



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

June 3, 2020 • Vol. 41 No. 5  
Strawberry Moon  
Ode'imín Giizis



Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

## Sault Tribe's general election set for June 25

Sault Tribe's primary election took place on May 22 in Unit I only. The top six vote getters advanced to the general election ballot. Advancing are Bernard "Bud" Biron, Betty Freiheit (incumbent), Austin Lowes, DJ Malloy, Michael McKerchie (incumbent) and Isaac McKechnie. The three top vote getters in the general election will be seated on the Sault Tribe Board of Directors as Unit I representatives.

In the general election, Jennifer

McLeod and Aaron Payment (incumbent) will run for chair. Lana Causley-Smith (incumbent) and Kimberly Lee will run for one seat in Unit II, Jim Emerson and Bridgett Sorenson (incumbent) will run for one seat in Unit III, and Unit IV Representative Darcy Morrow is uncontested. There is no election in Unit V this year.

Blank ballots for the general election will be mailed to voters June 5 for return by June 25 for the vote count.

## Health services opened for routine care on May 29; tribe opened on June 1, casinos opening on June 12

Sault Tribe Health Division opened for routine patient services from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, as of May 29.

The Health Division asks patients to call ahead before visits. All patients will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms. The Sault Tribe Pharmacy will remain a drive-up service open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The All-In-One Fitness Center in the Big Bear Arena opens on June 14 at 9 a.m. The Fitness Center's hours will be Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Fitness Center is closed on Saturdays until Labor Day. Please call (906) 632-5200 with any questions.

Sault Tribe's government reopened June 1. All tribal government offices have safety plans in place for the June 1 opening.

Kewadin Casinos is adjusting services for reopening with appropriate social distancing measures and will open its doors on June 12.

Since March 23, all team members except 480 essential service personnel have stayed at home, working remotely or on call, to help limit the spread of the coronavirus.

Team members received their pay and benefits during the closure. On May 27, the tribe announced that, until further notice, it would also pay the employee portion of health insurance, life insurance and long term disability premiums for all team members — governmental, casinos, Housing and EDC.

The tribe also formed a COVID-19 Task Force to ensure the Sault Tribe's Coronavirus Relief Fund monies are spent in compliance with the CARES Act and the tribe's priorities dealing with the ongoing pandemic. Sault Tribe received \$37.2 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. According to the CARES Act language, tribes may use the money for "necessary" expenses caused by the public health emergency from March 1 to Dec. 30, 2020.



In honor of Memorial Day, Sault Tribe member Holly Osburn and Julie Dodson Forrest rode their horses from Tractor Supply in Sault Ste. Marie to Dairy Queen for a sweet treat, stopping along the way when they saw the state troopers outside: (L-R) Michigan State Police Trooper Dan Thompson, Osburn on Jackson, Dodson Forrest on Dusty, Trooper Jon Wehner and Trooper Tyler Knowles.



## Tribe changes age for trial as an adult to 18

By TRACI L. SWAN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors recently passed Tribal Code amendments to raise the age of who is considered an adult under the tribal criminal justice system from 17 to 18 years old.

Tribal Court had previously seen 17-year-olds coming through the adult criminal justice system who were behaving and making decisions like a "kid," but facing consequences as if they were an adult, including incarceration. Tribal Court Judge Jocelyn Fabry brought this matter to the attention of the executive director after hearing about research on the adolescent brain in the context of criminal justice reform, and measures being taken by other tribes and states, including the State of Michigan, to raise the age of criminal prosecution to age 18.

Andrew Degugliemo, the

tribe's Legal Department intern during the summer of 2019 and Yale Law School student ('21), assisted with this project by reviewing tribal codes and drafted the amendments necessary to change the age of adult criminal jurisdiction from 17 to 18. From there, and with help from judicial staff and the tribal prosecutor's office, proposed changes were made to Tribal Code Chapters 36 and 71, and subsequently presented to the tribe's board of directors. On May 5, 2020, the board passed Resolution 2020-101, changing the age of adult prosecution to 18 years old.

These code changes will change who is considered to be a juvenile or an adult as they make their way through the criminal justice system, including how an individual is to be detained, tried and the services that can be offered. These code changes will ensure that anyone under 18 years

of age will be treated as a minor under the juvenile code, but retain the tribal prosecutor's discretion to prosecute a juvenile as an adult in the case of a violent offense.

Judge Fabry said, "In our juvenile system, we can provide programming and offer services to reduce recidivism, promote rehabilitation and implement interventions that just aren't available to adults, and that science tells us 17-year-olds can benefit from. Adverse experiences, like jail, can have a traumatic impact on a 17 year-old's development."

"In addition," Fabry added, "The consequences of a 17-year-old entering the adult world with a criminal conviction already on their record could have life-long effects. We want to give our youth, our future, the best opportunities to lead productive lives. These code changes raising the age of adult prosecution from 17 to 18 addresses these issues."

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# National Foster Care Month thanks caregivers

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent and making a difference in the life of a child, please contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093.

### FROM ACFS

National Foster Care Month is a time to acknowledge the 440,000 children and youth in foster care and the family members, foster parents, volunteers, mentors and child welfare professionals who help guide, nurture and protect these children. National Foster Care Month provides the opportunity to show appreciation to those who enhance the lives of children and teens in foster care.

ACFS thanks all of the foster families who help struggling children and families. Their compassion and dedication to service change the lives of children and teens every day. We appreciate all you do to help protect and nurture our most valuable assets.

Due to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), children are affected nationwide by social distancing, quarantines and nationwide school closures. We realize during times like these it is difficult for children, especially those in foster care, because they may feel isolated, anxious, bored and uncertain. It is important to remain calm, as children tend to model behaviors of their parents and caregivers and take on their stressors.

It is also helpful to be open and honest about the pandemic. Even though you may fear that talking about the pandemic will increase their worries, bringing difficult topics into conversation can actually help to quiet the stressors, as children can imagine scenarios far worse than reality. It is also helpful to keep a routine. Research suggests that children benefit from schedules and productive activities. With the increased responsibility as a parent or foster parent it is important to remember to take time for yourself. Whenever possible, make time for activities that you enjoy. One of the best ways to manage anxiety is to stay connected with family and friends. Also, it may help to check in with other parents and caregivers; this may give you a safe space to express any distress or frustrations you may be feeling.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) currently has 30 foster homes and a number of children in foster care. It is always ACFS's goal to pair a child with a tribal foster home. It is the best way to maintain their connections to tribal culture and traditions. ACFS also monitors tribal cases

across the United States, and can help match a child with a tribal resource foster home, even if they are located outside the seven-county service area. When there is a pool of resource foster homes it is easier to match the child with a tribal home. ACFS continues to do video and phone foster home intakes during this time of social distancing, so it is possible to start the process of becoming a foster parent now. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, regardless of location, you are urged to call.

ACFS is always looking for dedicated tribal foster parents who are:

- Willing to work with the child's birth parents.
- Supportive of efforts to return the child home.
- Able to work with children who have emotional and behavioral needs.
- Able to encourage teens towards independent living

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent and making a difference in the life of a child, please contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093.

## 2020 Junior Police Academy canceled

#1 priority is health and safety of staff, youth, agencies and community

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) made the tough decision to cancel the 2020 Junior Police Academy.



This decision was not made lightly, but because this is a very interactive academy and STLE relies on other community agencies to help make this academy successful, with the continuing COVID-19 health emergency, we felt it was in the best interest of

our staff, volunteers and the youth we serve, to cancel this year's event.

STLE's No. 1 priority is the health and safety of its staff, the kids who attend and the communities we serve.

STLE looks forward to seeing everyone in 2021! Stay safe!

Robert Marchand  
Chief of Police

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## Sault Tribe committee vacancies

The following committees have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Joanne Carr or Linda Grossett, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783. Call (906) 635-6050 for questions.

**Anishinaabe Cultural Committee** - six vacancies – three males (4-year term), three female (4-year term)

**Child Welfare Committee** - two vacancies (4-year term)

**Election Committee** - four vacancies (4-year term)

**Higher Education Committee** - two vacancies (4-year term)

**Health Board** - five vacancies (4-year term)

**Housing Commission** - one vacancy – Unit 5 (4-year term)

**Special Needs/Enrollment Committee** - five vacancies (2-year term)

**Elder Advisory Committee**

Unit I - Sault (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one

alternate vacancy

Unit II - Hessel (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit III - St. Ignace (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term) one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

Unit V - Munising (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit V - Marquette (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

**Elder Subcommittee**

Unit I - Sault (4-year term), one regular seat vacancy, two alternate seat vacancies

Unit II - Hessel (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, two alternate vacancies

Unit II - Newberry (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), one regular seat vacancy and two alternate seat vacancies

Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies

Unit V - Munising (4-year term), one regular seat vacancy, two alternate seat vacancies

**Opens June 15th**

## Weatherization Program

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority will be accepting applications for the Weatherization Program beginning **June 15th thru July 13th, 2020**

The purpose of the Weatherization Program is to provide energy conservation improvements for homeowners in need of repair/replacement to improve the energy efficiency of their home.

Description of services to include:

- Repair/Replacement of Roofs, windows, and exterior doors
- Air-sealing measures such as weather stripping and caulking
- Insulation of pipes, skirting, roof area/attic

- Must be a Sault Tribe Household
- Must Own Home and Land
- Trust Land Leases Accepted
- Must reside in the seven county service area
- Must meet income guidelines

Please contact the Homeownership Program  
Jamie Harvey @ (906)495-1450  
or (800)794-4072

## What is Communities that Care?

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Communities that Care are partnering to bring you the following message:

*Communities that Care is a coalition that brings community members together in order to create a healthy environment for our children to grow up in. Communities That Care uses a youth survey to target important issues our kids and teens are dealing with. The information obtained from this youth survey helps our community put programs into place that address the specific needs of our children. Best of all. The community that cares model has been proven by science to work.*

Find your local Communities that Care by going to [UPCNetwork.org](http://UPCNetwork.org) and clicking on your county.

**UP Coalition Network**  
Safer Communities | Healthier Youth  
Making a difference one member at a time.  
[www.UPCNetwork.org](http://www.UPCNetwork.org)  
Learn more or get involved in your community!

Sault Tribe Health Services  
Committed to Giving You Our Very Best

**Count It! Lock It! Drop It!**

Don't Be An Accidental Drug Dealer

# Calling all Sault Tribe members who own businesses! Join Sault Tribe Thrive!

## We'll help foster success in our community!

The Sault Tribe Thrive Department, under the direction of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians EDC, is asking for Sault Tribe member-owned businesses to please contact us. We are here to help in any way we are able to for you and your business.

We are in the process of developing a Sault Tribe member-owned business directory and would like to add your business to it (free advertising). We also would love to learn more

about your business and look to foster relationships with each and every one to better help our tribal community.

If you are a Sault Tribe member and own a business, please contact us and let us know you are out there and let's get talking to see what we can do.

Contact Justin Emery, Sault Tribe Thrive/EDC business support coordinator, at (906) 635-6050, extension 26121, or [jemery@saulttribe.net](mailto:jemery@saulttribe.net).

## 2020 Sault Summer Gathering and Powwow cancelled, annual Baawting Anishinaabemowin conference postponed

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians 39th annual Summer Gathering and Powwow scheduled for July 2-5, 2020 is canceled.

The safety and wellbeing of all of indigenous communities across the country is always our greatest priority here in Bahweting. After careful discussions with our elders and community members the Sault Tribe Powwow Committee decided to cancel the annual Summer Gathering and Powwow.

"While we had hoped to see better circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic by now, the reality is that we are still under a time of uncertainty," said the committee. "We send our prayers and love to all of our relations across creation and hope to see you all next year."

The Language and Culture

Department decided to postpone the 10th annual Baawting Anishinaabemowin Conference until fall 2020. An official date will be announced at a later time. Please continue to use our social media pages and our Livestream page for access to Anishinaabemowin lessons at this

time.

Visit us on Facebook at [SaultTribeLanguageandCulture](https://www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageandCulture).

Look us over on Instagram at [saulttribelanguageculture](https://www.instagram.com/saulttribelanguageculture).

Or check us out on Livestream at <https://livestream.com/saulttribelanguage>.

## Tribal members: need assistance?

Three membership liaisons work with the chairperson's office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. The liaisons respond to membership issues and follow up to ensure they are resolved. Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact the liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing [membersconcerns@saulttribe.net](mailto:membersconcerns@saulttribe.net) or contacting them individually at:

Unit I — Sheila Berger,

Office of the Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 635-6050, (800) 793-0660, [sberger@saulttribe.net](mailto:sberger@saulttribe.net)

Units II and III — Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, (906) 643-2124, [chudak@saulttribe.net](mailto:chudak@saulttribe.net)

Units IV and V — Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, [mjenerou@saulttribe.net](mailto:mjenerou@saulttribe.net).

## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

June 3, 2020  
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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor  
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer  
Rick Smith.....Staff Writer  
Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary

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](http://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.

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## Friends!

## We have missed you.

I began working at Kewadin soon after we first opened our doors almost 35 years ago; I have seen some great times and some challenging times but nothing quite like this. My concern for my own family's wellbeing during this time extended to my Kewadin family and, of course, to you as well. It's been a long road and I hope you and your families have made it through with good health and most of your sanity. I'm thankful to say mine is doing well.

We'll celebrate soon. When we open come in, say hi and let us know that you're ok.

We look forward to seeing you soon and hearing about our time apart.

Wishing you good health and cheer,

Shawn Carlson

VP of Marketing and Sales



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HESSEL + CHRISTMAS + MANISTIQUE

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# HAS THE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID CRISIS AFFECTED YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW? YOU COULD BE COMPENSATED FROM THE PURDUE PHARMA L.P. BANKRUPTCY.

**FILE YOUR CLAIM BY JUNE 30, 2020.**

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED.  
*PARA INFORMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL, VISITE EL SITIO WEB.*

## WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

If you think you've been hurt by Purdue Pharma L.P., a U.S. limited partnership, its general partner and its subsidiaries, including Imbrium Therapeutics L.P., Adlon Therapeutics L.P., Greenfield BioVentures L.P., Avrio Health L.P., Rhodes Technologies, and Rhodes Pharmaceuticals L.P. ("**Purdue**"), or Purdue prescription opioids, like OxyContin®, or other prescription opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue, you can file a claim for compensation in the Purdue bankruptcy proceeding. The deadline to file a claim is **June 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

## WHAT IS A CLAIM AND WHO CAN FILE?

A "claim" means a right to seek payment or other compensation. You must file a Proof of Claim Form so it is actually received by the deadline. It can be filed by you, by a legal guardian, by survivors, or by relatives of people who have died or are disabled. **All Personal Injury Claimant Proof of Claim Forms and any supporting documentation submitted with those forms will be kept highly confidential and will not be made available to the public.** You do not need an attorney to file a proof of claim for you.

Additionally, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, trusts, governmental units, and Native American Tribes may also file a proof of claim against Purdue.

Go to **PurduePharmaClaims.com** to find a complete list of instructions on how to file a claim. You will also find a list of the opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue.

You may file a Proof of Claim even if a settlement is contemplated in the Purdue bankruptcy so that your claim can be considered as part of any settlement.

## WHO DOES THIS AFFECT AND WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

If you think you've suffered harm from Purdue or its prescription opioids, you have the right to file a claim even if you may also have received reimbursement from insurance. Examples of claims that may be filed in the Purdue bankruptcy include death, addiction or dependence, lost wages, loss of spousal relationship benefit for things like child-rearing, enjoyment of life, etc., or Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (sometimes referred to as "**NAS**"), among others.

**The deadline to file a claim is June 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.** If you do not file a claim by the deadline, you will lose the right to file a claim against Purdue, and you will lose any right to seek payment or compensation you may have had. Proof of Claim Forms, a list of opioids produced, marketed or sold by "Purdue," and instructions for how to file a claim are online at **PurduePharmaClaims.com**. You can also request a claim form by mail, email or phone:

**Purdue Pharma Claims Processing Center  
c/o Prime Clerk LLC**

850 Third Avenue, Ste. 412, Brooklyn, NY 11232

Email: [purduepharmainfo@primeclerk.com](mailto:purduepharmainfo@primeclerk.com) - Phone: 1.844.217.0912

## THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION.

Is Purdue out of money? No. For more information concerning Purdue's bankruptcy, Frequently Asked Questions, Proof of Claim Forms, examples of personal injury and other claims that can be filed, instructions on how to file a claim, and important documents including the Bar Date Notice, visit

**[PurduePharmaClaims.com](http://PurduePharmaClaims.com), or call 1.844.217.0912.**



# Election Committee announces campaign violation

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — A Sault Tribe election campaign violation occurred in April that resulted in a sanction and penalty, but the candidate remains on the ballot. Unit I candidate Austin Lowes violated Election Ordinance Section 10.112(2) by campaigning on the premises of the Sault Ste. Marie MidJim, a tribal enterprise.

The Election Committee received a written complaint from a Sault MidJim employee April 17 alleging candidate Austin Lowes

violated the Election Ordinance while at the MidJim. Lowes admitted, on the day in question, that while pumping gas at the MidJim in Sault Ste. Marie, a member approached him and requested to sign Lowes' nominating petition. The member then took the nominating petition inside the MidJim and procured four more signatures and then brought the petition back outside to Lowes. The person who took the nominating petition into the MidJim did not sign the peti-

tion as the circulator.

Two ordinances were violated. Section 10.111 (S)(d) of the Election Ordinance provides, "each page clearly stating the full name of the Candidate, to include Jr., Sr., I, II, III, etc., the office being sought, the Election Unit which the office represents, if applicable, and the name of the person circulating the petition." Section 10.112(2) of the Election Ordinance provides, "No Campaigning shall take place in

any of the tribal offices, tribal enterprises or majority owned subsidiaries, tribally owned property, or tribally sanctioned events or functions, or those areas reasonably required as access to any of the forgoing locations, except as allowed in Subsections (5) and (6)2."

The Election Committee imposed two sanctions on Lowes. The five signatures procured at the MidJim on April 20 are voided, and the decision will be published

"as a reminder to all current candidates and future candidates the importance of becoming familiar with and following all of the rules contained in the Election Ordinance."

Lowes remaining signatures were enough to keep him on the ballot.

A full copy of the Election Committee's decision can be obtained by contacting Election Committee Chairman James McKerchie.

# Resolutions passed at board meetings, April 14 to May 19

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians met on April 14 with all present and passed resolutions 2020-91 through 93 as reported in the April 29 edition of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*. At that meeting, the board also passed the following resolutions.

**Resolution 2020-94** — *Amending Tribal Code Chapter 71: Criminal Offenses Section 71.1601-71.1618 Controlled Substance and Related Offenses* — Amended to manage the establishment of retail sales and production operations within the jurisdiction of the tribe.

**95** — *Acceptance of the 2019 Kewadin Casinos Audit* — Approved as was approved by the Audit Committee.

The board reconvened on April 29 with all present and passed the following resolutions.

**Resolution 2020-96** — *Authorization To Apply For A*

*Small Business Association (SBA) Loan From Central Savings Bank Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan* — Authorizes the tribe's EDC executive director to apply for loans with Central Savings Bank for the SBA Payroll Protection Program loans of up to \$250,000 total with amounts to be disbursed individually as set forth in individual applications to DeMawating Development, Sawyer Village, Northern Hospitality, MidJim Convenience Stores and the White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store.

**97** — *Authorization To Retain Law Firm Interim General Counsel* — Approved retaining Fredericks Peebles and Patterson LLP to act as interim general counsel for the tribe, the tribe's Gaming Authority, Economic Development Commission and to attend, remotely or otherwise, board meetings and workshops for the purpose of

advising the board.

**98** — *Authorizing Litigation and Dispute Resolution Consent Decree* — Allows invocation of the dispute resolution mechanism under the 2000 Consent Decree and, failing that, to proceed to litigation to protect the rights of the tribe and its members related to matters that cannot be adequately resolved through direct negotiation.

The board reconvened on May 5 with all present.

**Resolution 2020-99** — *Elder Division - Title VI, NSIP Grant, Title VI 20-23, and Title VI COVID 19 Establishment of FY 2021 Budgets* — Approved 2021 budgets for federal funds of \$20,563 from U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS), \$186930.83 and other revenue of \$6,000 plus another amount of HHS funding for \$62,270; all with no effect on tribal support.

**100** — *FY2020 Promotion of Anishinaabemowin Grant Michigan State University* —

Application authorized for funding of the Big Ten Less Commonly Taught Languages Partnership Promotion of Anishinaabemowin at MSU.

**101** — *Amending Tribal Code Chapter 36: Juvenile Code and Chapter 71: Criminal Offenses, To Raise the Age To 18 For Adult Prosecution* — Approved.

**102** — *Eagle Lending Sault Tribe Inc. Business Development* — Authorized Eagle Lending to loan \$650,000 to Sault Tribe Inc. at a rate of four percent for 20 years for business acquisition and development.

The board met on May 12 with all present to pass **Resolution 2020-103** — *Kewadin Casinos Tribal Tax Payment COVID19* — Authorized action to reduce the Kewadin Casinos tribal tax payment in the amount of \$5 million and to record the loss of revenue as a COVID-19 related expense to the tribe.

The board reconvened on May

19 with all present except for Director Hollowell. The following resolutions were passed.

**Resolution 2020-104** — *Trust Land Status 1000 Portage Ave. Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa County Michigan* — Requests Secretary of the Interior to place the land parcel in trust on behalf of and for the benefit of the tribe as part of the tribe's reservation.

**105** — *Resolution of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors Authorizing Submission of Request for FY 2020 Attorney Fees and Litigation Support Funds* — Authorizes solicitation of Bureau of Indian Affairs funding in support of protecting fishing rights.

Those interested may go to <https://www.saulttribe.com/government/board-of-directors/board-download-files> to view recent resolutions as well as resolutions and board voting records from present and past meetings.

## Michigan Indian Legal Services here to help

Michigan Indian Legal Services (MILS) is offering remote estate planning. MILS is able to work with you to draft a will, power of attorney, patient advocate designation, funeral representative and lady bird deeds. These documents can be signed and executed from the comfort of your own home. The guidelines of this program will allow us to cater to a broader group than is typically permitted by MILS funders. This program is available to those who make up to 500 percent of the poverty and eligibility guidelines. The threshold starts at \$62,450 and

is increased by \$22,100 for each additional member of the household. For example, Michigan Indian Legal Services will be able to provide wills and estate planning to a family of four that makes up to \$128,750 annually.

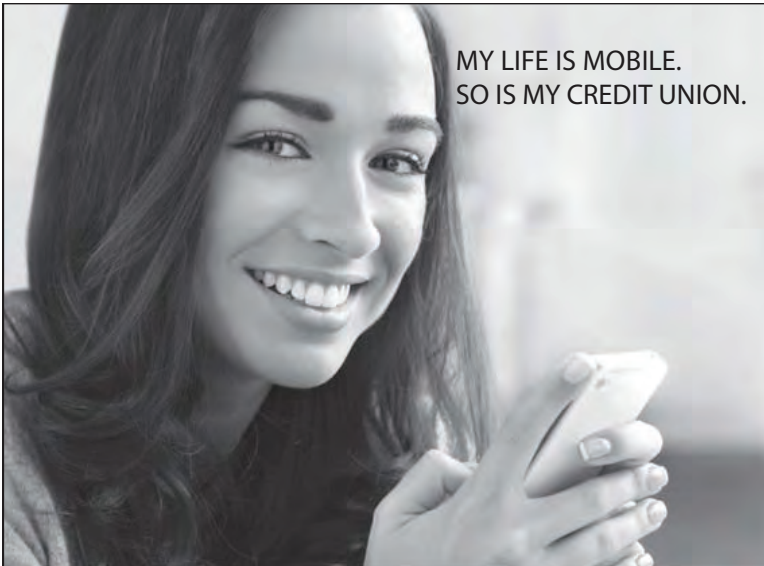
Additionally, we are open and still offering our services statewide to income-eligible individuals and tribes, advocates for the rights of individuals, which advances systems of justice, and works to preserve Indian families through state and tribal courts. Give us a call at (231) 947-0122 or toll-free at (800) 968-6877.

## Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits (up to an additional \$25 of enhanced Lifeline support monthly and a credit of up to \$100 on their initial installation charges) if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be on either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 20 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

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# Anishinaabemowin 2020

## De'min Giizis — StrawberryMoon

by Susan Askwith

Whatever we plant in our subconscious mind and nourish with repetition and emotion will one day become reality for us.

— Earl Nightingale

### G'maawndoogemi. We gather things.

(G - maaw' - ndoo - ge - mi)

Our earliest ancestors here were hunters and gatherers, living completely from the land. **Shkakimikwe** (our mother the earth (sh-ka'-ki-mi-kwe')) provided all we needed for food, clothing, shelter and tools, and **Gzheminido** gave us the intelligence to put to use what Shkakimikwe gave us. Today we usually gather our food *at a food store* : **mijim daawe-ga-migong\*** (mii'-jim daa-we'-ga-mig-ong').

But there are plants we can gather at this time of year, and doing that connects us to our ancestors, and to Shkakimikwe.

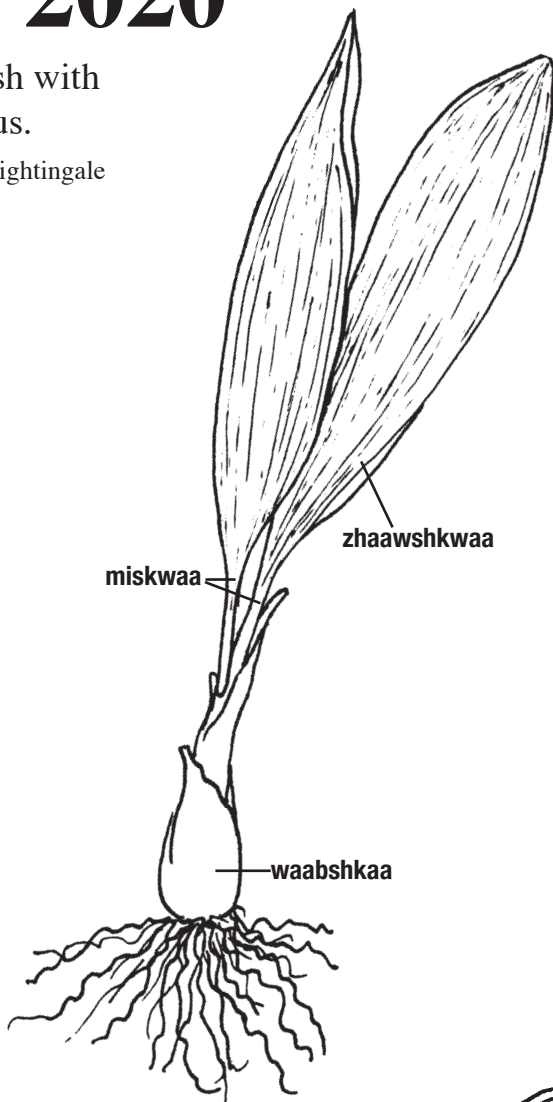
\***Mijim** says food, **daawe** is a word for trade or sell, **gamig** says building and the **ong** ending says "at the." Perhaps the Odaawa Tribe took their name for their super-power of trading!

**Wild strawberries - bgoji deminan** (b-go'-ji de'-min-an) are the first of the berries to ripen into sweet deliciousness in Michigan. Nothing wrong with picking them at a farm, but the wild ones seem to have the best flavor. We call them heart berries: **de** is our word for heart and **miin** is a berry (note it's shortened as part of **demin**). The "an" at the end means more than one (which all of us want!). Deminan smell good, they're pretty, they're juicy and sweet. Most people recognize them and they aren't usually confused with other plants. They're part of the rose family, and reproduce by seeds and often by runners that stretch across the ground from the mother plant to start up another whole plant.

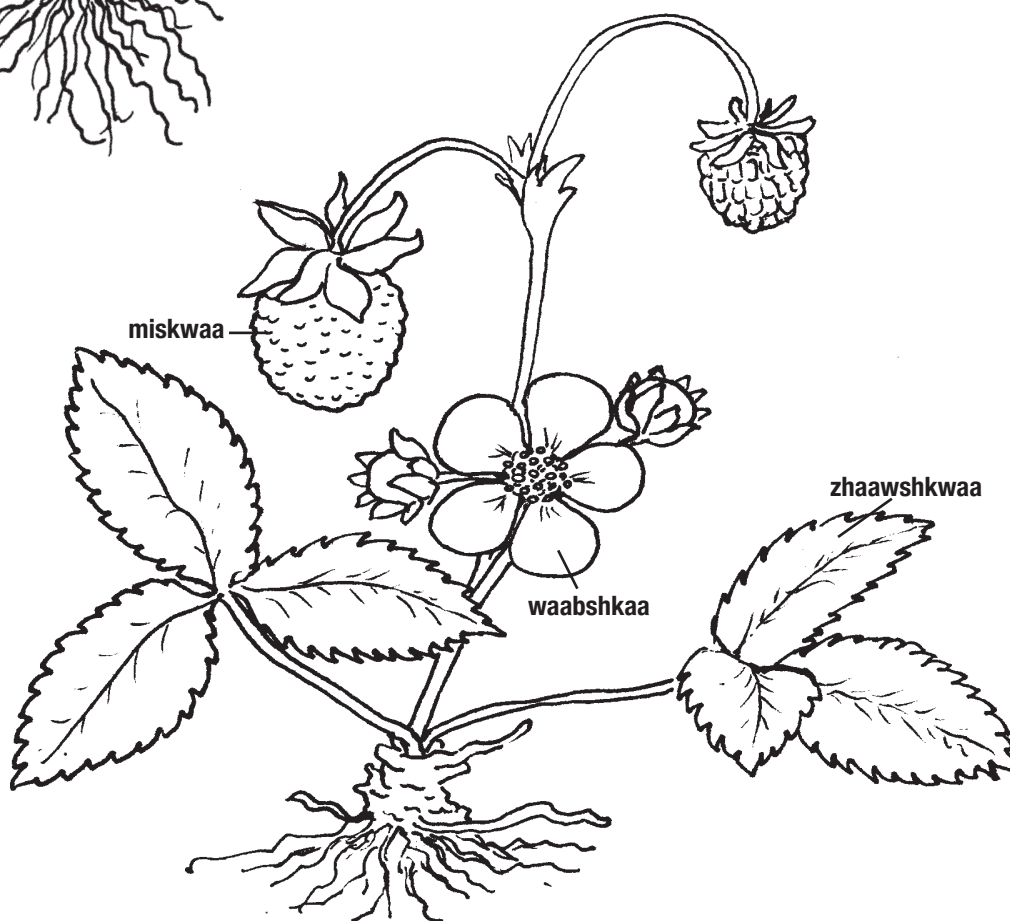
**Sustainable harvesting:** It has always been our way to respect **g'mndaadenmaanaa\*** Shkakimikwe's gifts by only taking what we need and using all we take from her bounty. We never pick an area clean, but take some from here and there, leaving plenty of healthy plants and fruits to reproduce and grow again. **Gegwa aanoodzeke!** (Don't be greedy!) (Remember to always say commands like that kindly and with a smile.)

\***G'mndaadenmaanaa** says "we respect her" (or him). In this case it's Shkakimikwe, our mother earth. It is pronounced, g'-min-daa-den'-maa-naa'.

**Gegwa aanoodzeke**, geg'wa aa-nood'-ze-ke.



**Wild leeks - bgoji zhigaang-wizhiik** (b-go'-ji zhi-gaan'-gwizh-iik) are one of the first to push up leaves in the *spring* - **mnookmig** (min-oo'-ka-mig). After about 10-12 weeks of using sun and rain and good soil to tuck carbohydrates into its bulb, it sends up a seed stalk for reproduction and the leaves die off. The seeds drop in the fall and germinate in the spring to start things all over again! If you're harvesting the plant, be sure you know what it looks like and that it smells like delicious onions or a little like garlic when you are picking it.



### Get out three crayons and color the leek and strawberry plant (**zaagkii**)!

**Dkaashin!** (Have fun!)

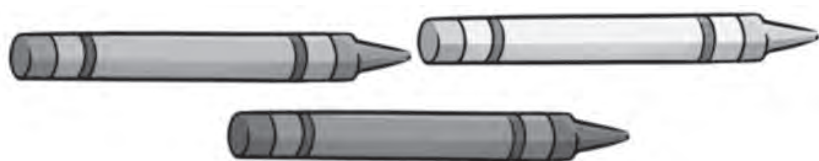
Zhaawshkwaa (zh-aaw'-sh-kwaa) Green

Miskwaa (mis'-kwaa) Red

Waabshkwaa (waab'-sh-kaa) White

Use a pen or pencil - **zhibiiganaatik** (zhi-bii'-gan-aa'-tik) to mark the seeds on the demin.

Zaagkii: (zaag-kii') Dkaashin: (da-kaa'-shin)



Kid: What's that?

Parent: It's a blackberry.

Kid: Then why is it red?

Parent: Because it's still green.

**Tisigaanhsak:** crayons ti-si-gaanh'-sak

### Pronunciation Guide; How to Sound Really Good:

Let's just stick with these basics: Letters sound like they do in reading English, except for these ones.

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| a sounds like U in cup   | i sounds like I in fit     |
| aa sounds like A in fall | ii sounds like EE in feed  |
| o sounds like OO in book | e sounds like E in fed     |
| oo sounds like O in grow | g sounds only like g in go |
- nh has no sound at all; it is only a SIGN that the vowel in front of it is said in a nasal way.**

English has a lot of strange spellings. Our system of writing is easier. We pronounce all the letters shown, even if we say some of them pretty fast and some are pretty quiet.



Two farmers argued over how to grow the best strawberries: commercial fertilizer or cow manure. They asked Ms. Jones her advice since her berries were always the best in the area. One farmer asked her, "Ms. Jones, do you put cow manure on your strawberries?" "No," she answered. "I either eat them plain or with sugar and cream."

# PUSH for CHANGE

## *Vote for Jen McLeod*



**Aaniin Tribal Members!** Please join me as we make meaningful, lasting change to ensure our tribal way of life for future generations. I am a former business owner who decided to make a life change when I saw the needs of the tribal children. So I stepped up and became a Tribal Teacher. Upon experiencing how great the children's needs truly were, I decided the best way to make lasting changes was to become a Board Member. I believe that our Tribe needs positive change in the role of Chairperson. I have the unique experience to lead our tribe during this extraordinary time.

Below are highlights of my P.U.S.H. PLAN for change!

### **P**ROSPERITY

- Living Wages for All Team Members
- Education in the Trades for Youth
- Innovative, High Profit Business
- Steering Tribal Entrepreneurs Toward Independence

### **U**NITY

- All Voices Heard, No Matter Where We Live
- Conduct Fair, Objective Board Meetings
- Annual Homecoming – Connect to Leaders/Programs
- Chairperson Hours in All Units, and Downstate

### **S**OVEREIGNTY

- Demand Nation-to-Nation Relationship with Federal Government
- Financial Independence to Allow Expanded Service to All Members
- Commitment to Revitalization of Tribal Language and Culture
- Sovereignty in Education, and Food

### **H**ONESTY

- Annual Reports to Tribal Members
- Transparency in All Governmental Actions
- Improve Open Communication with Tribal Membership
- Proper Broadcasting and Recording of Board Meetings/Workshops



**Jen McLeod**  
TRIBAL CHAIRWOMAN 2020

*June 25th – PUSH for CHANGE*  
**JEN FOR CHAIR!**

For more information, visit [jmcleodsaulttribe.com](http://jmcleodsaulttribe.com)





# Chi McGwitch, Negee!

**For the Years of Your Support in Letting Me Serve & Represent You at the Highest Levels!**

Paid for by the Community to Elect Aaron Payment

*Ahneen, Boozho Sault Tribe Citizens & Voters*

*I appreciate your support & serving you as Tribal Chairperson. I love serving you. I am proud to have been one of a handful of National level tribal leaders who were successful in securing \$8 billion appropriated to address the pandemic. **Our Sault Tribe's share was \$37 Million!** Adding \$15 million in Self-Governance, Competitive Grants & another \$20 million on the horizon brings **our projected total so far is \$72,535,921!** Plus, through the National level work I do, we are pushing for **\$20 billion more for tribes.** Bringing home treaty and trust funds is what I do best.*

*As 1st VP of the National Congress of American Indians, I was directly involved in ensuring our voice was heard. I also participated directly as the Midwest Co-Chair for the Tribal Interior Budget Council, HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory, Acting President of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes and President of the United Tribes of Michigan. I worked hard to earn these posts to represent and directly benefit our Tribe and our Members.*

*There are some weighty issues facing Our Tribe and important agenda items. Below are just a few of these critical issues that require experienced leadership to move us forward. My opponent has refused to articulate even an basic platform. I have shared a clear plan for the future of our Tribe for the benefit of all Tribal Members Everywhere.*

*I appreciate your support and humbly ask for your continued support and vote. **Chi McGwitch, Negee!*** 

## OUR TOP PRIORITIES FOR OUR SHARED TRIBAL FUTURE

### ~ Increased Elder Checks & Elder Services ~

I proudly call the Land Claims Fund the Elder Fund. Recall hearings I held in 1997 to find out what Members wanted done with our original \$19.6 million? These funds were collateralized for our Greektown & Kewadin Shores Debt, so it is only right that we fully replenish this fund. In 2012 (before returning to office) I pushed and we succeeded in getting a referendum vote to add 10% annually from our future net revenues from gaming expansion. Cathy Abramson and I previously made the motions to set the annual Elder checks at \$1,600. I continue to advocate for increasing the Elder Fund so Elder Checks Increase. I am also committed to expansion of Health Care for All Elders Everywhere including a Medicare supplement paid for by the Tribe.

### ~ Educational Opportunities and Job Training ~

While I dropped out of high school at 15, I have three master's and a doctorate. I am grateful to former Tribal Education Director Jack Kibble for scheduling for me to take my GED. Because I benefitted from the help of others, I support vastly increasing our educational outreach and increasing the amount for college scholarships, eliminating the 1/4 blood requirement for the MI Indian Tuition Waiver and fully funding vocational technical education which is usually a fraction of the cost for higher ed. The referendum vote for our Mandatory Trust projects guarantees increases in higher education (including voc-tech school). As Chairperson I will ensure the Tribe honors this.

### ~ Tribal Health Care All Members Everywhere ~

Years ago, I drafted a resolution to go after a new pool of federal funds to benefit members outside of the service area. I have recently gain a commitment from Indian Health Services to add Emmet & Cheboygan Counties to our Health Service Area. I am also working on creating an expansion to the Affordable Care Act to treat tribes as the 51st state to offer Medicaid Expansion to our Members no matter where they live. This would take the form of an IHS portable health card that can be used anywhere.

### ~ Mandatory Trust Casino Expansion ~

The law is on our side. We just won our court case. The burden of proof is with the Department of Interior to prove we did not use the interest to buy the land near the Detroit Metro Airport. They will not succeed as we used only interest to buy this land. The developer lawsuit is a nuisance; we will prevail. I am confident and resolute that I will secure new developers who are tribal & who will put up the costs, in a better deal than our past developers with healthy profit. Inexperience here could be disastrous.

### ~ Services Expansion All Members Everywhere ~

I realize it is frustrating to have to wait for services to reach all members. Those who live out side of the services area are waiting while those in our outlying units in the UP also wait to catch up. We must always remember that our work is not done until all Members benefit. Now that our debt is paid down, and with the promise of a down state casino, we must approve a long term revenue allocation plan to guarantee everyone benefits. This will take a vote of the entire Board. I am optimistic we can do this.

### ~ Gaming Compact Negotiations ~

In 1993, our Tribe entered a Gaming Compact with MI to be allowed to operate slot machines. This was exploitative but was a requirement. The 20 year term expired in 2013. That same year, I notified the State of our intent to negotiate a new Compact. We have the upper hand and I have played a key role here. I am confident we will secure a better compact that will have a nominal revenue share to the State and will vastly expand our gaming opportunities including Internet Gaming and Sports Betting.

### ~ 2020 Treaty Rights Negotiations ~

I serve as the Lead Negotiator for our Tribe. Having grown up in a tribal commercial fishing household, I am honored to do this. I attend nearly all of our Conservation Meetings, Inter-Tribal Fishing meetings & ALL Negotiation sessions. For 7 3/4 years, my opponent never once attended! Fighting to protect our treaty rights and to recover what was lost in past, is the very the job of Tribal Chairperson. Not attending these is a disqualifier. Once a final draft is prepared, I have pledged to call for a referendum vote so Tribal members can ratify or reject what was negotiated. Your rights; Your Vote!

### ~ Economic Diversification Including Marijuana ~

I am risk aversive but we must change with the times. I recently signed a lease with a company to venture into the marijuana industry. This has the potential of eclipsing our gaming revenues. I strongly support our economic diversification plan under way but I maintain a skeptical eye on investments as these are your public funds. While the Lansing Mayor halted our Casino Lansing project, I am in discussions to create a Tribal Economic Enterprise Zone in Lansing that can incubate businesses, allow for tribal manufacturing, and benefit Tribal Member owned businesses in a tax exemption zone.

- ◆ Increased Elder Checks & Elder Services**
- ◆ Healing & Rebuilding Tribal Unity**
- ◆ Secure Even More Federal Relief Funds**
- ◆ At Large & Unit 6 Representation**
- ◆ Health Care & Mail Order Scripts**
- ◆ Eliminate 1/4 Blood for Tuition Waiver**
- ◆ Membership Driven Democracy**
- ◆ Expand Tribal Clinics in All 5 Units**
- ◆ Increase Educational Scholarships**
- ◆ Perpetuate Our Way of Life & Culture**
- ◆ Pay Team Members Pandemic Hazzard \$**
- ◆ Expand Vocational & Job Training**



- Tribal Chairperson (3 terms)
- Vice Chair (2 terms)
- Unit 1 BOD Member (2 terms)
- NCIA 1st Vice President (2 terms)
- NCIA Secretary & Regional VP
- VP, Midwest Alliance of Tribes
- President, United Tribes of MI
- Chair, Inter-Tribal Council of MI
- Past ST Deputy Executive Director
- ST Federal Policy Administrator
- Former University Professor
- 100% of Career Serving Natives
- 30 Year Education Advocate
- Presidential Appt. ~ Indian Education
- HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory
- National Substance Abuse Council
- 3 Master's & a Doctorate Degree
- Testified in Congress 25+ Times
- Nationally Known Treaty Advocate
- Created Top Access for Our Tribe
- Respected by Inter-Tribal Leaders
- Remembers Where He Came From
- Lives our *Anishinabe Biimaadziwin*
- Loves Serving All Indian People

**One Vote... Your Vote Will Make the Difference!**  **General Ballots Mailed: June 5<sup>th</sup>; Due by June 25<sup>th</sup>**



# New online dashboard provides COVID-19 risk

LANSING, Mich. – A new, online dashboard launched on May 26 visually illustrates COVID-19 risks and trends in Michigan, providing residents with important information about the pandemic status where they live and work.

Developed through a collaboration between the Michigan departments of Health and Human Services and Labor and Economic Opportunity and the University of Michigan, dashboard data is divided into Michigan Economic Recovery Committee (MERC) regions.

MERC regions were developed by merging Michigan's Emergency Preparedness Regions and Michigan's labor sheds – the major areas of the state where people live and travel to work based on U.S. Department of Labor data – so that any outbreak resulting from a return to work could be handled effectively under public health laws.

"The most important thing we can do right now is listen to the experts and follow the medical science," said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. "Our first responders have put their lives on the line during this crisis, and we owe it to them to get this right. This dashboard will provide us with the data we need to assess risk in different regions of the state so we can re-engage our economy safely and deliberately, while working to minimize the risk of a second wave of infections. The whole goal here is to help ensure we keep more people healthy and out of hospitals."

The COVID-19 data displayed

## White House Council on Native American Affairs is back

By Rick Smith

The White House announced the reinstatement of the White House Council on Native American Affairs in late April. At this time, it appears the main job of the council is to act as Indian Country coordinator with the White House COVID-19 Response Team. Among its priorities as announced by the U.S. Department of the Interior are economic development, public health, rural prosperity, cultural resources, public safety, veterans affairs, education and workforce development.

The council was originally established by an executive order by President Barack Obama to improve government-to-government coordination on federal tribal programs and treaty rights. The council has essentially been dormant since the beginning of the Trump administration.

David Bernhardt, current Secretary of Interior, is the acting council chairman. White House senior policy advisor and tribal liaison Tyler Fish, a member of the Cherokee Nation, is the council's executive director.

While the Obama White House also hosted the annual White House Tribal Nations Conference as part of its outreach and coordination with Indian Country, resumption of the conferences has not been mentioned at this time.

on the dashboard represents publicly available case, death and test data analyzed to determine overall level of risk and key trends. Graphs, numbers and trends provide a snapshot of how much virus is in a community, and whether it is increasing or decreasing.

Risk levels were developed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the U-M School of Public Health using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, national Guidelines for Opening America and several other leading national organizations.

"The risk levels tell us whether there is high, medium or low risk of COVID-19 spread in a community and can help highlight areas where more social distancing may be needed or where vulnerable individuals should be particularly careful," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health.

The dashboard, designed and created by faculty at U-M School of Information and School of Public Health, presents risk and capacity indicators that inform implementation of the MI Safe Start Plan. These indicators fall into three categories: epidemic

spread, health system capacity and public health capacity. Each indicator displays a level of risk. These indicators, along with other epidemiologic information, inform the overall risk level for a region. It also incorporates on-the-ground knowledge, such as whether new cases of COVID-19 are localized to a single outbreak or represent community-wide spread.

"The U-M team is very excited to build this dashboard for the people and State of Michigan," said Sharon Kardia, Ph.D., associate dean at U-M School of Public Health. "This precision public health dashboard is very

unique as it clearly shows everyone why some regions can open up more rapidly than others."

In addition to these risk and capacity indicators, other considerations such as the availability of mitigation measures, the risk posed by certain activities and other economic factors also inform decisions under the MI Safe Start Plan.

To learn more, visit [MiStartMap.info](http://MiStartMap.info).

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](http://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](http://CDC.gov/Coronavirus).

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# Vote Biron for Unit I



Aaniin,

My name is Bud (Bernard) Biron and I am running for Until I Sault Tribe Board of Directors. My Anishinaabe name is Ogimaa Jijjaak and I am makwa dodem. My mother is Dorthory Ann McCoy-Biron, born on Sugar Island in the winter of 1926. I am running on her strength and a willingness to work hard for our people as she did.

I've served as a Youth Coordinator and helped develop and run the Mary Murray Tribal Cultural Camp on Sugar Island. Later, I advanced to the position of Cultural Buildings Coordinator where I assisted in seeing out the vision of our Niigaanagizhik building. I've also served as the Powwow Chairman and helped established our unit powwows and summer gatherings. I've served as a commissioner on the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Housing Commission and I've chaired the Protectors of the Youth, a multi-cultural youth environmental camp. Of all of the accomplishments I am proud of though are the thousands of hours of volunteering I have done for all of our tribal members.

Let me tell you what I want hope to accomplish in service on the BOD, representing the people and bringing their vision to our tribal government:

- Re-establish unit meetings to provide more communication opportunities between BOD and tribal unit members.
- Provide the employees in our businesses with a living wage, training opportunities for advancement and a system for reward/recognition for employees who go beyond in their jobs.
- Expand our business opportunities beyond just gaming. With the changing environment, we should be investing in solar, wind energy

(manufacturing and installation), recycling, manufacturing medical supplies, hemp production, etc.

- Establish an agricultural program to provide job and learning opportunities for our youth, as well as sustenance and food security for our members.
- Establish an outreach and assistance program for our veterans.
- Push for Board term limits at two, four-year terms.
- Making recycling available

on the tribal reservation. A \$7000 trailer could provide a convenient drop off location for our members. Our own recycling facility should be a part of our long-term vision.

- Give our tribe a greater sense of unity by pushing our tribal government and businesses to be more transparent. An informed membership is necessary to cultivate a sustainable, attainable vision of our tribe.

I will be a strong representative of our cultural and spiritual values on the Board. I believe our traditions should be part of leadership. I bring a culture perspective that teaches us the seven grandfathers – respect, love, truth, wisdom, humility, honesty and courage. I try every day to live according to these standards with my family and community. To that end, I pledge to donate 30% of my salary to a foundation established to benefit our tribal youth and elders.

Miigwech for taking the time to read my article.

Endorsed by Bernard "Bud" Biron



# UNITY 25 Under 25 leaders named

**Sault Tribe member Shayla French among those honored**

MESA, Ariz. — On May 1, the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) named the fourth class of its 25 Under 25 Native Youth Leaders national recognition program honoring American Indian and Alaskan Native youth.

Every other year since 2014, the program recognizes and celebrates the achievements of 25 outstanding Native youth leaders under age 25 who exemplify UNITY's mission and exudes living a balanced life developing their spiritual, mental, physical and social well-being.

“Our Native youth are doing wonderful work in Indian Country. UNITY's 25 Under 25 program is just one way of recognizing these young leaders and acknowledging the passion they have to better their communities. There was an amazing response from outstanding youth applicants

across the nation. A big congrats to the honorees and we wish nothing but the best to all nominees,” said Mary Kim Titla, executive director for UNITY.

Normally, honorees are recognized at UNITY's national conference, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, the conference was cancelled. However, a virtual conference is now planned along with a 25 Under 25 recognition event. In addition to the recognition, honorees will have an opportunity over the next nine months to experience training and networking that will support their work and endeavors.

The 2020 class of 25 under 25 Native Youth Leaders ranged in age from 16 to 24 from across the nation, mostly the southwest. Shalya French, 19, of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is among them.

Applicants were judged by an independent committee who scored applications based on the strength of the application, nomination form, resume, supplemental information and potential to impact Native America.

Founded in 1976, UNITY is a national network promoting personal development, citizenship and leadership among Native youth. Its mission is to foster the well rounded development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth aged 14-24, and to help build a strong, unified and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement. UNITY's network currently includes 320 affiliated youth councils in 36 states. Youth councils are sponsored by tribes, Alaska Native villages, high schools, colleges, urban centers and others.



The United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) named Sault Tribe member Shayla French as one of the honorees in the 2020 class of the UNITY 25 Under 25 Youth Leaders national recognition program.

# DOL offers best practices to federal contractors recruiting American Indians

By RICK SMITH

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) recently highlighted suggestions outlining best practices for federal contractors to follow to foster American Indians into their employment rosters. The DOL Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and its Indian and Native American Employment Rights Program listed 15 measures for federal contractors could practice in for successful recruiting Native Americans.

While many American Indian tribes have Indian preference poli-

cies in place for hiring employees, it is not widely known, according to the suggestions, “it is not a violation of the equal employment opportunity clause if a federal contractor maintains a publicly announced Indian employment preference if it is working on or near an Indian reservation. “ In fact, according to the DOL, an Indian preference policy is one of the best practices for attracting Indians.

Working, networking and developing long-lasting relationships with federal services, tribes, tribal organizations, tribal colleges

and universities were among other highlighted measures.

The suggestions were posted at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/compliance-assistance/outreach/indians-native-americans/best-practices> along with a listing of a dozen links to related resources such as federal departments and agencies along with American Indian organizations and institutions.

The posted document stipulated the contents are not binding to the public in any way and do not have the force and effect of law, it is only intended to provide ideas to

help federal contractors to meet equal opportunity employment obligations.

The document can be seen in

full at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/compliance-assistance/outreach/indians-native-americans/best-practices>.

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*Vote Unit 1 ~ Sault Tribe Board of Directors*

Endorsed by Betty "Krull" Freiheit

# BETTY FREIHEIT

*From the Heart ~ Thank You For Your Support in the Primary!*

*Some forget where they came from. As long as we have Members in need, our work is not done. I support inviting tribal voters to make major decisions via referendum like Board Salaries & Term Limits. I am tough but I love our people and care deeply about our Elders, Our Youth and Our Workers. I can help but I need your vote.*

*I humbly ask for your support and vote. ~ Betty Freiheit*

### Our People's Platform:

- Real Separation of Powers
- Increased Elder Funds
- Protection of our Treaty Rights
- Funeral Home & Cremation Services
- Improved Education & Job Training
- Board & Chair Salary Voted on by You
- Referendum Votes on Key Issues
- Term Limits Voted on by Referendum
- Tribal Code of Ethics ~ No Conflicts
- Tribal Labor Laws to Protect Employees
- New Employee's Appeals Board
- Sound Economic Diversification
- Random Drug Testing for Tribal Board
- Employment Policies Apply to the Board
- Monthly Unit Meetings Lead by Members

# I Have Hit the Ground Running to Earn Your Vote!

I retired from the State of MI a few years ago as a corrections officer. Having worked several years in the Sault, Hessel & St. Ignace Kewadin Casinos, I have long fought to protect our tribal employees' rights and was the first lay advocate in tribal court. I have fought for you for over 25 years & improved tribal members' lives. I know I can be even more effective in advocating for you at the Board table.



I've hit the ground running. In just a few months I have already testified in DC on behalf of victims of crime. With his seat as the 1st Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians, Chairperson Payment has created political access at the highest levels. I intend to join him in fighting for our people at the National level. We need to work as a team to benefit our people. I will work hard for you at all levels if you grant me the honor of doing so by voting for me.

**I have already introduced resolutions to set Term Limits & Board Pay. I will continue to fight for you.**

**I have stood up for your rights and won because it is the right thing to do!**

Endorsed by Betty Freiheit.

# Hoffman receives regional Teacher of the Year honor

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Michigan Department of Education named JKL Bahweting Anishnabe School second grade teacher Tan-A Hoffman a 2020-21 Region 1 Teacher of the Year. Ten Michigan teachers received an unexpected surprise when they learned from their school districts they were chosen for the honor.

Region 1 covers the entire Upper Peninsula, including all schools in the counties of Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon and Schoolcraft.

The honors were presented as part of the kickoff to May's Teacher Appreciation Week/Month.

State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice said, "Michigan's teachers deserve our thanks and praise for their hard work with our state's more than 1.5 million schoolchildren, not just during Teacher Appreciation Week or Month, but every day. Especially in these unprecedented times, it's important that we come together across the state as one community and continue to lift up our teachers and our entire education workforce. I am exceptionally proud of these 10 educators who have earned this honor and look forward to working with each of them in the coming school year to continue our progress in Michigan."



Tan-A Hoffman

Honorees were chosen for their dedication, commitment and service from more than 400 nominations from students, staff and community members across Michigan. The nominees were then invited to participate in a competitive application process, through which the 10 finalists were selected.

The 10 regional teachers of the year comprise the Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council, which works with the MDE to provide input on proposed policies and initiatives, and to share information and resources with colleagues in the respective regions. Each of the 10 teachers selected will now interview with a panel of education stakeholders, and one will be selected as the Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY). The MTOY will have a seat at

the State Board of Education's monthly meetings as a non-voting member, and will attend several conferences with Teachers of the Year from other states, and as Michigan's candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

Hoffman has many distinguished accomplishments as an educator. She said, "I am very humbled to receive this honor. It wouldn't have been possible without my family and the amazing teachers and students within my school. JKL Bahweting Anishnabe PSA is a great place for students and teachers to grow and develop into becoming the best that they can be. As a national board-certified teacher and board member of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, I am proud to say that I am a part of this wonderful learning community."

Hoffman has been teaching for over 19 years in the U.P. as an elementary Reading Recovery® teacher and grade level educator. She sits on several school committees, including MTSS-A Literacy, School Improvement and is the president of the Sault Area Schools Indian Education Parent Committee. She also enjoys providing professional development opportunities around literacy. In 2018, Hoffman became a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) in the area of early and middle childhood literacy:

reading-language arts and was elected to the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. She is the media chair for the Michigan NBCT Network and co-founder of the Bureau of Indian Education National Board Certified Teacher Network. With her passion for Native American education, Hoffman is involved with the Teach to Lead project, with the goal to increase the number of NBCTs educating

Native American students and empowering Native American communities.

Her certifications and endorsements include elementary education (K-5 all subjects, K-8 self-contained); English (6-8); history (6-8); national board certification. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education and a Master of Arts in curriculum and instruction, both from Lake Superior State University.

## Tribe offers new internship program

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is now accepting applications for the 2020 Sault Tribe Internship Program. The Sault Tribe Internship Program is intended to provide Sault Tribe members who are college students with opportunities to learn more about the Sault Tribe and gain practical experience in their chosen fields of study.

Possible areas of placement include Communications, Cultural, Education, Fiscal Services, Fisheries, Health Housing, Judicial Services, Kewadin Casinos, Law Enforcement, MIS, Purchasing, Recreation, Social Services, Tribal Administration and Tribal Enterprises.

The 2020 Sault Tribe Internship Program is an eight-week experience, beginning on Monday, June 15, and concluding on Friday, Aug. 8. If your

academic schedule conflicts with these dates, alternate arrangements may be made, although this is not guaranteed. This must be noted on your application.

Interns will earn \$12.50 per hour for 40 hours worked per week.

The deadline to apply is Friday, May 29.







Applications are available at saulttribe.com under Education. To request an application or for questions regarding the 2020 Sault Tribe Internship Program, please contact Brenda Cadreau, Education Division, by telephone at (906) 635-4767 or by email at bcadreau@saulttribe.net.

We are hopeful in this uncertain time, that this program will run as scheduled. However, applicants will be kept up to date if changes are required.

# vote Austin Lowes

Sault Tribe Unit 1

### What we can accomplish

-  Board of Directors' and Chairperson's salary decided by the members via referendum vote
-  Allow Sault Tribe Voters to decide term limits for the board of directors and chairperson
-  Abolish board of directors and chairpersons pension. Employees don't receive it, neither should they.
-  Achieve self sustainability and execute sound economic investments to diversify our business portfolio.
-  Strengthen our elders' and youth services. The elders are our foundation and the youth is our future.
-  Make the health and safety of our employees our number one priority during the COVID-19 breakout.
-  Strengthen our treaty rights and use our resources to promote and rally for stronger environmental protection.

## Aim for Change

What I offer voters is something new. I have never been a candidate before, and I have fresh ideas that will move the tribe forward. People always complain about the tribe's lack of change; however, they refuse to elect anyone new. They select the same incumbents due to friendships and family connections, which causes little progress to be made. According to Einstein, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting different results. Aim for change and expect better.



Austin Lowes, MSW  
***I am humbled and honored by your continued support. Together we can Aim for Change and move our tribe forward.***

This ad is endorsed by Austin Lowes.

## Jacob earns doctorate at GMU

Sault Tribe member Melissa Beard Jacob recently completed her doctorate in cultural studies from George Mason University. Her dissertation, titled *Reclaiming My Family's Story: Cultural Trauma and Indigenous Ways of Knowing* focused on her grandmother's (Phyllis Cassibo Schmidt) and great-grandmother's (Charlotte Cadreau Cassibo) experiences while attending the Holy Childhood School of Jesus and the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School and its intergenerational effects on the familial narrative and sense of identity. Melissa's great-aunt, Sault Tribe elder Barbara (Cassibo) Curtis, was also interviewed and featured in the

dissertation.

Melissa also holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University and a master's degree in film studies from Wayne State University. She currently works at The Ohio State University as an intercultural specialist for Native American student initiatives in the Student Life Multicultural Center.

Melissa is the daughter of Corrina (Schmidt) Huffman of Traverse City and Dan Beard of Cheboygan.



## Youth Education and Activities continue services

BY KAYLYNN CAIRNS,  
SAULT TRIBE YEA MANAGER

**Staying connected** — Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities (YEA) staff connects with our students on a weekly basis, as least. Many of our students are requesting tutoring services to help with the new virtual learning, but we also check in on their wellbeing and determine if they have needs we can meet.

Many locations have started pen pal circles to keep students connected with their friends and YEA staff. It's a great way to help them take a break from technology and anticipate the response. Many are using it to voice their frustrations and concerns with the current restrictions that are so unfamiliar. Our staff loves our YEA kids and we miss them greatly.

We are also teaching them to think about others during this trying time. Elders are a big concern during this time of isolation. We are sending cards and "I'm missing you" to all of them. Our students in many locations volunteer at different places or visit elderly homes for craft or game nights. The students and seniors look forward to these visits. We are sad to see them postponed and can't wait to resume our visits.

Sometimes while we deliver kits and meals to those families in need, our staff stops with a sign just to ensure the students know how much we miss them.

**Education and culture kits** — Every YEA site has been providing educational, cultural and/or activity kits for our students.

They all look a little different depending on children's ages and interests. Rudyard and Kinross YEA must continue to provide educational assignments for their high school Native education class with the help of the teacher and the Title VI program. Students receive credits for the class and are required to pass it for their year-end grades. Other sites are just working to provide at home activities for students and families to connect during this difficult time.

**Masks** — Everyone is in need of masks after this month's CDC recommendation that everyone wears a mask when leaving their home. Our staff is blessed to have some amazing seamstresses who have been making amazing regalia for our students. Donations from our staff of their time and supplies along with help from businesses and community organizations have enabled the creation and donation of roughly 2,000 masks. These masks have gone to first responders, tribal and non-tribal medication facilities, local businesses that have stayed open and to our amazing families and kids who needed the personal protection equipment. Many of the coordinators have even received requests from different groups that have heard of their hard work including fire departments, elders groups and our YEA staff who are less sewing inclined. We are hopeful, with the hard work of our staff, we will be able to have masks for our YEA staff and students who are able to return to the office. The safety of

our children is always a number one priority and we are dedicated to see our children thrive even in times of uncertainty.

**Food distributions** — Our schools and local organizations have taken on the burden to ensure our students are still getting healthful meals while at home. YEA staff helps as much as we can with the bagging and delivery of these meals. Whether helping the school or the Feed America food distributions, we know food is a concern for a number of the student we regularly serve. It is another reason we are staying connected with our students and families to ensure they have what they need. We are connecting families with community events, picking up food when needed and providing no contact delivery.

**Senior spotlights** — To highlight our graduating students, we are creating senior spotlights for any YEA and Native American youth graduating this spring. We will post spotlights on our Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities page to highlight this amazing accomplishment. We want our seniors to get the great recognition they deserve during this exciting time. If you are a recent graduate or know of one, please send a recent/senior photo and information about your future plans, interests, and favorite activities to Kaylyn Cairns, YEA manager, at KCairns2@saulttribe.net to be featured.

**YEA manager notes** — As the YEA manager, I could not be  
*See "YEA," page 18*

## Schmidt graduates from CAHS with honors, headed to MTU

Fred Schmidt is proud to announce the graduation of his son, Griffin F. Schmidt, from Cheboygan Area High School. Schmidt received academic letters all four years of high school, he participated in student council for two years, was a chief ambassador for four years, National Honor Society for two years and captain of the football team in his senior year. Along with his academic achievements, Schmidt was a youth mentor helping coach flag football while encouraging the importance of academics. Schmidt has received the Presidential Gold Scholarship



and will be attending Michigan Technological University in fall 2020 to pursue a degree in chemical engineering.

Schmidt is a current tribal member and the grandson of past Sault Tribe elder, Phyllis (nee Cassibo) Schmidt.

# VOTE

# DJ MALLOY

## Sault Tribe Unit I



Please contact  
Djmalloy4unit1@gmail.com  
with your questions.

### Proven governance and business experience; no training required.

The experience I've gained in life, education, business and government, has allowed me to develop strong skills in leadership, communication, policy development, financial/budget planning and management, community service, and a passion for our people. I've spent my life standing up for others, always striving toward fairness and balance. Now I am asking you to allow me to serve in such a way that I can make a difference for you and your family.

### Goals & Priorities

- Staunch defense of our treaty rights
- Protection of our land and waters
- Business expansion beyond gaming
- Expanding medical services
- Rural tribal programs / services
- Youth Programming
- Constitutional reforms
- Employee rights - Fair wages & Tribal Labor Law
- Amend Election Code to conform with the constitution
- Promote our culture and language
- Assert our sovereignty



Endorsed by DJ Malloy.

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# Tribal member Eran Mikolowski deployed to help South Michigan Food Bank through end of June

**BY BRENDA AUSTIN**  
Senior Airman Eran Menard Mikolowski joined the U.S. Air Force in Dec. 2013 and served four years active duty, including a deployment to the United Arab Emirates from April to Nov. 2017. She joined the Air National Guard two-and-a-half years ago and received orders in April for her first state deployment.  
SrA Mikolowski is currently in Battle Creek, Mich., through the end of June working with the Feeding America South Michigan Food Bank providing boxed and bagged food for families in eight different counties. She said, "I have seen so many grateful

people who are in need of food for their family. I'm proud that I have a hand in helping provide support to people in need. I don't know what's coming next but, whatever it is, I'll be doing my best to provide service," she said.  
SrA Mikolowski said one of her more memorable encounters was with a gentleman who lives alone and was isolated for weeks. "He decided to volunteer at the food bank to help and get out of the house. I could tell he was really wanting human interaction. Just thinking about all the people who live alone and are isolated from the world because

of all this, that's something that brings tears to my eyes. We can't forget the people who are isolated and live alone. They're suffering in a different way. I have encountered many people who have been laid off and can't afford the basic needs to support their families. That also a hardship in itself," she said.  
SrA Mikolowski is married to Nicholas Mikolowski, who has been taking care of their three dogs and two cats while she is deployed. The couple are from Sugar Island, where Eran grew up racing barrel horses and raising, training and running sled dogs.



SrA Eran Mikolowski is helping Feeding America South Michigan Food Bank in Battle Creek, where she has been deployed in the Michigan Air National Guard.



Photos by Trace Christenson/Battle Creek Enquirer

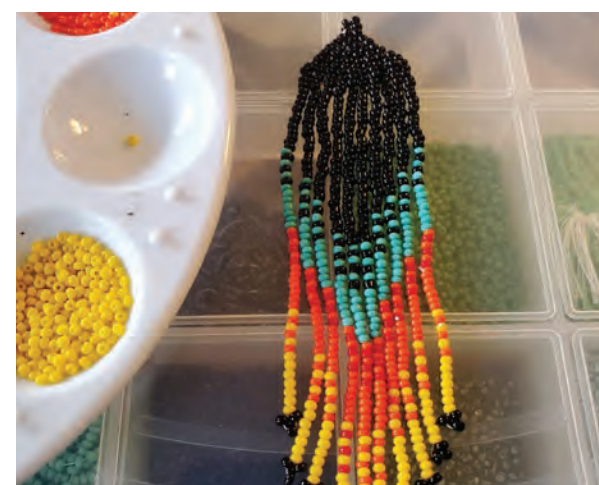
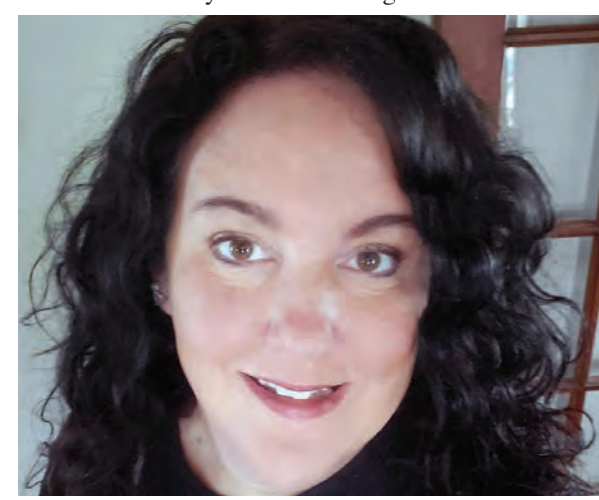


# Educator turns passion into professional hobby

FROM HAMMERED COPPER AND SILVER TO UNIQUE BEADS, BLUEBERRY MOON STUDIOS OFFERS ONE-OF-A-KIND FINDS

**BY BRENDA AUSTIN**  
The name Carolyn means "free" and "strong," and as the director of curriculum and instruction and federal, state and school programs at JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy, Carolyn Dale, Ph.D., exemplifies those meanings both in her professional role as an educator, and in her passion for jewelry making. She began making traditional Anishnabe jewelry in her early 20s as a way to connect with her Native heritage.  
Her aunt, Barbara Dietz, taught her how to make a simple daisy chain and she enjoyed her time with her aunt so much they began meeting weekly for an afternoon of jewelry making. "We heard about a master/apprenticeship program through Michigan State University and applied for and received the grant. In exchange for jewelry making materials, supplies and tools, we both had to produce a master level piece for a traveling display within a year's time," she said. Dale used glass seed beads to make a large traditional Anishnabe floral necklace with matching earrings. Her "post 80s shiny look" creations are housed in the MSU archives and are occasionally still put on display there. She said, "Aunt Barb and my mother were always beading, and they would do it after church with Jane Homminga, so it wasn't unfamiliar to me. Aunt Barb would take things apart and really learn the craft, and they did it regularly."  
Dale converted the second level of her home into an office/studio space where she spends time creating her jewelry. She loves unique color combinations and prefers bright bold colors over paler pastel ones. Some of her influences include Moroccan and African jewelry. "I like picking up a piece of jewelry and being creative with it," she said. "I was watching Star Trek the other day and noticed Uhura had some nice earrings on. I can't make them exactly like the one's she had on, but it would be fun to see what I can come up with. I am a perfectionist and make unique one of a kind pieces," she said.  
It can take her 15 minutes to 5 hours or more to create a piece. "My inspirations come from the shapes, images, things and people I see in the world.

Once I make something, I might reimagine the design 10 times without even realizing it. I think life is all about innovation in one way or another," she said.  
Dale loves metalworking and in addition to hammering copper and silver for her creations, she also hammers her own copper and silver findings, including ear hooks and jump rings. She taught herself how to hammer and pickle metals and manipulate them by watching videos on YouTube.  
In addition to using metals and glass, she also enjoys wire wrapping natural rocks, precious stones that she buys already polished, and drift wood. She has cut and painted sheet metals, and used bone, feathers and unique beads in her work. "Applique is fun too," she said. "Sometimes people ask me for help with their regalia, and I have done that kind of traditional work." She also does macramé, leatherworking, non-traditional beadwork and anything else that strikes her fancy.  
She shares her passion for her craft with students at school by hosting jewelry making events where she teaches beading skills. She said she is happy to sell her items and make just enough to purchase supplies to make more. "Jewelry-making is a great stress reliever. After a 12-hour day at school, I love to come home, eat and make jewelry. I enjoy sharing my jewelry with others and sell it at prices that people can afford. I struggle with making jewelry-to-order, because it isn't as therapeutic for me, but will do it occasionally," she said.  
"I was scheduled to teach jewelry making to gifted students at Purdue University this summer, but the program was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I miss the kids [at school] so much that my creativity has suffered greatly," Dale said.  
Her jewelry can be found locally at Field and Forage, located next to H&R Block in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, and on the online sellers' site, Etsy, at blueberrymoonstudios.com. She also sells at a variety of craft shows around the area.  
Those who want more information or have questions related to making jewelry can reach her by email at blueberrymoonstudios@gmail.com.



# Social Distance Powwow connecting people

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Powwow season has come to Indian Country. Under normal circumstances it would be time to air out your regalia, start practicing your dance moves and packing up your crafts to sell. COVID-19 has changed all that. Native American and First Nations communities across North America are facing social distancing in its full force with the cancellation of many powwows.

These events are more than dancing and singing; they are a celebration of life, greeting friends and family, and offering prayers and blessings. The cancellation of powwows means many vendors and powwow coordinators face a lack of income for the year.

To help combat this, Dan Simonds (Mashantucket Pequot) came up with the idea of an online powwow, a cyber celebration. And on March 16, Dan founded the Social Distance Powwow (SDP) on Facebook, with Whitney Rencountre (Crow Creek Sioux (Dakota)) and Stephanie Hebert (Mi'kmaq) volunteering to help with the event. The powwow can also be followed on Instagram.

By the time the first grand entry began at 1 p.m. on March 21, almost 58,000 followers had joined the virtual powwow. By the third weekend, there were over 135,000, Hebert said. Hundreds of dancers sent in videos, vendors were selling their wares and singers were sending in their songs. Something magical was happening.

Rencountre began hosting well-known guests from across Indian Country as he emceed the weekend powwows; and members of the powwow community began hosting specials to honor dancers. Official merchandise, including T-shirts and coffee mugs are sold to commemorate the event.

The powwow now has over 185,000 followers and active participants from across the globe.

With their vendors in mind, the Social Distance Powwow Marketplace was then launched on March 30, providing a world-class shopping experience for those looking to purchase from Native American crafters and small businesses.

The group has grown to include themed weeks full of information from tribal communities across North America. Topics covered so far include traditional foods,



Founder of the Social Distance Powwow Dan Simonds, and co-founders Whitney Rencountre and Stephanie Hebert.



storytelling and tours of artisan's studio spaces.

Formal powwow programming is announced weekly and will continue through these challenging times.

Co-founder of the SDP, Stephanie Hebert is a graduate of Northland College in Ashland, Wis., and has many friends and fond memories from time spent in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Hebert said she has known Dan Simonds for several years, trading beadwork and art with him from time to time. "Dan created the group as a way to help try to salvage the powwow season for dancers, drummers and vendors. I asked him if he would like a hand with the page, which at the time had 25 members, and he brought me on board to help out," she said. "Dan knew Whitney as an MC from the powwow circuit, and asked him to be the MC for Social Distance Powwow, and he agreed. It was only at that time did I meet Whitney, but we have become good friends through the powwow, and I would consider them my brothers."

Hebert said, "Now that we are over 185,000 strong, it's a lot of work to keep up content as well as events for the powwow. Whitney does a fantastic job finding guests and facilitating events on the page, and Dan and I do our best to help

facilitate as well, and host specials for dancers and singers. We have been overwhelmed with positive feedback from the community at all levels. Vendors have been reporting sales, and that the SDP vendor page has helped keep a roof over their heads. We have had spectators say they had no idea Native American people were still around, and it has become a tremendous learning opportunity for folks from all over the world! But for me, the strongest feedback is from our elders. They have taken time to say that they have not been able to go to a powwow for years due to being housebound or unable to travel long distances or off the reservation and they are excited to be able to experience a powwow again."

Simonds, Rencountre and Hebert were casual, typical users of social media prior to launching the SDP. Simonds and Hebert also had experience promoting their crafting businesses online. "Dan's initial motivation for creating SDP came from several places," Hebert said. "The first is that he saw his community hurting. Native people thrive and depend on social connections and gatherings for many reasons, and to lose those nearly overnight was very traumatic for many members of the Native community. We know that dancing and singing is a great



Alexia "Lexi" Hall-Pine, 12, attempted some outdoor dancing but it was so cold and windy they moved indoors for the video taping.

way to keep tradition alive, bring people together and to generally lift up spirits in hard times. Also, as a vendor, Dan saw many vendors and artisans struggling. Many vendors and some dancers travel the powwow trail across North America and depend on it for their main source of yearly income. He wanted to give those vendors a place to sell their wares to try and make up some of that financial loss."

Hebert said she is humbled to help bring the powwow to their community and, ultimately, the world. "The content of the SDP is driven by our community - whether it's live segments on the weekends or just uploading a short video of a dance, story or a song. SDP hopes to continue to make powwow accessible for folks who cannot physically attend, and we do hope to be able to have an "in-person" powwow once the virus has passed and really bring the people back together again.

Alexia "Lexi" Hall-Pine, 12, is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Sault resident, and was a participant in the SDP. She said, "I participated because I love to dance and I loved the songs they chose, but I was feeling really down that morning and afternoon and I was planning on not doing it. But then I thought 'how hard could it be,' and I forced myself out of bed, and got my stuff on. I'm glad I did it because it felt great and I feel better than ever."

Her mother, artist and Sault Tribe member Debra-Ann Pine, asked what it's been like for her since the pandemic hit, and how it's impacted her plans for the summer. "Her answer surprised me," Pine said.

Lexi told her mom, "All I was planning on doing this summer was practice dancing and going to powwows and traveling on the powwow trail and making new friends. The pandemic definitely ruined those plans big time, but hoping they find a vaccine before summer is over. But life in general is stress free and I'm doing just fine most of the times, but like anyone else I miss a lot of things. School was getting very stressful and hard, and the pandemic gave me a break to revive.

Pine said one of the wonderful things about the SDP is dancers have been sharing their environments: homes, mountains, sunsets, beautiful rivers or lakes they live by. "The day for Lexi's category was so cold and windy, we tried taping her outside but it was so miserable and she couldn't hear the drum, so we decided the living room would be better."

To follow the SDP, or see what vendors have to offer, visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/socialdistancepowwow> and on Instagram at: @SocialDistancePowwow.

SDP Co-Founder Stephanie Hebert can be contacted at: [stephmuise91@gmail.com](mailto:stephmuise91@gmail.com).

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# Walking on . . .



## BRUCE BURLING

Bruce Burling, 64, passed away suddenly in Sault Sainte Marie, Mich. He was born in Gallipolis, Ohio, on April 5, 1956, to Bruce and Mary (Andress) Burling. He grew up in Toledo, Ohio, attending Start High School. He later worked at Zyndorf's Bakery as a baker's assistant.

Bruce is survived by four siblings. Ron (Sherry) Burling of Gallipolis, Ohio, Lon (Constance) Burling of Luckey, Ohio, Sue (Tom) Cook of Harlingen, Texas, and Carl (Margaret) Burling of Sterling Heights, Mich.; assorted nieces and nephews including many greats across the country; a special friend, Nancy; and his beloved service dog, Big Red.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Bruce was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and First Church of Christ. He counseled and mentored many people and leaves behind a multitude of friends across the U.P.

Cremation will be provided by C. S. Mulder Funeral Home and once the stay-at-home period ends, a memorial service will be planned at his church. Please

consider a memorial donation on his gofundme page or the First Church of Christ.

Gofundme Memorial page is at <https://www.gofundme.com/withdraw/bruce-burling-memorial-fund/start>.

## WILLIAM D. KILLIPS

William "Billy" David Killips, 34, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on May 3, 2020, at War Memorial Hospital. He was born on Nov. 18, 1985, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Frank and Lisa (Sparks) Killips Jr.



Billy graduated with the Sault High Class of 2004, and was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Billy enjoyed movies, online gaming and he loved kids. He loved spending time with his nieces and nephews and being with his friends. He particularly enjoyed "Sunday Fun Days," and was a very giving man. Pizza was his favorite food.

It's hard to sum up the life of a person as incredible as Billy Killips in a few short paragraphs. Billy loved hanging out with his good friends and spending time with his family. He worked at Pure Country Restaurant and was loved by all his coworkers and friends. Anyone who knew him was always rewarded with a friendly smile or a funny comment. He had a positive attitude

that was often envied and he always thought of others first. He was hard working, selfless, honorable, hilarious and kind. He will be greatly missed by everyone who was lucky enough to know him and will be remembered and bestowed in all of our hearts forever.

Billy is survived by his parents, Frank and Lisa Killips Jr.; his fiancée, Krystal Willis and her boys, Tanner and Tatum, all of Sault Ste. Marie; his brothers, Frank J. Killips III and Jesse J. Killips, both of Sault Ste. Marie; a grandfather, John Sparks of Sault Ste. Marie; a grandmother, Charlene Johnson of Clare, Mich.; and seven nieces and nephews, Zach, Amanda, Logan, Kaleb, Frankie IV, Adalie and Donovan.

Billy was preceded in death by a grandmother, Isabelle (Martin) Sparks; and a grandfather, Frank Killips, Sr.

A memorial service will take place at a later time, date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to help with funeral expenses.

Arrangements are in the care of C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

## FREDERICK L. MASTAW

Jan. 29, 1940 - April 23, 2020. In the morning of April 23, 2020, Frederick Leon Mastaw of Roanoke County, Va., made his journey home surrounded by his wife and family.

Frederick was a loving and

devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He was an elder in the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians where Frederick's given name was Bii Bii Dawegazige. He was a member of Woodlawn United Methodist Church in Roanoke where he loved serving his church and church family whom he loved very much.

Frederick was a Vietnam veteran and proudly served his country while in the United States Air Force. He continued to serve others in his role as a volunteer in the Riverside California Fire and Rescue Squad. Frederick retired from Norfolk Western Railroad where he was a conductor on the Norfolk division. He had many hobbies including caring for wildlife, bird watching, antiques, yard sales and he had a vast love of music.

Frederick was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Gertrude Mastaw; sisters, Betty Mastaw and Patsy Rolph; mother and father-in-law, Raymond and June St.Clair; and sister-in-law, Debra St.Clair Zue.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Judy St.Clair Mastaw; his children and grandchildren, Julie Mastaw Dillon and husband, James, Quynlyn Mastaw-Leonard and husband, Ryan, Nathaniel Thomas Dillon, Lexi Ranae Leonard,



and Emmalyn Faith Leonard; devoted sister and brother-in-law, Linda S. and Kenneth Hogan; nephew, Shawn Gailey; numerous other nieces and nephews; sisters, Cheryl Mikulecky and Ruth Clingan; brothers, Raymond Mastaw, Thomas Mastaw and Perry Mastaw; his devoted friend, Timothy Blackburn and wife, Gloria; and devoted pets, Bentley and Isabelle.

Due to the restrictions, a private family graveside service will be conducted at Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Roanoke, Va., with Pastor John Snyder officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Woodlawn United Methodist Church, 2825-A Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24015. Online condolences may be shared with the family by visiting [www.oakeys.com](http://www.oakeys.com).

Frederick never met a stranger and was always lending a helping hand to others. His hugs will be missed by many.

## KAYLA A. MCDONALD

Kayla Anne McDonald came into this world on Jan. 5, 1999, blessing the world with her gentle contagious smile. On April 24, 2020, at the young age of 21, she smiled her last smile on earth and now smiles in Heaven.

Kayla "Kayla Bear" and "Bunns" is survived by her  
See "Walking on," page 24



## Vote ISAAC McKechnie Unit 1

Our tribe is at a crossroads and we must work together. I pledge to engage our tribal community to help leadership develop plans that will ensure its prosperity. Your voice counts and it needs to be heard.

- Protect Elder Fund
- Increase Dividends
- Honor Our Elders

Increase Elder Benefits

- Individual Education Plans from PreK through College
- Career Path Mentor Program from middle school to college
- Increase Scholarship Opportunities

Enhance Education Benefits

Expand Health Services

- Expand prescription benefits to members outside service areas
- Increase TeleMed Services

Talent & Economic Development

- Market Wages
- Appropriate Retirement Contributions
- Fair Hiring Practices
- Business Diversification
- Protect Fishing and Treaty Rights

Government

Term Limits

Constitution Updates

Action

Board Salary & Retirement Caps

Member Engagement

Contact ISAAC

906-440-6661 or email [iamckechnie@yahoo.com](mailto:iamckechnie@yahoo.com)



# Youth Education and Activities continue services

From "YEA," page 12

more proud of my staff. They are working very hard to provide a continued level of service for our students and families. Although the program may look different than normal, our families still know we are here to help with their needs and help their students succeed. YEA serves a large number of schools and families across the seven-county service area. We are working with supplies we have, many from a recent tribal Education Department grant, which has given us a number of craft and material supplies to expand our resources and offerings of the program. We are sharing activities for our students with common household materials on our Facebook page, *Sault Tribe Youth Education & Activities*, visit it for ideas on things to keep you or your children busy. We also share lessons from our Traditional Medicine Program and the Language and Culture Department. We are also highlighting other state and community organizations that provide on-line lessons or events to help with food or resource distribution.



YEA coordinator Kelly Constantino at a Feeding America food distribution in Escanaba.



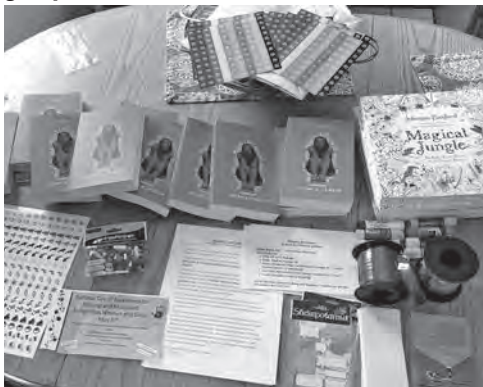
Some of the cards that were sent to elder groups and facilities.



Examples of some of the kits that have been distributed.



Hessel YEA assistant Kara Windsor, tutor Kristi Goodell and WIOA student worker Josh Salvador make activity kits.



Rudyard/Kinross YEA created literary circle materials for students in Native education classes and tribal youth councils.



Some of masks YEA staff made and delivered to those in need.



Janet Krueger, Manistique YEA coordinator, delivers goodies to students with a home-made "we miss you" sign.

Recent graduates, send in your photos! Win Awenen Nisitotung encourages tribal members to send in graduation photos for the next issue. Please email a photo, with a name, hometown, school name, what diploma or degree the graduate earned and any honors. Please email to [jdale-burton@saulttribe.net](mailto:jdale-burton@saulttribe.net). Let's see how many we can get! Miigwech!

## Re-Elect Michael McKerchie Sault Tribe Board of Directors Unit 1

Thank you for all your support throughout the election process. I am grateful and humbled by it. I respectfully ask for your vote once again. As your current Unit 1 Representative, I've helped steer our tribe into growing our services, diversifying our economy (several new businesses), and bring back much deserved employee benefits. With your continued support we can accomplish more in the next four years. I will continue to work with the Tribal membership, community members, local, state and federal agencies, and the Board of Directors to continue our Tribe's success. During challenging times its important to have experienced leadership, I can help our Tribe continue to flourish. For respectful, responsible leadership, Vote McKerchie.

Miigwetch

**EXPERIENCED  
INVOLVED  
DEDICATED**



**MOVING OUR TRIBE FORWARD TOGETHER  
AS ALWAYS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT :  
(906) 630-1954  
VOTEMCKERCHIE@GMAIL.COM  
FACEBOOK.COM/VOTEMCKERCHIE**

# Vote McKerchie

Endorsed by Mike McKerchie

# Traditional Medicine Program open in Sault for emergency needs, phone consultations

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program is working to balance the safety of staff and membership needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are open in the Sault clinic for emergency needs and available to the membership via phone consultations.

The following are some answers posed to Traditional Medicine Program Supervisor Laura Collins-Downwind, MSA-health administration, by *Win Awenen Nisitotung* (WAN).

**WAN:** How have services changed since the pandemic?

**Downwind:** “The Traditional Medicine Program has been trying to assist the membership and surrounding community in any way we can during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have had to put the services on hold to the other counties due to the risk of exposure for the staff and for the clients but are trying to reach out and meet the needs of all membership through phone consultation and medicine refills and drop offs.”

**WAN:** Are traditional healers seeing patients in person?

**Downwind:** “We have had to keep the Traditional Medicine Program to seeing emergency/walk-in clients for services in the Sault Ste. Marie health center.”

**WAN:** How are ceremonies being performed now?

**Downwind:** “We have been using BlueJean to put out teachings and working with other health departments to send out information through Facebook. We are allowed to hold sweat lodges with only a limited number of people in attendance to follow the social distancing guidelines and wearing our masks for safety.

We had to cancel our annual spring fasting ceremonies which was very sad, due to the health and wellbeing of everyone involved. We have been sending cedar and pine out to people who request it for steams for their homes to help with the lungs and immunity. We are trying to be there for the spiritual support that is needed by many throughout this time. The fear of the unknown is very real and we always want to have the membership know that we will assist them in any way we are able to.”

**WAN:** Are staff working from home?

**Downwind:** “We have a limited number of staff in the office each day and others have been out in the woods gathering and taking the time to put together some great program information.”

**WAN:** What other changes have you noticed?

**Downwind:** “This has really brought our staff back to knowing that our spiritual and cultural ways are vital to who we are, and even though we are unable to perform our duties the way we always have we are still able to help in many ways and thinking outside of the box. Traditional Medicine staff have also stepped up and worked as front-line screeners for three out of five days at the Sault Tribe Health Center. We are trying to be team players and help in any way we can

throughout this trying time.”

Starting June 1, Traditional Medicine will be working out of

the Sault Clinic only during phase one of their reopening. For an appointment, call (906) 632-0236.

Traditional Medicine hours will be the same as the Health Centers, and appointments will be from

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday; call to schedule an appointment to be seen. No walk ins.



Left, traditional healer Joe Syrette preparing the sweat lodge at the tribe's health center. Center, traditional practitioner assistant I Annette Thibert (left) and Joe Syrette. Right, Thibert (back left), Syrette and Traditional Medicine Supervisor Laura Downwind (front).

## Focusing on the Future



“Proven leadership and constant advancement and change in Unit 2. These are achievements and activities that have impacted and will continue to directly benefit the families in our unit.”

### Re-Elect Lana Causley-Smith Sault Tribe Unit 2 Board Representative

#### PAST - PRESENT

- Increased 2% distributions for all Unit 2 areas — over \$800,000 increase since tenure.
- Added Cultural gatherings — added powwows in Newberry and Rexton — existing, Hessel (28th annual). Yearly — Traditional feasts, drums and dancing socials, Pipe Ceremony, talking circles, lodge and arbor construction, led and organized educational rallies.
- Added Elder committees — three groups in our unit. Advise from and gather service need enhancement continuously.
- Increased number of meal days and durable medical supplies for Elders.
- Secured and added land base in unit (campground, Wequayoc Cemetery, addition to trust land acreage).
- Completed many projects — teaching lodge, fire keepers lodge, hiking trails, gravel pit, kitchen remodel, equipment enhancement, tax discount stations, programs and services.
- Secured three additional Youth Education and Activities (YEA) coordinators.
- Co-sponsored team member recognition/longevity and yearly COLA increases.

- Paid down debt — more than \$157 million over my tenure.
- Co-initiated summit for tribal-wide action plan (TAP) to combat substance abuse, served on TAP committee and planning team.
- Sponsored resolution to secure 160-acre site location for recovery facility and opened 9-bed recovery home.
- Co-sponsored resolution for Health best practices assessment.
- Increased scholarships, Elder workers and internships.
- Co-sponsored resolution to secure 2020 negotiations legal team and time line and serve as negotiations team alternate.
- Secured funding for DeTour/ Drummond clinic service expansion project.
- Tribally-appointed leader for National Tribal Advisory Committee (NTAC) - Behavioral Health, Bemidji Area.
- Participated in Midwest Alliance for Sovereign Tribes (MAST)
- Served as Recovery Facility Advisory Committee member.
- Supported Small Business Alliance (SBA) for tribal members, successful EDC projects and increases in enterprises — our EDC has increased three-fold

- the last few years.
- Supported online gaming and sports betting expansions (implementing stage).
- Supported ongoing land leases for new business opportunities.
- Secured additional access sites for treaty fishermen's use.
- Participated in Tribal-wide Strategic Plan through implementation.
- Advanced and promoted additional youth drum/singer youth groups.
- Pursuing Community Farmers/ Artist Markets place for members to sell goods.
- Increased scholarships and OJT training.
- Pursued communication avenues to all members in our unit and outside service areas (downstate and out-of-state ) to promote ties and encourage virtual inclusion.
- Consistently make monthly reports to our unit.

#### FUTURE

- Complete bricks and mortar full-service recovery facility.
- Aggressively continue to advance economic development opportunities, expand responsibly with no politics. (Using existing corporate charter of

- tribal members.)
- Acquire additional land for commercial use.
- Ensure ongoing team member recognition and longevity programs with responsible and sustainable increases.
- Continue enhancements to land claims funds and absolute protection of funds per our historic enacted “Elder distribution plan.”
- Continue rural area education enhancement and continuous enhancement of existing youth training employment/tribal youth programming.
- Advance and implement Health assessment — best practices.
- Seriously, advance online programming to enhance member participation outside of service area and enhance ties and services.
- Always have and will continue to support constitutional amendments to better our Tribal Nation. (Members decide.)
- Promote mandatory trust for land and projects to benefit our tribe.
- See through the 2020 Consent Decree negotiations for protection and enhancement of our sacred treaty rights way of life.
- Aggressively working toward new marketing for fish product.

Solid, factual, reliable communication and representation to help steer our members through. I have never wavered. I have and always will tell you the truth and strongly represent you as the people of a Sovereign Tribe, understanding traditional preservation, protections and advancement for Anishinaabe Families. “I humbly ask for your continued Trust and Vote in June 2020.” — *Chi Miigwech, Lana*

# Quitting nicotine as a guard against COVID-19

BY DAVID WESOLOSKI

Even though quitting commercial tobacco is hard, it is one of the most important things you can do to support your immune system and protect your overall health right now.

Because nicotine is an immunosuppressant and other cigarette smoke chemicals are immune activating, smokers tend to have compromised immune systems.

When the body is under stress, this may put a person who smokes at a higher risk for developing a lung infection and having a harder time recovering from a COVID-19 infection (U.S. surgeon general's 2014 report).

This is why our tobacco treatment specialists strongly encourage any Sault Tribe member who uses commercial tobacco to quit now.

For assistance in quitting,

the Sault Tribe's Nicotine Dependence Program offers one-on-one support over the phone and individualized quit plans. These quit plans support clients in managing withdrawal symptoms, overcoming obstacles, feeling more confident and in coping with triggers. Eligible patients will also have access to evidence-based medications and receive regular follow up support to ensure they are on track to suc-

cessfully quit.

If you or someone you know wants to quit, contact your local Sault Tribe health center to get started on your journey.

Benefits of quitting

- An improved immune system
- Food will be more flavorful
- You'll have more \$\$ in your pocket
- Your sense of smell will return
- Your breath, hair and clothes

won't smell like smoke

- Your teeth and fingernails will stop yellowing
- You'll breathe more easily
- You'll be less winded walking up stairs or doing housework
- You'll have more energy to do the things you love!

Have respect for the sacred tobacco and live Well with creation!

Mi'naa den mash semaa, mino bimaadiziwin!

# Give your immune system a boost with Giizhik'aboo

BY CHARLEE BRISSETTE

Giizhik, or cedar, is one of the four sacred medicines of the Anishinaabe people. It is believed the Creator gave us this medicine to purify and detoxify our bodies and lymphatic systems. One of the most effective ways to experience these benefits is by drinking giizhik'aboo (cedar tea), which

can repair and strengthen the immune system.

Health educator Charlee Brissette explains how to make giizhik'aboo, "It's very simple. Just add the cedar to water, boil it for five to seven minutes, remove the cedar and then drink up. Many Anishinaabe families and grandmothers would always have a pot of cedar tea on their

stove at all times of the day. That's how significant of a medicine it is.

As with any medicine, it is best to consult with your health care professional before use and for the appropriate use of our sacred medicines, speak with your traditional healer.

Giizhik tea also supports the lymphatic system's detoxify-

ing processes in purging waste collected in the lymph nodes through sweat. Another way to increase lymphatic flow is by rubbing cedar boughs over your skin when bathing.

Cedar is also often considered a women's medicine, meaning that women will gather this medicine for ceremonial purposes. Some women might

even pin cedar to their clothes to signify that they are on their moon and to respect their personal space. Additionally, it can be bathed in to remove grief and used as a protective medicine.

To learn more about giizhik, call the Traditional Medicine Program at (906) 632-5210 or check out The Creators Garden Facebook page.

## Free mental health resources for Michiganders

BY COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION STAFF

Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently announced the Stay Home, Stay Mindful website, which offers free mental health resources for all Michiganders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stay Home, Stay Mindful comes from the state's new partnership with Headspace, a leader in offering online mindfulness and meditation.

On the site, people can access guided meditations, at-home workouts, mindful exercises, sleep soundscapes and even youth content addressing stress and anxiety.

All of the content can be accessed at: [headspace.com/MI](https://www.headspace.com/MI).

# Whitmer expands telehealth options

LANSING, Mich. — Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-86 on May 14, which expands telehealth options for Michiganders by authorizing and encouraging health care providers to use these services when appropriate and after getting consent from patients. The order takes effect immediately and continues through June 10, 2020.

"Telehealth provides a way

for patients to safely consult with their doctor and receive health care services while continuing to practice social distancing and limit potential exposure to COVID-19," Governor Whitmer said. "This Executive Order ensures Michiganders who need health care during this ongoing pandemic can still receive care while staying safer at home."

Under Executive Order 2020-86, many health care services,

such as mental health care, drug treatment and home health services may be provided via telehealth. Additionally, insurance carriers must cover virtual check-ins and e-visits, to facilitate the affordability of telehealth services.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. Information is available at [Michigan.gov/](https://www.michigan.gov/) [Coronavirus and CDC.gov/](https://www.cdc.gov/) [Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/).



# Vote Kimberly Lee

SAULT TRIBE  
UNIT 2



## I Support...

- Members right to vote on board salary, term limits and other important issues
- Increased elders fund and available resources
- Revitalizing our Youth Education and Activities Programs
- Working with public officials and districts to integrate and celebrate our culture within our communities and school systems
- Increasing wages and job training opportunities within our establishments
- Fair labor and job opportunities for all employees with no room for nepotism or cronyism
- Diversified economical investments that increase revenue and strengthen our ability to achieve true self sustainability
- Increasing trade employment and internship opportunities for our youth

## Unit 2 voters

I am committed to fighting for our unit at the board table. Our unit is very spread out and home to many small communities. As your representative, I will focus on making sure that all of our Unit 2 communities are taken care of. I will work with community organizations and local governments to strengthen services for our youth, families, and elders in every community within our Unit.

Endorsed by Kimberly Lee

*I will serve with integrity, transparency and accountability*

# Community Health Staff continues to provide high quality patient care to our tribal families

BY COMMUNITY HEALTH STAFF

As our communities endured the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have been able to adapt to a new way of normal. The Sault Tribe Community Health program is no different in ensuring that our services and support continue in the office as well as in tribal members' homes.

In the office, Community Health teams of registered dietitians, diabetes nurse case coordinators, Community Health nurses and technicians as well as health educators are maintaining their connection by offering support and education through telephone appointments, along with our registered dietician clinical care for patients receiving treatment at War Memorial Hospital Dialysis unit.

As we strive to ensure the needs of our tribal members, our Community Health nurses and technicians are maintaining elders home-based care such as health monitoring, medication set ups, lab draws, injections, and insulin starts and adjustments, as well as the continued support in the deliver medications, incontinence supplies and other medical devices as needed.

Our Hessel Community Health rural office has been maintaining daily pharmacy drive-through services as well as direct patient care both in the office and home visits while overseeing COVID health screening for all staff and patients.



**CHN Roberta Hoffman heads out for a home visit**

At this time, we would like to share a few of our community health staff reflections from that support our dedication in maintaining our connection with our Tribal Communities during the COVID-19 situation:

Dezria Weber an administrative assistant at the Sault office: "We are still available and here for you. Community Health is made up of support staff, nurses, community health techs, nutritionists, diabetes educators, health educators and supervisors. We will make every effort to help you in any way we can. We are still working, but in a new and different way for now."

Rebecca Gordon, RN, BSN, is a Community Health nurse at the Sault office: "I feel our CHNs and CHTs go above and beyond every day for our clients and our community," Gordon said. "Our main goal is to keep our most vulnerable patients safe. We are taking



**Josie Fegan prepared seed kits for giveaway**

every precaution to ensure that our patients, their families and caregivers have everything they need during this difficult and challenging time. I'm proud to be a nurse! I'm proud our team of Community Health nurses for going out every day and doing what they need to do without hesitation. I'm proud of our Community Health staff for the care they continue to provide to patients and our community. I'm proud of our healthcare team for working together to ensure everyone's safety matters."

Wendy Frosland, RN, a Community Health nurse at the St. Ignace office: "Our patients mean a lot to all of us, and if we can take some of the stress of the virus off of them, we will go over and above to assist them. "If you need assistance and you don't know where or how to get it, please reach out to anyone in Community Health. If we don't have an



**Hessel staff man the drive through pharmacy.**

answer we will dig until we find one. Patients are not alone, they just need to reach out and we can find them the help that is needed with some noted limitations."

Heather Hemming is the Health Education supervisor at the Sault office: "It takes a team, and the Community Health Department has proven how strong and cohesive of a team we are," Hemming said. "We knew what we had to do to support the health and wellness of our tribal members and employees."

Jeannine "Sissi" O'Connor, a Community Health technician at the St. Ignace office: "We never leave for the day without making sure our clients are taken care of," O'Connor continues "Just want to let our tribal community know that we are here for them. If there is anything we can do to assist during this crisis, please don't hesitate to call Community Health."

Stacy Storey, RD, CDE a registered dietician at the Sault and Hessel offices: "This is a stressful time for everyone, but I could not be prouder of how well our department has continued to work together with the constant changes in operation".

In closing, we would like to share that we remain grateful and humbled by our Community Health staff who have stepped up to the challenges in the uncertainty of the effects of COVID-19 pandemic. It is our Community Health staff dedication and professionalism that continues to demonstrates the importance of community and public health services as we strive to ensure the safety for all tribal members, families and our community.

We welcome Sault Tribe Members to reach out if they are in need of services or have any questions.

Sault Tribe Community Health Offices:

Sault Ste. Marie – (906) 632-5210

St. Ignace – (906) 643-8689  
Hessel Community Health – (906) 484-2727

Manistique Health & Wellness (906) 341-8469, ext. 29573

You can also visit the Sault Tribe Health Division webpage for more information, [www.saulttribe-health.com](http://www.saulttribe-health.com) or like us on Facebook Sault Tribe Health Division.

## Time for a Change • Change is Progress

### Vote for James Everson – Unit 3 Tribal Board of Directors

#### MY GOALS

- I want to see that every Tribal member who needs housing is able to get it.
- I want it to be easier for our members to secure Tribal housing.
- I want to give our people back their input on major financial decisions.
- I want to be part of our Conservation programs.
- I want our Inland Hunting and Fishing right preserved.
- I want to see Inter Tribal trade; such as electricians, plumbers, floor covering installers, and other retail business within our tribe so that we have better paying job opportunities.
- I want to be a positive voice for you, the people.



Elect

**James Everson**

Unit 3 Tribal Board of Directors

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

jde49781@gmail.com  
(906) 643-7480

paid for and endorsed by James Everson

#### TRIBAL VALUES

I believe that decisions need to be made with an eye to the seventh generation and promise to plan ahead and look forward to see how future generations will be affected by my decisions made as your Unit 3 Tribal Board of Director.

#### Seven Grandfather Teachings

I follow the seven grandfather teachings in my everyday life and business decisions.

- Wisdom** – Use Good Sense
- Love** – Practice Absolute Kindness
- Respect** – Act Without Harm
- Bravery** – Use Courage to Choose

- Truth** – Be Faithful to Reality
- Humility** – Treat all Life Equally
- Honesty** – Tell the Truth

Things have changed! We will not be able to rely on the casinos for a majority of our revenue going forward. We need to be diversified. We will do this a number of ways such as light manufacturing in solar powered items that relate directly to protecting the environment. Solar panels, small windmills etc. these items should be easy to manufacture and should provide for better paying jobs for the members. We will also need to become 8a Minority Certified. This will allow us to compete nationally for goods and services that we could manufacture right here in our area. We will need to change!

# Bobbleheads help 100 Million Masks Challenge

By Rick Smith

The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum is selling bobblehead figures to help medical professionals supplied with needed resources. The organization recently announced bobblehead likenesses of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer are going on sale for \$25, the hall is donating \$5 from every Whitmer bobblehead sold to the Protect the Heroes fund, launched last April by the Creative Coalition, Association for Healthcare Philanthropy and the American

Hospital Association, a supporting organization for the 100 Million Masks Challenge.

“In late March, we decided to produce a bobblehead honoring Dr. Fauci to raise funds in support of the 100 Million Mask Challenge,” said Phil Sklar, co-founder and CEO of the organization. “We released Dr. Fauci’s bobblehead on April 1 and within a week it quickly became our best selling bobblehead with over 20,000 bobbleheads and raising over \$100,000 for the Protect the Heroes fund

in support of the 100 Million Mask Challenge. After releasing the bobblehead of Dr. Fauci, we started getting requests for bobbleheads of other prominent public figures including several governors, mayors, public health officials and even the interpreter from Ohio.”

Whitmer’s bobblehead features her likeness in a blue top and black pants seated at a table with a binder of notes in front of her atop a base bearing her name.

“The overall response has been tremendous and we are

closing in on reaching the \$200,000 mark through the sale of this group of bobbleheads,” Sklar added. “It has been a team effort in terms of getting the bobbleheads available for pre-order, taking orders and handling customer service, but I was the one who got the ball rolling with the Dr. Fauci bobblehead.”

Orders for bobbleheads can only be made through the organization’s online store at <https://www.bobbleheadhall.com>. In addition to the cost for bobbleheads, each order would include

a flat-rate shipping charge of \$8 and shipping is scheduled to start in July.

Alternatively, those who would like to support the Protect the Heroes campaign without buying bobbleheads could make direct donations. Making direct donations allows donors’ choices of medical facilities to receive the support to buy gear needed to stay safe during these times. More can be learned about making direct donations at <https://www.protecttheheroes.org/search.aspx>.

# NPS rangers help online visitors to Yellowstone

By Rick Smith

Education rangers of the U.S. National Park Service take one and all on an online journey of the many facets and wonders found in Yellowstone National Park when they visit Facebook.com/yellowstonenps.

Further, Linda Veress of the Yellowstone National Park Public Affairs Office said folk may “join the conversation and connect with Yellowstone and other national parks anytime on social media.” She pointed out a good place to start an online connection with the National Park Service is with a visit at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/find-your-virtual-park.htm>. “Share stories, photos, trip ideas, park experiences and more with park staff and fellow park enthusiasts,” she said. “Take a virtual tour, talk to a ranger or participate in a live presentation.”

Since early April, the Yellowstone rangers began posting videos about twice a week. Originally designed as a way for rangers to continue the park’s education program, canceled due to the COVID-19 breakout, the videos can be viewed by anyone wishing to learn about the park from knowledgeable rangers. Each video runs from about 15 to 30 minutes and feature smiling friendly faces of the rangers who explain the many things to explore.

Subjects range from mutual relationships among the wild inhabitants of the park, the importance of water quality, experiments, geysers and other geological features, microbes, birds and much more.

The educational videos are among other posts about the life and times of the park. In all, it is a good way to spend some time, especially with children.

While the park remains closed to the public, the videos allow anyone to enjoy a vicarious trip to one of the country’s most majestic natural areas.

Since the start of the park’s online educational video program, viewership is reaching around the globe.

Yellowstone was the first national park of the United States when it was established in 1872. The park occupies nearly 3,500 square miles in parts of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. It is home to an abundance of wild-life found in the western United States and an assortment of amazing and spectacular geological features and phenomena such as geysers like “Old Faithful,”

mountains and valleys.

Yellowstone and the surrounding region constitute the ancestral lands of the Nez Perce, Crow and Shoshone American Indian nations.

For more about Yellowstone National Park, visit: [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell).

Photo courtesy of the USNPS

Right, a U.S. National Park Service education ranger, Ranger Allison, at the introduction of a video in which she shares a lesson on a feature found at Yellowstone National Park. The park’s education program is producing educational videos led by rangers.



## ★ RE-ELECT BRIDGETT SORENSON ★ TO THE SAULT TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS UNIT 3 SEAT

### COMMUNITY SERVICE & BOARDS

- Sault Tribe Head Start Advisory Board
- St. Ignace Recreation Advisory Board-VP
- Sault Tribe Housing Commission
- Community Action Grant Committee
- Communities that Care Committee
- Title VI Indian Education Committee
- MAHA District 7 Council
- President of the St. Ignace Hockey Assoc.
- Mackinac County Relay for Life Leader
- Blood Drive Coordinator for 5 years
- Started the St. Ignace Pink in the Rink Fundraiser Hockey Event
- Started St. Ignace Camo Hockey Veteran Fundraiser Event
- Member of the Women of the Moose
- Member of St. Ignatius Catholic Church
- Member of the Chipper Huskey Scholarship Committee



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME

★ 906.984.2052 ★

BRIDGETT91@YAHOO.COM

BRIDGETT SORENSON  
UNIT 3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PAID FOR AND ENDORSED BY BRIDGETT SORENSON

### ★ ★ ★ ★ QUALIFICATIONS ★ ★ ★ ★

- Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration Lake Superior State University
- Associate’s Degree in Business Management North Central Michigan College
- Held a Real Estate License for 10 years
- Previously worked for the Sault Tribe for 10 years (HR, Casino and EDC)
- Attend local government meetings
- Events Manager for Community Events

### ★ ★ ★ SINCE BEING ELECTED ★ ★ ★

- Given Away Yearly \$1000 in scholarships
- Wrote a Unit Report in Every Issue of Newspaper
- Held Monthly Unit Meetings
- Held Office Hours by Appointment
- Testified Twice for Sault Tribe Head Start
- Presented the TAP at the Department of Justice Conference
- Was tasered by Law Enforcement for Junior Police Academy Fundraiser
- Sponsored Annual Kid’s Fishing Day
- Sponsored Annual Special Olympic Mackinac Island Bike Ride
- Sponsored the Annual St. Ignace Sobriety Walks
- Sponsored Christmas Parties and Family Fun Days
- Secured Funding for New Longhouse
- Secured Funding for New Firehall
- Secured Funding for Free Ice Skating
- Secured funding for Free Gym Membership
- Secured Funding for Walk-In Clinic
- Secured Funding for Two Food Trucks in Each Unit
- Facilitate local cultural teachings and crafts
- Lead the purchase of Rabbit’s Back Property
- Finalized the Elder Complex
- Was presented an Eagle Feather at the Native American Festival
- Worked with the City of St. Ignace to pass a resolution to honor Indigenous People’s Day
- Elder Meals Increased to Four Days Per Week

### ★ ★ ★ NEXT FOUR YEARS ★ ★ ★

- Finish paying off the \$70 million Casino Debt from 2004
- Continuing to diversify our Business Portfolio
- Continue to provide more housing opportunities
- Continue to advocate for team members
- Continue to advocate for job advancement
- Continue to open downstate casino and/or other revenue sources
- Continue to work towards increased 401(k) contributions
- Continue to work towards fair market wages
- Work to strengthen our cultural imprint
- Work towards getting the best for the membership with the Consent Decree 2020
- Continue Advocating for Treaty Rights
- Work on the lack of transportation in communities
- Continue to have a strong voice at the table
- Continue to seek membership input and concerns
- Continue working with local school, government and businesses to facilitate the trades
- Elder transportation for activities and weekly errands

# Study faults U.S. Treasury for CARES Act funding delays

By RICK SMITH

A study conducted by researchers from Harvard University, the University of Arizona and the University of California-Los Angeles led to criticism of methods used by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in distributing federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding in Indian Country.

The CARES Act became law on March 27, 2020, establishing the Coronavirus Relief Fund. The fund provides over \$2 trillion in a package effective from March

1 to Dec. 20, 2020, to aid U.S. workers, businesses and state, local and tribal governments to deal with health and economic consequences with over \$8 billion earmarked for Indian Country in the United States. The matter went to federal court over whether Alaska Native Corporations should be included as recipients in the funding allocations. An April 27 decision by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia prohibited the corporations from receiving fund disbursements.

However, the Department of

the Treasury had yet to disburse funds to Indian Country tribes when litigation concluded even though a delay appeared to be unwarranted. After tribes applied pressure on Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives fired off a request to Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin for the immediate disbursement of the \$8 billion fund to eligible federally recognized tribal governments. The U.S. Senate also sent a letter on May 1 pressing the department to immediately commence Indian Country disbursements. The first of the fund-

ing disbursements amounting to about 60 percent of the \$8 billion soon followed.

The collegiate study produced a 32-page report, *Dissecting the U.S. Treasury Department's Round 1 Allocations of CARES Act COVID-19 Relief Funding for Tribal Governments*, which details errors found in the methods the Department of the Treasury used in calculating some of the distributions and causes of widespread delays attributed to the department.

Among key findings, for example, researchers assert the

Treasury should have used population data submitted from each tribe, but the department relied on federal data, which for various reasons initially left some tribes' populations misrepresented.

The report can be downloaded in its entirety at [https://ash.harvard.edu/files/ash/files/2harvard\\_nni\\_dissection\\_of\\_treasury\\_allocation\\_w\\_appedix\\_05\\_18\\_2020\\_vfin\\_for\\_dist\\_2\\_.pdf](https://ash.harvard.edu/files/ash/files/2harvard_nni_dissection_of_treasury_allocation_w_appedix_05_18_2020_vfin_for_dist_2_.pdf).

More about the CARES Act can be found at <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares/state-and-local-governments>.

# Sault Tribe Youth Facility continues care and custody of youth

By DAVE L. MENARD II, SAULT TRIBE YOUTH FACILITY ADMINISTRATOR

Since the Sault Tribe governmental office closure on March 23, the Sault Tribe Youth Facility (juvenile detention center) officers and staff have continued to ensure the safety and security of our youth in custody while continuing to stay open and provide the detention service to all agencies in need.

Although some of our services have been limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still able to educate and counsel youth who are in our care and custody by using teleconferencing or zoom technology. The same can be said for court hearings and legal counsel meetings. The primary education program provided at the facility

is a web-based Odysseyware program that is remotely monitored by teachers from the LaSalle High School. For the safety of the youth and visitors, we also use remote contact for all visitations with parents and legal guardians. We have also increased telephone privileges to encourage more contact between parent/guardian and child.

We offer a full range of recreation activity to keep the youth physically active and motivated. Emergency and non-emergency medical appointments are still met, although new protocols have been implemented and followed due to the pandemic. Precautions are taken for all deliveries and exterior mailboxes have been installed to limit contact with the outside public.

As a state-licensed child caring institution, mandated protocols have been implemented and followed at the facility. The protocols blanket everything from taking or booking in new kids, to release, to medical appointment procedures for a sick youth or staff members and even quarantine if needed.

I would like to personally thank all the detention staff for their hard work, dedication, devotion and unprecedented ability to put others first so unselfishly. They are the front-line and I commend them all for keeping our youth safe and for putting their own lives at risk every single day in order to ensure safety and security of others.

I thank the Sault Tribe health system for all of their aid and

encouragement, Sault Tribe Purchasing and Accounting departments and all of the local businesses and vendors we use to help us continue to move forward. Thanks to all of the courts and court workers, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services workers, Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and all of the other enforcement and corrections professionals. These essential individuals are exactly that, "essential" in a time when they are needed the most.

Thank you all and stay safe!



Officer Corbiere keeping it clean and safe.



Unit 4 Members  
**THANK YOU**  
 for your  
 continued support!

Darcy Morrow endorses this ad.

I am always available, please call me at (906) 298-1888 or [dmorrow370@gmail.com](mailto:dmorrow370@gmail.com)

# Walking on . . .

**From "Walking on," page 17**  
mom, Kesos Perry; dad, Tom McDonald; brother, Levi; sisters, Delaney and Jenna; nephew, Josh; fiancé, Evan MacDowell; beloved grandparents; numerous loving aunts and uncles; and an abundance of cousins.

Kayla was a gentle loving soul willing to help people and share her generous spirit. She loved her family and the gatherings of much laughter. Kayla loved painting, crafting, photography and listening to music. Please join us in celebrating the young life of Kayla Anne McDonald and remembering her beautiful smile.

"I'll see you on the brighter side of grey."

A private family visitation and funeral took place on May 1, 2020, at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home followed by a luncheon at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building.

Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

## KEVIN C. ROSE

Former Naubinway resident, Kevin Clement Rose, 57, of Lockport, Ill., died on May 14, 2020, at Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox, Ill. He was born on March 26, 1963, in Manistique, son of Clem and Mary (Legault) Rose.



Kevin graduated from Engadine High School in 1981 and attended Northern Michigan University. He retired as a pharmacy assistant from St. Francis Hospital in Escanaba, Mich. While in high school, Kevin wrote for the school paper and did not miss a sporting event. As football manager, he wore a jersey for the Engadine Eagles. He announced every basketball game over the radio and spent hours of his youth throwing a tennis ball up against the chimney practicing his pitch! Kevin lived in Lockport with his fiancée, Robin Amundsen. Kevin enjoyed being with his family and friends. He could answer any question about any sport, especially the Detroit Tigers. He loved to take "road trips" and travel with Robin, listening to his favorite music. Kevin enjoyed photography and capturing pictures of his many adventures. Kevin always loved bumping into old friends from school and always had a joke to tell. Kevin attended St. Stephens Catholic Missions and found peace and comfort in his faith.

Kevin was preceded in death by his grandparents, Arthur and Eva Legault, Henry and Lillian Johnson and Walter "Peko" and Gladys Gildersleeve.

Survivors include his fiancée, Robin Amundsen, of Lockport, Ill., and her children, Kelly (Richard) Cady of Homer Glen, Ill., Erin (Bill) Knor of Frankfort, Ill., and Kyle (Erin) Amundsen of Frankfort; parents, Mary Rose of Naubinway and father Clem (Lyla) Rose of Traverse City; siblings, Walter (Brenda) Gildersleeve of Grand Rapids, Karla Siegwart of Sault Ste. Marie, Patricia (Steven) Nelson of Manistee, Christie (Jerry) Overland of Newberry, Melissa (Frederick) Rose-Killips of

Sault Ste. Marie, Timothy Rose of Naubinway, Amy (Kurt) Perron of Brimley and David (Krista) Rose of Escanaba; and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be scheduled at a later date at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Naubinway with Fr. Marty Flynn officiating. Rite of Committal will take place at the Engadine Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to St. Stephen's Catholic Mission in his memory.

Condolences may be expressed at <http://www.beaulieufuneralhome.com>.

## TANJORE E. SPLAN, JR.

On March 12, 2020, Tanjore Earl Splan, Jr. died at the age of 90. Tanjore was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

He was born in St. Ignace, Mich. As a child, he was declared a ward of the court and went to live in the Emma C. Nason Children's Home in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., where he resided from age 3 to 11, along with two of his three brothers. He credits the caring people at that facility for teaching him good moral values and instilling in him his strong sense of integrity. At age 11, he was "fostered" out to a family to work on their farm, while attending school in Pickford, Mich. At age 16, in 1945, he left high school and shipped on the Great Lakes as a coal-passer on an ore boat, subsequently becoming a fireman on the Mackinac Island ferry through the summer of 1946.

Following his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1946, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne until 1949. During the summer of 1949, he worked on Mackinac Island as a carriage driver. In the fall, at age 20, he returned to high school in Pickford where he completed his senior year and graduated.

In 1950, when hostilities broke out in Korea, he felt certain it was the beginning of World War III so he re-enlisted in the Army. In Korea, where he became known as "Tim," he served with the 555 FAB, 5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team, and was promoted to sergeant first class. After Korea, he served as an Army sergeant instructor for the California National Guard, and a warrant officer (jg) unit administrator.

In 1955, he joined the Alameda County (California) Sheriff's Department as a deputy sheriff. During the turbulent 60s and 70s, he gallantly served as a member of the "Blue Meanies" during the 1967 *stop-the-draft* flag-burning riots at the Army Induction Center in Oakland, at the Sproul Hall sit-ins/riots at UC Berkeley in 1968, and the People's Park riots in Berkeley in 1969. In 1976, he was an investigative detective on the infamous "Chowchilla Kidnapping" of 26 children and their school bus driver who were buried alive inside a box truck in a rock quarry. Tanj served as president of the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Association from 1972 to 1976. After 25 years of dedicated service, Detective Sergeant "Tim" Splan retired from the Sheriff's Department in 1980. After moving to Port Angeles, Wash., he became active in veter-

ans' affairs, serving as commander of American Legion Washington Post 29. He later transferred membership to Greenville, Mich., Post 101. He also served as quartermaster and life member in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Washington Post 1024, and served four terms as president of the Clallam County Washington Veterans Association. Tanj was also a life member of the Korean War Veterans Association where he served as commander from 2012 to 2016. He was a life member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team Association and a life member in the Disabled American Veterans.

He was predeceased by his father, Tanjore Earl Splan, Sr.; his mother, Veronica (nee Cadreau) Maki; Ruth and Harold (Mom and Dad) Beacom, dear friends who loved him as their own; sisters, Betty Fay Splan, Mary Ellen Andress, Vivian Andress Oberle, Georgiana Andress Drouillard; and beloved brother, Ronald Wilson Splan.

He is survived by his wife, Dawn (nee Hanson); and his children Tanjore Splan III (Laura) of Modesto, Calif., Laurette (James) Mari of Libby, Mont., and Claire Splan of Alameda, Calif.; brothers, William Joseph (Alice)

Splan, Erland Splan (widower of Joan); three granddaughters; four great-granddaughters; and many nieces and nephews.

In accordance with Tanj's wishes, he will be cremated, there will be no services.

Please send NO FLOWERS. If you would like to offer a remembrance, no kinder tribute could be made than a donation to the VFW National Home For Children, which, since 1925, is committed to honor our nation's veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families. Please go to <https://www.vfwnationalhome.org/>.

## AIMEE ELMIRA TILFORD

A beautiful U.S. Marine Corps veteran joined the spiritual forces of our Lord on March 18, 2020. Aimee Tilford passed away peacefully at the Tomlinson Adult Care Home, not far from her son and daughter-in-law's home in Grant Township, Mich.

Aimee was born on Sept. 24, 1924, in New Baltimore, Mich.,



to the late Elmer and Lenore (Keywordway) Clement.

Aimee moved to St. Ignace as a small child and was a 1943 graduate of LaSalle High School in St. Ignace. Soon after graduation she enlisted in the Marine Corps. After an honorable discharge as corporal from the Marines, Aimee began sharing her many talents as a cook and baker, working with children as a teacher's aid and sewing many outfits for her grandchildren as well as for people she knew.

Aimee was a unique person who was very well liked by all who knew her and shared her wit with a straight-faced seriousness when responding to a question, keeping her company with an everlasting smile.

Aimee was an active member of the Zion Lutheran Church and after retiring Aimee continued to cook, bake and sew as a hobby and travel the world with her many friends. Aimee moved to Port Huron to be closer to her son and his family.

Aimee is survived by her son, Kevin J. (Carol A.) McLean; grandchildren, David M. McLean, Grant Twp., Mich., Stacey Marie and husband Kelly Lincoln, Port Orange, Fla., and Darcy Robert McLean, Lenoir City, Tenn.; 11

See "Walking on," page 25

## Down Payment Assistance Program

### Application Period Open June 15, 2020 through July 13, 2020

The Down Payment Assistance Program (DPAP) is designed to assist Sault Tribe members in becoming homeowners of structurally sound homes. The funds are HUD dollars and restricted to low-income Tribal members. Eligible applicants could receive up to \$9,500.00 to be applied towards down payment and closing costs. Each participating applicant will need to contribute \$500.00 of their own money to receive the maximum grant of \$9,500.00 or 20% purchase price of the home. This program is open to Sault Tribe members residing within the seven (7) county service area; Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Alger, Schoolcraft, Delta, and Marquette.

DPAP is open to Sault Tribe members with total income at or below 80% of the area median income, adjusted for family size. Participants must obtain a mortgage with a local lender. The Housing Authority will assist applicants in demonstrating that they have stable income and the ability and willingness to meet financial obligations.

DPAP funds are available to lower the cost of buying a home. Funds will be in the form of a Note applied as a lien against the property. No monthly payments apply; the amount depreciates 20% each year and is forgiven after five years.

Trained staff will assist eligible applicants in successfully working through the process of making an application to a bank/lender for a mortgage loan, assist with inspection concerns, and aid in the real estate process.

Borrowers are required to participate in the Homebuyer Education session designed to assist the homebuyer in understanding and fulfilling the responsibility of homeownership.

If you have any questions please contact Dana Piippo Homeownership Specialists at 906.495.1450 or 1.800.794.4072.

### Application period ends July 13, 2020 @5:00 p.m.

1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
\$42,280	\$48,320	\$54,360	\$60,400	\$65,232	\$70,064	\$74,896	\$79,728

# Employees returning to work to new normal



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

We are about 10 weeks or so into the stay at home order and many things have changed. These weeks have been rather scary and very uncertain in a number of ways and will probably continue as such for several months down the road.

I also see many good things that have happened during this time, such as life slowed down. More time was spent with your

family, more home cooked meals, home projects taken on and an appreciation for how precious life is.

On the tribal front, the board and chair have never worked so closely as we have during this time. Many differences have been set aside and priorities have been set. We have empowered our executive team to make the tough and informed decisions. We have continued to pay our staff and their insurance. We have gotten millions in grants and SBA loans. We have formed a task force to make sure the funding is spent in accordance with the restrictions while providing the necessary precautions and services our people may or will need.

When our offices and casinos open, it will be a new normal for our team members, tribal members and guests. This is very new to all of us and we will continue to evaluate the situation and make necessary changes as things arise.

I cannot say enough about how amazing our executive team has performed during this time. They have spent countless hours preparing grants, keeping up on all executive orders, purchasing personal protection equipment, forecasting financial projections, communication with their teams and keeping the board and chair updated.

One thing for sure is we are going to get through this and be stronger as a government, tribe and business. We were moving forward in many ways with paying off our debt and diversifying prior to this bump in the road and we will continue on that

path in the months to come.

I would like to give a round of applause for all of our essential staff who came to work (some homeschooling their kids as well) when others could work from or stay home. They put themselves and their families at risk. You are the backbone of this organization and were there when we needed you. I will advocate for some sort of reward for you all.

I am extremely fortunate to live in such a compassionate community that always comes together in times of need. One of those giving families is Margaret and Jamie

Massey of Massey's Fish Co. They employee about 20 tribal members and buy thousands of pounds of fish from our fishermen. On May 20, they gave away 1,500 pounds of frozen vacuumed packed whitefish, 300 families each received 5 pounds. Be sure to stop in when you are in the area and support their business.

Congratulations to all the high school and college graduates! Good Luck and stay safe!

If you have any questions or concerns please call (906) 430-0536 or email me bsorenson@saulttribe.net or bridgett91@yahoo.com.

## Help each other!



**BETTY FREIHEIT,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello tribal members, it is with a heavy heart that I start my unit report with devastating news. My family lost our beautiful 21-year-old niece. She started her journey due to complications from her surgery. Our family will always grieve the loss of "Kayla

Anne McDonald" and her unborn baby boy.

I am honored to be the only spouse of a U.S. veteran, sitting on the board of directors other than the board secretary. I proudly salute the easy decision to pay our tribal employees during the unforeseen coronavirus pandemic.

I would like to thank the board of directors including the chairman for standing unified during this coronavirus pandemic!

Also, a big thank you to all the essential workers who made it possible to assist the department directors in their role and responsibilities, they were all very well defined in keeping our tribe going in the right direction.

Our tribe was fortunate in that we receive \$37.2 million, and so all the monies that was spent on the employees wages during the COVID-19 has been replaced.

Please remember that the \$37.2 million has regulations, where it can only be spent pertaining to the CARES Act and it must be spent by December 2020.

Tribal casinos are scheduled to open June 1. According to our CEO, a video conference has been set up for all the properties to walk through our opening guidelines to reinforce consistencies. We want our tribal staff and customers to be safe!

In my next unit report, I will be discussing issues such as values, auditing, leaders, truth, lies and honesty. I'm limited to a 500-word unit report during the 2020 election.

Please be safe and take care of yourself and neighbors and look out for our elders and those in need!

Yours truly  
The People's Director  
Betty F. Freiheit

## Walking on continued

From "Walking on," page 24 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Aimee was preceded in death by her parents, her ex-husband Justin McLean; her husband Richard Tilford, two brothers and three sisters.

Kevin and Carol would like to extend a special thanks to Tomlinson Adult Home Care of Grant Township for their kind and gentle care to Aimee while

she was a resident with them.

Funeral services were handled by Karrer-Simpson Funeral Home of Port Huron, Mich. Cremation has taken place. A celebration of Aimee's life is planned for a later date in St. Ignace, with a luncheon following. The service will occur sometime during the summer. A full military service will be held during internment at the Lakeside Cemetery in St. Ignace, Mich., at that time.

## HELPING OTHERS IN NEED IS OUR ANISHINABE WAY!



At a rally to protect mother Earth (Aki) & Our Waters (Niibi) with my friend Joann Chase who was then tribal liaison in the US EPA.

**Dr. Aaron A. Payment,  
Tribal Chairperson**

**Representing All  
Members Everywhere**

**Ahneen, Boozho,**

For those who do not know, four years after the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act was enacted, Isaac Marshall and his wife Lavina Boulley petitioned the federal government to recognize our Tribe. They were not successful. Lavina Boulley was sister to my Grandpa Norman Boulley from Sugar Island. Then, in the 1950s, our tribal veterans formed the Sugar Island Band which confeder-

ated with five other six historical bands and the Mackinac Bands to become the *Original Bands of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and their Heirs*. This long name actually fit on our first Head Start Bus which I rode to Marquette Hall at St. Isaac Jogues Church.

While the "Original Bands" was eventually successful in 1972 in gaining federal recognition, we did not received much in federal treaty and trust funding until the late 1970s with a housing site and Indian Health Services located in Kincheloe, MI. Many of our people who lived in Indian neighborhoods across the service area lived in poverty with no indoor toilets or sufficient running water.

At the time, UP Legal Services worked with tribal leadership to file a Civil Rights lawsuit, *Perry v. Sault Ste. Marie* (William Perry being Tribal Chairperson at the time). When we won the lawsuit, we received a \$7 million consent judgement which stipulated the City's obligation to provide water

and sewer in my neighborhood. A trust account was set up for fixing up our homes, adding a bathrooms, siding, flooring, drywall, and new roofs. To the right, you can see my house and the Cook family house during renovations. I appreciate all of those involved but want to recognize my neighbors Sally (Marble) MacArthur, and recently deceased Grace (LaPlaunt) MacArthur who provided administrative support to collect deeds so we would qualify.

I am so proud to be a Sault Tribe Member and grateful to have been raised at a time that our forefathers and mothers fought for recognition, for sanitation, to improve our people's lives, and to advance our great Sault Tribe Nation to where we are today. No one accomplishes what we have alone so there is a lot credit to go around.

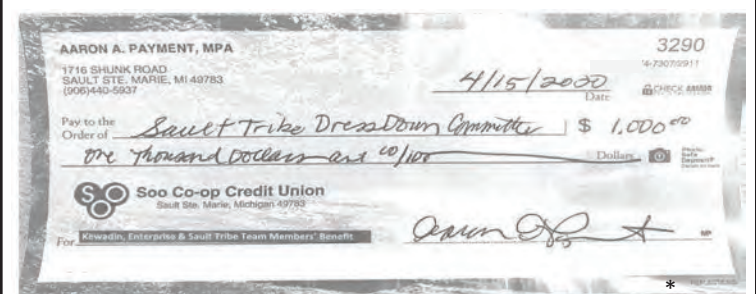
**Chi McGwitch, Negee!**

*Aaron*



From the Sault Tribe Archives FB page

## Please Donate to ST Dress Down Fund



During the Pandemic, our Tribal Board agreed to pay team members even though they have been unable to work. This was the absolutely right call. Unfortunately, some team members are still in need. That is why I made a donation of \$1,000 to the Sault Tribe Dress Down Committee and urge others to contribute by sending a check made out to:

**Sault Tribe Dress Down Committee  
523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**



# DeTour/Drummond to get expanded medical services



LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

I hope this report finds you more at ease with the current pandemic. We have made great strides in securing relief funding for continued wage to team members, medical supplies, training, implementing safe procedures, additional funding for existing programs. Our leadership, administration and all department staff worked day and night to make sure we received the much needed dollars getting through this and moving forward. We are in the stages of creating a COVID relief team to prioritize the funds remaining (after wages are reimbursed) so that we can fully identify needs

for our membership. We will audit this money and account for every bit per the guidelines given. I could not be more thankful to all those involved to take care of our members and our tribe, while all of them had families to worry about themselves. We have a team that you can count on through crisis — that's a very safe and secure feeling. This included all of our government, casinos and enterprises. All have played a role and the immense work by them and all our essential workers is so appreciated.

Services and programs have really evolved since the last report

and many departments have taken advantage of online program/activities which makes it available for any member (anywhere) to participate and services for online applications are enhancing as we can. Although we have been in a terrible position of fear during this, your tribe stepped up and provided safe, whole protections spiritually, financially and physically. Like I said in my last report, we survived much worse and the commitment from our tribal team members showed the strength we have and hold.

In closing, we have passed all our 2020 budgets with a few

added items (before relief funds) one is expanding the medical clinic services for DeTour/Drummond. They do have options to move forward on, I have spoke about this for many months and after Health vetted and planned, we will be moving on this when all is safe.

I will be very happy when we can start having our elder meetings/gatherings and being together. As always, call me when you need anything and please keep safe and take care of each other.

Baamaapii.

Lana Causley-Smith (906) 322-3818 or 484-2954, lcausley@saulttribenet

# Gaming operations opened June 1, safety a priority



CHARLES MATSON SR.,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Ahnee, I hope and pray that all of us are healthy and safe. These are very trying times. We need to remain vigilant and take all the precautions we can to remain healthy. Check in on our elderly and vulnerable people often to make sure their needs are being meet.

The governor has lifted the stay home order and is letting businesses open in parts of the state under certain operating guidelines. Our gaming operations are set to open on June 1. In preparation for the openings, our staff has been deep cleaning our establishments to make sure we start out with a clean and safe environment.

It is going to be a different gaming experience during this pandemic. We will have to do the best we can to keep distancing between patrons and make sure our team members are working in the safest environment we can provide. Enforcing safety guidelines will be a challenging process but it is what must be done to keep each other safe. We will also have to hope individuals do their best to self-monitor themselves, which I believe and hope they will.

As our businesses open up we need to take the safety measures needed to make sure all people are as safe as possible. We need to stay with the formula of health

and safety first. The well being of our communities has to continue to be first.

Tribal members struggling to keep up on their utility bills should contact ACFS and our emergency needs program (906) 635-6050. There is monies to help for families who are having trouble making ends meet.

We had to put our plans on hold for a celebration of our purchase of our Harvey property. Hopefully things will get better and we can plan a get together in the near future.

Our tribe received monies through the CARES Act. These monies will help us keep our

operations together and going as we navigate and hope for an end to this pandemic. We have assembled an Executive Task Force to address our compliance and distribution of these COVID-19/coronavirus funds. I want to say thanks to all of the people who worked on securing these funds. It was through your hard work and dedication that this huge task was completed.

I pray to the creator that all of us stay healthy.

If you have concerns or questions, contact me at (906) 450-5094 or CMatson@saulttribe.net.

Respectfully,  
Charles Matson Sr.

# Online learning of language and traditions is inspiring



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

With all the uncertainty going on during this pandemic, we

have to remember that things must still press on. Many of us are still working, many have new work scenarios such as medical checkpoints to get in to work, working from home and navigating the unemployment process; that and the stress of the pandemic itself, its effects on our health, both physical and mental, we must remember to take care of ourselves. Take time to check on each other, take time to regenerate yourselves.

The 2020 Negotiating Team continues to meet every week. We've had some progress and we've had our setbacks. We are still meeting with the other tribes, federal and state agencies as we move forward with form-

ing a new decree. The big group as a whole has agreed to bring in a mediator to help us bridge a few issues. The initial meeting went well and I am optimistic that he will help these negotiations move along. I am still confident that the tribes will prevail; we have demonstrated that we have the biological knowledge, the willingness to make tough decisions that impact our fishers and a conservative stance to maintain a fishing herd for future generations. It has been an honor to be one of the negotiators and be in a role in protecting our ancestral rights.

One of the many silver linings that has come from the pandemic is how our team mem-

bers have rallied and overcome many of the new obstacles. The online sharing of language and traditional teachings has been inspiring. I realize there are many different teaching, some that can't or shouldn't be shared online, but I am grateful to see the many that can be being shared. We are fortunate to live in an area where many of our teachings have been passed down. Many have been lost, but I am still grateful for the ones that survived and are still being practiced. Often times I have heard that "Sometimes, culture is all you need to make you feel better."

On a final note, summer is almost here and I personally am

looking forward to school being out. This "distance learning" is no joke, and trying to keep my kids learning online has been a struggle. I look forward to when we can camp again, have big family picnics and go out to eat without stress. But until then, I'll bring them fishing more often and show them what little environmental science I know. Practice social distancing when needed and do what you need to stay safe until we get through this. We will get through this — we are a resilient people.

If anyone wants to discuss these concerns or issues that face our tribe, please contact me at (906) 440-7768. Chi miigwech.

# Standing up for treaty rights and tribal sovereignty



JENNIFER MCLEOD,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Standing up for treaty rights and sovereignty connects me to all the ancestors who came before us — they fought then, and we continue that fight now.

In "warrior mode" I addressed the Department of Justice over

their failures to protect our women and children.

Tribal nations who made treaties have a right to recognition of tribal sovereignty, and equal protection. But, we have less.

It is unacceptable that non-Indians can commit crimes on Indian land and tribes have no jurisdiction. The Violence Against Women's Act allowed tribes very limited jurisdiction. But imagine your daughter being severely beaten or killed on tribal land by her non-Indian boyfriend, and the tribe can do little to nothing about it. This is UNACCEPTABLE. And so, we fight that good fight.

Food is also guaranteed by treaties and is "pre-paid." The United States Department of Agriculture provides food through their program that used to be known as "commodity foods."

Over the past few years, I chaired the national tribal leaders group that fought the good fight and improved food quality, delivery and expansion of the foods available to include TRADITIONAL FOODS!

This committee recently held the USDA accountable for claiming there was no source for them to reach out to from the Great Lakes area to purchase fish. As a result of our actions, the USDA will be contacting TRIBES so that wild caught, Great Lakes fish can be provided through the USDA Traditional Foods Program. Which brings me to tribal fishing and other food sources.

The ability to hunt, fish and gather is a basis for our way of life that brings stability and security to our people. These are rights protected by treaty.

Our Conservation Committee, and the 2020 Consent Decree Committee are filled with tribal members who have great levels of expertise and knowledge about these issues. Although I have hunted and fished my entire life, I did not join these committees, but have always been welcomed when I have attended. My experience pales to those who serve us on these committees, and they have my deepest respect. They do an excellent job providing information to the board, so that we may make informed decisions. I also want to thank those who have helped "educate" me and made sure I understood the issues.

Currently, we are in the throes of negotiating with the State of Michigan to protect our fishing on the Great Lakes. Although they provide reports

to the board of directors, I have been attending the meetings with the committee and our attorneys, as well as those with other tribes. I have no role except during a board meeting, but I am there, nonetheless.

Fighting the good fights on behalf of our tribe make me proud and humble at the same time. So many people are counting on us. The future is counting on us. I will do my best.

Anishnaabe for always,  
Jen  
(906) 440-9151

**THE NEXT  
NEWSPAPER  
DEADLINE IS  
JUNE 19!**

# Preparing Early Childhood children and families for wearing face masks



Lynette Rogers, Child Care cook



Dana Pavlat, Child Care aide



Peggy Bray, Early Head Start instructor

Sault Tribe Early Childhood Education staff prepare children and families for wearing masks. Follow their Facebook page for program updates, resources, activities and much more at Sault Tribe Early Childhood programs.



Veronica Lane, Early Head Start aide



Jennifer King, Child Care aide



Danielle Kaminski, Early Head Start instructor



Lindsey Mattson, Child Care aide



Rhiannon Bazinau, Child Care aide



Emily McKerchie, Child Care instructor

## Eloise June Jacob born



Sault Tribe member Melissa Beard Jacob and her husband, Jason Jacob, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Eloise June Jacob.

Eloise was born at The Ohio State University Hospital on April 4, 2020, at 4:35 a.m. She weighed 5 lbs. 5 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Grandma Corrina (Schmidt) Huffman and great-grandmother Phyllis (Cassibo) Schmidt are also Sault Tribe members.

## Hospitality and tourism scholarships

The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) is offering financial assistance toward degrees or certificates in hospitality, tourism, recreation, culinary arts or related fields.

The scholarships are open to high school seniors or students accepted into an accredited higher education institution who are descendents from American Indian, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian lineages. Deadline to apply is Friday, July 3, 2020, and funding will be applied during the fall 2020 semester.

For more information about AIANTA, visit [www.aianta.org](http://www.aianta.org) or [NativeAmerica.travel](http://NativeAmerica.travel); or Contact Sherrie L. Bowman, at: [sbowman@aianta.org](mailto:sbowman@aianta.org) for more information.

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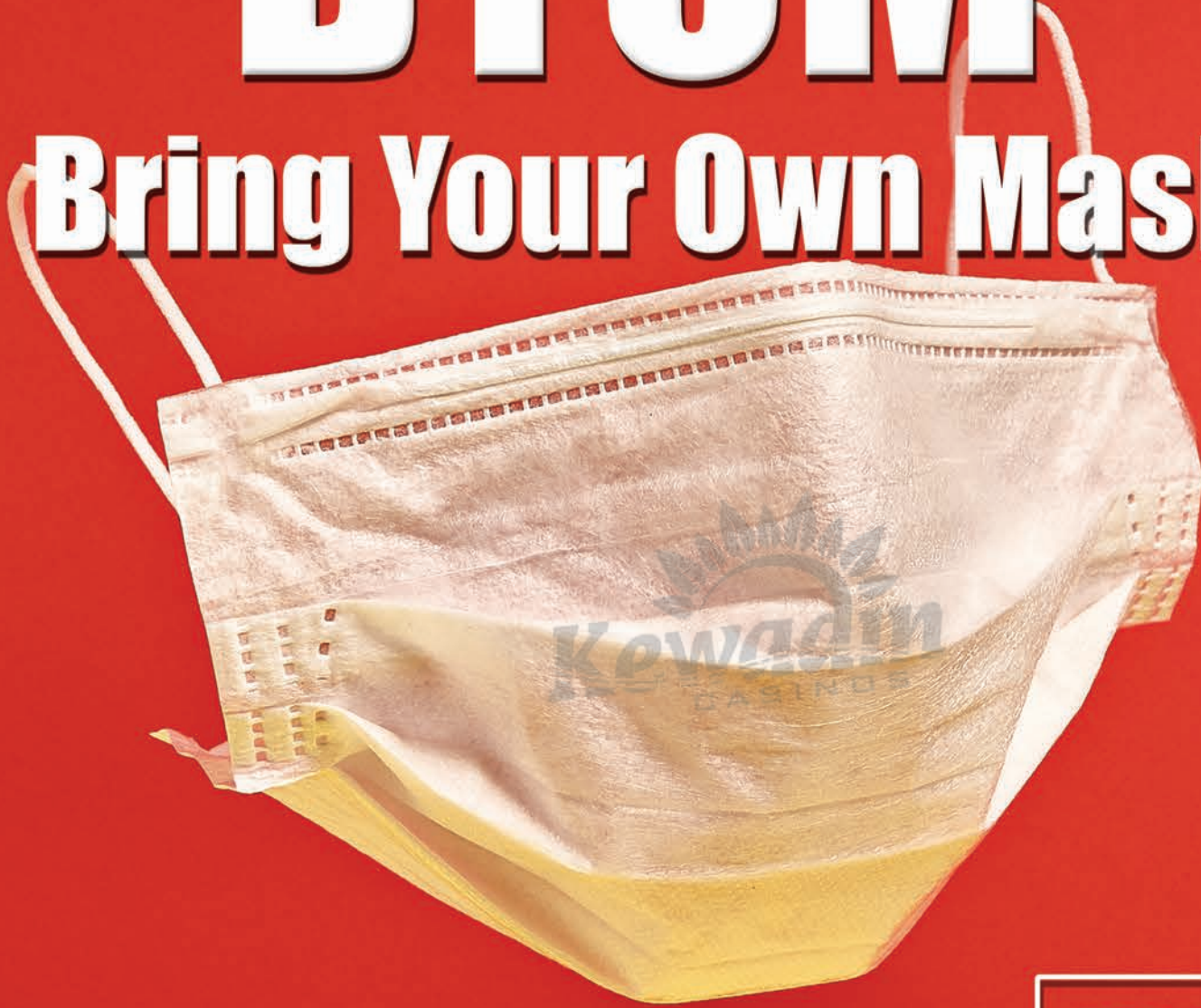
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