

Director Hollowell updates Unit II members



**CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Anni, kwey gakina awiyagog (Hello, my friends), just a reminder that our language classes are streamed live on the Internet at new.livestream.com/saulttribelanguage. Please support the work of our dedicated staff who work so hard to keep our fragile language alive. We're always one generation away from losing it all together. I know that, at my age, I will never be a fluent speaker. Even so, a responsibility exists for all of us to encourage and support our community teachers by participat-

ing and introducing our language to our children and grandchildren. And, "There's an app for that!" Just Google "Ojibwe" or "Anishinaabemowin," and you will discover free podcasts and apps for your computer or smart phones. I realize we don't all have access to these types of devices. And there is nothing better than coming together for language, so I am grateful for the many people who do bring language teachings to our people face to face.

It's ghost feast season and it is so great to see our extended families and communities come together to remember and honor our loved ones who have walked on, so much pride, love and laughter. Hessel community called for a Gathering of the Pipes and I was truly humbled and grateful for the gift and teachings that were shared.

Newberry community held a Family Fun Day at the Newberry Community Center. Thank you to our dedicated health staff who made it all possible. Wow. What a turn out! The Newberry com-

munity needs a larger facility to accommodate all the families who want to participate in tribal functions and activities. Newberry is in the heart of our territory. It's where the elders from all units gather once a month. The time has come to recognize the unmet need in this community and find a way to pool resources from housing, health, education, culture, conservation, etc., and provide an adequate facility to accommodate the need.

It has been a very busy month with many issues on many fronts. As you may know, the situation at the Presque Isle Energy plant in Marquette, Mich., has dire implications for all Upper Peninsula residents as well as for Sault Tribe as rate hikes are under consideration. It's a complicated multi-jurisdictional issue. We are actively engaged and will join coalitions to prevent Upper Peninsula residents from unjustly shouldering the burden of regulatory decisions made by those who don't even live here. This is a moment when all leadership should come together and turn

what could be a disastrous situation for our region, into a long-term opportunity towards sustainable energy delivery to the Upper Peninsula. *The Mining Journal* newspaper ran a five-part series on the issues at stake. We have a legal and staff support team involved and will be working to ensure an equitable resolution is found.

I briefed in my last report internal situations we are dealing with in regards to budgets and casino operations. It's ongoing and being watched very carefully. We don't need anyone punching holes in the bottom of the boat as we navigate the current we find ourselves in. We have an obligation to remain steady and true. I want to recognize our employees on both the governmental and enterprise side for their continued dedication and efforts. From front line workers to our executive team — I very much appreciate your professionalism.

United Tribes, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes and the National Congress of American Indians have all recent-

ly convened. It's encouraging to see policy being formed that affects all tribes — and particularly Great Lake tribes taking an active role in economic, social and environmental issues that impact all of us.

The Lake Superior Environmental Monitoring Collaborative will be meeting later this month in Duluth, Minn. This is a significant opportunity for tribes to ensure a voice at the table in order to protect the natural resources, headwaters and watersheds of Lake Superior. The continued existence of tribal people and tribal communities depends on healthy quality waters. As tribal nations of the Great Lakes, we need to stand united and strong and take a seat at the table.

As always, call or email me anytime with your questions and concerns.

Apich mina (Until next time).
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