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Ahnee (Hello)!

This week, on May 27th, the Grand Traverse Band celebrated its 29th year of being federally reaffirmed as a sovereign Nation by the United States government. As I reflect back on these past 29 years, the importance of expressing gratitude to the early leaders and community members is paramount. All the success and accomplishments that has provided the growth of our Nation stems from the early efforts that lead to acquiring federal status as a sovereign Tribal Nation. On May 27, 1980, and thereafter, GTB has been able to provide services to its membership. We have seen this grown to what is offered today, for example: healthcare, housing, education, law/conservation enforcement, natural resources, and a tribal judicial system. This is not to take away from several other services and department but to only show the multitude of tribal government services. During our growth, and with the establishment of the Economic Development Corporation arm of the tribe, two beautiful casinos were built; Leelanau Sands Casino and Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel. As well, in 2003, GTB purchased the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa and with this purchase brought local ownership of the Resort to the region. More information on the totality of government services, as well as our EDC investments, can be located at: www.gtbindians.org

Tomorrow, May 30th, we proudly announce the Grand Opening of Eyaawing, the Tribe's new Museum and Cultural Center in Peshawbestown. Sunrise ceremonies began at 6 AM for tribal members and then at 1 PM the Grand Opening/Ribbon cutting ceremony to the public begins. I welcome and encourage everyone to attend! Eyaawing ("Who We Are") is a beautiful new opportunity to explore and learn about the Grand Traverse Band, and located right on the bay with spectacular views.

This past week I visited Antrim County and in particular the Breezeway Communities, which is made of Atwood, Ellsworth and East Jordan. As you take US31 North to Atwood, make a right on C48 and you are now on the "Breezeway"! The focus is for travelers to stop in Atwood and then venture into the Breezeway Communities.



05.26.09 Sara McGuire (Royal Farms, Owner/Market Manager). Sara and her family's business were extremely gracious in their welcoming of me into their area and store. Royal Farms produces homemade items from jam to pies to cookies!



05.26.09 (L-R) Mark Postma (East Jordan Mayor), Mary Faculak (EJ Chamber of Commerce President), Chip Hansen (Superintendent East Jordan Schools), and David White (EJ City Administrator). Our discussion focused on further developing the relationship between GTB and East Jordan.



05.26.09 (L-R) Wendy Wieland (Northern Lakes Economic Alliance), Mary Faculak, Mary Peterson (Good Samaritan Family Services), Jeffray Kessler (Writer/Antrim County), and Hugh Campbell (President, Village of Ellsworth). The Front Porch is unique due to the fact that the Ellsworth community members own and operate this restaurant. Through volunteer efforts (except cooking staff) the community maintains this property as a place to eat, interact and socialize. Honestly, I do not think that this type of community stewardship exists anywhere else in the State of Michigan!



05.29.09 (L-R) Bob Otwell (TART Trails Executive Director), Matt Skeels (TC-TALUS Director), and Bob Wick (TART Trails Director of Development). Today's focus was connecting communities by providing a interconnected pathway for walkers, joggers, bikers and skiers. Future plans are exciting in the vision to further incorporate trail ways into neighboring communities and counties.



I recently was gifted this gavel by a tribal elder. This GTB member recognized that as Chairman I was without a gavel to conduct Tribal Council meetings with. She informed me it is made of Osage Orange wood that is very strong yet bendable. As she was beading the handle, her 5 year-old granddaughter would sit beside her and help her by designing the color scheme and making sure she had the right beads. I am truly honored by this gift and in knowing that a young person also helped to make it. I was able to use it for the first time at this past Wednesday's Tribal Council Special Session.

I hope you enjoy your weekend and upcoming week. See you (hint, hint) at the Grand Opening tomorrow of Eyaawing!

Chairman Bailey

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