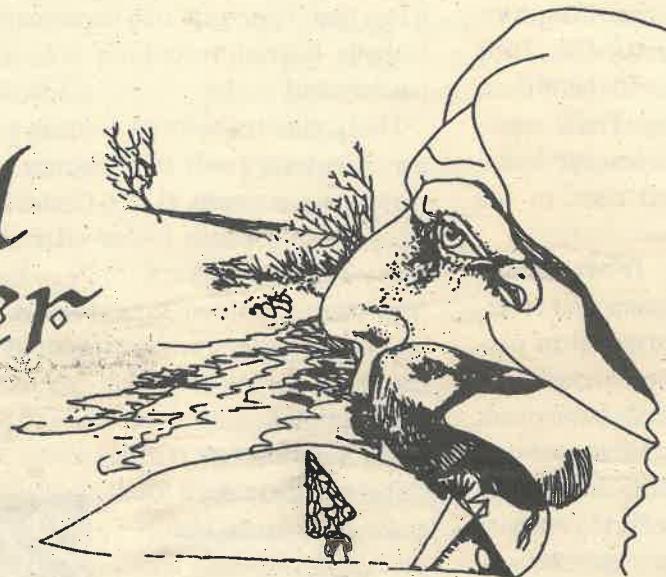


tribal observer



50¢

OCTOBER 1994 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 10

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

Vacancy filled

Weidman resident Kim Sawmick was elected to the Tribal Council by a one-vote margin on Sept. 13 in a special election which voters in the Isabella District had 14 individuals to pick from for a vacant seat.

Of the 341 registered voters, 118 votes- which represents 35 percent of the District- were cast. Sawmick edged Brenda Chamberlain and Steve Pego, who each received 18 votes.

Others on the ballot and the votes they received include: Shelly Foster, 17; Patricia Peters, 11; Delmar Jackson Sr., 10; Clinton Pelcher, Jr. and Marion Martinez, five each; Dolly Rueckert, four; Brenda Franco, three; Faith Montoya and Celia Osawabine, two each; Betty Otto, one; and Steven Godbey, none.



KIM SAWMICK

"On behalf of our Tribal community, I would like to welcome Kim Sawmick to Tribal Council," said Chief Gail Jackson. "There are many challenges ahead and I look forward to working with her."

Sawmick is currently the Tribe's Native American cultural specialist and also serves on the Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs.

She has been representing the Commission's Region 4 since July of 1987. This area is the northeast portion of the lower peninsula, including the Isabella Reservation in Isabella and Arenac counties.

"For the short time that I'm serving, I look forward to an exciting, challenging and interesting term. I am also looking forward to serving the needs of our members through my involvement in Tribal government," she stated.

Council moves cautiously

Proposed resort complex voted down

By Joe Sowmick

The Tribal Council has spoken.

In a special Tribal Council meeting conducted on Sept. 27, an unanimous decision was made where Council opted not to proceed with the project plan development of the Resort complex as recommended by the Entertainment Facility Task Force.

Tribal Chief Gail Jackson informed the *Tribal Observer* at press time the project as it was currently conceived was not acceptable and Council is looking to downsize the scope of the project while also seeking a new design.

"There were a lot of things to consider and I believe that we made the right move to evaluate and study this further," said Chief Jackson. "I'm glad that all of the other Council members came to this agreement and I wanted to let our Tribal members know that this was done because of our responsibility to them."

Numerous factors can be cited on why our Tribal Council chose at this time to re-evaluate the recommendations of the Entertainment Facility Task Force.

Clearly, the political climate is Washington, D.C. tends to be changing with proposed amendments to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act that will affect all our sovereign Nations.

We welcome our brothers and sisters who won their fight for federal recognition. We also realize that the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in

Petoskey/Harbor Springs, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Manistee will soon develop gaming as all other federally recognized Michigan Tribes have done.

Sources close to the *Observer* have confirmed the Pokagon Potawatomi Indians in Dowagiac are already in the first stages of developing gaming in southwest Michigan.

Tribal Chief Jackson did mention that all effort to date is not lost.

"We can still look at providing a hotel, restaurant and putting Soaring Eagle under one roof," Jackson stated.

The central issue was a loss of focus of what the Jackson administration platform hoped to achieve.

"Gaming has been the primary focus of Council," Chief Jackson stated. "We have lost our focus in providing housing, health care, education and other infrastructure for our Tribal people."

Our Tribal Chief continues to look at the benefits that the large operation will provide for Tribal members versus the problem that may occur with an over-ambitious project.

This is the point where Council was faced with the decision to continue with the project as planned or downsize the scope.

The Tribal Council will move forward cautiously and address economically viable alternatives that provide the maximum benefit to all Tribal members.

Group helps support students in need

By Scott Csernyik

In an effort to help area elementary children who need proper clothing, a Mt. Pleasant veterans organization is doing more than giving the shirt off their back.

Members of the V.F.W. Post 3033 and Ladies Auxiliary have been responsible over the past six years raising money for the Children's Clothing Fund.

By auctioning off a bunch of donated items and services from Mt. Pleasant merchants, the

group recently raised slightly over \$4,100 on Sept. 24.

The drive has been spearheaded by Auction Chairwoman and Saginaw Chippewa Tribal member Brenda Nolan.

"At one time we did a garage sale, which then evolved into the auction," she said. "During the first one we had, we made \$600 and I thought, 'Omigod, this is great.'"

Last year, the auction netted about \$3,200, which included a \$500 donation from the Tribe.

The Post also has 30

cannisters in the Mt. Pleasant area for folks who want to deposit some money to help aid the Fund.

Nolan explained they are contacted by a principal or teacher when a child is in need of clothing such as a new pair

(See FUND page 13)

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October, 1994

Aid honoring our people with voting power

By Joe Sowmick
One vote does make a difference.

This statement can be supported by the recent developments of the special election for one vacant Tribal Council seat.

The official results of the last Isabella district one special election revealed only 35 percent of the electorate came out to the polls.

It was great to see 14 Tribal members competing for the vacant Council seat, but voter apathy demonstrated the fact it took less than 20 votes to decide the appointment.

Let us take the hard facts of the Tribal electorate in hand.

In Isabella District One, we currently have 463 potential registered voters. We have 326 actual registered voters.

Observer to publish on a bi-monthly basis

By Joe Sowmick

The *Tribal Observer* is a publication of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and is authorized by the Tribal Council.

Although the current *Observer* has been in monthly publication since January, many Tribal members and employees eagerly anticipate their paper.

The Public Relations department is pleased that the publication has been well received by our Native community and subscribers.

The *Observer* staff is proud to announce that the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is now affiliated with the Native American Journalists Association.

Our Tribal newspaper will continue to keep the focus on providing timely information that relates to all Tribal members.

Starting in January 1995, the *Observer* will be a subscriber to the *Associated Press* wire service, A.P. Newsfinder. This will provide news items from other Tribes that are of interest to our community.

The *Observer* continues to encourage Tribal members, employees and departments to submit articles. In the spirit of the talking circle, we would like everyone to have a voice in our community.

Also in January, the *Observer* will become a bi-monthly publication. This change will mean a restructure of our subscription and advertising rate. The *Observer* will also face a change in mailing costs that will allow at-large members to receive the *Observer* on a more timely basis.

With the Tribal newspaper becoming a bi-monthly publication, it is the hope of Tribal Council to cut down on the number of mass mailing to the Tribal membership by placing Tribal correspondence in the *Observer*.

Current *Observer* staff at press time include editor Joe Sowmick, managing editor Scott Csernyik, reporters Jean Flamand and Geneva Mackety, Central Michigan University interns Christi Belfi, Annette VanDeCar and Derrick Morris and Mt. Pleasant High School intern Rhonda Quigno.

As always, feel free to call the *Observer* at (517) 772-5700 or write to 7070 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, Mich. 48858. Help us as we continue to be your source for Tribal news.

which reflects a community voice of over 70 percent.

In Saganing District Two, we currently have 42 potential registered voters. We have 35 actual registered voters, which reflects a community voice of over 83 percent.

In At-Large District Three, we currently have 1,362 potential registered voters. We have 547 actual registered voter which reflects a community voice of over 40 percent.

The numbers of the current Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal electorate reveals 1,867 potential registered voters. There are 908 actual registered voters in the three districts or over 48 percent total registered voters.

It has been apparent in

our Tribal history that when the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is faced with hard decisions, our Tribal membership becomes mobilized and rises to the occasion.

If our Tribal government is supposed to aspire to a model of participatory democracy of all the Tribal members that represents each district, clearly there needs to be an effort to encourage voter registration.

Caucus Committee Chairperson Amanda George brought to light the concerns that her committee experienced on the Sept. 13 special election.

George expressed a genuine concern of the caucus committee because of the low voter turnout. There was a real possibility that the previous election was

subject to being invalid if less than 30 percent of Isabella district voters participated.

Thirty minutes before the polls were ready to close, this concern almost prompted calls to local Tribal members who were identified-as registered voters who may have forgot about the election.

As important as our Tribal members need to make their voice heard in Tribal politics, we need to make a continuing effort for voter registration in non-Tribal elections. We need to empower our Native communities and it starts with each individual going to the polls and electing officials that will represent our people.

There will be no change in government unless the electorate ex-

presses their wishes to participate.

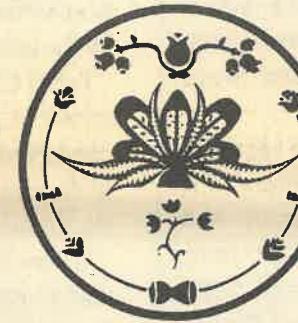
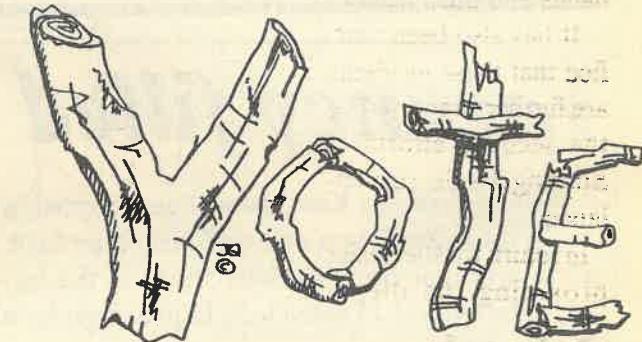
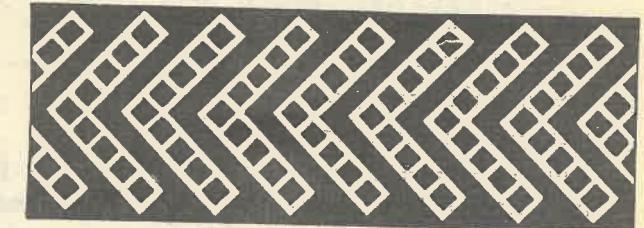
In the last special election, Kim Sawmick received 19 votes to secure a position on Tribal Council.

Tribal members Steve Pego and Brenda Chamberlain came in a close second with 18 votes each.

There have been

many instances where governments have seen how elections have been decided with one vote. We can see through the results of the last special election that the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is no different.

If you require further verification of this fact, ask Kim Sawmick.



In the spirit of the democratic process, Tribal members can fill out this voter registration application form and mail it to Tribal Enrollment, 7070 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Your voice is important and every vote counts.

VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

COUNTY: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY #: _____

PHONE: (____) _____

I, _____, hereby certify that I am a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and that I am at least 18 years of age or will be at least years of age on or before the date of the election. I further certify that I reside within the boundaries of the _____ District. (Isabella, Saganing, or At Large)

(Date)

(Signature)

COMPLETION OF THIS FORM IS NECESSARY IF WISH TO BECOME QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN UPCOMING TRIBAL ELECTIONS.

UPON COMPLETION, RETURN THIS FORM TO THE TRIBAL CLERK OFFICE. IT SHALL BE THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING WHETHER YOU QUALIFY TO HAVE YOUR NAME PLACED UPON THE LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING TRIBAL ELECTIONS.

Completion and return of this form is voluntary.

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

I hereby certify that the above named individual is qualified and this name shall be placed on the list of registered voters.

DATED

SIGNED

Tribal Police uncover scam

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police reports that a 51-year-old male Grand Ledge resident and his 31-year-old son from Charlotte were charged with two felony counts involved a card room incident at Soaring Eagle.

Criminal Investigator Clare Fox verified the gentlemen in question and a 42-year-old Hale female were working in confidence with a 31-year-old Tribal member who was employed as a blackjack dealer.

Tribal Police records revealed the three subjects had an agreement with the veteran blackjack dealer where he would pay off on losing hands and push hands.

It has also been verified that these incidents are further supported by the security efforts of Soaring Eagle surveillance.

In return for the dealer providing the illegal

winnings, the three suspects gave the dealer one-third of their take. On one occasion, Tribal Police confirmed one of the suspects was paid out in excess of \$1,500.

The female suspect in the case was charged in Tribal Court with two counts of misdemeanor violations.

The Tribal member has been terminated from his position and was prosecuted in Tribal Court, while also being barred from the gaming operations.

The three individuals charged in the scam have admitted to frequenting Tribal gaming facilities in St. Ignace

and Sault Ste. Marie.

Fox mentioned "this information on the case has been released to all of the gaming operations and other Tribal Police agencies on other Reservations."

This latest incident sends a warning to those people who may be operating outside the law.

The Tribal Police will continue to enforce the laws of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and the Tribal Court will prosecute those individuals who are found in violation of the law.

Violators will also be subject to federal and state court prosecution.



No bones about these Halloween safety suggestions

By Scott Csernyik

Four-year old Gail Vertz wants to dress up like "Barbie" for Halloween, while her younger brother, A.J., wants to be a "bunny rabbit."

Teddy Landgo aspires to be the wise-quacking cartoon detective "Darkwing Duck," while Erica Bennett wants to wear greasepaint on Oct. 31 and clowning around for tricks or treats.

And while these participants in the Saginaw Chippewa Academy's Pre-Primary Program know what they want to be when going door-to-door for goodies, they might not be aware of several tips to make it a safe Halloween.

Capt. Ralph Sawmick of Tribal Police suggests trick or treaters should "wear reflective tape or carry a flashlight so they can be seen by motorists."

With certain areas of the Reservation experiencing high volumes of traffic, Sawmick also cautions local youth about traveling on the roadways.

"It's a good idea for them to stay off the pavement on Broadway or other streets because they can't be seen," he stated.

Tribal youth should keep in mind Halloween is a fun time and not an occasion to damage property, Sawmick added.

"Halloween is for the youth," he said. "It's important to set a good example of how Native Americans are, rather than something negative."

Cpl. James Brugger, Crime Prevention/Community

Service Officer of the Mt. Pleasant Police Department suggested children "know the places they are going to visit for candy, so if something is bad, they know where they got it."

When it comes to costumes, he also said youth should wear their own shoes and not an adults which will be several times larger.

"A few years ago, we had problems with children tripping all over the place because the shoes they were wearing weren't their own," he stated.

The National Child Safety Council offers these suggestions for parents, costumes, masks and treats:

- Keep costumes simple. Long and fancy ones could cause children to trip.
- Costumes should be made of white or light-colored material, to be easily seen at night.
- Props, such as guns and swords, should be made of styrofoam or cardboard.
- Instead of wearing masks, paint faces with makeup.
- Apply a thin coat of cold cream before applying the makeup. This will help it come off easier.
- Never eat anything until after you are home and the treats have been examined.
- Cut and wash fruit before eating.
- Throw away anything unwrapped.
- Check the wrappers of commercial treats for signs of tampering.

- Notify the police if harmful items are found.
- Never enter a stranger's house- even if one is invited.
- Leave your porch light on, so children will know it's okay to visit the home.
- Keep pets inside on Halloween night.



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October, 1994

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 Ronald Jackson, Member
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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).



Youth facility is center for creative activities

By Annette VanDeCar

The Tribal Youth Center continually evolves as Director Dave Chatfield implements his vision.

"The changes and renovations here will never be a 100 percent completed because I doubt I'll run out of ideas to improve," Chatfield said. "Eventually, I'd like to see a smaller version of the SAC (Student Activity Center at Central Michigan University) built behind the Youth Center."

"I have a vision for the future and I hope the Tribe allows me to build it," he added.



DAVE CHATFIELD

Chatfield has numerous activities he would like the youth to enjoy designed to promote the culture and tradition of the Saginaw Chippewa. He encourages community members to volunteer their time and teach the workshops. Some of these program ideas include drumming, dancing, leather crafts, beadwork and language.

"We're letting a local drum practice here and we want to teach kids to dance traditionally as well as make their regalia," said Chatfield. "We could incorporate both activities to allow the dancers to learn from a real drum."

An entertainment center ensures the dancers will
 (See CENTER page 5)

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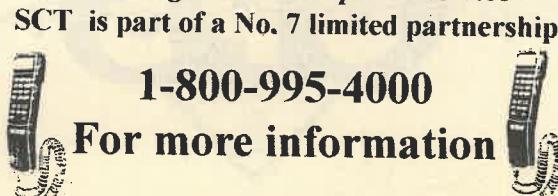
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Board members sought for Tribal academy

Pursuant to a proposed resolution by Central Michigan University Board of Trustee's the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council appointed the following persons to an interim Board of Directors of the Saginaw Chippewa Academy at a regular meeting held on Aug. 31: Bonnie Ekdahl, Gordon Henry Sr., William Matson, Mary Pelcher and Carla Sineway.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council would like to notify all Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Members that letters of intent for the permanent positions of the Saginaw Chippewa Academy - Board of Directors are now being accepted. Please notify Carla Sineway in writing if you are interested in being appointed to the Saginaw Chippewa Academy's Board of Directors. The deadline for applying is Oct. 18 at 5 p.m. at the Tribal Education Office at 913 E. Pickard, Suite H-I, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

Qualifications of members

Members shall be selected based on their background, education and employment or professional experience, particularly relating to education and school administration, and consideration shall be given to members or descendants of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and other federally recognized Indian Tribes.

The Board members of the Saginaw Chippewa Academy must include: (a) a representative of the parents of children attending the school; and (b) at least one professional educator, preferably a person with school administrative experience.

Length of term

The Director shall hold office for a five (5) year term or until the Director's replacement, death, resignation or removal.

Number of directors

The number of members of the Board of Directors of the Saginaw Chippewa Academy shall be five (5).

These are not paid positions and at this point in time there are no stipend or mileage allocations.

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At the Elijah Elk Cultural Center

Participants not 'bored' with wood shop activity

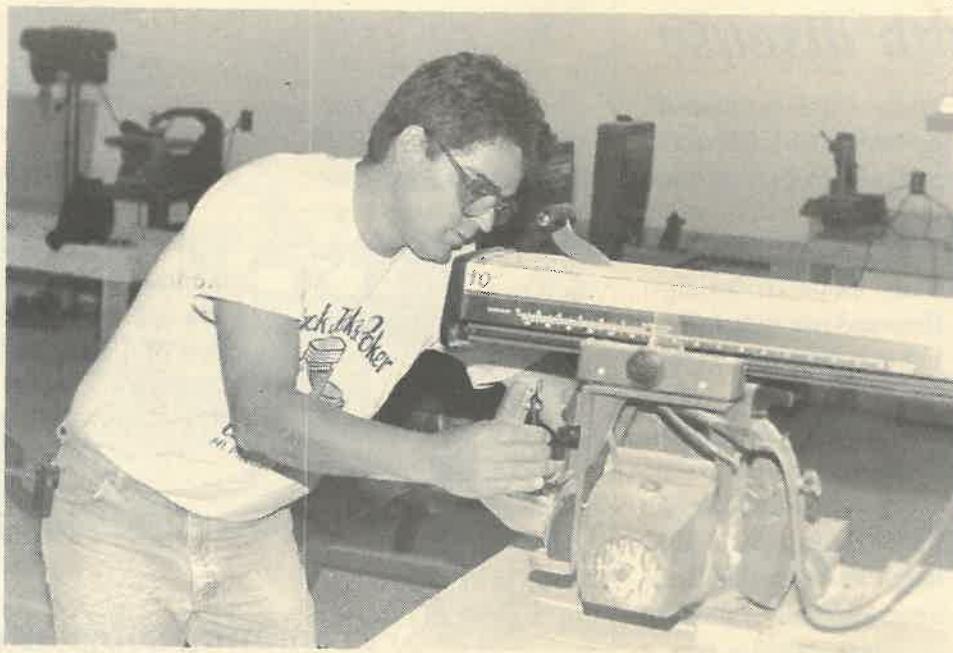
By Jean Flamand

The project at the Elijah Elk Cultural Center is sort of like Santa's workshop where participants can construct various items using wood from toys to television stands.

The Seventh Generation Wood Shop has been offered for a couple of months and is coordinated by Tim Stevens, a Tribal member who also is a carpenter with the Ojibway-Greenwald Construction Enterprise.

"I enjoy working with wood and I thought it would be fun to teach people how to make things," he stated. "Anyone is more than welcome to come and participate. You can make anything that your mind can create."

Wood Shop hours are



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

Carpenter Tim Stevens uses the radial arm saw while working on a project at the Seventh Generation Wood Shop.

from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, as well as from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday. If one has any questions about the activity, they can call (517) 773-0025 for more information.

Saginaw Chippewa Academy students have also been utilizing the Wood Shop on afternoons for a couple of hours.

Henry Sprague, who is working on a mini-picnic table, called the

activity "good for the kids" and "something positive to do."

"I like it better because it's boring in the classroom and it's not boring down there," he said.

Sanitarian offers solution to dumping

(Editor's note: Tribal Council is aware of the following problem and assures the community it will take care of.)

Dear Tribal Council Members:

Over the past few months, I have witnessed and have been contacted by a large number of Tribal employees concerning the ever growing dump site behind the youth center and adjacent to the abandoned lagoons. During this time the small pile of, mainly construction, debris has grown into a residential and commercial dumping grounds. As is witnessed, furniture, garbage, doors, bed springs, appliances and other material are being dumped at this site.

During discussions with Tribal staff, a number of concerns have been reviewed with respect to the pile's existence. These concerns are outlined below;

1. It has been noted that many children have begun to play in this area. The broken glass, sharp metal edges and other material could lead to seri-

ous injury or even death.

2. This area is becoming an excellent harborage for rodents. Though no rodents were witnessed during the last visit, it is very possible rats, mice, and other vermin may be setting up homes in the mattresses and other soft type furniture. These types of vermin do carry rabies and could lead to a large increase of disease in the community.

3. There is a definite fire hazard associated with the site. There is a large amount of dry wood and brush which would ignite rather easily. Serious injury could occur if this is allowed to continue to happen, get out of control, or enter the trailer park. Additionally, some of the styrene in the pile would cause toxic gasses which could be harmful/fatal if inhaled.

4. Aesthetically, it is very unpleasing to the viewer. Non-community members (gaming patrons) "accidentally" viewing it would find it very offensive. The image this conducts to your patrons

(See DUMP page 14)



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Center

(Continued from page 4)

have the equipment to practice their steps regularly. The center purchased a new television, video cassette recorder and a stereo system which has a compact disc player. Educational videos discouraging gang violence and substance abuse fill the shelves and a movie marathon appears possible in the near future. Another portion of the room could hold variety of books.

"The history and art of our culture needs to be taught by Native American but books can enhance the knowledge," Chatfield said. "I also hope to purchase the Kenny Pheasant language tapes to reinforce our identity."

The center along with Saginaw Chippewa Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor an archery class and recently purchased three dimensional shots, targets and bows and arrows. One must be 14-years-old and possess a hunter safety certificate to enroll.

"We want to prepare our youth for the world and provide an atmosphere of fun without drugs, alcohol or violence," said Chatfield. "I want the kids to know they have reliable guidance and it will be available for future generations."

The outside of the center is also being revitalized. Faith Montoya and Frank Shawnoo volunteered their artistic talent to paint pictures on the wall. Montoya put the finishing touches on a male grass dancer and Shawnoo created a decorative border.

"I eventually would like every kid to paint pictures on the inside walls and sign their name to it," Chatfield said. "Appearance of the facility is a priority because it must invite the youth in."

Supervision of the new equipment and facility will be tightened according to Chatfield.

"Every time the youth center was fixed up, some members of the community destroyed the facility," said Chatfield. "We pulled teeth to fund these renovations and must avoid damage to receive further support."

After five months of renovation, the Youth Center continues to move towards fulfilling Chatfield's vision.

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VOTE FOR
JOANNE EMMONS**

"It is a pleasure to represent the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe during this time of unprecedented growth and achievement. The success of the Tribe has meant so much to the area's economy. I was proud to have played such an important role in gaining legislative approval of the Gaming Compact reached between the governor and Michigan's seven federally recognized Indian Tribes."

-Sen. Joanne Emmons, R-Big Rapids

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Health

Exam available for mouth disease

Periodontal disease is a bone-destroying infection of the mouth.

This bacterial infection causes loss of the bone that anchors the teeth and destroys the ligament between the tooth root, as well as the tooth socket.

If not treated, it worsens over time and can eventually cause tooth loss. The main cause of periodontal disease is the build-up of specific, harmful bacteria on the surface of the tooth and under the gums. We often call it the build-up of plaque. These bacteria are infectious and transmissible.

Factors that contribute to the disease and make a person more susceptible to the bacteria are; smoking, pregnancy,

Perception versus reality in the workplace

According to a recent study conducted by Dr. Kenneth Kovach of George Mason University in Virginia there's a world of difference between employers perceptions of what really motivates employees and what actually does inspire them.

What motivates employees? They say:

- Interesting job
- Appreciation by management
- Being well-informed
- Job security
- Compensation
- Growth opportunities
- Good working conditions
- Company's loyalty to employees
- Tactful discipline
- Help with personal problems

The managers think it's:

- Compensation
- Job security
- Growth opportunities
- Good working conditions
- Interesting work
- Company's loyalty to employees
- Tactful discipline
- Appreciation by management
- Help with personal problems
- Well-being

Note that "being well-informed" is the third choice on the employees' list - but it doesn't even show up on the managers' one. If you're one of those who may be misreading your staff, take this opportunity to rethink your strategy.

stress, traumatic occlusion, bad fillings, not eating right and systemic diseases like diabetes. By getting rid of the bacteria and control the contributing factors, you will be more resistant to the disease.

Do you or someone you know have periodontal disease? Seventy-five to 85 percent of adults do to some degree. Here are the early warning signs:

- Gums bleed easily when brushing or flossing;
- Gums puffy, red color;
- Bad Breath, bad taste;
- Pus or exudate;
- Loose or mobile teeth; and
- Tenderness and sensitivity

If you don't have any of the warning signs, in-

crease your resistance by taking care of yourself now to prevent the infection.

It is important on a daily basis to brush, floss and use rinses that kill the bacteria. The only way to keep your mouth healthy is to keep it clean.

If you do have one of the warning signs, seek help. The dental office uses x-rays and a simple gum test, called a periodontal exam, to check for this infection.

With treatment, the destruction can be slowed or stopped and teeth saved. The dental team will give you a fresh start by removing the bacterial plaque, bacterial products and tartar from the teeth.

Call us at the dental clinic, or stop by our table at the Health Fair if we can answer any questions or be of any help to you!

-Submitted by Ileen Peterson, Clinic Dental Hygienist



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

Promoting sober lifestyles

Over 150 people participated in the Tribe's Third Annual Freedom Walk on Sept. 26. Pictured in the foreground is John McCallister carrying a flag, with Frank and Phyllis Kequom holding the banner. The event was sponsored by Ojibwe Substance Abuse Services and the Saginaw Chippewa Drug Elimination Program. Several people in the walk carried signs conveying anti-drug and alcohol messages such as, "Smoke, Choke, Croak." The late afternoon activity also included a feast, as well as the unveiling of the Circle of Health Partnership's new substance abuse prevention poster. Featuring the message, "Choose Tradition Not Addiction," the poster included Native Americans Stephanie Sprague, daughter Kaylyn Kingbird and Kendall Kingbird.

Tips on lowering high blood pressure

Strength, wisdom and good health are American Indian birthrights. Our elders taught us many healthy ways that were practiced for many generations. Over time, some healthy traditions have been traded for unhealthy ways that increase the chances of getting some diseases.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for American Indians and Alaska Natives today. We can do something to prevent heart disease. Knowing your blood pressure can help you prevent heart disease.

(See PRESSURE page 11)

Birth announcement

N'Kai Simone Quigno began her Circle of Life on Sept. 5, 1994. N'Kai was born 3:18 a.m. at Central Michigan Community Hospital in Mt. Pleasant to Diana Marie Quigno, weighing seven pounds, 12 ounces and 19-and-three-quarters-of-an-inch in length. The proud grandparents are Brian and Cindy Quigno.

Gambling Problem? There Is Help!



Gamblers Anonymous
Meetings In Mt. Pleasant
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(517) 724-5473
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Region 2 Representative

Earlene Jackson
401 S. 9th Street
Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 789-1271
NO COLLECT CALLS

Region 3 Representative

Thelma Henry-Shipman
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is now being sent to 38 other
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Special Is.

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HOME OF THE BELLY BUSTER**

School making the grade for Detroit area students

By Christi Belfi

In trying to come up with a name for a new Detroit school aimed at meeting the needs of Native American students, several educators believe their guidance came from beyond.

"Medicine Bear just fell out of her mouth," said Linda Mays, who is aiding in curriculum development at Medicine Bear Academy. "A light surrounded all of us and you could hear a pin drop. We knew it was right."

Judith Mays' office.

Glass covering a hanging picture of a white bear had cracked.

"(We knew that) the spirit of the bear was now free. It was just right," Judith said.

Medicine Bear Academy, part of Detroit Public Schools, is tailored to the needs of Native American children living in the city. Judith, who is a Saginaw Chippewa Tribal member, said there are about 1,000 Native American children in



Observer photo/Christi Belfi
Medicine Bear Academy Principal Judith Mays shares a tender moment with her niece, Esther.

Then the physical sign justifying the school's name appeared when they went back into Academy Principal

the district who do not have a central location where they can gather and socialize.

(See SCHOOL page 10)

Flint area gathering attended by many

By Neuel E. Denman

Region 4 Representative

About 110 individuals participated in the Region 4 District meeting conducted on Sept. 10 in the Flint area hosted by Neuel E. Denman at the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints Hall.

Following petitions to the Great Spirit by Beldon Denman, the meeting was kicked off at noon. After the Benefits Committee members were introduced, Tribal Council member Ron Jackson gave us a general update what was going on around the community. This included the expansion that is now taking place at our new gaming facility, plus also some of the future planning in the works. He also briefly explained the Tribe's financial status.

At-Large Advocate Amy Alberts was then introduced and gave us the highlights of the Benefits Committee request to Tribal Council for the next fiscal budget. This year, the Committee went before the Council to justify our requests. Amy also answered several questions concerning benefits.

Grace was offered by Francis Davis as we broke for lunch at 1:30 p.m., which was followed by the giving away of door prizes, plus Tribal t-shirts and caps. The door prizes were made by crafts people throughout the state of Indian descent.

We then settled into a serious discussion regarding open enrollment, which was very nicely covered in the September issue of the *Tribal Observer*.

Ron first explained the way it is going to be and then answered all questions from the people.

At-Large members flock to Oscoda gathering

By Joe Sowmick

September concludes what many of our At-Large Tribal members may remember as "Community Gatherings Month."

Each of the four regions held community gatherings that were open to all Tribal members.

Region Two conducted their meeting on Sept. 24 at Traverse City. Representative Earlene Jackson hosted the meeting at the American Legion Post.



Observer photo/Joe Sowmick

Bernice Nelson of AuGres shows off her Native American doll won as a door prize.

The Region Three gathering took place on Sept. 11 at Detroit. Representative Thelma Henry-Shipman hosted the meeting at the Southeastern Michigan Indians building.

On Sept. 10, Region Four Representative Neuel Denman hosted their meeting at the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints in Flint.

The community gathering that received the greatest turnout was the Region One meeting on Sept. 17 in Oscoda.

Representative John York hosted the meeting at the V.F.W. Post and was pleased with the turnout. Last year, a similar community gathering drew 35

(See COMMUNITY page 13)

Again, I would like to thank all the people in the Flint area for the good attendance. With you showing your interest in the community and what is going on. It makes our job much easier when you give us your views so we can be more attentive to our common needs.

Several people filled out registration forms to vote and I would strongly urge all the people to get out and participate in this process. After all, this is your right as a community member to make your voice heard.

Sam Fisher also deserves a very special thanks for finding me a hall and our caterer was I'm sure appreciated by all.

Over 18 and want to get a G.E.D. or high school diploma?

We may have the program for you... For most adults, efforts to get a G.E.D. or high school diploma can be quite difficult. On the average, it takes a person three months to prepare to successfully take the five G.E.D. 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) 773-5858, extension 204 or 208.

InnerView

(Editor's note: Buddy Big Mountain travels across the country, bringing his wisdom and laughter into our lives. Buddy's unique blend of comedy, ventriloquism, puppetry and magic has delighted audiences of all ages throughout the United States and Canada. Buddy came to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe to perform for Grandparents Day, and found that more was happening on the Reservation than he expected. He was interviewed by Tribal Observer Editor Joe Sowmick.)

Tribal Observer: I've heard that you have performed all over the country. Where is Buddy Big Mountain from originally?

Buddy Big Mountain: I was born in New Jersey.

T.O.: (laughter) Now, are you pulling my leg? That sounds like a comedian's response. Okay, so you're Anishnabe from New Jersey ... what Tribe are you from?

B.B.M.: Mohawk. My father, Iron Horse Big Mountain, was Apache and Comanche and my mother, Wild Flower Big Mountain, is Mohawk, Welsh and English. She was like a Welsh Chief.

T.O.: You offer a wide variety of entertainment. What can our readers expect from your performance?

B.B.M.: I do ventriloquism ... I do magic ... I do marionettes and I consider myself a comedian (heh, heh, heh).

T.O.: Well, as a Native comedian, do you find it hard to continue to laugh at what is happening in the events that surround you?

B.B.M.: It depends on what I am looking at, actually. If you can look at anything and get a little bit of funny out of it, it keeps you a little healthier.

T.O.: Now coming from your roots in New Jersey, where did you get the start into doing public performance?

B.B.M.: Well, I grew up entertaining with my mom and dad and my family in Native dancing. And from traveling and performing at different theme parks, we worked at a place in Kentucky where I met a ventriloquist, and I thought he was pretty cool and I wanted to be just like him and do what he did.

T.O.: In your opinion, do you find that this is the greatest way to get involved in a career path, to emulate a Native role model who has success?

B.B.M.: I think it's a lot easier to emulate someone because you got something to go by. You have to have a very good imagination to say that, "I think I'm going to be a therapist," and you've never met one. It is a lot easier to emulate someone and use them as a base and build from there. When you listen to them, you already pass along the mistakes that they have made. If you can continue from there, 30 or 40 years down the road, you will go further.

T.O.: You've had your roots in a family show and then you came involved in some professional touring companies?

B.B.M.: Yeah ... what happened was I met those people at the theme parks I was working at with my family. So when I left, I explored the magic part of my performance and worked with a profes-



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

DOLLY RUECKERT AND BUDDY BIG MOUNTAIN

sional touring company.

T.O.: The work that you did in the late 70s with "The Amazing Conklins" brought your expansion to the field of ventriloquism with "The Trotter Brothers?"

B.B.M.: That's right. I moved to Wichita, Kan., and worked with puppetry and all through it I still did my Indian dancing and continued to keep what I learned from my family an important part of what I do and who I am.

T.O.: It's great to have you come to our Reservation for Grandparents Day and we will have a lot of our Tribal kids there. What can they expect from a Buddy Big Mountain performance?

"And if anyone gets a message out of my performance, I hope they would realize that life isn't always going to be easy but always carry a happy thought."

B.B.M.: Well, I would hope that everybody ... regardless of their age, would get a lot of laughs.

T.O.: What are the names of the characters that you use in your act?

B.B.M.: The ones that I was requested to bring with me are buffalo, whose name is Anoonquah. I also brought Iron Horse, who is an Elder. I am also thinking of using one of my brash youngsters, who is called Awesome Fox. I go with the story line that Awesome Fox is brand new and he is just learning about himself. I find as I perform with this new character, I learn more about myself also. He is a fun character who has developed over the last couple of years and now one of the stars of my performance.

T.O.: I hear that you have done many commercials for clients like MasterCard and network series like "Gentle Ben." You have also done many theatrical roles and local TV appearances. How do you differentiate between the media and on-stage performance?

B.B.M.: Okay ... when you're on TV and doing the TV shots, the audience is usually secondary between the performer and the audience. You hear and see the reactions and the camera can be distracting to your timing if you're trying to tell a story or a joke. This is why I prefer a live audience.

"If you can look at anything and get a little bit of funny out of it, it keeps you a little healthier."

T.O.: The timing of your appearance was perfect. Not only will you be able to perform for Grandparents Day but you will be able to participate in the Freedom Walk. It sounds like, through your act, you communicate a message for our Native community about substance abuse. How do you bring this topic into your act?

B.B.M.: Well, I try to use a combination of things like music and story telling. I truly believe that when you can tell a story that can keep people's interest when you talk about something that they would really not want to listen about. That's where change begins.

T.O.: Is that where Indian humor begins?

B.B.M.: Yeah ... I think it starts when we can talk about the humor that is present in a lot of Native traditions. It helps and gives a lot where I can tell it better, but that is how a lot of Native stories go.

T.O.: It seems that you make an effort to draw in a diverse audience. Is that a conscious effort, to provide cultural entertainment that crosses generational lines?

B.B.M.: Oh yeah ... sure. I was always told that I was supposed to entertain the children, and if the children are happy, the parents are happy. I feel like I can entertain everyone. I throw in things that children may not understand just for the adults, and it works both ways where I'll throw in humor just for the children. I kind of like how Burns and Allen used to take their humor in different ways. I really enjoy and appreciate that type of humor and entertainment ... and that's what I try to do.

T.O.: It sounds like you try to deal more with the traditions and culture than the politics that exist in Indian Country. Would that be a correct statement?

B.B.M.: That's politically correct (laughs). I feel that since I travel so much, I have no time to formulate any politics of what goes on at any Reservation.

I can't come in on one day and say what is happening in the Saginaw Chippewa Nation. So in order from keeping myself from looking stupid, I stay out of the politics and try to stay with the Indian humor.

(See INNERVIEW page 11)

For information and booking arrangements, contact: Diana Big Mountain, manager, by calling (800) 441-8641 or fax (714) 521-7833.

Local prep senior downing opponents as a utility player

By Annette VanDeCar

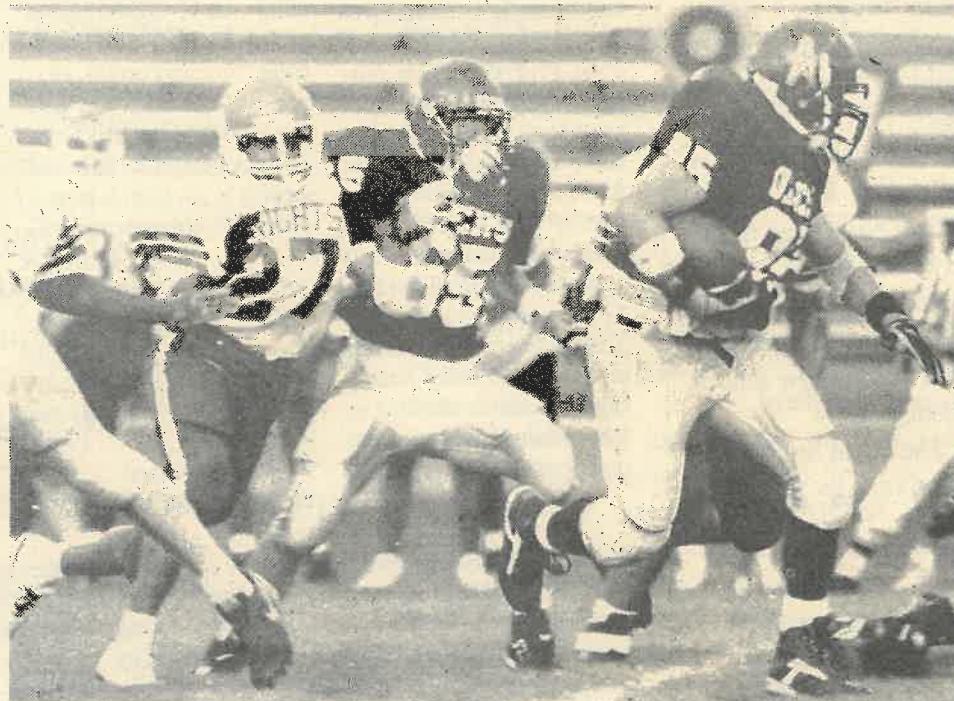
Mt. Pleasant High School senior Dustin Davis separates himself from other players on the gridiron by his athletic versatility.

"Dustin is a great athlete with good football sense and everything comes natural to him," said Mike Poff, defensive coordinator for the Mt. Pleasant Oilers. "He is a very unselfish and gladly switches positions to help the team. He can play any position but quarterback although he probably would say he could."

Davis agreed with the evaluation of his versatility.

"I could play any position if it benefited the team and the coaches asked me to," Davis said. "I'm not sure about quarterback though because I can't throw a football very well. I'd be willing to try but, I couldn't promise success."

The Oilers crushed Saginaw Buena Vista, 54-0, Sept. 16 in the home-opener in front of a vocal crowd to elevate their record to 2-1. Davis scored a touchdown while at fullback on a three-yard run. He started the contest at outside linebacker on



Observer photo/Courtesy

Mt. Pleasant High School senior Dustin Davis picks up yardage on a run against Buena Vista on Sept. 16. The hosting Oilers throttled the Knights, 54-0. The 5-foot-11-inch, 240-pound Davis finds himself playing several different positions for the Mt. Pleasant squad.

defense.

"It is important for us to win every game because we lost our first one by one point," said Davis. "Our goal is to make the playoffs, because last season we missed them by one loss. It motivates the seniors this year to accomplish the goal because then we will get the recognition conference schools do."

Davis has seen action at fullback, tackle, linebacker, tight end and defensive end this season.

"I play linebacker on defense and I started the first two games at fullback; I block and open

holes for the tailback," Davis said. "I don't really care for tackle but it will be my best move if I want to play in college."

The Oilers have two home games remaining, including an Oct. 14 contest against Chippewa Hills and an Oct. 28 battle with St. Johns. This is the second year the Mt. Pleasant team has played as an independent. They are coached by Don Peddie, who has been with the Oiler program for the past seven years.

Colleges from the Big Ten Conference and other smaller ones expressed some interest in Davis.

"Playing football in college is definitely an

option but I primarily will focus on business and marketing," said Davis. "I'd like to bring some knowledge back to the Tribe; there's al-

ways a need for good marketing and business skills here."

Dustin's father, Tim, hopes his son's attending college inspires other young people to

follow the same path.

"I'd like to see everyone from the Tribe earn a degree of some type because the young people

as a formidable force at both fullback and linebacker.

"He is utilized to run straight at the defense

"Dustin plays power football and as the competition gets tougher, Dustin gets tougher. He's the kind of person I'd want in a foxhole with me if there was a war."

here have the capabilities to," the Tribal Sub-Chief said. "I hope he can do something positive for the Tribe and maybe, with his example, we can send more kids to college."

Dustin currently works at the Isabella Bank and Trust. In the past, he has also helped run a school store in connection with a class.

Off the gridiron, Dustin is polite and courteous. But on the playing field, he serves

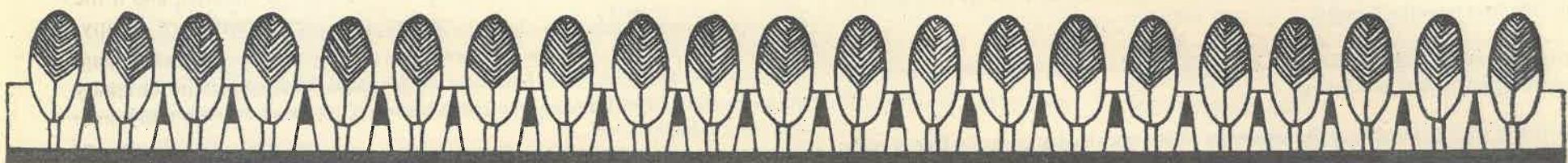
and to keep opponents honest," Davis said. "He loves to hit people. Once he hit someone so hard, they had to repair his helmet after the game."

Poff concurred with this "in-your-face" style of football.

"Dustin plays power football and as the competition gets tougher, Dustin gets tougher," said Poff. "He's the kind of person I'd want in a foxhole with me if there was a war."

Mt. Pleasant Blue and Gold

All Hail to thee Mt. Pleasant High
We cherish thru the years
For hopes and dreams the future brings
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And we will not forget
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-Alma Mater by Wally Moore



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School

(Continued from page 7)

"These children were isolated," she said. "They had a lack of knowledge about (their) tradition and culture."

Part of this identity crisis has been fueled by stereotypes and misconceptions about Native American people.

Judith, who used to go elementary classes and discuss Indian traditions, found this out firsthand.

"One class actually followed me out to watch me ride away on my horse," she stated.

She also cited classroom textbooks having misrepresentations about what it is like to be an Indian. After seeing "a powwow is an Indian party" in a math book a few years ago, Judith has actively wrote to publishers seeking change.

"Older children who were trying to correct these stereotypes were being disciplined and labeled as trouble makers."

"ers," she said. "The only way that we're going to get a good Indian curriculum is to write it ourselves."

The small Medicine Bear Academy is one of 56 schools in Area A, a subsection of the Detroit Public School system.

The Academy currently has only one Native American teacher, however school officials are searching for more. Even though the school has students enrolled in grades K-3, Judith said they are optimistic about adding another academic level each year.

Medicine Bear Academy has 80 students, with slightly over half of them Native American, including several Saginaw Chippewa Tribal members and descendants.

Judith believes while striving to provide a child with a complete education, it is necessary to focus on the entire well-being of the individual. This "emotional fitness," along with physical fitness,

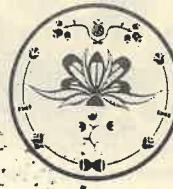
includes spirituality and self-esteem.

She also wants to make learning a fulfilling experience to deter children from dropping out.

"We have wanted a school as long as our people have been in the city," she stated.

That wish was granted on Aug. 29 when the doors of the new school opened.

"The Great Spirit gave the name to us," she added.



*For the latest
in Tribal news,
read the Observer*



LEGAL NOTICE

YOU ARE ADVISED OF THE FOLLOWING:

In accordance with the Saginaw Chippewa Criminal Code, Title 1, Section 1.2024:

FAILURE TO SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL. Any person who shall without good cause, neglect or refuse to send children or any children under his care under the age of sixteen (16) years to school shall be deemed guilty of an offense and conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) days or to a fine not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00), or to both such imprisonment and fine, with costs, for the first such offense. The court may, in its discretion, double the penalties herein for each additional offense. Any child under the age of sixteen who refuses to attend school may be charged as truant under the procedures set out in Title II for Juvenile Offenders.

In accordance with the State of Michigan Laws, MCL 340.743, failure to send children to school; complaint against parents, punishment:

Sec. 743. It shall be the duty of the attendance officer, after having given the formal notice described in section 742 hereof, to determine whether the parent or other person in parental relation has complied with the notice, and in case of failure to so comply he shall make a complaint against said parent or other person in parental relation having the legal charge and control of such child or children before any justice of the peace in the county where such party resides for such refusal or neglect to send such child or children to school, and said justice of the peace shall issue a warrant upon said . . . parent or other person in parental relation shall be punished according to the provisions of section 740. . . .

Sec. 740. . . . He shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall on conviction thereof be punished by a fine of not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$50.00, or imprisonment in the county or city jail for not less than 2 nor more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

Information provided by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, Judicial System: Tribal Prosecutor Donna Minor Budnick

October, 1994

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Binoojiinh Montessori announces the sponsorship of the Child and Adult Care Food Program. This program is designed primarily to provide meals to children in child care centers, outside school hours programs and family day care homes. Meals are available at no separate charge to all children 12 years of age or under, migrant children 15 years of age or under and older handicapped children enrolled in Binoojiinh Montessori. In the operation of the Child and

Adult Care Food Program no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap. Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA-related activity should write imme-

diately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

If a child's family's income falls below the following guidelines, his/her meals are eligible for free or reduced price reimbursement.

FAMILY SIZE	FREE "A"			REDUCED PRICE "B"		
	YEARLY INCOME	YEARLY INCOME	YEARLY INCOME	YEARLY INCOME	YEARLY INCOME	YEARLY INCOME
1	\$ 9,568			\$13,616		
2	12,792			18,204		
3	16,016			22,792		
4	19,240			27,380		
For each additional family member add:	3,224			4,588		

The Saginaw Chippewa Academy recently announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk or Commodity School Programs. The following household size and income criteria will be used for determining eligibility.

TOTAL FAMILY SIZE	A.			B.				
	SCALE FOR FREE MEALS	YEAR	MONTH	WEEK	SCALE FOR REDUCED	YEAR	MONTH	WEEK
1	9,568	798	184	13,616	1,135	262		
2	12,792	1,066	246	18,204	1,517	351		
3	16,016	1,335	308	22,792	1,900	439		
4	19,240	1,604	370	27,380	2,282	527		
5	22,464	1,872	432	31,968	2,664	615		
6	25,688	2,141	494	36,556	3,047	703		
7	28,912	2,410	556	41,144	3,429	792		
8	32,136	2,678	618	45,732	3,811	880		
Each Additional Family Member	+3,224	+269	+62	+4,588	+383	+89		

Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free and reduced-price meals or free milk.

Applications forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households should fill out the form and return it to the school.

Additional Copies of the application form are available at the principal's office in each school. **NON FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS:** An application which does not contain all of the following information cannot be processed by the school: (1) monthly source of income received by each household member (such as wages, child support, etc.); (2) names of all household members; (3) social security number of adult household member who signs the application; (4) the signature of an adult household member.

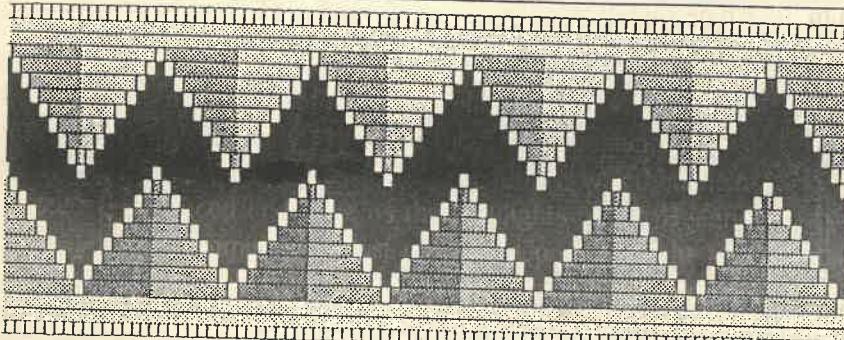
FOOD STAMP/AFDC HOUSEHOLDS: If you currently receive Food Stamps or "Aid to Dependent Children" (AFDC) for your child, you only have to list your child's name and Food Stamp or AFDC case number, and sign the verifying data. Applications may be verified by the school or other officials at any time during the school year.

If children are approved for free or reduced-price meal or free milk benefits, the household must report to the school increases in household income over \$50 per month (\$600 per year) and decreases in household size.

Households may apply for benefits at any time during the school year. If a household is not currently eligible but has a decrease in household income, an increase in household size or if a household member becomes unemployed, the household should fill out an application at that time.

In most cases foster children are eligible for these benefits regardless of the household's income. If a household has foster children living with them and they wish to apply for free or reduced-price meals or milk for them, the household should contact the school for more information. Under the provisions of the policy The Early Childhood Coordinator will review applications and determine eligibility.

Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. The household also has the right to a fair hearing. This can be done by calling or writing the following official: Carla Sineway, 7070 Broadway Road, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Each school and the Education Department have a copy of the complete policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.



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October, 1994

InnerView

(Continued from page 8)

T.O.: In your brief stay, you will have broke bread with our Tribal Elders, participated in the Freedom Walk and performed at Grandparents Day. What is your hope for our Tribal members to get out of a Buddy Big Mountain performance?

B.B.M.: Wow, you're tough! That's a good question... tell me again what your looking for?

T.O.: (laughs) What impression do you what the audience to leave with after your show?

B.B.M.: Basically, I would like to think everyone to think happy thoughts and laugh a lot more. Sometimes that can be a big medicine in and of itself. I would also like everyone to listen more. My wife always says, "In order to be heard you have to listen." And if anyone gets a message out of my performance, I hope they would realize that life isn't always going to be easy but always carry a happy thought.

T.O.: There's a lot of kids out there that play the class clown. What is your advice to them if they want to pursue your type of career?

Social Security offers 24-hour service

By Don Hire
District Manager

If you're like most busy people, finding the time to take care of your personal business during the day is often a problem. That's why Social Security's toll-free phone number means service at night and on weekends, in addition to normal business hours.

When one calls 1-800-772-1213 on a touch-tone phone at night and at any time during weekends and holidays, there is a recorded menu of choices that lets you take care of some routine Social Security business. You can leave a message requesting:

- An application for an original or replacement Social Security card.
- A form to obtain a record of your earnings and an estimate of future Social Security benefits--a personal earnings and benefit estimate statement.
- A document that verifies you receive Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income payments, or both. You may use this document as proof of your income.

Of course, one can also call the toll-free number to ask for these forms during our daytime hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on business days.

You should be aware that Social Security's phone lines are busiest early in the week and early in the month. So, if your business can wait, it's best to call at less busy times--such as nights, weekends, or after the first week in the month.

Other services are available to callers at night and on weekends. They include recorded information about Social Security Programs and the opportunity to order Social Security leaflets.

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B.B.M.: Well, it depends if they want to be comedians. I think you should try not to offend a lot of people when you tell a joke and one good way to prevent that is to know what you're talking about. It's like in our traditions, the clown dancers had to know our tradition and every aspect of the dance before they could make fun of it. The most simple idea is that if you want to be a comedian, make fun of what you know about.

T.O.: Does that mean that there is a lot of research that goes into not only culture and tradition but the humor that occurs in an on stage performance?

B.B.M.: It is not only research... basically it's your life. You live it and you talk about your life and people can learn about your life, no matter who you are.

T.O.: How does it feel to be called in the trades "An American Original?"

B.B.M.: It makes me smile, Eh! (laughs).



Tribal Court charges

Charges filed in Tribal Court from Sept. 1 to Sept. 23:

Contributing to delinquency of a juvenile, eight; driving in violation of court order, six; operating under the influence of liquor,

four; controlled substance, two; disorderly conduct, three; trespassing, breaking and entering, attempted rape, probation violation, one each and driving citations, 55.

Pressure

(Continued from page 6)

High blood pressure has no signs or symptoms. You can have it and not even know it. Your chance of having high blood pressure is much less if you watch your weight and stay active. If you have high blood pressure, here are some useful tips:

•Take extra weight off

by eating less and being physically active.

- Use less salt in your food. Add taste by using spices like paprika, pepper, lemon, and others. Avoid using salt at the table.
- Drink less beer, wine and liquor.
- Take your medicine as your doctor tells you.
- Have your blood pressure checked at least once a year.

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October, 1994

Annual celebration honors Elders and their families



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

Pictured from left to right, front row, Mickey Davis, Terrance Isham, Emily Kahgegab, Keenan Davis, Timothy J. Davis II, Sheena Davis and Yvonne E. Davis. Back row, Shannon Davis, Levi Davis and Dustin Davis.

Over 200 people attended the Tribe's Second Annual Grandparents Day Celebration on Sept. 26 at the Comfort Inn in Mt. Pleasant sponsored by the Elders and At-Large programs.

Special thanks go out to volunteers Cindy Quijano of Mt. Pleasant and Dolly Holzhausen of Owosso, as well as the following special guests: Little Turtle Singers, Geneva Mackety for the in-

vocation, Native American Cultural Specialist and Tribal Council member Kim Sawmick; along with fellow Council member Lorna Kahgegab Call who spoke for Chief Gail Jackson. Buddy Big Mountain did a terrific job entertaining the attentive crowd with his unique blend of comedy, ventriloquism and puppetry.

We would like to say Miigwetch to all of the

grandparents and their grandchildren for making the second annual celebration a wonderful celebration.

We hope to see you at the Third Annual Grandparents Day Celebration next year.

Amy F. Alberts Roxene Judson
-Amy Alberts and Roxene Judson

National conference slated for country's older population

A momentous national event will soon occur.

The 1995 White House Conference on Aging, the fourth such gathering in our nation's history, will be convened by President Clinton from May 1-5.

And representatives of Michigan's 1.5 million mature citizens, 60-years and older, stand ready to contribute to meeting conference goal of shaping a multi-year public policy agenda for society's aging population. Each state and territory had been called upon to develop recommendations on a host of issues for nationwide consideration.

Last May, Gov. John Engler directed the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) to spearhead Michigan's White House Conference on Aging effort. The OSA, the state's focal point for aging issues, has designed a plan which is participatory, policy-oriented, and relevant to aging research, pro-

grams and services.

Here in Michigan, federal policy recommendations will be discussed/developed locally, involving broad-based senior involvement in each of four forums to be held in different parts of the state, including Grand Rapids, metropolitan Detroit, Escanaba and Gaylord.

It is felt these locations will draw the participation of a diverse audience (urban, rural, minorities, etc.) Priority recommendations from these four forums will be further refined by national White House Conference on Aging delegates in preparation for the final platform to be presented at the National convention.

Each of the four forums will focus on a broad topical area. Topics chosen for discussion at each site are:

- Care giving: A Family Issue, Escanaba on Nov. 10;
- Economic/Financial Security, Detroit on Nov. 15;

- Productive Aging, Grand Rapids on Nov. 17; and
- Health, including long-term care, Gaylord on Dec. 8.

The issues will be framed in such a way that "diversity" and the "interdependence of generations" will be common threads throughout all discussion regardless of subject matter.

Following the four forums, delegates to the National White House Conference on Aging will come together twice. The goal of the first session will be refine the issues raised at the forums, producing a final report and set of recommendations for consideration at the national level. The second session is planned as a training/briefing on parliamentary procedure, presentation skills and final White House Conference on Aging logistics.

The number of national delegates Michigan will have is not known at this time,

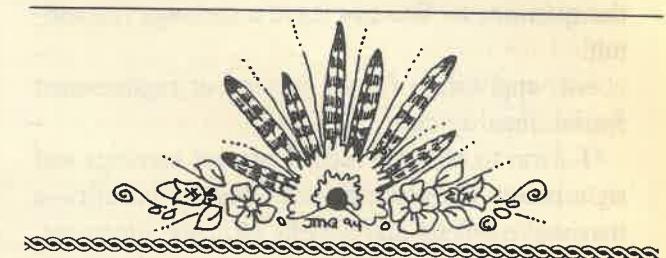
nor have guidelines been published on the delegate selection process to be used by states in determining its delegates. The Older Americans Act does stipulate, however, that each Congressman or woman/Senator may appoint one person to the national convention. We are hopeful these delegates will be named in a timely manner so as to be an integral part of this process.

Minimal funding for this event is being made available through the federal Administration on Aging to support state-level activities. Corporate sponsorship will also be sought. A small fee will also be charged to those who are younger than 60-years-old to help defray costs associated with this event.

As in past decades, Michigan's activities leading up to the national White House Conference on Aging promise to be spirited, stimulating and productive. We look forward to

the active involvement of senior citizens and others as, together, we shape policies to improve the well-being and future needs of Michigan's mature citizens.

For further information contact White House Conference on Aging, c/o Office of Services to the Aging, P.O. Box 30026, Lansing, MI 48909 or by calling (517) 373-8230.



I've heard my native tongue
Rolling off the lips of elders,
Like the wind through the woods
Of a summer day.

It's my long lost relation
Returned after many years.
I almost forgot
You were there.

I never knew your name
Never spoke the words
Never heard the melodies
Of your familiar song,

But like all my relation,
I welcome you back,
Let me cook you a meal,

Rest
And
Tell me
Your ways.

-Written by Charmaine M. Benz 6/28/93

Fund

(Continued from page 1)

of boots or a warm coat. A letter from the school is then prepared and taken to the store by the parent and teacher who both accompany the youth when purchasing the clothing.

The Children's Clothing Fund aids youth in grades K-6 of the Mt. Pleasant Public Schools. Last year, 32 children were helped by the charitable program.

"We thought it was important to do something for the Mt. Pleasant community," Nolan added.

She added donated items or services are tax deductible.

"Aw, cool it girl," she was told by sister and Auctioneer Carol Shanks.

While Post members and volunteers know they are doing something special for the community, their kindness is reinforced by letters of thanks from parents and children.

"It is very kind what you people do," a boy wrote. "Let me tell you some of the things I bought: shoes, boots, a



Observer photo/Scott Csernyik

The V.F.W. Post 3033 and Ladies Auxiliary in Mt. Pleasant raised over \$4,100 for the Children's Clothing Fund on Sept. 24 through the efforts of their annual auction. Pictured sitting are Auxiliary President Margaret Wendt and Joyce Mason, who helped with a lot of the leg work. Back row, left to right, Paul Dintaman, doorman; Cindy Clark, who coordinates youth activities; Diane Leffingwell, who also assisted in gathering donated items; Kathy Dintaman, who helps in the kitchen; Auction Chairwoman Brenda Nolan and Co-Chairman Dan Nolan, along with Auctioneer Carol Shanks.

About an hour before the auction, Nolan admitted she was worried about what kind of response they'd have.

"I always get nervous right before the auction that we're not going to do well," Nolan said amidst of room chock full of donated goods, including arts and crafts items, wooden chairs, televisions, kitchen appliances, clothing, watches and black velvet paintings. Then there's the stack of envelopes containing gift certificates from various eateries and service-related businesses.

Auxiliary members also make items for a bake sale they have in conjunction with the auction. Nolan also says they take donations for the Children's Clothing Fund throughout the year. Individuals interested in helping can contact her at (517) 773-4376 or (517) 773-3396.

pair of pants, two sweat shirts, socks, gloves, hat and underwear.

After shopping my teacher took me to Burger King. She is real nice except she ate most of my french fries."

One mom thanked the Post and stated her girls "had a heyday shopping."

"It makes me smile to see my girls enjoying themselves," the woman said. "Hopefully one day I will be in a situation to be of assistance to someone in need."

Ganiard Elementary Principal Thomas Crawford said he hopes the program is able to continue each year and encouraged the community to support the annual auction.

"I can't say enough good things about it," he stated. "There's really a lot of commitment on the part of everyone involved."

Community

(Continued from page 7)

people. Over 80 people came to the meeting to hear about what benefits are offered through the At-Large program and current Tribal issues.

"The people are starting to take some interest and that is the greatest thing that happened at the meeting," York exclaimed. "There's a lot of questions that need to be answered and we're happy to see the membership come out so we can address some of the issues."

At-Large Advocate Amy Alberts made a well-received presentation on services that are available to Tribal members. Alberts also gave updates on the At-Large budget for the upcoming fiscal year and commended Tribal Council member Ron Jackson for his hard work.

"The rationale behind providing all this information is to build better communication between our At-Large members and build bridges that will bring unification instead of separation," Alberts said. "We are trying to work on many issues and we would like to have everyone's input because that's what this is all about."

One of the most talked about issues at the gathering focused on open enrollment and the proposed amendments to Article III of the Tribal Constitution.

York stated any motion toward open enrollment would be up to a vote of Tribal members from the At-Large, Saginaw and Isabella districts.

"Open enrollment is not going to be passed," York remarked to the interested members. "You're going to have to get out and vote... we hope and pray you do."

Tribal member Joe Stevens expressed the same sentiments of York.

"It's sad because we need more people voting in order to have the best benefits and things we deserve," Stevens mentioned. "We all should vote so we can get the services we need, not only for the At-Large members but those on the reservation as well."

Voter registration forms were provided at each of the community gatherings and Tribal Clerk April Burton encourages those Tribal members who have not yet registered to use the form reprinted in the *Tribal Observer* on page two and mail it to her office.

Tribal card room employee Janet Hodges of Midland was concerned about open enrollment but also mentioned the need for an increase of on-site training for gaming employees.

Tribal descendant Shirley Johnson of Oscoda applauded the efforts of the *Observer* staff in providing information to the At-Large membership but was not aware that people could submit articles to the paper.

"I do like the way the Tribe refers to our members," Johnson chimed. "I get a kick out of that term... Shirley Johnson, At-Large."

York and Alberts would like to thank all the volunteers that helped with the feast and those who donated door prizes for the raffle.

All people in attendance did not leave empty-handed. Everyone received a Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe T-shirt and baseball cap.

"Even though the At-Large Tribal members live off the reservation, they are a part of us," Alberts remarked. "I know the members will wear their shirts in their local communities."

The festivities continued throughout the day as many drove over to the fourth annual Oscoda powwow. The host drum was Bright Sons, made up of Tribal members Little Man Quintero, Beef Quintero, Nathan Quigno, Dan Jackson and Sam Jackson.

It was definitely a community gathering.



Michigan Indian Directory

Urban Groups and Organizations

North American Indian Association of Detroit, Inc.
22720 Plymouth Road
Detroit, Mich. 48239-1327
(313) 535-2966

American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern Michigan Inc.
Minomaadzwin
4880 Lawndale
Detroit, Mich. 48210
(313) 846-3718

American Indian Services, Inc.
75 Victor
Highland Park, Mich. 48203
(313) 533-0300

Southeastern Michigan Indians, Inc.
22260 Ryan Road
P.O. Box 861
Warren, Mich. 48090-0861
(810) 756-1350
(810) 756-1352 Fax

Genesee Valley Indian Association
609 W. Court Street
(810) 239-6621
(810) 239-6622
(810) 239-8710

Saginaw Inter-Tribal Council
P.O. Box 7005
3239 Christy Way
Saginaw, Mich. 48603
(517) 792-4610

Michigan Urban Indian Consortium
1235 Center Street
Lansing, Mich. 48933
(517) 333-6550

Lansing North American Indian Center/ Michigan Indian Benefit Association
1235 N. Center Street
Lansing, Mich. 48906
(517) 487-5409

Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council
45 Lexington Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49504
(616) 774-8331

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DEAD

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Know the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse

A message from UNITY and the National Institute on Drug Abuse

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

Remember it's not just for holidays anymore

Dump

(Continued from page 5)

is not positive.

5. As more refuse is dumped at the site, it is going to be increasingly difficult to ensure that hazardous waste type materials are not dumped. Paints, paint thinners, solvents and other hazardous materials, if dumped, will enter the ground water and could possibly contaminate the drinking water supply for the entire community. (It should be noted that it is not known if any of this



Observer photo/Joe Sowmick

The dumping area at the Isabella Reservation is a matter Tribal Council said will be resolved.

type of material has already dumped at the site.)

Recommendations

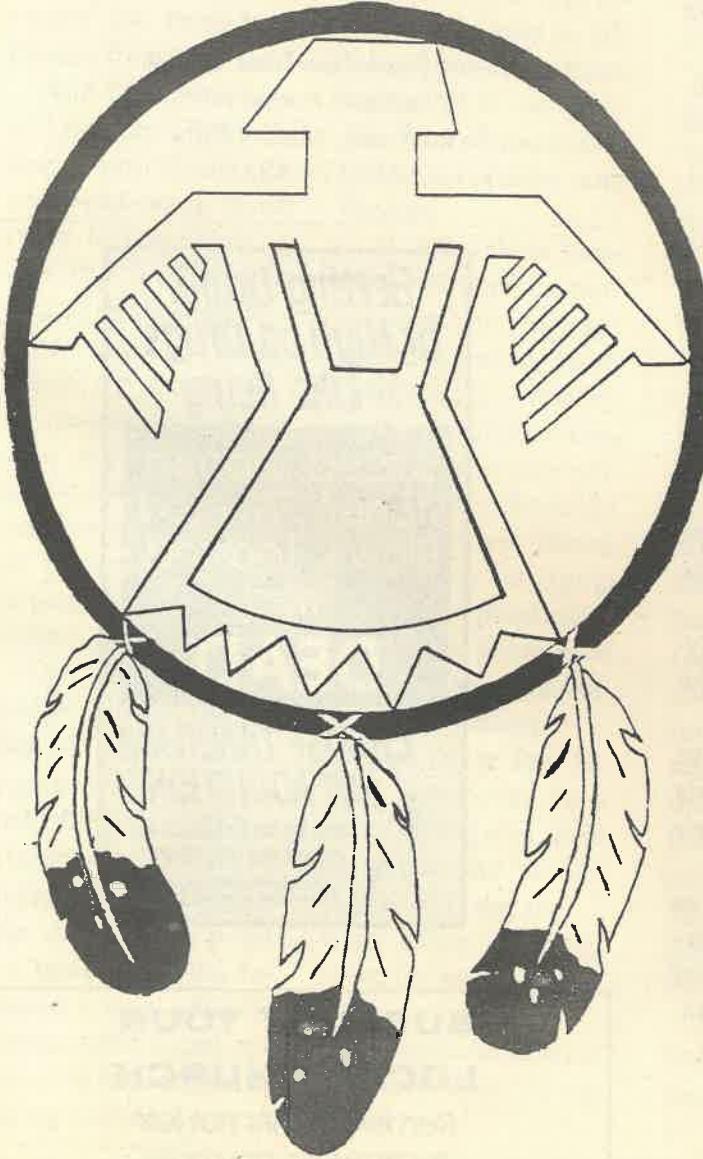
The material at the site should be removed, as soon as possible and taken by a licensed solid waste hauler to a licensed landfill. The longer the site exists in its current status, the longer it will be accepted as a dump site for the residents. This, in turn, will lead to an increased risk associated with all the items mentioned above in the concerns. Signs stating "NO DUMPING" should be erected adjacent to the site, as well as physically prohibiting access to the site via a berm or gate. Law enforcement should take an active role in policing the site to ensure that no more refuse is dumped,

ardous materials are not collected during these events.

In conclusion, by not enforcing a "No Dumping" policy the Tribe is, in effect, condoning dumping by people. Given the nature of the site, it is only a matter of time before a child is seriously injured.

I request that the council act quickly on this matter to provide for a safe and sound public health environment for all Saginaw Chippewa Tribal members.

Sincerely,
Paul Schmeichel, R.S.
Sanitarian



and policing the area during after-school hours to ensure that children are not playing in and around the pile.

An event which is sponsored by many Tribes in the region which assists in deterring this type of activity is called "a special pick up day." Several times a year, the Tribe sponsors a day in which large dumpsters are brought to the Reservation, and Tribal members are allowed to dump a wide variety of trash. Appliances, furniture, etc., are all collected during these times. Then they are immediately removed from the Reservation, and do not create a public nuisance. Careful planning and informing the public are crucial to ensure that haz-

A Gust of Wind

This story has many variations. The following version is notable because Stone Boy, sometimes conceived when his mother swallows a pebble, appears in creation legends from several Plains Tribes.

Before there was a man, two women, an old one and her daughter, were the only humans on earth. The old woman had not needed a man in order to conceive. Akhi, the earth, also was like a woman-female- but not as she is now, because trees and many animals had not yet been made. Well, the young woman, the daughter, took her basket out one day to go berrying. She had gathered enough and was returning home when a sudden gust of wind lifted her buckskin dress up high, baring her body. Geesis, the sun, shone on that spot for a short moment and entered the body of the young woman, though she hardly noticed it. She was aware of the gust of wind but paid no attention.

Time passed. The young woman said to the old one: "I don't know what's wrong with me, but something is." More time passed. The young woman's belly grew larger, and she said, "Something is moving inside me. What can it be?"

"When you were going berrying, did you meet anyone?" the old woman asked.

"I met nobody. The only thing that happened was a big gust of wind which lifted my buckskin dress. The sun was shining," answered the young woman.

The young woman gave birth to two boys, both manitos supernatural. They were the first human males on earth- Geesis' sons, sons of the sun.

The young mother made cradleboards and put the twins in these, hanging them up or carrying them on her back, but never letting the babies touch the earth. Why didn't she? Did the Old Women tell her not to? Nobody knows. If she had put the cradleboards on the ground, the babies would have walked upright from the moment of their birth, like deer babies. But because their mother would not let them touch the earth for some months, it now takes human babies a year or so to walk. It was that young woman's fault.

One of the twins was Stone Boy, a rock. He said, "Put me in the fire and heat me up until I glow red hot." They did, and he said, "Now pour cold water over me." They did this also. That was the first sweat bath. The other boy, named Wene-boozhoo, looked like all human boys. He became mighty and could do anything; he even talked to the animals and gave them their names.

-Told by David Red Bird

**Be Aware...
Commit and Care!**



Protect Mother Earth!

A public service announcement provided by this newspaper, United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. and the UNITY Earth Ambassadors as part of the "Youth Can Change the World" environmental awareness campaign.

For more information, contact UNITY • P.O. Box 25042
• Oklahoma City, OK 73125 • (405) 424-3010

A chronology of events and federal policy for Native Americans

1492 BC (Before Columbus) Earliest archeological evidence of humans in North America, 30,000 to 50,000 years ago. Before first contact with Europeans the people had established successful, thriving, communities. They had developed their own spiritual belief system, governing social control (clan systems) and languages. They practiced widespread agriculture, established a trade and communication network and practiced herbal medicine. Anishnabe, also known as Ojibwe and Chippewa, recognize their own creation story and many of the traditional ceremonies have survived and are still practiced today.

1492 Columbus arrived.

1640 First contact occurred early in this century, between the Ojibwe and the French, trade begins. Life begins to change with the exchange of goods.

1751 Ben Franklin studied the Iroquois Confederacy and used it as a model for the U.S. Constitution. Democracy was established and functioning prior to U.S. independence.

1787 Northwest Ordinance, declares that beyond the Alleghenies, Indian lands will never be taken without the Indians' consent.

1789 U.S. Constitution ratified, specifically upheld treaties made with Indians as "law of the land."

1795 Began making treaties with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. Thirty treaties were made with the Tribe.

1823 Johnson v. McIntosh. Recognizes Indian rights to the land.

1830 Indian Removal Act under President Andrew Jackson.

1831 Cherokee Nation v. Georgia. Recognizes a distinct political society, establishes the Indians as domestic dependent nations. Rules in their favor but the president does not enforce it. Results in the "Trail of Tears."

1832 Worcester v. Georgia. Established federal jurisdiction over Indian Tribes, the states have none.

1855 Treaty with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. During this time land allotments were given to individual Tribal members. It proved to be disastrous for the members whose life philosophy or view of the world did not promote land ownership. Thousands of acres were lost, as well as millions of dollars in timber interests. Many unscrupulous tactics were used to obtain the land from the Tribal members. We were the great experiment for land allotments. A result of this catastrophe was that the Dawes Act was developed to acknowledge Indian ownership a little more carefully.

1864 Treaty with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

1870 Creation of Indian Boarding Schools.

1871 Treaty making period ends, but specifically acknowledges the continued validity of all treaties previously made. Four judicial canons emerge for the interpretation of Indian treaties, which are still relevant in current litigation.

1882 Federal Act to allow abandoned military installations for use as Indian schools.

1887 General Allotment Act/Dawes Act. Distribution of lands to individuals nationally.

1890 Wounded Knee Massacre. Last major confrontation of Indian wars. Twenty-two soldiers were given Medals of Honor after 200 Indian men, women and children were slaughtered while surrendering.

1898 Curtis Act strips Tribes of most of their governmental powers.

1924 Indian Citizenship Act. It does not impair ownership of Tribal or other property.

1934 Indian Reorganization Act. Tribes urged to adopt democratic governments. Establishes Tribal councils as we know them today.

1946 Indian Claims Commission. Allows Tribes to bring suit against the federal government for illegal land deals and underpayment of sales.

1953 Indian Termination Policy. Termination and relocation of Tribes.

1955 Indian Health Service established under the HEW and HHS.

1973 Indian Self-Determination and Education Act. Gives Tribes authority to take over and operate their own programs. Empowerment to begin to identify priority needs and begin to address them.

1976 Michigan Tuition Waiver Act. State legislation.

1978 Religious Freedom Act, along with the Indian Child Welfare Act.

1979 Seminoles in Florida establish first high stakes Bingo Hall. In Michigan, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe was also operating "Car Bingo" at "The Hill" during this time period. The beginning of gaming on the Michigan Reservations. Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Tribal Chairman Fred Dakota opened black jack tables in his garage on the Reservation.

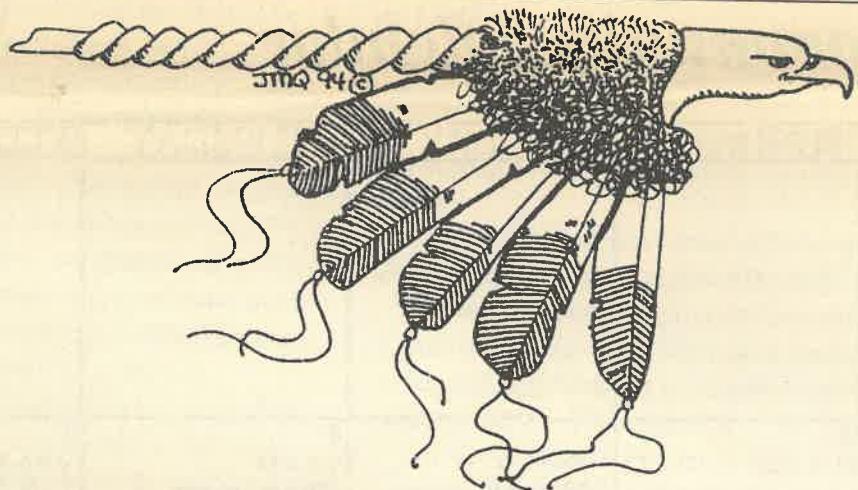
1983 Prior to this year fishing litigation was ongoing. The Voight Decision was made during this time. Saginaw Chippewa fishing rights have not been tested.

1985 Federal Indian Gaming Act.

1990 Title I Indian Arts and Crafts, P.L. 101-644. Trademarks of Indian genuineness, standards and regulations to monitor. Unclear if this is enforced or means anything. Also, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act is established. Tribes can begin repatriating sacred funerary objects and human remains housed in public museums.

1991 Fishing rights tentatively resolved in northern Michigan. Also, the Native American Languages Preservation Act comes about. Funds become available in the following year to begin addressing this issue.

1994 Amendments to the federal gaming act introduced. Current negotiations regarding the state gaming compact, and the Detroit casino. Religious Freedom Act amended. Two more Tribes in Michigan are given federal political status. Tribal membership and enrollment policies are being scrutinized.



Offered in Support of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Lawrence KS
We are proud to announce the

1995 Leonard Peltier Freedom Calendar

June 25, 1995, Marks the 20th anniversary of the incident at Oglala, the shootout between the FBI and the American Indian Movement that left two agents and an AIM warrior dead. Leonard Peltier has suffered ever since, railroaded by a justice system already predisposed to his guilt and scapegoated by the FBI to cover up their own wrongdoings. After nearly two decades in federal prison, Peltier has become the United States' foremost political prisoner.

Despite the injustice he suffers, Peltier continues to be a strong leader among Native Americans, a symbol of their struggle for freedom after centuries of oppression. His unbroken spirit and hope find expression in his words of wisdom and beautiful paintings. The 1995 Leonard Peltier Freedom Calendar honors and profiles his 20-year-long struggle for justice, offering an inspirational glimpse of the spirit of Crazy Horse.



Inside the 1995 Leonard Peltier Freedom Calendar

Full color reproductions of Leonard's beautiful paintings, created while in Leavenworth.

Photographs of Leonard Peltier by Jeff Scott, photo-journalist. One of the few granted permission to photograph Leonard inside Leavenworth.

Timeline of events leading up to the shootout, on through two decades of the struggle for Leonard's freedom.

A message from Leonard as well as the words and wisdom of others engaged in the struggle for freedom and justice.

Listings of support groups nationwide, and who to write to in support of Leonard Peltier.

All proceeds will go to the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, (Lawrence Kansas)

1995 Leonard Peltier Freedom Calendars are \$12.00 ea. or \$10.00 ea. for orders of 20 calendars or more. Plus shipping and handling.

To order please make check or money order payable to:
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Shipments will begin in September. Please order early as supplies will be limited

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October, 1994

CHURCH DIRECTORY**FAITH INDIAN CHURCH
OF THE NAZARENE**6304 East Broadway
Pastor Robert Pego
(517) 772-5625

- Sunday School 10 a.m.
- Morning Worship 11 a.m.
- Evening Worship 7 p.m.
- Thursday Prayer 7 p.m.

**CHIPPEWA INDIAN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**7529 East Tomah Road
Rev. Owen Whitepigeon
(517) 772-5521

- Sunday School 10 a.m.
- Morning Worship 11 a.m.
- Evening Worship 7 p.m.
- Thursday Prayer 7 p.m.

**SAGANING INDIAN
CHURCH**Sterman Road, Saganing
Pastor Devin Chisholm
(517) 846-6277

- Sunday Worship 2 p.m.
- Bible Study on Tuesday 9:30 a.m.
- Bible Study on Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

POWWOW & EVENTS

SCHEDULE

Oct. 29 and 30 Eastern Michigan University Fourth Annual Powwow in Ypsilanti at the Bowen Field House on the EMU campus. For more information, contact Greg Peoples at (313) 487-2377.

Nov. 18 Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs meeting in Athens. For more information, contact (517) 373-0654.

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

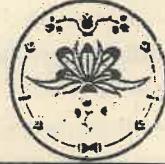
Subscription information

To become an Observer subscriber, mail a \$5 check or money order to:
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Attention:Tribal Observer Circulation
7070 East Broadway
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**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.



**Deadline for submissions
in the November issue
of the *Tribal Observer*
is Oct. 21**

**community calendar***october*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. R & R	4 O.S.A.M. 7:30 p.m. AA open meeting	5 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. Highway Safety	6 open	7	8 Recycling Depot 9 a.m.-noon
9	10 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. R & R	11 O.S.A.M. 7:30 p.m. AA open meeting	12 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. Highway Safety	13	14	15
16	17 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. R & R	18 O.S.A.M. 7:30 p.m. AA open meeting	19 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. Highway Safety	20 open	21	22 Recycling Depot 9 a.m.-Noon
23/30	24/31 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. R & R	25 O.S.A.M. 7:30 p.m. AA open meeting	26 O.S.A.M. 7 p.m. Highway Safety Dance	27	28	29 Adult Halloween Dance 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Youth Center
		Halloween				

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