Inwewin

"Our Voice" Newspaper

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A Publication of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Tribe Partners with Vilas County District Attorney's Office

In a partnership that strengthens the prosecution of crimes committed on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation, the Tribe and Vilas County have entered into an agreement that will fund an administrative position in the Vilas County's District Attorney's Office.

Tribal President Tom Maulson presented Vilas County District Attorney Al Moustakis with a $25,000 check on Tuesday, March 4th, at the Lac du Flambeau William Wildcat Sr. Community Center. Last fall, the county created a part-time Administrative Secretary position to help the District Attorney's office address the issue of a growing backlog of cases. Many of the cases originated from Lac du Flambeau and sat unresolved for months, and in some cases years. "The county could no longer fund the position and reached out to the Tribe for assistance," said Chief of Police Robert Brandenburg.

The joint effort allows the District Attorney's Office to make the position permanent. The agreement runs for a term of three years, with both the Tribe and Vilas County each contributing a total of $75,000. "Without the support of the Tribe, the county would have been forced to eliminate the position," continued Brandenburg.

The partnership is a continuation of the Tribe's State of Emergency initiative and will enhance law enforcement efforts on the Reservation. Tribal President Tom Maulson believes the cooperative agreement will help provide a better quality of life for Members and the community at large. "Before, some of the offenders, the law breakers here, would fall through the cracks in the system," said President Maulson. "Sometimes the prosecution of criminal cases would be slow or in some cases, not prosecuted at all," he continued. Tribal leaders believe the increased staff in the DA's office will speed up the wheels of justice.

Wisconsin is one of six states in the U.S. that was mandated in 1953 by Public Law 280 to transfer criminal and civil jurisdiction in Indian Country from the federal government to the state. Although the Tribe currently operates its own court system and hears civil cases, it does not yet have the capability to handle the prosecution of most criminal cases. Developing a fully operational judiciary is a primary goal of the Tribe.

Stephen Favorite, Vilas County Supervisor; Al Moustakis, Vilas County District Attorney; and Tom Maulson, Tribal President.

Treaty Tracker: Spearing

Last year the Lac du Flambeau Tribe rescinded a 16-year-old Memorandum of Understanding agreement with the state of Wisconsin DNR that ensured a three bag-limit quota for walleye sport fishermen on lakes in the ceded territory. In doing so, the Tribe declared increased harvest totals on 232 lakes, thus reducing the sport angling daily bag-limit from three to two, and, on some lakes, to one walleye. As part of that agreement, the Tribe received $84,500 annually from the state in addition to revenue generated through ATV, snowmobile and fishing license sales on the Reservation. In response to the Tribe rescinding the agreement, the state withheld the annual payment along with the revenue generated by the sale of the licenses.

The Lac du Flambeau Band has historically been the most active and proficient spearers of the six Chippewa Bands in the state. LdF Voigt Inter-Tribal Task Force Representative Scott Smith said the Tribe has increased the number of lakes to be speared this year to 273. The Tribe has declared a total of 27,868 walleye and 886 musky. The maximum safe walleye harvest for all six Chippewa Tribes is calculated at 81,011, with the Tribes declaring 63,488. The Tribes have never taken 100 percent of the fish declared, always coming in dramatically under the submitted number. The most walleye ever taken by the LdF Tribe in a single year was 15,427 in 2012.

Several variables played into this year's harvest declarations. For more than two decades, the Tribe and others have ventured to Mille Lacs Lake in Minnesota to spear and gill net. This year, the harvest totals for Mille Lacs will be significantly less than years past, thus creating a need for an increased take in Wisconsin waters.

This year the Tribe will venture for the first time since the Voigt decision, into the inland waters of Michigan's Upper Peninsula to spear lakes near the Lac Vieux Desert and Keweenaw Bay Chippewa Reservations. A total of 21 lakes in the Upper Peninsula in Iron, Gogebic, Marquette, Houghton, Baraga, and Keweenaw counties have been named for Tribal harvest.

Public perception generally has been that spearing damages the environment and harms tourism. The reality is that the Tribes take a marginal number of fish. The DNR estimates non-Indian sport anglers take between 700,000 to 900,000 or more walleye annually. Every fish harvested by the Tribes is counted, measured, weighed and sexed by a designated creel team. In contrast, the state DNR does not have the ability or resources to conduct such stringent monitoring of non-Indian sport anglers. Over the years the Wisconsin DNR has created and developed a sport angling bag-limit system that is dictated by the marginal number of walleye taken by Indian spearers. This flawed practice continues to fuel animosity toward Tribal harvesters and Chippewa Tribes.

With the long cold winter gradually coming to an end and thick ice cover on most lakes, spring spearing season may be weeks away.

Ice Spearing Tournament

The LdF Tribal Council, along with area businesses, will once again sponsor an Honoring Our Treaty Rights Spearing Tournament. Last year's inaugural tournament was held on March 16th. Due to poor ice conditions, this year's tournament will be held sometime this month. Tribal spearers from Lac du Flambeau and the other Chippewa Treaty Bands are eligible to participate. Event organizers Brooks Big John and Frank Mitchell will work with GLIFWC to monitor harvesting and ensure all regulations are followed. A date and a list of lakes to be speared will be named as weather and ice conditions become favorable.

The Communications Office is pleased to have the opportunity to provide you with *Inwewin*, the Tribe's monthly newspaper. "Inwewin" is an Ojibwe word that means "Voice." Asema (tobacco) was passed and the name came forth out of thoughtful deliberation. The word "Inwewin" is an all-inclusive term. Just as we humans (Anishinabe) have a voice that conveys our thoughts, desires and emotions, so does all of Creation. When we hear the whistle of an eagle, the cry of a loon and the call of the wolf, this is "Inwewin."

In addition to the Tribe's monthly newspaper, you may also keep current on Tribal news by following us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/LDFtribe) or on Twitter (www.twitter.com/LDFtribe).

Subscribe to our weekly *Inwewin* e-newsletter to keep up with new developments, birth announcements and the other exciting happenings with the Tribe.

Inwewin is a monthly publication of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. Articles and information appearing in the *Inwewin* are the responsibility of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of the *Inwewin* staff or the LDF Tribe. ***Inwewin* invites Letters to the Editor, articles, poetry, artwork and photos.** All submissions must include a signature, address and telephone number of the author. Submissions are subject to editing for grammar, length, malicious and libelous content. *Inwewin* does not guarantee publication of materials submitted. Editors make the sole decision of what is published in *Inwewin*, and will not assume any responsibility for unsolicited materials. *Inwewin* reserves the right to reject any advertising, materials or letters submitted for publication.

Deadline for submission is the second Monday of each month.

Inwewin Tribal Newspaper
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Tribal Youth – Raven Carufel

My name is Raven Carufel, and my Indian name is Makademgiinookwe, which means Black Eagle Woman. I am 12 years old and have been skating since 2005. My first ice show was in 2006, which makes this my 8th ice show.

I finally made it into the advanced levels at the Lakeland Figure Skating Club after years of hard work, and I am proud to be the first kid from Flambeau to make it this far. I encourage more kids from Flambeau to join figure skating. My friend Fairy Smith, her little sister Hootie and my little cousin Sophia Jackson are also in figure skating.

I will be competing in my first ever competition in April and I'm excited! I have made some really good friends at the rink and I have been asked to help coach the younger kids.

Raven skates at the Lakeland Hawks Ice Arena located in Minocqua, and is a member of the Lakeland Figure Skating Club which is a U.S. Figure Skating Association sanctioned club. Her parents and family are very proud of her and her accomplishments. ***Good luck Raven in your first competition!***

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FoodShare WISCONSIN

State of Wisconsin Office of the Inspector General

Elders Speak: Sarah "Sally" LaBarge

This month's featured Elder may strike one as being soft-spoken and gentle in nature. This is true indeed, but that doesn't necessarily mean Sarah "Sally" LaBarge can't take care of business. Being a single mother of six children is no easy task. Neither is earning an associate's and ultimately, a bachelor's degree while working. But Sally did all three, and more.

Born at the Indian Hospital in Hayward, Wisconsin, to parents Max Schuman and Blanche "B" Wayman, Sally grew up near the "Old Village" on Wayman Lane in Lac du Flambeau. "My mother was known as Blanche 'B' because we lived next door to Blanche Peterson. So there was Blanche 'B' and Blanche 'P.'" She was raised by her grandparents John Wayman, Jr. and Anne Wayman (nee Jackson). "I was the 'oddball' of the family. I was the only one who wasn't born at home," said Sally. "My grandfather really 'babied' us," she fondly recalls. A great thing about Indian Elders is their acknowledgement of relatives, of which she counts the Potts, Jacksons, Pattersons and Waymans, to name a few.

As a kid she remembers going 'up town' with her grandmother to visit George Wilson's store on Highway 47 when they needed something for the house. "My grandma would go there for bologna and I used to laugh at her about it. They used to have little stools at the counter and all the teens sat there. They had a jukebox in there so that was the hang out," she says laughing. "George Wilson was the judge. He's the one who would give out drivers' licenses. My grandpa would always tease Roger Stone, Pumpkin's dad, about having to take his driving test so many times before he finally got his license. He (Roger) always came out to the house. My grandpa was related to him, the Pattersons," she recalls.

Growing up on Flambeau Lake meant plenty of fishing and hunting. It also meant plenty of porcupine, muskrat, beaver, rabbit, along with musky and panfish, for dinner. She remembers her grandmother making some of the most flavorful dishes she ever ate. "I was wishing for beaver not too long ago," she says. "Old Ed Brisk could make some of the best muskrat," she says. "We used to go over to my cousin Sue Young's and she would make the best sucker. She would have it stuffed and oh, that was so good. That's what we grew up on."

Sally shared many favorite childhood memories, which included apple and berry picking. "We had a little trail and it had a little hill that would go around to the lake and there we had our own little beach where we would lay in the sand," she says. "Right across from where we lived there was a trail that led to a big field. Along the trail were raspberries and down there were four or five different apple trees. There was a Delicious one, the middle one was kind of a yellow one, there was another one on the other side. We would take a little bag, put a little salt in it, and go sit and chow down," says Sally. "We called that 'our' orchard."

She talked about the days when finding something to do to entertain oneself didn't include a television or computer. She remembers her brothers going down to the bridge on River Road to "try" to catch fish. She also speaks about her abilities at a young age to handling a firearm. "We learned to shoot. We'd borrow my uncle's .22, I was a crack-shot," she says bashfully. "I shot better than all of them (brothers). When I was older, probably about 12, I went partridge hunting by myself and came home with five partridge. I used a .22 and shot 'em right in the head. I was so proud of those. I brought them in the house for my Grandma to clean."

Keeping her culture and traditions alive through her beadwork is an important piece of her story. She has done plenty of beaded earrings, necklaces and hair

ties in her day. Included in her portfolio are traditional vests, leggings, dresses, shawls and applique work.

Feeling a duty to serve her community through public service is something she continues to build upon. Sally currently serves on both the Elder Nutrition Board and Elder Advisory Committee for the Tribe and is a member of the Great Lakes Native American Elders Association.

Question: Where were you born?
Answer: "In Hayward at the Indian Hospital."

Question: What was it like growing up in Lac du Flambeau?
Answer: "Those are some of the best memories in my life! Logging was a big part of our lives. My grandpa was a logger, so we would travel around with him to the logging camps up towards Mellen. He knew a man named Franz and we would stay in big log cabins. They had horses and I remember a big horse head in the window, snorting around, and my grandma screaming. She scared the horses! The last year we went there, just before my grandpa died, was the best summer I remember. They had big giant bunk beds that we would sleep in. The boss would bring in all the food, and great big boxes of cookies. The boys liked that. My uncle made bows and arrows for them, with a knot on the end so nobody could get hurt. That didn't bother them. They'd still knock each other in the head with it. My grandpa got mad and took it and cracked it in half. He said, 'they weren't supposed to shoot at each other.' We also picked berries, moss and evergreens. If we needed extra money, we'd sell the moss and evergreens. My grandma would can the berries. She made the best sourdough bread. My cousin Lil' Tom would say, 'I could smell Grandma's bread from the mailbox.' I said to him, 'You just want the biggest piece!"

Question: Did you live in Lac du Flambeau your entire life?
Answer: "I pretty much lived here all my life. My grandparents would travel around to the different Reservations. We would go around to Watersmeet and Odanah visiting family and friends. I moved with my husband to Joliet, Illinois, in the '60s. He went to the BIA school for heavy equipment. We lived between there and Chicago for about five years. When we lived in Chicago I worked at Sunn Electric, which was in the suburbs and used to ride the L-train to and from work every day. But for the most part, I've been here my whole life. I spent about 12 years working at Simpsons Electric. I worked in a number of different jobs; I worked for three years at Day Care, I was a Teacher's Aide for Hannah Maulson in the Indian Language Program, and I also worked in the school's Special Ed Program. I went to college at UW-River Falls, UW-Menominee, Mount Scenario in Ladysmith and Northland College in Ashland. I received my bachelor of science in 1986. My work and schooling really allowed me to travel. In 1988 Governor Tommy Thompson appointed me to the Governor's American Indian Language and Culture Board. I was involved in the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program and went to China in 1990. We went to Tiananmen Square, where all those people were massacred."

Question: Do you have any children?
Answer: "I have six children - Sheila, Louis, Leslie, Lisa, Raymond and Dustin."

Question: Do you have any grandchildren?
Answer: "I have 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren."

Question: What is your hope for the Lac du Flambeau community?
Answer: "I would like to see people be friendlier and not talk about each other badly. Parents need to teach their children right from wrong. Children need to learn respect and it's up to the parents to instill that in the kids."

Correction to February's Elders Speak Column

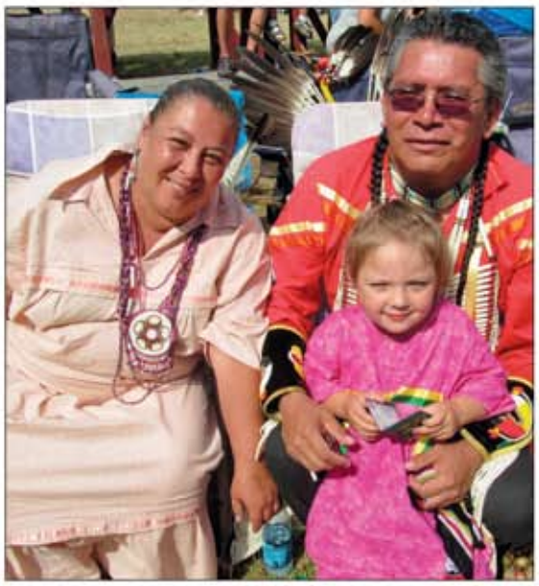
During the interview with Yolanda Siegfried and Betty Jack for the February Elders Speak Column, the sisters were informed of their brother Alan's passing. The telephone call was one that forever changed the lives of the women. The interview ended immediately, and the story was prepared. Following the printing of the story, we learned that we incorrectly listed Betty Jack's children. *Inwewin* would like to make this correction, and note that Betty is the proud mother of eight children: Richard, Valerie, Wyona, Michael (deceased), Ann Marie (deceased), Sue Ann, Christopher, Johnny (deceased). *Inwewin* apologizes for any misunderstanding or confusion caused by the previous information.

Family Circles Reminds Us of Traditional Values

The Lac du Flambeau Family Circles AODA (Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse) Program produced a Family curriculum designed to "give families a cultural understanding of traditional child-rearing practices, instruction and practice of Ojibwe Indian culture, values and lifestyles, Ojibwe language, alcohol and other drug abuse prevention education, self-esteem building, healthy lifestyle practices, coping skills building, and positive peer support."

"By providing instruction in language, traditional cultural practices, and history, the culture of the people will be preserved, thereby restoring pride in the identity of the Anishinabe. It is our belief that traditional culture offers healthy alternatives to unhealthy acculturated behavior, ideals, values, morals and knowledge. Indian people have been exposed to years of acculturation that have left in its wake a damaged cultural self-esteem and self-concept, and feelings of apathy and helplessness. The way Indian families act in their relationships is directly related to self-perceptions, values, self-esteem and self-awareness. Changing these feelings and behaviors involves changing one's self."

"As our Elders have said, 'We are in the seventh generation of wooshki Anishinabe (new people).' It is up to us to make this change, as painful as it might be, for there can be no growth without crisis/pain. We can no longer avoid the pain of making choices or letting others make our choices for us. We need to choose a healthy future for our children and the generations that will be."



"There is a basic strength in the Indian family. If there were no strength, we as Indian people would not be here. In spite of all the problems Indian families have endured through history, there is still a strong family allegiance. This is the basis for this program, to build upon this basic family strength. This true family strength lies in our cultural heritage."

"The crucial step in developing the new curriculum was to approach community Elders. We asked our Elders, 'Which culturally relevant teachings are needed to help Indian people?' In their answer they told us about 'a good way of life and a positive way of thinking.' But we continued to ask about specific skills that people needed, beginning with A-B-C, 1-2-3. Again, they answered by telling about 'a good way of life, a positive way of thinking.' After months of this, it dawned on us that it was the 'good way of life, the positive way of thinking' that people needed to return to in order to be able to understand the importance of Ojibwe culture and traditional lifestyles that would help them. The focus should be on the individual, our 'selves.' By living a good life, by thinking positively, people could live those lifestyles and teach their children about 'a good way of life, a positive way of thinking.' Role modeling was the answer the Elders were so patiently telling us about."

New Tribal Members

The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians proudly welcomes our newest Tribal Members as of February 10, 2014:

Selena BigJohn
Kate Day
Dominick Hudzinski
Wyona Jack
Raldyn Lujan
Kane Poitra
Serenity Poitra
Elizabeth Poupart
Kimberly Poupart-Brownrigg

Lac du Flambeau to Host 3rd Annual Parents and Youth Connections Expo

On March 26, the Lac du Flambeau Healthier Community Action Team (HCAT) will be hosting the "Wiiji'idiwin ('We are all doing this together') Parents and Youth Connections" Expo at the Lake of the Torches Convention Center.

The Expo is scheduled from noon to 7 p.m., and will provide community members with a forum to learn about local service providers, along with educational, employment and recreational opportunities. This event will also provide networking and collaboration opportunities to maximize local resources used to serve parents and youth, with booths and program representatives available to answer questions and share information.

If you are a parent, youth, or an individual interested in what is going on in your community, this is the perfect place to find out.

This event will commence with an opening ceremony and invocation at noon. The day will be marked by hourly and grand prize raffles, games, and activities. The event is free and open to the public, with refreshments provided.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Ruben Santiesteban, Lac du Flambeau Tribal Council, at (715) 661-3504.

Lac du Flambeau History: The Fur Trade History

From the display at the George W. Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum and Cultural Center

Lac du Flambeau was a fur trading headquarters in Northern Wisconsin for about 50 years. The French built a post here in 1753, shortly after the Chippewas had driven the Sioux from this area, and settled here.

When the North West Fur Company gained control of the trade in the mid 1790s, it established one of its four departments in 1792 at Lac du Flambeau "for the trade of the Wisconsin." It built a palisaded fort on Flambeau Lake and sent its employees to trade at 17 Indian villages and five dependent posts down the Wisconsin and Chippewa rivers, and across Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The XY Company built a competing post here in 1798. After the War of 1812, the American Fur Company continued a post here until about 1842.

The traders were efficient, ruthless, dashing and tenacious, and their operations changed the social, political and economic aspects of Indian culture. The Indians became dependent upon the guns, knives, traps, kettles and cloth in exchange for furs, hides, corn, potatoes, wild rice, maple sugar, fish and game. They abandoned their annual migratory cycle to remain in this area where 50 percent of the best were then obtained.

Trading Post display at the George W. Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum and Cultural Center.

The articles on exhibit at the Museum are either original or authentic copies of trade goods or things used listed in the journals of the traders, circa 1800.

Fur pelts and trap on display at the George W. Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum and Cultural Center.

Elders' Birthdays

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to our Elders celebrating April birthdays

Betty Jo Graveen 4/1
Virginia Seneca 4/1
William Cobb 4/1
Gilbert Cobb 4/1
Robin Thompson 4/1
Tamera Thompson 4/2
Gary Wilson 4/3
Lee Batiste 4/3
Beverly Bauman 4/4
Virginia Kasper 4/4
Paul St. Germaine 4/5
Lee Batiste 4/6
Deanna Poupart 4/9
Shannon Cobe 4/9
Bonnie Lesieur 4/9
John Skye 4/11
Wendell Frohwein 4/11
Terry Doud 4/13
Sharon Harty 4/13
Gordon Allen 4/14
Lou Bondaug 4/14
John Poupart 4/16
William Snow 4/20
Scott Chapman 4/20
Marianna Im 4/21
Janice Peterson 4/21
Peter Poupart 4/22
Bert LaBarge 4/22
Sue Vazquez 4/22
Ernest Pine 4/24
Charlene Bickford 4/24
Edward Snow 4/25
Crystal Poupart 4/25
Mary Louise Quinn 4/27
Joseph Thompson 4/27
Michelle St. Germaine 4/28
Linda Christensen 4/29

Please come to an
organizational meeting
for the
LdF Elder Action Committee

March 28, 2014
1:00 to 3:00 PM
Convention Center
Meal will be served

RSVP to
Sharon Big John Thompson
at 715.588.4385 so that the right amount of food can be ready.

Complete this survey and bring it with you to the meeting.

LdF Elder Action Committee Survey

As an Elder, what do you see as the most important issues and/or problems in the community?

List below the three most important to you.

1. _____
_____
2. _____
_____
3. _____
_____

BDC Update

On March 5th, the LDF Business Development Corporation (BDC) presented the Tribal Council with a quarterly update. Bill Beson, CEO, provided an overview of financials noting that the BDC is showing a slight profit for the first quarter of this fiscal year. The lending businesses are back on track, and hiring will begin shortly for additional call center staff.

Discussion was held on the transfer of Tribal property to LDF Construction. Of concern were four dilapidated vehicles that were transferred to LDF Construction. It was not cost effective to have the vehicles repaired and the proceeds received were used to purchase a used service truck. The Council and BDC staff agreed that proper procedures and Council approval for property transfers need to be followed in the future.

Mr. Beson provided an overview of the due diligence that is performed when the BDC is considering investing in a business. There is a rigorous vetting process that includes background investigations on any potential business partners and individuals in key management positions involved with the opportunity.

Updates were provided from the various business entities. Christy Jackson has been selected as the new Marketing Director for the LDF Construction Company. The company is currently pursuing new business, and meeting with several entities on potential projects including the Menominee Nation to learn more about their planned casino expansion. This summer LDF Construction will be working with the YouthBuild apprenticeship program being coordinated by the Gikendaasowin Education and Workforce Development Center.

Randy Soulier, President of the BDC, provided an update on the status of the Ojibwe Market and gas station. He continues discussions with Mansfield Oil on the potential update of the store and gas station, and is pursuing other revenue opportunities for the Tribe. Randy is working on a business plan for the new store and gas station, and will be forwarding that to Bill Beson for his review. This process has taken longer than anticipated but Soulier indicated the need for a sound business plan is critical to the long-term success of the business.

Brent McFarland, Director of the Tribe's Business Development Office, discussed a potential technology and business center on Thorofare Road. The proposed center could house training facilities, the Education Offices, the Planning Department and the BDC. Mr. McFarland provided concept drawings of the proposed center to the Council. Discussion included updating Simpson Electric, noting that training needs for the workforce should be explored. The operation may benefit from new advancements in technology, and long time staff and new hires need to be ready for changes. Mr. Soulier also noted that obtaining the SBA 8(a) status is still a priority as it will assist Simpson Electric in potentially obtaining government contracts.

Mr. McFarland also noted that the technology center could serve as a launching pad for other Tribal businesses and entrepreneurs. President Maulson spoke in favor of small business efforts and said, "We (Tribal Council) need to help Members who wish to have their own businesses. We need an educational program for entrepreneurs."

Discussions were held on the need to update the lending ordinance to ensure that the Tribe remains in compliance. Mr. McFarland provided suggested updates to the ordinance, based upon working with Rosette Law Firm. The Council unanimously approved the updates. Duane Chapman, Internal Gaming Auditor, proposed re-posting for Commissioners for the Internet Lending Regulatory Authority, and modeling the compensation after the Gaming Commission's stipend structure. Mr. Chapman noted, "The Regulatory Authority is the life blood and longevity of our lending businesses." The Council unanimously approved the Regulatory Authority stipend structure.

Community Lunch & Listening Session

Saturday, May 3rd

Noon to 2:00 pm

Lake of the Torches Convention Center

The Constitution Committee invites all Tribal Members for a complimentary lunch and to share your thoughts on Amending Article VIII of the Tribe's Constitution

Ruby's Pantry

Lac du Flambeau welcomed Ruby's Pantry on March 11th for the first of three visits. Event coordinators report that 311 people shared in the food distribution. ***Chi Miigwitch*** to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to make this event happen!

Ruby's Pantry will be returning to the Bingo Hall on April 8th and May 13th. Ruby's is "hand up, not a hand out." Everyone is welcome to attend, and there is no income restriction. The cost is $20, and attendees are asked to bring a clothes basket or box for the food distributed.

Volunteers are needed to help at the April and May distributions. If you wish to help, please contact Duane Chapman or Ryan Champagne at (715) 588-3303.

FoodShare Trafficking

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Department of Health Services

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https://www.reportfraud.wisconsin.gov

Another Shot at Article VIII

After nearly a year of work coordinating workshops and educational community sessions, the Lac du Flambeau Tribe's Constitution Committee had great hope that a Secretarial Election amending Article VIII of the constitution would open the door for sweeping reform.

Of the 1,398 eligible Tribal Members living on the Reservation, 231 registered to vote, and only 112 voted in the January election. Tribal Members were asked, "Do you support eliminating the Secretary of Interior from the Constitutional Amendment Process?" The election results were 40 "for" votes and 72 "against" votes. Many Tribal Members believed there wasn't enough information about the amendment to make an informed decision. Others said there was conflicting information shared within the community.

The Secretarial Election process is unlike an ordinary Tribal Council or referendum election. Bound by language in the Tribe's constitution, only adult Tribal Members living on the Reservation for at least one year prior to the election were eligible to vote. In addition, those meeting the residency requirement were responsible for pre-registering to vote. This caused even more confusion to an already unfamiliar process. Tribal Member Jeanne Wolfe cited distrust as another factor. "Some people just distrust the Council due to what they have been through in the past," she said at a recent Tribal Council meeting.

Understanding these factors, the Tribal Council has decided to give the Constitution Committee and the community another shot at amending Article VIII of the Tribe's constitution. The Constitution Committee, along with legal counsel Rosette LLP, will go back to work to develop a plan and timeline for another Secretarial Election. Feedback from the community is vital to this process. A "Lunch and Listening Session" will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, so that the community can share their concerns and why they voted against the Amendment to Article VIII. More information on the "Lunch and Listening Session" will be provided as it becomes available.

Feedback at a recent Tribal Council meeting included Tribal Members asking that a revised election code be ready for implementation if the amendment passes. Another suggestion heard at the community educational sessions prior to the election was having a second constitutional amendment creating an independent Judiciary. The Constitution Committee says it is taking all of the feedback into consideration in moving forward.

"The main message to the Membership is that this amendment will reclaim our sovereignty. Reclaiming the right to choose our own destiny is what this amendment is about. For the last century or greater, the federal government has made decisions for us and those decision have been to our detriment," said Richard Jack, Constitution Committee Chairman.

Ruby's Pantry

"America's Rural Food Bank"

Ruby's Pantry is a food distribution organization. Participants leave with an abundance of food for a $20 contribution. Often, families leave with $100 or more in groceries. Ten percent of the gross contributions collected will go back to the local community.

Ruby's Pantry is "a hand up, not a hand out."

Lac du Flambeau is establishing a food distribution site for Ruby's Pantry. Distributions will be held on the following dates* from 2PM – 5PM at the Bingo Hall.

March 11, 2014

April 8, 2014

May 13, 2014

Please remember to bring:

- **$20 contribution (cash only)**
- **A box or laundry basket to carry the groceries**

There is no income requirement and everyone in the area is welcome to participate.

You will be asked to complete a registration form that does not require documentation. Pre-registrations and Volunteer Applications available at at the Lac du Flambeau Economic Support Office. For more information, please contact Gloria Cobb at 715-588-4281 or gcobb@ldftribe.com.

*Dates are tentative and may be subject to change due to inclement weather.

Image may not reflect actual donations. Donations may vary.

Chairman's Corner

Boozhoo,

Spring is definitely in the air and these past few weeks have offered a welcomed relief from this winter's record setting cold. I'm sure the warm, sunny days have Tribal spearers sharpening spears and getting their boats ready. I have heard that some Members are starting to set up sugar camps and even tapping trees. It is a great time of year, when Mother Earth begins her awakening and life comes forth as winter reluctantly releases its grip. "Ziigwun" is what my mother used to say, as the days got longer and warmer.

Speaking of spearing, the Tribe has submitted its harvest declarations to the state DNR. We have named 273 lakes in the ceded territory to be speared again this year. Minnesota officials reduced the total overall take on Mille Lacs Lake, and the Tribe's harvest will be significantly less than in years past. This development has dictated the number of fish we plan to take from Wisconsin waters. This year we will be spearing in Upper Michigan to off-set the reduced harvest in Minnesota. Many non-Indians do not understand how important harvesting is to our people, and our connection to the environment. Our people depend on the resources Mother Earth provides to us.

It is a common perception among some that because Indians have casino gaming, they all are wealthy. We have lived for generations on the bounty of our natural resources, regardless of money or material possessions. I respectfully request that our Tribal spearers abide by all Treaty Harvest regulations to avoid any fines or legal consequences. A good portion of our young Tribal spearers are able to enjoy the exercise of their inherent rights without fear of threats, harassment or harm. Our ancestors had the foresight to ensure our survival and protect our way of life. Let's honor them by being responsible when we harvest. We must remember to lay down asema anytime we take from the earth.

Last month the Tribal Council was invited by the Oneidas to meet with their Tribal government. They requested our assistance in dealing with some of the same issues we have been faced with. Some of our Council, along with myself and several staff members, met with them during a regular business meeting in Oneida. We presented some of our initiatives in combating gangs, drugs and crime in Lac du Flambeau. They wanted to hear firsthand how we instituted the state of emergency efforts on our Reservation. Oneida Chairman Ed Delgado and their Tribal Council have been impressed with our aggressive stance against gangs and drugs. State of Emergency Facilitator Ryan Champagne did an outstanding job with conveying the work our community has done to get our People healthy and our community back on track. I explained to the Oneida we have only just begun in our endeavors, and that we have a long way to go. I also told them that we didn't have all the answers, but that we are making great strides. We said to them that some of the decisions we made were not easy, but waging this war against drugs is essential in providing a better quality of life for our Members.

Even though they have an extremely successful gaming and business operation, many of the Oneida issues mirror ours. They have lost Members to drugs, alcohol and violence, much like us. The conversations were very candid. We shared some of our successes, some of our failures, and our ideas for the future. The talks opened up opportunities for joint collaborations in public health and safety, law enforcement and business.

Our Tribe is once again taking its place as a leader in Indian Country. When a Tribe such as the Oneida looks to us for help, it's an indicator that we are doing something right. Our Tribal Council is simply an extension of our community. The successes we enjoy are not the Tribal Council's but that of the Membership. As I have said before, the road we travel is not an easy one. We, as a community, are doing things for a better life not only for ourselves but those coming behind us.

Let's share in all that life has to offer. Let's do the best we can at everything we do. Whether it's the work we do, raising our children, or just being a good person. That is an Anishinabe teaching and our way of life.

Miigwitch-Giigawaabaamin

SAVE THE DATE!

"HONORING OUR SENIORS: NOT READY FOR THE ROCKING CHAIR"

Thursday, April 24, 2014
10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Lake of the Torches Casino

A day-long event focused on empowering our Elders, Seniors and Caregivers

Resources for improving health and well-being

Seniors Speak Up

On March 5th, a group of concerned Elders met at the LDF Wellness Center with Tribal Council Members, several Program Managers and program staff. Organized by Lucy Wolfe and Betty Jack, the group spoke candidly about the need to address issues affecting Tribal Elders. "There are numerous things going on in our community that are affecting us – transportation, housing and child welfare issues, and the loss of relatives. We need to come together," said Betty.

About 20 people attended the meeting, and several concerns were raised. Concerns included Elders who are being penalized by the Housing Authority for receiving annual per-capita payments, while others are cut off of Social Security pensions the month following a per-capita payment. Other worries included Elders who are in need of assistance with medical billing and the potential for Medicare and Medicaid fraud. The goal of the meeting was to begin an organized effort to address Elder concerns. The group would then prioritize their concerns, and bring a short list with possible solutions to the Tribal Council for action. Tribal Elder Luci Wolfe said she believes the group should be formalized. "This should be an established committee of the Tribe," said Wolfe. Tribal Judge Shannon Cobe agreed and added, "The group should report directly to the Tribal Council."

Tribal Council Members were supportive, and encouraged action. "Let's take care of our Elders the way we should," said President Tom Maulson. Brooks BigJohn, Eric Chapman, Mary Peterson, Henry "Butch" St. Germaine and Alice Soulier were also in attendance, and offered information and helpful strategies. Eric Chapman suggested the Council add an Elders item to every Council meeting agenda. Although there are currently two Elder Advisory Committees, the Elder Nutrition Committee and Elder Policy Advisory Committee, those at the meeting feel an action committee would better serve them.

The group has scheduled an organizational meeting for March 28th from 1 to 3 p.m. at Lake of the Torches Convention Center.

Gikendaasowin Education & Workforce Development Center

When you walk into the Gikendaasowin Education & Workforce Development Center, you can feel the energy in the air. And meeting with Joni Theobald, Education Director, will recharge your batteries and reinforce hope for the future of the Tribe.

The Gikendaasowin Education & Workforce Development Center includes the Tribal Education Department and its divisions, Nicolet College's Academic Success Lab, and a satellite Job Center for the State of Wisconsin. Gikendaasowin is also coordinating three apprenticeship programs and one employment based training that provides a mix of on-the-job training and coursework.

Ogema Communications is a technology-based apprenticeship program that began in May 2013. Seven students are receiving hands-on training in all aspects of a feasibility study of broadband in Vilas County including tower locating, projected fiber optic routes, and decisions on hardware and frequency use. They have also attended Vilas and Oneida county board and town hall meetings, and worked to educate the public on the needs and tangible services that broadband deployment brings. They are educating Tribal Leaders on how the unique sovereign status of Tribes impacts telecommunications on and around reservation lands. Students have met with FCC (Federal Communications Commission) officials and FirstNET officials (public safety broadband deployment staff), discussed legal rulings impacting Tribes and have participated in efforts to educate carriers (Internet service providers and telecommunications companies) on federal rules and policies. In addition, they have met with the Wisconsin Job Center staff on the development of resumes, career and personal portfolios. They are students at Nicolet College taking Advanced Tribal Management Certification courses. Phase 1 of the apprenticeship program will be completed in June, and students will then transition to technology based job duties that move the Tribe forward in broadband deployment.

YouthBuild began in February and has nine students participating in the construction apprenticeship program. Students are receiving OSHA certification training, CPR certification, job skills development, blue print reading, labor history, leadership skills, and are working to complete their GED. The eight week program includes hands-on learning in various aspects of carpentry, with the goal of transitioning to the LDF Tribal Construction Company. "This summer, students will intern with the LDF Construction Company and the Chippewa Housing Authority (CHA). Upon successful completion of their GED and receiving union acceptance, they will have the opportunity to move into a union sponsored apprenticeship with the LDF Tribal Construction Company or other career opportunities within the Tribe. This is truly a win-win for everyone - the CHA, the students and the Tribe," said Joni Theobald.

Ojibwe Immersion Teacher Education Apprenticeship program began as a pilot program in April 2013. Following a successful four-month period, the program began in earnest in September of last year. This program focuses on language acquisition for children and Ojibwe immersion teacher certification for staff. Eight families are participating, and were carefully selected for the program. "Parents have to be committed, and needed to meet requirements that included evidence of language involvement in the family," explained Joni. Tina Handeland provides oversight as the Community and Cultural Manager. Theresa Valliere and Maggie Frost are teachers, and assisted with several apprenticeship students. "Joe Chosa, who will be 94 years old in July, is one of the last living first Ojibwemowin speakers. This program attempts to close a 90 year language acquisition gap. Children are learning Ojibwemowin during a critically important language acquisition stage of life, and their families are provided with learning resources as well," said Joni.

College in the Workplace - A fourth project of the Gikendaasowin Center is the collaboration for the Casino/Business Management Degree sequence. The program began in the fall of 2013, and has 23 community members participating. Employees are learning while they work, studying business and human resource management, with an emphasis on the gaming industry. "We are filling a workforce need and building human equity for the Tribe. Within the past two years, the Tribal Council took a bold step and initiated the College in the Workplace plan. Under the resolution, Tribal employees may use time to commit to working on higher education to better increase their knowledge and skill within their jobs. Community members employed within the Tribe can participate in training during the work week," said Joni. The project is collaboration between the Tribe, Nicolet Technical College's Advanced Tribal Management Certification, the LCO Community College's Casino Management Certificate, and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Business Management degree. Students in the program can earn a Casino Management Certificate or continue on to a bachelor's degree in Business Management.

For more information on these program and career opportunities, contact the Gikendaasowin Education and Workforce Development Center at (715) 588-7925.

Peter Christensen Health Center Update

Child Development Days. Each year, the Lac du Flambeau Public School and the Peter Christensen Heath Center offer a health screening for infants and young children to the age of five. Child Development Days will be held this year beginning on April 28th and continuing through May 1st.

The free screens include growth measurement, a hearing screening, a vision screening, development and nutritional screens. This is a terrific opportunity for parents to take advantage of a free service to ensure their children are doing well.

Parents with children attending the Zaasijiwan Head Start program should receive a letter. If you do not receive a letter, or would like more information about the Child Development Days screenings, please contact Vicki at (715) 588-3371.

Dental screenings for young children will be held at the Peter Christensen Dental Center June 2nd through June 6th.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. An integral part of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Alcohol Awareness Month is the Alcohol-Free Weekend.

This event takes place on the first weekend of April (April 4-6, 2014) to raise public awareness about the use of alcohol and how it may be affecting individuals, families, businesses and our communities. The 2014 theme is "Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow."

Any individual or family member who finds it difficult to get through the 72-hour experiment, or who is seeking assistance to quit drinking, is urged to contact the local Alcoholics Anonymous 24 hour hotline at (715) 367-7920.

Ojibwe Language Program

From Joe Chosa

Animals, Birds & Fish

amik - beaver
zhaangweshi - mink
migizi - eagle
giniw - golden eagle
makwa - bear
makoons - bear cub
waaboos - rabbit
ma'ingan - wolf
waagosh - fox
gidagaa-bizhiw - bobcat
waawaashkeshii - deer
ajidamo - squirrel
esiban - raccoon
gaag - porcupine
mizise - turkey
bine - partridge
zhigaag - skunk
akakojiish - woodchuck
agingos - chipmunk
zhingos - weasel
waabizheshii - marten
ojiig - fisher
amashkooz - elk
giigoo - fish
ashigan - bass
ginoozhi - musky
ogaa - walleye pike
namebin - sucker
asawe - perch
namegos - trout
awasii - bullhead
mizay - lawyer
gidag-agwadaashi - crappie
zhigameg - dogfish
agwadaashi - sunfish
adikameg - whitefish
mooningwane - flicker
zhaashaawanibiisii - swallow
waabizii - swan
gayaashk - seagull
ajijaak - blue heron
opichi - robin
papaase - woodpecker
meme - red headed woodpecker
zhiingibis - helldiver
maang - loon
ininishiib - mallard
zhiishiib – duck

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MMA-CAGE FIGHTING

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CLINT BLACK

MAY 17 • 8PM

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Must be 18 unless otherwise noted. Ages 14-17 welcome to King of the Cage when accompanied by an adult. Management reserves the right to alter or cancel any event without notice.