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Tribal observer



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Boozhu! Welcome to the December issue of the Tribal Observer. The monthly paper is a free service to enrolled Tribal members and employees. Submissions from the Tribal community are encouraged and can be sent to:

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
c/o Tribal Observer
7070 East Broadway Road
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

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Subscription rates for January will be 75 cents per issue or \$15 per year. We would also like to thank our advertisers for their support. Contact the Tribal Observer for new advertising rates as the publication moves to becoming a semi-monthly newspaper on Jan. 15.

DECEMBER 1994 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 12

MANITOGISSISSONS (Ojibwe) Moon of the Spirits

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe ... working together for the future of Mid-Michigan

Open meetings approved for Tribe's three districts

By Joe Sowmick

Three meetings later, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe has found some conflict resolution ... just in time for the New Year.

The first meeting that took place was called on Nov. 17 at the Soaring Eagle Bingo Hall by Tribal Chief Gail Jackson.

"I was approached by several Tribal members in District I (Isabella) and District II (Saganing) about their concerns with proposed amendment changes in the Tribal Constitution," Chief Jackson mentioned. "Tribal members from the two districts never had an opportunity to discuss the changes and I decided to honor the request of the people to hold a community meeting."

It is within the powers of the Tribal Chief to call such a meeting with any of the districts. It was pointed out that District III (At-Large) Tribal members had an opportunity to address the proposed amendment changes and other concerns at a series of regional meetings that took place in September.

"The meetings held in September by District III were open to all Tribal members," said At-Large Advocate Amy Alberts. "All District III community gatherings in September were listed in the Tribal Observer, and any Tribal member regardless of what district they live can attend our meetings."

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police provided security for the closed community meeting of District I and II Tribal members. The Nov. 17 meeting turned from a community discussion to a special Tribal Council meeting. Although no

(See TRIBE page 16)



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

Classroom cooking

As part of "special letter day celebration" activities on Nov. 22, students in the Saginaw Chippewa Academy Binoojinh Montessori's pre-primary program help make gingerbread in recognition of the letter, "G." Pictured from left to right are Earl Pelcher, Heidi Reed, Miranda Wilson and Meaghan Rachor in the foreground. Teacher Sandi Stevens said the children also made uppercase and lowercase letters with green and gold glitter. Another learning exercise included mixing blue and yellow finger paints to make "green." Stevens said Tuesdays are set aside as special letter days and the children can also bring in an object from home which starts with the particular letter to be celebrated.

To state and local governments

Tribal Council approves \$5.9 million in contributions

By Joe Sowmick

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council released on Nov. 30 the figures resulting in the 10 percent distribution of funding to the State of Michigan and local governments.

Pursuant to an August of 1993 legal settlement with the State of Michigan, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe agreed to donate 8 percent of Class III gaming revenues (slot machines) to the state and 2 percent to the local municipalities. This agreement includes all of Michigan's seven federally recognized Tribes.

Payments to the local governments are made on a semi-annual basis to assist with the cost of governmental services to the community and to offset costs associated with the impact of Tribal casino's on local governments.

The state's 8 percent contribution for the second semi-annual payment translates into the amount of \$4,657,409.90.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe has finalized donations of the 2 percent contributions to local govern-

ments in the following amounts:

PAYEE	AMOUNT
Isabella County	\$555,605.98
Chippewa Township	51,286.50
Deerfield Township	26,392.00
Wise Township	30,142.00
Nottawa Township	26,392.00
Standish Township	26,392.00
Lincoln Township	30,141.98
Denver Township	18,000.00

It should be noted the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is holding a payment of \$400,000.00 to Isabella County.

The money, slated for use of a community center, is being withheld until further clarification is made concerning a resolution of issues regarding the project for which the money is allocated.

The total amount given for this semi-annual payment to the local municipalities was \$1,164,352.46.

The Tribal Council did voice their support for a community ice skating facility. Other projects regarding the community center will be reviewed on an individual basis.

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Proposed amendments for Tribal membership detailed

(Editor's note: The following proposed Tribal membership criteria is being reprinted as a request from Tribal Council to inform those who may of not seen the information when it was originally presented.)

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS:

(a) The term "member" as used throughout this Article shall mean those persons enrolled as members of the Tribe pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of Section 2 and persons who became adopted members pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 2.

(b) The term "adopted member" or "persons adopted into the Tribe" shall refer exclusively to persons who became members pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 2.

Comment: Two classes of membership are created by the use of the terms "member" and "adopted member" throughout Article III. However, these terms are not clearly defined in the text of Article III and the addition this section would help to eliminate any confusion of terminology.

SECTION 2. Membership of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe shall consist of:

(a) All persons whose names appeared on any of the following rolls:

- (1) Nov. 10, 1883;
- (2) Nov. 13, 1885;
- (3) Nov. 7, 1891; or
- (4) 1939 Base Roll;

COMMENT: The 1939 Base Roll is added to this section in order to extend eligibility for membership to persons who meet the blood quantum requirements for membership but whose ancestors names do not appear on any of the earlier rolls listed in the current constitution. The 1939 Base Roll was produced shortly after the ratification of the original Tribal constitution in 1937, but was not included in the 1986 amendments to the Tribal constitution.

The Dec. 10, 1982, roll was struck from the proposed amendment because it includes the names of persons who are not the descendants of persons named on the earlier rolls listed above and were enrolled pursuant to subsection (d) of Section 1, Article III, of the current Tribal constitution regarding membership by adoption.

(b) All lineal descendants of persons whose names appear on any of the rolls enumerated in subsection (a) of this section who are at least one-quarter degree Indian blood.

COMMENT: Subsection (b) of the current constitution was struck from this proposed amendment in order to standardize the enrollment process and to ensure the integrity of future Tribal membership. All future applicants for membership would have to meet the same standards of proof regarding Indian blood quantum and descendancy from persons named on the Tribal rolls listed in subsection (a). Also, the enrollment deadline in the current constitution was struck in order to reopen enrollment to persons who missed the 1988 application deadline and to prevent a decline in future Tribal membership.

(c) Any person who is at least one quarter degree Indian blood and: is legally married to a Tribal member; is a legally adopted child of a Tribal member; is the lineal descendant of an adopted Tribal member; or has maintained substantial cultural, family, social or political ties to the Tribal community may become an adopted member of the Tribe pursuant to Tribal laws governing membership by adoption. Every person adopted into the Tribe pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be a member of the Tribe for all purposes, EXCEPT that persons so adopted into the Tribe shall at no time be eligible to hold any elective office in the Tribal gov-

ernment and shall not be eligible for a period of two (2) years following the date of their adoption into the Tribe for any monetary payments apportioned to members of the Tribe because of their membership.

COMMENT: The changes to this section extend eligibility to persons who have "maintained substantial community ties to the Tribe" according to standards to be included in the adoption ordinance. Other changes would clarify the limitations on the rights of adopted members, including a two year restriction from eligibility for Tribal government benefits.

Eligibility for membership can only be established through properly authenticated documentary evidence that satisfies the membership requirements of this section and Tribal laws governing membership and membership by adoption. Evidence of eligibility shall be submitted to the Tribal Secretary or the Tribal Secretary's designee, together with an application for membership that complies with all applicable requirements under Tribal law.

COMMENT: This provision was added to clarify and expand on language in the current constitution regarding the procedural requirements and evidentiary standards for proving membership eligibility.

SECTION 3. Any member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan who is found to have been enrolled on the basis of false information or error shall be subject to disenrollment after notice and hearing pursuant to Tribal law.

COMMENT: This new section was added to provide a process for the reconciliation of membership files with minimum evidentiary standards and to incorporate due process protections within that process.

SECTION 4. Any member of the Tribe who is or becomes a member of any other Indian Tribe, Band or group given federal recognition by the United States government shall elect between membership in the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and membership in such other Indian Tribe, Band or group. Any member who elects to retain membership in such other Indian Tribe, Band or group shall be disenrolled after notice and hearing pursuant to Tribal law and shall thereafter not be entitled to any subsequent rights or privileges of membership.

COMMENT: The changes to this section would extend eligibility to persons who are members of federally recognized Canadian Tribes whose enrollment policies do not allow for the relinquishment of Tribal membership and are, therefore, ineligible for membership because of the prohibition against dual enrollment.

SECTION 5. Adopted members who have abandoned membership in the Tribe by not maintaining substantial cultural, family, social or political ties to the Tribal community for a period of ten (10) years shall be subject to disenrollment in the Tribe after notice and hearing pursuant to Tribal law. Adopted members so disenrolled shall thereafter not be entitled to any subsequent rights or privileges of membership.

COMMENT: This new section replaces the three sections in the current constitution regarding disenrollment of adopted members with broader language that incorporates the existing policy reasons for disenrollment of adopted members within a more uniform set of standards that would be further defined in the adoption ordinance.

SECTION 6. All members of the Tribe shall report to the Tribal Secretary or the Tribal Secretary's designee by submitting an annual

report on or before the last Thursday in September of each year in order to be eligible for any monetary payments from the Tribe apportioned to the members of the Tribe during the following Tribal fiscal year. Such report shall contain the member's legal name, social security number, and current address and the Tribal Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining current and accurate records of all such reports.

COMMENT: The changes made to this section would eliminate some of the unnecessary and burdensome provisions under the current constitution while establishing reasonable reporting requirements for tribal members that will enable the Tribal Secretary to maintain current and accurate records.

MGP/941101

ARTIII.15

CURRENT ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe shall consist of:

(a) All persons whose names appeared on any of the following rolls:

- (1) Nov. 10, 1883;
- (2) Nov. 13, 1885;
- (3) Nov. 7, 1891; or
- (4) Dec. 10, 1982.

(b) All children of at least one-quarter degree Indian blood born to any member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

(c) All descendants of persons whose names appear on any rolls enumerated in subsection (a) of this section who are at least one-quarter degree Indian blood born prior to or within one year of the effective date of approval of this Amended Constitution by the Secretary of Interior; provided that such descendants duly apply for membership in the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan within 18 months of the effective date of the Amended Constitution.

(d) Any person of at least one-quarter degree Indian blood who is an adopted child of any member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan or is married to any member may become an adopted member of the Tribe pursuant to any adoption ordinance which the Tribal Council may enact. Every person adopted pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be a member of the Tribe for all intents and purposes, EXCEPT that no person so adopted into the Tribe shall be eligible to hold the office of Chief, Subchief, Tribal Secretary, Tribal Treasurer or Tribal Council member.

SECTION 2. Any enrolled member of the Tribe who applies for and becomes an enrolled member of any other federally recognized Indian Tribe, Band or group subsequent to their enrollment in the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan shall thereby forfeit membership in the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and shall be disenrolled and thereafter shall not be entitled to any subsequent rights of membership.

SECTION 3. Any adopted member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan may be subject to disenrollment in the Tribe for the following reasons:

(a) The individual became an adopted member of the Tribe by reason of marriage to a member of the Tribe and such marriage has been terminated by annulment or divorce and such adopted member has neither maintained a principal residence on the Isabella or Saganing Reservation nor remarried to another member of the Tribe for a period of twelve (12) or more consecutive months preceding Tribal disenrollment action; or

(b) The individual become an adopted member of the Tribe by being an adopted child of member of the Tribe, upon reaching the age of 18 or older,

(See CRITERIA page 3)

At Central Michigan University

Student group promotes Native traditions on campus

By Annette VanDeCar

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and the North American Indian Student Organization at Central Michigan University recently combined their efforts to create an intimate display of Native culture.

"We wanted to show Native drumming and dancing in a more intimate environment than powwows can," said Winnay Wemigwase, NAISO vice-president. I hope people went away with a greater appreciation of our culture and many came up after the dance presentation and asked the dancers questions. I'd like to see a dance troupe established of NAISO and Tribal members because we can spread our message to other places besides CMU."

The dance presentation was sponsored by NAISO, the Cultural Diversification Funding Committee, Minority Affairs, Multicultural Programming Center, Native American Programs and the Student Budget Allocation Committee.

About 150 people attended the dance exhibition which took place Nov. 1 at Central Michigan Uni-

versity. The activity was one of several which took place as part of Native American Month during November. Other events included a pottery demonstration, theater group performance and story telling.



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

Frank Ettawageshik, an Odawa artist, shows off some of his woodland Indian pottery during a Nov. 9 presentation. The Karlin resident operates Pipigwa Pottery and has been a potter for about 20 years. Ettawageshik, who also is the Council President of the Little Traverse Odawa, returned to the Central Michigan University campus on Nov. 29 for some story telling.

"There certainly appears to be some interest in the Indian culture by the community and society is being more exposed to our people," said David Trout Staddon, NAISO advisor and Director of Native American Programs at CMU. "It helps them see Native Americans in a different light and also shows people we live in a modern world just like them. Music and dance are universal means of communication because everyone does it for one reason or another."

Dancers from the different styles explained the importance of their regalia and dance steps to the audience. Drum music was provided by Dream Star and High Spirits. Bruce George, a NAISO mem-

ber, performed a traditional men's dance and Jason Oldman, NAISO treasurer, demonstrated the grass dance. George spoke of the significance of his eagle feathers and Oldman told how his dance steps symbolized someone stomping down grass. Jennifer Skornicka, NAISO member, was the female traditional dancer.

"There certainly appears to be some interest in the Indian culture by the community and society is being more exposed to our people. It helps them see Native Americans in a different light and also shows people we live in a modern world just like them. Music and dance are universal means of communication because everyone does it for one reason or another."

"The dance program was so successful because the students took the initiative and the explanations helped the audience to appreciate the dancing more," Staddon said. "It presented an opportunity for the Tribe and NAISO to meet each other and work in unity and cooperation. I would like to see more programs between the Tribe and NAISO and it's up to the student group to decide on effective programs for the future."

Melissa Montoya told how the fancy shawl was used to symbolize a butterfly whose warrior was killed in battle. Other fancy dancers included Trisha Naganashe, NAISO co-president, Jane

(See NAISO page 11)

Criteria

(Continued from page 2)

elects to abandon Tribal relations with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan in favor of re-establishing Tribal relations with the Tribe from which they are descendants by blood.

(c) Individuals so disenrolled shall thereafter not be entitled to share any subsequent rights of membership.

SECTION 4. All members of the Tribe shall report to the Tribal Secretary in person or by certified letter at least once each year in order to be entitled to any monetary benefits apportioned to the members of the Tribe. Such report shall contain the member's legal name and current address. The Tribal Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining an up to date and accurate record of such reports, the date filed and the information contained therein.

Employment opportunities

From the office of Gordon D. Henry, Sr.
Personnel Manager

The following positions are currently open in Tribal Operations:

- Clinic Registered Nurse, open until filled; and
- Dental Assistant (part-time/contractual), open until filled.

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Quarterly per capita benefits explained

On Jan. 6, 1994, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council formally adopted a Per Capita Plan that would enable the Tribe to make regular distributions of a portion of the Tribe's net gaming revenues directly to all adult members of the Tribe.

The formal adoption of the Per Capita Plan (the "Plan") by the Tribal Council marks a milestone in the history of the Tribe and stands as a testament to the success of the Tribe's gaming enterprise.

The approval of the Tribe's Class III gaming compact with the State of Michigan by the federal government cleared the way for the Tribe to formally adopt a per capita plan, which had been in development for several months prior to that time.

The final obstacle to initiating payments under the Plan is the requirement under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act that Tribal per capita plans be approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). It is anticipated that the BIA will approve the Plan sometime within the next two weeks and the first payment will be made approximately 10 days from that date.

Timing of payments and eligibility

During the first year of the Plan, payments are scheduled to be made on the 1st of March, June, September and December based on 25 percent of the net gaming revenues calculated from the previous quarter.

Eligibility for per capita payments under the Plan is limited to enrolled members of the Tribe who attained 18

years of age. The Plan requires that Tribal rolls will be closed for purposes of per capita eligibility only at 5 p.m. 10 working days before the per capita payment is due. Payments will be made by regular mail and will not be available for pick-up at the Tribal Center. Per capita payments are considered taxable income under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and the Tribe will withhold federal taxes from all payments and issue IRS 1099 income reporting forms to both the recipient and to the IRS.

Tribal members who do not reside within the boundaries of the Isabella Reservation will be responsible for any state or local taxes that may apply.

Payments to members with an unknown address

Whenever the Tribal Clerk's Office does not have an eligible tribal member's current address, the Tribe will retain that person's per capita payment for a period of one year from the date that such payments were made available.

Death of a member

If any member of the Tribe who is qualified to receive a payment under the Plan dies after the Tribal Council approves a per capita payment but before such payments are disbursed, such payment shall be made to the deceased person's estate in aid of the deceased person's funeral expenses. No further payments shall be made to the deceased person or his estate.

Tribal Matters

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 Timothy Davis, Tribal Sub-Chief
 Gary Quigno, Secretary
 Gerald Slater, Sergeant-At-Arms
 William Federico, Member
 Beatrice Colwell, Member
 Ronald Jackson, Member
 Arlene Molina, Member
 Lorna Kahgegab Call, Member
 Julius Peters, Member
 John Hart Sr., Member
 Kimberly Sawmick, Member

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 Gary Quigno, Secretary
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 Ronald Jackson
 Lorna Kahgegab Call
 Kimberly Sawmick

LEGAL COMMITTEE:

Gail Jackson
 Timothy Davis
 Beatrice Colwell
 John Hart Sr.
 Kimberly Sawmick

Leadership plan forges Tribal pathways

By Ben Hinmon
 Higher Education Coordinator

As the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe prepares to enter the 21st century, it must reflect on the teachings and experiences of the past to build a solid future for the Seventh Generation and beyond.

You are invited to be an active participant in developing a new meaning of Tribal leadership, by an Indian definition and a shared Tribal vision. Our knowledge and experiences from the past, combined with our needs for the future have led to the creation of a dynamic new Tribal initiative which will encourage and empower Tribal members to define the leadership of tomorrow.

Using Tribal values as its foundations, the Leadership Program will utilize a unique mix of formal education and hands on experience and will include mentorship and dialogue with current Tribal leaders and decision makers.

The Leadership Program is based on two basic premises. First, the strength of Indian People, both collectively and individually, is in the Tribe. It is our family, our community and the Tribe who define our role in society. The second philosophy which guides this program and makes it so important is that strong Tribal communities can have a positive impact on the world.

The purpose of the Leadership Program is to provide Tribal members with the education, experience and training to enter top level administrative and management positions within the Tribe. This program addresses the severe shortage of professionally trained Indian people in the work force and the rapid development of career opportunities within a growing Tribal economy. The Leadership Program emphasizes the commitment of the Tribe and Tribal Council to reinforce and strengthen the administrative infrastructure of the Tribe and its commitment to Tribal members.

At present time, the Leadership Program has three participants who are enrolled in college full-time and interning 20 hours per week with the

Tribe.

Over the next three years, nine additional candidates will be selected (three per year) and placed into the program. As participants graduate and complete their internships, new candidates will be recruited to fill vacancies. Interested candidates will be required to complete a standardized application process and prepare a written essay outlining their qualifications for enrollment in this unique program.

In return for this unique opportunity, participants in the Leadership program will be required to work for the Tribe for the same number of years which they were enrolled in the program. Ideally, graduates will establish a career with the Tribe and be instrumental in the development of Tribal businesses and programs which solidify the economic future of the Tribe. Tribal members who exhibit a sincere desire to improve the living conditions of the Tribe and who have a sincere desire to serve their community are encouraged to apply.

The Leadership Program is believed to be the first of its kind in the country and could be used as a national model for other Tribes to follow. Never before has a Tribal entity made this level of commitment to its Tribal membership, while at the same time strengthening Tribal sovereignty at its most basic level.

The program emphasizes the importance of Indian people to the development of solutions to age old problems which have plagued Indian tribes, such as high unemployment, racial prejudice and poverty. In many respects the Tribe in coming of age in a society and government which has maintained a paternalistic view of Indian people.

The positions for the 1995 Class of the Tribal Leadership Program will be posted through the January issue of the Tribal Observer. Interested Tribal members will be able to obtain applications and a detailed information packet after this date by contacting the Tribal Personnel Office or myself at 913 E. Pickard Street, Suite H-1, Mt. Pleasant, MI, 48858, (517) 775-3672.



EVENTS SCHEDULE

Jan. 6 Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs meeting in Sault Ste. Marie. For more information, contact (517) 373-0654.

Recycling reminder

The Isabella Reservation Recycling Depot is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to p.m., as well as every second and fourth Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. If no one is visibly there, the gate is still open.

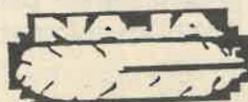
All doors are labeled for proper placement. Your effort is greatly appreciated as the Tribe continues to be one of Isabella County's biggest recyclers.



tribal observer

The *Tribal Observer* is published monthly by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, 7070 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Being a Tribal-owned publication managed under the supervision of the Tribal Council, the newspaper is subject to an editorial review process.

All comments and suggestions are welcomed. The *Tribal Observer* is a proud member of the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA).



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Artist's inspiration comes from Native influences

By Derrick Morris
Jolene Quinlan is quick to draw several conclusions about Native artwork.

Not only does she view its cultural importance, but also as a way to educate youth about Anishnabe tradition.

The 35-year-old Quinlan is a contributing Native American artist for the *Observer* and her talents have been called upon numerous times.

From soaring eagles to a graphic emphasizing the importance of voting, Quinlan's artwork has enticed vari-

ous features in the monthly newspaper. She views the publication as a means to reach more people, especially Reservation youth, with her artwork.

"The importance of culturally significant artwork is to educate the youth and to keep them interested in their culture," she stated.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal member is originally from Grayling and has worked as a receptionist for the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center for about a year. The Quinlan family includes



Observer photo/Scott Csemyik

Jolene Quinlan displays a dream catcher and shield she's crafted. She also made the baby bird bank pictured to the left, which is entitled, "Feed Me." Her talents with acrylic painting is also featured in the background.

husband Michael and Rhyannon. She said 10-month-old daughter they decided to move to

the Mt. Pleasant area because of employment opportunities and living closer to family.

Quinlan said she has been drawing ever since she could remember, but chose to pursue computer science while first attending college at Michigan State University. As Quinlan became involved in her studies, she soon came to realize her love for art was

stronger.

She went on to study art and eventually got her bachelor's degree in this course of study with an emphasis in sculpture.

Although she knew how to draw, it was through college courses Quinlan discovered most of her past artwork was inspired by nature and science.

(See ARTIST page 11)



Our Elders Speak

Question: Our Native people are fast approaching the beginning of the New Year. What is one of your fondest memories that you recall from past holiday seasons?

Joyce and John Hart, Saginaw Chippewa Elders

"Christmas on the Hill was one of the fondest memories that we can remember. It was a special gathering where families would come together. I remember a big Christmas tree at the Church ... it looked so big and pretty. People from the community would bring gifts for children and family members. I remember all of the children looking forward to their big bag of candy prepared by the women of the Church. My wife and I would like to see the community gather like the old days ... where everyone would sing Christmas carols."

LaVerne Pelcher, Saginaw Chippewa Elder

"I look at what we got as a per capita payment and being happy with something that we received from the Tribe. It doesn't matter what is given, and I am appreciative of what I receive. I'm not going to kick about the amount. I think all of the Tribal membership should be satisfied and grateful."

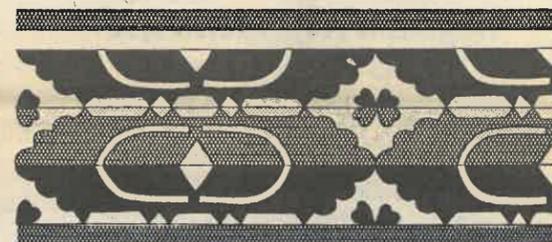
Mabel Hall, Grand Traverse Elder

"In my childhood, I thought Christmas was the greatest thing that could ever happen. My Dad and my Grandma always made a way for me to have a joyful Christmas. One thing I would like to say is I've been hoping all the time there would be a great love for each other. That's what I've been praying for ... where there would be love on the Reservation for the people, the same love that the Chippewas have showed me at the Senior Center."

Agnes Rapp, Grand Traverse Elder

"Back then, when I was a child, we had such a struggle to make Christmas. It was a surprise to me

that we had food on the table ... if I saw turkey or had anything in my stocking, that was a great joy. Sometimes we would have Christmas baskets that were given to us from the city. That was one memory I will never forget. I would hope the young ones would remember the thanks and the joy of Christmas, and remember that it is the Lord's birthday."



News from the Sowmick Senior Center

A time for sharing family traditions

By Elders Advocate Roxene Judson

Cards to mail, special gifts to buy, favorite dishes to prepare, family traditions shared, meetings with friends and celebrating "the Lord's birth" makes December a special month.

Check out the activities listed below. Every Monday and Wednesday we have exercise with Diana at 11 a.m.

- Dec. 5 Ziibiwing Cultural Society meeting
- Dec. 6 Nutrition education "Christmas treats with less than sugar" with Carolyn Yager
- Dec. 8 Cranberry crafts
- Dec. 9-11 Grand Traverse trip
- Dec. 12 "Sodium" by Sally Burden
- Dec. 13 Slides on Europe by Alice and Roger Goenner

- Dec. 14 Pinecone treats for birds craft
 - Dec. 15 Elders Advisory meeting at 11 a.m.
 - Dec. 16 Christmas Carols with second graders from Mary McGuire at 11:15 a.m., also second quarter birthday party at noon.
 - Dec. 19 Elders Program meeting at 10 a.m.
 - Dec. 21 Special Christmas Dinner, also gift exchange (\$5)
 - Dec. 23 and 26 Closed for the Holy Season. Time to celebrate Christ's birth with family.
 - Dec. 27 Blood Pressure Clinic
- Make your special Christmas dinner reservations by at least Dec. 16. Come and enjoy some of the holiday spirit with others. Call Marge at (517) 773-5262 one day in advance for regular meals or Roxenne at (517) 772-5700, extension 308.



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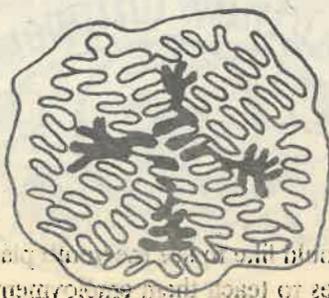
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AT-LARGE ADVOCATE

Amy F. Alberts
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The At-Large Program now has a direct toll-free number within Michigan for Tribal members to inquire about information and services.

1-800-884-6271



Small text at the bottom left, likely a printer's mark or contact information.

Advocate thanks all for their participation

The At-Large Program sponsored a trip for members between the ages of 18 and 49 to the Mdewakanton Dakota Community. Included with this trip were a good number of Elders and members from the Saganing/Standish area. The

members were traveling for four days and three nights. On Nov. 16, they stayed over in Chicago, Ill. and on Nov. 17 and 18, in Shakopee, Minn. They returned on Nov. 19.

Our group was graciously hosted by Linda Loomis, Barb Braley,

Lorraine Denman and Region 4 Representative Neuel E. Denman. We would like to give the host/hostesses a very special thank you for all their dedication to our Tribal members and for taking such good care of them while on the trip. The program would like

this opportunity to thank all the members for their participation. We hope that you enjoyed yourselves and we look forward to seeing you on future trips.

-Submitted by At-Large Advocate Amy Alberts

At-Large members hit the road

By Neuel E. Denman
Region 4 Representative

Our Sept. 16-19 trip to Minnesota for adult At-Large members attracted enough participants for two buses.

One bus was designated for non-smoking and the other smoking, which worked out quite well. We were supposed to leave the Reservation at 9 a.m. on Nov. 16, but departure was delayed 10 minutes. This still made for a general "off to a good start."

Estimated time of the arrival at our first hotel was set for 1 p.m. after a couple turnarounds in various parking lots. We checked in about 4 p.m. On our own free time, we had planned to go sight seeing in downtown Chicago until our 7 a.m. departure time.

Have you ever seen Chicago's rush hour? The hotel recommended we go to a restaurant across from the mall and after a few more parking lot turnarounds, we had a nifty meal. One bus decided to go to the mall and the other had decided to go back to the hotel to relax.

On the second day of our trip we were on the road again! We arrived in Shakopee, Minn. at 2:30 p.m. and we checked into The Canterbury Inn at 4:30 p.m.

Once again, we had free time until 7 a.m. the Nov. 19 morning departure time. They had shuttle buses to and from Mystic Lake Casino. Some of us went to the mall and others went to the Casino, while some just stayed in the motel room to relax. When returning from the mall, we drove by the Mystic Lake Casino and we could see the lights on the Reservation. It was somewhat overcast, but still beautiful to see the lights formed in a teepee in the sky above.

On Nov. 18, we boarded the buses at 9 a.m. and headed for the Mystic Lake Casino. We were greeted by Martin Guinee and another representative from the Reservation. They gave us a tour of the casino and requested to meet with us for lunch in the Dakota Grand Ball II. We had a super meal that included walleye, buffalo, wild rice, coleslaw, and frybread with some sort of a berry dip all one could eat.

After lunch we were introduced to Stanley Crooks, a board member who gave a welcome speech. We were also taken on a tour upstairs of the casino to see some of the offices and the board

meeting room which was very interesting.

At 3 p.m., we had returned back to the hotel for relaxation. We had planned to go see the Christmas lights in downtown St. Paul, when the 5 p.m. news reported that power lines were down and there were several power outages. They also reported several shop windows were blown in.

We had talked with the bus drivers and decided we would return to the casino at 6 p.m. At 8:30 p.m., we returned to the hotel so the bus driver's could get their rest for the way home.

We were then homeward bound on Nov. 19! Talk

(See TRIP page 15)

Community gatherings scheduled

In an effort to better inform At-Large Tribal members, quarterly community meetings for the current fiscal year have been tentatively scheduled. On a related note, a Nov. 4 memo was sent to Tribal program members and staff as an invitation to attend.

"We would like for various department officials to provide more detailed program overviews regarding specific services, benefits and opportunities available," said At-Large Advocate Amy Alberts. "We are trying to better inform our Tribal members of the various departments and how to access services in the most efficient and appropriate manner."

Confirmed dates, times and specific locations will be announced later.

First Quarter

- Jan. 7, Region 2, Grand Rapids
- Jan. 8, Region 1, Saganing
- Jan. 14, Region 3, Detroit
- Jan. 15, Region 4, Saginaw

Second Quarter

- April 22, Region 3, Lansing
- April 23, Region 4, Flint
- April 29, Region 1, Oscoda
- April 30, Region 2, Muskegon

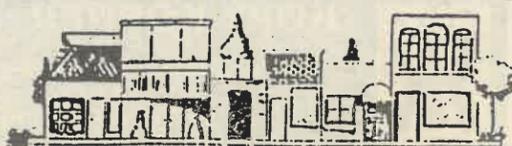
Third Quarter

- July 8, Region 3, Detroit
- July 9, Region 4, Saginaw
- July 29, Region 1, Saganing
- July 30, Region 2, Traverse City

Fourth Quarter

- September, Region 1, Oscoda; Region 2, Grand Rapids; Region 3, To Be Announced and Region 4, Flint

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Local student named to honor group

Mt. Pleasant High School junior Jenna Falcon has been recently accepted in the National Honor Society. The 16-year-old daughter of Ron and Audrey Falcon was notified of the honor in an Oct. 7 letter from Oiler Principal David Larson and NHS Adviser Karen Caldwell.

"Membership in the National Honor Society is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a high school student," the letter stated. "Chapters in high schools across the nation strive to give practical meaning to the Society's goals of scholarship, leadership, service and character."



JENNA FALCON

Jenna's favorite subjects in school are accounting and American history. She also likes playing volleyball and softball.

Upon graduation, Jenna said she would like to pursue an accounting career at Michigan State University.

"I'm excited about being in NHS, it's quite an honor," Jenna said.

Youth enjoying training as a model

By Jean Flamand

A 10-year-old Tribal youth's interests have been taking her down the runway.

Meredith Koenig travels to the Avante School of Modeling in Flint on Saturday mornings.

"So far it's been a good time and it's fun being a model," Koenig said.

The Mary McGuire fourth grader said she was excited when she had received a phone call from the agency on Oct. 21 saying she had been accepted and classes would be starting soon.

Her hobbies include making dream catchers, doing beadwork, and gymnastics. Meredith looks up to both her grandmother Chief Gail Jackson and her aunt

Amanda George. She also receives a lot of support from everyone

modeling, nail care, skin care, handling compliments, fashion

advertising and catalog advertising. After they finish sessions one and two, they will be modeling at a mall in Flint.

For right now, the kids are just going through the rules, such as how to except compliments and learning to walk on the runway.

"It's set up like a classroom setting," said Meredith's mother, Michelle Koenig.

Meredith said the most interesting thing to do so far has been the runway because "she likes to get up and move around."

The youth added she's met a lot of friends so far and said pursuing modeling is something that she wants to continue to keep doing.



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

MEREDITH KOENIG

in her family.

The modeling training is broken down into two sessions the first session includes training for the runway, production, mannequin/robotic

show rules, posture, and grooming. Each week they get rated on their appearance.

The second session includes television commercials, makeup,

Calendar highlights Native women again

Building on the success of last year's 1994 American Indian Women Calendar, Melinda Castillo-Gilb, owner of Elan Marketing, has done it again.

She has gathered together some of the most beautiful American Indian women representing a variety of different Tribes from the western United States.

Her goal has been not only to display the incredible beauty of these women, but to portray the contemporary lifestyles and roles of American Indian women in today's society.

"Celebrating the success of American Indian Women in the 90s is very important," the full-blooded Navajo stated. "The whole point of the project is awareness. You never see Native American women on the cover of Vogue or Cosmopolitan, and I'd like to change that."

"Most people just don't realize how many different Tribes there are and this is an effort to promote Native American women in the world," she added. "Hopefully the calendar can dispel some misconceptions about these women's place in society."

She has assembled 14 new models for the 1995

version and has incorporated a photo of each girl in her Native dress, along with her other contemporary shots. A biography of each girl is also included.

To order yours, send \$10 plus \$2 for shipping and handling to Elan Marketing, 3404 S. McClintock, Suite 905, Tempe, AZ 85282. For additional information contact (602) 892-3033. Part of the proceeds will benefit an American Indian Women's Scholarship fund.

Perfect attendance announced

These following elementary students had perfect attendance during the first nine weeks of school and received a \$10 gift certificate for Meijer.

McGuire: Keith Bennett, L.E. Reed, Ashawnee Sprague, Nick Mena, Dalton Meyers, Dan Bennett and Justin Meyers;

Rosebush: Shawna Neyome, Matt Overfield and Stephanie Overfield;

Ganiard: Javier Sanders and Monique Fairchild;

Pullen: Dominick Shaffer; and

Fancher: Shawna Stevens

-Submitted by Student/Parent Advocate Deb Smith

Our Youth Speak

Question: While the Tribe has enjoyed a successful 1994, what would be your Christmas wish for the Tribe to grant in years to come?

Summer Peters, 17

"I want them to change the name "Chippewa" because it is too French sounding. I prefer "Ojibwe." I also wish for them to pay more attention to the youth because we're the future leaders of the Tribe. We need encouragement to succeed and this includes more money for education. I would also like to see the Reservation alcohol and drug free."

John Chippewa, 16

"I want an indoor basketball court with the works, plus an indoor swimming pool. I wish the Tribe would pay more attention to the youth and provide us more trips to basketball games."

Tonya Jackson, 15

"My wish for the Tribe would be to have more activities for the Youth during the school year to keep us out of trouble."

Melissa Montoya, 17

"I would like to see a very large and expensive facility to be put up for the youth. This would hopefully give the youth a place to go instead of having to hang out on the street do other things. In this facility, I would like to see the youth placed there as employees to teach them employment skills."

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Health

Dental plan takes the financial bite out of getting braces

By Scott Csernyik

A dental program funded by the Tribe is probably the only one in the nation which provides significant financial assistance to members and descendants needing orthodontic treatment.

The Saginaw Chippewa Dental Braces Program was implemented during the past fiscal year and is helping 12 individuals.

"None of our patients would be able to get braces without the help of the Tribe," said Chief Dental Officer Linda



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik Tribal member Paul Rueckert Jr. is all smiles through participation in the Saginaw Chippewa Dental Braces Program.

Jackson, D.D.S. "This program makes me very

happy since there is such a great need for this type of dental treatment."

The Tribe entered into a one-year agreement with Kimber DeWitt, D.D.S., M.S., as a provider of services for the program. Jackson added the purpose of having a contract with one orthodontist is so they can get a lower cost for the dental braces and can pass this savings to the patient and Tribe.

"So far, we have 12 people in the program, which has exhausted (See DENTAL page 11)

Educator seeing positive effects of Children's Trust Fund support

By Kathe Martin

Four year ago, a Children's Trust Fund request proposal fell into my hands at a time when additional funding was sorely needed.

At that time I was working at the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center on the Reservation as a half-time Community Health Nurse, providing Maternal-Child services. In order to provide even the minimum of services, this position needed to be full time and a full range of educational materials were needed.

I was finding women who were delivering with only minimal prenatal care, no childbirth education, a high rate of intervention during delivery including an unacceptably high rate of C- Sections and a very low rate of breast-feeding (2 percent).

As a certified childbirth educator of 12 years and a nurse of 16 years (at that time), I knew there was a higher risk of impaired bonding, abuse and neglect in families where the mothers have not had adequate professional support during the prenatal period. With this in mind, I submitted a grant proposal to the Children's Trust Fund which was endorsed by our local Child Protection Council.

In September of 1991, we received notice our proposal had been accepted for funding. In October of 1991, the Circle of Life Prenatal Project began to take shape. With the support of the medical clinic, anyone with a positive pregnancy test is eligible for a full range of OB support services including: referrals to medical providers, assistance with MichCare applications, early prenatal counseling, childbirth education, labor support and lactation education and support.

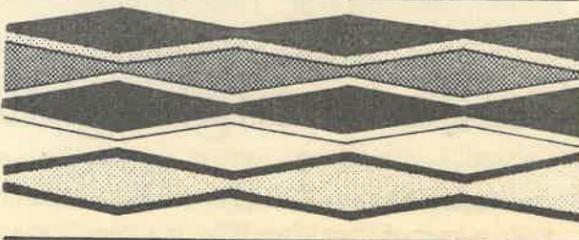
(See FUND page 11)

OPEN HOUSE

Dec. 9 From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
at 2250 Enterprise Drive

The Parent Infant Guidance program is inviting the community to come and meet Parent Infant Specialist Val Querback and to view the program facilities at Petro Plaza.

Please stop by, meet the staff and enjoy some refreshments.



MEETING SCHEDULE OJIBWE SUBSTANCE ABUSE 7363 E. BROADWAY MT. PLEASANT, MICH. (517) 773-9123

MONDAY NIGHT RELAPSE PREVENTION
7 P.M. AT YOUTH CENTER

TUESDAY NIGHT 12-STEP MEETING (A.A.)
7:30 P.M. AT YOUTH CENTER

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TEEN RAP
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WEDNESDAY NIGHT HIGHWAY SAFETY
7 TO 8:30 P.M. AT 3548 SOUTH SHEPHERD ROAD
(517) 772-4616

THURSDAY WOMEN'S A.A. MEETING
8 P.M. AT 3548 SOUTH SHEPHERD ROAD
(517) 772-4616

SATURDAY NIGHT MEETING (A.A.)
7 P.M. AT 3548 SOUTH SHEPHERD ROAD

NEW YOUTH CENTER HOURS
WEEKDAYS 3 TO 8 P.M.
WEEKENDS-FURTHER NOTICE

PARENTS, VOLUNTEERS AND OTHER
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CHARMAINE M. BENZ AT (517) 773-9123.

Nimkee holiday closings

During the Christmas holidays, the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center will be closed on the following days:

- Dec. 23 from 1 to 5 p.m.
- Dec. 26, all day
- Dec. 30 from 1 to 5 p.m.
- Jan. 2, all day

The Center will be open on these following days:

- Dec. 27-29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Dec. 30 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Fern Natzel, F.N.P. and Deborah Eisenmann, M.D., will provide coverage for the medical clinic.

The Dental Clinic will be open on Dec. 27 and 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Dental Clinic will provide emergency referrals and dental hygiene services. Coverage will be provided by Dental Hygienist Ileen Peterson.

For medical care when the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center is closed, please call Nimkee's answering service number, (517) 772-8227, to reach the physician who is on call. During the Christmas weekend, this will be Dr. Glenn Dregansky and on New Year's weekend, Dr. Eisenmann will handle the duties.

EXERCISE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

Brad Bennett doesn't get beat to the punch when it comes to maintaining an exercise program at the Nimkee Fitness Center. Beginning Dec. 1, hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Monday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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Counselor seeking response from substance abuse survey

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This survey is to help the staff of the Youth Center know more about your knowledge of the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and inhalants being used by our youth in this community.

To better help the needs of the youth in our Native community, please take the time to fill out this survey and send it in care of Ojibwe Substance Abuse Services, 7070 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. It will help us immensely assess the need to educate parents and guardians to the harmful effects that these things can cause and do.

This survey is intended for District 1 (Isabella) members only. Its intent is to address substance abuse problems on the Reservation.

This will be for Youth Center use only and confidentiality is guaranteed. You do not need to put your name on the survey, because all were getting is a basic knowledge of how people are educated against the use of drugs, tobacco and inhalants.

-David Lee Chatfield, chemical dependency counselor at the Youth Center of Ojibwe Substance Abuse Services



Tribal Court offenses

Charges filed in Tribal Court from Oct. 1 to Nov. 11:

Violation of Probation, disorderly conduct and driving in violation of court order, six each; contributing the delinquency of a juvenile and malicious mischief, four each; minor in possession and disobedience to lawful order of the court, three each; OUIL, OUIL second offense, trespass, violation of a police officer by resisting arrest, assault and battery, duties in event of accident, resisting arrest, controlled arrest, controlled substance and injury to public peace, one each.

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1. How many children in school do you have in your household?
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2. What are the number of children that you have in?
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 ELEMENTARY _____
3. What is their average Grade Point Average?
4. On a grading scale from one to ten (ten being the highest), how much knowledge do you think your children know about the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and inhalants?
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
5. Would you say that he/she knows anything about inhalants of any kind?
 YES NO
6. Would you be interested in knowing more about alcohol, drugs, tobacco and inhalants through going to workshops?
 YES NO
7. On a grading scale of one to ten (ten being the highest), does your family try to work as a unit (very close together).
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
8. Do you feel your child could develop a dependency to alcohol, drugs, tobacco and/or inhalants?
 YES NO
9. Do you feel your child is receiving a good education?
 YES NO
10. Do you feel your child(ren) could use help with his/her homework?
 YES NO
11. Does your child need help in counseling or tutorial services?
 YES NO
12. Does your child have any problems at school that you would like to have some help dealing with?
 YES NO
13. Is there any problem with your child's teacher, principal or bus driver that you feel is a problem?
 YES NO
14. Would you like your child to participate in cultural activities at school or at the Youth Center?
 YES NO
15. Please list three (3) things you would like to see at the Youth Center, such as games
 1.
 2.
 3.
16. Would it be okay with you if the counselor(s) from the Youth Center came to your home to counsel your child?
 YES NO

If you have a baby under the age of 12 months and are in need of some winter clothing, the Parent Infant Guidance program has some winter bunting suits and a few other items of clothing available. Call Val or Deb at (517) 772-1717 for more information on winter baby clothes.



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

Taking a break

Amanda George was one of about two dozen Tribal employees who participated in the American Cancer Society's "Adopt A Smoker" activity during the Great American Smokeout on Nov. 17. George joined million of smokers across the country in taking a break by trying not to have a smoke for 24 hours. She was "adopted" by Jean Flamand who helped assisted her by helping her kick the habit for one day.

Service in process of restructuring its operations

By Audrey Falcon

Should the mission of Indian Health Service change? Indian Health Service is in the process of restructuring the way it operates.

The Federal government hopes to reduce some of the bureaucracy of Indian Health Service. This will hopefully cut out micro management, downsize levels in the system and reduce paperwork the government currently requires from IHS and Tribes who have contracts. The bottom line is, it will improve services for Tribal people who use Indian Health Service.

Mountains of paperwork is something each and every staff person has to deal with everyday and it's difficult to keep up with changes and additions in the system. Since Public Law 93-638, Indian Self Determination and Tribal Self-Governance, pilot projects have come into the health care field. Indian Health service has to change to accommodate more Tribes taking on more responsibility from the federal government. Many Indian Tribes are assuming IHS Field Office, IHS Area Office and IHS Headquarter responsibilities.

This process takes additional planning staff, strategic planning and setting long range goals. The Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe will soon be a self-Governance Tribe. They will receive additional funds to do this and it will impact the rest of the Tribes in Michigan. Because of their large population, they will be removing IHS field office funds from the Michigan share, leaving the smaller Tribes with smaller amounts of funds to perform the same amount of services. Our Michigan representatives on this committee are Char Hewitt, In-

(See SERVICE page 12)

InnerView

(Editor's note: Actor and artist Wes Studi is a Cherokee from Norfire Hollow, Okla. A partial list of movie credits include "Powwow Highway," "Dances With Wolves," "Last Of The Mohicans" and most recently, "Street Fighter." He leads the Turner Broadcasting System Native American Initiative. He is married to actress Maura Dhu, daughter of the late Jack Albertson. Studi was interviewed at the 14th Annual Native American Language Issues Conference by Tribal Observer Editor Joe Sowmick on Nov. 9.)

Tribal Observer: As a featured presenter at the Native American Language Issues Conference you talked to the youth about the importance of preserving our Native languages. Has speaking your language influenced your film career?

Wes Studi: My language has really served me well. My first acting job came from the fact that I could speak my own Native language. It was a made for television film called "Long Arm" that we shot on location around Santa Fe, New Mexico. It was actually my first job outside of Los Angeles. And when I went to interview for this job, all I really had to do for the producer at the interview was to be able to speak an Indian language. I was able to speak my Native Cherokee, but they didn't care what Tribe it was, as long as I could speak an Indian language and it was convincing to the audience.

T.O.: I guess that is a testimonial for the young ones in our Tribe on how to make a break as a Native actor. Did you experience any cultural specific problems when shooting "Long Arm."

W.S.: The film was shot in Santa Fe, and one of the things that was unlikable about that was I was playing a Ute (laughs). So here's this Ute on screen speaking Cherokee. Because there is a spoken Ute language, that is something that could have been taken care of by simply being able to teach whoever the actor was phonetically in the language. That is the way I have done it in the many roles that I have played.

T.O.: So it appears that most of the roles you've been involved in has challenged yourself to learn a new Native language in the interest of cultural realism?

W.S.: Definitely. From the film "Long Arm" on television, I went on to do "Dances With Wolves" where I learned to speak Pawnee. I do remember some Pawnee because I remember the extensive learning that took place to get the language right. I do remember that it is one of the films where I can remember phrases from the language because of the fellow Pawnee actors that spoke the language while waiting on the set. It helped listening to the others and that was an education you can't get on a tape.

"To learn a Native language, or anything for that matter, it takes total commitment and total involvement in whatever it is you are doing."

T.O.: Have you ever had to learn a Native language that proved to be more difficult than others?

W.S.: Apache is a pretty rough language to learn phonetically. I remember one scene in "Geronimo" where everyone is sitting around this fire. The dialogue going on in the film is that Old Nana has told Geronimo that "I'm going to go in and surrender to General Crook." Geronimo's response was "Old Nana, if you go surrender to General Crook,



Observer photo/Joe Sowmick

CHIEF GAIL JACKSON AND ACTOR/ARTIST WES STUDI

he will put you in jail." Well, what I learned about Apache is that meaning can be changed drastically by inference or slanting of sounds. When I said, "he will put you in jail" ... that's kind of a degrading thing. But when I said it all the Apache guys just cracked up laughing and we had to redo the scene.

T.O.: So you changed the meaning of the Apache dialogue?

W.S.: Yeah, I just did another film and this time I speak English. I did have to shave off every bit of my hair, right down to the skin. You ought to try it ... it's real nice in the summertime and doesn't look half bad either!

T.O.: I lived most of my life with a crew cut. I don't think I would look as good as you did bald. What's the new film?

W.S.: (laughs) What I had said was that, "Old Nana, if you go surrender to General Crook, he is going to turn you over and roll you around." So the whole Tribe of Apaches started laughing at me. I was so embarrassed.

T.O.: I hear you have a new project that you have just completed and is slated for a holiday release.

W.S.: It's called "Street Fighter" and some of the kids may be aware of the video game. It is a martial arts film and one of the first I have done outside the Indian or cowboy and western genre. So I am taking a step off in another direction and that feels good to me. I went over to Thailand and Surfer's Paradise off the Gold Coast of Australia to make this film that will be released in December.

T.O.: What other actors are featured in "Street Fighter?"

W.S.: Well, other than myself, the movie stars martial artist and kickboxer Jean-Claude Van Damme, the late Raul Julia and a host of younger actors that do a wonderful job as well.

T.O.: I always enjoyed watching Raul Julia perform.

W.S.: He died recently of a stroke. It was really a pleasure working with Raul and I'm happy I had the opportunity to work with him before he passed on. (Long pause) I think the world really lost quite a performer.

T.O.: Some of the movies you've done in the past, like "Dances With Wolves" and "Last Of The Mohicans," you had fighting scenes. Is that what struck the producers in landing your role in "Street Fighter?"

W.S.: Well, I would like to think so, but I kind of doubt it. Maybe it's because I shaved my head a couple times. In this particular film, Victor Sagot is a guy who shaves his head all over. I don't know, but on the set it's something that was called "glower power" (laughs).

T.O.: Taking a look at the work you've done in the past, it must be rewarding to have a starring role that is not necessarily in the cowboy and western genre?

W.S.: Yeah, it is. As a Native American actor, this is my first chance to do a film outside the genre. It's sort of a chance to prove myself in the eyes of the movie industry that I can do things other than strictly Native American roles. So I become an actor, rather than just an Indian or Native American actor.

"Yes, I do carve. But I don't call myself a sculptor, I am a stone carver. They are two different things as far as I'm concerned."

T.O.: Movie critics Siskel and Ebert praised your performance as Magua in "Last Of The Mohicans." They stated, "Take him out of the movie and I don't think you have a film that is anything but a conventional love story. His is what the movie is, and should be, about." What do you think about that?

W.S.: I like it. It is very rewarding to be appreciated and I like very much what they had to say about the movie.

T.O.: I've heard that you have written children's books. Is that correct?

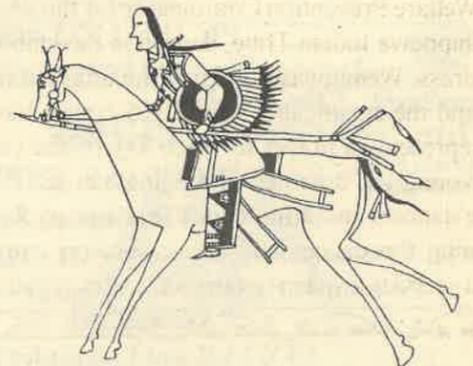
W.S.: I did a number of years ago. I'm surprised that you mention it because there has been interest lately from a number of different sources regarding the fact of writing those books. I can't really call myself a writer because I don't keep up with it ... I don't do it all the time. But yes, I have written two books. One was a collection of short stories while the other is more like a novella.

T.O.: And like some of our Tribal members, you also do stone carving?

W.S.: Yes, I do carve. But I don't call myself a sculptor, I am a stone carver. They are two different things as far as I'm concerned. I like to carve stone ... it's kind of a relaxing therapy for me. I like it because you get totally involved in something that is strongly focused.

T.O.: Is that the kind of advise you would give to the youth of our community, to get totally involved?

W.S.: To learn a Native language, or anything for that matter, it takes total commitment and total involvement in whatever it is you are doing. Otherwise, you are just half-stepping and not living life to the max. I don't care what activity it is ... if you don't do it all the way, what's the use of doing it at all. That's the way I see it.



*Bringing the insight and wisdom
of Native artists to its readers*

InnerView
is found only in the
Tribal Observer

Dental

(Continued from page 8)

funds," Jackson said. "However, there may be spots for one or two more."

She also added there's a current waiting list of about 50 for the braces program. Depending on

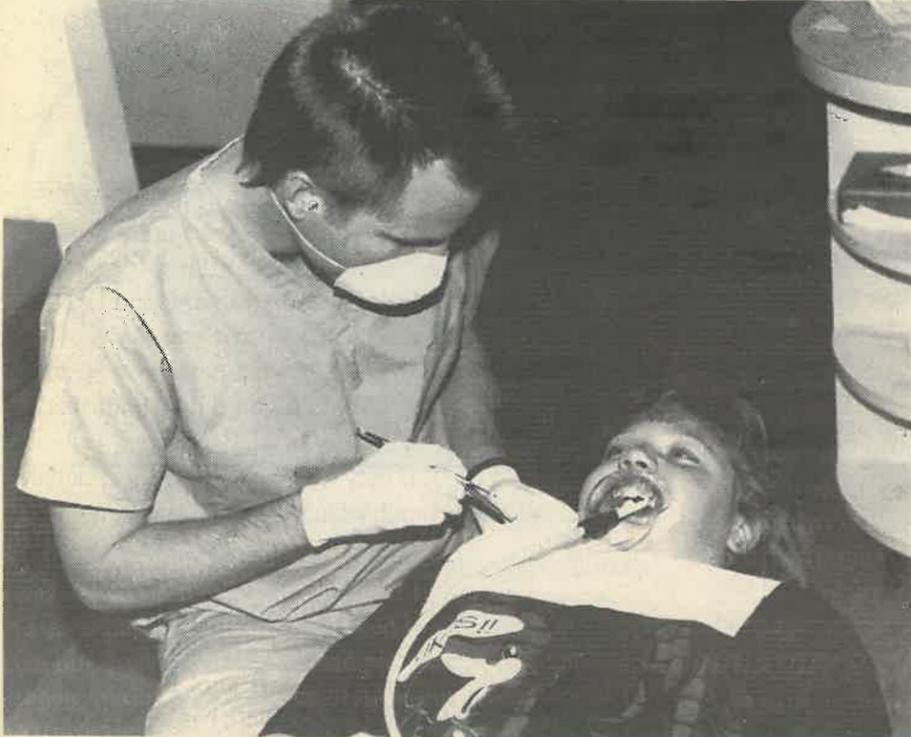
good oral hygiene, have an exam by the Tribe's dentist and already have completed preliminary restorative and preventive services.

She pegged the cost of getting braces at \$4,000 and under the program, a patient is only required to pay a fraction of the expense. These costs also depend on

are not in the right place, it makes them harder to clean. This can lead to more cavities and gum problems."

Orthodontic treatment can begin when a patient is nine- or 10-years-old. She also said there's not a maximum age one can be fitted with braces.

"Some adults who



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

Dr. Kimber DeWitt, D.D.S., M.S., fits Tribal descendant Amanda Reed with braces on Oct. 31.

the individual, the braces are on them from 12 to 24 months.

"We want the patients to know up front it is such a big financial and time commitment," she stated.

Besides having to be a Tribal member or descendant, other eligibility criteria included the patient must have a history of maintaining

whether they are a Tribal member or descendant.

Jackson has been the Tribal dentist for three years and said she's seen a lot of patients needing braces.

"Most people only notice the cosmetic part of having braces," she stated. "But there's a lot of health reasons for having them. If the teeth

need them think they are too old and that's not the case," Jackson said.

Jackson also said the Tribe's braces program is even better than plans offered by insurance companies.

"So far the program has been going really well," she also said. "It's been a long time planning and we're happy it's finally here."

Fund

(Continued from page 8)

We also currently have an infant car seat incentive program in which pregnant women can receive a free seat by receiving prenatal care in their first trimester and 10 or more visits to their OB provider before delivery. Additionally an FAS/FAE education component and STD/HIV education is offered to each client.

Since the beginning of this program we have seen our C-Section rates drop to an average of 7 to 8 percent (the local hospital rates are currently at 18 percent and the national average is 23 to 25 percent). Birth outcomes have improved with minimal intervention during labor, a very low pre-term birth rate and a zero infant mortality rate in the past three years. Breast-feeding rates have increased from an original 2 percent up to a high of 25 percent and currently stabilizing at 16 percent.

When you're up to your armpits in OB patients needing multiple services it's sometimes difficult to see the progress being made. But looking back over the last three years I can see substantial gains in the quality and quantity of services and I have a wall full of pictures of the most beautiful babies in the world. Their overall health and development is good, families are intact and I have the funding through the Children's Trust Fund to thank for helping make this possible.

I think I have one of the best jobs possible at the Tribe. Helping a first-time mom through an unplanned pregnancy, providing labor support to families when requested, watching a newborn as they greedily take nourishment from their mother's breast, getting to hold and rock all these little ones, watching them grow up and suddenly, they're my little patients at the Montessori/Headstart... it just doesn't get any better than this. To all who've made this possible, supporting agencies, the community and all my patients, I say Chi Miigwetch!

Artist

(Continued from page 5)

During her Spartan years, she also took courses dealing with the historical aspect of art.

"Going to college and studying art really intensified my appreciation for Native American art and art as a whole," she stated.

She also enjoys reading, traveling and listening to music. Quinlan feels authentic Native artwork is very significant to the community.

This is why she lends her talents with honor and pride.

In the spirit of reaching out to Native youth, Quinlan said she has considered teaching arts and crafts. But due to a lack of resources, Quinlan said she has to wait. She encourages youth not to be afraid in experimenting with art.

"Use your imagination," she advised. "Ask a lot of questions."



Native American artists seeking publication can submit their work (preferably in black ink or dark pencil) to: Tribal Observer, 7070 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Artwork can be signed and dated by year.

NAISO

(Continued from page 3)

Picotte, NAISO secretary, and Jackie Trofatter, Wemigwase and Carolyn Ogilvie-Cohen, Indian Child Welfare Prevention Coordinator for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, danced in the Ojibwe jingle dress. Wemigwase spoke of the origin of the dress and the significance of the 365 cones. Each cone represents a prayer for each day of the year and a young girl dreamed of the jingle dress.

"The dancers and drummers all did a nice job of explaining the dances and music because sometimes it's hard to explain to others something you've

naturally done all your life," said Ogilvie-Cohen. "It opened a door for the public to explore our culture and invited them to walk in it. I'd like to see this become an annual event because CMU has a very strong student group with high participation."

The beginning of a cooperative relationship between NAISO and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe could benefit both parties, according to Ogilvie-Cohen.

"The Tribe could be a valuable resource to NAISO because community members can keep the student organization strong even after many of the students graduate," she stated. "NAISO members can serve as examples for our youth and show them Native Americans can attend college and succeed. On the other hand, we can let the students know

the Reservation can be their home base or solid foundation in Mt. Pleasant because Natives should go to college in familiar surroundings."

The understanding developed between NAISO and the campus community also was strengthened through this program.

"It's important to show the public what contemporary Indians are like because many believe we are accurately portrayed in movies," said Wemigwase. "We need to be more visible as a people and show we are a big part of modern society. Native people can still retain their traditions but also use them to move forward."

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Service

(Continued from page 9)

ter-Tribal Council of Michigan and Laurel Keenan, Bay Mills Indian Community.

Health care reform continued

I recently attended a Health Care Briefing with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs' staff member Attorney Patrick Rogers and Bemidji Area Representative Deana Bauman, National Indian



Health Board.

The Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs supported President Clinton's plan for Health Care Reform; and, although it did not pass, the plan guaranteed cultural sensitivity and maintained Tribal sovereignty. The plan, now, is to get it passed through the next Congress. He advised that reform in health care is taking place in almost every state, and Tribe's must get actively involved in state health care reform and not sit back and wait to be invited in the planning process.

IHS was asked if they recognized health care as a treaty right. Dr. Kathy Annette, Area Director, responded that IHS doesn't recognize health care as a treaty right because each Tribal treaty is individual and different.

In November, Angeline Matson and I will be attending the National Indian Health Board/Indian Health Service Conference in Albuquerque, N.M. titled, "Indian Health Care in Transition." I will provide another community update after the conference. Please call if you have concern or would like more information about these issues, (517) 773-9887. Miigwetch!

Saganing employee recognized for doing an outstanding job

Community Service Worker Elizabeth Cabay is the Saganing Outreach Center's employee of the month for December.



ELIZABETH CABAY
"She's a hard worker,"

said Arlene Molina, Saganing Outreach Worker and Tribal Council Representative. "She is never late and always on time. Liz always obeys her supervisor."

Molina said her duties include "just about everything."

The District II Councilwoman would like to thank Tribal Chief Gail Jackson and her fellow Council members for their support of Saganing this year. Molina is also appreciative of the birthday cake and pizza she received at a Gaming Commission meeting from Sub-Chief Tim Davis and interim General Manager Josephine Jackson.



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- Bible Study on Tuesday 9:30 a.m.
- Bible Study on Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Member believes in giving back to Tribe

Feeling compelled to give the his Tribe something in return, Del Wheaton recently donated a solid brass bald eagle.

Wheaton said he acquired the 75-pound piece of artwork while living in Prescott, Ariz., which is located about 90 miles northwest of Phoenix. The 52-year-old Tribal member said he returned to the Mt. Pleasant area in June because of employment opportunities.



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

DEL WHEATON

The eagle is currently nesting in the former senior's room in Tribal Operations, however Wheaton said he would like to eventually see it displayed at the Soaring Eagle Casino.

"I thought it would be a nice little touch to give to the Tribe as a token of my appreciation for what they've done for me," Wheaton stated. "I'd like everybody to put a notation in their mind that we should give back and not always take."

Youth grant approved

By Angela Mitchell and Dawn Perez
The Tribe will be hosting a site visit for the Opening Doors grant on Nov. 29.

If you recall, this was the grant that will provide an obstetrician for the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center. We currently have patients that travel as far as Midland just to see an OB provider. By having this provider right here we will eliminate missed appointments, which in the long run, will be better for moms and babies.

Great news! The Youth Sports and Recreational Facility Grant has been approved. The overall goal of this grant applications is to prevent, reduce and eliminate the amount of illegal drugs being used and sold by the Tribal youth within the Saginaw Chippewa Housing Authority. The facility will provide the opportunity for year-round sports, programming and recreational activities at convenient times.

The Tribe contributed an 188 percent match, (well above the 50 percent requested), of the monies to be utilized on this project, which means they

(See GRANT page 15)

Over 18 and want to get a GED or high school diploma?

We may have the program for you... For most adults, efforts to get a GED or high school diploma can be quite difficult. On the average, it takes a person three months to prepare to successfully take the five GED tests. The Adult Education Program, which is coordinated through the Tribal Education Department, can assist one in reaching this goal. For more information, contact (517) 775-3672

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Tribal Court eyes alternative

Key to ignition interlock system is behavior modification

By Scott Csernyik

It's looked at as another sanctioned tool for the courts to use in managing the driving habits of alcohol-related offenders.

The interactive process brings together rehabilitation treatment and modern technology supervision methods with hopes of eventual behavior modification.

As an alternative to incarceration, courts across the country have made the ignition interlock program a part of sentencing choices.

Local law enforcement officials, including several from Tribal Court, got a firsthand demonstration of the LifeSafer Interlock system on Nov. 9.

"We're all looking for a common goal and that is to deter the drunk driver," said Gerald Angers, chairman and chief executive of START, Inc. "We want to see people get back into society and be with their families."

Through upgrades in technology, the ignition interlock system has virtually eliminated all vulnerabilities, according to Angers.

Before an individual can successfully start their motor vehicle, they must blow into a unit which checks for blood-alcohol content. The system utilizes a computer memory chip which logs each test and what day and time the vehicle is being used.

Angers explained a violation can be received in the three ways: by not passing the test (blowing a 0.02 percent BAC or higher); not taking the test or

attempting to circumvent the unit in any way.

"It's an awesome unit," Angers said. "It helps the individual follow a responsible driving program."

Angers, who was the first distributor of the ignition interlock system in Michigan, said courts in California, Iowa and Oregon mandate the technology be used with certain offenses.

Once the individual has initially started their vehicle, a retest is requested every 20 to 30 minutes. Angers said this time can be programmed at whatever the court wishes and prevents a person from leaving their vehicle running while at a drinking establishment.

If a user accumulates any combination of violations, the unit will begin flashing and the user will have only three days to return to a START Operations Center before the system will shut down and make it impossible to start the vehicle.

Persons are usually asked to visit these centers every 60 days, or another time period specified by the court, for calibration and downloading of computer information.

"We try to keep it no more than a 60-mile drive to any one of these centers," Angers said. "The individual goes through extensive training about the ignition interlock system, so there are no surprises."

The high-tech alternative is also used in acquiring visitation rights with divorce cases and as part of conditional bonds, Angers also stated.

He added it is not uncommon for a person to

request the unit be left on their vehicle for additional time once they've completed their court mandate.

"This period is usually from 12 to 14 months, but we've got people who want to stay on it longer because they say it's starting to work," he added.

Clients pick up a \$2 daily cost of the program, which also doesn't require the court personnel to complete stacks of paperwork.

Angers told court officials the unit also tracks mileage, logs how many times the engine is started and can be used to immobilize a vehicle during certain time periods.

"At first, the person is usually irritated when the unit is installed," Angers explained. "Then, after a couple months, they get into the flow of it and behavioral modification starts."

Whereas if you take an alcoholic and treat his disease by placing him jail for two weeks or 30 days, he'll be celebrating at a bar once he gets out.

The ignition interlock system, when used in combination with treatment programs, gets at the real cause of the problem and produces positive results."

Tribal Court Chief Judge Douglas Gurski called the ignition interlock system an important alternative to incarceration.

"This takes it one step further and helps the individual become really aware of his responsibility as a driver," he stated.

Parents can qualify for car seats

Navene Clare and Dave Sowmick are the first couple to qualify for a new infant car seat through the Tribe's Maternal Child Services and Injury Prevention incentive program.

In order to qualify for a free car seat, one must be registered at the Nimkee Clinic for Maternal Child Services and have received prenatal care in the first trimester (first three months). A prenatal counseling appointment with Maternal Child Health Educator Kathe Martin can be counted for this. One must also have a statement from the OB provider verifying there has been at least 10 visits for prenatal care.

The couple's due date was Nov. 29 and as of press time, the child had not been born yet. Through the program, their little one will have a safe ride each time they venture out in their vehicle.

For more information regarding the incentive program or to see if one might qualify for a free

car seat, contact Martin at (517) 772-5700, extension 275.



Observer Photo/Scott Csernyik

Looking out for the safety of their unborn child by qualifying for a new infant car seat is Dave Sowmick and Navene Clare. Also pictured with the expecting couple is Maternal Child Health Educator Kathe Martin.



The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe are proud sponsors of CMU Athletics and congratulate the Chippewas on winning the MAC Championship ... but it's not over yet!



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HOME OF THE BELLY BUSTER

Creative arts magazine to feature Native theme

By Scott Csernyik

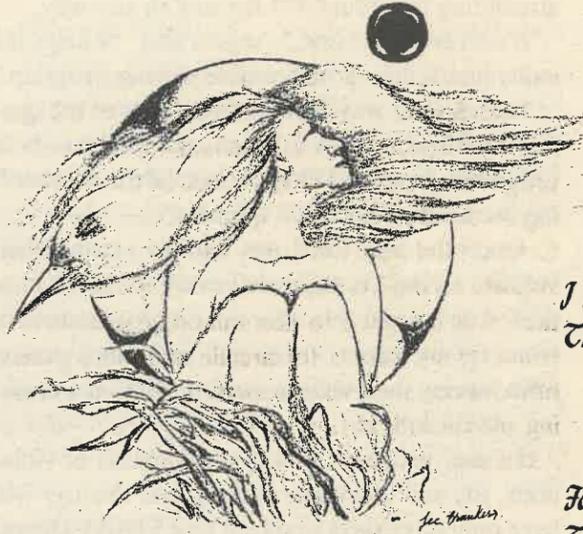
Fueled by an imaginative energy which comes from within, a local group of artists, poets and writers are planning to publish a creative magazine having a Native focus.

The quarterly publication will be called, *n' deh*, which in Ojibwe means, "my heart." Organizers are seeking poetry, short stories, artwork, cover art and feature article submissions for the winter issue by Dec. 15.

Benz echoed those sentiments, stating the literary endeavor will be a healthy alternative for the Native community and BMCC students.

She also stated the magazine could possibly feature a different age group of students each issue, pooling the talents from youth participating in the Tribe's Alternative Education program and Binoojiinh Montessori.

"We don't want to limit ourselves, so that we'll have plenty of



"There's a lot of good talent in the community and it's important to have a creative outlet for them."

The project is being coordinated through Bay Mills Community College on the Isabella Reservation. Organizers include Charmaine Benz, Lee Brauker, Mary Pelcher, Katy denHeeten and Sue Oseland.

Oseland said they got the idea to start the magazine after attending a writer's conference a couple of months ago. The *n' deh* staff also contend there's a need on the Reservation for a creative journal.

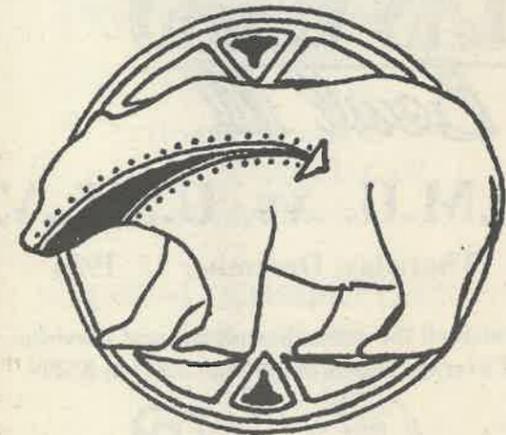
"There's a lot of good talent in the community and it's important to have a creative outlet for them," Pelcher commented.

submissions," stated Benz.

When it came to coming up with a name for the magazine, Pelcher said Benz suggested, "writings from my heart."

"But we wanted to include more than just writing, so we called my grandmother (Beatrice Alberts) and asked her how to say, 'my heart,'" Pelcher explained.

Calling the creative process a labor of love, denHeeten said the



name of the magazine is very appropriate.

"When one creates, they are putting their heart and soul into things," she stated.

DenHeeten, a BMCC language arts instructor, previously worked as a literary editor and also co-editor of Northwestern Michigan College's *NMC* magazine.

She added being part of a literary project such

as *n' deh*, can be a positive experience.

"It's sort of my vision to see a couple of things come out of the publication," she also stated.

"One is what the magazine itself will be and the other is what the indi-

vidual can possibly achieve as a contributing artist and their eventual growth.

Five or 10 years down the road, I would like to

see what positive things have happened to the people who worked or contributed to making the magazine a success."

I have been waiting to write

The songs,

the stories,

the poems.

of my people,

For more years than,

There are stars in the sky.

My songs come from the woods.

They come dancing

from birchbark and black ash,

Like trickster tales and creation stories.

My poems are born of the earth, made

Of rainshowers

and red sunsets.

And the

sands of Lake Michigan.....

-Written by Charmaine M. Benz in April of 1994

Bay Mills Community College

Winter Semester 1995

Jan. 9 - May 5

DAY CLASSES

Course #	Course Name	Day	Time	Credit
AE 105	English Communication Skills	T,Th	9 - 11 a.m.	4
AE 109	Fundamentals of Algebra	M,W	9 - 11 a.m.	4
AC 102	Accounting II	T,Th	9 - 11 a.m.	4
BU 261	Contract/Grants Management	M	2 - 5 p.m.	3
CS 112	Intro to Computers	M,W	1 - 3 p.m.	4
CS 143	Intro to Wordprocessing	T	1 - 4 p.m.	3
ED 101/151	Study Skills/Library Resources**	F	8:30 - 10:30 a.m.	2
EN 101	Rhetoric and Composition	T,Th	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	4
EN 107	Public Speaking	T,Th	2 - 3:30 p.m.	3
EN 204	Advanced Composition	W,F	9 - 10:30 a.m.	3
EN 206	Creative Writing	W,F	10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	3
EN 211	Technical Writing	F	12 - 2 p.m.	2
HL 102	Health Awareness (7 Weeks Only)	W,F	8:30 - 10:30 a.m.	2
HS 212	American Government	W,F	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	4
MA 101	Algebra I	M,W	1 - 3 p.m.	4
MA 102	Algebra II	M,W	3 - 5 p.m.	4
NA 106	Ojibwe Language II	T,Th	2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.	3
NA 107	Conversational Ojibwe	M,W	9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	3
NA 125	History & Org. of Mich. Indian Tribes	F	12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	4
SO 106	Intro to Sociology	T,Th	9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	3

EVENING CLASSES

AC 101	Accounting I	M,W	4 - 6 p.m.	4
BU 106	Intro to Management Theory	T,Th	6 - 7:30 p.m.	3
BU 108	Economic Principles	T,Th	4 - 5:30 p.m.	3
BU 204	Business Law	M	6 - 9 p.m.	3
CS 124	Intro to Spreadsheets	T,Th	4 - 5:30 p.m.	3
CS 209	Intro to dBase	T,Th	6 - 8 p.m.	4
ED 101/151	Study Skills/Library Resources**	W	6 - 8 p.m.	2
ED 252	Children's Literature	T	6 - 9 p.m.	3
HP 118	Hospitality Supervision/Mgt.	W	6 - 9 p.m.	3
NA 113	Native Amer. Awareness (7 Weeks Only)	W	4 - 6 p.m.	1
NA 202	Tribal Personnel Management	W	6 - 9 p.m.	3
PY 104	Intro to Psychology	Th	6 - 9 p.m.	3

**Required to be taken by all students within first year

All classes are offered at the Saginaw Chippewa Reservation and for more information, contact Sue Oseland, Tribal Education Dept. at (517) 775-3672 or the BMCC Office at (517) 772-5700, extension 208.

Unique approach taken with adult education

The Saginaw Chippewa Adult Education Program incorporates a unique approach to adult education by individualizing education programs to fit student needs.

Both high school completion and GED preparation courses are offered and available to the public. There are 38 students actively participating in the program this fall.

Since Sept. 1, the following students have utilized the program and successfully completed one or more GED subject area tests: Myron Buckner, Frank Davis, Irene Garcia, Sharon Geroux, Rachel Hamilton, Carol House, Michelle Mandoka,

Laurie Medford, Cerry Mullins and Lorie VanOrden.

The programs prides itself upon offering a flexible approach to education which can be part of any schedule.

If one is interested in working on high school completion or GED preparation, please contact the Saginaw Chippewa Education Department at (517) 775-3672. The department, located at 913 East Pickard Street in Mt. Pleasant, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

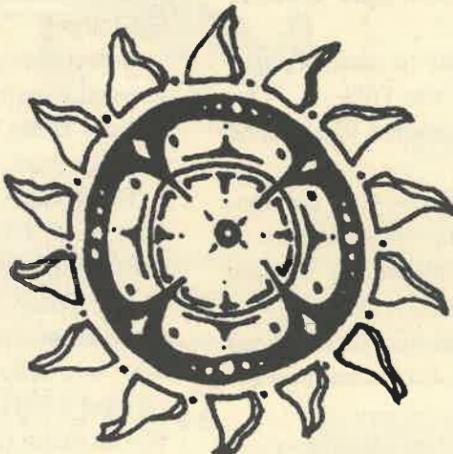


Grant

(Continued from page 12)

really pushed to get this grant approved.

The services provided will be educational, recreational, sports-oriented and cultural. Most of the programs are aimed at the youth of the Tribe living on the Reservation. There will eventually be a Central Michigan University intern to provide assistance to the Youth Activities Coordinator. The facility is designed to accommodate a basketball court (gym), rooms for arcade and table games, office space and locker rooms. This is very exciting and the kids have waited a long time for this to become a reality.



Remembering Mother Earth by recycling

By Dawn George

Greetings to all Tribal members from Isabella County Recycling!

Although a monthly column is submitted to local papers on recycling, writing for the Tribe offers considerably more freedom to relate the practice to nature and our responsibility to Mother Earth. Recycling program officials thank you for this opportunity.

You may ask yourself, what does recycling have to do with me and the Tribal way of life? Ask the Elders and they could tell you that, at one time, no matter what one received as life resources- food, shelter or clothing- it was considered a sacred gift from the earth. One had to make the best use out of them.

As an example, when plains Tribes hunted buffalo, it had as many uses as it had parts. This

includes storing the dried meat for lean seasons, hides used to construct shelters, as well as other uses for bones, horns and hooves

The same applies to goods we buy or trade

now for use as a life resources. If it can be recycled or reused, what good will it do buried in the ground?

To make sure the reusable or recyclable material is taken care of properly shows respect

as a gift of its use from Mother Earth.

The Tribal recycling program, located at the corner of Leaton and Broadway roads behind Tribal operations, offers one the chance to take

charge of maintenance and utilities, is trying to get a large recycling drop-off for gaming operations.

He says even though the Tribe has a facility for recycling, it could be better staffed to be sure the service is used properly.

Hours for the Tribal recycling site are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and on the second and fourth Saturdays at 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

From April to September, the Tribe recycled a total of 13 tons. This 26,000 pounds of recyclable materials represents great work.

If one would like a copy of what materials can be recycled and how to prepare them, call (517) 773-9631 or contact Sineway at (517) 772-5700.

Think globally, act locally!

care of household recyclables in the easiest way possible.

Stan Sineway is in charge of the program and would like to see it expanded into curbside pickup if possible.

Sineway, who also is



Observer photo/Joe Sowmick

DAWN GEORGE

Group offers legal advice to qualified recipients

The Civil Legal Services of Mid-Michigan, Inc., is an agency designed to assist income eligible residents of Isabella County with free legal advice on non-criminal matters.

Tribal members are included for these services and it is advisable for anyone having legal problems to seek the advice of an attorney.

The clinic is operated from the Eight-Cap Community Services Office at 300 West Michigan in Mt. Pleasant. It is staffed by attorneys from the Isabella County Bar Association on a rotating basis. If you are eligible for further services, the attorney will help direct you to the Legal Services of Eastern Michigan (1-800-322-9142), so one can receive assistance from a qualified attorney at a minimum expense.

The initial screening done at the Civil Legal Services of Mid-Michigan, Inc., will help determine the need for legal assistance. Depending on the complaint or problem, further legal service may or may not be needed.

Upon registering with the clinic, you will be asked to answer a few short questions regarding income status and the problem for which one is seeking legal advice.

Tribal Court Chief Judge Douglas B. Gurski feels this service is vital to providing an equal opportunity for everyone to share and have access to legal advice.

"We must protect the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, to have access to our legal representatives," he stated. "Many people have legal problems, but few know their rights under the law and it's about time we took the responsibility to give the financially burdened the opportunity to find a possible solution to their situation."

Judge Gurski currently serves on the Legal Services Board for the Civil Legal Services of Mid-Michigan, Inc.

The clinic is open on the first Monday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. No appointments will be accepted, as services are rendered on a first come-first served basis. For more information about the program, contact the Eight Cap Community Services Office at (517) 772-0110 or Tribal Court at (517) 772-5700, extension 210.



Trip

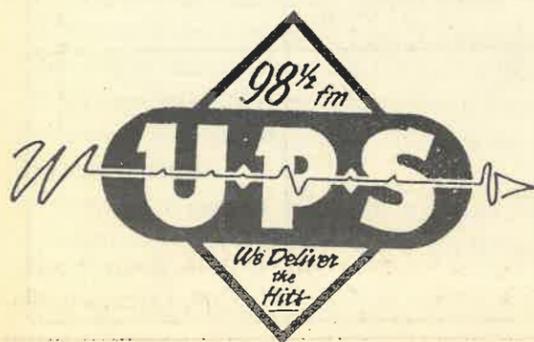
(Continued from page 6)

about bad luck, the hotel said that the restaurant would be open at 6 a.m. Wrong!

Word was spreading quick to get the bus on the road at 6:50 a.m. We chose to stop at Mickey D's for breakfast and then we were on the road again. Dick, the lead bus driver, sure had a big bladder. We had to catch up to the other bus and show him a sign which read, "Rest Stop!" and on the other side, "PDQ!"

Our bus driver said he didn't have to go very bad, but he was starting to get tears in his eyes. We stopped at Mickey D's for lunch. The lead bus driver was later threatened again to stop at Mickey D's for another rest stop, but we ended up stopping at Shoney's for dinner.

The final leg home! We arrived at 11:30 p.m. at the Tribal Center and I thank the Great Spirit for the safe journey to and from Mystic Lake. I also want to thank all the folks who went. The ones I spoke with gave me a thumbs-up, and as a coordinator of this activity, I am grateful.



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Tribe

(Continued from page 1)

intention was planned to go into Council session, a quorum of Tribal Council members were in attendance.

Absent from the meeting was Tribal Sub-Chief Tim Davis, Treasurer Kim Sawmick, and Council member Gerald Slater and At-Large Council member Ron Jackson.

Official actions that took place included a veto of the Enrollment Advisory Board recommendation for the proposed amendment changes. A motion was accepted to cancel the Nov. 21 community meeting and the Tribal Council moved to end the contract of Tribal Enrollment Clerk April Borton.

A statement released by Tribal Chief Jackson mentions "upon further review by Tribal Council, there was an unanimous vote not to renew your contract, which ended officially on July 17, 1994."

The statement informed Borton that she was released due to unsatisfactory performance and releasing unauthorized information about the Tribe.

Borton has been vocal about her dismissal and has threatened legal action against the Tribe.

Some of the Tribal Council members not in attendance at the Nov. 17 community meeting voiced concern on not being notified of the impromptu session.

The Tribal Council chose to allow the cancelled Nov. 21 community meeting to proceed as scheduled.

"The Tribe has given per capita payments, a budget and use of Tribal facilities to At-Large Tribal members," Chief Jackson said. "We have always been generous in addressing At-Large concerns."

About 300 District III Tribal member did not share the Chief's sentiments.

A Nov. 21 meeting that was fueled by inaccurate reports that At-Large members would not continue to receive per capita payments provided a standing

room only atmosphere.

Discussion quickly turned from the focus on per capita dividends to equal representation of District III membership.

Besides a request for two more District III Council seats, Tribal members called for removing the Tribal Chief, deemed the Nov. 17 Council meeting inappropriate and asked for a full audit of Tribal financial records.

District III Councilman Ron Jackson did not agree with the closed meeting on Nov. 17 because it did not have the representation of the full Tribal membership. Jackson was not present at the Tribal Center during the meeting.

"I hope Tribal Council will address this because the language will continue to get stronger," Jackson said.

A Nov. 23 special Tribal Council meeting, open to all Tribal members, was called by Chief Jackson to discuss the issues being reported by the media and two unanimous decisions were passed.

The first decision was made by a motion that was entertained by the Tribal Chief. Chief Jackson recommended making all community meeting open to all Tribal members of District I (Isabella), District II (Saganing) and District III (At-Large).

A decision was also made to have all Tribal Council members notified of all Council meetings. In addition, a recommendation of Councilman Ron Jackson to have either the Tribal Chief or Tribal Sub-Chief chair all Council meetings was accepted.

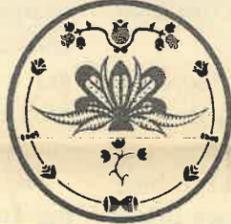
The Tribal Council meets the first Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to all Tribal members with exception to personnel issues, legal or investment strategies.

The Tribal Council also discussed the importance of representing the concerns of the Tribal members in their districts, commenting that those who voted them into office can remove them.

Tribal Chief Jackson assures that any changes made to the Tribal Constitution will be taken to a vote of the Tribal membership.

A final note: Per capita checks were mailed to all enrolled Tribal members on Nov. 30.

community calendar



december

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. R & R	6 O.S.A.M. 7:30 p.m. AA open meeting	7 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. Highway Safety	8	9 Chippewa Indian United Methodist Church youth gathering at 7 p.m. Parent Infant Guidance Program Open House from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 2250 Enterprise Drive	10 Recycling Depot open 9 a.m. to Noon
11	12 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. R & R	13 O.S.A.M. 7:30 p.m. AA open meeting	14 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. Highway Safety Baby Celebration at 5:30 p.m. Comfort Inn Ballroom	15	16 Chippewa Indian United Methodist Church youth gathering at 7 p.m.	17
18	19 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. R & R	20 O.S.A.M. 7:30 p.m. AA open meeting	21 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. Highway Safety Christmas dinner at Sawmick Senior Center Winter begins	22	23 Chippewa Indian United Methodist Church youth gathering at 7 p.m.	24 Recycling Depot open 9 a.m. to Noon
25 Christmas play at the Chippewa Indian United Methodist Church, 7 p.m. Christmas	26 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. R & R	27 O.S.A.M. 7:30 p.m. AA open meeting Chippewa Indian United Methodist Church Board Meeting, 7p.m.	28 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. Highway Safety	29	30	31

If your organization has an event for the calendar, call the Observer at (517) 772-5700, extension 301