said the township has incurred about \$24,000 in expenses for contracted attorney and engineering assistance since the tribe purchased much of the property in the area. He said the township will stay "well under" the \$50,000 maximum set up in the escrow account.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has proposed constructing a casino on the property near I-96 and U.S. 31. The tribe, which operates Little River Casino in Manistee, purchased the former Great Lakes Downs racetrack in 2008 and acquired additional adjacent property for a 233-acre site.

E-mail Eric Gaertner at egaertner@muskegon-chronicle.com

Congratulations to my Grand Daughter

Whitley Reese, for receiving four A's and one B this semester. We knew you could do it. Keep up the good work. We are so proud of you.
Love Grandmother and Grandfather Lonn



To the Lords Helper

Thank you for the lovely gifts;
You didn't have to do it.
You have a good and gracious heart,
But then,
I always knew it.
I love this, and I think of you
With fondness and with pleasure;
The gifts are great, but even more,
It's your thoughtfulness I treasure.

Congratulations to Lisa Schlattman for receiving her BA in Business Administration from Ferris State University December 19th

GET IN GEAR FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

L. R. B. O. I. Safety Committee

Use all the required personal protective equipment (PPE) specific to the task, no matter how quick a job may seem.

Inspect your PPE before you use it. Don't use suspect items.

If your PPE doesn't fit properly, select another size of the correct type.

The Wit and Wisdom of the Summary of Mishaps by: O.O.P.S. – The Organization for

Happy Birthday Nancy February 25th

Love
Mom, brother Jerry and your sisters
Peggy, Donna, & Janie



February Birthday wishes
Happy Birthday Brandon Drake
Happy Birthday Justin K.
Love Aunt Yvonne



Obvious Precautions and Safeguards

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and so is a little PPE. Particularly if it gives you a false sense of protection. Why do people pouring liquid soap into a bucket always have enough time to spend 15 minutes with their head stuck in an eyewash station, two and a half hours getting treated at sick bay and four hours writing up the incident report, but they never have enough time to read the MSDS and don the goggles that would have prevented all that pain, blindness and wasted time in the first place?

Dillon & Ethan born to Jackie Piecky
ski & Andy Mackin 11/13/09
Gary & Denise's grandbabies
5 lbs 3 oz and 5 lbs 13 oz, not sure
which is who



Rosalie Constance Milk born to Tahca & Dana
Milk 11/13/09
Karen Lewis' granddaughter
8lbs. 13oz, 22 in long at 12:49 a.m.



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 Net Monthly Income Standards October 1, 2009 & October 1, 2010 Household Size Income Limits	
1.	\$ 1,044.00
2.	\$ 1,356.00
3.	\$ 1,667.00
4.	\$ 1,991.00
5.	\$ 2,329.00
6.	\$ 2,666.00
7.	\$ 2,978.00
8.	\$ 3,290.00
For each additional member add \$ 312.00	

Commodity Department serves 13 counties: Benzie, Grand Traverse, Lake Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Wexford.
Office hours are 8:00 A.M – 5:00 P.M
Lunch hour is 12:00 1:00
Yvonne Theodore, Laurie Jackson
1-888-723-8288 ask for Commodity Program
Office # are 231-398-6715 or 231-398-6716

"The Warrior's Society website will soon be up and running. Please check the tribal site at www.lrboi.com for updates."



Robert E. Hardenburgh age 64 of Manistee, died Tuesday morning, Dec. 15, 2009 at West Shore Medical Center in Manistee. He was born Oct. 15, 1945 in Muskegon, and was the son of the late Robert L. and Ruth M. (Yoder) Hardenburgh. Bob served as a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corp during the Vietnam War from Nov. 8, 1965 until Nov. 8, 1967.

He married Doris J. Miller on Oct. 17, 1989. Bob was a member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Manistee Walsh Post #4499 Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Salt City Chapter # 43 Disabled American Veterans, the Khesanh Veterans Association, the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #1128 of Manistee, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Lodge #250 of Manistee, the Little River Warriors Society and the National Rifle Association. During his lifetime Bob was an avid hunter.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Doris J. Hardenburgh of Manistee, his children, David (Mary) Church Jr. of Milwaukee, Wis., Derek (Sarah) Church of Fennville, Lori Church of Muskegon, Kristy (Steve) Austin of Muskegon, his adopted sons, Scott Plumhoff of Fruitport, and Jason Schaub of Muskegon, his grandchildren, Jonah, Isaac, Max, Brian, Hunter, Drew, James and Ryan, his brothers, Allen (Peggy) Hardenburgh of Muskegon, and Albert (Judy) Hardenburgh of Kaleva, his nieces, Christine (Dan) Powell, Jennifer Hardenburgh, Valerie Webster, Tammy (Don) Chiles, Melissa (Trevor) Smiley and Tess Duer, his nephews, Scott (Danielle) Hardenburgh, Robert (Marcia) Hardenburgh and Roy Miller, his mother in-law, Genevieve Miller of Manistee, and his sisters-in-law, Cecelia (William) Bonny of Newaygo, and Kim Miller of Houston, Texas. He was also preceded in death by his father in-law, Earl Miller in 1995.

Those wishing to make an expression of sympathy are asked to consider a donation to the Little River Warriors Society Scholarship Fund in Robert's name.

Tribal Forestry Management Plan

On January 4th, 2010, a small ceremony was conducted on the Tribe's Kettle Hole property to initiate the first phase of the newly formed Forestry Management plan. The goal of the plan is aimed to revitalize our forests away from the Red Pine plantations as they currently exist, to a mixed hardwoods setting. This type of forest and supporting underbrush will be more beneficial to the ecosystem and ultimately the tribe, its members, and our future generations yet to come.



What Went Wrong?

Red Pines were a quick and cost-effective answer to the massive deforestation that took place during the latter half of the 1800's to the early half of the 1900's throughout Michigan. The freshly clear-cut 1836 and 1855 Reservations quickly greened-up with replanted Pine acquired from the raised nursery beds at Chittenden, but with little to no diversity in the types of trees that were replanted, the once fertile lands quickly soured and none of the plants (including many our traditional medicines) that once flourished here, could continue to grow.

Solution

The goals outlined in the plan took this and other problems into consideration and corrective measures were weighed and adopted in cooperation with the Ogema, Tribal Council and Natural Resource Department.



The US Forest service also played a crucial role in the development of the plan. Many of the Tribe's parcels within the 1836 Reservation are connected to Forest Service Lands, so any changes that affect the ecosystem on Tribal lands, will also affect the Federal Forest.

Jim Thompson, District Ranger for the Manistee Forest Service Station met with Tribal officials and expressed his willingness to work with the Tribe to ensure a well thought-out co-management plan that will yield the best results in achieving our common goals.

Through the plan, the Natural Resource Department is directed to utilize the proceeds from the harvested Red Pine in conjunction with an aggressive grants strategy to rehabilitate identified parcels. The process will be conducted in incremental steps. Jimmie Mitchell, Director for the Natural Resource department stated that the last thing we want to have happen to our Tribal Lands is to rush in recreate the same problem that we're attempting to remedy.

Further updates will be provided as they become available.

Remembering You Always

The day we found out your life was in threat
Was a nightmare I never ever will forget.
We decided to fight the battle together
We had hope of conquering the disease forever.

Such courage you showed throughout your quest
Honey, now its time for you to rest!
The Marine, the Warrior that you were inside
Let you fight your battle with dignity and pride
You fought so hard to stay here with me
We both know now, it just wasn't meant to be.

We have gone through a lot together
Side by side, we rose above
You graced me with your friendship
And you honored me with your love!

I remember the day you said you needed me to be strong.
I said that I would try, but never knew how hard it would be
Not having you here with me.

Honey,
I now hear your spirit whisper, right inside my Heart
Telling me that we will really, never ever be apart!

In memory of my husband Robert E. Hardenburgh

A note of thanks:
I would like to thank everyone who attended Bob's funeral, sent cards, flowers, monetary donations, stayed by the Sacred Fire, the supportive phone calls and visits, and those who contributed to the luncheon. The outpouring of your generosity was incredible! If I personally was not able to express my appreciation to you, I would like to do that now!

Thank you and God bless all of you!
Doris J Hardenburgh

Currents

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



Megwa Ezhiweback

Mkwa-Giizis (Bear Moon)
February 2010 Vol. 7 Issue 2

MANISTEE—The beautiful new LRBOI Community Center was the site of much celebration on December 31. The 2009 New Year's Eve Jingtamok provided a traditional, sober opportunity for tribal members, family and friends to honor the passing year and welcome in 2010.

Light poured from the windows and happy shadows danced on the fallen snow as the festivities began. A full spread of delectable food welcomed revelers. Several vendors were on hand, offering many hand-crafted items, from jewelry to flutes. Four drums were present to provide music and song and the Community Center was filled with smiling, happy people.

Maayingen Brauker, son of Austen, attended and expressed his appreciation for the event. "I give thanks for the fellow drummers and dancers. The food was very delicious and I liked the dessert, thank you to the cooks... Thanks to all of the people who made it possible." His favorite part of the Jingtamok was seeing the people dancing.

Brauker described the midnight dance as "powerful." He explained that everyone gathered in the dancing circle. An area by the Eastern door was marked with broom handles and as the drum played, four or five people would jump in the marked space and dance. When the tempo changed, the dancers would exit the area and a new group would leap in and dance. After everyone had their turn, a giveaway was held and the hosts were thanked.

The Jingtamok ushered in the New Year with celebration and community. Thank you to everyone who made it possible and to everyone who attended. ChiMiigwetch. Happy New Year.

Chi Miigwech to the many volunteers for their help because this would not have been possible without them.: Karen Star Chief, Celia Star Chief, Mary Velikan Dan Velikan, Kathy Sam, Jeanie Gibson, Justin Knapp, Brain Gibson, Kathy Gibson, Thomas Berensten, Darleen Martin, Jamie Friedel, Carol Gibner, Ron Wittneburg, Kevin Streeter. We at Be-Da- Bin are thankful for and are honored by the support and help from the community and departments for their donations. With ongoing support we can make another successful New Years Jiingtamok

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

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U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 195
Manistee, MI

Or Current Resident

