

Currents

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Mdaamini-Giizis (Corn Moon)
September 2011 vol.8 Issue 9



Megwa Ezhiweback

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Finances dominate Tribal News

As with the rest of the nation and world, financial challenges and questions dominated the news this month. Tribal Council held a special session to look into tribal enterprise finances at the Little River Casino Resort; the Ogema held an Informational Meeting that addressed a number of financial questions; the Tribal Executive branch released news of some cutbacks designed to save money and the Cobell Settlement supposedly came to a close. See pages 5, 6, 7 and 19 for those stories

Language Camp's got Talent!



The annual Language and Cultural Camp was held this month at the Gathering Grounds with representative from 29 different tribal nations and visitors from as far away as Japan. See the stats and photos on pages 12 and 13



Recovery Walk and Rally

The 2011 Michigan Recovery Walk and Rally is going to be held in Lansing on September 13th. Activities are in the Louis Adado Park, 300 N. Grand Avenue beginning at 11 a.m. and going to 4 p.m. A special march to the Capitol will begin at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Ben Jones, NCADD at 313.868.1340

'Nme Gathering in Mid-September

September 17th will be this years' special Sturgeon release event. Be sure to mark it on your calendar as a wonderful family cultural event



18th Annual LRBOI Language and Cultural Camp



everyone has been working hard to adjust to the new numbers. I believe we now have a handle on it and are now focusing on the 2012 budget right on the heels of the reforecasted 2011. I thank everyone for their continued cooperation through this process. Today is August 5th and I just left the Annual Company Picnic which also was well attended. Our employees have had to also deal with the budget changes; I want to thank all our employees, we truly do have a great dedicated staff who deserve much praise. Thank you all.

Last week I attended the Michigan State Tribal Summit in Lansing with Governor Snyder; also in attendance were Economic Development Director, Robert Memberto and from Council were Kim Alexander and Pat Ruitter and Counsel Damian Fisher. Prior to the Summit Damian, Robert and I attended a one-day training on Tribal 8A certification designed to assist tribes with securing government contracts which I think would be a good step for the future of this tribe.

The regularly scheduled United Tribes Meeting preceded the State Summit. Immediately following the series of meetings in Lansing, I traveled to Traverse City and met with Natural Resources Director, Jimmie Mitchell at the Chippewa Ottawa Resources Authority Meeting. Tomorrow I have an informal informational meeting planned directly after the Elder's Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to simply answer questions from the membership that have been circulating. I am not sure how the meeting will go; I have no real agenda and really just hope to be able to answer member questions similar to the Ogema's Meet and Greet. We shall see. The meeting will be taped and shown at a later date and yes, it will be edited.

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Please be safe. Miigwetch Until next month...
REMEMBER- "I DO WHATEVER MY RICE KRISPIES TELL ME TO DO."

Aanii,
The weather held out for Language Camp 2011 and it was well attended. Thanks to everyone that helped put it together, Kenny Pheasant and crew. Miigwetch
We have been dealing with the 2011 budget as projections from the Casino came in lower than expected in the first quarter of the year, and

TRIBAL GOVERNANCE THOUGHTS

(Editors' note...Ogema Romanelli was asked to be part of a panel discussion on tribal governance this month and here is a copy of the paper he submitted.)

Ogema of Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
It is easy to overlook the fact that tribal governments are just that, governments. Very unique governments!

The outside world tends to lump all tribes into one group, failing to understand that each tribe has its own identity. When tribes gather it truly is an international event. How we deal with local, state and the national governments is also something that needs to be reconsidered. For example, many tribes believe that when dealing with the various states, the elected leader should have same weight as the governor.

Along with being a government, tribes usually are a close-knit group of family members; cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, elders. This can be a good thing or bad thing; depending on the family dynamics. Imagine a family of 20 people getting along and sharing financial and business decisions; now increase that that family size to 3,000 to 40,000 and you get the picture.

Understanding how our culture plays a part in everything we do is important to understand. Eliminating the cultural aspect can cause many problems within the tribe. It is important to make conscientious efforts to incorporate those cultural values into all that you do.

Care should be given to plan for the "Seven Generations"; to plan for the future. Many tribes have decided to pay "per cap", but if not done properly can cause a whole host of problems by not figuring long term planning. Long term planning has to be mandatory for a tribe to function properly without wasting resources.

Creating your tribal constitution is also extremely important; once in place it can be difficult to change so care should be given in the formation of the document to ensure everything is in it to

protect the tribe. Amendments can be made and the document should be reviewed on a regular basis to make sure it meets the needs of the tribe.

Much thought should be put into tribal elections; how people are elected and even who they are removed if necessary. The people elected will be making very important decisions on a regular basis and care should be given to choose those with the ability to make those decisions. I also believe that elected officials should be given a lengthy orientation process which should include training on understanding the constitution, understanding of other governments, financial understanding, how to read and understand financial statements and meeting procedures among other topics.

Open enrollment verses closed enrollment; rarely will you get a consensus among tribal citizens on any issue and this is a topic all tribes have had to deal with.

I personally believe that right now, tribes have a unique opportunity to influence the world, their lives and the lives of those around them. We should take advantage of this opportunity. Tribes should work together to assist each other as we are all of the original people, kin. Our people have all faced tremendous obstacles over many years. Now is the time to make a secure future for our children and our children's children, our ancestors did. Miigwetch.





Update on Speaker Steve Parsons

Speaker Steve Parsons is temporarily absent, as he is recovering from open heart surgery. Speaker Parsons recently contacted the Recorder and he is improving every day. His procedure was a success, and now the

hard work of staying at home, waiting to come back, is underway. The Tribal Council sends its best wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery. (The Recorder is especially praying for a speedy recovery! Steve's shoes are pretty big to fill, and running meetings is harder than people think.)

Change to Legislation Posted for 30 day Public Comment

Gaming Enterprise(s) Board of Directors Act-Change Proposed

Tribal Council has posted an amendment to the Gaming Enterprise(s) Board of Directors Act of 2010 for a period of public comment, which will end on August 19, 2011. This change is limited to one issue: The Ogema's role on the Board of Directors. The Tribal Council had originally adopted the law to allow the Ogema discretion when selecting to serve on the Board, or appointing a member of the Tribal Council to the Board in his place to serve. However, since the adoption of the law on August 25, 2010, the Ogema has not served on the Board, nor has the Ogema nominated a member of Tribal Council to serve in his place for the Board position reserved to the Ogema. After the General Election, Ogema Romanelli had 60 days after being sworn into office to decide to either serve the position himself, or nominate a member of Tribal Council to that seat. Prior to this publication, the 60 days had passed. Therefore, the Tribal Council has posted a change to the Ordinance, in light of the Ogema's failure to nominate a candidate. The change, if approved, will mandate that the Ogema serves as the Chairman of the Board. The change will take effect immediately if approved. The Tribal Council had originally intended that the Ogema and Council would jointly share in the obligation of the Board of Directors, however, the intent of the law has not been realized. This change will put both the Ogema and a member of the Tribal Council, Mr. Virgil Johnson, at the table as Board Members. The Tribal Council believes that it is critical to the Tribe that the Board be fully seated, and that the Ogema serve the position, rather than leave a vacancy open continually. You may view the changes on the Tribe's website, on the Tribal Council page "Notice of Proposed Ordinance" link.

Administrative Procedures Ordinance- Change Proposed

The Tribal Council has proposed to expand the Administrative Procedures Ordinance, to include certain acts by the Ogema. The changes are available at the Tribal Council's page, "Notice of Proposed Ordinance" link. This change, if approved, would result in the Ogema being required

to post Executive Orders for a public input period, similarly to the manner in which Tribal Council must notify Membership of proposed Ordinances or amendments to existing law. The current proposal requires the Ogema to post Executive Orders for public comment period of 15 days. The Ogema must also publish an annual disclosure of Actions taken, on or about Oct 1 of each year, if this change is adopted. The change proposed also requires that the Ogema must identify the subject matter involved, and other format changes. This change is proposed to ensure that any Orders are consistently formatted, regardless of who the Ogema serving at the time might be. This proposed amendment is a shift in public policy to ensure that the Membership has adequate notice of any actions taken independently by the Ogema.

For example, the Tribal Council and Ogema are currently in litigation over an Executive Order in one case pending in Tribal Court (Case #11-063GC) and another Executive Order has just been raised in a different litigation in Tribal Court (Case #11-180GC). The Tribal Council has recognized that in both cases, the Executive Orders signed by the Ogema were not provided to the Membership for public input, prior his executing the document. The Tribal Council also recognizes that because these matters affect important issues of Government, it is equally important that, like Ordinances, the Membership receive public notice of Executive Orders. This proposed amendment Public Comment period expires August 15, 2011.

Tribal Court Ordinance – Change Proposed

Changes to the Tribal Court Ordinance were posted for Public Comment Period, which will expire on August 18, 2011. The changes proposed to this Ordinance are to bring the law in line with the Sex Offender Registration Act, as reported earlier.

Law and Order Criminal Offenses Ordinance – Notice of Intent to Repeal

The Tribal Council has completed the re-write of the new criminal codes, to bring them in line with the Sex Offender Registration Act. As such, the old law will be replaced with the new one. The Tribal Council notice of repeal is set to expire on Aug. 15, 2011.

You may view all ordinance changes on the internet by going to this link on the website:

<https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/council/public-comment-ordinances.html>

Qualified Roll from Enrollment Commission Submitted and Accepted

The Enrollment Commission had submitted the Qualified Membership Roll for final action by Tribal Council, and the Roll was approved. The Qualified Roll consisted of 3,970 membership files that have been audited by an outside audit auditor. In order for the file and audit findings to be accepted, the Enrollment Commission had to accept the findings-for each individual record. The Qualified Roll is now established, and those members that appear on the Qualified

Roll should not be subjected to further audit activity. The public version of the Qualified Roll is available to Membership. The public version does not include confidential information, such as social security numbers, blood quantum breakdowns, or other legally protected information. Please contact the Enrollment Department if you have additional questions.

Wisconsin Open House-SEPTEMBER 10

The Tribal Council will be joining Members on September 10 at the Great Spirit Church in Milwaukee, WI, for an informational gathering. The Recorder requests that if there are specific topics to be addressed during that meeting, please forward the question or information that you wish to be reviewed to the Tribal Council no later than September 2, 2011. You may contact any member of the Tribal Council, by email, telephone or fax. You can call the Tribe's toll free number at 888-723-8288, or contact through the Tribe's website.

"The meetings are going to be on the second Saturday of every other month, starting in September. We are trying to get people in Wisconsin and Illinois area to come and find out what is happening with their tribe, and to get to know one another. We are trying to have meetings so we all don't feel left out of the circle."

Thank You, Jean Aber #2050

2920 Gillen St.
Racine, WI 53403

Digital Video Recording of Meetings– Improving Communication

The recording of Tribal Council meetings continues, including the Public Hearing that happened on July 23, 2011. The Public Hearing was provided on the Tribe's website, for view by the Membership. The Ogema had raised a point in conversation with members of the Tribal Council that placing recorded meetings on the website grants access to anyone to view, and is not just limited to the Little River Band Membership. This point was raised because the Ogema expressed concerns that some things may be sensitive in nature (my words, paraphrasing the concerns he raised) and expose the Tribe to unidentified risks. To date, the meetings are recorded, and Tribal Council is still moving forward to propose placing those recordings on the Tribe's website. As plans are finalized, the Recorder would ask Membership to provide input on the best method of implementing the broadcast of Tribal Council meetings.

For Example: Some members have stated they want a "live broadcast" so they can watch the meeting in real time. Some members have stated that they are fine with posting the recorded meetings on the Tribe's Website, for view at any time. Some members have voiced that they want a member's only access, so that persons outside the Tribe are not able to view. As this process becomes more refined, it will be critical that Members themselves comment to let the Council know the best method, because the whole purpose is to enable members to have access to better information in a more timely manner. Not all members have access to the internet and computers, so the Tribal Council needs to hear from those persons too, to ensure that we are reaching

August 6th, Ogema Larry Romanelli held an Information Meeting for Tribal Members at the Aki Maadiziwin Community Center.

The Ogema's Informational meeting was called to answer some of the "misinformation" that is the topic of intense conversation on the social media and beyond. The Ogema had called the meeting and invited Council to attend and also to respond. Acting Speaker Janine M. Sam was the only Council representative at the meeting. Candace Chapman and Virgil Johnson later reported that they were not able to attend the Informational Meeting because Virgil had relatives in from out of town and Candace had a death she was dealing with.

At the beginning of the meeting Ogema Romanelli addressed the communication at the tribe. He said that the Currents is slow because of the whole publication, printing and mailing process for a printed newspaper. He added that direct e-mail didn't work when they tried that. Romanelli did point out the Rapid River News (the tribe's weekly e-news letter) is a good example of what is working and he added that before long, a tribal Face Book site is hopefully going to be available. This would give very quick access to information which needs to go out to tribal members. Tribal citizen Gary DiPiazza, who "Facebooks" a lot, offered words of caution with the social media as it can become very negative if not properly monitored and administered.

DiPiazza pointed out that he is one of four Administrators of an unofficial tribal site and that they have, as an example, had to kick off a former Council member numerous times for misuse.

The Ogema also addressed Tribal Member Fran Pitts' comments about the Tribal Fishing Program with facts that the program started almost 6 months before he came into office and that the approximate \$1 million dollars plus that was left in the account is still there and has been transferred to another tribal account. He also addressed how the focus has been on one Council members' family receiving money from the fishing program when realistically three Council members had family who

received money from the program. Romanelli also asked and answered the question: "Was it mismanaged? Yup?"

Janine Sam spoke about the fishing and said that, "These were public (tribal) funds..." and that an accounting is no problem." Sam did however point out her desire by saying, "What can we do to make the (tribal) fisheries a viable enterprise?"

Another issue that was raised by the members was the continued desire for a 'Tribal Members Only' website where information could be posted. There are still serious concerns and as Videographer Mack Brushman pointed out, the site can be easily hacked or a member could inadvertently take information and repost it where it would be damaging to the tribe. As Tribal Manager Jessica Burger said, "We have to protect ourselves through the Consent Decree and ensure that (our) treaty rights cannot be compromised."

Still another issue raised by Pitts was that 'The Ogema bought the Racetrack' and an accusation by some that this was wrong. Ogema Romanelli stuck to his guns on why the purchase was a good idea for the future. He was backed up by Commerce Director Robert Memberto who laid out facts and also challenged detractors "to use real information and relevant numbers if they are going to attack what is being done." Romanelli also reminded those in attendance that while the Ogema brings contracts to the Tribal Council, they are the ones who ratify our contracts.

Manager Burger addressed why the government is looking at some future programs and processes even though they might not be viable right now. She said that, "It is responsible to plan ahead and that we have to take initiatives." This was in response to criticism of a Merit Pay policy under consideration at this time.

Robert Memberto raised the question, as a tribal member, as to why the tribe has not mapped out an investment strategy such as he had recommended in 2006 and has been recommending repeatedly. He was particularly interested in how just moving a certain fund to another institution could make the tribe as much as \$1300 a week

and instead it is being kept where it doesn't make us anything.

Janine addressed this one and said that Council had never received anything on this issue. She did talk about her desire to form a Tribal Treasury which, in her opinion, would adequately address the fluctuating budgetary challenges of the government. She referenced her years of experience in banking as a basis for her thoughts. She and her sister Jessica both pointed out the current fluctuations in the market economy and that they didn't want to risk losing money.

Member Judy Nedeau said that, "Members are frustrated about how things are happening. Some pay and some do not and she added that some get by with fraudulent behavior." (Editors' note...no specifics on such behavior were provided at this time).

Judy also told the meeting, "...that they appreciate his (the Ogema) being there to answer questions and she brought up that Larry is the lowest paid Ogema/Chief in the nation and he does need to get a raise."

Mack Brushman spoke to the salary issue and suggested that the lowest paid employees need to have their pay raised and that some of the highest paid, "were willing to not take raises or would be willing to cut their salaries."

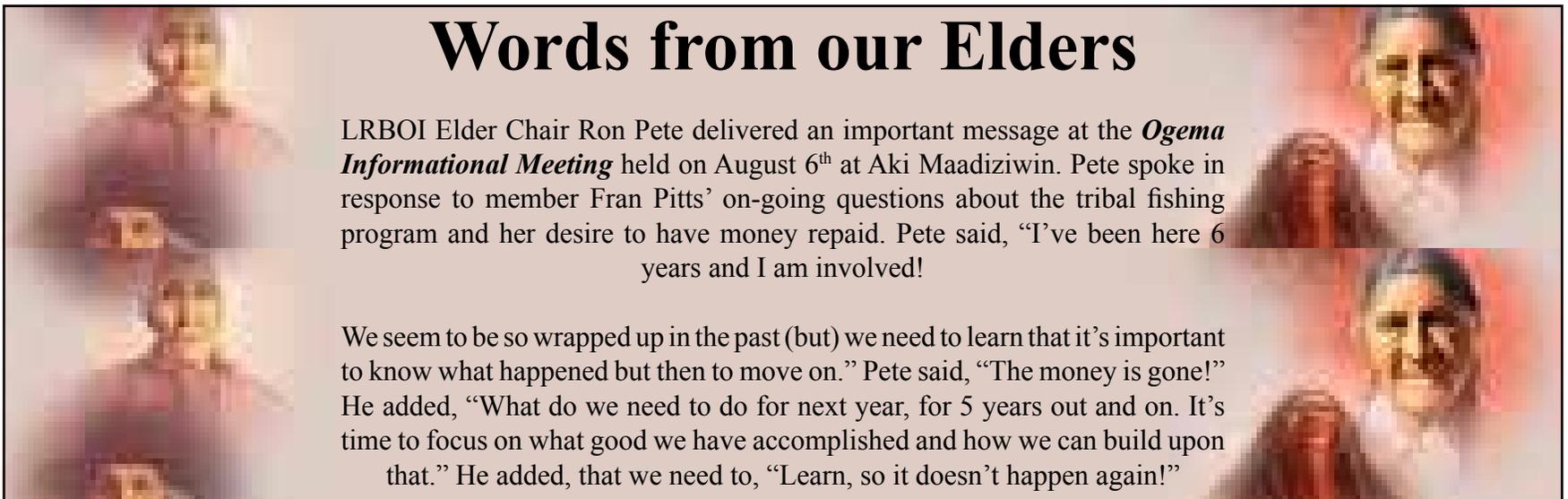
Another issue brought up by the Ogema was the hours worked by elected officials. He submitted examples to the members present of his electronic timesheets showing his work hours. Janine Sam said that people work outside the office as well and Romanelli replied that there was plenty of work to put in 32-40 hours at the River Street offices. Sam said she couldn't get the electronic Timeclock program to work.

In summation, the Ogema called for releasing the Osiyo Report on restructuring the tribal government to 'the people'. Council has not accepted the report or the recommendations made by the paid consultants. He also said we should release the McLandry Report on the commercial fishing to the people and said, "Let's get the info out there." He also called for all elected officials to submit to random drug testing, background checks and to release their FICA scores...just as he does.

Words from our Elders

LRBOI Elder Chair Ron Pete delivered an important message at the *Ogema Informational Meeting* held on August 6th at Aki Maadiziwin. Pete spoke in response to member Fran Pitts' on-going questions about the tribal fishing program and her desire to have money repaid. Pete said, "I've been here 6 years and I am involved!"

We seem to be so wrapped up in the past (but) we need to learn that it's important to know what happened but then to move on." Pete said, "The money is gone!" He added, "What do we need to do for next year, for 5 years out and on. It's time to focus on what good we have accomplished and how we can build upon that." He added, that we need to, "Learn, so it doesn't happen again!"



Saturday the 23rd of July Tribal Council held a public hearing at the Aki Maadiziwin Community Center to address concerns related to Tribal Finances. (See accompanying Notice for the actual list of 'Matters' of concern).

The hearing was called by Recording Secretary Janine M. Sam following the passage of a Resolution in Session (#11-0713-259). The Ogema and Little River Casino Resort management were requested to attend and answer the questions.

Tribal Council Speaker Steve Parsons opened the hearing by inviting Elder Ron Pete (Chair of the Elder Committee) to begin with prayer. In his prayer, Elder Pete reminded the assembled group that, "...we are one circle, not a series of circles entwining with each other but we are one. We come to You as one, with our hearts open."

Also in attendance were approximately 70 Tribal Citizens and Tribal Employees. Upon arrival, attendees were asked to register and then they were given the opportunity to submit written questions. These questions were all presented to the panel and were answered at the latter portion of the meeting. Council Secretary Sam read each of the questions and identified the person who asked the question before asking for a response.

Attending the hearing at Aki Maadiziwin Community Center were the following:

Tribal Council members:

- o Lee Sprague
- o Sandy Mezeske
- o Kim Alexander
- o Pat Ruitter
- o Candace Chapman
- o Janine Sam (Rec. Sec)
- o Steve Parsons (Speaker)
- o Executive Branch:

Ogema Larry Romanelli

- o Tribal Chief Financial Officer, Steve Wheeler

Little River Casino Resort:

- o Virgil Johnson (appearing as a Board Member, not as a Council Member)
- o Elaine Porter (Board Member)
- o Tom Davis, General Manager
- o Eileen Duffin, Director of Marketing
- o Shelly Memberto, Financial Analyst
- o George Sutton, Director of Finance

See the accompanying article which summarizes the answers to the Tribal Council questions and be sure to go online to view the actual responses. Video of the hearing can be seen on the Tribal Council website at <https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/council/>. At the direction of Recording Secretary Janine Sam, the audio of certain portions was cut because it was felt that the information was confidential market information.



Stephen Parsons
Speaker
9 County Rep.

Janine M. Sam
Recorder
9 County Rep.

Kimberly Alexander
At Large Rep.

Candace M. Chapman
9 County Rep.

Virgil Johnson



Gaa Ching Ziibi Daawaa Anishinaabek
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
 375 River Street
 Minnetonka, MI 49660

Tribal Council

NOTICE

From the Office of Tribal Council Recorder

Public Hearing Scheduled for Saturday, July 23, 2011
10:00 a.m., at Aki Maadiziwin Community Center

Virgil Johnson
At Large Rep.

Sandy Mezeske
9 County Rep.

Patricia Ruitter
9 County Rep.

Lee Sprague
Outlying Rep.

Michael Caplina
9 County Rep.

On Wednesday, June 13, 2011, the Tribal Council did enact Resolution #11-0713-259, scheduling a Public Hearing of the Tribal Council for the purposes of addressing concerns related to Tribal Finances.

The Tribal Council has requested, by Resolution, that representatives from the Little River Casino and Resort Board of Directors (Chairman and Vice-Chairman) as well as the Ogema, be present.

The Ogema and Board Representatives may, in their discretion, request key staff to assist in providing answers or testimony.

The Matters that Tribal Council has requested to be presented during this Public Hearing are as follows:

1. Please explain why there were not any monthly financial reports filed to the Tribal Council in accordance with the Gaming Board of Directors act for the fiscal year 2011 until July.
2. Please explain why a \$793,937 adjustment that would potentially result in a payback of funds to the Casino from the Government was not disclosed to the Tribal Council until after the audit was completed. Please explain which adjustments were not entered timely that required a review in April of 2011. Please explain the corrective actions and policy changes that have been implemented to ensure that this type of error will not be repeated in the future, including submitting the policy copies.

3. Please review the measures that are being taken to mitigate the continued down turn of business at the LRCR.
4. Please explain why the Casino has decided to stop making loan payments to the Government. The payoff of the debt was made by expending government capital. Please detail the reasons why the management decided to curtail any repayment of the capital expended by the Government, without consulting with the Tribal Council.
5. Please explain why the Board has not complied with Article 9.04 of the Gaming Enterprises Board of Directors Act of 2010, as amended.

Issued this 14th Day of July, 2011. Signed:



The Answers!

Here is a summation of the answers to Tribal Council questions as shown in the 'Notice' for the Public Hearing on July 23rd. To see the actual answers, go to <https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/council/> and watch the actual hearing in its entirety.

Question #1.

General Manager Tom Davis explained that the lack of some reports was due to having to go nine months without a Director of Finance (previous one had been terminated) and it took several months to hire a new one. In addition, when Tribal Council passed the revised Board of Directors Ordinance (September, 2010), the way that reporting was handled was changed. The Casino at the time also did not have a Legal Counsel on staff to assist with compliance with the revised law so it took three months to implement the new law. During that period, deposits were regularly made.

In addition, during the time period (February through mid-May), the LRCR Financial Analyst was out on Maternity Leave. There was an accounting recording error during this time, which the Financial Analyst fixed upon her return. In the meantime, the Board of Directors chose to hold the reports pending correction. Davis did report that throughout this time period, the casino management was in 'constant contact' with the tribal CFO, Steve Wheeler and the Tribal Council Comptroller General.

Ogema Romanelli commented that he had expected Council Member Virgil Johnson, who sits on the Casino Board of Directors to communicate back to Council over these issues which he did not. Johnson commented that it was his feeling that he had to keep the two positions separate.

Corrective Action:

Council Secretary Sam summarized the actions that will be taken to improve the communication between the Casino and the Tribal Government.

1. The Ogema is establishing an office at the Casino and will be in that office once a week to see reports and meet with key staff
2. The Director of Finance is going to take a more active role with the Board of Directors
3. The Casino Management team will resume monthly financial review meetings with Tribal Council
4. Generally, both sides will work to improve the flow of information

Question #2.

The LRCR Director of Finance George Sutton addressed the question about a \$793,937 adjustment when he explained that 2/3's of the amount was tied directly to on-going health benefits, a \$100 million dollar process. The remaining amount varies year-to-year based upon the success of the enterprise.

Because the casino is self-insured there is no way to stabilize the actual amount of claims that will be paid and the amount varies each year. An outside audit firm was hired to analyze the account and recommended this reconciliation which initially said the tribe would have to pay back some funds (based upon the estimated claims). Upon being able to work with the actual figures later (not estimates), they found that a repayment was unnecessary.

Mr. Sutton did remark that approximately \$100 thousand to \$150 thousand of the adjusted amount could possibly be attributed to delays by the Accounting Department, and noted that the Department will be reviewing such matters with greater diligence for this fiscal year. He noted further that such adjustment in a \$100+ million dollar operation was not considered "material".

Sutton said, "...this was not an error of casino staff." "The adjustment to the distribution was mostly the result of an audit adjustment prepared by a consultant hired by Joseph Eve," said Mr. Sutton. He commented that the auditor should have been more proactive to help avoid this confusion.

By law, a new audit firm has to be brought in every three years.

Question #3

This question was answered by General Manager Tom Davis and by the casino Director of Marketing, Eileen Duffin. Because the information is in regard to confidential marketing plans of the facility, the details will not be shown here.

It was noted that the challenge of running a successful business this last year has been made more difficult with new competition that has impacted our overall market. In addition Davis noted the added impact of a general national economic condition that is less than robust.

Mr. Davis did note that our visitor numbers are up and we are well placed for a successful turnaround once the national and state economies stabilize.

Council member Sprague summed up the general observations by saying, the (casino) "is performing very well. Without the (management) team on board at Little River, our numbers would be much worse."

Question #4

LRCR General Manager Tom Davis and Financial Analyst Shelly Memberto answered the question about the repayment of the money spent to pay off the debt on the Little River Casino Resort. Tribal Council on Mar 14th, 2011 had voted to pay off the \$19.3 million dollar debt remaining from the expansions to LRCR as opposed to renegotiating the loan. (See the *Currents*, May 2011 edition, page 6 for the article or go to www.lrboi.com to see it on your computer).

The question had come up because the casino had not made payments to the tribe to help recoup the \$19.3 million dollars for tribal coffers since the payoff of the loan.

Davis reported that at the time of the payoff, he had been informed that tough negotiations were being conducted with the bank (PNC) to renegotiate the loan. He and the casino management found out about the payoff after the fact. Ms. Memberto added that, from her information, the loan was going to be renegotiated...not paid off! He asked, "How do we make payment on a loan that is paid off?"

The original loan documents do not mention that the Little River Casino Resort would pay back the loan, just that "the tribe" would do so. The Resolution from Tribal Council has "no language from the tribe to payback" the money, according to Davis, and no direction to do so.

Davis said that, "Unfortunately, within about 20 days of the LRCR payoff, the Gun Lake Casino came on line and that briefly impacted our total business volume. This made for lower revenues and distribution to the tribe at that time. The loan payments were actually rolled into the bottom line so they really did go to the tribal government. He said that the original budget distribution (the base for the 40% per cap and 60% government operations) would have been reduced by almost one third had they instead paid the 'loan payments' directly to the tribe. Davis concluded by saying that, "If Tribal Council wants us to pay it back (differently), we will!" The General Manager requested a Resolution from Tribal Council regarding audit purposes to, "...accountably record the payment." The amount in question is \$650 thousand dollars a month.

Assistance Programs



Mission Statement

“To strengthen and secure maximum independence for individuals and family members of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians by providing assistance services that meet the needs of the community.”

Vision

“Meeting the needs of our community and empowering our members through accessible and responsive services to promote self-sufficiency, quality of life, health status and wellbeing.”

Members Assistance Department

Goals

Meet the needs of the individual and/or family by providing programs for health and safety, continued utility service and other services requested by tribal members that are identified as a need or crisis. Maintain a quality relationship with the members of the Tribal Community. Utilize a centralized intake process for the Tribal Community to contact for program information and to receive prompt services and/or referrals.

Objectives

- Promote health, safety, self sufficiency and personal growth in individuals and family members by providing confidential, consistent, effective and timely services to ensure the health and safety of eligible individuals/ families in need of assistance.
- Respond to all family support advocate's and referral requests to ensure the most assistance is provided to the eligible member and/or family in crisis or in need of assistance.
- Advocate and/or provide funding for Indian specific programs to fill the needs of the local and at-large communities based on membership requests
- Inform membership of existing local and Tribal resources and coordinate service assistance.
- Network with tribal service departments and/or agencies to maximize utilization of services and information available to the members of the Tribal Community.
- Create and implement a centralized intake process accessible to service departments. This process will be utilized to compile information for case management, family needs assessment, referral and follow up, service tracking of funding provided to each individual.

FY2011 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.

*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.

Vehicle is the only means of transportation for the household.

-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 in need of repair must meet the scope of the program to receive assistance.

Amount of assistance – Up to maximum of \$400.00 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

If scope of assistance is beyond what the tribe can assist with there are referrals resources such as Area Agency on Aging, Community Action Agency and other agencies. If you are in need of assistance in accessing these services please contact the Members Assistance Department.

*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

Members Assistance Department

-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.

*Programs 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 ~

Title VI Elder Meal Program

The Elder Meal Program available at the Aki Community Center.

Meals will be served for lunch at noon Monday thru Thursday at the Aki Community Center located at 2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung Manistee, MI 49660

One very important component of keeping elders healthy in their homes and communities is providing nutrition services. Adequate nutrition is critical to health, functioning, and quality of life. The purposes of nutrition services, activities and disease prevention education are:

- **To reduce hunger and food insecurity;**
- **To promote socialization of older individuals; and**
- **To promote health and well-being by assisting older individuals to gain access to nutrition and other disease prevention and health promotion services to delay the onset of adverse health conditions.**

Eligibility: Enrolled Tribal Elders age 55 and over. Also included in this eligibility are spouse of the eligible participant, handicapped or disabled individuals in the same household are eligible to participate when accompanying the Tribal Elder to the meal site. The meals are provided at NO CHARGE.

Guest Meals are available for individuals who would like to attend a meal with an eligible

participant/Tribal Elder but do not meet eligibility guidelines. There will be a charge for the guest meal that is calculated according to the meal being served. Average cost is about \$5.00. This provision does not exclude Caregivers, In-Home Caregivers or Home Aides from paying for guest meals if they do not meet eligibility requirements.

Donations are acceptable and will be used for program activities and to purchase food. At no time are contributions required however the offer to contribute must be provided per program requirements.

Home Delivered Meals – (limited services and based on availability of volunteers) Elders should only be on the home delivered meal program if they are unable to leave their homes without great difficulty. Their inability to leave home may be because of illness, disability, or general frailty. Frailty means having a physical or mental disability that restricts the ability of an individual to perform normal daily tasks. This shall be determined by a mental health professional or medical professional.

Monthly Menu – the menu will be published in the Rapid River News, the Currents, posted in tribal buildings and posted on our website.

Beneficial Activities will begin activities in September and will include fun games, educational presentations on Elder health and wellbeing and other activities of interest to our Elders. The activities portion of the program is a collaborated effort with tribal service departments and outside service agencies; we are hoping to have a well blended number of events on the September Menu Calendar. This calendar will be mailed to all Elders whom have completed their Intake Form.

Registration is required to participate in the Elder Meal Program with initial intake processes taking place at this time. If you would like to participate in this program please contact Lee Ivinson or Noelle Cross about this program. To complete the short intake process contact the Members Assistance Department or complete the form at the first meal you attend.

The many benefits of this program will be evident with more participation by our Elders. To ensure this program continues there will be assessments conducted on participating elders. The data gathered from this process will assist us in gauging how the program is working and areas where improvements can be made.

*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

Individuals who reside outside the 9 county areas and states- LIHEAP is available at the state level. If you are in need assistance, contact your local Department of Health and Human Services for assistance.

ATTENTION TRIBAL ELDERS – 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, 2011 thru September 30, 2011.

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.**

Funding Cycle is Oct 1st thru Sept 30th – If you are in need of assistance it is important to contact the office as the need arises.

REACH Program – FUNDING IS LIMITED AND IS A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS – APPLY NOW FOR SERVICES!!!

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.

This program ends September 30th

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 any assistance request in a timely manner. Supporting documents are listed on the cover page of the application and are required at time of submission.

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.

Program FYI's:

Incomplete applications cannot be processed. In the event an application goes inactive for 30 days it is closed.

Please read the coversheet of application for all the required documents that must be submitted in order to process an application.

Copies of original documents should be sent with application, please do not send originals. In order to keep costs down we will not return original documents.

Department

**Lee A. Iverson –
Members Assistance Coordinator
Amber Moore – Intake Clerk
Linda Wissner – Intake Clerk
Noelle Cross –
Elder Meal Program Administrator**

**Phone: 231-723-8288 or Toll Free 888-723-8288
Office Hours Mon thru Friday 8 am to 5 pm
Closed for lunch hour 12pm – 1pm (Unless appointment is made in advance)**

Parenting Class Comes to Manistee

Positive Indian Parenting:
Honoring Our Children
By Honoring our Traditions

LRBOI Family Services Department is offering Positive Indian Parenting class. The dates for the class are September 19th & 26th, and Oct 3rd & 10th & 17th & 24th & 31st and November 7th & 14th and they will be held at Aki Maadiziwin Community Center. The class is for Indian parents or anyone caretaking an Indian child.

The eight-week curriculum which was developed by the National Indian Child Welfare Association provides a brief, practical, and culturally specific training program for Indian parents. The goals of the program are to help Indian parents explore the values and attitudes expressed in traditional Indian child-rearing practices, and to apply them to modern parenting skills, and develop positive attitudes, values and skills that have roots in their cultural heritage.

For hundreds of years, Indian parents were guided by traditions that never left parenting to chance. These traditions were passed from one generation to the next. Positive Indian Parenting is based in the idea that many present-day Indian parents have been deprived of the right to learn positive parenting traditions that have been handed down from generation to generation. Through forced assimilation, removal to boarding schools, and forced foster placement and adoption programs, traditional parenting practices were lost or weakened. This curriculum taps into the power of culture, identity and belonging, giving Indian parents a positive standard of behavior to emulate and a number of basic skills to express their values.

Included in the eight sessions are:

- Traditional Parenting – history, cultural strengths
- Lessons of the Storyteller – communication, values, observation
- Lessons of the Cradleboard – bonding nurturing, development
- Harmony in Childrearing – balance, family structure, self-control, prevention
- Traditional Behavioral Management – guidelines, limits, discipline
- Lessons of Mother Nature – living skills, social skills
- Praise in Traditional Parenting – positive reinforcement skills
- Choices in Parenting – setting goals, what kind of parent you want to be

The class incorporates traditional Anishinabe components such as smudging, prayers in the Anishnabe language, Seven Grandfather teachings, the talking feather, and giveaways.

There is free and a light supper will be provided, as well as weekly gifts for participants. Call to inquire about child care.

*All children are gifts from the Creator.
They help us find out who and
what we are as human beings.*

For more information or to register for the class call Kathy Lagerquist 231-398-6705 or Shelly Kequam 231-398-6707

5453 Hughston Rd, Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740
Phone: 517-802-8650 Email: [fettawa@
charter.net](mailto:fettawa@charter.net) Fax: 231-242-0958

Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director

DRAFT

United Tribes of Michigan Honors Congressman Dale Kildee

WHEREAS, the membership of United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) is open to all of the twelve federally recognized tribes located in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the organization provides a forum for the Tribes in Michigan to address issues of common concern and is committed to join forces to advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign Indian Tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations; and

WHEREAS, UTM accepts the mission to engage, as a matter of mutual concern, issues that impact the health, security, safety, and general welfare of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Dale Kildee from Flint, MI, has served in the US Congress for over 35 years. During this service, Congressman Kildee has worked tirelessly on the issues that represented the concerns of his constituents, missing only 28 votes of the 21,236 votes that occurred so far during his time in office; and

WHEREAS, as a youngster Dale Kildee grew up in the Traverse City, Michigan, area and knew and experienced the local Native Americans and the manner in which they were treated. Local Native Americans traveling their traditional routes with the seasons would cross and/or camp on his family's property. He tells that his father always reminded him of the raw deal that the Native Americans got; and

WHEREAS, in his long political career in the Michigan House and later in the US House of Representatives he championed the cause of tribal sovereignty and its full exercise, working to pass the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver Act and, in the US Congress, co-founding the bipartisan Native American Caucus, which has become one of the largest caucuses in the US House of Representatives. Due largely to the work of this caucus anti-tribal legislation has been stalled or defeated more times than it has been passed since the caucus was created; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Kildee has recently announced that after years in office he will retire at the end of his current term.



Little River Band of Ottawa officials meet with Michigan Governor Rick Snyder. From left to right, Council member Kim Alexander, Ogema Larry Romanelli, Governor Snyder, Council member Pat Ruiter, Commerce Director Robert Memberto and Legislative Counsel Damian Fisher

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United Tribes of Michigan thanks Congressman Dale Kildee for his years of service to his constituents and to Indian Country issues, for his foresight and leadership to protect the exercise of tribal sovereignty, for being a true friend to all of Indian Country, and for helping educate several generations of legislators about tribal treaty rights while fighting for legislation and appropriations that strengthen Indian Country rather than making it weaker. His service and gentle but iron-willed demeanor will be remembered for generations in our communities, lodges, council chambers, and in our hearts.



Leaders of the United Tribes of Michigan pose with Governor Rick Snyder during the Recent United Tribes meeting in Lansing, Michigan

Tribal Affiliations at 2011 Language / Culture Camp



Little River Band MI Ottawa
 Little Traverse Bay Band MI Odawa
 Saginaw Chippewa MI
 Grand Traverse Band Ottawa & Chippewa MI
 Lac du Flambeau WI Ojibwe
 Oneida WI
 Grand River Ottawa MI
 White Earth MN Ojibwe
 Ottawa of OK
 Fon du Lac Ojibwe MN
 Bad River Chippewa
 Sault Ste. Maria MI Chippewa
 Creek Cherokee
 Chippewa of the Thames Ontario
 Chippewa MN
 Saugeen Ojibwe Ontario
 Wikwemikong 1st. Nation Ontario
 Batchewana Ontario
 Bkejwanong Ontario
 Walpole Island 1st. Nation Ontario
 Garden River Ontario
 Naotkamegwaning 1st. Nation Ontario
 Cree-Ojibwe 1st. Nation Ontario
 Lanapi
 Ketegitigaaning
 San Felip/Mawuil/Apache/Tavascau
 Muscogee
 Odawa/Sieungu Lakota
 Atikameksheng Ontario

Attendees at 2011 Language Camp were from:
 Michigan, Missouri, Florida, Minnesota,
 Wyoming, California, Texas, Virginia, Oregon,
 Wisconsin, Washington D.C., Ohio, Manitoba and
 Ontario Canada and Japan



Andre Neebnagezhick shows Jeff Pego some beats on his drum.



Annabella, Ayla and Maddie singing.



Hannah C. & Ashlee S. singing and dancing for the crowd.

The 18th Annual Anishinaabe Family Language/Culture Camp is now in the history books and it was a wonderful success. Here are some notes about the attendance:

- 29 Tribal Nations were represented this year
- Registered Participants: 411
 Adults – 273 (66%)
 Children – 138 (34%)
- 14 different US states and nations (including Canada and Japan) were represented
- 61% of survey respondents were tribal citizens from Little River and 31% were from other tribes.
- Over 70% were between 30 and 74 years old
- 68% had been to our camp before
- 87% said they would come back
- 100% said they would recommend the camp
- 91% said that the camp met their expectations
- Almost all said that the presentations were Great or Good!
- 91% said the food was Great or Good!

Thanks to the Tribal Historic Preservation Department staff and volunteers and especially Language Instructor Kenny Pheasant for putting on another wonderful cultural event for our tribe. K'Chii Miigwech!

Adults – 273
 Children – 138
 Total - 411



Alisha, Haleigh and Trenidie sing during the talent show.



Austen Brauker performs original songs on his guitar.



Becca & Nanette singing at the talent show.



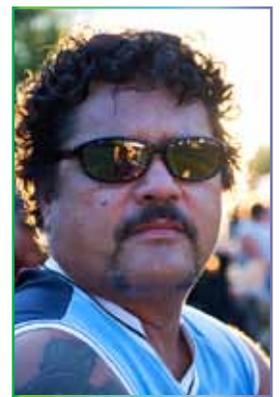
Boys enjoying the drums they made during children's drum making project presented by Shirley Brauker.



Brycen Rayzuberbuenler performs stand-up comedy with Kenny Pheasant.



Daisy Kostus sings the Water Song in Anishinabemowin.



Clatus Clyne II enjoying the Pow-wow on Saturday night.



David & Helen Roy singing in Anishinaabemowin.



Joe Pitawanakwat, 20, from Wikwemikong, ONT. Demonstrates how to make Juniper Tea and explains its health benefits during his Traditional Medicine presentation.



Darleen & Rick Holstein hand drumming and singing.



Lee and Zhaawan Sprague instruct a porcupine jewelry workshop.



Shirley Brauker puts the finishing touches on her Birchbark Canoe.



Jeremiah Pheasant teaches the children how to play Anishinabe Baseball.



LRBOI Tribal Council serves up a yummy lunch on Friday afternoon.



John Koon holds up an example of the bottom of a black ash basket during his presentation of basket making.

Tax-Exempt Quotas

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

Changes are coming for Resident Tribal Members

The annual State/Tribe Tax Summit was held on July 14, 2011 in Okemos, Michigan. The Tax Agreement between the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and the State of Michigan requires that representatives of the Tribe and State shall attend an annual summit together with representatives of other tribes that are signatories to a similar tax agreement with the state. The purpose of this summit is to provide a forum to discuss matters relating to the Tax Agreement.

An issue that came up at this year's summit was the definition of "principal place of residence" for the purpose of Resident Tribal Member status. The Tribes will be working together to clarify this issue and make recommendations to the state Treasury Department liaison. Resident Tribal Members should be aware that they may be asked to verify their physical address to retain RTM status and eligibility for RTM exemptions.

Cheers & Jeers

Tribal members purchasing motor fuel or tobacco products at the Little River Trading Post can usually receive a tax exemption on their purchase. However, calculating and recording these exemptions requires a significant amount of extra work for the staff. When the point-of-sale computer system broke down recently, the staff had all the work they could handle to continue to make regular sales. Tribal discounts were suspended for approximately three days.

Cheers: To the Tribal members who were understanding and polite when the cashier explained that they would not be receiving their discount.

Jeers: To the Tribal members who were rude to the employees who were trying their best to keep the station operating under very difficult circumstances.

The Tax-exempt Motor Fuel Rules clearly state that the fuel tax exemption program may be suspended by the Tribe at any time. They further state that the Tribe may bar individual Tribal members from the fuel tax exemption program if operational rules and procedures are not followed. Please treat the Trading Post employees with respect and direct your concerns or complaints to the Tax Office.

Trust Lands grow!

Manistee trust lands for Little River grew in late July by 700 acres! The US Department of the Interior, Interior Board of Indian Appeals, affirmed the right of the Superintendent, Michigan Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs to approve the acquisition of 12 parcels into trust for the tribe.

The decision rendered on July 27th, 2011 came following an appeal by the Manistee County Board of Commissioners. The Board had asserted that that the original decision to take the land into trust led to "the loss of tax revenue (which) would adversely impact the County and (that they were) advocating for better communication with local jurisdictions concerning fee-to-trust acquisitions."

In its decision July 27th, 2011, Chief Administrative Judge Steven K. Linscheid and Administrative Judge Debora G. Luther said that, "The County's concerns regarding the financial impact from the loss of tax revenue resulting from the land passing into trust status and lack of communication from BIA about the acquisitions are irrelevant under the terms of the statute."

The Judges further stated that, "There is no dispute that the conditions precedent to taking these parcels into trust are satisfied."

This decision process has taken over two years and is based upon 25 U.S.C. 1300k-4(b) which is the legislation reaffirming Federal recognition of Little River and further mandating the acquisition of "real property" for the benefit of the tribe.

The original request to move the 12 parcels into trust began on September 5, 2006. The parcels are known as the 'High Bridge' property and the 'Old House' property.

Board of Director meeting change

Board Director (and Tribal Council member) Virg Johnson reports that the Resort/Casino board is in the process of shifting the meeting dates from Thursday & Friday to Friday and Saturday. "We are hopeful by changing the days we meet it might encourage our membership to attend the open sessions that will be on Saturdays. We are also working on moving some of the agenda items normally addressed in closed to open," said Johnson. They will still meet in August and September on Thursday & Friday. The changeover to Friday & Saturday will start in October:

Here are the correct dates through the end of the year:

August 25 & 26

Sept 22 & 23

Oct 28 & 29

Nov 18 & 19

Dec 16 & 17

Jan 27 & 28

Sturgeon that are wild at heart

The Natural Resources Department is happy to announce the publication of "Comparing size, movement, and habitat selection of wild and streamside-reared lake sturgeon," in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management by Mann, Holtgren, Auer and Ogren. This is the fourth scientific publication the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians over the past 10 years of sturgeon research. This research article evaluates the effects of streamside rearing on young sturgeon by comparing the LRBOI raised fish to sturgeon in the Big Manistee River that were caught in the wild. The findings documented that streamside rearing keeps the "wild" traits by preserving growth rates, movement patterns and habitat use. This is encouraging because the LRBOI Sturgeon Stewardship Plan directs that management of this sturgeon population should be in a way that protects the natural features of the fish. This research is the first to document the benefit of streamside rearing and will be useful for the other agencies that are operating streamside rearing facilities in the Lake Michigan Basin. The Natural Resources Department has not only published this research but has presented it at scientific conferences where it was well received. The LRBOI is committed to the long-term preservation of the Big Manistee River sturgeon population and continues to be a leader in sturgeon management across the Great Lakes.

Support for the proposed LRBOI casino project in Muskegon continues to be strong. The Muskegon Chronicle (*Eric Gaertener*) reported on July 15th that, "Citing expected boosts in jobs and tourism, the Fruitport Township Board of Trustees reiterated this week the local governments "full support" for a proposed casino-centered project.

The Chronicle also reported that township officials unanimously approved an official resolution of support on the previous Monday night for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians' proposed casino in the township. Muskegon County commissioners took similar action the previous week.

The resolutions of support from the two local governmental units followed an announcement last month by Gov. Rick Snyder's office that he would not be signing a compact amendment for the casino at this time.

In its resolution, the township board calls the project an "entertainment venue" designed to generate economic growth and help make Muskegon County a destination point for tourists. The Little River Band's proposed development would include stores, hotels and a larger anchor retail facility. The tribe, which currently operates the Little River Casino and Resort in Manistee, owns 233 acres at and around the former Great Lakes Downs site along the booming Harvey Street corridor.

"Fruitport Township recognizes the proposed project would benefit Fruitport Township, Muskegon County and West Michigan through much-needed economic development of the location as well as the economic growth that will evolve alongside the casino project," the resolution states."

The tribe remains committed to the project which would provide a much needed economic boost to the hard hit Muskegon area.

Do you Tweet, FB or what?



At this time, there is not yet an official Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Facebook page; YouTube site, Tweet or any of the social media that you hear about in the news (and from your teenagers). Several people have their own tribal 'pages' where they hold discussions, deliver their personal comments and unfortunately a few sadly demonstrate personal hatred and ignorance.

One problem with the social media, as it is called, is that there is very little control over the content. You might say, "That's a good thing!" However, that is not necessarily the case. Someone who has lost an election, a court case, loves causing trouble or just doesn't like what you are doing or look like can make comments that some people actually believe! Most of our people are intelligent enough to realize that these kind of social media comments hold little truth or value...but some really love the garbage that is there! A good conversation with a Spiritual Leader, Pipe Carrier, Elder, Priest or Councilor is probably recommended for them...

There actually is great value to the Social Media as a way to get communications out to people. News of a tribal meeting; availability of fish from Natural Resources; heads-up on Per Cap distribution; Traditional Healer visits, Birthdays and many, many things should be on the Social Media! To that end, your Tribal Office of Public Affairs would like to hear from you on your use of the Social Media.

Please shoot us an e-mail telling us what Social Media you use. Send the information to currentscomments@lrboi.com. We are working with the IT Department and the government to develop some policies so that we can start officially using the social media and help to keep you informed with the truth. We hope to launch our social media 'sites' soon and it will most likely be a Facebook account. Watch the *Currents* for details!

2011 Eagle Staff Gathering!



September 30th through October 2nd is the 10th year celebration and 2011 Eagle Staff Gathering. The Gathering will be held at Enji Maawnjiding (Native Centre) of the Sault College-Sault Ste. Marie, ON Canada beginning at 5 p.m. The Eagle Staffs gather "in celebration of our strength in maintaining our culture and language, and as we gather, we stand for unity." Watch for more details in the Currents and Rapid River News.

The Warriors Society of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians will be hosting the 2012 gathering.

Sturgeon Open House

Please mark your calendar for September 17th!

The Natural Resources Department is inviting all of you to attend a sturgeon rearing facility openhouse.

We having tours of the facility and celebrate the 10th year of the sturgeon program.

More details will be in the next addition of the Currents.





Information: 2011 Elders Insurance - 65 years and older

Dear Elder,
If you need information on the elders insurance you can contact our coordinator June Sam or Luke Fredicks at Manistee Insurance.

The insurance company asks that you keep your address updated with them. If you move please call them and let them know your change of address. Also, they need a copy of your Tribal Id number.

If you have any questions they would be more than happy to answer them for you.

Respectfully,
Elders Committee Secretary,
Marcella Leusby

Elders Committee
375 River Street

Manistee, Michigan 49660

Elders Coordinator:

June Sam: 231-398-6880

Manistee Insurance Company

Luke Fredricks

Group Benefits Specialist

330 River Street

Manistee, Michigan 49660

Ph: 231-723-2566 Extension: 238

Fax: 231-723-9826

lfredricks@cadillacinsurancecenter.com

Aki Community Center Elder Meals Menu 2011



September Activities :

Every Wednesday is Wii Bowling.

The 8th Celebrating September Birthdays!

The 13th Personal Emergency Planning

The 15th Prize bingo!

The 19th Fun with Words

The 29th prize Bunco!

Please contact Noelle Cross with any questions Phone: 231-398-6886

E-mail: ncross@lrboi.com

Volunteers are needed to help with meals if interested please contact Noelle.

Meals served at 12 o'clock

* No Charge to Elders, their Spouse and Handicap/Disabled individuals who reside with Elder.

* Guests Meals are \$5.00

Donations are appreciated and will be used for program activities and food.

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Elder Committee Mtg.
4	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6 Bratwurst Baked beans Corn Cookie	7 Grilled Fish Sweet potato fries Snap peas Lemon Pie <i>Activity: Wii Bowling</i>	8 Pot Roast Red potato Carrots Birthday Cake!! Happy Birthday Elders!!	9	10
11	12 Rubin Sandwich Macaroni n cheese Cauliflower Jell-o	13 Chili Corn Bread Steamed Carrots Pudding	14. Hot Turkey Sandwich Mashed Potato Green beans Jell-O <i>Activity: Wii Bowling</i>	15. Potato Soup Ham Sandwich Carrots Peach crisp Prize Bingo	16. Muskegon Luncheon Please RSVP with Noelle	17
18	19. Chicken Breast Baked Potato Green beans Pudding <i>Fun With Words</i>	20. Bean Soup Fry Bread Veggie Peaches	21. Tribal Reaffirmation Day Office Closed	22. Turkey n Swiss Potato salad Lettuce and Tomato Juice Fruit Pie	23	24
25	26. Make your own Taco 's Spanish Rice Beans Yogurt	27. Breakfast for lunch!!!	28. Spaghetti Broccoli Fruit juice Tapioca <i>Activity: Wii Bowling</i>	29. Oven Fried Chicken Lima Beans Apple Sherbet	30	
			Coffee, milk and water are available at every meal.		Menu subject to change with out notice. Meals meet 1/3 of the RDI based on a 1600 to 2000 calorie diet.	



Bakakwenh Naboo



(Chicken Soup)

Do you have a question about Anishinaabek culture, traditional teachings, relationship building, or need some general advice. Well then you are in "cluck."

Bakakwenh Naboo will answer all of your questions; you know the ones you have always wanted to ask. No question is to obscure for Bakakwenh Naboo to answer.

There will be some great wisdom, some profound thoughts and some good ideas, all mixed in with some dry humor, Ahaaw! Some very dry humor.

csoup@lrboi-nsn.gov

Peacemaking

The Peacemaking/Probation Department is asking for volunteers, Tribal Members who are interested in being Peacemakers. All you have to do to start the process of becoming a Peacemaker is send to the Peacemaking/Probation Department a letter of interest. You have all the tools you need to become a Peacemaker, we will provide you with some techniques and training. We will be by your side for your first peacemaking session. And, as an added benefit, the Peacemaking/Probation Department now provides a stipend, for Peacemakers.

By putting relationships back together, we put back together our community. Remember, you can't build a community without "unity"

For more information contact:

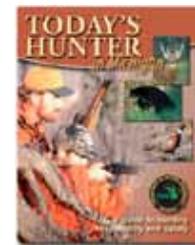
Pat Wilson, Peacemaking/Probation Supervisor
Phone: 1(231)398-2239, pwilson@lrboi.com or
Austen Brauker, Peacemaking/Probation Assistant
Phone: 1(231)398-2240 abrauker@lrboi.com

Fall Gathering

Fall Gathering is being scheduled to begin October 12 at sunrise and continue until October 15. Anyone interested in offering a teaching or presentation should send the information to Jay Sam including topic and time needed for the teaching/presentation for scheduling purposes.

If there are dates that are preferred please include them as well. Miigwech.

HUNTER SAFETY CLASS



WHEN: August 26th 2011 AT 6:00 P.M. TILL 9:00 P.M. August 27th 2011 AT 8:00 A.M. TILL 4:00P.M.

WHERE: 3031 DOMRES RD. MANISTEE MI 49660

CONTACT: L.R.B.O.I DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY Call 231-398-3413 TO REGISTER
Or sign up by e-mail rrables@lrboi.com

Please call and sign up for the class, space is limited. All materials and equipment provided. Parts of the class will be outdoors, so please dress accordingly.

Class sponsored by L.R.B.O.I. Conservation Enforcement

His name was Benny Compeau (born 1888) and was responsible for giving me a puzzle which I have not been able to solve in a lifetime.

I have no idea as to the age of Ben. He looked old to me with his weathered skin, gray hair sharply-lined facial creases. A hawk-like nose was so typically Indian. He was short and bow-legged but well-muscled. I pictured him as a voyager from the sixteen hundreds.

Ben lived alone as a small squatter in a small cabin on the north shore of Hamlin Lake. He made his living by doing chores for people who lived on the lake. He was usually a very polite and quiet man.

Ben once told "Mumsey" Nurnberg that he would have terrible dreams and visions at night in which he saw his ancestors come into his cabin and wall. "They looked like coconut heads," he said. Mumsey was his only confessor and friend whom he could trust with his dark secrets.

Now Mumsey Nurnberg was a woman in her sixties, widowed and lived with her brother on Hamlin Lake. Mumsey was considered somewhat "woody" herself. She prided herself on being an authority on everything of the forest.

The author goes on to say, as a city boy, I had a lot of questions for Mumsey and one day we got to talking about eagles. It seems she had spotted an eagle's nest on a wooded rise on the dunes and described roughly where to look for it. I thanked her for the information and told her that I'd like to hike to it and see for myself what an eagle's nest really looked like.

And then the bomb came! Ben had cautioned her not to go there because it was "sacred ground" and it was called "Devil's Island." Well that was too much for me to miss! I had heard about Indian mounds which the Indians tried to keep secret.

The next day a friend and I climbed a tall dune in the Ludington State Park and looked to the west toward Lake Michigan. We spotted a ridge on the dunes with three tall pine trees and sure enough, there was the eagle's nest! It was about a mile and a half away.

When we reached the spot, the eagles were not there. They had raised their young and abandoned the nest but the place that they had chosen was indeed strange and eerie sight.

It was a coned shaped mound of sand about fifty to seventy-five feet high and covered with huge jumpers and cedar trees. Many were dead. On the top were three large white pines.

The strangest of all was a moat six feet deep and about twenty feet wide that encircled the entire mound. There was no water in the moat and much of it sheltered junipers which gave off an intoxicating fragrance.

We tried to climb the central cone and found it was difficult because of the ancient, large twisted trunks of the junipers and cedars. In a sense, it was a Northwood's jungle and we felt we were being held back by twisted branches, some of which literally held us in place, temporarily, like claws. We finally picked our way up the southern face and came to the top.

From the top we could see a large expanse of the shore line of Lake Michigan in all its pristine beauty.

We took time to look for Indian artifacts but could find none on the surface. We did not see any spirits or devils and did not hear Indian drums –only the wind rushing through the pine boroughs overhead and the cedars, as if they were moaning and holding back the elements as they held us back. We felt as if we were not welcome in this place.

The most curious thing about "Devil's Island" was the moat. Could Indians have made it as a source of sand to pile on the central mound? If so, it would have been the tallest mound in Michigan. If not, it was the strangest weather made mound indeed.

Over the years we occasionally returned, one time with an archeologist friend. He was so impressed that he returned, several times alone but he, like me, was unwilling to say whether it was truly man-made, but each time you would still get the strange feeling that you should not be there.

And now Benny Compeau is long gone and I'm sorry that I didn't talk to him directly. But old Indians were story tellers, because they had no written language, and in that way we passed their tales from generation to generation.

Now that I am old I want to pass this tale along to whoever reads this and questions: Is this sacred ground? Did Indian people actually build this? If so, what was their purpose? Was it to bury their dead or was it a meeting ground for religious ceremonies or was it an observation hill so that they could see people coming and go in canoes on Lake Michigan?

I would favor Benny's tale that it is sacred ground and man-made, or was it the devil's work. We may never know.

This was a story told many years ago and rewritten by Benita Walters about her Great uncle, Benny Compeau. Devil's Island is located a mile or two north of the Trail Tree in the Ludington State Park.

The original story of the Trail Trees was in the Current on November 2005.

Travels of a Princess

LRBOI Tribal Princess Josephine Pete has been active since winning her crown in Manistee. Here are some details on her travels:

*Two weeks of Girl Scout camp (this was her ninth year) where in addition to regular camp activities she took a CPR/First Aid class and completed the high ropes course. She did an exhibition dance the last night of camp as most of the campers & counselors had never been to a pow-wow. Both Josephine and her sister Pandora, spent time explaining their culture to other campers in their cabins.

*Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Pow-Wow - where she participated in the midnight two-step even though Josephine says she is "not very good at it yet".

*Fort Totten/Spirit Lake Tribe Pow-Wow - This is in North Dakota, there the pow-wow also included a rodeo and a parade. Josephine also saw some buffalo there. She also visited the Fort Totten historical site which includes an Indian Boarding school that operated until 1959.

The family is now working their way back to lower Michigan to attend the pow-wow in Mt. Pleasant (Saginaw Chippewa Tribe) the first weekend of August.



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News & Updates for Indian Country

The National Congress of American Indians | Founded 1944

Indian Country Looks Forward Following Debt-Limit Deal

NCAI calls for the Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction to Consider the Federal Obligations to Indian Tribes

Washington, DC - The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in a statement released today acknowledged the hard work of the President and Congress in averting a debt default by the United States. Immediately following the signature of the bill into law by President Obama, NCAI called on leaders of Congress and the President, to ensure members appointed to the Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction have significant experience with the constitutional federal trust responsibility to tribal nations.

"President Obama and members of Congress worked hard to protect the economic security of our country. Now, there is much more work to be done. As members of the American family of governments, tribal nations will continue the effort to strengthen our economies," said NCAI President Jefferson Keel shortly after President Obama signed legislation to avoid financial crisis. "In order to do so, we call on Congress to appoint members of the new Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction who are well versed in the federal trust responsibility to Indian tribes."

Tribal governments are essential components of the American governmental framework, as assigned in the constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court. It's essential that the commitments to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes are honored when appropriating dollars and evaluating spending for education, law enforcement, emergency and disaster funding, infrastructure, health care, and social services.

"Tribal economies have felt some of the most significant pain in this recession. However, we've stayed optimistic about the opportunities available to create greater economic prosperity and we can't let our momentum slow," continued President Keel, the Lt. Governor of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. "We are dedicated to engaging in the new energy economy, developing infrastructure, strengthening our schools, and contributing to the economy of the United States. Good fiscal policy for America considers and invests in the unique opportunities presented by the innovation of tribal governments."

Keel concluded by stating, "Tribes understand the need to make government more efficient, however if tribal nations aren't adequately represented on the Joint Committee, the United States will be weaker as a result."

But the settlement required approval from a federal judge. That came June 20, when U.S. Senior District Judge Thomas F. Hogan provided approval after a hearing on the merits of the case and on legal fees. The Washington, D.C., district court, at the end of July, filed its final approval.

Individual account-holders who qualify will receive payments of at least \$800, and many will get substantially more.

The largest pool of beneficiaries may be in the Eastern Agency of the Navajo Nation, but settlement comes too late for many people, said Ervin Chavez, president of Shi Shi Kéyah, a Navajo group that has fought for American Indian individuals' rights for nearly three decades.

He estimates between 40,000 and 50,000 Navajo citizens qualify to receive a payment.

"They were delayed payments that came sporadically, every six months, year or two years, to allotment owners," he said. "Even when they got checks, there was nothing attached to it. There were gas wells pumping, but no justification for what they were paid for."

The group, which eventually joined the Cobell case, wanted three things, Chavez said. It sought timely payments, an explanation of payments and establishment of a nearby office where individuals could interact face-to-face with government officials about their accounts.

"There were games played with the Navajo people," Chavez said of the government. "Elders have passed on — lots of people have passed on — waiting for this settlement. It tears your heart out to see elderlies waiting and waiting for any settlement."

Chavez, who said the settlement is "the best the federal government would agree to," is urging all account holders to file a claim. He also hopes the settlement means government reform.

"Is the government going to make honest changes? Will we see honest improvements to the system?" he said. "That's the real test. Or are we going to wake up to the same bureaucracy?"

Obama, after Hogan approved the settlement, issued a statement pledging a stronger relationship with American Indian tribes. There are 564 federally recognized tribes in the United States.

"After fifteen years of litigation, today's decision marks another important step forward in the relationship between the federal government and Indian Country," Obama said June 20.

"Resolving this dispute was a priority for my administration, and we will engage in government-to-government consultations with tribal nations regarding the land consolidation component of the settlement to ensure that this moves ahead at an appropriate pace and in an appropriate manner. And going forward, my administration will continue to strengthen our relationship with Indian Country."

Cobell settlement in last stages

The news media have reported that American Indians who want to claim their portion of the \$3.4 billion Cobell vs. Salazar settlement must file the paperwork by Sept. 16.

That's 51 days after the court's final approval of the settlement on July 27th, 2011.

The settlement, reached Dec. 7, 2009, in United States District Court in Washington, D.C., ended a 15-year legal battle that pitted Elouise Cobell, of Valier, Mont., against the federal government.

The case started when Cobell, who has an Individual Indian Money account, uncovered mismanagement of those accounts by the federal government while she was working as an accountant on the Montana Blackfeet reservation.

Cobell filed her June 1996 lawsuit against the secretaries of the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Treasury. Her lawsuit claimed that the federal government mismanaged

trust funds belonging to half a million individuals over the course of nearly 125 years.

The allotment act issued individual land rights to American Indians, but the Bureau of Indian Affairs managed the lands. Land owners were supposed to receive royalty checks for sub-surface resources, but the government made no reports of the money owed or paid, or of the interest earned.

When President Barack Obama on Dec. 8, 2010, signed legislation approving the settlement and authorizing \$3.4 billion in funds, he settled the largest class-action lawsuit ever filed against the federal government.

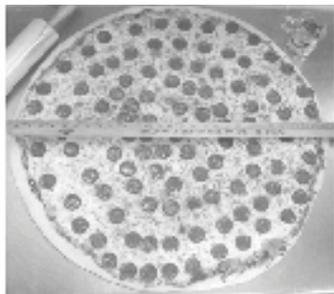
"We were able to stand up for individual Indians and get them justice," Cobell said during a February interview when she visited Farmington. "This is the largest class-action lawsuit in history, and we're making the government pay attention to individual Indians."

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Commissions and Committees

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- Commerce Commission
- Gaming Commission
- Housing Commission
- Binojeeuk Commission
- Enrollment Commission
- Health Commission
- Natural Resource Commission.



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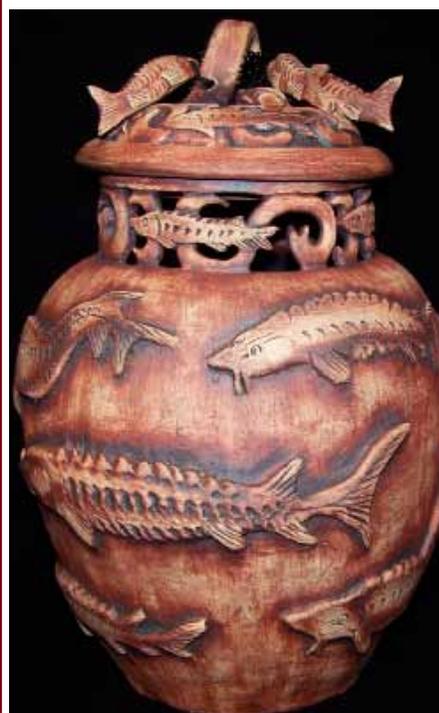
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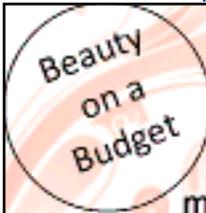
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Government Closes for the following Holidays

- *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.

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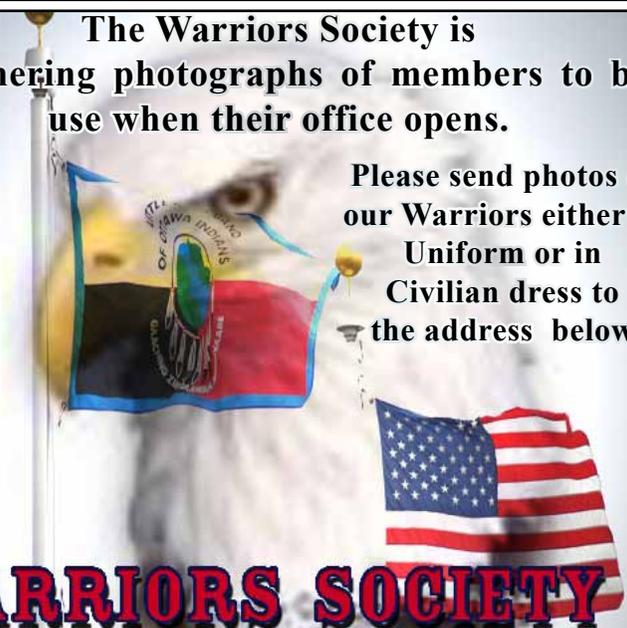
Please call Julie Wolfe

(231) 398-6740

Sponsored by Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health of the
Little River Band Of Ottawa Indians

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
Civilian dress to
the address below



WARRIORS SOCIETY

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

Dan Shepard Little River Band of Ottawa Indian's Planner participated in the Wind Energy Symposium held recently in Manistee as part of the leadership team and panel of experts. Here is information concerning the wind energy initiative so far.

Manistee and Benzie Counties, Michigan - Preliminary information from a Wind Energy Symposium held on July 6, 2011 by Macalester College in partnership with the Understanding Wind Energy Initiative is available with a more complete summary report due in August.

The symposium was funded under a grant from the National Science Foundation to Macalester College. The purpose of the symposium was to understand how preferences for wind energy changed in differing landscapes, in this case using Manistee and Benzie county landscapes as a point of reference. Twenty-one individuals from most of the six townships participating in the *Understanding Wind Energy Initiative* were selected by Macalester from applications received with a goal being to reflect the diversity of the participating townships.

Ninety percent of the participants felt that they learned something new from the symposium and 91 percent said that they had a better understanding of the difficult choices faced by local officials with regard to wind energy developments. Thirty percent of the participants said that they changed their opinion about the role of citizen engagement in wind energy development.

Participants were asked a series of questions about wind energy and responded as follows:

1. 90% strongly support minimum setbacks for wind energy from property lines and residential structures.
2. 57% strongly support payment in lieu of taxes to provide more certainty about local revenues generated by wind energy developments.
3. 81 percent said that they strongly supported independent studies to evaluate the impacts and implications of wind energy developments.
4. When asked about public participation, 81 percent said that they strongly supported good public processes and citizen forums.
5. 81% strongly supported wind energy companies providing local jobs and using locally available materials and manufacturing for their development.
6. A total of 62% of participants said that restrictions should be placed on the size and scale of overall wind energy projects.
7. 86 percent supported the establishment of siting criteria in relation to population density, bodies of water and natural and scenic areas.

8. 62% said that they favored addressing shadow flicker and light in the siting process.

9. 62% also said that wind energy developments that are sited should maximize energy production to provide the greatest alternative energy output.

10. A total of 71% said that there should be contingencies to address wind energy impacts upon non-participating property owners, such as impacts on property values and agricultural animals.

11. 71% said that they strongly supported protecting wildlife in siting wind energy developments, such as the recommendations of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

12. 71% also said that they supported a fair public/private benefit ratio between wind energy developments and communities, including the possibility of some form of co-op model.

13. 38% strongly supported that wind energy developments should be required to show a demonstration of need for the project.



“One of the goals of the Understanding Wind Energy Initiative leadership team is to provide the community with information that is generated by the project as soon as it is available,” said Brad Hopwood, chair of the Arcadia Township Planning Commission and member of the Leadership Team. “There will be a more complete report on symposium results available in the next few weeks. In addition, property owners in all of the six townships have also been asked to complete surveys about wind energy and return them to Macalester College for compilation and analysis. We understand that hundreds of completed surveys have been received.”

“The primary purpose of the Understanding Wind Energy Initiative is to ensure that our communities and township leaders have the opportunity to learn about wind energy alternatives and implications in a number of ways so that good policy decisions can be made,” Hopwood said. “We will have much more information available in August, including responses to the 22 pages of questions that were submitted about wind energy from all sources earlier this year.” Townships represented on the Leadership Team include Onekama, Arcadia, Pleasanton, Bear Lake, Joyfield and Blaine Townships.

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

Elders Reminders

Contact June Sam at 231-398-6880 for any information

September 20th- Elder Day Trip-

Grand Traverse Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Suttons Bay, Michigan
 Elder's day trip to Preshabestown. Contact June Sam for sign-up and information

October 12th, 13th 14th, 2011-MIEA Meeting

Michigan Indian Elders Association Meeting
 Little River Casino and Resort

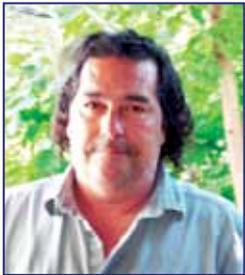
November 4th and 5th, 2011-Pending

Elders Conference
 Little River Casino and Resort

December 3rd, 2011

Elders Christmas Party

The Grants Department is proud to announce that the tribes' application to the Department of Energy under the First Steps Toward Developing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency on Tribal Lands was approved in the amount of \$50,000. Listed below is a summary of what the grant will be used for.



Tribal Planner, Dan Shepard will be the grant manager for this one year project. This is the first competitive grant that LRBOI has submitted to the Department of Energy. Now that we have been awarded this First Steps grant, we are eligible to apply for both Renewable Energy and Energy

Efficiency projects. The goal of this specific grant was to provide training and information about Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency to not only staff, and elected officials, but Tribal Citizens as well. Providing basic training and information about the types of renewable energy and the importance of energy efficiency puts everyone on the same page. If all involved, staff, elected officials and Citizens have a basic understanding of both components, decision making becomes much easier. This grant is critical in planning for the future and what the Tribe would like to do to decrease our use of energy and increase our ability to realize cost savings and be kinder and gentler to Mother Earth.

The grant will:

1. Provide introduction to renewable energy systems and energy efficiency training for up to 30 relevant staff, elected officials and Tribal Citizens and introducing the LRBOI Renewable Energy Planning and Assessment Study. By providing introductory training on renewable energy systems, the importance of

energy efficiency and how to achieve it and finally reviewing, discussing and planning to implement the action items in the Study, the LRBOI will achieve this project objective.

2. Provide Energy Auditor Certification training for (8) relevant staff and Tribal Citizens to become certified to perform Energy Audits. By providing this training opportunity the LRBOI increases internal and personal capacities, strengthens our sovereignty and fulfills our commitment to Mother Earth. (Note – by having the grant fund the certification process, then having those tribal energy auditors conducting the audits, saves approximately \$400,000 if we were to pay an outside agency to audit all tribal buildings including housing, government buildings, gas station and casino/resort.)

3. Purchase the necessary equipment for the Tribal Energy Auditors to perform the audits that will be tribal property and shared with the certified auditors. After the trainees become certified they will need the necessary equipment to perform energy audits on Tribal Buildings, customers of our Tribal Construction Company, for local government offices, etc.

4. Conduct Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Workshops train the trainer style so that our staff and Tribal Citizens can offer workshops at our Membership Meetings, local units of government, school systems and other interested groups. LRBOI strives to be a good

neighbor to the non-tribal community by sharing what we have. Providing RE and EE workshops are another way that we can do that and make a significant impact on the future.

5. Attend 2 mandatory DOE trainings. According to the grant guidelines the Technical Contact or grant manager must attend 2 DOE sponsored trainings.

6. Develop renewable energy and energy efficiency information materials specific to our tribal community and then to the non-tribal community. The LRBOI desires to provide in-hand materials that can be passed out at workshops and meetings. We will develop two communications; one specific to our Tribal Citizens and one to the general public. To ensure that our Tribal Citizens get the materials, we will create a brochure to be mailed to all heads of household.

Shepard added that his office provided information, data and elements of the tribe's adopted renewable energy plan combined with other elements of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiative examples to be included in the grant submittal. This grant provides the means for the tribe to move forward in the implementation of goals identified in the renewable energy plan.

Thanks to our Tribal Planner and Grants Departments and specifically Grant Writer Melissa Waitner for her work in this new, important effort of the Tribe.

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
Monthly Income Standards
October 1, 2010 & October 1, 2011
Household Size Income Limits
1. \$ 1,045.00
2. \$ 1,357.00
3. \$ 1,668.00
4. \$ 1,991.00
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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
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Office # are 231-398-6716 or 231-398-6715

Fall Salmon Harvest in Streams and Rivers

Many opportunities exist for the harvest of salmon in the streams and rivers of the 1836 Ceded Territory, including hook and line, spears, bows and hand nets. Under the 2007 Inland Consent Decree, the LRBOI Natural Resource Department will continue regulating salmon harvest similar to past years.

All Streams and Rivers except the Little Manistee River:

Hook and line, spearing, bowfishing and handnet techniques may be used. Throughout the 1836 Ceded Territory your Tribal ID card serves as your fishing license.

For hook and line fishing:

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

For spears, bowfishing and handnets:

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

Chinook Harvest on the Little Manistee River:

The Little Manistee River is an egg-take and salmon harvest facility operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment. The weir is used to block Chinook salmon so eggs can be collected. The eggs collected at the weir are sent to State Fish Hatcheries where they are raised and stocked all over Michigan. Eggs are also supplied to other states. In the 2007 Inland

Consent Decree the State and the Tribes agreed to protect the Chinook salmon in the Little Manistee River during egg collection while maintaining Tribal harvest. Regulations and opportunities for the Little Manistee River Chinook salmon harvest are presented below:

- From September 1st to November 14th, spears and bows may be used to harvest salmon from 300 feet below the weir to the south end of Manistee Lake (See fishing regulations Table 6, Note 3 for specific locations). Hook and line may not be used in the Little Manistee River below the weir to harvest salmon *during this period*.
- Permits **and** harvest report cards are required and can be acquired at the LRBOI Natural Resource Department. Harvest report cards must be returned within 7 days of harvest. You must carry your permit with you when bowfishing, spearing, or netting.
- There are weekly quotas established and permits will be allocated until the quota is met for the week. Total allocation for the 2011 season is 334 fish for all five 1836 Treaty Tribes. Permits will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.
- If/when the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment meets its Chinook salmon egg take goals for the year there will be no quotas.
- Hook-and-Line fishing is closed in the southern end of Manistee Lake from September 6 through October 15 (See Fishing Regulations 6.04.G).
- Hook-and-Line fishing, bowfishing, spearing, and hand netting are allowed above the weir (no permit needed, you do need to fill out a harvest report within 7 days).

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

Bear Lake Watershed

You've probably heard about many great things happening in the Greater Bear Watershed. We are working as part of the Greater Bear Watershed steering committee to develop a plan to ensure wise and sustainable use of our watershed resources now and in the future.

The Greater Bear Watershed project team is asking residents and watershed users to provide their input – through an online survey – in order to learn how people use the watershed, how you want it to look in the future, your perceptions of, and priorities for, improving water quality, and to provide general information about the households that could impact the watershed.

Your response is very important to the project. **Please take the time to fill out the survey, which is available through the project website at www.bearwaters.org.** All responses will be treated as confidential. No information will be attributed to an individual resident.

Residents and watershed users can take the survey anywhere they have access to the Internet, including the library, their workplace, or a neighbor's computer.

If you have neighbors who would like to take the survey but do not have access to the Internet, or if you would prefer to take the survey in paper form, please contact Deanna Drazé at 231-362-3519.

You can also visit the project website at www.bearwaters.org to learn more about the watershed and view a map that shows watershed boundaries.

The steering committee will also be hosting **two informational meetings** where residents can learn more about the watershed and provide their



Dear Friends:

As some of you already know I have recently accepted a position with The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon at their John Day Basin Office and will be leaving the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

on Friday August 12th. This new position allows me to reunite with my wife and family that are already living in Oregon, as my wife started a position with the local hospital back at the first of the year. Please consider this to be my sincere goodbye to each and every one of you.

I want you all to know that I am truly leaving here with mixed feelings; happy about my new career opportunity but sad to be leaving Little River where I have so many wonderful friends and colleagues. The last thirteen plus years here at Little River has been the best period of my career so far. I have learned a great deal and worked with many people with whom I am sure I will remain friends for a long time. I can only wish that my new job will give me such

rewarding experiences and supportive friends. Thank you so much for making my time at Little River a truly memorable one. I invite any of you who would like to keep in touch to e-mail me at (archandchuke@yahoo.com).

My very best wishes for the future go out to each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Archie Martell

By Austen Brauker
Peacemaking/Probation Department

Indian Village Camp has been reconnecting the youth to a very special place, not only the physical location of Indian Village, but an emotional place that is inside of them, a place of spiritual and historic connection to our tribal identity and some of the ancestors who came before them. The land where the camp takes place is very special. We are sharing this with visitors as we explain some of the history associated with the area as related to us by our elders. We are able to tell them stories from those who lived there, about growing up in that area, what daily life was like, about trapping and trading for food and supplies, about some of the families who lived there, about how children walked down the long road to catch their ride to school in the winter, about hunting and fishing on the river and bayou, about using the spring to get their water, chopping wood to stay warm and about practical jokes and all of the funny stories that elders enjoyed telling. I have talked to several elders personally about Indian Village history and asked to record them as they recounted their found memories and stories. This has helped us convey to the youth what daily life was like and compare it to the way they live today, where water comes from merely turning on the tap, where heat comes from turning up a thermostat and electricity flows out of wall plugs. It is a real eye opener to them when they have to live without these modern conveniences for just four days. I have also done some reading about the area and looked into what records and reports that I could find regarding the property. This is an ongoing process, so if anyone would like to share anything they know about Indian Village,

it would help us to carry on this special piece of tribal history by extending it into the minds of our upcoming generations. This history is being shared with those youth who attend the camp. They are building their own connections and new memories of Indian Village. It seems that they are reconnecting to the land and it is becoming a special place for a new generation of people who will also have special memories attached to the location. By sharing this place with our youth we are making sure that in the future, this place will be protected, kept clean and preserved in the best way possible. Last summer an enormous pile of metal and glass debris was collected from the area and piled up for removal. This summer we were able to haul most of it away by taking a little bit at a time at the end of each work day. Sapling lodges have been built where youth participants sleep while attending camp, along with a long house where they gather for meals and talking circles. These are impermanent structures that have no foundations and are tied together with twine. There are two garden areas as you enter the property that have deer fence around them. This fence is a plastic mesh tied to sapling poles with zip-ties. We have also planted apple trees just as someone had done years ago, along with cherry trees and peach trees to feed people and animals that come to visit. This will also help bring game to the area for those who use the property for hunting. None of the changes that have occurred at Indian Village are permanent. We do not want to alter the land in any dramatic or destructive way. Major changes have been to clear brush and debris, to clear out dead limbs, such as the

scraggly ones at the bottom of the red pine monoforest, and to bring in rocks to go around the garden edges. Because we teach identification of medicinal and edible plants, we try as much as possible not to disturb the little green brothers and sisters who live there. We want this to be a haven for plants, trees, animals and people. It is now much easier for people, especially elders, to take a nice walk along the top of the hillside and look across the open expanse of the pleasant valley below. So far, the program has been very successful and has kindled a spark in the youth participants to appreciate the way things were and the way things are for them now. We would like to encourage volunteers to come forward and share in this experience by participating as adult leaders, to tell their stories, to share in revitalizing this land for the future. By sharing, laughing and remembering, we hope to keep this land alive by gathering together, sharing food and stories, offering a new generation the chance to connect to a place where the spirit will move them to return with their own children and keep this cycle going. Please come and add to this process by being an active part of this reconnection. Your memories and stories about Indian Village are needed to be shared with the people who come out there. Please help us to shape this process with your input and thus make it representative of our community. Thank you.

Contact:
Pat Wilson, pwilson@lrboi.com 231-398-2239
Austen Brauker, abrauker@lrboi.com 231-398-2240

Austen J. Brauker
Peacemaking/Probation Department



Indian Village 2nd session



Individual sleeping quarters for youth campers



Longhouse



Three Sisters



fences



Handmade pit-fired pottery made by campers



Birch Bark Baskets

What a Cutie!



A members new pet was seen in Manistee last month!
Meet Ferdinand Charles Xavier I.

65th wedding anniversary



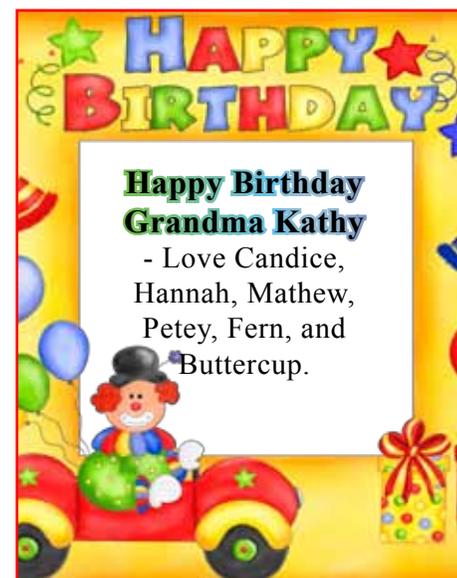
Tribal Elder Gloria and her husband Lee Pomeroy celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary at LRCR Friday August 5, 2011. Pictured left to right - Lee Pomeroy, Russell Pomeroy, Sandy Rozell, Cal Pomeroy, Rose Locke, Matt Pomeroy, Janet Pomeroy, Rob Pomeroy, Gloria Pomeroy, Lee Pomeroy, and Jennifer Snay.

Dean's List for Alycia

Alycia D. Shepard, daughter of Tribal Planner Dan Shepard, has made the Dean's list at Kellogg Community College for the spring 2011 semester. Vice President for Student Services, Dr. Kay Keck, Ph.D. recognized Alycia's outstanding academic performance and congratulated her on a job well done in a press release to the media on July 25th.

HAM Radio Operators

If you are an Amateur Radio operator (HAM), a friend of the tribe would like to chat. Just call out to KD7TOO and say "Hi" to Jack. He is a friend of tribal member Mary Jane Hallowell in Hesperia, MI.



Happy 26th Birthday Thaddeus James "TJ", Theodore IV, on September 11th!
With love from your Mom and Dad, Penny and Ted.



Talent Show winners!



Last month, a talent show was held titled, "Manistee Has Talent". The group *Limitless* won the competition dancing to modern music -- team members are Tai Allen and Wabanung Bussey and their coach is Michael Trucks.

They are from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. The event was part of a fund-raiser for Homeward

Bound, the shelter in Manistee.

CONGRATULATIONS!



In the picture: Left to right Sterling, Daryl, Harrison and Gabriel Memberto

A big Congratulations to Gabriel ClearSky Memberto who is a Little River Band of Ottawa member, and the Onondaga Redhawks Pee Wee Lacrosse team from the Onondaga Nation in Syracuse New York for a unbeaten season of 14 - 0 and winning the Pee Wee All Indian Lacrosse Championship on July 30, 2011. Gabriel had one assist in the 9 to 6 win over the Allegeny Arrows from Salamacia New York.

We are all very proud of you.
From Dad, Michelle and all your brothers and sisters

Tribal Member Race Car Driver



Story and Photos By:
Martha Howell
Currents Reporter

Tribal Member Ken LaHaye works as a Great Lakes Fishery Technician by day and he is an aspiring race car driver at night.

This is LaHaye's second season racing cars at local fairs and festivals around Northern Michigan. He participates in off-road races, "Bump and Run" and "Figure Eight" events.

LaHaye wanted to begin racing after hearing people comment that the tribe should have a car running. So, he acquired a 2,000 Grand Prix, V-6 which had been totaled in an accident and with the help of his pit-crew; Herman Gamlin, Dwayne Bray and Mike Wahr, they began to completely rebuild the car on weekends.

A group of local businesses sponsor the car including Little River Casino Resort, Little River Trading Post, Wellston Hardware, Brian's Auto Parts, Bill's Place, and the Bow-Fishing Association of Michigan.

Come on out and show your support for Ken during these upcoming races:
8/12/11 Northwest Michigan Fair, Traverse City 7 p.m.
8/19/11 Northern District Fair, Cadillac 7 p.m.
8/24/11 & 8/27/11 Manistee County Fair, Onekema 7 p.m.
9/17/11 Scottville Harvest Festival, Scottville 5 p.m.



Joan Karen Spalding



Tribal Elder, Joan K. Spalding age 70, of Sheridan, Michigan, passed away Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at Spectrum Health Blodgett Hospital in East Grand Rapids. She was born November 24, 1940 in Bendon, Michigan the daughter of Chester & Pearl E. (Smith) Beaton.

Joan retired from Social Work where her main concern was the health and welfare of children. She came out of retirement a couple times to serve passionately and diligently for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Joan helped create the Tribal Constitution.

She held many positions, she served on the Tribal Council and was acting Speaker for a time, served as Ogema when another stepped down, she served on the Gaming Commission and was Chairperson of the Commission and sticking to her true path, she also served as Commissioner on Biinoojeuk.

Many of you who may have been involved with the Tribal government in the early days may remember her working here then, and how she freely shared her advice, experience and wisdom with anyone who was wanting to know how best to help the Tribe and its' members. Joan was a play-by-the-book kind of person who also had a great sense of humor, she loved to laugh and loved her family.

Joan is survived by her daughters and son-in-laws Sheryl & (Dave) Freeman of Sheridan, Deb & (Bruce) Blakely of Greenville and Brenda & (Mike) Abbott of Grand Rapids; 11 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren; sisters Susan Davis of Manistee, Elaine Porter of Lake City, Sally Bell of Freesoil and Velva Emmer of Haslett; brother Dan Ward of Lake Odessa. She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter Teresa Schondelmayer and her grandson Thomas Gonser.

A sacred fire was lit on her behalf and Memorial services were held Sunday, July 31st at Aki Maadiziwin Community Center in Manistee. Her hard work and dedication in service to Tribal Government Infrastructure is her legacy.



Relay for Life Baskets!

Congratulations to the winner of the *Relay for Life* gift basket contest...the LRBOI Accounting Department! Valerie Chandler delivered the "sweet" prize to the office on July 21st. In case anyone is wondering, the prizes are a fruit basket, a cake, brownies, sparkling grape juice, cookies, caramel corn, licorice, and a variety of other candies. Thank you too to our judges; they had a hard decision!

Thank you to everyone who donated and put the gift baskets together! The baskets (as well as others) were auctioned off at the Relay on July 22 & 23, 2011. Thanks to those who came out and placed bids while helping our Relay team! The Relay took place at the Manistee High School. The gift baskets that were donated were as follows:



Nature basket (filled with water bottles, t-shirts, framed picture, wild rice, sweetgrass, mugs, and other items)
Natural Resources department.



Family Fun bucket (filled with popcorn, board games, outdoor games, a ball, and other family fun items)
Human Resource department.



Golf basket (filled with golf balls, tees, sun visor, water bottle, and other golf items)
Jessica Burger Ogema's office.



Backpack (filled with an assortment of "back to school" supplies)
Accounting department



(The Winner) - Native basket (filled with a Tim Gibson print, sweetgrass candle, dreamcatcher, earrings, figurine, wild rice, and other native items) - *Accounting department.*

Thank you again to everyone



Cash Cow (wooden crate with two cows and "moola" (or zhoonya) Tribal Council.



for your donations! Every donation is much appreciated!
"Stay tuned for next month's article on the Relay for Life event"

*Valerie Chandler
Tribal Historic
Preservation
Coordinator*

Currents

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

Megwa Ezhiweback



Mdaamini-Giizis (Corn Moon)
September 2011 vol.8 Issue 9



NiiBin Camp!

The Niibin Camp is put on by the Tribal Health Department as part of their Special Diabetes Program Initiatives.



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

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