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Ahnee (Hello)!

Good Monday morning! I hope everyone had a great weekend, and to the Polar Plungers on Saturday (in Traverse City) I hope that you have warmed up by now! The plungers were participating in a fundraiser activity for the Special Olympics of Michigan (<http://www.upnorthlive.com/news/story.aspx?id=586219>).

I was not able to get the blast out on Friday, so (again) we are sending out this morning. I am looking forward to attending the opening ceremonies for the FIRST Robotics competition this Friday morning at Traverse City Central High School. This is a great event with tremendous energy (www.firstinmichigan.us). If you have never attended, try to make time to stop by and see what this is all about!



02.22.11 On Tuesday, I was able to tour some of the governmental facilities of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

My first stop was at their Behavioral Health (<http://sagchip.org/behavioralhealth/index.asp>) building, where I was able to see a good friend of mine Josh Lintz (1st picture). I also had the chance to visit the new Elder's complex, Andahwod (<http://sagchip.org/senior/index.htm>), and was given a very informative tour by (another good friend) Gayle Ruhl, Andahwod Administrator (2nd picture). I appreciated the time spent learning of the different kind of programming and opportunities being offered by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe to its citizenship and community members – great job!

I also have to say, that as a past supervisor of Josh and Gayle, I am really pleased to see their continued commitment to the Saginaw Chippewa tribe and the individuals they are there to serve – Megwetch to you both!

Blood memory is the center
of Anishinabek strength.

It is a strong thread that ties us...
to our Ancestors, to the Earth
and to our deep spiritual beliefs.
Our elders tell us about our innate
ability to understand and absorb,
our *Anishinabe* values that have been
with us since time immemorial...

they are our ceremonies,
our songs and our language.

02.22.11 My last place to visit at the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, was at their museum, Ziibiiwing. As I made my way around the permanent exhibit, I came across this wall plaque that really spoke to me and I wanted to share with you. This is something I strongly believe in.



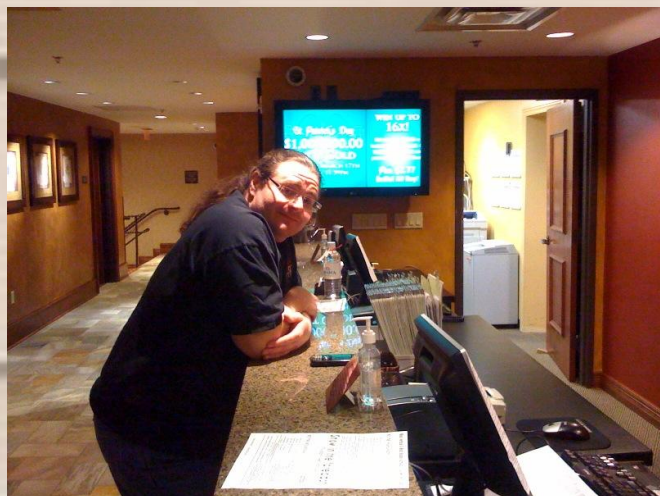
02.22.11 Tuesday night in Lansing, I attended the United Tribes of Michigan (<http://www.unitedtribesofmichigan.org>) Legislative reception. This is an annual event, and opportunity, for Tribal Leaders to meet with state Officials and both develop and strengthen tribal/state relationships. In the 1st picture is Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director of United Tribes, and Ogema Larry Romanelli (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) who is the acting President of the United Tribes of MI governing board.



02.22.11 Also attending the United Tribes of Michigan legislative reception were (L-R): Rep. Wayne Schmidt (104th), Rep. Greg MacMaster (105th), and Senator Howard Walker (37th). I appreciate the strong showing from northern Michigan elected representation (also there were 101st Rep. Ray Franz, 107th Rep. Frank Foster, and Sen. Darwin Boohar; 35th).



02.23.11 Wednesday night’s Grand Vision event, “Is The Bay Worth Half The Pay? A Panel & Discussion”, held at NMC’s Oleson Center focused on the importance on the natural resources to the future of our economy. I was asked to provide the Welcome to a great evening of sharing and dialogue.



02.24.11 On Thursday, I was in Petoskey to chair the Chippewa/Ottawa Resource Authority board meeting. At this meeting, from the MDNR (<http://michigan.gov/dnre>), was invited guest MDNR Director Rodney Stokes (2nd from left – next to the sleeping Terry Carrick...Just kidding Terry!). The 2nd picture is of my cousin, Jimmie Mitchell, from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians who is their Director of Natural Resources; and also an avid reader of the email blast! (yes, I told him I would give him some “love” in this week’s blast)



02.25.11 At the Traverse City Country Club on Friday, I had the honor of presenting to the Economic Club of Traverse City. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there and being able to present on behalf of GTB.



02.25.11 On Friday afternoon, we wished a “Happy Retirement” to GTB Elder, Anna Harwood. Anna has been instrumental in leading our Elder activities, and being a strong voice/advocate for our tribal Elders. Anna – Megwetch for all that you have done, the voice you carried, and your beautiful spirit that has always shone through in the work you do!

Additional GTB News:

- **9&10 News: *Local Leaders Discuss Protecting the Environment* (Grand Vision event)**
- <http://www.9and10news.com/Category/Story/?id=282723&cID=1>

See you on Friday, and have a great week!

Chairman Bailey



(Photo courtesy of the TC Record Eagle; Jan-Michael Stump)

www.gtbindians.org

“A Nation grows stronger when built upon shared visions.”