

LYNN TROZZO REPORTS FROM THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET



By Lynn Trozzo, Odawa Casino Resort Recruiter

There really are good things happening out in the world and all around us; no, really there is!

Yesterday, I had a visitor in my office telling me about all the great things he and his family do to share with those who are less fortunate, especially at this holiday time of year. It was an awesome story which brought me out of my somewhat hazy writer's block I had been in. Of course, the deadline for this article was two days ago, but after listening to this tribal citizen, I realized there is so much goodness, and there truly is a Sunny Side of the Street! That is how I got started to research this month's article.

I was looking at a webpage on webware, and the headline caught my eye, "Send me some good news" says the author. I wanted to see what it was, and it turned out to be an anti-layoff spreadsheet for companies. It's a mechanism to track companies that ARE hiring. Brilliant, however, all the jobs are in Information Technology (IT). Still, a great idea.

Another site I was visiting was the Department of the Interior (DOI) home page and career portal which has thousands of jobs posted. I noticed the Veteran's Administration (VA) had pages and pages of jobs posted, and I wondered if we had already lost all the baby boomers to retirement from that department.

The very same day I had been researching that site, the *Petoskey News Review* contained an Associated Press (AP) article regarding the VA and how the VA is under a timeline to roll out the new GI Bill (the generic term comprising various education assistance programs adminis-

tered by the Department of Veterans Affairs) for 2009, so it will be onboarding 400 new staff members to assist the 520,000 veterans expected to take advantage of the new GI Bill. That alone was good news, but then after further research, it just continued to get better. Our veterans will be receiving a full scholarship to any in-state public university of their choice. They will also be receiving a \$1,000 stipend for any extras they may need.

Wow, now, I'm pumped for more good news, and I look into education for our tribal students and yet again, I'm thrilled! Just in case this isn't enough good news, just wait, I have more!

It's internship searching time for all of you juniors and seniors, recent graduates from four-year colleges or law students. One of the best opportunities out there for tribal students interested in tribal public policy and Native American Health, Education, natural resources, and cultural preservation is the 10-week internship in Washington, D.C. Every year, the Norris K. Udall Foundation awards up to 12 internships, but the deadline is nearing so don't hesitate to jump online and apply if you need an internship for 2009 or would just like to experience decision making for Indian Country in D.C.

The Udall Foundation is also seeking to award 80 scholarships and 50 honorable mentions to sophomore and junior level college students interested in the same careers as mentioned above. Don't wait to apply. Start planning your future as it is not all doom and gloom these days; there really is a sunny side.

From 2009 to 2010, the only two segments in job growth will be in education and health services in the state of Michigan. Keep these in mind when planning a future that keeps you in this lovely state.

Not long ago, a wise old chairman of a prosperous nation told me, "Things will turn around, we'll have jobs again, and the economy will heal itself." He spoke from the heart, and truth be told, I believe him.

Happy New Year everyone!

The photo of Lynn Trozzo is by Communications Coordinator Annette VanDeCar.

"Review" continued from cover.

partment established the Waganakising Odawak Business Technology Training (WOBTT) Program. LTBB partnered with Bay Mills Community College (BMCC) and Ferris State University (FSU) to offer certificate programs.

At the end of the 2008 winter semester, 278 students earned 223 certificates through WOBTT. Students were primarily LTBB Tribal Citizens and LTBB employees.

In 2008, LTBB received a five-year \$2.1 million Native American Career Technical Education Program (NACTEP) grant from the U.S. Department of Education and created a partnership with North Central Michigan College (NCMC) in Petoskey to offer certificate programs in Entrepreneurship, Nurse Aide, Medical Assistant, Phlebotomy and New Media. Classes are open to LTBB Tribal Citizens first and then, if there is space available, they are open to the public.

Entrepreneurship classes were held in July and August, and classes for the 2008 fall semester started September 2.

Third Annual Circle of Excellence Program Honorees

Selected by their peers, seven LTBB Governmental Employees re-

ceived Circle of Excellence honors on January 18 at the LTBB Employee Appreciation Dinner. Honorees included Archives Technician Yvonne Walker-Keshick, Chief Conservation Officer Kevin Willis, Regulatory Department employee Dana Stafford, Substance Abuse Counselor Susan Yates, Environmental Services Director Rachel Schwarz, Cultural Preservation Coordinator Leonard "Joe" Mitchell and Community Health Outreach Representative Mary Gasco.

Native Comedian Don Burnstick Visits Northern Michigan

Native comedian Don Burnstick entertained the 233 LTBB Governmental Employees and their guests at the January 18 Circle of Excellence LTBB Government Employee Appreciation Dinner at Ovation Hall inside Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey.

Burnstick, a Cree from the Alexander First Nation located outside of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, played numerous Native characters and humorously portrayed them, their habits, likes and dislikes. He was well-received by the audience. For more information on Burnstick, please visit www.donburnstick.com.

Wertz Warriors Conclude Endurance Ride at Odawa Hotel

The Wertz Warriors embarked

on a 900-mile Snowmobile Endurance Ride on January 27 in Chesterfield, MI, and concluded their ride at Odawa Hotel in Petoskey on February 2. They stopped at more than 35 locations, receiving donations along the way for the Special Olympics Michigan State Winter Games. It raised \$285,000.

Odawa Casino Resort, who donated \$3,000 to the Wertz Warriors, hosted a dinner for Special Olympics Michigan and the Wertz Warriors in Ovation Hall to conclude the ride.

LTBB Hosts College Goal Sunday Event

The Education Department hosted a College Goal Sunday event on February 24 at the LTBB Governmental Center in Harbor Springs. College Goal Sunday is a statewide public awareness campaign which encourages students to apply for federal financial aid no later than March 1.

Financial aid experts from North Central Michigan College and Lake Superior State University (LSSU) assisted students and their parents in completing the free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and led an informational session about financial aid.

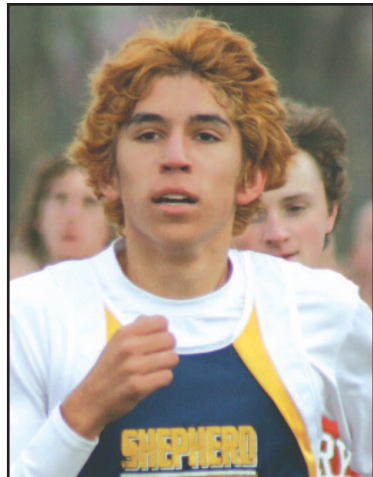
Courtesy photos except for the photo from the Language class. That photo is by Annette VanDeCar.

Native News Briefs

LTBB Tribal Citizen Helps Shepherd High School Capture Division 3 State Championship

Congratulations to David Silversmith, who helped his Shepherd High School boys cross country team capture the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Division 3 championship on November 1 in Brooklyn, MI. It was only the second boys state title in school history. The senior ran the second-fastest time on his team at the state meet, setting a personal best at 16:28.8 and finishing 36th overall.

He also helped his team win Tri-Valley Conference Central and Division 3 regional titles. He finished 13th at the Carson City regional, and earned first team all-conference honors.



Remarkably, it was only his second year competing in cross country. He is the son of Paul and Julie Pego and Cecil Silversmith, Jr. and the grandson of Owen and Dorothy Smith.

David, your family is so proud of you! We know you put a lot of hard work into preparing for the state meet, and it all paid off. Congratulations on your state championship, and happy belated 18th birthday. We love you very much!!

The photo of David Silversmith

competing at the Division 3 state meet appears courtesy of RunMichigan.com.

LTBB Tribal Citizen Earns Masters Degree from Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesiology

Congratulations to Dawn Price of Gallatin, TN. Price, the daughter of LTBB Tribal Elder Alice Arthur, recently completed a Masters of Science Degree with an emphasis on anesthesiology from Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesiology in Madison, TN. She graduated with a grade point average of 3.99. Price is the daughter of the late Timothy Arthur, and the granddaughter of the late Dorothy and Kenneth Pierce.



The photo appears courtesy of Dawn Price.

Descendents of Ignatius Petoskey Gather for Annual Family Reunion

Once again, our Great Creator blessed us with a beautiful day for the Petoskey reunion. It was held again this year at Harrison City Park in Harrison, MI, on August 16.

There were 70 family members in attendance from Connecticut, Missouri, Virginia, Wisconsin and Michigan. Family members from Michigan came from Baraga, Clare, Coleman, Flint, Gaylord, Gladwin, Harrison, Lake George, Lansing, Mt. Pleasant, Petoskey and Temple.

The family would like to thank Mindy Taylor, Pixie Marshall and Rita

Pruden for putting together this year's reunion. They are the granddaughters of the late Lois Petoskey, who was the granddaughter of Ignatius Petoskey. The city of Petoskey, MI, was named after Ignatius Petoskey.

We had a wonderful dinner, which was blessed by John Petoskey,



the son of the late Warren Petoskey, Sr. After the dinner, we had a white elephant sale. The auctioneer again this year was Ralph Badgero of Clare, MI. He is the husband of Eva Badgero, the daughter of the late Lois Petoskey. Aunt Juanita Petoskey, wife of the late Warren Petoskey, Sr., was the eldest member in attendance, and Jasmine Randall, daughter of Victor and Gene Randall, was the youngest in attendance.

Don Petoskey and John Potter sang songs. Don Petoskey also told stories of our Native American history.

Next year, the reunion will be dedicated to June (Churchill) Petoskey. She left us to be with our Creator on September 2, 2008. June Petoskey was the daughter of Warren and Juanita Petoskey, Sr. She is missed deeply by all of us in the Petoskey family.

Sage
Gourmet Excellence

Beginning November 28th, the Lounge at Sage presents **Late Evening Edition!** Specially Priced Spirits and Selected Wines by the Glass along with our new **Appetizer Menu.**

Available Tuesday – Thursday
9:00pm to 10:00pm
Friday and Saturday from
10:00pm to Midnight

Odawa Casino Resort reserves the right to cancel or modify any and all promotions at any time without prior notice.