

Manistique's annual events, board business



**DENISE CHASE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

On behalf of the powwow committee, I would like to invite you to our ninth annual "Gathering of the Clans"

powwow on Saturday and Sunday, June 13-14, behind the Manistique Tribal Community Center, 5698W highway U.S. 2, in Manistique.

Host drum: Bahweting Singers

Co-host drum: Four Thunder

Invited drum: Mukkwa Giizhik

Head veteran: Tracy Heath

Head male dancer: Donald Shelifoe Jr.

Head female dancer: Rita Bouley

Master of ceremonies: Timothy Derwin Sr.

Arena director: Timothy (T.J.) Derwin

Fire keeper: Joe Wallace

Grand entries: Saturday 1 and 7 p.m. and Sunday at noon.

Feast meal: Saturday at 5 p.m. (please bring a dish to pass).

Crazy auction: Saturday.

Free admission. Rough camping is available. Vendors, traders or the public can call for information at Viola Neadow, 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137. Hope to see you there!

The Escanaba Unit IV Elders Committee organized their annual spring clean up of the Indian Pointe Cemetery in Nahma Township on May 9 (see photos on next page).

I would like to recognize and say miigwech to the following individuals who organized and those who volunteered for the cleanup and to Manistique Kewadin Casino for donating food, pop and water for the volunteers and also sending two maintenance workers to assist

with the clean up. Thanks to Mike Schuetter for cooking.

Volunteers: Larry Godfrey, Ron Nelson, Annette Powers, Nancy Flynn, Mike LaJoice, Betty Majestic, Ernie and Pam Demmon, Bill Hardwick, Connie Hardwick, Barry Hardwick, John Perkins, Ed Goudeau, Mike Schuetter, Levi Morrow and Darcy Marrow. A big thank you to Ron and Brenda Nelson for bringing their huge mulching tractor again this year.

Midjim St. Ignace: After much discussion at board workshops and a written opinion by the manager of Midjims stores that it would be better to maintain what we have rather than proceed with building a new facility in St. Ignace, the board of directors

approved a total of \$266,522 as the Midjim St. Ignace FY 2015 capital purchase budget. The resolution and budgeted amount will allow the manager of the Midjims to move forward with purchasing a new computer, replacing lines, dispenser sumps, tank sumps, concrete under the canopy, the parking lot and new wiring to the sign. This was a much easier and cost effective fix for the needed repairs. It made much more sense to repair and maintain the current Midjim that we owe nothing on than have to get a loan for \$1.2 million to build a new Midjim 500 feet away from the current one.

The Midjims have been supplemented in revenue by the

See "Chase report," pg. 27

From "Chase Report," pg. 26

casino comps since opening. Now with new casino management, the casino is changing the way comps are issued to customers and this will definitely impact the Midjims profits going forward. Once we hire an EDC director, I would definitely be supportive of traffic and feasibility studies to be done on any proposed future expansion of Midjim store sites in high traffic areas on current land the tribe owns or future parcels the tribe might acquire for business purposes.

Interviews were held with candidates applying for the Elder Division director. A recommendation to hire Sheryl Hammock was made and she is now working in that position, the interview panel consisted of assistant executive director, two representatives from the Elder Advisory Committee, one board member and one division director. Sheryl will be attending all the Elders Committee monthly meetings.

The board approved a resolution that will authorize the Sault Tribe Law Enforcement to apply for \$100,000 grant funding under the 2015 Rural Opioid Overdose Reversal Grant Program, through the Department of Health and Human Services. This grant will provide opioid overdose reversal kits and medications throughout the Sault Tribe seven-county service area and training to administer this medication. STLE will be the lead on this grant application, but is working with several community partners, which is encouraged in the grant solicitation. Partners include Sault Tribe Health Center and other law enforcement agencies that STLE has cross-deputized agreements within the seven county service area.

The current casino external debt as of the end of April 2015 was \$16,291,666.61 and the monthly payment to principal is \$541,666.67. The casino debt will be paid off in 2.5 years.

I would like to say congratulations to all of the high school and college graduates.

Thank you for all of your calls and emails, you can reach me at (906) 203-2471 or dchase@saulttribe.net.

Denise Chase, vice-chair