

Featured Programs

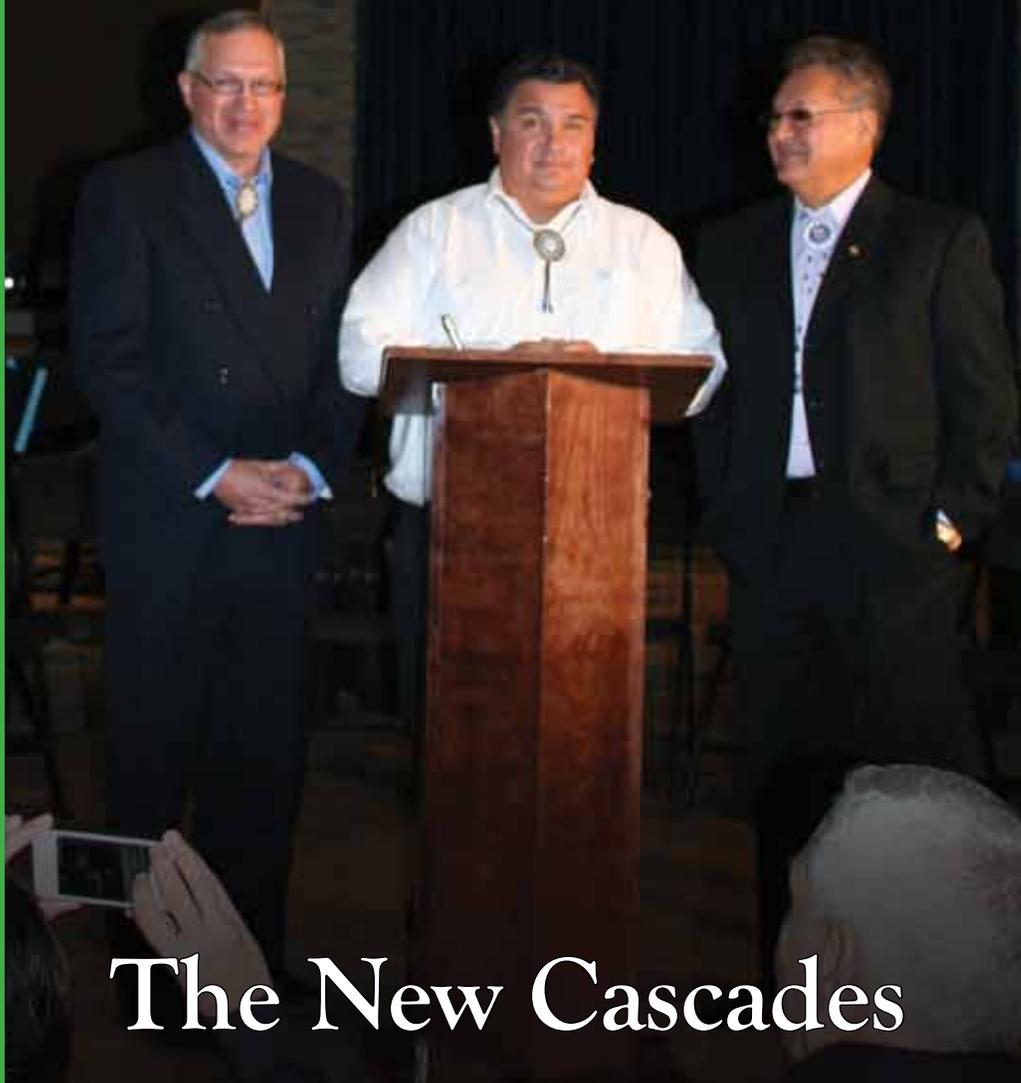
Kids' Recreation

Procurement

Family
Assessment
Response

Workforce
Investment Act

Kawennì:ios



The New Cascades

Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) Training

By Carrie Benedict, Compliance Inspector

Since successfully completing the required training my goal has been to establish a training program for those who sell and serve alcohol in Akwesasne. On October 3, 2012 I held the first TIPS training here at the Tribal Community Building. The session ran from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The cost of the training session is twenty-five dollars which covers the cost of a participant's trainer book.

underage drinking by enhancing the fundamental "people skills" of servers, sellers and consumers of alcohol. TIPS give individuals the knowledge and confidence they need to recognize potential alcohol-related problem and effectively intervene to prevent alcohol-related tragedies.

At the end of the session, a forty question



TIPS Graduates with Instructor Carrie Benedict

Six participants took the training: Jared Gray (manager/bartender), Tiffany Burns and Jami Goolden from the Brass Horse, Amy Benedict and Lacey McDonald from 37 West and Jennifer Stowell from the American Legion Post 1479.

The goal for all TIPS trainers is to build skills, instill confidence and empower participants to step in to situations and ensure that alcohol is being sold responsibly and legally.

TIPS is a dynamic skills-based training program designed to prevent alcohol abuse, drunk driving and

*Promotes safety
and responsibility
wherever alcohol
is served, sold or
consumed*

certification test is given. Once I register the session on-line through my trainer portal, I mail the answer sheets and session evaluation forms to the head office of Health Communications Inc. (HCI), in Arlington, Virginia.

Once a participant has successfully completed the test, they will be certified for three years and receive a TIPS Certification Card. At the end of November I will take a re-certification exam. Once re-certified I will schedule

another session and continue to do so as long as the need is there. ♦

Good Words of Welcome



Shékon,

As 2012 comes to a close, and a new year beckons, the achievements of the past months come to mind. It is my pleasure to report to you the recent meetings that I have participated with on behalf of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

When I was running for the position of chief in the past tribal election, I made a promise that, if reelected, I would fulfill the responsibility of representing tribal members, wherever their voices needed to be heard, at all levels of government. It is incumbent upon tribal leaders to carry the voices that they represent, both near and far from the reservation. This work begins on day one.

Since being re-elected to this tribal office, which I previously held from 1996 to 2003, I have now met with all tribal program departments and staff. This was another campaign promise that I made. This review was also an information exchange between these departments and the tribal council. The staff indicated to us that they were pleased to see us, that they felt empowered by the meetings, and that the meetings were productive.

Away from Akwesasne, I have attended the United Southeastern Tribes (USET) meeting held on October 9 and 10 in Uncasville, Connecticut. I was greeted by USET Chairman Brian Patterson (Oneida) who welcomed back the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe as an elder brother of the organization.

On October 11, Chief Ron LaFrance, Sub-Chief Eric Thompson, Tribal General Counsel Michele

Mitchell and I traveled to Albany. A meeting was held at New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's Office. Topics of discussion included New York Power Authority agreements, land claims and tobacco-related issues. Nation-to-nation trade between reservations was also another meeting topic.

In mid-October, I travelled to Syracuse and met with United States Attorney Richard Hartunian, representing the Northern District of New York. This meeting agenda focused on tobacco manufacturing, as well as nation to nation commerce agreements being put into place.

On October 30, Chief LaFrance, Sub-Chief Thompson, Tribal General Counsel Mitchell and I attended a meeting in Washington, D.C. with the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice. The topic of this meeting was to encourage support and gain a commitment of resolve from these departments for the tribal land claims lawsuit against New York State. This was the first time in the thirty-year legacy of the joint land claims efforts that such an action was undertaken.

As 2013 approaches, I look forward to continuing to work on behalf of tribal members and expect that more positive accomplishments will come, following a successful 2012.

Niawen:kówa!

Paul O. Thompson, Chief

On the Cover: Tribal Council at the Grand Opening of the New Cascades

David Trout Staddon, Editor
Aimée Benedict-Debo, Publications Manager
Alyson Cole - Production Assistant

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It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas...

By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Manager

We all know what that means. Lots and lots of toy commercials. Bet you thought I was gonna say family get-togethers, caroling or some of that wonderful-tasting eggnog.

Remember a few years ago there was a big scandal about toxic materials in toys coming from China and other countries overseas? Well, there have been some new safety regulations put into place, but with the amount of toys manufactured, they can't catch everything. There are over 82,000 chemicals on the market and currently only around 200 have been tested for health and safety. There is a push by a representative of Congress to ban the use of several toxic chemicals in toys (called the *Toxic Free Kids Act*.) This bill is similar to a federal bill called the *Safe Chemicals Act* which is gridlocked in the US Senate. It's easy to introduce it, but getting it passed is an entirely different story.

We have all opened a Barbie or an action figure and smelled the wonderful smell of plastic. Well that smell is polyvinyl chloride or PVC mixed with something (thermoplastic polymer) to make it more bendable. As I have said before, if you can smell it you are exposed to it.

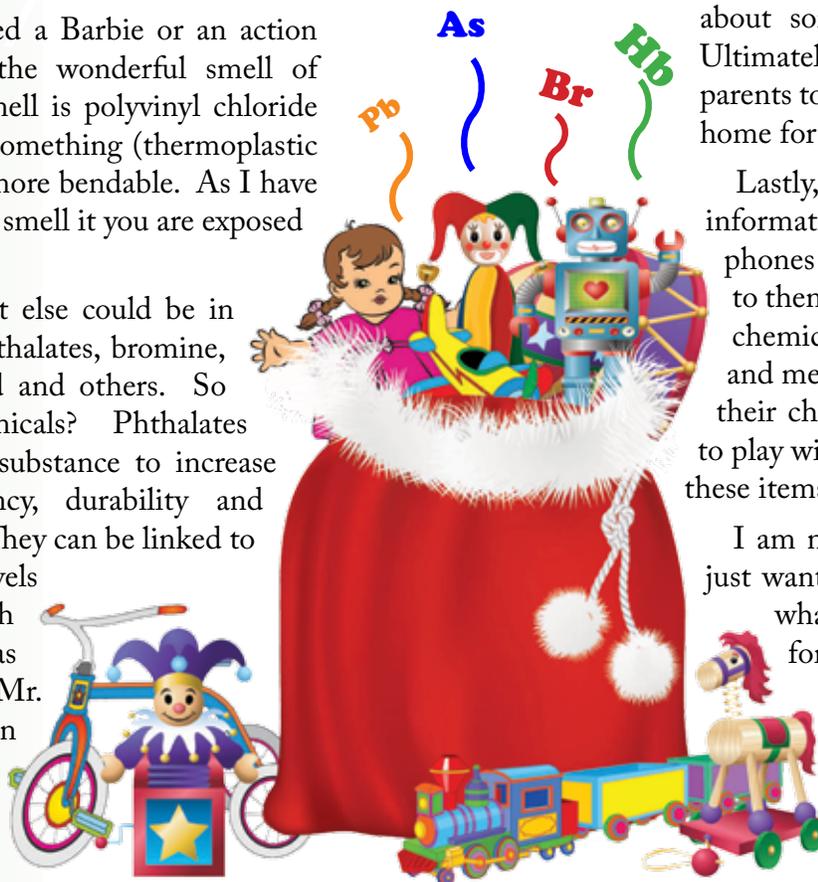
Besides PVC what else could be in your child's toy? Phthalates, bromine, arsenic, mercury, lead and others. So what are these chemicals? Phthalates are plasticizers or a substance to increase flexibility, transparency, durability and longevity of plastics. They can be linked to change of hormone levels as well as cause birth defects. Bromine was found in Hasbro's Mr. Potato Head® and in Hot Wheels Speed Racer RC Mach 5®. Bromine-containing compounds are also

found in flame retardants for clothing. It can have effects on the respiratory system, skin, eyes and the central nervous system in small amounts. Arsenic was found in Alex's Friend Bands®. Nothing can solidify a friendship more than arsenic, just kidding, but it can have effects on your liver, kidneys and other organs. One that shocked me was that Little Tyke's Bath Letters & Numbers® having high levels of mercury. There has been so much hype about mercury in our fish and in the air. Why would manufacturers want to put it in our kids' toys especially for the tub where children's skin is exposed? Mercury can affect the eyes, skin, kidneys and the central nervous system.

I get most of my information by online searches and some strides have been made to clean up the toxins from children's toys. I cannot attest for all this information to be all true but it does bring up questions for me about some of the toys we give. Ultimately it is our decision as parents to provide a safe and healthy home for our children.

Lastly, I will give some information about cell phones. Cell phones have a lot of components to them. They were found to have chemicals such as acids, plastics and mercury. People at times give their children/babies their phones to play with and children/babies put these items in their mouths.

I am not trying to scare you. I just want you to be more aware of what we give to our kids. So for now and the next seven generations let's give our children a healthy and safe life -- and not chemicals. ◇



Kids' Recreation

Community & Family Services Program Feature

By Mary Terrance, Home/Community Based Services Waiver Supervisor

Kids' Recreation is a specialized after-school program designed to meet the needs of developmentally disabled children. As a tribal program, we aim to improve the quality of life for these kids and the next seven generations by offering a wide variety of fun and educational activities. Many of the children in Kids' Rec. do not do well in typical daycare or latchkey settings. Family Support Kids' Rec. is able to provide more individualized staffing as well as activity choices.

Family Support staff serves Mohawk children in our surrounding school districts including Salmon River,

training in language. Sometimes the kids put together a social or listen to traditional music and practice dance as well.

One of the favorite activities provided by Kids' Rec. is a woodworking class facilitated by Dori Adel. Dori uses the kids' individual interests to design meaningful woodworking projects. Kids are proud to bring home or give as gifts. The kids really enjoy learning to use various woodworking tools and painting. Dori also has the ability to make it fun and entertaining to learn about safety and safety equipment.



Kids Recreation Staff: Keitha Durant, Sherry Bowen, Cora Brothers, Joan Clark, Harmony Love, Todd Robinson and Dave Barnum

the Mohawk School, Massena and Brushton-Moira. We serve kids as early as Pre-K and kindergarten right on through to graduation from high school.

Kids' Rec. primarily provides services immediately after school Mondays through Fridays. When schools are closed, we plan more extensive field trips to give the kids something productive to do with their day and provide parents with relief. This past summer, Kids' Rec. coordinated field trips to Old Forge Water Safari, the Longhouse at St. Anicet, Parc Safari, Old McDonald's Farm in Watertown and the Indoor Water Park in Plattsburgh.

Kids in Kids' Rec. participate in a Culture Class at least once a week. Wanda Jacobs is the Cultural Coordinator for our Kids' Rec. Program and provides

Kids' Rec. focuses on developing social skills and providing appropriate outlets for our kids to burn up their energy. Kids often participate in field trips to the surrounding parks to utilize playground equipment and play outdoor games. Kids' Rec. routine activities include going shopping for weekly snacks with highly sought-after Habilitation Aide Joan Clark. They participate in arts-n-craft activities planned and coordinated by Habilitation Aides Harmony Love and Keitha Durant. Todd Robinson entertains them daily with his musical talents in the Music Room while they wait for their rides. Dave Barnum often organizes outdoor games of soccer, basketball and kick ball and Sherry Bowen reinforces the Golden Rule and instills good manners in all our children. ♦

Procurement

Finance Program Feature

By Brian Fent, CFO & Alyson Cole, PIO Production Assistant

The Procurement Department is now a segment of the Accounting/Financial Department and continues to be an essential entity in the progression of all tribal programs. The daily functions of the department include the acquisition of all needed materials, goods and services required for each individual program to perform successfully. Among many duties, the Procurement Department is responsible for maintaining the tribe's insurance requirements, tribal inventory, vehicle fleet management, operation of all tribal auctions and the maintenance of all telephone and cell phone usage, to name a few.

To ensure this load of responsibilities is carried out in a timely matter, the department consists of three employees to accomplish both individual and group tasks. This staff includes Dan Bero, serving as Procurement Manager, Vicki Herne as Procurement Specialist and Assistant Procurement Specialist Angela George. Together they must keep track of policies such as cell phone usage, for example. In the case that an employee is required to be accessible by telephone due to the nature of their work, the department must ensure that the employee maintains proper care of the cell phone/Blackberry, uses it for official Tribal business only and immediately reports any lost, stolen or damaged equipment to the Procurement Office.

With such a small staff, they are also responsible

for the procurement process and negotiation of purchases on goods, equipment purchases and rentals, services and construction for tribal, state and federally - funded programs.



Dan Bero



Angela George and Vicki Herne

A recent addition that has added to the efficiency of the Procurement Department is a new paperless system called the E-Req. In an effort to cut costs and save paper, the E-Req system was implemented this past year and allows all purchase requirements to be sent by email through an approval process. The process begins with the initial requestor of a program or department who then sends it to their supervisor for approval. After it is approved at the supervisor level, it is then passed to administration for approval and then to the procurement office which processes all orders into purchase orders. These orders are then sent out to the corresponding vendors from whom goods or services have been requested. This process allows procurement to handle everything from purchasing newspaper subscriptions to office supplies for over 150 departments and programs. Within this system they must

also prepare and maintain purchasing files, reports and price lists to keep track of tribal spending. The Procurement Department is a newest addition to the Finance Department, though not a new addition to the Tribe. They will continue to ensure that all tribal programs have the goods and services they need to serve the community. ♦

Responsible Tips for Hosting a Holiday Party

By Carrie Benedict, Compliance Inspector

The holidays are important times to get together with friends and families. Many people host parties around this time of year. Are you hosting a holiday party this year? If so, it's not too late to keep the following important tips in mind.

Control the access to the alcohol you're providing. For example, avoid serving from a common source such as a keg or a punch bowl. Consider hiring a trained professional to serve drinks at your party. Be sure that whoever does prepare the drinks is not consuming alcohol themselves and is monitoring the other guests' consumption.

1. Offer other drinks such as soft drinks, fruit juices, water and coffee so that your guests have an alternative to drinking only alcohol.
2. Discourage competitive or rapid drinking. Allow guests to have only one drink at a time.
3. Provide plenty of appetizers, snacks and other food. They help to absorb the alcohol.
4. Plan entertainment and other activities so that drinking alcohol is not the main focus of the party.
5. Request identification from anyone who appears to be younger than 30 years of age. Guests who cannot present a valid form of ID should not be given any alcohol.
6. Communicate with your guests; make them aware that becoming intoxicated is not the goal of the party. As the host or hostess, model appropriate behavior for your guests.
7. Stop serving alcohol at least an hour before the party ends. Encourage your guests to stay for a while and have something to eat or drink (soda or coffee).
8. Be sure that anyone who is visibly intoxicated does not receive any more alcohol and is not left alone. Even if the guest is not driving, an impaired guest can still injure themselves or others.
9. If necessary, provide alternate transportation for impaired guests. Call a taxi or request the help of sober friends to make sure your guests arrive home safely.

I hope that these tips will help you and your guests enjoy a safe and happy holiday party. ◇

Family Assessment Response (FAR)

Social Services Program Feature

By Gilbert Jacobs, Child Protective Caseworker

In 2007, New York passed legislation to amend the Social Service Law to allow a differential response to allegations of child neglect. The change allowed county child protective units to apply for utilization of Family Assessment Response, as an alternative to traditional investigations on child neglect. The State Office of Children and Family Services allowed each county a level of flexibility with allegations of neglect, child welfare history and the willingness of the family to participate in a Family Assessment Response.

In 2009, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe applied to and was accepted into the second round of pilot counties of the American Humane Association's pilot project of differential response. The Child Protective Unit was looking for a model to reduce the return rate to social services systems in a select level of cases that continued to need a large amount of time, but had limited positive results. The Family Assessment Response was an opportunity to allow families to have a large investment in their outcome. The center of the model is the family and the basis that families know their issues the best. The FAR caseworker displays strong engagement with the families and

that is the key to successful outcomes. The American Humane Association has invested time, training and revenue to help guide the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Child Protective unit towards effectively implementing this project.



FAR Flex Funding Supported Attendance at Smoke Dance Competition

The American Humane Association brought with their plan for Family Assessment Response a unique intervention. With an open FAR case, the caseworker has access to the FAR flexible spending. This is an allotment of money that may be spent on items or services for the family, which would not be spent in a traditional investigation. The flexible funding can be accessed for crisis intervention or to promote strength-based activities. Unlike other resources there was no obligation to complete community service or to apply.

Each county is designated a certain amount of flex funding and allowed creative freedom for the utilization. This freedom allows caseworkers to think "outside the box" when addressing issues and helping families.

FAR Flex funding was made available to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Child Protective Services upon their implementation of FAR to their case work process.

Far Flex funding is a pool of money designated by New York State for departments to access. The funding is fully reimbursed by New York State to help families. At the time of implementation of the pilot there was about \$15,000 available for the Child Protective Unit to access. However, in June 2011 legislation was passed so that all counties in New York State could use the FAR track if they chose to do so. With all the counties having ability to access the money, the pool was significantly diluted.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Child Protection Services (CPS) Unit utilizes the Flex Funding in several different ways. First, the CPS unit uses the funding to help alleviate immediate concerns affecting a family. The department has used the money to help in a wide assortment of ways. Our more notable examples are helping a young man attend pow wows to compete in Smoke Dance competitions. Our department sent a child to a Little People of America conference and this funding helped repair a family's vehicle to make it safe to operate. The department also uses the money to fund a small food pantry that is kept stocked in the CPS building. A supply of diapers and wipes for families who may need those resources is also kept.

The CPS unit meets weekly to discuss all FAR cases. At these meetings, caseworkers may present a proposal to the team to access FAR money. The money can be used to purchase clothes for a client and their family, groceries or to pay a bill, etc. All CPS Caseworkers must agree before a memo is written to access FAR money. This ensures that the money is used fairly and so that one caseworker does not have more access to the funds than other caseworkers.

With the pool of money reduced by the number of counties participating and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's relatively small size compared to the other counties, the Child Protective Unit has had to be resourceful in continuing to provide the service to all eligible families. Moving into the future the CPS unit is researching a grant to help fund the FAR program in collaboration with the FAR Flex money provided by New York State. This will help the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe continue to develop its FAR programs into not only one of the strongest in New York State, but in all Indian Country in the United States. ◇

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Child Protection Services (CPS) Unit utilizes the Flex Funding in several different ways.



Gilbert Jacobs, Child Protective Caseworker

Pesticides Program

By Julia Jacobs, Environmental Outreach Coordinator

I am the Environmental Outreach Coordinator and work on many projects with the Environment Division. One of these is the Pesticides Program. Our main slogan is “Read the Label First.”

I attend many community events to display and disperse informational materials regarding pesticides. I also organized the annual Earth Day celebration and Seed & Tree Give Away, which many community members attend every year. The program has many informational brochures about pesticides safety, uses and storage. The displays and information can also be found at Wellness Day, Senior-Rama, the Akwesasne Pow-Wow and events at the St. Regis Mohawk School, Salmon River Elementary, JW Leary, Akwesasne Housing Authority and Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club.

The information includes lawn care, Integrated Pest Management, gardening, schools and home checklists. College interns conduct community surveys and assess the data to see what information is needed by the community.

The Environment Division’s website, www.srmtenv.org, also has information on pesticides. Many community members call the Environment Division about problems they have at their homes. If we don’t have the answer right away, we have many sources to help find the answer for you.

Holidays are fast approaching and we need to think about the products we will be using to clean our home. No matter what product you are using please be sure to READ the LABEL FIRST. The label tells you the EPA registration number, active ingredients in the product and how to use the product safely.

It will tell you where and what items to use the

product on, how to apply it, what protective clothing you should be wearing and how to minimize the risk of having a problem. Most antimicrobial and pesticide products, both liquid and aerosol, require that you open a window to allow fresh air into the room while using the product. This includes bleach and bleach wipes. Do not eat or smoke while using these products. So read the label first!



Julia Shows Products Which Contain Pesticides and Alternatives to Use

Some manufacturers’ list their name and phone number for emergencies but keep the Poison Control number (1-800-222-1222) in case you have an accidental poisoning of a family member or pet.

I looked at a container for disinfecting wipes I had. The front of the container listed a warning that this product was to be kept out of the reach of children. Where do you keep your disinfecting wipes? The back of the container told me it was harmful to humans and

domestic animals. That means if you, your child or pet put the wipe in the mouth, you have a problem. There was a caution statement that you would get mild eye irritation and to avoid getting it into your eyes and clothing. It then gives you a first aid remedy and lists the poison control center for additional help. There was also a physical/chemical hazard if you keep the container by heat or an open flame. So this means it could catch on fire or give off fumes that could make you sick.

For disposal, you had to throw it away in the trash and make sure you washed your hands with soap and water after handling the wipes. It also stated that you were not to refill or reuse this container. So even after you have used all the wipes, you can’t use the empty container for anything else. So enjoy the holidays but be safe by READING the LABEL FIRST. For more information contact: Julia Jacobs, SRMT Environmental Outreach, 518-358-5937. ♦

Energy Drinks, Friend or Foe?

IHS Pharmacy Program Feature

By Joan Wescott, Pharmacist

Energy drinks, like Red Bull, Rock Star and Monster, are very popular. They contain large doses of caffeine or guarana, a plant which contains large amounts of caffeine. The amount of caffeine in a serving of an energy drink can range from 75 milligrams to over 200 milligrams. Compare this to 34 milligrams in Coke and 55 milligrams in Mountain Dew per serving. Remember to always check serving size as a can may actually contain two servings and thus have twice the amount of caffeine listed on the label.

If a drink advertises no caffeine, it probably contains guarana. This is the equivalent of caffeine, but does not need to be listed as caffeine on the label. Energy drinks marketed as dietary supplements, and the FDA does not approve or review the products before they are sold. They should not be seen as “natural” and thus safe. One brand, 5-Hour® Energy Drink, advertises “no crash,” but this claim is referring to no “sugar crash” because the drink has artificial sweeteners. You will still experience the crash of the caffeine wearing off. While energy drinks do contain some vitamins and/or amino acids, these nutrients can be found in a healthy diet or quality vitamin/mineral supplement.

Individuals vary in how they respond to caffeine. The high levels of caffeine in energy drinks can be dangerous. They have been shown to increase the heart rate and blood pressure (sometimes to the point of palpitations or irregular heart rates), dehydrate the body and prevent sleep.

Since caffeine is a diuretic it causes the body to lose water. Energy drinks should not be used while exercising. The combination of fluid loss from sweating and the diuretic quality of the caffeine can leave someone severely dehydrated.

As the holidays approach, it should be noted that energy drinks are not good

mixers for alcohol. Since energy drinks are stimulants and alcohol is a depressant, the combination of these two effects may be dangerous. The stimulant effects can mask how intoxicated you are and prevent you from realizing how much alcohol you have consumed. Fatigue is one of the ways the body normally tells someone that they've had enough to drink. The stimulant effect can give the person the impression they aren't impaired. No matter how alert you feel, your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is the same as it would be without the energy drink. People will misjudge their ability to perform complex tasks like driving. Research has found that people drink more and have higher BACs when they combine alcohol and caffeine. In addition, both energy drinks and alcohol are very dehydrating. Dehydration can hinder your body's ability to metabolize alcohol and will increase the toxicity, and therefore the hangover, the next day.

If you have any questions, contact your health care provider. ◇



Monthly Tribal Meeting

Kentenhkó:wa / November 3, 2012
Chaired by Chief Ron LaFrance

Agenda

1. Introductions:
 - Welcome
 - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
1. TGF Quarterly Presentation
 - Michael Connors
2. Update on Meeting with the Governor's Office
 - Ron LaFrance
3. Casino Expansion Update
 - Elliott Lazore / Colleen Thomas
4. New Business
 - Election Ordinance Amendments
5. Reading of Action Items
 - Tribal Clerk
6. Adjournment

Action Items from November Meeting

1. To contact the DA to find out their position and/or process on removing non-natives from our territory.
2. For Tribal Council to attend a Convenience Store Association meeting to discuss the price break on gasoline.
3. To look into posting "No Littering" signs.

Follow-up on Action Items from October Meeting

1. Have Environment to prepare a letter for community members to sign and coordinate with Public Info to get this information out there and encourage everyone to get letter to EPA – David Staddon/Ken Jock

Follow-up: A letter was developed and made available to the community to utilize.

2. Start a Public Info campaign that shows Indian character in the Hogansburg Triangle- David Staddon

Follow-up: Pricing is being collected for full-page sized advertisements in local and surrounding communities.

3. Prior to meeting with the Land Claims lawyer, have an outline available with the current issues – Michele Mitchell

Follow-up: It was noted that the meeting will not be scheduled until after November 9th and that the agenda will only be the position of the two parties and the possible time frames.

4. Summary presentation on history of membership since 1986 referendum.

Follow-up: The Legal Department has been tasked with providing a report to Tribal Council on this issue, including bringing forward the TCR that was drafted several years ago that addresses rescinding or superseding previous membership resolutions. A residency component has also been requested. ◇

Calendar

Tsiothóhrha / December

- 1 - Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby
- 11 - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office
- 25 - Christmas Day holiday - Tribal offices and transfer station closed, no blue bag pick up
- 26 - Blue Bag pick up

Tsiothohrkó:wa / January

- 1 - New Year's Day holiday - Tribal offices and transfer station closed
- Tuesdays - Tribal Council Work Sessions - 9:00 a.m. - Tribal Council Boardroom

New Faces

David Colon	Three Sisters	Night Security
Darren Cook	Tribal Gaming	Surveillance Operator
Joel Herne	Environment	Scale House Operator
Cameron Mitchell	Tribal Gaming	Surveillance Operator
Jeremy Thompson	Tribal Gaming	Gaming Inspector

Giving Back

Sports - \$ 1,500

Funerals - \$ 1,500

Community Events - \$ 2,200

Jobs

Child Care Teacher - Early Childhood Development

Child Care Teacher Aide - Early Childhood Development

Home-Based Coordinator / Media Specialist - Early Childhood Development

Dispatcher - Tribal Police

Surveillance - Tribal Gaming

All current positions with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe are posted on the Tribe's website at :

www.srmt-nsn.gov

Positions with our gaming operations are posted on the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino's website at:

www.mohawkcasino.com

The Workforce Investment Act

Education Program Feature

By Marie Benedict, WIA Director

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program provides assistance to eligible clients who wish to obtain a diploma, training certificate, two or four year degrees. The services that are provided through the WIA program are to assist clients with a stipend while attending an accredited institution. We also receive funding to provide a six-week summer program for students who are eligible and could be placed at various tribal departments.



Student Cordy helping a Senior hone her Wii Bowling skills

The objective of the WIA program is to provide support for attendance in a classroom setting. The end result will help individuals obtain long-term employment after training or education. This is not a tuition program. There are requirements for the WIA program. They are: household income to determine eligibility, as per the guidelines set forth by Department of Labor and membership in a federally recognized American Indian tribe. We currently are serving nineteen clients under the WIA program, and many of these students are seeking a two or four year degree.

WIA Summer Component

Our 2012 Summer Youth Program employed sixteen students for a six-week session. They



Pottery Making in Tsionni Fox's Culture Class

worked with various programs such as the Akwesasne Boy and Girls Club/Johnson O'Malley Summer Program. The counselors were responsible for up to 150 youth ages 5-12 years old. The counselors had to be creative by developing group activities for their assigned groups. Some of the activities involved an educational component, motivational, safety, self-esteem and environmental education. The EDCP/Childcare program students were aides in the classroom and worked along with teaching staff to assist in classroom activities. The students

that were placed with the Senior Citizen center did maintenance, meal deliveries, assisted our elders on shopping excursions and were involved with the daily activities of the center. The students are generally placed in areas of their interests, as recreation leaders, future teachers, and maintenance. Prior to the start of the summer programs, they were indoctrinated into management skills,

curriculum development, personal budgets and work ethics.

The WIA office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., weekdays or by appointment by calling 518-358-2272 Ext 217. ◇

Inter-Agency Cooperation Successful for Sturgeon Stocking

By Tony David, Water Resources Program Manager

After a nearly 100 year hiatus from the Salmon River—due to dam construction and poor water quality—946 lake sturgeon fingerlings were stocked near Westville on October 30, thanks to a collaboration of State and Federal agencies and the SRMT Environment Division. The sturgeon eggs were collected near Massena, NY this summer, reared in a federal hatchery near Genoa, Wisconsin, and returned to the St. Lawrence basin in November.

Tributaries of the St. Lawrence River like the Salmon River of Franklin County have served as historic spawning and nursery areas for sturgeon. With the recovery from water quality issues and the removal of the dam at Ft. Covington in 2009, the Salmon River once more has about 15 miles of habitat suitable for sturgeon. Other migratory fish like Atlantic salmon will also be able to travel to these historic areas. Earlier this fall the Environment Division and the USGS Tunison Laboratory of Aquatic Science released 8,000 salmon fingerlings to the Salmon and St. Regis Rivers (see November 2012 issue of *Kawennì:ios*.)



Students from the Akwesasne Freedom School were invited to participate in the release and learned about the sturgeon life history.

Sturgeons have unusually long life cycles: females take up to 26 years to reach spawning maturity; males up to 12 years. The hope is that in the future mature sturgeons will return to the Salmon River to spawn and reestablish a self-sustaining population.

The Environment Division expresses its gratitude to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Genoa National Fish Hatchery and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for continued support of sturgeon restoration in and around Tribal waters. ♦



Top: Freedom School Students Learn About the Life History of the Teiokién:tare (Sturgeon)

Middle: Up Close Look and Touch

Bottom: Tribal, State and Federal Collaborators



Laughter is the Best Medicine

Rx *Come enjoy a dose of Healthy Humor™ with Brad Nieder MD, a funny doctor and clean comedian who blends healthcare humor with wellness advice and an uplifting message.*

- Sunday, December 9, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging
- Register for this free event with Mary or Lora Lee at 518-358-2963.

Sponsored by the New York State Office for the Aging and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Title III Program



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