



Win Awenen Nisitotung

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Win Awenen Nisitotung
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Jessica Dumback named Sault Tribe CEO

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors has appointed Jessica A. Dumback as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, effective Sept. 16, 2025.

Dumback brings with her nearly three decades of dedicated service and leadership to the tribe. Her journey began in the summer of 1997 through the Chairman’s Internship Program, marking the start of a long and meaningful career. Over the years, she has held a number of key positions, including Recreation Facility Manager of the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center (2004–2016), Interim Assistant Executive Director (2015), and

In June 2022, she returned to Sault Tribe as Assistant Executive Director, later retitled Deputy CEO, applying her expanded knowledge to strengthen Membership Services operations. She went on to serve as Interim CEO from May through September of 2025 before her appointment as permanent CEO.

In her new role, she oversees twelve divisions and departments, including Anishnaabek Community and Family Services, Education, Elder Services, Language and Culture, Law Enforcement and Conservation, Natural Resources, Recreation, Communications, Enrollment, Human Resources, Legislative Office, and Planning and Development. She also provides oversight of membership liaisons and executive personnel, ensuring divisions have the tools, planning, and resources necessary to carry out the tribe’s strategic plan.

Looking ahead, Dumback plans to work closely with the Tribal Board of Directors to update the tribe’s strategic plan, restore positive workplace morale, and improve efficiencies in governmental operations.

Education has been central to her professional journey. She earned a bachelor of science in business administration with a minor in legal assistant studies from Lake Superior State University in 1999, and later completed her master of business administration (MBA) with an emphasis in finance at Central

See “New hires,” page 4



Assistant Executive Director (2016–2019).

From 2019 through 2022, Dumback broadened her professional experience outside of the tribe, serving as Business Manager at Kinross Correctional Facility with the State of Michigan.



Tribal member Adam Ingalls, from Twin Lake, Mich., shot this 8-point on Oct. 7 in Muskegon County.

Survey being mailed to tribal membership

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors, through Resolution 2025-164, has requested the tribe’s Legal Department to create a “Pro and Con” list of each type of separation of powers and a survey for board approval to send to the membership. The Election Commission will be sending out this memo and survey asking you, as a tribal member, to vote on the type of separation of powers you would want in a constitutional amendment. It will be handled through our election process and will be mailed mid-October to all Sault Tribe members 18 years and older.

The survey results will be counted by the Election Commission in mid-November and the Board of Directors will use the data gathered from the surveys to guide the next steps toward constitutional reform of the Sault Tribe Constitution.

A successful separation of powers requires that each branch of government be permitted to exercise its duties without undue interference from the other branches of government. It is important for the tribe and its citizens to thoroughly analyze the different ways to structure its government for the benefit of an efficient government and one that works for its citizens and not against it. The Legal Department Pros and Cons memo can be found here: <https://saulttribe.com/newsroom/9056-attention-tribal-members-membership-survey>. This memo is not exhaustive and tribal members are encouraged to do their own research to make the most informed decisions.

The Sault Tribe Legal Department can be reached at legal@saulttribe.net if any tribal members have any comments, questions, or concerns.

The following is a reminder for tribal members concerning voter registration: Any tribal member 18 years of age or older on the date of an election is automatically registered by the Tribal Registrar to participate as a voter in tribal elections.

The Tribal Registrar mails a notice to all adult members informing them of their status as registered voters with an option for those who reside outside of the service area to designate an election unit in which to vote.

Non-resident members must

select their election unit of choice within 90 days prior to the election on the form sent by the Tribal Registrar. Election Unit Registration forms must be filled out completely to become registered within a unit.

If a non-resident member does not select a unit in which to vote, they will not be able to vote for a unit director in any upcoming elections. Once a non-resident member has been registered to vote within a unit, the member’s registration status is permanent and does not change.

Resident members are automatically registered in the election unit where they maintain residency. A resident member who loses their resident member status by moving out of an election unit must register to vote in a unit as detailed above.

Always remember to contact Enrollment any time you move.

Tribal members should contact the Sault Tribe Enrollment office if they are unsure of their voter registration status by emailing: enrollment@saulttribe.net, or by calling (906) 632-8552.

Newspaper delivery options — by email or subscription

Aaniin, Kine Waya, (Hello, Everyone!)

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors has directed that this issue of the newspaper go out to every tribal household because it includes the 2024 Annual Report to the Membership. We publish this special issue every year.

A few years ago, Win Awenen Nisitotung changed its subscriptions to request only, except for our tribal elders 60

and over. The reason for that was because too many tribal member addresses were out of date and we were wasting huge numbers of newspapers and postage. Newspapers with bad addresses are discarded by the US Postal Office. Elders were kept on the list because the Enrollment Dept. has mostly good addresses for our age 60-plus elders due to elder check mailings.

Anyone who would like to continue receiving their newspa-

per can sign up for a subscription. We have thousands of tribal members now receiving the newspaper, by mail or as a link to a full-size PDF via email. If you would also like your tribal subscription — which is free of charge — fill out the form below and send it to us. You can also call us at (906) 632-6398 or email slucas@saulttribe.net. Just remember to keep your address up to date with the newspaper.

Chi Miigwech!

Jennifer Dale-Burton, Editor

Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

To receive a FREE tribal newspaper subscription in the mail, tribal members under 60 are asked to complete the form below and send it to: Win Awenen Nisitotung, 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783, or email it to slucas@saulttribe.net. Those 60 and over do not have to fill out this form. Those who prefer to get their newspaper online do not have to complete this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State and Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ new subscription
☐ change of address

☐ digital subscription
OR
☐ print subscription

Age: _____

15th Annual Recovery Walk held on Sept. 25



Holly Eimiller (left), gives Anne Archambeau a glitter tattoo.



Stephanie Liedel with Makenna Bavinau, 9.



Pierce Mayville with Jezebel the kitten.



Brianna Brown, Joseph Brown and River Brown.



Genevieve Gillote joins her mom, Jessica, and Krissy Giffin at the ARC table.



Community Health Program Manager Jenni O'Dell with Registered Dietician Julie Trestrail dispense swag at the Sault Tribe Community Health booth.



Complete with a police escort, more than 100 people walked to support those in recovery.

FUND YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

WITH FREE MONEY FOR COLLEGE OR CAREER TRAINING!

The Michigan Achievement Scholarship has funding for every grad, every path — **no matter their GPA**. Plus, the scholarship is less income-based than you might think. Odds are, your high school senior or recent grad will qualify for **free money** for:

- Community college
- Public or private university
- Career training



SCAN TO LEARN MORE OR VISIT
mi.gov/ACHIEVEMENT

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SCHOLARSHIP

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Student Aid



Committee vacancies — volunteers needed!

The following Sault Tribe Committees have vacant seats or upcoming vacancies. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation (forms available online or contact Lona/Ashlee) from other members to Lona Stewart at 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or call (906) 635-6050 with any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Two vacancies -

males (One 4-year term, one term expires July 2028)

Child Welfare Committee - One vacancy (4-year term)

Elder Advisory Committee

Unit I — Sault — One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit II — Newberry - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit III — St. Ignace — Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit V — Marquette — One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Elder Subcommittees

Unit I — Sault — One alternate

vacancy, term expires Nov. 2027
Unit II — Hessel — Two regular vacancies, one term expires April 2027, one term expires Aug. 2026, One alternate vacancy – term expires May 2027

Unit II — Naubinway - Two regular vacancies - one term expires

Oct. 2026 and one May 2027

Unit III — St. Ignace — One regular vacancy – term expires

April 2027, one alternate vacancy – term expires March 2028

Unit IV — Escanaba — One regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV — Manistique — Two regular vacancies — one term expires Nov. 2026, one term expires Jan. 2027

Unit V — Munising — Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit V — Marquette — One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Food Sovereignty Committee — Four vacancies (4-year terms); one vacancy, term expiring Feb. 2027

Health Board — Three vacancies (4-year terms)

Higher Education Committee

— One regular vacancy, term expiring Aug. 2026

Housing Commission – One vacancy Unit 2 Seat, term expiring Nov. 2026

Sault Tribe Election Commission — Two current vacancies, 5 upcoming vacancies (terms expire Jan. 2026). Four appointments will be five-year terms, three seats will be three-year terms. When submitting your letter of intent and recommendations, please include the length of term you are seeking.

Membership liaisons answer your questions

Why was I charged a fee?

Q: Why was I charged for a dental lab fee? I live in the seven county service area so I thought everything was covered.

A: There are a number of things that the dental department does not cover for patients and dental lab fees are one of them. In an effort to maximize the limited resources that are available so that the tribe can provide as many services to as many patients as possible, some items are not covered. Some oral surgery and pediatric dental services by outside providers are covered through Purchased Referred Care, but generally, if there is a service or product that cannot be provided at our clinic by our dentists, dental therapists, or dental hygienists, then there is a patient borne cost.

Dental lab fees have continued to increase – especially as the prices of precious metals has gone up. Having lab fees covered by the patients, insurance, or the Elder Health Fund allows the tribe to provide more services to more tribal members.

Booking rooms at Kewadin

Q: What is the best way for a member to book a room at Kewadin Hotels?

A: Any member intending to book online with Kewadin should book directly from the Kewadin website. A booking that is not directly done from the website can land the member on a nonaffiliated three-party booking engine, as with any hotel. Tribal members are also encouraged to call 1-800-Kewadin for any hotel reservations and inquire about the available tribal member rate.

Membership liaisons work to assist with membership issues and concerns. Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or individually at the contacts below. Although liaisons are located at sites across the seven-county service area, they serve all tribal members.

Michelle Moore

Available for in-person meetings at Sault Tribe Administration.

Phone: (906) 635-6050, Ext. 26359 Cell: (906) 259-3862

mmoore@saulttribe.net

Clarence Hudak

Lambert Center, St. Ignace (906) 643-2124

chudak@saulttribe.net

Mary Jenerou

Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469. Munising Tribal Center, (906) 450-7011

mjenerou@saulttribe.net

Tribal gas and cigarette discount locations

The following gas stations are offering discounts to Sault Tribe members.

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:

• MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste.

Marie, MI 49783

• MidJim Convenience Store, 3045 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781

• White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store, 7889 E. W. M-28, Christmas, MI 49862

Tribal owned gas stations

offering gas discount only:

• University BP, 301 W. Fair Ave., Marquette, MI 49855

Not tribal owned stations

offering gas discounts only:

• Kinross BP, 4440 Tone Road, Kincheloe, MI 49788

• Cedar Pantry, 159 W. M-134,

Cedarville, MI 49719

• Sunoco, 13975 M-28, Newberry, MI 49868

• Manistique Oil Company, 216 Deer Street, Manistique, MI 49854

• Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300 Ludington St., Escanaba, MI 49837

Marquette Area Elder Sub-Committee meets

The Unit 4/5 Marquette Area Elder Sub-Committee will be meeting at the Marquette Community Center, 204 Cherry Creek Rd the first Thursday of each month.

The meetings will now be at 5 p.m., with a meal to follow, starting with the meeting on Nov. 6.

Anyone interested in coming early to play BINGO with the group is welcome. BINGO will start at 3:30.

All Unit 4/5 Marquette Area elders age 60-plus and a spouse or guest are welcome.

Annual elder Christmas celebrations planned in tribe’s service area

Units I, II, III – Tuesday, Dec. 9, Kewadin DreamMakers Theater at noon. RSVP by Dec. 1.

Unit IV, Manistique – Thursday, Dec. 4, at 5 p.m. at the Manistique Tribal Health Center. RSVP by Nov. 20.

Unit IV, Escanaba – Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. at the Island Resort and Casino. RSVP by Nov. 19.

Unit V, Munising – Thursday,

Dec. 18 at noon at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community Room.

Units IV and V, Marquette area – Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Marquette Community Center, meeting at 5 p.m. with a meal to follow. RSVP by Nov. 20.

Call Sault Tribe Elder Services to RSVP to any of the above parties at: (906) 635-4971.

See you there!

Advocacy Resource Center is seeking information about Missing and Murdered Sault Tribe Members:

In an effort to maintain the Sault Tribe MMIP database for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP), the Advocacy Resource Center is seeking information regarding missing and murdered individuals who are members of the **Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians**. Please message or call the ARC at 906-632-1808 with information that can be entered into the database. The information provided does not have to be current information. The ARC is seeking information for ALL missing or murdered tribal members including the seven county service areas and tribal members across the world. Please ask for Community Educator Jess Gillotte-King (extension 73104) when calling the ARC. If messaging the ARC Facebook page, please leave the following information:



First/Middle/Last Name
Date of Birth
Date of Death
Murdered/When/Where
Perpetrator Name if known:

If Missing:
Nickname/Alias
Date Last Seen/Went Missing
Physical Description
Distinctive Physical Features
Vehicle Information

Any information would be appreciated.

Thank you for your participation in this matter. Please feel free to share this information. Miigwech!



Are you receiving a duplicate paper?

If you are receiving more than one copy of your tribal newspaper, *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, at your address, contact Sherrie Lucas at slucas@saulttribe.net so that we can correct the error. Miigwech!

Win Awenen Nisitotung

The official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
Scott Brand.....Staff Writer

Win Awenen Nisitotung welcomes submissions of news articles, feature stories, photographs, columns and announcements of American Indian or non-profit events. All submissions are printed at the discretion of the editor, subject to editing and are not to exceed 400 words. Unsigned submissions are not accepted.

Please note the distribution date when submitting event information for our community calendar. Submissions can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed. The distribution date is the earliest the newspaper can arrive in the seven-county service area.

Win Awenen Nisitotung is funded by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of

Chippewa Indians and is published 12 times a year. Its mission is to inform tribal members and the public about the activities of the tribal government, membership programs and services and cultural, social and spiritual activities of Sault Tribe members.

Win Awenen Nisitotung, in Anishinaabemowin, means, “One who understands,” and is pronounced “Win Oh-weh-nin Nis-toe-tuhng.”

See our full, online edition at www.saulttribe.com.

Subscriptions: The regular rate is \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. Please

call for other foreign countries. Subscribe by sending your name and mailing address to the address below with your check or money order made out to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Or, call (906) 632-6398 to pay by credit card.

Advertising: \$8.50/column inch.
Submission and Subscriptions: Win Awenen Nisitotung
Attn: Communications Dept.
531 Ashmun St.,
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Telephone: (906) 632-6398
Fax: (906) 632-6556

E-mail: slucas@saulttribe.net or jdale-burton@saulttribe.net.

Holly Haapala hired as chief financial officer

Holly Haapala has been hired as the Sault Tribe’s new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Haapala brings more than 18 years of dedicated service to the tribe and a wealth of experience in financial management, strategic planning, and organizational leadership.

Haapala’s professional journey with the tribe began in the 1990s as a student worker for Community Health Nursing. She returned in 2002 and went on to serve in several key areas, including the Budget Department as budget analyst, Insurance and Risk Management as insurance manager,

Human Resources as interim HR director, and the Finance Department as senior accountant. Her broad perspective across tribal operations has uniquely positioned her for her new role. As CFO, Haapala is responsible for ensuring the financial health of the organization, with oversight

of financial reporting and compliance, financial strategy and planning, and cost management. She also oversees the Tribe’s Finance, Facilities, Purchasing, Shipping and Receiving, Insurance and Risk Management, Transportation, Self-Governance, and Internal Auditor departments.

Haapala earned her bachelor’s degree in accounting with a public concentration from Lake Superior State University. She originally pursued a different major, but after taking an accounting class, discovered her passion and made the switch—a decision that continues to guide her career.

Beyond her professional life, Haapala is the proud mother of two sons: Aedan, a welder, and Hudson, a senior in high school who is also enrolled at LSSU.

Expressing her gratitude and commitment, Haapala said, “I’m honored to assume the role of Chief Financial Officer and com-



mitted to working in conjunction with our board and our team to continue building a solid financial foundation that supports ongoing growth, strengthens resilience, and creates sustainability. Most of all, I’m looking forward to continuing to work alongside such a dedicated group of people and contributing to the future success of our tribe.”

New chief information officer hired, Bill Travitz

William “Bill” Travitz has accepted the position of chief information officer (CIO) for the tribe. Travitz officially began his role August 4 in the tribe’s IT Department.

Travitz brings nearly 40 years of technology experience to the position. For the past six years, he has focused on serving tribal nations across the country—first as IT director for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and more recently with Arctic IT, an Alaska Native-owned company

dedicated to advancing tribal governments through technology, financial systems, and managed services.

“I’m excited to bring these experiences to the Sault Tribe. My door will always be open, and I look forward to what we will accomplish together,” Travitz said.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Travitz has been married for nearly 35 years. He and his wife are proud parents of two grown children.



Dumback hired as CEO

From “New CEO,” page 1 Michigan University in 2023—while continuing to work full time.

Dumback expressed gratitude to the tribal board of directors for supporting professional development within the tribe.

“It’s encouraging for Sault Tribe members, who are investing in their advanced education and are building relevant experience over the years, to see that professional development opportunities are possible at Sault Tribe,” she said.

A proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Jessica resides in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., where she continues to champion the tribe’s mission and foster community growth through her visionary leadership.

Fegan named Natural Resources director

Danielle Fegan has accepted the position of Sault Tribe Natural Resources Director, bringing with her a strong background in conservation science, leadership, and intergovernmental collaboration.

Fegan is completing her Ph.D. in fisheries and wildlife at Michigan State University, where her research focuses on planning

fire activities that benefit both forests and wildlife. She also holds a master’s degree in plant biology from MSU and a bachelor’s degree in biology from Hope College. Her academic path, she said, has given her a “big-picture understanding” of how soils, vegetation, wildlife, and policy all

See “Fegan,” page 12

SATURDAYS IN NOVEMBER \$ ALL SITES

Excludes St. Ignace on November 1 & Sault Ste. Marie on November 8

CASH

THE

BUCKS

WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER

\$62,000 CASH AND CREDITS

Hot Seat Draws Start at 5 P.M.

Win Up To \$150 Kewadin Credits

Plinko Starts at 8:30 P.M.

Win Up To \$300 CASH

See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. Must earn 50 base points to qualify for promotion.

MANISTIQUE \$ ST.IGNACE \$ SAULT STE. MARIE \$ HESSEL \$ CHRISTMAS

CASH OR CREDITS? PICK YOUR POISON

All Sites | Saturdays in October

Win Your Share of Over \$58,000 CASH & Credits

WICKED WINNINGS

Christmas | Thursdays in October

Win Your Share of \$4,750 CASH and Credits

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY CASINO STYLE

All Sites | Friday, October 31

Win Your Share of Over \$8,000 CASH and Credits

SCARYOKE SHOWDOWN

Manistique | Friday, October 31

Battle to Share \$1,000 CASH Prize Pool

REV UP & RIDE OUT SIDE-BY-SIDE GIVEAWAY

St. Ignace | August 1 - November 1

Earn Entries to Win a 2025 Polaris RZR Trail S 900

CAN-A-THON

All Sites | November 1-30

Donate Three Non-perishable Canned Goods and Receive \$5 in Kewadin Credits

VETERANS DAY

All Sites | November 11

All Valor Card Holders Receive \$10 Kewadin Credits

STARTLING OCTOBER SAVINGS

Kewadin Casino Hotel Sault Ste. Marie | Sunday - Wednesday

Buy Two Nights at Full Price and Get the Third for FREE

HAPPY HOUR & DRINK SPECIALS

Check out our Happy Hour Specials. Visit Our Facebook Page for More Information

TOURNAMENTS

PAWS & CLAWS SLOT TOURNAMENT

October 1 - November 10

Christmas and Hessel | Mondays

Manistique | Thursdays

Daily 50,000 Bonus Points Prize Pool & Prize Draws

SPOOKTACULAR SLOT TOURNAMENT

All Sites | Wednesdays in October

Daily \$1,500 CASH and 145,000 Bonus Points Prize Pool

PINKTASTIC SPIN TO WIN

Sault Ste. Marie | October 17-19

Win Up to \$15,000 CASH/Bonus Points

Check out our Full Schedule of Exciting Tournaments! Visit [kewadin.com/gaming/tournaments](https://www.kewadin.com/gaming/tournaments)

Point requirements for all promotions. See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details.

KEWADIN EVENTS

KEWADIN DINING

1-800-KEWADIN | [KEWADIN.COM](https://www.kewadin.com)

MANISTIQUE · ST.IGNACE · SAULT STE. MARIE · HESSEL · CHRISTMAS

Ryan Mills appointed tribe's general counsel

The tribe has announced the appointment of Sault Tribe member Ryan Mills as general counsel. Mills, who has been practicing tribal law since 2013, officially began his new role in August following his service as interim general counsel.

Mills first joined the tribe's legal team in June 2023 as senior attorney. In that role, he represented tribal governmental programs, Kewadin Casinos, and business entities; appeared in federal court on treaty rights cases; and advised tribal leadership on legal and policy matters. His transition to general counsel brings additional responsibilities, including direct oversight of the Legal Department, the Board Administration Office, and the Budget Department.

Mills said, "I am very hum-



bled and honored to be chosen to be the tribe's general counsel. As we get back to full capacity at the Legal Department, I will start to delegate more of the direct work with our tribal committees to other attorneys. One big change that already happened was dele-

gating Mr. Joshua Elliott, our new senior attorney, to the elections attorney position. I am looking forward to setting my expectations for the legal staff, pushing for innovations in the delivery of our legal services, and pushing for more expertise in-house and less reliance on outside counsel."

Mills earned his Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in American Indian studies from the University of Michigan in 2008, and later received his juris doctor with an Indigenous law certificate from Michigan State University College of Law in 2014. His interest in tribal law began during an undergraduate internship in Washington, D.C., with the Washington Internships for Native Students Program, where he worked for the USDA's Tribal Relations Department and

studied federal Indian law at American University.

Before returning home to Michigan, Mills spent a decade serving tribal nations in Washington State. His career has included positions with the Lummi Nation, the Nooksack Indian Tribe, and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, where he spent six years as tribal attorney handling Indian Child Welfare Act cases, treaty rights litigation, health clinic representation, housing and HR matters, and oversight of CARES Act and ARPA-funded programs. He has argued cases in tribal, state, and federal courts, including United States v. Washington and United States v. Michigan, and is licensed in multiple jurisdictions, including the United States Supreme Court.

Mills and his wife, Taylor,

are raising their two daughters in Sault Ste. Marie. "One of the things I am most thankful for moving to the Sault is being much closer to both my immediate and extended family and being able to more fully integrate myself and my family into our Anishinaabe culture," Mills said. "Moving here and taking this position with the tribe truly felt like coming home. I love living in Sault Ste. Marie and have built up a nice supportive community here and look forward to staying here for years to come."

Outside of his legal work, Mills enjoys writing short fiction, playing board and video games, and exploring the outdoors. He and his wife also share a love of thrifting and antiquing, and enjoy exploring Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

Joshua Elliott promoted to tribe's senior attorney

Joshua Elliott has been promoted to the position of Senior Attorney. Elliott has been with the tribe's Legal Department since 2020, serving in multiple roles including staff attorney, assistant prosecutor, and interim assistant prosecutor. He officially stepped into his new position as senior attorney in September.

Elliott brings a strong record of service to the tribe. As staff attorney he addressed legal matters for Tribal Health, Housing, and Kewadin Casinos; represented the tribe in federal negotiations with

the Indian Health Service; oversaw outside counsel on contract support cost litigation; and reviewed and negotiated contracts across multiple departments. He also provided legal guidance on broadband expansion grants, election law updates, land acquisitions, and intellectual property protections.

His earlier work as assistant prosecutor focused on criminal and juvenile cases, landlord-tenant disputes, and conservation law enforcement related to treaty rights. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Elliott supported the tribe's

executive team in ensuring federal compliance for nearly half a billion dollars in relief funding.

Elliott earned his juris doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2019, graduating magna cum laude with a class rank of 6 out of 110. He was active in leadership roles, mock trial, and law review, earning multiple awards for academic and professional excellence. He also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in entertainment, sport, and promotion management from Northwood University

with a minor in advertising/marketing.

He is admitted to practice in the state of Michigan, Sault Tribe Tribal Court, Bay Mills Tribal Court, the Western and Eastern Districts of Michigan, and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

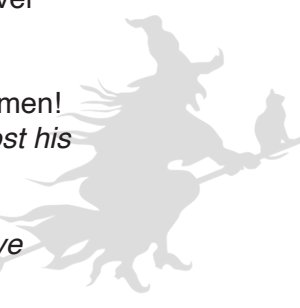
With five years of experience in tribal law, policy development, gaming, employment, commercial transactions, and intellectual property, Elliott is well-positioned to take on his new leadership role within the tribe's Legal Department.



BAASHKAAKODIN GIIZIS - FROZEN MOON NOVEMBER 2025

| NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT | NTAM GIIZHIGAT | NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT | NSWO GIIZHIGAT | NIIWO GIIZHIGAT | NAANO GIIZHIGAT | NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | ezhi-dgongeng gegoo (recipe) |
| 2 Gibeyiing giizhigat. (Daylight savings time ends.) | 3 Oodetoo. (S/he is going to town/ window shopping.) | 4 mkoomiins (icicle; ice cube) | 5 Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.) | 6 nangoonhsag (stars) | 7 waaboowaan (blanket) | 8 niibiish (leaf) |
| 9 gzhaabkizigan (stove/heater) | 10 Waawaashkesh'ke. (S/he is hunting deer.) | 11 Zhimaaganish Giizhigat (Veterans Day) | 12 N'segaajige. (I am decorating.) | 13 Biiskan g'bootsinan. (I am putting on my boots.) | 14 Gsinaa. (It is cold outside.) | 15 Nwebi. (S/he is resting/napping.) |
| 16 washkobang (dessert) | 17 Mishkepo. (It is wet snow.) | 18 Niiskaadat. (It is nasty weather.) | 19 mizise (turkey) | 20 mshkiigomitig tamarack | 21 manoomin (wild rice) | 22 pkweshmowin (pillow) |
| 23 goonens (snowflake) | 24 giizhigong (in the sky) | 25 Mkoomi giigoonh'ke. (S/he is ice fishing.) | 26 Zhiitaa. (S/he is getting ready.) | 27 Miigwechiwe Giizhigat (Giving Thanks Day) | 28 baashkaminsigan (preserves/jam) | 29 N'giisaadendam. (I am sorry.) |
| 30 aanakwat (cloud) | | | | | | |

by Susan Askwith



STI Federal diversifies across new agencies



Rachel Heckel

STI Federal is the Federal contracting brand for Sault Tribe Incorporated (STI), the independent business arm of the tribe. Over the past two years, STI has shifted its focus nearly exclusively to the pursuit of federal government contracting. There are multiple statutes creating significant opportunities in federal



STI Federal

contracting for tribally owned entities. Today is a critical time for advocacy for both tribal sovereignty, the upholding of treaty agreements, and small businesses across the country.

While for many, the operations of the federal government go unseen on a day-to-day basis, the recent federal government shutdown has drawn the attention of many. While as of writing this, the federal government is currently shut down with no clear end in sight, STI Federal teams remain fully engaged, supporting mission-critical work nationwide and, as of September, expanding our impact internationally.

In the last several months, STI

Federal has had multiple truly significant contract wins to provide important services to multiple agencies.

We have expanded our focus on advisory and assistance services in response to the U.S. government's growing emphasis on strategic presence, infrastructure readiness, and multinational coordination – particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, where these priorities are increasing central to national security and defense strategy. We are honored to have been awarded an up to \$40M contract to provide base-level engineering mission support supporting the across the Pacific Air Force theater. STI Federal is now

an international company, recruiting for staff to support U.S. Air Bases in Japan.

Additionally, we were also awarded an up to \$9.8 million support services contract to advance the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's agencywide Document Access and Management System – the official record-keeping system that enables secure, accurate, and efficient management of records across the agency. Under this contract, our team will deliver document processing support and database administration services, including the secure handling and processing of Safeguards Information and Classified records for the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response.

Through the profits generated by these and other contract awards, STI Federal will continue to make the necessary invest-

ments to success in today's market as a government contractor. Under the current administration, federal contracting priorities are shifting with a strong focus on efficiency, innovation, and increased competition. To position STI Federal for continued growth in this evolving environment, we are strengthening our capabilities across our core market areas—information technology services, public health, training, and mission support—while also enhancing our strategic partnerships. These efforts ensure we remain well-aligned to support our federal clients and competitive in the marketplace.

As STI Federal continues to grow, profits will also generate dividends to support the tribe's efforts to support educational, health, social and cultural initiatives, and economic and community development.

Working together to develop response plans

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hosted representatives from all Michigan tribes on Sept. 29, providing a forum for others seeking information on developing their own Tribal Community Response Plan (TCRP).

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Bay Mills Indian Community were part of a pilot program and worked with Murdered and Missing Indigenous People (MMIP) Coordinator Joel Postma of the Great Lakes Region in creating TCRPs. Now in their fifth year of implementation, the tribes' individual plans only need periodic tweaking and contact information updates.

Explaining the first question was determining how to respond,

Postma said both tribes worked in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney partners and others to develop plans that were "tailored to the needs, resources, and culture of the community."

The four pillars of the plans are law enforcement, which needs to be collaborative, resourceful and comprehensive; victim services, proactive, expandable and intensive community outreach and the media's role requiring timely and accurate information in a transparent manner.

"Rapid activation saves lives and preserves evidence," said Sault Police Chief Robert Marchand, underscoring the importance of having a plan in place before a person goes missing.

Bay Mills Police Chief Ron

Carrick expressed the belief that the Bay Mills plan might be the only one readily available on the Internet and has been used as a template for other tribes as they create their own TCRPs. Carrick also added that some of his investigative work has taken place over the telephone stretching from Oregon to New York as missing persons reports come in from well outside his actual jurisdiction. That doesn't mean, however, that he is unable to assist on these cases and he further speculated there could come a time when his department sends help well away from the Eastern Upper Peninsula if warranted.

Other scheduled speakers included Sault Tribe General Legal Counsel Ryan Mills on the complexities of the law and



From left to right, Ron Carrick, Joel Postma, Mike Pins and Robert Marchand, shared their insights as other tribes look to develop TCRPs.

jurisdictional challenges, Dr. Aaron Payment on the MMIP national crisis, reporting and data complexities, keynote speaker Scott Davis, senior advisor to the

secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior and Executive Director Alan Nanavaty with the NCMEC Special Programs and Missing Child Division.

Gaming Commission updates raffle rules and regulations

The Sault Tribe Gaming Commission officially approved new Raffle Rules and Regulations on Sept. 9, 2025, strengthening oversight and ensuring fairness in charitable raffles conducted on tribal lands.

"These updated rules provide clarity, consistency and accountability for all organizations conducting raffles under

the tribe's jurisdiction. They are designed to protect participants, maintain transparency and ensure proceeds are used for the community and charitable purposes they were intended for," Michael Pins, Executive Director of Sault Tribe Gaming Commission, said.

Key updates include:
— Clear licensing require-

ments for tribal, non-tribal and youth sports organizations.

— Stronger compliance standards, including background checks, reporting requirements and financial accountability.

— Enhanced consumer protections, such as age restrictions, prize caps and refund rules for non-compliant tickets.

— Defined use of proceeds

requiring funds to directly support approved charitable, cultural, educational, or community development purposes.

The new rules also establish procedures for raffle applications, ticket sales, advertising and post-event reporting, ensuring alignment with both tribal law and applicable state requirements.

"These rules reflect our commitment to good governance and to ensuring raffles remain a trusted way to raise funds for worthy causes across our communities," Pins added.

For more information, organizations may contact the Sault Tribe Gaming Commission at Gaming-Commission@sault-tribe.net or call (906) 635-7042.

Sault High's library renovation helped by 2% funding

As part of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2% Spring 2025 expenditure \$15,000 was awarded to the Sault Area Public Schools for an upcoming renovation project at the high school library.

"We are hoping to get funding from other places before the renovation begins during the summer of 2026," said Media and Technology Support Paraprofessional Ashley Marra. "We want to bring it up to a college-level library and make it a comfortable place to hang out."

The much-needed renovation, according to Marra, will provide tables and seating for approximately 50 students with new couches and furniture designed to hold another 20 students.

"My focus was comfort and longevity," said Marra indicating she is hoping to make for a nice study and learning environment for those who access the library when away from classes, while at the same time eyeing the durability of the new future to ensure it will be in good shape for years to come.

"This investment is not only necessary but essential for the growth and success of our students and staff," wrote Sault Area High School Principal Jeanine Sherman in requesting the 2% funds. "As we strive to prepare our students for post-secondary education and the workforce, it is crucial to provide them with a 21st-century learning environment. A flexible and innovative

space will allow for collaboration, engagement and meaningful discussions, supporting both academic success and personal development. By creating a space that resembles a modern college setting, we send a message to our students that we believe in their potential and respect their journey toward adulthood. In turn, they rise to the occasion, demonstrating greater responsibility and respect for their learning environment."

The library serves more than 1,100 students from sixth through twelfth grade. In addition to new furniture proposed renovations include fresh paint, upgraded décor, new flooring and four new iPads.

Under the current agreement



Artist rendition of planned renovations to the Sault High library. The project was awarded \$15,000 in funding through the Sault Tribe's 2% spring distribution.

with the state of Michigan for gaming revenue sharing, the Sault Tribe is required to disburse 2%

of its slot revenue to local units of government throughout the seven-county service area.

2025 walleye and whitefish stocking results

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians conducted its annual walleye and whitefish stocking efforts this summer in the waters of the 1836 Ceded Territory. After another successful year carefully incubating eggs and pond raising fish, staff biologists transported and released an estimated 437,696 walleye fingerlings and 109,847 whitefish into the waters of the eastern Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula.

“Each year, these efforts account for a significant share of

all walleye fingerlings released statewide, contributing millions of dollars in economic activity for both commercial and sport fisheries,” Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes said. “And, our biologists continue to lead the state in developing pond raising techniques to help support broader efforts to revive whitefish populations that have been harmed by invasive mussels.”

The Sault Tribe’s walleye hatchery has been in operation for nearly 30 years, with more than 20.5 million walleye stocked

since the program began in 1995. This expertise has been applied to whitefish, and the tribe is among the only organizations in North America to successfully raise and stock whitefish using this method. Each year, biologists collect, fertilize and incubate walleye and whitefish eggs before raising them in ponds until they are ready for release.

The pond-raised walleye will be released in various locations across the eastern Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula, including:

Sault Area – 24,572
Lake Nicolet – 71,639
Lake George – 69,670
Raber Bay – 24,888
Potagannissing Bay – 141,295

The stocking efforts of both walleye and whitefish go beyond the economic impact; it is also a preservation technique to protect the species against harmful invasives and anthropogenic impacts to the surrounding rivers.

The Sault Tribe aims to ensure these species can thrive for many generations to come.

“This work reflects our deep responsibility to protect the waters and fisheries that have sustained our people for generations, and it’s something we take great pride in,” Lowes said.

The tribe is collaborating with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Nature Conservancy to continue advancing its approach to whitefish stocking.

This year the tribe was able to more than double the whitefish released compared to 2024.

Documentary awarded Audience Choice Award

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians was awarded the 2025 Soo Film Festival Audience Choice Award for its film Sacred Waters: Anishinaabeg Naagdawenmaanaanig Giigoonh-kewin (The First People Taking Care of the Fishery).

The 15-minute film highlights the tribe’s deep connection to the Great Lakes and its leadership in restoring whitefish populations, which have been threatened by invasive species. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Finn Ryan

and produced in collaboration with Marquette-based Aaron Peterson Studios, the project captures both the historical significance and the ongoing importance of fisheries management to the Anishinaabek people.

Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes said receiving the Audience Choice Award carries special meaning for the Sault Tribe. “Our people have such a deep and sacred connection to whitefish, and the work we’re doing to protect this species is

one of the ways we’re honoring and carrying on that legacy,” said Lowes. “We’re very proud of this work, and the Sacred Waters film is one of the ways we’re telling our story, so it’s a great honor to receive this recognition from the local community.”

The film reflects the Seven Generations Principle as it relates to the tribe’s fisheries management work. By documenting both the cultural and scientific aspects of fisheries management, Sacred Waters emphasizes how the

Sault Tribe’s efforts are honoring past traditions and culture while addressing threats to whitefish populations and working to ensure there will be a healthy fishery available to future generations.

The film debuted locally at the Kewadin Casino’s DreamMakers Theater in October 2024 with a cultural celebration, including a traditional Anishinaabe blessing, drum performance and water song. It has since been screened at film festivals across the state

and country, sparking dialogue about ecological conservation and the tribe’s role as leaders in responsible fisheries management.

The next local screening of Sacred Waters will be at the Sault Film Festival in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., on Nov. 28. More information about the festival is available at SaultFilmFestival.com. The film is also available to view for free on the Sault Tribe YouTube page at YouTube.com/@SaultTribeTV.

Free Chronic Wasting Disease testing for tribal hunters

SUBMITTED BY THE SAULT TRIBE WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The Sault Tribe Wildlife Program, a branch of Gidayaangwaami’idimin Ezhi-inawendiyang (the Natural Resources Division), is offering free options for Sault Tribe hunters to test their harvested deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Hunters can either extract the lymph nodes from their deer and mail them to the testing facility using a self-sample collection kit, or they can drop off their deer’s head at a collection bin to be tested.

Testing for CWD is a crucial stewardship practice for the white-tailed deer population, and hunters testing their deer are the lifeblood of CWD monitoring efforts statewide. Hunters will also benefit from knowing if their stored venison is safe to eat, as deer infected with CWD should



not be consumed.

Tribal hunters can pick up a free CWD Self-Sample Collection Kit from the Wildlife Program’s office at 2428 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Kits will be available while supplies last. Kits include detailed instructions on lymph node extraction and pre-paid shipping materials so hunters can mail their samples to

the testing facility for free.

Alternatively, hunters can submit whole deer heads for combined CWD and Bovine Tuberculosis testing. Antlers and hides can be removed prior to submission. There will be a 24/7 collection bin outside of the Wildlife Program Office at 2428 Shunk Road for hunters to submit deer heads for testing. This

bin will be available until Jan. 5, 2026. Hunters will fill out a tag with harvest information at the time of drop-off.

There is also a collection bin at the Michigan DNR Customer Service Station located at 4131 South M-129, Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783. DNR testing sites are available throughout Michigan, with free testing available for deer harvested in the following counties: Baraga, Chippewa, Dickinson, Houghton, Iosco, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, and Schoolcraft. Please visit the DNR’s website for more details on its testing program.

CWD is a serious disease that threatens the health of white-tailed deer populations throughout the region. CWD is spread through prions (misfolded proteins) that infected deer shed as they move through the landscape

and contact other deer. These prions can contaminate the soil and remain actively infectious in the environment for years. CWD also has a long incubation period, meaning infected deer can appear perfectly healthy and spread the disease without showing symptoms for years. CWD is fatal to deer, and there is no treatment for it. Preventing the spread of CWD is a top priority for stewarding deer populations in Michigan.

Sault Tribe issued deer licenses to over 4,000 hunters in 2024, who harvested an estimated 2,750 deer across 37 counties in the 1836 ceded territory. By testing their harvests, hunters are keeping a watchful eye on CWD and protecting the health of the deer population for future generations.

For questions, please contact the Wildlife Program at wildlife-program@saulttribe.net or call (906) 632-5040.



Left: Olivia Ingalls, 12, shot her first black bear in Baldwin, Mich. on Sept. 21. Olivia is the daughter of Adam and Megan Ingalls of Twin Lake, Mich. Above: On Oct. 2 in Newaygo County, she shot a 9-point buck. It was her first buck with a bow.

Unit V celebrates grand opening of Marquette Community Center



Bea and Harvey Peters of Little Lake, Mich., were some of the first guests to arrive for the grand opening of the Marquette Area Community Center located at 204 Cherry Creek Road in Harvey.



Anne Daugherty, who painted the mural inside the newly-renovated community center, in front of her design.



Jennifer Heath of Baraga making fry bread to perfection.



Robin Chosa of Rez Robin Fry Bread in Baraga, Mich., took over hot dog duties for the crowd.



Great grandma Marlene Glaesman with Mya and her little ones, Malikai, 3, Eli, 2, and Briar, 1.



The Youth Education and Activities (YEA) table was represented by Lisa Burnside, Sara Lakosky, Jodie Jackson and Cindy Reimer.



Ashley Mayer of Marquette with 1-year-old Zora and Arya, 5.



Tanya Robbins and Katie Peabody manned the Elder Services booth.



The Teal Lake Singers perform a welcome song.



The Sept. 13 event saw well over 100 people in attendance. The former National Guard Armory underwent extensive renovations over the summer providing 3,000 square-feet of office space and 4,000 square-feet for community use including a fully-furnished kitchen with all new equipment.

RESIDENTS OF DRUMMOND & MACKINAC ISLANDS ENROLLED IN THE PRC PROGRAM

RESIDENTS OF DRUMMOND & MACKINAC ISLANDS ENROLLED IN THE PURCHASED REFERRED CARE (PRC) PROGRAM ARE EXEMPT FROM SEEKING URGENT MEDICAL SERVICES AT A TRIBAL HEALTH FACILITY PRIOR TO SEEKING URGENT CARE FROM ANOTHER PROVIDER LOCATED ON MACKINAC & DRUMMOND ISLANDS FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY, AND FEBRUARY.

PURCHASED REFERRED CARE OFFICE
3RD FLOOR OF THE SAULT TRIBE HEALTH CENTER
2864 ASHMUN ST, SAULT STE. MARIE, MI 49783

1-800-922-0582
906-632-5220
FAX 906-632-5248

(906) 632-5200 |
SAULTTRIBEHEALTH.COM

Orange Shirt Day recognized with walk in St. Ignace and Community Feast in the Sault



The St. Ignace Tribal Health Center delivered on Orange Shirt Day with the vast majority of staff participating.



From left to right, Directors Kimberly Lee, Lana Causley-Smith, Bridgett Sorenson, Shawn Borowicz and Larry Barbeau at the St. Ignace event.



From left to right, Bill Conrad was joined by Tony Grondin and Veronica Rickley as he tended the fire inside the Longhouse.



Cody Payne and Storme Romager brought little Elowyn, with Revna, 5 and Salah, 3.



Rick and Robin from Marion, Ohio, with their dog, Lucky.



L-R: Joyce Borowicz, with sisters Carol Conguy and Carlene Conguy.



Muk kwa Giizhik providing a welcome song.



Jeremy Burnside leads the way as the walkers depart from the Museum of Ojibwa Culture grounds.



Jackie Minton, left, enjoys her feast with YEA students and staff.



Frank and Pat Bures with their homemade willow walking sticks.



Jess Graham with Riley, 2.



Laura Bouschor and Jeani Reffruschini, joined by her granddaughter Kylyn Forejt, 12, helped to feed everyone at the community feast.



Ashley Gravelle & Kathleen Wiley



The elders got first dibs at the feast.



Above and below, there were more than 150 participants of all ages in the St. Ignace walk.



Danielle Fegan named Natural Resources director



From “Fegan,” page 4

connect in conservation.

Alongside her academic work, Fegan has completed leadership and technical training through the National Conservation Leadership Institute and the National Conservation Training Center, helping her bridge the gap between science, policy, and management.

As Director, she now oversees the tribe’s Environmental, Wildlife, and Fisheries Programs, as well as administrative staff and the Consortium for Cooperative Ecological Resilience. Her responsibilities include setting priorities, ensuring alignment with tribal leadership goals, and guiding policy decisions. She also represents the tribe in intergovernmental discussions on fisheries, wildlife, habitat restoration, and environmental review.

“Part of my job is making sure the tribe not only has a seat at the table, but that we’re leading and influencing decisions that affect our lands and waters,” Fegan said.

She noted several key devel-

opments for the department. “Our whole team will be moving into new shared facilities around the beginning of the New Year, which will make collaboration a lot easier,” she said. The Division also plans to strengthen internal coordination, build long-term staff capacity, and expand partnerships across tribal departments and external agencies.

The Natural Resources

Division plays a crucial role in protecting the tribe’s lands, waters, fish, wildlife, and forests—both within tribal boundaries and across the 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory. Much of its work involves inter-agency collaboration to ensure treaty rights are upheld and ecosystems remain healthy.

“Our work ensures that the tribe not only retains the right to

hunt, fish, and gather, but that those rights can be meaningfully exercised on healthy, functioning landscapes,” Fegan said.

The Division’s staff also lead and partner on scientific research in habitat restoration, invasive species monitoring, climate resilience, and prescribed fire planning—efforts that strengthen the tribe’s influence in regional conservation policy.

Community members interested in following or participating in projects can find updates on social media. “Check us out on Instagram and Facebook—Seventh Generation Principle (@seventhgenerationprinciple)—for updates, events, and volunteer opportunities,” Fegan said. “We love when community members get involved and see firsthand what we do.”

Birth



Demetria Artemis Magnus-Miller was born Sept. 2, 2025, at MyMichigan Health at 7:58 p.m. weighing 8 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20.75 inches in length. Proud parents are Caleb Miller and Ali Webber of Sault Ste. Marie. She was also welcomed by big sister Cheryl Clark, 8, uncle Ashton Jacobson, Nokomis Becki Miller, and great grandparents Pam Perry of Sault Ste. Marie, and Mike and Tracy Miller of Bradenton, Fla. She is also welcomed by great aunts Kristin Tadgerson of Brimley and Gabrielle Ganson, of Texas.

Moving?

Call the Sault Tribe Enrollment Department to update your new address. In order to receive tribal mailings, the newspaper, and voting materials, you must have a current address on file.

Call (800) 251-6597 or (906) 635-3396.

Sault Tribe Community Health

2025 Flu Clinics

Check flu & COVID clinic schedule for your area
and Mark Your Calendars!

FREE flu shots for:

- Sault Tribe members
- Members of a federally recognized tribe
- Health Division Employees

Flu Shots are a
\$10 Co-Pay for
Non-Native Spouses



Please wear short sleeves



Flu and Covid Walk-In Clinic Schedule

SAULT STE. MARIE AREA

Big Bear Arena, 2 Ice Circle Dr.
Tuesday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m. -2 p.m. (Health Fair)

Nokomis-Mishomis Bldg., 2076 Shunk Rd.
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 11 a.m. -1 p.m.

Kewadin Casino, 2186 Shunk Rd.
Friday, Oct. 17, 1-4:30 p.m.
(Kewadin Casino Employee Clinic)

Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun St.
Wednesday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

KINROSS AREA

Kinross Rec Center, 43 Wood Lake Rd.
Friday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. -2 p.m. (Health Fair)

ESCANABA AREA

Gladstone Tribal Health Facility, 2002 Minneapolis
Friday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Escanaba Community Center, 3721 Jingob St.
Friday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Health Fair)

NEWBERRY AREA

Newberry Tribal Health Center,
4935 Zee Ba Tik Lane
Sunday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

MARQUETTE AREA

Marquette Tribal Health Center
1229 W Washington St.
Saturday, Oct. 4 ...10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
(DRIVE THRU - Flu & COVID Clinic.)

DETOUR, DRUMMOND AREA

DeTour Municipal Bldg., 260 Superior
Thursday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Health Fair)

DeTour Tribal Health Center, 200 S. Superior St.
Thursday, Oct. 16, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

HESEL AREA

Hessel Tribal Health Center, 3355 N. 3 Mile Rd.
Friday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

MANISTIQUE AREA

Manistique Tribal Health Center
5698 W. HWY 2
Monday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1 - 3:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

MUNISING AREA

Munising Tribal Health Center
622 W. Superior
Monday, Sept. 29..2 - 5 p.m.
Thursday., Oct. 2 .11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 8 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

ST. IGNACE AREA

Kewadin Casino Tent, 3015 Mackinac Trail
Wednesday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

Elder Meal Site

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

St. Ignace Health Center, 1140 N State St.
(CONFERENCE ROOM)
Friday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1 - 4 p.m.

Gladstone Health Center341-1836
Hessel Tribal Health Center.....484-2727
Manistique Tribal Health Center ...341-8469
Marquette Tribal Health Center ...225-1616
DeTour Health Center442-0111

Munising Tribal Health Center387-4721
Newberry Tribal Health Center293-8181
Sault/Kinross Community Health..632-5210
St. Ignace Tribal Health Center643-8689,
ext. 34531

CLIP & SAVE



Tribal member graduates from drug court



Left: Brandon Nertoli (left) appeared before the Honorable Judge Charles J. Palmer of the Sault Tribal Court, after successfully completing all the requirements to become a graduate of the drug court. Nertoli celebrated 492 days of sobriety with friends, family and other well-wishers. Those in attendance noted he had completed the program with “flying colors,” and had become a “pillar of the community” taking a leadership role in the Wellbriety Program to help others along this path. Right: Nertoli with his family, mom Rebecca Nertoli, dad John Sylvester, sister Jennifer Cook and brother Jordan Nertoli.

Happy birthday!



Sault Tribe member Ashlynn Brown turns 4 on Oct. 28. Happy birthday Ashlynn!

Cousins celebrate second birthdays



Happy 2nd birthday Brooklyn (left) and Leighlyn, love Nonna and Papa.

Ron Paquin teaches students how to build traditional canoe



Middle school students at JKL Bahweting played a pivotal role in the week-long construction of a birch bark canoe under the tutelage of Ron Paquin. Dr. Chris Gordon said this project has been done more than a half dozen times over the last two decades, but the 2025 project stands out as the largest canoe — 16 feet — that the middle schoolers have helped to construct. Some of the canoes the students have worked on in the past currently hang in the school, while others have been donated to various museums and cultural centers.

Jane Johnston Schoolcraft Day



Photo by Kathy Wright

On the second Thursday of August each year the Chippewa County Historical Society presents Jane Johnston Schoolcraft Day. Schoolcraft was born in Sault Ste. Marie in 1800 and is one of the earliest Native American literary writers. The Schoolcraft House is located on historic Water Street in the Sault.

2025 Summer Internship Program: A summer of connecting to your tribe and other students

BY AIMEE SPRING,
COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

Connection to your tribe throughout your life is important for any student. It provides them with a safe place, a place of tradition and familiarity in an everchanging world, and abundant guidance and love from their brothers and sisters. However, some tribal students, especially those living in the Upper Peninsula, choose to leave their native lands for more widely-available opportunities.

Thankfully, the Sault Tribe offers a solution: the Sault Tribe Summer Internship Program. With this program, restricted to only Sault Tribe members, students do not have to sacrifice their tribal culture with a quality learning and mentorship experience. Students that qualify for the 10-week internship have to be at least a junior in undergraduate and can apply until they complete graduate school. They are allowed to apply for multiple years.

The head of the program is Education Director Stephanie Sprecker, who is responsible for choosing the applicants and placing them in a department that most closely aligns with their individual requests.

Sprecker said the program's end goal is to recruit the interns. "This program provides students with real-world experience, allowing them to expand their knowledge and skills. Our hope is that each of these talented students will come back and work for us permanently here at Sault Tribe." By the end of this year's internship, all eight of the interns expressed interest in returning to work for the tribe at some point in their careers.

Most of the interns were new faces to the program, but there were two returning from the previous summer. One of those was 21-year-old Delaney Cushman from Sault Ste. Marie. She is a student at Harvard University, studying History of Science with a track in Medicine and Society, a pre-med focus, and a secondary in government. Fitting with her field, Delaney was placed in Traditional Medicine for her internship, under Traditional Medicine Supervisor Lori Gambardella. Throughout the 10 weeks, Delaney acted as assistant to the healer and the healer's helper. No two days were the same. She picked various medicines, travelling around the seven-county service area. She created a presentation board on the four main traditional medicines and the department to be used at educational events. Delaney even got to meet a senatorial candidate in a closed meeting.

Delaney's career goal is to combine western and traditional medicine in order to strengthen the Native American community, and, thanks to the program, she feels more prepared to do that and to work in traditional medicine. Delaney enjoys beading, making



Aimee Spring

ribbon skirts, hair tinsel, and baking.

The other returning intern was 21-year-old Claire Leighton, a senior at Central Michigan University earning a double major in English and Biology. She was placed in Natural Resources, specifically in the CCER Program. Her supervisor, CCER Director Eric Clark, assigned her to run her own project over which she had complete control. She was to research and study Snowshoe Hare Virus in mosquitoes. After completing extensive research, Claire hand-sewed nets for weeks before finally putting her hand-built mosquito traps in the forest for a couple of days, after which the insects were identified and sent to a lab for testing of the virus.

Claire plans to get her master's before returning to study wildlife epidemiology and ecology. She enjoys long-distance running, reading, writing, and working with animals.

Intern Hayden Prpich, 20, was placed in Natural Resources, but in the Wildlife department. He applied to the program wanting to gain field work experience. He was supervised by Aimee Baier, Assessment Biologist for the Wildlife Department. Prpich became part of the coastal projects team, where he conducted surveys on vegetation, frogs, coastal marsh birds, and black tern populations. He also did removal and management of invasive plants, planted and observed wild rice growth, and other things related to evaluating ecosystems in the St. Mary's River.

A solo project he accomplished was a frog call survey, where he curated a protocol and data sheet to create a baseline for future surveys for St. Mary's frog populations, set up a system to collect data and later analyzed that data to see what frogs were present. His experience helped familiarize him with professional language and navigating group projects. One of the most valuable gains he got from his time was a deeper connection to his tribe. Being from Alaska, Hayden had little to no connection to the tribe, but the program gave him the opportunity to learn about his own history and the tribe's history, especially in its land management. Outside of the internship, Hayden enjoys video games, checking out vernal ponds, rep-

tiles, and listening to birds. One of his life goals is to memorize every bird call.

Education also had two interns, one of which was 22-year-old Emilie Bigelow from Cedarville. Emilie is a recent graduate of Madonna University with a major in American Sign Language Interpreting. She is currently working on getting certified as an ASL interpreter with the state of Michigan. She hopes to become an educational interpreter and get more involved with the deaf community in the U.P., which would include setting up programs for the deaf and hard-of-hearing and their families so they have more access tools in remote areas.

For the first half of her day, Bigelow was at JKL Bahweting Anishnabe PSA, supervised by Principal Heather Purple, where she mainly did paperwork. The second half of her day was spent at the Early Childhood Education Program, supervised by the program's manager Shondra Gervais, where she would work on her main project: completing a book that translated Ojibwe, to English, to ASL, with pictures for signs. The book is for children aged four and under and will be used in the program for many years.

Emilie enjoys reading, crocheting, kayaking, camping, and hanging out with family and friends.

Also with Education was David Daley, 20, from Sault Ste. Marie, a junior at Central Michigan University studying Secondary Social Studies Education. Supervised by Purple, Sprecker, and YEA Program Manager Lisa Burnside, Daley spent the first half of his day at JKL School and the second half at the YEA Administration Office at the Big Bear. Throughout his internship, Daley completed important statistician work that the Education Division will use to make important decisions, and spent some time observing in the classrooms and attending some field trips with the kids.

After graduating, David wants to get a National Board Certification for teaching and possibly go back to school for a master's degree. David enjoys running, building PCs, and history.

Intern Eva Collins assisted in important historic preservation work. Collins, 20, from Sault Ste. Marie, was placed in Repatriation and was supervised by Repatriation and Historic Preservation Specialist Emma Donmyer. She is currently a senior at Central Michigan University earning a double major in anthropology and international relations, with a minor in museum studies. Her everyday role was the library assistant in the Ojibwe Learning Center and Library, where she kept track of, preserved, and helped others learn about the tribe's historic



Interns gathered for a luncheon prior to the programs end.

collections.

Collins' main project was cataloging, cleaning, and checking up on the many collections around the area and within the tribe's database, which was wiped due to a recent cyberattack. Collins was also involved in field work with an excavation site in Bar Lake. One of the highlights of Eva's internship was working with the elders, specifically Cecil Pavlat, to learn more about the tribe's history.

Collins hopes to eventually earn a master's degree and potentially a doctorate. Outside of her career, she wishes to travel to Europe, Asia, South America and New Zealand. She enjoys reading, puzzles, doing art activities with family, and various outdoor activities, including hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing.

A student going to school in her hometown and close to the tribe is 20-year-old junior Kenedy Hagan. She was placed in Community Health. She applied for the program because she thought it would be a great opportunity to explore the different areas of nursing, to apply what she has been learning in the nursing program at Lake Superior State University.

Hagan made home visits to two clients each week for the eight weeks, monitoring vitals sign and overall health status. She also helped with the foot care clinic weekly, cooked with dieticians at the Big Bear's summer recreation program, helped nurses on the medical floor at the health center, and learned about charting.

Her supervisor was Community Health Nurse Supervisor Jenni O'Dell. Hagan worked on various projects, including Project Backpack in St. Ignace and participated in some Community Health outreach during Bayliss Public Library's 50th anniversary block party.

After graduation, she plans to pass her NCLEX so she can become an RN. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, swimming, boating, and jet skiing.

The final intern also attends LSSU for creative writing. Aimee Spring, 21, from Rudyard,

had a slightly different route than the other interns. She was placed in two departments — Planning & Development and Communications. She was supervised by Strategic Director Larry Jacques and Communications Director Jennifer Dale-Burton. Aimee applied for the internship program because she was excited at the prospect of an internship so close to home, where she could make an impact on her own community. She was able to accomplish this by writing various articles about the interns and other events going on in the community.

For Planning & Development, she looked at the various grants awarded to the tribe and turning their technical information into qualitative information that could touch on real-world and emotional impact on the community. Her biggest project was writing the end-of-program feature about the internship program. Though there were many highlights for Spring — learning more about journalism and photography, getting to exercise her skills in script writing, and connecting more spiritually with her tribe. The best one was when her coworkers held a surprise party for her 21st birthday and her last day in the office. Spring's future goals include starting a writing career in either journalism or in some type of creative field, and eventually becoming a full-time author. She wishes to own lots of dogs, live in a treehouse, and travel to the Galapagos Islands. She enjoys writing, hiking, thrift-ing, snowmobiling, singing in her community choir, baking, and performing in theatre.

All of the students recommend the program and offered advice for future applicants and interns. When sending in your application, do not panic if you do not hear anything back right away from the Education Division. If you do become an intern, always communicate with your supervisors about what your strengths are, so they know what tasks to give you. Be your best and most professional self. Be open to learning in unexpected ways. Always say yes. And, if you do get picked, have fun!

Discussing the significance of Orange Shirt Day



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN
FEEDING AMERICA

Each month, I continue to coordinate the Feeding America food distribution at the Big Bear in Sault Ste. Marie. Last month, our team of volunteers distributed nearly 10,000 pounds of food to approximately 280 households. Chippewa County remains one of the most impoverished areas in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, and this monthly distribution helps families move closer to food security. I am deeply grateful to all the volunteers who make this work possible and will continue to coordinate this vital service for our community.

SEPARATION OF POWERS

In the near future, the tribe will be sending a survey to all Sault Tribe citizens to gather input on what level of governmental separation they would like to see within our tribe.

As it stands, the tribe’s current structure consolidates all power under the Board of Directors. Roughly 15 years ago, the

tribe formed a Constitutional Committee, which—after several years of research and consultation with legal experts—drafted a revised constitution. This proposed constitution established three separate but equal branches of government, each designed to provide checks and balances and offer citizens standing in Tribal Court.

The committee ultimately recommended that the constitution be sent to a secretarial election, giving citizens the opportunity to vote on its adoption. Unfortunately, this vote never took place.

Last year, the Sault Tribe Elder Advisory Committee appeared before the board and recommended that this constitution finally be brought to a vote. Before such step is taken, however, the upcoming survey will help gauge the preferences of our citizens.

I am confident that most tribal citizens will support a three-branch government, just as both the Constitutional Committee and the Elder Advisory Committee did. A restructured government would help ensure accountability, strengthen checks and balances, and better protect the rights of our citizens.

TREATY RIGHTS

I continue to advocate for our tribal hunting and fishing rights by attending monthly CORA meetings, the annual Executive Council sessions between the 1836 Treaty tribes and the state of Michigan, and by working closely with our Natural Resources Department to expand hunting and fishing opportunities whenever possible.

With tribal hunting season now in full swing, I want to wish all of our hunters good luck as they seek to fill their freezers with indigenous food sources for the winter months ahead.

RECOVERY WALK

On Sept. 25, the tribe held its annual recovery walk to show support for those in recovery and to raise awareness about addiction and healing. I want to extend a *chi miigwech* to the dedicated staff who helped organize the event and to all the walkers who participated. Your presence helps break stigma and promote healing within our community.

MISSING TRIBAL PERSONS AND TRIBAL COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN TRAINING

I was honored to provide the opening and attend the Missing Tribal Persons and Tribal Community Response Plan Training held in Sault Ste. Marie.

As many know, Native Americans experience violence at significantly higher rates than non-Natives—a disparity that contributes to the alarming number of missing Indigenous persons. It is critical for tribes to have a response plan in place for these situations. The Sault Tribe’s plan ensures that when a person goes missing, we can mobilize resources quickly and effectively during the most critical early hours.

I would like to thank Aaron Payment for coordinating this important and impactful training.

WALK FOR WARMTH

This year, Kewadin Casinos proudly provided financial support for Walk for Warmth, an event led by CLM Community Action. The

fundraiser helps low-income families pay their heating bills during the winter months.

I’d like to thank Sault Tribe citizen Sheila Berger, who also works for Community Action, for her outstanding efforts in organizing and fundraising for this year’s event. Her dedication will help ensure that many families stay warm through the cold season.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

The Sault Tribe contributed financially to support an Orange Shirt Day Walk in St. Ignace, organized by boarding school survivors. The Tribe also hosted an Orange Shirt Day feast in Sault Ste. Marie and a gathering in Escanaba to honor survivors and remember those who never made it home.

Orange Shirt Day began in 2013 after a story was shared by a Canadian boarding school survivor who, at just six years old, was separated from her family and had her bright orange shirt—gifted by her grandmother—taken from her upon arrival at the school. This act symbolized a broader effort to erase Indigenous identity. The movement that followed reminds us that “Every Child Matters.”

To understand the day’s significance, we must acknowledge that these boarding schools were part of a federal policy of forced assimilation, not isolated events. Across the U.S. and Canada, Native children were removed from their families, often for reasons that would never have applied to non-Native children, and placed in boarding schools far from home.

Within these institutions, children were forbidden from speak-

ing their languages, renamed with English names, and subjected to harsh punishments for practicing their culture. Many survivors reported physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Tragically, many children never returned home.

Over 400 federally supported boarding schools operated across 37 states, impacting generations of Native families. When adjusted for inflation, the federal government invested tens of billions of dollars into these institutions, which was an investment that inflicted immeasurable harm.

Though the U.S. government issued an apology in 2024, words alone cannot heal. True reconciliation must include funding for mental health and trauma services, repatriation of remains, creation of memorials, language revitalization, and full release of boarding school records by churches. Healing requires acknowledgment, accountability, and sustained commitment.

CLOSING

As we look ahead, I just want to say how proud I am of our people and the work we’re doing together. Whether it’s helping families through food distributions, standing up for our treaty rights, or honoring those impacted by the boarding school era, every effort matters and every act of kindness adds up. We’ve faced challenges before, and we’ve always met them with strength and unity. That same spirit is what continues to move us forward today. I’m grateful to serve alongside all of you as we build a healthier, stronger, and more connected future for our tribe and the next seven generations.

Constitutional survey notice: watch your mailbox



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

A survey will be mailed the week of Oct. 17, 2025, to all tribal members. The survey will ask you to vote on the type of separation of powers you would want included in a constitutional amendment. The Board of Directors, through Resolution 2025-164, requested the Legal Department to prepare a “Pro and Con” list for each type of separation of powers. The survey responses will guide the board’s next steps toward constitutional reform of the Sault Tribe Constitution.

A successful separation of powers ensures each branch of government can perform its duties without undue interference from the others. The goal is to create effective checks and balances while avoiding a system that becomes bogged down by political conflicts. It is important for our tribe and its citizens to carefully consider the

options for how our government should be structured. The decision will shape how effectively and fairly our government operates for all members. The provided Pro and Con list is not exhaustive. Tribal members are strongly encouraged to research and reflect on the different structures to make the most informed decision.

Branches of Government: Pro & Con List

This list outlines the advantages and disadvantages of the three government models under consideration for the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians:

- One Branch (Board of Directors)
- Two Branch (Legislative + Judicial)
- Three Branch (Legislative + Executive + Judicial)

One Branch Government (Board of Directors)

Description:
A single entity writes, interprets, and enforces the law. Authority can be delegated but ultimately remains concentrated with the board. The only formal citizen check is the Referendum process.

- PROS
- Efficiency: Streamlined decision-making; fewer procedural hurdles.
 - Clarity: Clear expectations and authority—board is the final authority.
 - Continuity with Current Code: Fits existing Tribal Code without major revisions.
 - Stable Budget: Current funding levels remain largely

unchanged.

CONS

- Concentration of Power: No meaningful checks and balances.
- Risk of Micro-management: Board inevitably pulled into daily operations.
- Lack of Judicial Independence: Citizens lack independent recourse.
- Instability with Turnover: Policies and laws may be rescinded as membership changes.
- Easily Altered Separation: Any separation of powers created only by code (not Constitution), so future boards can undo it.

Two Branch Government (Legislative + Judicial)

Description:
Legislative branch writes and enforces laws. Judicial branch independently interprets them. Provides a direct citizen pathway to challenge government actions.

PROS

- Independent Judiciary: Creates true checks and balances.
- Checks on Power: Prevents concentration of authority in one body.
- Greater Accountability: More careful drafting of laws and policies.
- Transparency & Trust: Encourages negotiation and compromise.
- Clear Lanes: Legislative makes/enforces law; Judiciary interprets.
- Citizen Recourse: Members can challenge violations of rights or constitution.
- Judicial Independence: Shields courts from political inter-

ference.

- Stability: Helps prevent rapid policy swings with Board turnover.

- Minimal Code Change: Fewer updates needed compared to 3-branch model.

CONS

- Judicial Activism/Overreach: Courts could intrude on policy decisions.
- Branch Friction: Legislature can defund courts or change laws in response to rulings.
- Inefficiency: Backlogs and lawsuits slow decision-making.
- Decision Paralysis: Fear of lawsuits may cause legislative gridlock.
- Higher Costs: More legal expenses, added court staff, larger legal team.

Three Branch Government (Legislative + Executive + Judicial)

Description:
Legislature writes laws, Judiciary interprets, Executive enforces. Each branch provides checks and balances on the others.

PROS

- Balanced Distribution of Power: Prevents concentration in one body.
- Clear Roles: Legislature makes policy, Executive implements, Judiciary interprets.
- Specialization: Each branch focuses on its proper function.
- Transparency & Accountability: Multiple checks foster citizen trust.
- Compromise & Negotiation: Encouraged across branches.
- Independent Judiciary:

Protects citizen rights and ensures due process.

- Professional Administration: Executive handles day-to-day operations, freeing Legislature to focus on lawmaking.

- Reduces Micromanagement: Allows clearer separation between policy and administration.

CONS

- Inefficiency: More vetoes, lawsuits, and branch conflicts slow progress.
- Political Gridlock: Especially if Legislature and Executive clash.
- Complex Coordination: More players with separate priorities.
- Costliest Model:
 - More staff, bureaucracy, and attorneys.
 - Increased election costs.
 - Duplicate legal teams (Legislative Counsel + General Counsel).

- Blurred Accountability: Citizens may struggle to identify which branch is responsible.

- Budgetary Battles: Legislature may use funding conditions to control Executive.
- Extensive Code Overhaul Needed: Significant revisions required for consistency with a new Constitution.

I encouraged each of you to research and reflect on the different structures to make the most informed decision. Please watch your mail the week of Oct. 17 and return your completed survey.

Isaac McKechnie
(906) 440-6661
imckechnie@saulttribe.net

Tribal, Unit V updates from Director LaPlaunt



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,
I hope everyone is doing well as we head into the beginning of Fall. It turns out that mother nature still had quite a few really nice days left in the tank and I hope it holds out for the little ones to enjoy their Trick or Treating. This is the time of year for ceremony, fasts, and reflection. Across the tribe, many of our communities are starting to bring back spirit feasts or “Ghost” feasts. This is wonderful to see happening and being brought back to honor our ancestors who help us in our journeys.
It is also wonderful to see the Culture Division do a men’s teaching retreat on the weekend of Oct. 17. Slowly but surely, more and more of our people are being exposed to and getting involved in our culture and traditions. Even learning just a little bit helps keep the spirit of our ancestors alive and it’s a blessing to see our culture and tradition grow and flourish. If you have never been involved, it’s never too late to take your first step and reach out and ask a few questions.
ENROLLMENT UPDATE
As of Sept. 26, there are 5,293 adult applications entered into the tracking system. A total of 187 adult applications have been denied and 3,277 new members have been enrolled, including children. The total membership in the tribe is currently 52,525. We appreciate all of your patience during this process. A few people have reached out to me about the delay in processing. Whether you are approved or denied, you will receive notification. Please hang tight as they continue to process these applications.

SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Boozhoo/Hello,
I attended the Three Fires Against Violence Tribal Leadership Summit in Mt. Pleasant at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort last month. There were presenters on topics including, trafficking,

in each community and some of the additional supplies have been ordered. As soon as we are ready to schedule, we will get the word out. It sounds like both communities will be starting with ribbon skirt and shirt workshops. I appreciate everyone who is willing to step up and volunteer to host classes. I can’t wait to see our stuff moving forward again, with or without a cultural coordinator.

Knowing that there is quite a bit of interest, we are going to hold an open house. The date and time will be announced online. Additionally, our camera crew has agreed to come down and do a little video shoot to walk people through the new units so that the tribe far and wide can take a look into the new model. Again, I am hopeful this will be another tool for our Housing Division in order to diversify our housing portfolio. It would be nice to see some Tiny Home Projects across our service area.

While we wait to fill those tiny homes, the Housing Division is also scoping out opportunities with the remainder of the 15 acres at the Wetmore reservation in order to meet our increasing housing demand and needs. Engineering plans are underway, as well as a potential use of the sand pit to process that and use it as a potential revenue source as we slowly develop that land. I would love to see that reservation fully utilized within the next 10-15 years with a mix of low income, tiny homes, and market based rentals to continue to expand our community and give everyone a place to live.

Sawyer Village (Unit 4) is in the process of remodeling ALL of the units that sat vacant for over two decades. This housing project will be market rate rentals and open to all. It’s a great opportunity for the tribe to expand it’s economic footprint, while also filling part of the housing gap in Marquette County. Our first unit of just over 40 is now complete and ready to come on line. It’s wonderful to see all of the great progress we are making across the tribe.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Both Marquette and Munising recently received dozens of sewing machines to begin hosting classes. We have a few volunteers

in each community and some of the additional supplies have been ordered. As soon as we are ready to schedule, we will get the word out. It sounds like both communities will be starting with ribbon skirt and shirt workshops. I appreciate everyone who is willing to step up and volunteer to host classes. I can’t wait to see our stuff moving forward again, with or without a cultural coordinator.

I will also be authorizing our Unit 5 Elder Committees to use a portion of the Unit 5 Culture Funds for purposes they see fit to enhance the culture and community in both the Munising and Marquette Area. Hopefully, this will increase participation and activities across our community and simplify the process and empower them to take lead as our knowledge holders. We have such amazing and strong elders in this unit and we are lucky to have each and every one of you.

ADVOCACY

We had a really good meeting with Secretary Kennedy and all of HHS at the STAC meeting last month. We now have a direct line of communication with the Secretary’s office and if we ever have an ask, as long as it’s reasonable, they will try to accommodate us. They are asking us directly what changes tribes need at the moment and what our biggest concerns are, and so far, they seem sincere. Again, I will approach this as cautiously optimistic. By speaking to division heads, I was able to help expedite getting two of our board on different TACs within HHS. I will wait until they are both official and allow those board members to make their own announcements.

Also related to advocacy at the HHS STAC meeting, I was able to set up a call with IHS Interim Director Ben Smith with myself and our General Counsel. The purpose of this call was to explain the appropriate use of third-party revenue within the tribe. Ultimately, the Interim Director has fully agreed with my position on the use of our own funds and hopefully this interaction will help remove red tape so that ANY services related to the health of our people will be funded by health dollars. This will allow us to keep more programming operational with both a government



Sawyer Village unit.



Exterior shots of the Munising tiny homes.

shutdown and a longer term plan of balancing the budget as a tribe. I look forward to working with my fellow board members to set priorities as we finally move into the 21st century.

With that being said, the government is now shut down for the time being. We did stress to HHS the importance of remaining open, but it’s out of their hands and up to our elected officials in the House and Senate. I am hoping they will come to agreement soon so that this country can continue to operate and impacts remain minimal during the shutdown. While the shutdown doesn’t immediately impact our tribe as IHS is funded under advanced appropriations, we will eventually begin to feel the pressure when we are unable to draw down funding for critical programming. Our tribe will keep everything operational for as long as we are able with the funds that we have, but an extensive shutdown will undoubtedly impact our services, while IHS will continue to function uninterrupted.

ELDERS

The next Munising Elder meeting and meal will be held on

Thursday, Nov. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community Room. If you are an Elder age 60-plus and living in Unit 5, you are welcome to show up and attend. New faces are always welcomed.

The next Marquette elder meeting and meal will be held on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the newly renovated Marquette Tribal Community Center at 204 Cherry Creek Rd. in Harvey. This will now be the permanent home of the Marquette elder meetings and meals. Congratulations! If you are an elder age 60-plus residing in Units 4 or 5 in the Marquette County area, you are welcome to show up and attend.

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to discuss something with me, please use my contact information below. You can also reach out to Unit 4/5 Liaison Mary Jenerou at mjenerou@sault-tribe.net or (906) 450-7011 or (906) 341-8469.

Chi Miigwech,
Tyler Migizii Migwan LaPlaunt
Unit 5 Director/Vice-Chairman
tlaplaunt@saulttribe.net
(906) 440-8294

St. Ignace elders go on fall color tour and trip



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

victim services, amber alert system, MMIP and boarding school issues. These were all great presentations and I learned valuable information and made some great contacts especially in the attorney generals office. The boarding school presentation was of great interest to me as we still have survivors of these forced internments. These Native people are not referred to as graduates of these schools, they are referred to as survivors for a reason, because of the atrocities they endured while there and the memories they continue to recount in their daily life. Slavery was a terrible time in the history of this country but to my knowledge there is no one living that went through this, but we do have survivors living today that went through this forced kidnapping and they should be compensated for their experiences. Whether it’s the

various churches, the state or federal government that are held accountable for these actions they should be before it’s lost to history. The attorney general’s office was a wealth of knowledge that I will be passing along to individual survivors and to any one else that may want to contact me personally. The special agent in charge of this newly formed unit in the AGs office I worked with downstate and a great re-connection was made and will be following up on several issues with her office.

Fourteen elders from St. Ignace were taken on a fall color tour with our new elder van which was driven by myself and copiloted by William”Bill”Perault and Krista our amazing elder outreach employee. We started out below the bridge with a stop at Legs Inn for a tour of there gift shop and flower garden in Cross Village, continuing on through the tunnel



of trees stopping at Pond Hill Farm gift shop, animal farm, pumpkin patch and wine tasting for which I did not partake in. Leaving Harbor Springs and continuing on to Oden fish hatchery we were given a tour of the facility and then had the pleasure of feeding several species of fish out back in the retention ponds. Heading back home we made a side detour and stopped at

the local dairy queen in Alanson where we all ordered our favorite treat and enjoyed the great weather and conversation sitting outside. Since we didn’t see much color we will be scheduling another trip in the future.

Until next time. Baamaapii.
Shawn Borowicz sborowicz@saulttribe.net, (906) 430-7612 or (906) 379-8511.

Three-branch separation of powers – real due process of rights



AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

At the July 15, 2025, tribal board meeting, the board voted to allow you to weigh in on whether or not to hold a constitutional amendment. Set aside paternalistically denying you a vote for 17 years, the board finally agreed to:

1. Poll the Sault Tribe citizenship to advise if you want an amendment at all;
2. Poll the tribal citizens to determine if you prefer a 2-branch government or
3. Three-branch separation of powers form of government.

I am confident that the vast majority of you will make clear you want to amend the Constitution after 20 years since initiating the Sault Tribe Constitutional Convention Committee began in 2005. The CCC recommended to proceed “without a single no vote.” Please read for yourself in a memo from 2008 where the CCC voted without a single no vote to move forward with a three branch government.

VIOLATING YOUR RIGHTS?!

The board of old days voted to automatically register those in the service area to vote while requiring at-large members (the 37,000 who live outside of the service area) to register to vote in every election. If we had a separation of powers, and you had standing in Tribal Court to bring a constitutional challenge against your government for denying you your most fundamental right (your equal protections right to vote), you could sue and would most likely win. Board members who read the Constitution with a bias insist that at-large members have to register (while ignoring plain language in the Constitution for service area members who are also required to register to vote each time). If the Constitution requires voter registration for both populations, why have the inside-the-service-area voters never had to register while at-large were required every two years for most of our history? This violates the rights of two thirds of our tribal citizens. It is discrimination, whether on purpose or willful ignorance, the result is the same. No government should be able to act and not have a check and balance on their action that denies citizen recourse. This is why a separation of powers is needed — to ensure a remedy in case your rights are violated.

REAL DUE PROCESS

Above, I use your fundamental right to vote as an example of why protecting your rights and enshrining them in the Constitution is critical. Suppose, however, we were talking about your right to continued citizenship in our tribe. While I abhor the notion, it is nonetheless possible that any Board of Directors could vote to disenroll

whole segments of our citizens — say those who have less than 50% Indian blood or those who live outside the service area. Suppose the argument was “to have a more manageable size tribal population to ensure the resources better meet the needs of the 16,000 who live in the service area.” This ill-advised action would lop off 70% of the citizenship ($53,000 - 16,000 = 37,000$ | $37,000 / 53,000 = 69.8\%$). This hypothetical is entirely within the realm of possibilities leaving you no recourse. Any action to impact your rights as tribal citizens should never occur without a constitutional amendment (also known as a Department of the Interior Secretarial Election). However, if a majority of the board chose to disenroll you, there is nothing you could do. Why? Because you as a tribal citizen currently have NO standing in Tribal Court any or court of jurisdiction to bring a cause of action.

RESPECTING PAST EFFORTS

It bears repeating that the original CCC submitted a three-branch separation of powers with no opposition on the committee and urged the board to not mess it up by picking and choosing what the voters would be allowed to vote on as an amendment. In 2012 (four years later after sitting on a shelf while I was out of office), I brought a resolution to reconvene the CCC along with inviting the Elder Advisory (made up of elder representatives in all nine UP tribal communities) who voted unanimously to proceed with the 2008 draft and again insisted the board not pick and choose what we would be able to vote on. Just last summer, the board again called upon the tribe’s official Elder Advisory (representing all Units and nine communities) to weigh in. Once again, the Elder Advisory voted unanimously to proceed. Across the decades, three times our CCC or Elder Advisory insisted the three-branch draft Constitutional Amendment proceed to a vote. It is so disrespectful to ignore our elders’ advice and deny you your right to vote on a three-branch separation of powers.

CONSTITUTIONAL 101 Q&A

To illustrate the importance of a separation of powers and a differentiation between our current autocratic oligarchical structure versus a two-branch and a three-branch, I will lay out the arguments in a Q&A.

Q: Given the CCC and Elder Advisory Board have consistently put forward a three-branch separation of powers, why have the voters been denied our right to vote on amending the Constitution?

A: Ask yourself who stands to lose (discretionary authority) and who stands to gain. Currently, the board writes the laws, interprets the laws, and enforces the laws. There is a great deal of power in this singular discretionary authority. Members deserve real due process recourse. Your rights should not be up to the tribal board’s discretion.

Q. Isn’t adopting a separation of powers just following the “white way” or system of the colonizers?

A. The notion that we are looking to adopt a foreign balance of powers is offensive and devoid of understanding our history. The US form of democracy was patterned after the Iroquois Confederacy Great Law of Peace. Our people,

the Anishinabek people, are part of the larger Algonquian language, culture and beliefs which also includes the Iroquois. So, voting for a three-branch separation of powers is going back to our Indigenous ways to ensure no singular individual or entity has sole and discretionary power.

Q. Who does the power rest with under the current sole branch of the Sault Tribe government and who would it rest with under a three-branch separation of powers?

A. As strange as it sounds, currently the chairperson has no authority over any operations of the tribe despite the fact that members expect the buck to stop with the chair. Currently, if you have an issue with the governance of the tribe, you bring it to the board who has discretionary authority, which in many cases is arbitrary and capricious and inconsistent from issue to issue. Too often, this is influenced by whether you are related to a board member or if they believe you voted for them. Board members are elected lay individuals who in most cases are not qualified to make administrative decisions. We hire qualified individuals into positions in the administration. Too often board micro-management is the result and again based on favoritism or nepotism.

Q. If the CCC and Elder Advisory have consistently recommended a three-branch separation of powers, why are some board members pushing a two-branch version?

A. While establishing an independent judicial branch from the legislative branch is necessary it is not sufficient. Leaving the chairperson and administration under the thumb of the board will result in continued gross micro-management. It is an arrogant idea that once elected, you are an expert in all areas as a practitioner. Humility as one of the seven grandfather teachings is in short supply once elected.

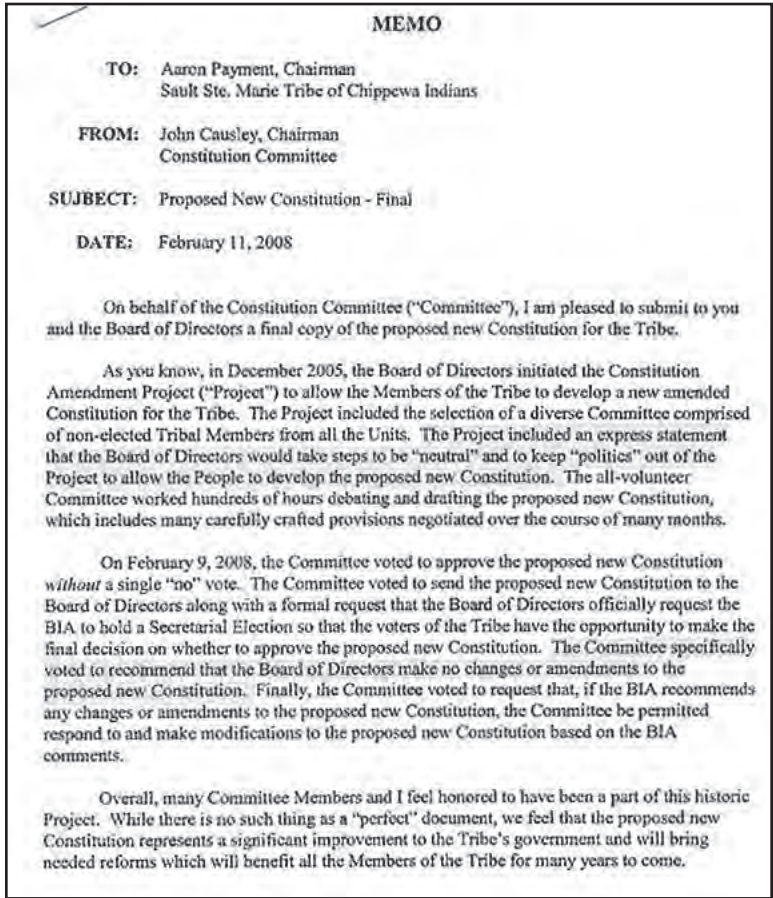
Q. Under our current system, what can happen if the board does not like the outcome of a tribal citizen challenge to protect their constitutional rights?

A. The saying “the board giveth, the board taketh away” means that if the board does not like the outcome of a court case, currently the board can fire the judge and prosecutor and vacate the court ruling. This is no way to operate as a government.

Q. When all tribal voters everywhere elect the chairperson, doesn’t that position have the authority to ensure our programs operate efficiently and that the budget is balanced and not overspent?

A. Currently, the chair has no authority and supervises no one. This surprises most as you expect the chair to ensure follow up on your issues and ensure good delivery of service. When I was chair, I held a Master’s in Public Administration (like an MBA for government) and two others master’s and a doctorate.

Our current chair holds a Master’s in Social Work, which makes him an ideal advocate and top administrator to oversee delivery of services. While I am a firm believer that a college degree should not be a requirement, when we elect our chair, we expect that the position comes with the req-



uisite experience and authority to manage the operations of the tribe and be the lead executive.

Q. If a three-branch separation of powers is enacted, won’t that lead to filing charges in Tribal Court that will further erode government unity?

A. This is like saying, if we should not enact laws to hold sexual assailants accountable, because we fear a flooded with sexual assault complaints. Using the argument that we should not have due process because tribal citizens will exercise their rights is insulting. If our rights are not violated, we will not need to file a cause of action.

Q. If the tribe spent over \$600,000 on a Constitutional Convention Committee and 2 years of focused work to draft a constitutional amendment to create a 3-branch separation of powers, why have we been denied the right to vote for 18 years?

A. Ask yourself, who has the most to lose in evolving out of a unitary, autocratic government system — the board. Conversely, tribal citizens, under a 3-branch separation of powers as drafted, could then bring a cause of action in Tribal Court against the administration or the Board of Directors if your rights are violated. Could it be some board refused to relinquish their unchecked power?

Q. As former chair, aren’t you biased in your support for a three-branch government?

A. I am no longer chair, so this is not about me. If we had real due process, however, I would have never resigned from office in 2022 after setting a record to the number of votes for chair. I was about to lose my chair seat. Recall that no civil or criminal charges were filed as a result of the censure investigation and I was cleared to run for office. After we establish a three-branch separation of powers with real due process, I will gladly expose what occurred.

Q. In the past, eight of the 13 current members of the board proposed a three-branch separation of powers in their election platforms. What happened that they campaigned on a separation but now apparently do not support a three-branch separation of powers?

A. Power corrupts, absolute

power corrupts absolutely. Over the years, I have seen some elected leaders with good motivations get a taste of power and abandon their platforms. I have not named names; go back and read their election promises in the tribal paper and see for yourself. Hold them to their word!

MICRO-MANGEMENT IS AN UGLY THING

The micro-management that occurs and the animus and oppositional defiance that Chairman Lowes now faces, makes clear that the hate directed toward me was never about me. Instead, we have an autocratic reign of a government unwilling to allow themselves to be held accountable. The intrusion of a Board of Directors to micro-manage hires and fires and day-to-day operations makes for a system of less accountability not more.

The recent example of the mistake to not pay the developer settlement final payment earlier this year and end up with an additional \$10 million liability happened because of a diffusion of responsibility of those who were responsible to make the payment. Reporting to 13 bosses just does not work as it diffuses responsibility. Having a clear line of authority and responsibility would have ensured the payment was made and saved us \$10 million! With a current projected tribal deficit, that \$10 million could easily cover 3 years to balance the budget.

“FORKED TONGUE” EXCUSES!

Listen intently to any argument to try to persuade you that no change is needed or that a two-branch separation of powers will suffice. There are no good reasons to not proceed to a citizen vote, only excuses. We elect our chair and expect the chair to have the authority to oversee the administration of the tribe. The old saying, “Too many chiefs and not enough Indians,” seems to apply. It’s time to honor the tribal voters’s election of the chair and vest the position with the requisite authority a three-branch separation of powers will ensure.

Tribal members, please take care and love yourself, your family and your tribe!

Chi Miigwech, ~ Aaron
Phone: (906) 440-8946
aapayment@saulttribe.net

Reporting on September meetings and events



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

At the Sept. 16 meeting, there was a bid acceptance for the Lodge of Hope to repair the parking lot and sidewalks. Recently there was a resolution to replace the roof and a playground is supposed to be added there as well. At the same meeting a resolution was passed to approve \$935,658 of the opioid settlement funds to cover the operational costs of 2026 for the Lodge of Hope.

We approved the 2026 Indian Housing Plan, which includes funds to do driveway and sidewalk repairs, replace the furnace and boilers, Newberry roof repairs, Kincheloe door and window replacements, the Down Payment Assistance Program, owner occupied rehab, weatherization, home rehab program, the K-9-unit support, rental vouchers, emergency housing services, tenant and residential services and community centers. Other expenses are maintenance, operations and administration. There will also be a quad unit built at Odenaang. The total expenses are about \$13.2 million for 2026.

The board approved two resolutions for Mackinac County to grant us access to the right of way on the Savard property for roads and utilities. The trees on the property have been select cut for some reason instead of a clear cut through the BIA, so the remainder will need to be cut, as we progress through the first phase of construction. This is the new St. Ignace housing project. The complete project of infrastructure should be complete by end of fall in 2026. This project

may cost around \$7 million to complete with no houses on it. The next plan will be to acquire more funding to provide houses. The bigger issue in our unit was the lack of available land to build so now we will have the land ready to go.

The Conservation Committee had brought suggested code changes to allow for a lottery of a couple of commercial fishing licenses. The fishing locations will be based on biological stability and these two licenses will be for Lake Superior. Applicants will need demonstrated gill or trap net fishing experience. There will be a non-refundable \$100 application fee.

Captain's license fees will now cost \$250, 2026 through 2030, with another \$50 increase in 2031 and capping in 2041 at \$350. The increase should allow help for the fishermen's safety equipment, known as the Fishermen's Fund.

On Sept. 8-11, I traveled to DC for our annual in-person HUD TIAC meeting. On the first day, the tribal leaders met to discuss our agenda for the next day and also attended a housing showcase at the National Mall.

There were some amazing innovative housing structures, some made entirely of plastic. There were a few beautiful modulars that you wouldn't have guessed were modular, one having solar shingles. There was a 2-story home put together in 2 days that was just the structure.

On Sept. 10, our group met with HUD staff including Secretary Scott Turner. He was actually an NFL player and seemed very genuine and attentive to our concerns. We only had about 1.5 hours with him, including a group picture, and then we spent the day with Ben Hobbs, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Public and Indian Housing.

Some of the talking points were on the reauthorization of NAHASDA, obstacles and opportunities for homeownership, removing barriers in tribal housing, promoting self-sufficiency, the cost of construction and workforce development.

There was a special meeting called on Sept. 25 to pass the



Above, Orange Shirt Day in St. Ignace. Below is the HUD TIAC meeting Sept. 8-11.

2024 government audit, approve a funding agreement between JKL School and Sault Schools, accept BEMAR funds for the Health Division, accept some state opioid funds, and to change bank signers.

Our government audit as well as the Housing Authority audit were ranked the highest they can be. The audits are a few months behind with the cyber-attack, and staff had to rebuild some information. The information will be reported in this issue of the newspaper's annual report.

We approved an agreement for JKL to pay Sault Schools for the next two years up to \$200,000 per year for educational services. The Health Division was awarded almost \$1.5 million of Backlog of Essential Maintenance and Repair funding to be used to replace and repair many things in our health centers across the service area. The Health Division also received \$160,000 in state opioid funding to fund treatment and recovery. Since we have had staff changes, we needed to have new resolutions for banks to add or replace staff on bank accounts.

On Sept. 30, Unit 3 held an "Orange Shirt Day" event at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture from 1 to 5 p.m. This was the third annual Boarding School Survivor event. We had a fire, water ceremony, a pipe ceremony, a strawberry ceremony, drumming by Mukwa Giizik, survivor speakers and then a walk through



downtown St. Ignace at 3 p.m. We had a healing dance by three young jingle dress dancers and a giveaway before heading home. Orange shirts and food by JR's Grill were provided to attendees.

There were about 70 people who participated in the walk, which included students from the Unit 2 and 3 YEA programs. Those who couldn't do the walk rode behind in the casino shuttle, followed by the police. There were about 150 people attending throughout the day.

Chi Miigwich to the committee of Marilyn Wakefield, Kim Fyke, Tom Wyers, Francie Wyers and myself for putting this event together. I would say it was a huge success that began with about a dozen people three years ago to about 150 this year. Thank you to the museum for allowing us to use the grounds and thanks to the speakers, teachers, fire-keeper, drummers and dancers and those who attended from all over.

Unit 3 will be having a community ghost feast on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the McCann School. Meat and fish will be provided, side dishes are appreciated.

Please be aware that any Sault Tribe member who is 60 years old can attend the weekly lunches at the Elder Complex. This is not just for residents. The meals are served Monday-Thursday, a 11:30-12:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$1 but not required. Guests of elders are \$3. Meetings are held the second Friday of the month following the meal.

I will be attending the G2E gaming conference in Las Vegas Oct. 5-10. I will report on the activities in the next unit report. I will also be attending the National Housing Summit in Washington, D.C. Nov. 3-7.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.

Preparing for Hessel's annual traditional ghost feast



**LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

It's that time of year again and in this edition of the paper you will find the tribe's annual report — it will explain in detail our programs, services and financial information to our tribal

members. Our staff are dedicated to providing this accurate and informational detail to you and I would like to thank them for the year of very hard work and the work put into preparing this for our members. Chi Miigwech.

We have received confirmation that we will be building one additional fair market rental at our Hillcrest property. It was reported that it will be completed by this fall. This will bring our total to seven new homes in Unit 2 and this is much needed for low income rentals for our elders as well as the fair market rental for revenue and needs of the community. I'm grateful that we have made this addition to our housing needs in the area.

I'm also happy to report that Epoufette Boat Harbor Project is complete! There will be new signage going in as there is a

new access road. This project has been in the works for many years and I appreciate all fishermen's patience with this. I would also like to thank the staff who assisted.

I was able to get to the Newberry elders meeting this past month and it was great seeing everyone. This month I will be attending Hessel and Naubinway as well and look forward to seeing all of you before the long winter sets in. We are in the process of planning for teaching workshops in the unit and we will be taking suggestions and input on what you would like to see for the communities.

I attended the annual walk for boarding school survivors hosted by Unit 3 and community. This was important to so many as the hardship that many have endured with being placed in those resi-

dential boarding schools as well as the historical trauma that has been left on our people as the result. It was a day of remembering and recognizing with community. I was honored to take part in this and would like to thank all those who took the time to put this together and attend. It was a good day for everyone. It was so heartwarming to see our local schools take part to educate as well and I thank all the parents who took the time to recognize and honor this day with us with their children wearing orange shirts. Thank you for that.

As a reminder we will be holding our annual ghost feast on Nov. 1 at the Hessel Tribal Center at 3 p.m. This will go until the food is gone — we don't place any time limit on the ending of this. Meat and sides will be provided; please bring a special dish

of your ancestors favorite to pass if you can. We will also have a sacred fire through out the day to offer our prayers and feed all our past loved ones. This is a very traditional and important time of year to make these offering we invite all to attend. This gets our past ones all ready for the long winter, it's a very sacred time for them.

In closing I would like to remind all that our annual elders Christmas luncheon will be held in the Sault on Dec. 9 starting at 11 a.m. Hope to see you all there.

As always, please reach out to me at (906) 322-3818 or lcausley@saulttribe.net if you would like to discuss anything, need my help or would like to meet with me at your request. Baamaapii.

Lana Causley-Smith
Unit 2 Tribal Representative

Looking ahead – directors make Unit 4 update



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aaniin,
The summer of 2025 was an exceptionally busy and productive season for our unit. With a range of projects, events, and different responsibilities, we remained fully engaged throughout the period. As we transition into the new academic year, the momentum continues. As fishing winds down, fall foliage is nearing peak across the U.P. Vibrant displays of red, orange, and gold is everywhere.

Upcoming Meetings

We have many meetings coming up, including board workshops and meetings, JKLFC meetings, Enterprise Authority meetings, Conservation, etc. The board passed Resolution 2025-230 last month directing all committees and commissions to comply with Chapter 96 – Open Meeting Ordinance, while offering each committee and commission an opportunity to advise the board if there are existing laws that prohibit opening their meeting to members or if their purpose is by nature confidential and proprietary, as we understand there will be some exemptions. The board continues to work on ways to increase transparency for our members.

Oct. 14, 2025 – Board workshop/JKLFC meeting/Board meeting in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Oct. 20, 2025 – Conservation Committee meeting in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Oct. 21, 2025 – Board workshop/Enterprise Authority meeting/Board meeting in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Oct. 28, 2025 – Board workshop in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Nov. 4, 2025 – Board workshop/JKLFC meeting/Board meeting in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Nov. 18, 2025 – Board workshop/Board meeting at the Hessel Community Center.

Nov. 25, 2025 – Board workshop in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Commercial Fishing Licenses – Lake Superior

Two commercial fishing licenses are currently available for Lake Superior. Interested parties must meet eligibility requirements and submit completed applications to Sault Tribe Law



LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Enforcement. This rare opportunity supports ongoing efforts to practice our fishing treaty rights. For application details or further information, contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement at (906) 635-6065 or visit the Sault Tribe’s website.

Government Branch Survey – Members Engagement

A new survey comparing a

two- and three-branch models of government has been distributed to all tribal members. The goal is to assess how members feel about either government model. Members are encouraged to complete the survey and send it back out as soon as they get them. Survey results will help inform us how to move forward as a tribe. The survey results will be counted on Nov. 14, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST in the Kewadin Grand Ballroom in Sault Ste. Marie. The board approved the Election Commission to purchase new election equipment that they will be using at this time.

REMINDERS

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow
SAVE THE DATE for the 2026 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow, scheduled for June 6, 2026.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

We encourage all tribal elders to attend the elder meetings. The next meeting in Manistique will be held Nov. 12, 2025, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. The next meeting in Escanaba will be

held Nov. 12, 2025, at 4 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Manistique Elders Christmas Party will be held Dec. 4, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. The Escanaba Elders Christmas Party will be held Dec. 10, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST at the Island Resort and Casino.

Unit 4 Children’s Christmas parties will be scheduled and posted soon. Keep your eyes open for additional information.

We both want to give our thanks for trusting in us to represent Unit

4 members and the Sault Tribe. We are always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. We encourage members to participate in craft nights, office hours, community input sessions, and all other activities and events occurring throughout Sault Tribe.

Our contact information:

Larry Barbeau, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 259-3040. Email: lbarbeau@saulttribe.net

Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 440-8138. Email: khampton@sault-tribe.net.

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