

PENUMBRA

Crooked Tree Youth Leadership

Welcome Back!



In this issue of Penumbra, a lot of new things have happened. Firstly, a new crew.; the Crooked Tree Youth Leadership group. This group includes: David Andress, Keisha Lovely, Logan Spray, Tequara Kiley, Amy Klungle, Megan Crawford, Julia Yates (me), Randall Abney, Joe Smith, Destiney Abney, and the wonderful Laura Chaney. What we do is go to government functions and see how things are done. So far, we have gone to see the Tribal council and even met a few interesting people. We have learned a lot from others and each other and we are something that never was.

In class not to long after our second meeting, Mr. Herrmann asked me, "Which is better, what you do or what you know?" I didn't even think before I blurted out, "What you do with what you know!" The more I thought about it, the more I realized I was right. One single person can change the world. In war, it only takes one person to defeat the purpose. If the army's commander is killed, there might be mutiny or loss of faith. In that one wavering second, they could be demolished. Similar in movies, it only takes one person to take down the bully. One voice. One thought. One idea. I know that most people won't read this but one person might. I know we can't change the world with our words but maybe we can change the way one person sees the world. And that is enough.

Penumbra By: Julia Yates

A Penumbra is a space of partial illumination between the perfect shadow on all sides and the full light Deep, huh? When I came up with the name for Penumbra, I was sitting on MySpace getting yelled at to get my work done; goofing around with my friend Mike. My biggest worry was passing

math. That was me three years ago. A lot has changed in that time. Like, this year, a bill was signed that lets us hunt wolves now. Our own brothers! For \$100 you can obtain a license to hunt wolves during a specified season. Strangely enough, wolves have only just gotten off the endangered

species list after being on for nearly 40 years.

This change has me worried. I'm worried about what happens to myself and the people around me in a way that my younger self could never comprehend. When Mrs. Chaney told me about the Leadership group, I instantly wanted to join. (cont. pg 2)

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- **It is easy to be brave from a safe distance. –Omaha**
- **The ones that matter the most are the children. They are the true human beings. –Lakota**

Penumbra (cont.)

Not to get out of class or to go places but to learn about what I could do to make a difference to people like me and to people like who I used to be.

I'm not exactly a leader but I want to motivate change. I want someone to hear what I have to say. And I want them to listen. There's probably someone out there like me who just needs to step up. They could have the cure to cancer or the outline for the hover board but no one gives them a chance. Schools test them on things like triangles and sentence structure and things they will probably never use. Making them feel like they aren't as smart as they actually are because they don't know the things that a group of leaders who don't know what were going through in the world today want them to know. I don't think that's fair. No one is standing up for them. Being one of those kids, I know no one is standing up for them. Or,

they aren't standing up for me. That's what I want to do. I want to be able to teach people important things in an easy to understand way that will help them to succeed at their dreams. Or at least in life.

The people in this group all have serious potential to become the leaders this world needs. I am proud to stand next to them; to be doing something and maybe it's just a small something but for once in my life, I mean something. Someone is actually listening to what I have to say and it has the potential to make a difference. This has literally changed the way I look at myself, other people and how the world works. I think everybody has that one opportunity in their life that could change it in a million different ways and I am glad I didn't pass it up.

Honestly, I wasn't going to join the group. I thought it sounded boring and it wasn't really something I was interested in. Government? Ew, Am I right? But the way they teach us is so hands-on and easy to understand. And for

once, I feel like an equal. They don't look down at me like I'm a child, they look at me like someone who understands and is worthy of their respect. I don't feel like I just got out of middle school two years ago. I feel like I have one more year of high school after this. I feel like pretty soon it will be me and my peers making the decisions about what happens in the world. I guess that in the end, what leadership means to me, is growing up and making decisions that not only affect me but those around me and being conscious of what affect I am having on the world around me.



A Penumbra

David visits the County Commissioners' Meeting

David Andress served as ambassador for Pellston High School by attending the Emmet County Board of Commissioner's meeting on February 21st. He reported that the council members approved many resolutions and expenditures of money, including support for The Headlands, the North Western State Trail between Alanson and Mackinaw City, and a barn at the McGulpin Point Lighthouse.

David and nine other students have been participating all year in the "Emmet Leadership Academy," a unique way to learn how tribal, county, and state government work. On Sunday, March 17th the group travels to Lansing for the Capitol Experience, three days of visits with lobbyists, state leaders and tours. They will have breakfast with the state senator and representative!

Students involved, in addition to David are: Keisha Lovely, Logan Spray, Tequara Kiley, Josef Smith, Amy Klungle, Megan

Crawford, Randall Abney, Destiny Abney, and Julia Yates, editor of this newsletter!



Top from left: Amy Klungle, Megan Crawford, Keisha Lovely, Julia Yates, Destiny Abney

Bottom from left: Randall Abney, David Andress, Joe Smith

Leadership: what does it mean to you?

Mr. Powell: Setting a good example for others to follow.

Mrs. Kruskie: Someone who has positive values that motivates others to do things.

Mr. Herrmann: Allowing people that you are trying to lead to extend what they think is possible. Allowing people to grow to exceed their own self-limits.

Brandon Birch: The right to grant discipline to those below you.

Alyssa Krueger: Somebody who is not afraid to stand out in front of somebody else and take charge of a situation.

Dexter McNamara, Tribal Chairman: It takes a lot to become a good leader. Staying true to your word, learning from mistakes, showing genuine care and surrounding yourself with good people all helps.

Jane and Shelly: Somebody who takes control, shows good respect, consideration for other peoples feelings, but obeys the rules that other people follow.

Megan Crawford: Doing the right thing even if you're alone.

Joe Smith: A person with pride that people are influenced by.

Logan Spray: Standing apart from others by doing what you believe is right and influencing others to achieve the same.

Mrs. Chaney: Leadership is having the awareness to see beyond yourself and care enough to do something that you feel must be done. It's having the ability to inspire others to help you.

David Andress: Leadership is the ability to adapt the setting so everyone feels empowered to contribute to solving the problem.

Brent Bennington: Leadership is having the goals and aspirations of whatever group you are affiliated with foremost in mind, ahead of your own, and then trying to achieve those goals in the most efficient way possible.

Ms. Tiffany Milbrandt: Leadership is positive role-modeling.

Tequara Kiley: Leadership is being someone that others look up to for guidance.

Meeting Minutes



Response to Second Meeting By: Logan Spray

I really enjoyed having the opportunity to sit in on the council meeting. Being able to ask questions was very helpful because some of the questions that were asked hadn't even come to mind. I also liked listening to some of the stories that the council members told when they were explaining how things worked and happened. It was very encouraging to see that even people who were older and seemingly more important took the time to listen to teenagers and answer our questions. Even more importantly, they included us in their discussions and wanted our opinions.



Tribal Council Members from top left: Aaron Otto, Bill Denemy, Winnay Wemigwase, Kevin Gasco, John Keshick III.

Bottom left: Regina Gasco Bentley, John Bott, Melvin Kiogima, Belinda Bardwell.

Excerpt from *Odawa Trails Newsletter*, Written by Bethany Prykucki titled Crooked Tree Youth Leadership Program To Offer Students Hands-on Experience With Local and Tribal Government

The Crooked Tree Youth Leadership Program is a collaborative education program sponsored by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Emmet County Board of Commissioners and Michigan State University Extension. The program provides selected high school-aged students an opportunity to learn about local and state government with a "hands-on" approach. Students will identify public issues and then learn how citizens can work with government to accomplish public objectives and meet community needs. Students will learn how tribal,

county and state governments work, sit next to their commissioner and Tribal Council during an official meeting, visit with various department heads, work as a team to identify community issues important to teens and work on possible action plans to address these issues.



Destiney Abney asking the Council questions

People We've Met: Eric Hemenway

By: Laura Chaney



Eric Hemenway, *Director of Repatriation, Archives and Records*

Eric Hemenway grew up in Northern Michigan and has become a spokesman for the Little Traverse Bay Bands. He is a source of knowledge of Odawa history with a special expertise in Records and Archives, the department he chairs for the tribe. He has become a specialist in “repatriation,” returning the remains of a tribal member to his or her homeland. Federal and Michigan law protects human remains.

At the January 17th meeting which the Leadership Team attended, he explained the culture of the indigenous peoples of the Great Lakes, their livelihood, trading routes, survival skills, alliances and battles. He described for us the historic La Crosse game at Fort of Michilimackinac when the Odawa used a ploy to take the fort from the British. The 250th anniversary of this legendary trick will be celebrated June 2nd in an authentic reenactment in Mackinaw City.

Quotes!

Walk tall as the trees

Live strong as the mountain

Be gentle as the spring wind

Keep the warmth of the summer sun in your heart

And the great spirit will always be with you.

-Ojibwa

Only when the last tree has died

And the last river been poisoned

And the last fish been caught

Will we realize we cannot eat money.

-Cree

It is easy to be brave from a safe distance. **-Omaha**

The ones that matter the most are the children. They are the true human beings.

-Lakota

It was our belief that the love of possessions was a weakness to overcome. Its appeal is to the material part, and if allowed its way, it will in time, disturb one's spiritual balance. Therefore, children must early learn the beauty of generosity. They are taught to give what they prize most, that they may taste the happiness of giving. **-Santee Sioux**

Creation Story By: David Andress

At the beginning of civilization, men believed in their own creator. Anishinaabe of the Potawatomi was said to be the only one on Mother Earth. He was told by the creator to give everything a name and that he would be accompanied by a spiritual animal, the wolf. When Anishinaabe traveled across Mother he heard a beautiful song across the water and in the song a beautiful women said that she was building a house for Anishinaabe; Anishinaabe later fell in love with the woman's voice. Because of the song, in the passing of two suns, Anishinaabe learned to cross the water and eventually came across a lodge, faced to the West; inside the lodge lived an elder fire keeper and his beautiful daughter. The fire keepers daughter and Anishinaabe would become the first union which would determine the roles of men and women in the cycle of marriage.

They had four sons. When they grew up, they traveled many miles in the four sacred directions; North, for that son had the hardest journey, but learned that the melting snow cleansed Mother Earth. With the color of the snow being white, North would be represented by the color white. This son married the daughter of the spirit of the North and he was given sweet grass; it would be the first gift of Mother Earth. It was kept in a braid like a mother's hair.

The second son would travel East with the rising of the sun. The son learned that fire is the essence of life and he gained the knowledge of the Creator. He married the spirit of the East's daughter and was given the gift of tobacco to be used in prayers. The essence of the tobacco was carried to the Creator by eagles.

The third son would travel South, which is the direction of the women from which the seeds are given and all other essence of life. The South is red to represent life's blood. This son married the daughter of the South spirit and received the gift of cedar; which is used to neaten and refine the home and prepare for food.

The final son, the fourth, went to the West into the mountains. He married the spirit of the West's daughter and was gifted with the medicine of sage and learned that the setting of the sun was the representation of the circle of life and it's cycle. The West is colored with black, for the



darkening time, and the sage was used as a strong purifier and used to keep away illness. The smoke of the cedar and sage were fanned upward with an eagle feather because it is said that the eagle once saved the Indian people when the Creator wanted to annihilate them. He believed that no one believed in what he did for them. So now the eagle flies from the Creator to the Indian people bringing their prayers from lodges of the faithful on Mother Earth. The eagle is symbolized as the deliverer of messages to the creator.

Leadership



David Andress



Tequara Kiley



Randall Abney



Amy Klungle

Leadership



Joe Smith



Megan Crawford



Logan Spray



Destiney Abney

Leadership



Julia Yates



Laura Chaney



Keisha Lovely