



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

Kiddie kegler

Eight-year-old Krystal Jackson "spares" a moment during the Youth Bowling Tournament at Chippewa Lanes in Mt. Pleasant on Dec. 31. The afternoon event was sponsored by Saginaw Chippewa Parks and Recreation.

Community meeting, election dates set

A community meeting for Tribal members has been scheduled for Monday, Jan. 19 at 6 p.m. in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort bingo hall.

Enrollment issues top the list of subjects that updates will be provided on.

Voting machines to be used in the upcoming election will also be on display.

The general election for Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council members for Districts I and III will take place on Jan. 27.

Polls will be open at the Tribal Public Safety Building from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for District I voters. Please bring valid identification showing an

address which matches the one on your Tribal voter registration.

District III ballots were sent by certified mail to all registered voters, included in the January per capita payment checks. Ballots must be returned to the Tribal Clerk's Office's election post office box not later than 8 p.m. on the day of the election.

Members who return their ballots by UPS or Federal Express, where the return envelope is obscured by a mailing envelope, must send the ballot to the attention of "Tribal Election" in order for it to be valid. District III members who wish to vote at the polls must bring their ballot with

them.

Candidates in the District I election are Alvin Chamberlain, Kevin Chamberlain, Mary Lynne Chippeway, Dorothy Dale, Tim Davis, Sue Durfee, William Federico, Shelly Foster, Ben Hinmon, Lanette House, Delmar Jackson Sr., Josephine Jackson, Maynard Kahgegab Jr., Thomas Kequom, Jeanette Leaux, David Otto, Clinton Pelcher Jr., Julius Peters, Phillip Peters Sr. and Angel Quintero.

Candidates in the District III election are Roderick Crampton, Bonnie Ekdahl, Thelma Henry-Shipman, Paul Johnson and Gerald McDonald.

Liquor license approved

By Judy Whitman
Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort may pop the cork on alcohol service soon. The facility's liquor license was approved by Tribal Council on Dec. 22, following a public hearing six days earlier. At the time, Tribal Council members indicated they wished to postpone approval of the license until Liquor Control Act regulations had been put in place.

The regulations, which contain many of the same provisions and restrictions outlined in the casino's liquor license application, were also approved Dec. 22.

The nine pages of regulations identify the Tribal Council as the entity with the power to grant, transfer, renew, enforce, suspend or revoke liquor licenses on the Reservation. The sale of alcohol will be subject to the same time restrictions as in the surrounding community, including no sales between the hours of 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday, before noon on Sunday, or on Christmas day.

The regulations prohibit the sale of alcohol to persons under 21 or anyone who is in an intoxicated condition. They also prohibit persons under 17 from remaining in any place where alcohol is served unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian, and persons under 21 from playing any gaming activity where such activity is conducted on premises having an alcoholic liquor license.

At the public hearing, gaming officials expressed the intent to develop the old Soaring Eagle Casino into an alcohol- and smoke-free facility including slots and table games.

Tribal Council members also indicated during the hearing that beginning alcohol service is one of the steps Soaring Eagle is taking to remain competitive as more casinos enter the Midwest market.

Employee gambling banned

By Judy Whitman
Staff Writer

Action has been taken to remedy a situation which could cast a shadow of doubt over the integrity of the Soaring Eagle Casino.

Citing the "damaging perceptions that would be believed if we allow our employees to participate in our gambling operations," General Manager Jess Hinkle called for an end to all wagering in the facility by casino employees.

The new policy was announced in a Dec. 18 director's meeting. In a memo to directors and managers two days later, Hinkle cited the potential for employees winning large sums of money or vehicles, which could create a public perception that

employees are in collusion with each other or that the Tribe and casino's controls or monitoring of the facility are faulty.

"It's basically a perception problem. If an employee wins a big jackpot, what will people think?" said Alison Calkins, the casino's public relations manager.

"Industry-wide, it's basically a policy that

employees do not gamble within the property where they work," she added.

Previously, Soaring Eagle employees who worked in the main casino could play at the old "C-side" casino across the road, and vice versa. The new policy affects employees at the main casino and C-side, slots, bingo, table games and

(See BAN page 10)

Observer Index

Children's welfare deadlines...	page 2
ZCS update.....	page 4
Home ownership editorial.....	page 6
Blood drive slated.....	page 7
Winter Program.....	page 9
Community gathering.....	page 11
Casino games added.....	page 13
Classifieds.....	page 15



New Year's Eve gathering celebrates sobriety and fellowship

By Joe Sowmick
Editor

Ring in the New Year brings images of champagne and noise-makers, but at Ojibwe Substance Abuse Services and the Helping Hands Program it was once more a time of celebration.

The second annual New Year's Eve Celebration of Sobriety offered food, friends and fellowship.

"Tonight is a tremendous witness of support by community members and it's important to keep those links with

others as we join in a celebration of sobriety," said Assistant Health Administrator Mary Allison.

"I think as we look around the room, we see many men and women in recovery with their families and sharing the anticipation and looking forward to a New Year in a positive way," she added.

Allison said the mission of all health programs offered to Tribal members and community is to provide the best service possible.

"The community de-

serves no less. We at Ojibwe Substance Abuse Services feel that this is not just a job, it is a privilege to work here," Allison explained. "We need to use the tools available to us and I believe we can intertwine the traditional aspects of Native culture with Alcoholics Anonymous."

Tribal member Bert Hunt, Jr. gave a personal testimony on how grateful he was and shared a promise for the New Year with his family.

"I think programs like this are needed. I've

been sober for 18 months now and with the support of my friends here I hope to keep it up," Hunt said.

Hunt remembered what New Year's Eve is like and had a sense of responsibility in helping others get home safely.

"I know there's a lot of crazy drivers out there but I don't have to be one of them," Hunt said, smiling. "I gave my phone number out to a few people and if they need a ride tonight, I will be there for them."

After a feast featuring traditional cuisine,

Grand Traverse Band member Susan Ives shared her experience, strength and hope.

"Once a person can admit they are powerless over alcohol and their life is unmanageable, that's when recovery begins," Ives said. "One recovering alcoholic talking to another helps us understand that this is a disease and we don't have to face it alone."

Ives lives in urban Grand Rapids where many meeting places for A.A. are in need of repair. She was impressed

by the Helping Hands facility and called it a treasure.

"This is a well-kept, well-maintained building and I think many people here think of it as coming home," said Ives. "I think it's real important for the Tribe to have this place and to keep it operating as it is."

Vietnam veteran Gene Salgat participates in a mens' spiritual group and echoed Ives sentiments.

"We're very fortunate to have a place like this and with the continued

(See SOBER page 3)

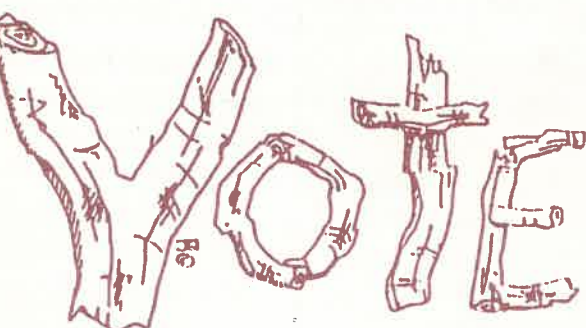
Children's Welfare Program deadlines set

YEAR	PYT. DATE	PAYMENT PERIOD	APPLICATIONS MAILED/ MADE AVAILABLE	APPLICATIONS DUE BY 5 P.M.
1998	March	Dec. 1 1997-Feb. 28 1998	Jan. 9, 1998	Feb. 13, 1998
1998	June 1	March 1-May 31 1998	April 10, 1998	May 15, 1998
1998	Sept. 1	June 1-Aug. 31 1998	July 10, 1998	Aug. 14, 1998
1998	Dec. 1	Sept. 1-Nov. 30 1998	Oct. 9, 1998	Nov. 13, 1998
1999	March 1	Dec. 1 1998-Feb. 28 1999	Jan. 8, 1999	Feb. 12, 1999
1999	June 1	March 1-May 31 1999	April 9, 1999	May 14, 1999
1999	Sept. 1	June 1-Aug. 31 1999	July 9, 1999	Aug. 13, 1999
1999	Dec. 1	Sept. 1-Nov. 30 1999	Oct. 8, 1999	Nov. 12, 1999

Dates and times are subject to change. Date and time schedule in no way guarantees the continuance of the Tribal Children's Welfare Program. The Tribal children members' parent/guardian has the sole responsibility of obtaining, completing and submitting any/all applications for the Tribal Children's Welfare Program. All applications must be received notarized and in original three-part form by mail or person by 5 p.m. on the due date. No faxes. No exceptions. Postmark date does not and will not apply to the due date. Parents/guardians applying for payment of children in which the 51 percent custody requirement for the payment period has not been met are subject to legal prosecution.



HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY
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Mom, Dad,
Jason & Sidnee



Boozhu! Welcome to the Jan. 16th issue of the Tribal Observer. The semi-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

Phone (517) 775-4011 Fax (517) 772-3508
Subscription rates are \$15 per year. Contact the Tribal Observer for rate information on advertisement sizes from business card to full-page. Story ideas, photographs and advertisements are also welcomed from the community. Deadline for copy each month is on the 10th and 25th.

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*tribal
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The Tribal Observer is published semi-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 also a proud member of the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA).

NAJA



Observer photos/
Scott Csernyik

X-Mas Bingo

Above, Renata Borton calls another lucky number during the 2nd Annual Community Christmas Bingo Party on Dec. 18 as Morgan Mena, left, has lots of fun with an unidentified friend. The event was sponsored by Shepherd High School A.Y.C. and Mt. Pleasant High School S.O.A.Y.L.C.



Sober

(Continued from page 2)

support of the community, Tribal Council,

we can get a recovery rate on the Reservation that is much higher," Salgat remarked.

"We want people to feel welcome and use

On Jan. 6, several community members met at Helping Hands to formulate plans to continue honoring traditions, culture and spirituality at



Observer photo/Joe Sowmick

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal member Gene Salgat, left, presents Grand Rapids resident Susan Ives and her husband Kevin with a gift from Ojibwe Substance Abuse Services and the Helping Hands program. Ives, who has been sober for 22 years, shared her message of experience, strength and hope with our community.

Ojibwe Substance Abuse Services, Family Resources, Seventh Generation and A.A.

this place as an alternative to assist in living the way the Creator would want us to live."

the facility.

"The Helping Hands Program was looking for a change in name so I took the tobacco offering and brought in those grandfathers," Seventh Generation Coordinator Beaver Pelcher explained. "We smoked the pipe and talked about the name Mnido Giizis, which means Spirit Moon.

"I know little about our way of life but I do know Mnido Giizis means the first moon of creation," Beaver said. "I told the committee if they accept the name they must offer themselves to fulfill Mnido Giizis with the type of services that honor that Spirit."

A new list of recovery meeting places and times is on page 7.

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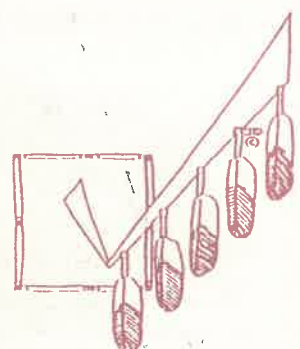


Observer photos/
Scott Csernyik



Wrapped up

Above, Sarah Cox puts the finishing touches on the Christmas wrapping paper project which took place prior to the holiday season at the Sowmick Senior Center. About a dozen people took part in the afternoon activity, including Barb Sprague, pictured to the left.



VOTE!!!



Tribal Matters

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Tribe nets upcoming opportunities

"March madness" will begin a few months early on the Reservation as Tribal youth and their families are invited to take in some hot hoop action in January.

The fun will kick off on Jan. 21 with a visit from the Slam Dunk Daredevils, who are famous for their halftime routines at basketball games around the country.

The group will visit the Tribal gymnasium at 4 p.m. to talk to Tribal youth, sign autographs and possibly perform a few stunts prior to their appearance—also sponsored by the Tribe—during the Central Michigan University men's basketball game.

The excitement will continue Jan. 31 as community youth and their families are invited to attend a CMU men's basketball game. Watch the Chippewas take on Akron and enjoy halftime and post-game performances by magician Aaron Radatz.

Tip-off for the Saturday game is at 2 p.m. Free tickets are available by signing up at the Tribal Education Department or with parent/student advocates. Students must sign up by Jan. 23 to be eligible.

For more information about the above events, contact Len Klakulak at Tribal Education, (517) 775-4516.

Ziibiwing Cultural Society update

The staff at Ziibiwing has been very busy lately. We have had several new positions open up and a few of these have been filled already. Pat Wilson has transferred from Ojibwe Substance Abuse Services and is our new curator. Kayle Crampton has also accepted a new position as the historic preservation coordinator. Since she has transferred into that position, her previous position as NAGPRA coordinator is now open. Rose Maloney has been hired as the community education specialist. The cultural center planner has also been hired and that person is Paul Johnson.

There has been some rearranging of staff and their locations, so here is an update of where staff are located and some phone numbers. Please save this list for future reference.

Summerton Road office phone numbers are: (517) 773-3810, 775-0110, 775-0111, 775-0112, 775-0113. Staff includes Director Bonnie Ekdahl, Collections Manager Deb Johnson and Data Entry Clerk Tracy Chatfield-Schatzner, Curator Pat Wilson, Community Education Specialist Rose Maloney, Receptionist Netawn Kiogima and Youth Worker Amanda Falcon.

Cowhouse office phone numbers are: (517) 775-5266, 775-

5267, 775-0166, 775-0167.

Staff includes Cultural Resource Manager Mac Pego, Historic Preservation Coordinator Kayle Crampton, Art Consultant Daniel Ramirez and Assistant Sandra Brimmer, Cultural Center Planner Paul Johnson and Leadership Program Intern Charmaine Benz.

We are working toward our goal of building a cultural learning center and have some very dedicated people

sitting on the Cultural Center Planning Committee. These people meet twice a month and have accomplished quite a lot of research and paperwork in the last few months. We are very proud of this group and extremely grateful for their perseverance.

The Collections Committee has been meeting each month, and traveled to Tawas to view a small museum's inventory that they wish to sell. We are considering purchasing this inven-

tory to have available for our own museum. Curator Pat Wilson is assisting with this project.

Pat also will be maintaining all collections, making sure they are being stored properly, mended or repaired correctly, and doing research on proper storage techniques and facilities. We are very glad to see Pat on board, as this takes a load of work off several others here at Ziibiwing.

(See ZCS page 13)

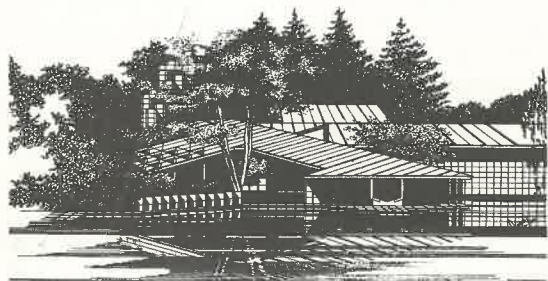
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Bulletin from the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police Regarding HANDICAPPED PARKING at the Sagamok Shell Gas Station

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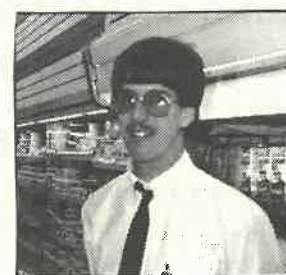
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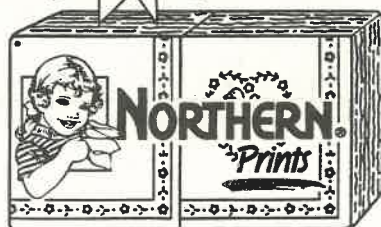


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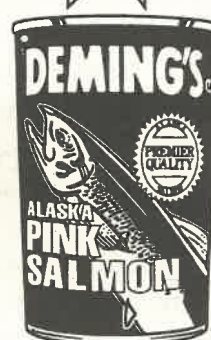
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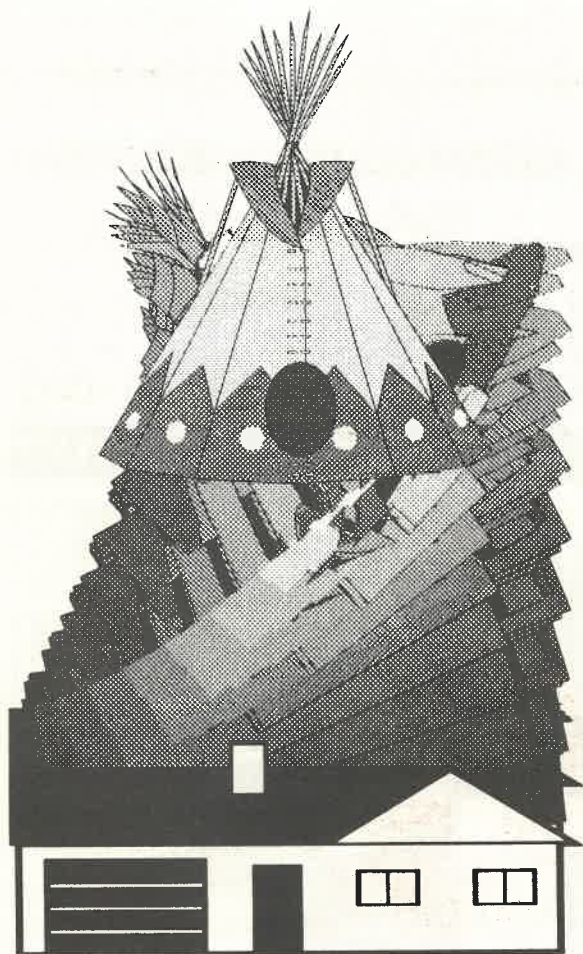


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1 29



Is home ownership the Native American dream?

.....
An editorial by Damian Fisher
.....

The advertisement's opening pitch says, "Native American home buyers have long desired the opportunity to participate in the American dream of home ownership. In the past, there has been little ability to secure mortgage financing on trust land or even on private land located on the reservation." The company placing the ad goes on to say that it "wants to change this situation. We will work with you to help make your dream of home ownership a reality."

Whose "reality" is this? Do Native Americans share in the American dream? For too long Native Americans have been measured by non-Native standards. From the Indian Schools to Disney's Pocahontas, the "civilization" of the Indians can be characterized as a full-scale cultural invasion that has corrupted our culture and continues to threaten our Tribal identity.

But aside from these very sensitive issues, what we have here is a Western institution (a mortgage corporation) encroaching on cultural traditions. Private ownership of the land is something the Europeans brought over with them along with divine right and kings.

Guardianship of the land and its resources is at the heart the Native American "reality" of pride in home ownership. The relationship between people and the land is a sacred trust that cannot be corrupted by the

impermanent machinations of man.

Native people use the land for whatever purpose is at hand. Tradition encourages responsible uses, and real estate development extends only to the satisfaction of the community's needs. The Reservation is a place where Native people are "reserved" the rights of a sovereign people. Here we exist in a "reality" that is uniquely our own and we fight to keep the best of the old ways alive in ourselves and our children.

The American tradition of home ownership really has more to do with the creation of wealth than with the pride or dream of owning a home. Mortgages are a way in which wealth is created. Purchasers of mortgages are able to leverage their down payments into larger sums that can be used to purchase a home. The purchasers take the risk that the total sum of the payments they make over the life of the mortgage (usually 30 years) will be more than the ultimate appreciation in property value of the home.

Mortgages create wealth for the investors who fund the instruments. Remember, money loaned comes from money invested. The interest one pays on a loan is the interest one earns on an investment. Finally, mortgages create wealth for the middlemen. Fees are paid to the people who put the borrowers and the lenders together, be they bankers, brokers, traders or "lending specialists."

Indian people felt the pride of belonging to the land long before Columbus came. Our "dream" of home, and home-land, left us when the allotments and annuities came. It is ironic how now it is the availability of mortgages which will allow us to make the American "dream of homeownership a reality."

There is an acute need for housing on the Reservation. The question is not can Indian families obtain mortgages to finance home purchases, rather it is can Indian families afford to take the first solution that comes along? A mortgage can allow a rapid rise in the purchasing power of Indian families but it may not be the best solution for everyone and it certainly is not the best solution when it comes to reconciling modern problems and solutions with traditional ways and the preservation of culture.

Tribal involvement on this issue has not been fully explored. A Tribally-chartered banking institution would go a long way toward meeting many needs in the community. Tribal commercial codes and legislation would help as would comprehensive community and commercial development planning.

There are some axioms in real estate dealings that most people in the industry know. One is a Latin phrase, "Caveat Emptor," which means "Buyer Beware." Another is, "If it isn't in writing, it isn't going to happen." As a people, Native Americans must once again struggle with the imposition of yet another Western intrusion on our culture and fight to try to make it work for us and not against us.

Letters

To the Editor:

We would like to acknowledge each one for making our Angel Tree Program a success this year. We were able to provide Christmas gifts for 66 children!

Our thanks and appreciation go out to the following people for purchasing gifts and/or assisting us in making this program possible: Catherine Backus, Lorna Call, Wallace and Esther Chatfield, Cathy Curtiss, Tim Davis, Bill Federico, Becky Goffnett, Ed Hare, Ben Hinmon, Lisa Kennedy, Michelle Koenig, Arlene Molina, David Otto, Jean Pego, Tanya Rowe, Ann Shawano, Deb Smith, Shawn Sowmick, Rose Wassegijig, Tribal Court, Lisa Bollman, Kevin Chamberlain, Terri Christy, Dorothy Dale, Audrey Falcon, Shelly Foster, Lupe Gonzalez, Linda Haven, Sheligh Jackson, Deane Kent, Joanne Kulik, Ruth Moses, Bobbie Jo Parsons, Angel Quintero, Saginaw Chippewa Academy, Sharon Skutt, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Tonia Toth and Vickie Yazzie.

(We extend our apologies if we have missed anyone; it wasn't intentional.)

The Tribal Social Services Department

To the Editor:

As an individual who has been directly involved with the public, being in the field of customer relations for a number of years, as well as currently dealing with persons in their homes on a daily basis, engaging them in conversation, I consider myself to have developed expertise when it comes to judging one's character.

The world in its current turmoil and strife has very little to offer in areas such as patience, kindness, expedience and efficiency. These qualities are rare, perhaps even at the brink of extinction, due to a spirit that overwhelms and engulf mankind. The promotion of egotism, selfishness, lack of tolerance, impetuosity and prejudice, just to mention a few, all being the order of the day.

So, when coming in contact with an individual who has not been influenced by these traits and attitudes, it's very refreshing and satisfying to cross their path.

I had been communicating with such a person for a number of months and finally had the privilege of being personally introduced this past summer, when visiting the Mt. Pleasant area. My expectations were very high and I was very pleased when they were realized, to say the least.

If all personnel throughout the entire operation were to have the stability, efficiency and demeanor as **Joanne Kulick from the Tribal Clerk's Office**, the success would be overwhelming.

Thanks, Joanne, what would the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe do, if we didn't have you on staff?

Delores J. Smith

death

death comes
sneaking around
in the dark
with buckets of

tears

and
a stabbing knife
in your

heart.....

written by charmaine m benz
july 28, 1997

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Health

HONOR THE GIFT OF FOOD



By Scott Csernyik
and Laurie Nelson
Staff Writers

Diabetes is looked at by many health care professionals as a matter of control. Healthy eating is the first step in adapting to having this disease.

A diabetic can make an immediate difference with their blood sugar control through food choices.

Years ago, Native Americans did not have diabetes. Elders can recall times when people hunted and gathered food for simple meals.

Now, people eat more fatty and sugary foods, as well as pre-sweetened beverages. Coupled with the fact of being less active and out-of-shape physically, these changes have caused many Native Americans to develop high blood sugar. Today, diabetes affects one in four Native Americans over age 35.

"We have survived for centuries with food from the Earth," stated Lois Pelcher, R.N. "There has to be some respect for the things the Creator has given us and that Mother Earth provides."

That's why the Tribe's diabetes coordinator found it fitting to "honor the gift of food" by having a Native foods feast on Dec. 16 in the Tribal Center gymnasium. The event was co-sponsored by the Tribe's Diabetes and Seventh Generation programs. Door prizes were donated by the At-Large, Elders and Public Relations programs.

Over 150 attended the event, which featured foods indigenous to the Great Lakes area.

Dishes included several different meats such as buffalo, duck, moose and venison. Myriad vegetables were also served. In-

stead of coffee, different flavored teas were offered.

"These foods are lower in fats and they are healthier," Pelcher added. "For me, it's a spiritual thing. We're feeding our spiritual selves when we eat. With processed foods you don't know what kind of negative energy might be introduced during the processing and handling."

"I believe food taken from the garden, from the ground, has to still have spirit in it that will nourish in many ways. I'm grateful for modern conveniences, but we still need to be conscious of everything the Creator has given us."

Besides song from the High Spirit Singers, the event also highlighted guest speaker Judy Pamp, who has diabetes.

"Diabetes is the one thing that we can control," she said in an interview after the gathering. "We don't have control over other parts of our life."

"Many Native Americans live in denial and therefore continue to eat whatever they want. What you eat and how you eat is one of the last things not controlled by government programs."

Pamp, 55, has had diabetes for the past 14 years. She is currently on dialysis, suffers from renal failure and has had both hands amputated.

She looked at the Native Foods Feast as "an important first step

(See FOOD page 10)

Donors, volunteers roll up sleeves for annual blood drive

The Nimkee Clinic will host the Tribe's annual Red Cross blood drive on Jan. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the Tribal Gymnasium on the corner of Leaton and Broadway.

Last year's blood drive surpassed expectations with 92 units of blood collected. Over 200 volunteered, including many first-time donors. Organizers are hoping for an even bigger turnout this year.

Donors can help avoid long lines by preselecting a time to register, says Nimkee Maternal-Child Services Coordinator Kathe Martin. Call the Clinic at (517) 775-4607 to make your appointment now.

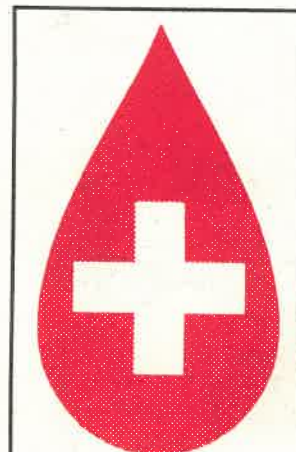
Almost everyone can donate blood. "You must

be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds, and be in good health," said Deb Birkham of the Red Cross.

know the exact names of any medications you're currently taking or have taken in the last month," Birkham said, adding that in most cases taking medication won't stop you from being able to give blood.

There is also no upper age limit. "If you're 100 years old and in good health, you can donate," said Birkham.

However, even if you can't be a donor, you can still participate in the blood drive. Volunteers are also needed to assist during the event, said Nimkee Public Health Nurse Sue Sowmick. Call (517) 775-4607 for more information. Donations of cookies for the refreshment table are also appreciated.



**BE A
BLOOD DONOR!
Thursday, Jan. 22**

"You also need to bring identification, such as a blood donor card or driver's license, as well as your Social Security number. You also need to

➔➔➔ **MNI-DOO GII-SIS** ➔➔➔

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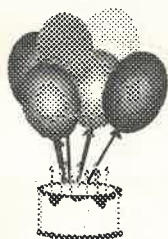
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Tuesday
Women's Meeting
3548 S. Shepherd
1 p.m.

Friday
A.A. Meeting
3548 S. Shepherd
1 p.m.

Sunday
Open Meeting For All
Spiritual
6 p.m.



Letters

To the Editor:

"You made it possible."

On behalf of Dick Barz, director of Toys for Tots, we would like to thank the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Soaring Eagle "C-side" Casino, Tribal Operations and the Sagamok Shell station for their participation in the Toys for Tots program this past year.

The Tribal Police also did an outstanding job of picking up the toys from the different areas around the casino, where the barrels were located. This made it possible to reach our goal of 6,000 toys for our local children in Mt. Pleasant and Clare counties.

The casino had many promotional events, such as the blue jeans day where anyone could wear jeans to work for a contribution of a toy or \$5 to benefit Toys for Tots. Other events in-

(See THANKS page 13)



Observer photos/Scott Csernyik



Saganing celebration

Sonja Bordeau is quick to show off her Christmas cookie arrangement during the seniors' gathering on Dec. 20 at the Saganing Outreach Center as her mother, Tootsie Nelson, looks on. Above, Lena Rangel helps herself to the food catered by Bernice Nelson (not pictured). Left, Community Health Outreach Worker and District II Tribal Councilwoman Arlene Molina hands out a gift to Loren James.



Workshops aimed at giving entrepreneurs the business

With a strong national economy and rapid growth locally, the time has never been better to open your own business.

The Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Advisory Council and the Small Business Development Center at Central Michigan University have teamed up to provide assistance to small business owners by again hosting its Institute for the Entrepreneur.

The series of workshops was designed to give business owners or people interested in starting their own businesses practical and valuable information regarding accounting, obtaining financing, developing a business plan, legal issues, investing, promotion and more.

"This is the second time we've offered the Institute," said Charles Fitzpatrick, director of the Small Business Center. "The first time was last year. We had a total of 30 participants, and 19 went through all the sessions. I believe we had three to five new businesses start-ups [by participants]. We were pretty happy with that."

Fitzpatrick said the Business Advisory Council also provides a number of workshops on topics of interest to business owners throughout the year.

The cost to attend the six-session Institute for the Entrepreneur is \$175, or \$35 for an individual session. Advance registration is required and can be accomplished by calling the Chamber of Commerce at (517) 772-2396.

All sessions will take place on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Wellness Central Conference Room, 2600 Three Leaves Drive (University Park), Mt. Pleasant. Dates and topics are:

Jan. 28 - "Developing a Business Plan," presented by Charles Fitzpatrick, and "Market Research Made Easy," by Staci Smith of Smith Equities. *A comprehensive business plan is important for new and existing business owners. Participants will learn what needs to be included in the business and financial sections of the plan, as well as tactics to identify the market need, target market and comprehensive environment for their product or service.*

Feb. 4 - "Obtaining Financing and Working With Financial Statements," presented by James Taylor, senior vice president, Firstbank. *In this section, you will learn how to analyze financial reports to gain knowledge about operating your business. Find out what banks look for, what is expected of business owners and how you can prepare ahead of time to obtain outside financing.*

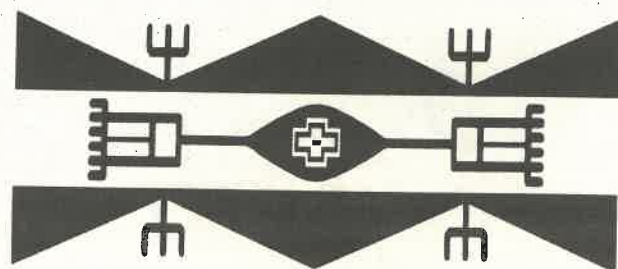
Feb. 11 - "Accounting for Small Businesses," by the Robert F. Murray Company. *This class will include an overview of accounting terminology and record keeping needs. Learn about tax forms, your tax obligations, bank reconciliations and how to register with state and federal government entities.*

Feb. 18 - "Promotional Strategies and Marketing Plans," by James J. Wojcik, Director of Student Media, Central Michigan LIFE. *How you market your business will determine how successful you are! You will learn to create marketing objectives for your product or service and employ the proper tactics to meet those objectives within your budget. Also included will be an overview of the components of the marketing mix, including pricing,*

promotion and location strategies.

Feb. 25 - "Insurance Basics for Business," by John Olson, CPCU, LIC, The General Agency, and "Investment Strategies for Small Business Success," by Terrie Zitzelsberger, Concepts for Financial Preparedness. *What areas of your business should be covered by insurance? What should you look for in an insurance provider? How can you minimize risk to your business? This class will give you an idea of what types of coverage you should carry to protect your business from liability. You will also learn how to invest extra cash flow, plan for retirement and protect your company from potential hard times by using your cash flow wisely.*

March 11 - "Legal Issues and Forms of Ownership," by Tim Curtiss and Greg Demers of Braun, Kendrick & Finkbeiner, P.L.C., and "How Technology Can Improve Your Business," by Roger Davis, J.D. Consulting, Inc. *Learn practical legal guidelines for starting a business, including the difference between a sole proprietorship, partnership and corporation. Also included is the kind of computer software and hardware that will best help you meet your customers' needs and stay ahead of the competition.*





Saginaw Chippewa Academy students at the Binoojiinh Montessori schools entertained a packed Tribal Center gymnasium on Dec. 18 with their Winter Program.

The youngsters performed several songs including "Frosty the Snowman," "Land of the Sugar Maple," "The Mkwa Song" and "Koo Koo Koo Niimosah."

Also featured was the play "The Story of Giiweziinh," which heartily entertained the crowd.



As Chad Stevens drums, the owls make their entrance in "Koo Koo Koo Niimosah" (I am afraid of owl). From left to right, pre-primary students Lucas Martinez, Saige Weatherbee, Zach Young and Noelle Goffnett.



Jacob Wilson, playing the role of the Young Elder, addresses the community during "The Story of Giiweziinh" before a packed Tribal Center gymnasium.

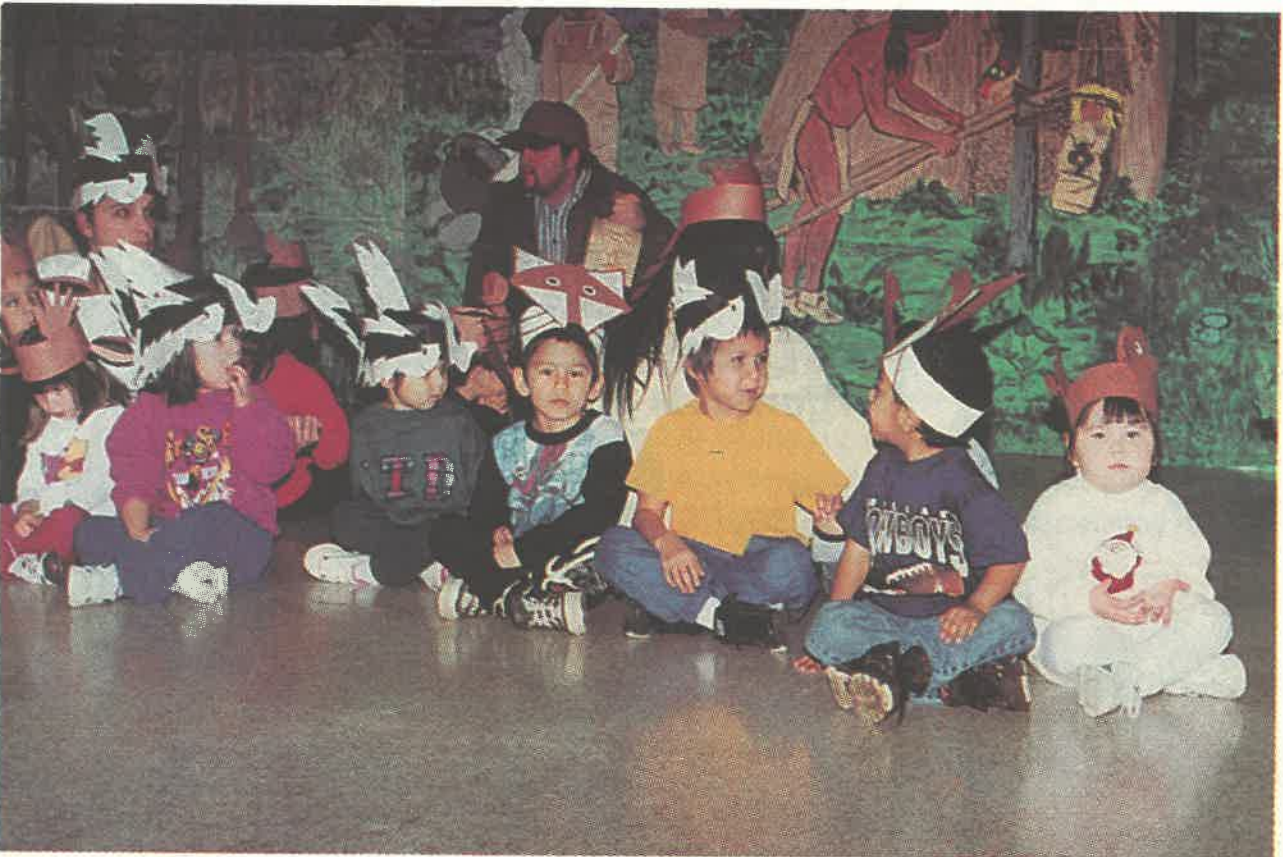


The Winter Program gets kicked off with a rendition of "Frosty the Snowman" featuring Ericca Peters as Frosty and Leon Quintero as the Sun.



Terence Isham as Shkiiniigiishi shrugs his shoulders during "The Story of Giiweziinh." Also pictured are, left to right, Chey Kahgegab (narrator three), Terence, Kayla Cantu (lady making pottery) and Jacob Wilson (Young Elder).

OBSERVER PHOTOGRAPHS
BY
SCOTT CSERNYIK



The woodland creatures take their place for the "Koo Koo Koo Niimosah" part of the Winter Program during the afternoon rehearsal. Pictured from center to right, Rico Stubbs (fox), Mesha Isham, Curtis Martin and Gabrielle Slater.



Brittany Randall 'swoops' onto the stage in "Koo Koo Koo Niimosah" with Teacher Linda Frisbee.



Food

(Continued from page 7)
betes is controllable."

Tribal member Gloria Marshall, a diabetic, said the food featured at the event tasted great and was different than anything she had eaten before.

"I checked my blood sugar that night [after the event] and it wasn't more than 120 on the glucose machine. That's probably because there's no fat in the wild animals."

Pelcher said it's im-

portant for diabetics to maintain a positive outlook on their condition.

"It's all behavior modification," she said. "Can we embrace

the positive attitude that we can control and manage our diabetes to a point where more of us will be interested in prevention?

"Treatment and pre-



"For me, it's a spiritual thing. We're feeding our spiritual selves when we eat. With processed foods you don't know what kind of negative energy might be introduced during the processing and handling."

-Diabetes Coordinator Lois Pelcher

to combat denial."

"I hope events like this are not falling upon deaf ears," she stated. "You have to

regulate food planning.

People need to wake up to the fact that diet and prevention are the same avenue—active

lifestyles and healthy food choices."

Ban

(Continued from page 1)
poker.

In his memo, Hinkle called for directors to explain the reasoning behind the new policy to employees and "pray for reasonableness to prevail as we strive to eliminate or control all unfavorable perceptions of the Soaring Eagle Casino."



Committee needs members

As of Jan. 13 there are vacant seats available on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, submit your name, address and phone number along with a one-page letter explaining why you should be selected to Parks and Recreation Coordinator Consuelo Gonzalez, Tribal Operations, 7070 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

For more information, contact Gonzalez at (517) 775-54518.

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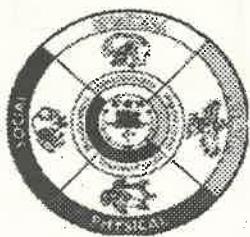
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Hubbardston, MI 48845
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(800) 884-6271
Out-of-State messages
(517) 775-4020
NO COLLECT CALLS
(517) 981-6610

AT-LARGE BENEFITS COMMITTEE
Region 1 Representative
John York
5451 Pine St.
Harrisville, MI 48740
(517) 724-5473
NO COLLECT CALLS

Region 2 Representative
Rod Crampton
11028 Radcliff Ave.
Allendale, MI 49401
(616) 892-6267
NO COLLECT CALLS

Region 3 Representative
Thelma Henry-Shipman
(Benefits Committee Chairperson)
6044 Pte. Tremble
P.O. Box 703
Pearl Beach, MI 48001
(810) 794-9272
NO COLLECT CALLS

Region 4 Representative
Neuel E. Denman
2237 Pero Lake Road
Lapeer, MI 48446
(810) 664-4885
NO COLLECT CALLS

AT-LARGE ADVOCATE
Amy F. Alberts
7070 E. Broadway
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
National Direct Line
(800) 884-6271

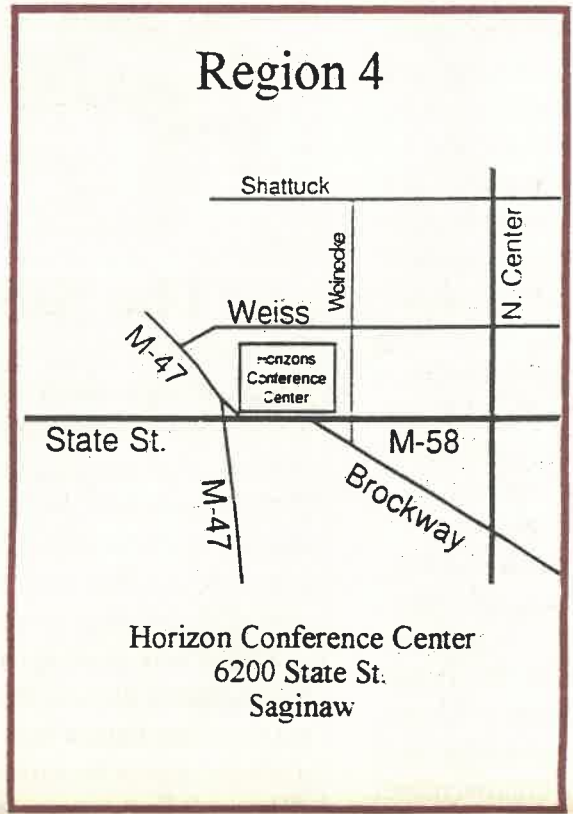
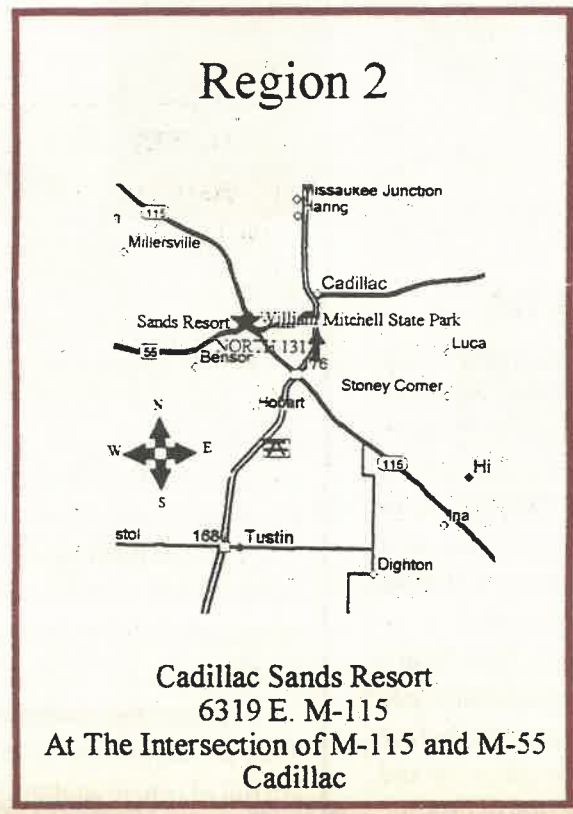
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Gatherings taking place in January

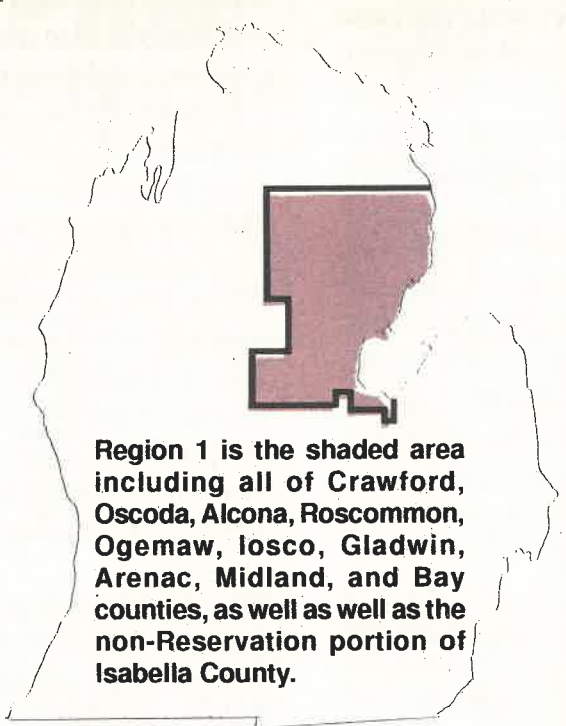
The At-Large Program is hosting its first quarter community gatherings around the state in January. Dates and locations for the meetings are as follows. All will start at 1 p.m. with sign-in beginning at 12:15 p.m.
Region 1: Jan. 17 at the Quality Inn Conference Center, 2980 Cook Road, West Branch. (Take exit 212 off I-75 north.)

Region 2: Jan. 24 at the Cadillac Sands Resort, 6319 East M-115, Cadillac. (Located at the intersection of M-115 and M-55.)
Region 3: Jan. 18 at Alcoma's Catering, 21801 Nine Mile Road, St. Clair Shores. (Located 1.5 miles east of I-94.)
Region 4: Jan. 25 at the Horizon Conference Center, 6200 State Street, Saginaw.



Benefits Committee representative sought

The resignation of John York has created a vacancy on the At-Large Program's Benefits Committee. A member from Region 1 is being sought to serve on the committee, which reviews policies and procedures for the program. Region 1 encompasses most of the northeastern portion of the Lower Peninsula. The committee meets regularly once a month and for special meetings as needed. Members are also required to attend all four quarterly community gatherings around the state. They may also be asked to serve as advisors on any subcommittees developed by the At-Large Program. Committee members receive a stipend equivalent to the per diem rate for Mt. Pleasant, and are also reimbursed for mileage to required meetings. Members who wish to serve on the committee are encouraged to send a letter of interest as soon as possible to the At-Large Program Office, 7070 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.



UNITY supporting Native health initiative

As part of a national effort to improve the quality of life for Native American children and youth, United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) enthusiastically announces its support of the "Special Initiative for American Indian and Alaska Native Children and Youth" proposed by the Indian Health Service. By separate resolutions, UNITY's governing board and the National UNITY Council Executive Committee comprised of youth leaders heartily endorsed this initiative which calls for Tribes, federal agencies and departments to work as partners in addressing the critical health, well-being and quality of life challenges facing Indian youth. The problems are broad-based and complex. Quality of life issues encompassed by the initiative include the physical, mental, cultural, spiritual, social, educational, environmental and economic components of Native youth development. UNITY's board chair, Dr. Darrell Mease, a medical doctor and UNITY alumnus, said, "The statistics pouring out of Indian Country are alarming, especially when you take into account that over one-half of the total population of Native America is under the age of 25." The socioeconomic condition of Indian people throughout the nation falls far below that of the non-Indian majority. (See UNITY page 12)



Unity

(Continued from page 11)

The proportion of Native youth who die under the age of 25 is over three times greater than the nation as a whole. The suicide rate for 15- to 24-year-old Indians is more than twice that of the general population. Homicide is the second leading cause of death for youth up to 14 years of age and the third leading cause for people ages 15 to 24.

Areas that are decreasing for the general population (for example, homicide, accidental death, gang violence) are increasing in American and Alaska Native communities.

"These are issues we must address together," said Dr. Michael Trujillo, IHS director and coordinator of the Indian Youth Initiative. "An executive order that will achieve improvements in the quality of life for Indian children and youth and provide a legacy of strengthened relationships between Tribes and the federal government will be of great and enduring benefit."

UNITY is a national, nonprofit organization headquartered in Oklahoma City which seeks to foster the spiritual, mental, physical and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth, and to help build a strong, unified and self-reliant Native America through involvement of its youth.

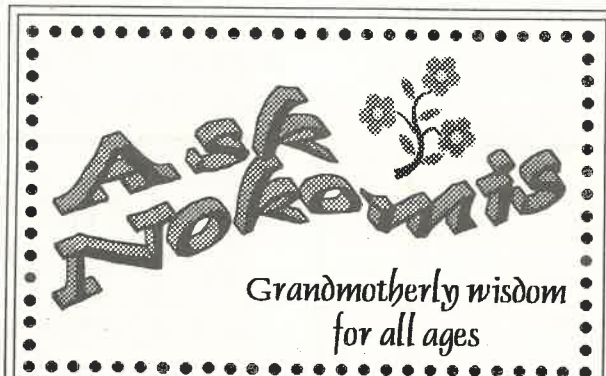
UNITY has worked to achieve its goals through the development of local youth councils.

The implementation of the initiative offers the best potential for improving the quality of life for American Indian and

Alaska Native youth than anything else I've seen in my 21 years of being involved in Native youth development. Youth are key to the future of Native tribes, villages and communities in the third millennium."

To review a draft of

the executive order and provide comments, contact UNITY's website at <http://www.unityinc.org>. For additional information, contact UNITY at (405) 424-3010 or the IHS Public Affairs Office at (301) 443-3593.



"The New Year"

Another year has come and gone and the new year is just beginning. Now we can say, "We came, we saw and we even conquered a few things." We had a few new marriages, many new babies (humans, animals, birds, bees). Something to watch, grow, love, to nurture and enjoy. We got a year older, we lost some very important friends and relatives as they traveled another road.

When I was a young child, every New Year's Eve, the North Branch Church congregation would get together, have a nice snack an hour before midnight, then at the stroke of midnight we would all kneel down and pray. At that period of time the belief was that the world might end. I was shaking in my shoes. I didn't want the world to end. It might have been superstition or religion or whatever. Sure was glad when nothing happened. We went home and went to bed.

The year 1997 was a most rewarding year for me. First off, I started a new job that has been a secret dream of mine for a long time. It started when as a young person, wonderful stories came out of my sharp pencil as I wrote.

During World War II, I would write to our service people overseas and let them know how their family and friends were, and the events of the Reservation. When the war ended, some of the service people came back and said they appreciated the many letters they had received. I like to write with a sharp pencil as they get to the point. (No pun intended.)

During the war we had ration tokens for meat and sugar, and chickory for coffee. We also had gas rationing. Couldn't buy silk stockings as the silk was utilized for parachutes. Instead we used liquid leg makeup that looked like ladies' hose. When it rained, our legs ran also!

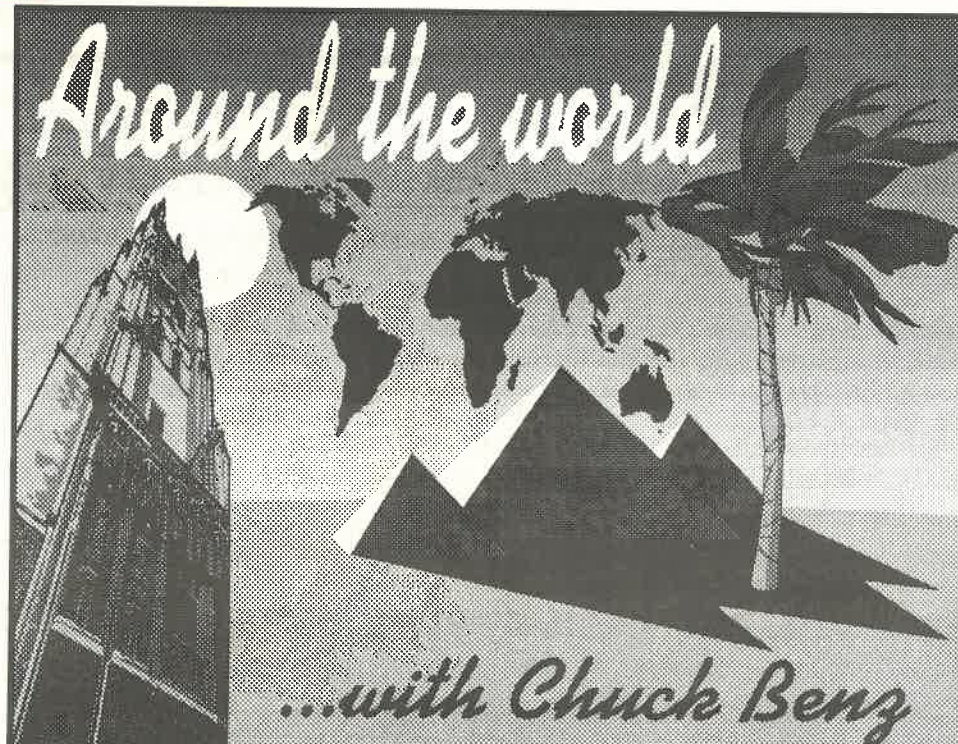
Sisters and brothers have had a good year, uneventful, a few weddings, births and the usual things.

Our Reservation is the same—elections, recalls and elections again. Guess we can't please everyone all the time, or half of everyone some of the time. Some good and bad decisions were made, others were corrected and some not.

As I've said before, my dream has been realized. My pencil is still sharp, stories are coming out and I can't ask for more.

If the Great Spirit or God is willing and the creek doesn't rise, we will have a good and happy new year.

Nokomis



Tribal member Chuck Benz is a traveler. When he was a child, his father was a sergeant in the Army, and he and his siblings lived in many countries as well as all over the United States.

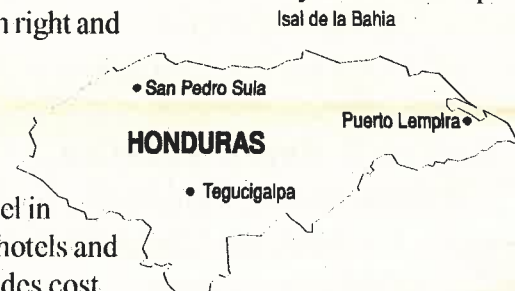
Chuck graduated from the University of Michigan then did a two-year stint in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic, helping people dig wells and raise produce and livestock. Then he visited all the national parks in America. Finally, he moved to San Francisco, where he lived and worked for many years.

A few months ago, Chuck quit his job to travel around the world. He corresponds with his sister, Charmaine Benz, via the Internet. With their permission, a few excerpts from his letters will appear in the Tribal Observer.

I crossed the border to Honduras to view the other Mayan ruins of Copan. They are impressive in their own right and are full of ornate sculptures and bas reliefs of Mayan chiefs and lords who had risen then fallen into obscurity 10 centuries ago.

Honduras is cheaper to travel in than Guatemala. I stayed at \$5 hotels and ate for about \$7 per day. Bus rides cost next to nothing. I spent a week on the Bay Island of Utila off the northern coast of Honduras in the Caribbean. They speak English but it's like Jamaican "MON." The mosquitos and sand flies are voracious but you can take PADI-certified scuba lessons there for only \$125! The cheapest place in the world (so they say). It was fun diving among the coral reefs full of fish, sponges, sea fans and lots of other sea life. Once I got the process of equalizing my sinus and ear pressure when going down, I had a great time. I dived to 20 meters (60 feet)—it was a cool experience, just like on the Discovery Channel. Tegucigalpa, the capitol of Honduras, is small and pleasant but very boring. It is up in the mountains so it is not so beastly hot there like down on the coasts.

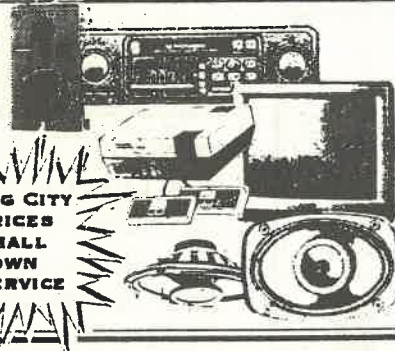
Next time: Crossing into Nicaragua!



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Workshop open to college-bound graduates

By Damian Fisher
Contributing Writer

It's never too early to begin preparing for your college education. For high school students planning to go to college, what you do in the summer after you graduate is very important to how successful you will be in college.

During that long-awaited summer some students travel, some work, some just party all the time. Those graduates headed for college have others options as well. Highly-motivated students may take advantage of summer preparatory academic classes and skill-building workshops.

The Tribal Resource Institute in Business, Engineering & Science (TRIBES) offers a just such a summer "bridge" program for graduating high school students who are thinking about study-

ing math, business, science, or another technical field.

About 30 students spend six to eight weeks on the campus of a major university living and attending classes together.

CERT is a non-profit, multi-Tribal organization composed of 57 American Indian Tribes, including the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and four Canadian Indian Nations. Founded in 1975 by 25 resource-owning Tribes, CERT is governed by an elected Tribal leadership and whose mission is "to support member Tribes as they develop their management capabilities and use their energy resources as the foundation for building stable, balanced self-governed economies." CERT sponsors the TRIBES workshop as part of its comprehensive academic enrichment program.

The classes integrate math, science, writing, and Tribal government curricula to focus on the common problems facing Tribes and on the strategies used to address those issues. Other workshops help students deal with the academic and cultural transitions necessary to succeed in college

life.

An interesting and unique feature of the program is a "Culture Campout," a weekend outing including the students, Indian college interns, and Tribal Elders.

It gives the students an opportunity to spend time with some of the people who have gone before them and can give them some insight into the significance of what their education will mean to them and their Tribes.

There is no cost to the students to attend TRIBES except the

round-trip travel to the TRIBES host university. Students who complete the summer program may earn up to nine units of transferable college credit and are eligible for annual \$1,000 Council of Energy Resource Tribes scholarships for up to five years of college study in addition to other CERT scholarships.

Assistant Tribal Administrator Bill Federico, returned from a recent meeting where he learned that CERT has established a scholarship fund in the name of late Tribal Council member Gary Quigno. "It would be nice to have one of our high school students go to the summer program" said Federico.

Applications for the TRIBES summer program may be obtained from the Tribal Education Department. The deadline for submitting applications is March 1.

New casino games debuted on Dec. 26

Craps, poker and roulette are now part of the action at the Soaring Eagle Casino.

Three craps tables, four roulette tables and a 12-table poker room opened on Dec. 26. Two Big Six money wheels will be installed soon. The new games are the latest addition to the casino's 4,000 slot machines, 76 blackjack tables and 2,500-seat bingo hall.

The poker room is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day, and features Texas hold 'em, Omaha, seven-card stud, pineapple and crazy pineapple. Poker fans can also look forward to a full schedule of tournaments.

The games were added because of customer demand, according to Table Games Director Darryl Jackson. "We have many loyal customers who love our casino. We're very pleased to offer them this added entertainment," Jackson said.

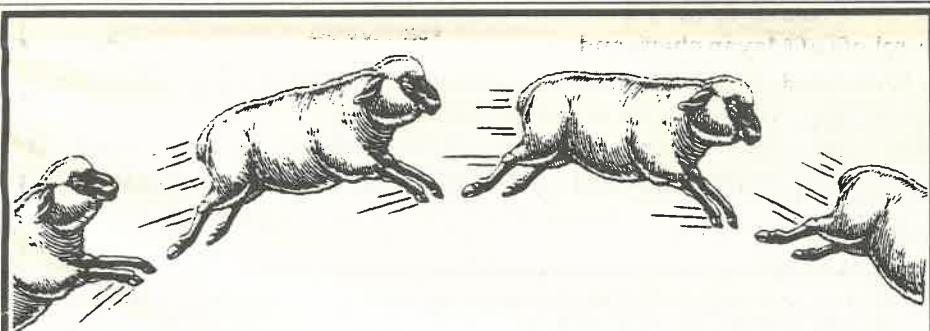
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ZCS

(Continued from page 4)

who have been doing double duty.

Likewise, Tracy Chatfield-Schatzer has recently started as the collections data entry clerk. She will be assisting Deb in the Collections Department. There has been a backlog of work in that department, so Tracy is a welcome addition.

Amanda Falcon was hired as one of our Youth Workers. She comes in from 3 to 5 p.m. We have two positions for youth

worker, and one position was not filled. If anyone who is in high school is interested in working part time at Ziibiwing, please put your application in at the Personnel Department in Tribal Operations.

The Gift Shop, located in the Soaring Eagle Casino, has been doing very well. Our wide selection of items has something for everyone. All are Native American crafts are made by Native Americans, with emphasis on Tribal members. Jack-ets may be special ordered. Please, support our people, and

buy from the gift shop.

E'awiiyaang, which is the name of the art exhibits located throughout the halls of Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, is nearly completed. This has been a very exciting project that our staff has been working on for over a year. We are now nearing the end and we hope everyone has the opportunity to view all the display cases we have installed. It is a project that Ziibiwing is very proud of, as it showcases our Tribal members and the beautiful art and crafts they create.

Thanks

(Continued from page 8)

cluded a discount off bingo packages when patrons donated to Toys for Tots.

The local Toys for Tots program was started 11 years ago in Mt. Pleasant by Dick Barz, who could not imagine a child being without a toy on Christmas morning. He believed Toys for Tots

to be a very worthwhile program and spends the entire year looking into new avenues to benefit the program.

Dick, a former Marine and Korean War veteran, is employed by the casino and takes his job and Toys for Tots very seriously.

Under the direction of the Marine Corps Reserves, Toys for Tots has brought joy to many families in the area.

To all of you who helped us out in so many different ways, thank you for a job well done.

Toys for Tots of Isabella and Clare counties





Twins double the fun during visit

By Dorothy Dale
Staff Writer

We recently had another visit from the Patchwork Twins, who gave a presentation at the Montessori school for students ages three to six.

For 10 years, Deb and Pat Emerick of Fremont have been per-

forming Christmas theme. Twelve of the little children went up on stage to depict the 12 days of Christmas. One actor was the partridge in a pear tree, another was a turtle dove, French hen, maid a-milking, and so on.

One Twin portrayed a windup doll while the

including "Matilda the Gorilla," "Puff the Magic Dragon" and "Casey at the Bat."

Another skit included a dozen Montessori students acting like sailors on a ship, wearing sailor hats and pretending to row the boat, peel potatoes and swab the deck. When they fin-



Observer photo/Dorothy Dale
One of the Patchwork Twins entertain Saginaw Chippewa Academy students during a recent program at the Broadway School.

forming together as the Patchwork Twins, wearing patchwork costumes and big red noses. They sing, perform skits and juggle for groups at schools, churches and festivals.

Their recent Montessori program had a

other had a big key for winding up the doll. The poor little doll kept winding down, which made the children laugh and laugh.

During an earlier visit to the Montessori, the Patchwork Twins performed skits and songs

ished, they stood in a row and took a bow for the audience.

One of the Patchwork Twins also juggled balls, ten pins plus a plunger, and three basketballs.

Everyone had a good time. Thanks, Twins, you made our day!



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

Fund-raising fun

The mother-and-daughter team of Eve, left, and Shleigh Jackson help make wreaths on Dec. 6 as part of a fund-raising effort toward the Angel Tree Program. About a dozen Montessori parent and staff volunteers took part in the event at the Broadway School.



Observer photo/Joe Sowmick

Legislative update

Tribal Councilman Alvin "Booster" Chamberlain, middle, meets with Rep. Paul Hillegonds, R-Owosso, during a recent legislative update hosted by Rep. Jim McBryde, R-Mt. Pleasant, pictured left. Hillegonds currently serves as Speaker of the House and represents District 88.

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Executive Director

Location: Isabella Federal Reservation

Wage: Per wage study

Supervisor: Tribal Gaming Commission Chairperson

Posting Date: Nov. 7 (Open until filled)

Preference: In accordance with Indian preference law

Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting, or closely related field is required. Two years of experience in compliance and/or related field is required. One year of experience in management/supervisory position with gaming division is preferred. Knowledge of Tribal, federal, and state laws, regulations and ordinances is required. Ability to set goals, plan, conduct and participate in meetings in which the collective resources of the group members are used efficiently using team concepts. Must have excellent communication skills, able to inform, communicate orally and write in diverse and challenging situations. Be able to develop and maintain effective working relationships with a variety of individuals and groups in a complex, multi-cultural work environment.

For more information about this position, contact the Tribal Personnel Office.

Submit applications/resumes to:

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Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

7070 E. Broadway
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Contractual

Licensed Librarian (Part-Time, One Year)

Location: Isabella Federal Reservation

Wage: Per wage study

Supervisor: Library Program Coordinator

Posting Date: Nov. 7 (open until filled)

Preference: In accordance with Indian preference law

Qualifications: Must be a licensed librarian in the state of Michigan.

For more information about this position, contact the Tribal Personnel Office.

Submit resume/application to:

Tribal Personnel Office
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

7070 E. Broadway
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Human

Resources Director

Location: Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

Wage: Depending on experience

Supervisor: Tribal Council

Qualifications: Master's degree or equivalent; or four to 10 years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Ability to read, analyze and interpret common scientific

and technical journals, financial reports, and legal document. Ability to respond to common inquiries or complaints from customers, regulatory agencies, or members of the business community. Ability to write speeches and articles for publication that conform to prescribed style and format. Ability to write speeches and articles for publication that conform to prescribed style and format. Ability to effectively present information to top management, public groups and/or board of directors. Ability to work with mathematical concepts such as probability and statistical inference, and fundamentals of plane and solid geometry and trigonometry. Ability to apply concepts such as fractions, percentages, ratios, and proportions to practical situations. This is a "Key" position.

Preference: In accordance with Indian preference laws

Posting date: Nov. 12 (open until filled)

For more information about this position, please contact Human Resources.

Send application/resume to:

Human Resources
Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Assistant Clerk

Location: Tribal Enrollment, Isabella Indian

Reservation

Wage: Per wage scale

Supervisor: Tribal Clerk

Posting Date: Open until filled

Preference: In accordance with Indian Preference Law

Qualifications: Must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or equivalent: experience in records management/clerical skills; must have some experience in taking and typing minutes. Must be proficient on word processor and be able to type at least 50 words per minute. Must be able to communicate both orally and in writing, and be able to deal tactfully with the public.

For more information

about this position, contact the Tribal Personnel Office.

Submit resumes and/or applications to:

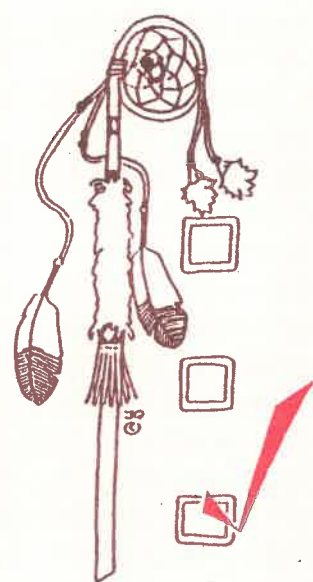
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Tribal Elders are the keepers of traditional wisdom including many tales of origin

By Simon Otto
Contributing Writer

Indians have been here in the Americas for centuries. The latest discoveries even tend to show that man has been here for 20,000 years.

It is presumed Indians came over on the land bridge between Siberia and Alaska. This theory is never talked about in Indian circles. It is our belief, told by the Elders, that when the Great Spirit made the Mother Earth, he told our people, "This land is yours to live on. You are the Keepers of the Earth. Take care of it. Do not abuse it. You cannot own land, but care for it as you would your own life. If you do not, I will send the rains, winds and fires to punish you."

Indians live from the northernmost tip of North

America to the southern tip of South America. There are many Tribes and dialects, each having its own belief as to where it came from. The many stories of creation all tend to say that they have been here from day eternal.

Each nation has its own story of creation, that their nation was the first one here and claims to be the probable original people. A friend of mine told me that we'll throw a wrench in to shoot their theories down. Who are the scientists to say that they claim to know where civilization started? Who cares? We know we believe our Elders.

Our own Indian stories claim that the Indians living here in the Great Lakes area claim to have come from where Brother Sun comes up,

and that our brothers there are the Pequots and other Indians in the Maine area and to the north around Newfoundland.

We are of the Algonquin strain and are distant cousins to the Mohawks,

lowed some rivers that emptied into it. They eventually settled in what is now southern Canada.

Later on, they explored to the south and eventually into what is now lower Michigan. They

central part of the state over into the east, and to the south. The Ottawas settled in the northern part of the state and in the Upper Peninsula.

Later they agreed to form an alliance to protect the lands from any invaders. This was called the Three Fires Confederacy. This group is still intact today, and their ways are still practised, each Tribe believing in its own customs and honoring these beliefs.

Each group has certain people who have a say in their Tribe. These are the Elders and Wise Ones who rule the village or organization. This is so yet today, even though the dominant society is comprised of non-Indians. Our beliefs are from the old way. We try to teach our young the way our

ancestors believed and lived, but the media, books and schools teach them differently. Those of us who are from the old school carry the traditions, stories and ways of our people of bygone days. Many hearts of the Elders are heavy because we see the Indian nation slowly being eroded by other teachings. Our efforts are being wasted. It's like trying to sow seeds on a windy day. How many of the seeds have fallen on rich soil, while the rest are blown away to be eaten by the birds and other animals?

I have talked to many Elders and most agree with what I have written. Is there an awakening among the young people? Is it too late? Only the Great Spirit has that answer.



There are many Tribes and dialects, each having its own belief as to where it came from. The many stories of creation all tend to say that they have been here from day eternal.

Onondagas, Oneidas and many more. These are called Woodland Indians.

Apparently a squabble arose among them and a band left there and travelled the water route, which is now the St. Lawrence River, and fol-

lowed some rivers that emptied into it. They eventually settled in what is now southern Canada.

The Potawatomes settled in southwestern Michigan, while the Ojibway settled in the

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