



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

June 26, 2024  
Strawberry Moon • Ode'mine Giizis  
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

## Michigan AG Dana Nessel visits Sault Tribe

**BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON**  
Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel visited communities and governments throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula on June 14 and 15, including the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes and board members hiked Kitch-iti-kipi, (Big Spring) outside of Mansitque,

with Nessel on June 14, before a luncheon and roundtable in Sault Ste. Marie June 15 to discuss issues critical to the tribe: murdered or missing indigenous people (MMIP), domestic violence, Indian boarding schools, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and the state's opioid settlement.

The roundtable included trib-

al leaders and staff along with Nessel and her office. Nessel presented Lowes with Native seeds and a special plate, and highly praised the Kewadin Casinos lunch made with Indigenous ingredients. Lowes presented the AG with a beautiful representation of Michigan created by Sault Tribe elder and boarding school survivor Kim Fyke.

After a welcome by Lowes, Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center Program Director Jami Moran discussed numerous complex issues regarding MMIP, including jurisdictional and communications difficulties. Moran said Sault Tribe's MMIP database has collected information on 31 MMIP cases, including two in Kent County who were never found, marking the need for an MMIP hotline. Sault Tribe Detective Sergeant James McLeod III spoke on a number of law enforcement MMIP issues concerning jurisdiction, the lack of access to critical information and the authority to investigate. Nessel said she appreciated ARC's "very specific and coherent" recommendations.

Indian Boarding Schools was an issue everyone understood due to multigenerational abuse,



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

**Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel and Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes with artwork from Sault Tribe member Kim Fyke.**

stories from relatives and related investigations, and a multitude of unmarked Native children's graves discovered across the U.S. and Canada. The effect the boarding schools have had on

our communities needs justice and victims' compensation, said Lowes.

Nessel asked Lowes, given when boarding schools were

See "AG visit," page 15

## Aikens signs with U-16 AAA Jr. Greyhounds



Photo submitted by Laura Aikens

**Andrew Aikens signs with the U-16 AAA Jr. Greyhounds in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. Pictured above with Coach Denny Lambert, Aikens is a Sault High freshman and Sault Tribe member. He is the son of Andy and Jessica Aikens and the grandson of Ted and Laura Aikens.**

## Health Division employees honored by IHS

**FROM THE HEALTH DIVISION**  
Sault Tribe's traditional practitioner Gerard Sagassige and Recruiter Mary McLean received Indian Health Service Director's awards this year.

Gerard Sagassige, Ojibwe Traditional Practitioner at the Sault Tribe Health Center in Sault Ste. Marie, has been awarded the prestigious IHS Director's Award for Pandemic Heroism.

Health Director Leo Chugunov

said, "Through the entire course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gerard Sagassige provided exceptionally valuable spiritual support to both Tribal patients and team members of Health Division."

The Health Division celebrates Gerard Sagassige for his exceptional contributions and well-deserved recognition. His dedication and spirit are an inspiration to us all.

Sagassige, whose spirit name

is Shkaabaawis Sagassige Giizis, has been a beacon of health, wellness and recovery long before his formal education began. Despite facing the challenges of foster care, Sagassige found strength and guidance in the spirit values of his community, embracing the teachings of ceremony, plants and animals.

Sagassige draws profound inspiration from the legacies of previous Traditional Medicine Keepers Adam Lussier and Harlan Downwind. His deep respect for their work and his commitment to honoring their legacy shines through in everything he does. Sagassige values the trust placed in him by the entire Health team and finds joy in integrating traditional self-care and recovery practices into modern healthcare.

Sagassige lives by the wisdom of making deliberate choices in the face of distractions. "Distraction priority makes something you love difficult and sometimes you've got to make a choice," he said.

This philosophy guides him in his dedication to his work and community. Sagassige has been a cherished member of the Sault Tribe Health Division for at least four years. His unwavering commitment and the unique blend of traditional and contemporary healing practices he brings to



Photo by Ashley Vogel

**Traditional Practitioner Gerard Sagassige (left) was presented his award by Health Director Leo Chugunov.**

his role have made a significant impact on the community's health and wellness.

In recognition of her unwavering dedication and exceptional commitment in her role as Health Recruiter at the Sault Tribe Health Division, Mary McLean has been honored with the prestigious National Indian Health Service (IHS) Directors

Award for Outstanding Customer Service. This accolade stands as a testament to McLean's tireless efforts in ensuring that every member of the tribal community across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan receives access to quality healthcare.

Health Director Leo Chugunov said, "Mary's genuine tenacity

See "Award," page 15

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# James McLeod IV graduates preschool!



Congratulations James McLeod IV on your graduation from Soo Cooperative Preschool! —Love Mom and Dad

## Back to School Swapping being held Aug. 6

FROM SAULT TRIBE TAP COMMITTEE

Back to School Swapping will take place Aug. 6 from 12 to 6 p.m. at the Big Bear Arena Cub Court.

Bring your gently used children's clothing, jackets, shoes and sports equipment. This event is

free! Take the stress out of back-to-school shopping and do some SWAPPING! Drop off gently used clothing at the Big Bear in the Sault (ask for Lisa Burnside) anytime between now and Aug. 2. You do not have to have clothes to swap to participate. Donations are greatly appreciated.

**TELEMEDICINE SERVICES**

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**To schedule a visit call:  
Hessel Community Center at  
906-484-2727  
or  
Tribal Health & Human Services at  
St. Ignace at 906-643-8689 and follow  
prompts for Medical Reception**

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# Committee vacancies — volunteers needed!

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

**Anishinaabe Cultural Committee** - Nine vacancies -

five males (4-year term), four females (4-year term)

**Child Welfare Committee** - Two vacancies (4-year term), one vacancy term expires November 2026, one vacancy term expires January 2027

**Health Advisory Board** - Two vacancies (4-year term), one vacancy term expires April 2027

**Housing Commission/Utility Authority** - Two vacancies, one for Unit 3 and one for Unit 1 (4-year term)

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

- Unit I - One vacancy
- Unit II - Two vacancies
- Unit III - Two vacancies
- Unit IV - One vacancy
- Elder Advisory Committee
- Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
- Unit II - Newberry - One regular vacancy, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)
- Unit II - Naubinway - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy, two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

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

**Elder Subcommittees**

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

Unit IV - Escanaba - Two regular vacancies, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

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

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

**Food Sovereignty Committee** - Two vacancies, one expiring February 2025, one expiring February 2027

**Wequayoc Cemetery Committee** - Two vacancies. Only Sault Tribe members who have a family member buried in this cemetery are eligible for membership on this committee (4-year term)

## Tribal gas and cigarette discount locations

The following gas stations are offering the discount to Sault Tribe members.

**Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:**

- MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
  - MidJim Convenience Store, 3045 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781
  - White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store, 7889 E. W. M-28, Christmas, MI 49862
- Tribal owned gas station offering gas discount only:**

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

**Not tribal owned stations that are offering gas discounts only:**

- Kinross BP, 4440 Tone Road, Kincheloe, MI 49788
- Cedar Pantry, 159 W M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719
- Sunoco, 13975 M-28, Newberry, MI 49868
- Manistique Oil Company, 216 Deer Street, Manistique, MI 49854
- Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI 49837

## 11th Annual Jim Ailing Memorial Golf Scramble

The 11th Annual Jim Ailing Memorial Golf Scramble is scheduled to be held at the Tanglewood Marsh Golf Course on July 20.

\$70 each includes 18 holes with cart and BBQ dinner.

Registration beings at 8 a.m. with a 9 a.m. start.

Cash for first, second and third place.

Profits are split between Families Against Narcotics and the Chippewa County Sheriff Office Victim Services Unit. There will be raffles and door

prizes and the proceeds from the 50/50 drawing will go to Silent Hearts in memory of Braxton Ailing (our great grandson).

Mulligans, Chip and Putt will go to Bay Mills Boys and Girls Club.

Contact Sheri Ailing (906) 203-5597 or email jimailingmemorial@yahoo.com

Accepting donations for prizes, door prizes and raffles. Sponsor a hole for \$50. Please make checks payable to Sheri Ailing (I don't have an account in the scramble name.)

## WIOA funding is available

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) Program has funding available for on-the-job training and short-term occupational training opportunities.

The program may be able to provide tuition assistance for skills training if it leads to an industry-recognized certification or under OJT, it may reimburse an employer 50 percent of your wage for a specified period.

Candidates must meet eligibility requirements and reside in the seven-county service area.

Apply at WIOA at Big Bear in Sault Ste. Marie, or call Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767.

## Up to date addresses sought

Sault Tribe members whose addresses are not up to date have "bad addresses" with the tribe's Enrollment Department.

Please check over the names on the list and if you see a friend or relative on the list let them know.

Go to the tribe's website at

saulttribe.com and scroll down Membership Services to Tribal Enrollment. Then go to the Information column on the left side of the Enrollment page and select "Up to date addresses sought."

Call (800) 251-6597 or email Stacey Synett at ssynett@sault-tribe.net.

## Sault Tribe Board of Directors holds swearing in ceremony, election of officers on July 9

A Sault Tribe Board of Directors Special Meeting will be held July 9, 2024, for the purpose of electing officers per Tribal Code Chapter 10: Election Ordinance, Section 10.124 and 10.125.

The swearing in ceremony will occur prior to the special meeting with a reception to follow. Please watch the website (saulttribe.com) and Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/saulttribe) for further details.

## Welcome to our new subscribers!

Welcome to all our new tribal member subscribers! We would like you to know that you have become part of our community newspaper. You are welcome to send in your news, such as obituaries, births, graduations and other accomplishments.

Send in your news to Editor Jennifer Dale-Burton at jdale-burton@saulttribe.net. (Read details below on our banner.) If you have any questions, feel free to email or call (906) 632-6398.

We also have an official Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/saulttribe/and an official website at www.sault-tribe.com.

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

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



- First/Middle/Last Name
- Date of Birth
- Date of Death
- Murdered/When/Where
- Perpetrator Name if known:
- If Missing:
- Nickname/Alias
- Date Last Seen/Went Missing
- Physical Description
- Distinctive Physical Features
- Vehicle Information

Any information would be appreciated.

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



## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

June 26, 2024  
Strawberry Moon  
Ode'min Giizis

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Subscriptions:** \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. 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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# What's rockin' at Kewadin Casinos Sault and St. Ignace

**80's Rock Invasion hitting Kewadin Casino St. Ignace July 20!**

Get out those ripped jeans and your Aqua Net, it's time to ROCK! Kewadin Casino St. Ignace is proud to present the 80's ROCK INVASION, featuring some of your favorite rockers including ACE FREHLEY, GREAT WHITE, SLAUGHTER, STEVEN ADLER OF GUNS N' ROSES and VIXEN.

It's all happening Saturday, July 20 at Kewadin Casino St. Ignace for one incredible outdoor concert.

Co-founder and the original lead guitarist of Kiss, the only thing more recognizable than ACE FREHLEY's signature "Spaceman" makeup is his guitar playing. Frehley will be headlining this incredible 80's Rock Invasion with a mix of Kiss and solo hits—*Shock Me, Rocket Ride, Rock Soldiers, Cherry Medicine, 10,000 Volts and Deuce* could be heard ending the night.

For a band to continue to thrive for over 40 years in the music business, the mantra must be, these songs are bigger than any one member. GREAT WHITE has understood that mantra and is bringing hit after hit to the outdoor stage—*Once Bitten, Twice Shy; Rock Me; Mista Bone; Save Your Love; House of Broken Love* and more, so get ready for it!

Hitting the stage like they hit the music world in 1990, expect SLAUGHTER to tear it up with

the hits you love after three decades of Rock & Roll—*Up All Night, Fly To The Angels, Mad About You* and more!

STEVEN ADLER OF GUNS N' ROSES invades St. Ignace with all the Guns N' Roses hits that you love—*Welcome To The Jungle, Sweet Child O' Mine, Paradise City, Mr. Brownstone* and many more!

Founded in the 1980's, the VIXEN legacy continues with an incredible lineup and opens the 80's Rock Invasion with your favorite Vixen hits—*Edge of a Broken Heart, Cryin', Love Made Me* and more.

Get your tickets early and be a part of the invasion at Kewadin Casino St. Ignace on Saturday, July 20.

Tickets on sale at tickets.kewadin.com, at the Box Office or at Kewadin Casino St. Ignace. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. with the show starting at 6 p.m.

**Lead Singers of Classic Rock at Kewadin St. Ignace Oct. 12**

Lead Singers of Classic Rock, Jason Scheff, longtime lead singer of the band CHICAGO, and Tommy DeCarlo, a former lead singer of the band BOSTON, team up for a night of unforgettable classic rock music spanning the '70s, '80s and '90s, and they're bringing it all to Kewadin Casino St. Ignace on Saturday, Oct. 12.

Get your tickets early for a musical tribute featuring two great sets of classic hits with the timeless ballads of CHICAGO

and the guitar-driven rock music of BOSTON at Kewadin Casino St. Ignace.

Tickets on sale at tickets.kewadin.com, at the Box Office or at Kewadin Casino St. Ignace. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show at 8 p.m. at Kewadin Casino St. Ignace.

**Aaron Lewis Returning to Kewadin Sault on Dec. 13**

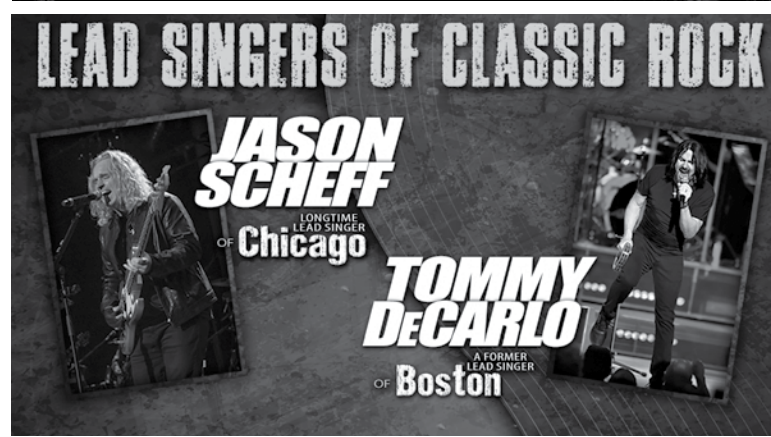
Back by popular demand, after his 2022 SOLD OUT show at Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie, Aaron Lewis is bringing his American Patriot Tour to the DreamMakers Theater on Friday, Dec. 13.

Emerging on to the country scene in 2011, Aaron Lewis became a No. 1 artist on the Country charts as a solo artist, with his honest and gritty Country music. His debut EP, *Town Line*, featured the gold-selling single *Country Boy*, and reached #1 on the Billboard Country Albums Chart. He followed *Town Line* with the successful Country albums, *The Road, Sinner, the State I'm In* and his recently-released album, *The Hill* that came out on March 29.

Don't be unlucky on Friday the 13th, get your tickets now! Aaron Lewis: The American Patriot Tour, is sure to sell out fast!

Tickets on sale at tickets.kewadin.com or at the Box Office.

DreamMakers Theater - Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie  
Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show starting at 8 p.m.



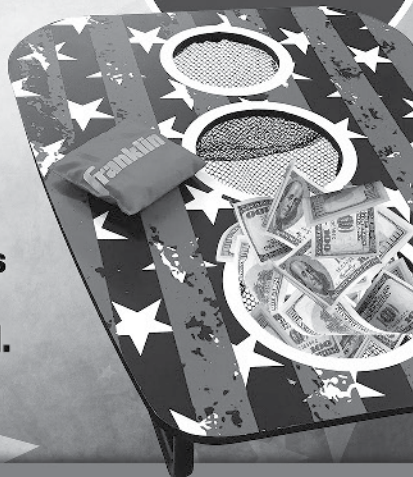
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# Barbeau Fish Hatchery holds public open house

BY SCOTT BRAND

Dozens of visitors turned out for the inaugural open house as the Barbeau Fish Hatchery was opened to the public for the first time on June 12.

Stretching over 300 acres and boasting three active ponds, the Sault Tribe Fisheries Department was preparing to release its 20 millionth walleye this year since opening the hatchery in 1990.

“Not a lot of people know what we do here,” said Fisheries Assistant Matt Allard as 9&10 camera crew was on hand for the event. “We are the only ones stocking the St. Mary’s River, There is about a 53 percent chance that any adult walleye

caught on the St. Mary’s River came from here.”

Allard went on to say that the hatchery averages more than one million, 2-inch walleyes each year.

“That 15-inch fish you caught today might have started here four years ago,” he said.

“We are at 600,000 so far this year,” said Fisheries Enhancement Coordinator Rusty Aikens as the largest pond encompassing more than 25 acres was being drained in front of the visitors adding more to the 2024 tally before their eyes. “We’ve had as high as 1.7 million fish.”

But the hatchery business, can resemble farming, dependent on



The miniature walleyes, seen here, will be released at various locations throughout the Upper Peninsula and northern lower Michigan.

weather and often devastated by factors that are beyond control.

“We have also had zero years,” said Aikens of the times when the facility has come up empty.

The Sault Tribe has stocked nearly 10 million fish in the St. Mary’s River since 1990.

St.Martin’s Bay is the next largest recipient with more than 3.6 million walleyes, while Grand Traverse Bay has taken in more than 2.5 million fish. More than a million fish have been trucked over to Bay de Noc, while the Cheboygan River, Epoufette Bay and various inland lakes have also benefitted from this program.

“They tell me where to put them and that’s what we do,” concluded Aikens.



Guests wait inside the hatchery for a presentation from Fisheries Enhancement Coordinator Rusty Aikens. Multiple presentations were conducted during the special open house as the visitors came and went during the event.



Bernadette and Maheengun Shawanda visit with Rich Reining of the Sault Tribe Fisheries Department as he waits for the pond-raised walleyes to congregate in the catch basin at the Barbeau Fish Hatchery. The fish were subsequently loaded on to the waiting truck and hauled off to a predetermined location for release.

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# Anishinaabemowin 2024

“People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they’re doing.” A. Carnegie  
This is true for learning Anishinaabemowin as well. Make it fun for yourself!



**Miin Giizis**  
**Blueberry Moon**  
by Susan Askwith

**Niibin!** **Minwendaagozi-daa!**  
*It's Summer!* *Let's have fun!*

**Damina-daa gojiing.**  
Let's play outside.

## **Baazhijigwaashkwanodan sabaap!**

Jump Rope!

G'wii ndawaamdaan . . (you will need)

sabaap (a rope)

niizh g'niijii'ik (gonamaa) (2 friends (maybe))

nagamowin (a chant) like this one:

Ziisbaakidoonhsan booskinaaganing

Aaniish minik waa miji-yin?

Bezhiik, niizh, nswe, niwin, naanan,

ngodwaaswi, niizhwaaswi, nshwaaswi,

zhaangswi, midaaswi. Taa haa!

(Candies in a dish /// How many will you eat?)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Yay!

(See location below to hear this chant “sung.”)

## **Ditibi-zhooshkwaada'en!** Rollerskate!

G'wii ndawaamdaan . . (you will need)

ditibi-zhooshkwaada'aaganan

(rollerskates/in-line skates)

minamat (a nice smooth road)

## **Bakwaakodokenh!** Play baseball!

G'wii ndawaamdaan . . (you will need)

bakwaakwat (a ball)

wepijigan (a bat)

mijikaawan (a glove)

bakwaakodokenh-gitigaan (a baseball field)

g'niijii'ik (your friends)

## ***Extend those thoughts!***

Bakwaakwat maanda. This is a ball.

Nemaabiinhs maaba. This is a marble.

Sabaap maanda. This is a rope.

Mijikaawan maaba. This is a glove.

Niijii maaba. This is my friend.

Bagizawayaan maanda. This is a swimsuit.

Zaag'igan maanda. This is the lake.

Waawiiyeyaa maanda. This is a circle.

Wepijigan maanda. This is a bat.

\*Maanda describes items not alive, whereas

\*Maaba describes beings alive literally or in spirit

**Pronunciation?** You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words used here, as well as those in the calendar on the next page, spoken at: [www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture](http://www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture)

**Making our Sounds** Most letters sound like

they do in English. Here are the exceptions.

**aa** sounds like the a in *awesome* **a** sounds like the a in *about*

**ii** sounds like the e in *be* **i** sounds like the i in *dip*

**oo** sounds like the o in *go* **o** sounds like the oo's in *book*

**e** sounds like the e in *Ed* **g** sounds only like it does in *go*

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: 'nh' in a word has no sound!

It's only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have a stuffed-up nose!

## **Making friends with long words!**

*It's common for our words to be long because they often are an actual description of an action or item. Practice rolling them around in your mouth, starting slowly at first. On this page, \*\*the syllables are alternately underlined. The ones that are \*\*emphasized are in italics. You'll sound great using the pronunciation guide below.*

## **Nataagen nemaabiinhsak!** Play marbles!

G'wii ndawaamdaan (you will need)

nemaabiinhsak (marbles)

piitaakwemagad (a shooter/larger marble)

waawiiyeyaa mazinibi'gaade akiing

(a circle drawn on the ground)

g'niijii'ik (your friends)

Waa zhi nataageyin (how you play)

1. Draw a circle and scatter some marbles inside.
2. Take turns flicking your shooters to knock marbles out of the circle.
3. The one who knocks the most marbles out, wins!



## **Bagizon!** Swim!

G'wii ndawaamdaan (you will need)

bagizoowayaan (gonamaa) (a swimsuit (maybe))

zaag'igan, ziiibii, maage kobiiyaa'ing

(a lake, a river, or a pool)

## **Nanaakwebdaadidaa!**

Let's play catch with each other!

Why did the boy keep doing the backstroke?

*He just had lunch and didn't want to swim on a full stomach.*

My therapist told me to put a fish tank in my living room to ease stress and anxiety. She said it would help because of their indoor fins.

What word looks the same backwards and upside down?  
*swims*

What do you call the soft tissue between a shark's teeth?  
*a very slow swimmer*

A man leaves home, makes 3 left turns and is on his way back home when he notices 2 men in masks waiting for him. Who are they? *They're the catcher and the umpire.*

What has 18 legs and catches flies? *A baseball team.*

# SUGAR ISLAND POWWOW

Zisbaakwad Minising Jiingtamok

## July 20th & 21st 2024

### GRAND ENTRIES

**Friday July 19th**  
10 am Spiritual Gathering

**Saturday July 20th**  
1pm Grand Entry  
5pm Feast  
7pm Grand Entry

**Sunday July 21st**  
1pm Grand Entry

### INFORMATION

**No Vendor Fees**  
*First come, first served*  
**Rustic Camping Available**  
3 Mile Rd., Sugar Island, MI  
*Follow signs from ferry*

### FOLLOW US!

For more information add "Sugar Island Traditional Powwow" on Facebook  
sitraditionalpowwow@gmail.com

### HEAD STAFF

**Emcees**  
Shannon Martin  
Josh Homminga

**Arena Director**  
Jefferson Ballew

**Head Veteran**  
Henry Bouley Jr.

**Head Dancers**  
Melissa Causley  
Michael Hatch

**Jr. Head Dancers**  
Isis Causley  
Arrow Hatch

**Host Drum**  
Medicine Bear

**Co-Host Drum**  
Bahweting Singers

**NO DRUGS NO ALCOHOL NO POLITICS NO DOGS**

### SAULT TRIBE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM

# 2024 July Healer Clinic Hours

## Gerard Sagassige

**July 1,2,8,9,15,16,22,23,29,30**  
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center  
(906)632-0236

**Wednesday, July 3rd**  
St. Ignace Health Center  
(906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135

**Wednesday, July 10th**  
Manistique Health Center  
(906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043













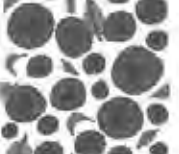





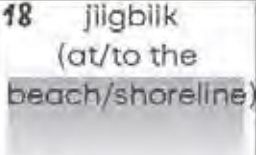
















**Wednesday, July 17th**  
Hessel Community Center  
(906)484-2727

**Wednesday, July 24th**  
Munising Health Center  
(906)387-4721 or (800)236-4705

**Wednesday, July 31st**  
Newberry Health Center  
(906)293-8181

**ANY QUESTIONS, OR TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE CALL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM AT 906-632-0236 OR 906-632-5268**

# MIIN GIIZIS - BLUEBERRY MOON - JULY 2024

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIUWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANG GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
	1  eshkdmoonh (watermelon)	2  Bmaawnidwak. (They have a parade.)	3  wiingaashk (sweetgrass)	4  mkomi maagan (ice cream)	5  Niimidaa! (Let's dance!)	6  mooshwen (shawl)
7  Giizhaate giizhigad. (It is a hot day.)	8  dewe'gan (drum)	9  zaasagokwaan bkwezighan (fry bread)	10  waawaatesi (firefly/lightning bug)	11  enagoonhsag (ants)	12  miinkaa (lots of blueberries)	13  jiingtamok (powwow)
14  Nehiwat. (It is stormy weather.)	15  zhoonyaa (money)	16  naanooshkeshiin (hummingbird)	17  Miinkedaa! (Let's pick blueberries!)	18  jiigblik (at/to the beach/shoreline)	19  Chi-noodin. (It is very windy.)	20  niibin (summer)
21  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	22  endzhi-waabnda'ding (county fair)	23  abaodashkwaanishliih (dragonflies)	24  waasnoode (Northern lights)	25  Gojing wiisinidaa. (Let's have a picnic/eat outside.)	26  bashkwaanaajilnh (bat)	27  ookaanak (farm animals)
28  Googli. (S/he dives.)	29  memengwaan (butterfly)	30  Bigiza. (S/he is swimming.)	31  bweza (is sweating)	 <b>miinan</b> (blueberries)		

# Tribal employees recognized at annual luncheon

The Sault Tribe held its annual employee recognition luncheon at the Kewadin Casinos DreamMakers Theater on May 22, 2024. Tribal employees were recognized for their length of employment with the tribe beginning at five years in five year increments, culminating at the 45 year mark celebrated by Carol Pages-Montie.



Dr. Vivica Sherman celebrated 35 years as a Sault Tribe employee.



Unit I representatives Isaac McKechnie and Betty Freiheit, along with Chairman Austin Lowes, congratulate Paul Figuli (center) and Dr. Vivica Sherman (right). Not shown is Carol Pages-Montie, who celebrated 45 years with the tribe.



Paul Figuli (right) was congratulated by Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes for his 35 years of employment with the tribe.

# University of Michigan's military award ceremony

**SUBMITTED BY HAL LALONDE**  
The University of Michigan's military award ceremony on April 19 hosted several members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians as well as five members of the Match-E-De-Nash-She-Wish Ogitche-Daa Society.

This year's sword was presented by honored elder Mr. George Martin of the Lac Courtes Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. Martin served in the United States Air Force from 1952

through 1964 and fought in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Martin has presided as senior veteran over numerous powwows and many other events and teachings both traditional and mainstream.

The award recipient was Midshipman First Class Eric Goergen of Donners Grove, Ill. Midn Goergen is receiving his degree in mechanical engineering. Upon commissioning as an Ensign, he will depart Ann Arbor for Naval Flight Officer's School in Florida.

He is excited to serve his country and especially proud to receive a commissioned officer's sword from our tribe.

Martin also wanted to thank the tribe for allowing him to present this honor. The tribal endowment at the University is fully funded and will dramatically expand next year to present commissioned officer swords to graduates of the Army, Air Force, and Navy-Marine Corps.

This is one of only two Tri-Service awards given at the

University. Any tribal military veteran who might be interested in presenting a sword at subsequent annual ceremonies should contact Hal LaLonde at lalonde-ha@gmail.com.

**George Martin (left) of the Lac Courtes Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, presented this year's sword to Midshipman First Class Eric Goergen.**



# Escanaba Lodge of Hope donation



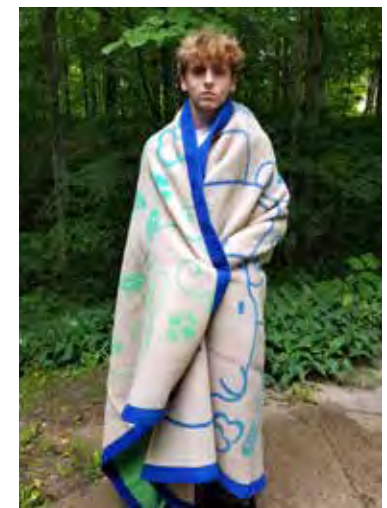
Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes met with the Unit IV Escanaba Elders after they generously donated \$400 in supplies for the Lodge of Hope Homeless Shelter. Anyone on the west end that would like to donate to the Lodge of Hope can drop off their items at the medical center in Gladstone to be delivered to the Sault.

# Big Bear gym gets much anticipated renovations



Children three to five years old from the Sault Tribe Early Childhood Education Wolf Room and Moose Room were some of the first visitors to the newly-renovated gymnasium at Big Bear Arena in late May. The students posed for a group shot before enjoying various activities on the new surface. Additional lines were added to the new basketball court providing boundaries for future volleyball and pickleball games.

# Andrew Wheatley graduates from Petoskey High School



Andrew Wheatley, 18, is a 2024 graduate of Petoskey High School. Andrew participated in cultural activities like talking circles while he was at Petoskey High School and was presented with a Native blanket as a gift from the Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians (above right).

**BY ROBERTA VERDONE**

Andrew James Wheatley is a 2024 graduate of Petoskey High School and a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians currently living in Petoskey, Mich. with his family.

His father is tribal member Jay R. Wheatley (Marika), mother Jamie Wheatley and brother Ethan Wheatley. Andrew is the grandson of Sault Tribe elder Roberta Verdone (Jeffrey) and maternal grandparents James and Sandy Dunson of East Jordan.

We are so proud of Andrews many accomplishments during his school years. He was active in cross country and track from middle school through high school and earned many ribbons. Andrew worked hard as a Cub Scout and later as a Boy Scout achieving the highest honor award as an Eagle Scout this

year. Andrew gives his all and has proven to be a responsible young man. Working in the landscaping business at 16 and moving on to the business world at Bay Harbor enterprises.

Andrew has always shown interest in mechanics and electronics. Eager to follow in his father's career footsteps, Andrew began studies in HVAC while still in high school. He has formally passed his first license for heating and cooling. Andrew is officially on board with Michigan Heating and Cooling of Petoskey. He will continue required studies as it applies to his career.

It has been an inspiration watching Andrew grow from a tiny baby boy to a fine young man.

We love you Andrew James Wheatley.



# July highlights the dangers of sexting, sextortion, and revenge porn

Nowadays, children seem to be less likely to play outside during the summer and are more likely to be found with a phone or tablet in hand. If not glued to a phone, perhaps stuck to a video game for hours on end. Although children are intelligent and can navigate most electronic devices easily, they are still quite naive and vulnerable to the dangers lurking behind the screens. As parents, grandparents, guardians, babysitters, and daycare providers, we can all participate in helping our children stay safe while they are online.

Communication is key. It begins with regular communication with our children. Not just a one-time reminder in passing to “be careful” on the internet, but regular reminders of the potential danger that awaits them in cyberspace. We need in-depth conversations about why we need our children to be careful. Parents have numerous concerns about their children being connected online daily, whether it’s social media platforms or online gaming. Cyberbullying, internet predators, sexting, revenge porn, and sextortion are some of the main concerns.

Sexting refers to the act of sending sexually explicit content such as photos, messages, or videos via mobile phones or other mobile devices. Sexting with a minor may violate child pornography laws, even if the

messages were self-produced and shared with consent if the photo involves a minor. Sext messages can be used as blackmail or manipulation for the victim and can be shared without knowledge or consent, causing emotional damage to one’s health and reputation. Sext images can be posted online without consent or permission, drawing unwanted attention from predators or stalkers.

Revenge porn, also known as non-consensual pornography or image-based sexual abuse, involves the distribution of explicit images or videos of individuals without their consent, typically by a former or current partner to blackmail, humiliate, or harm the victim. Revenge porn can have severe emotional and psychological consequences for victims. Feelings of shame, anxiety, embarrassment, betrayal, depression, and thoughts of suicide often result.

Lastly, sextortion using social media refers to the act of threatening to share nude or explicit images or videos. Sextortion can happen to anyone, regardless of age, background, or gender orientation. Predators contact individuals through gaming platforms, apps, or social media accounts. They convince victims to produce explicit content (such as videos or images), usually with bribes or empty promises. Once the predator has this material, the predator blackmails or

coerces the victims, demanding more explicit content, money, or other favors in exchange for keeping their sexual images private.

(For more information, visit [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov).)

Victims of sextortion may also experience other forms of abuse within their relationships. Perpetrators of sextortion may engage in other harmful behaviors, including dating violence. Perpetrators abuse their power and control by using force, fraud, or coercion, one of the many tools of an abuser. If you need support or advocacy for these issues, the Advocacy Resource Center can help. Here are some helpful guidelines to follow for practicing “online safety.”

- Setting and following family rules that indicate length of time and behavior on social media and online gaming sites.

- Explain the dangers of sharing personal photos. Remind children and teens that their

pictures can fall into the wrong hands and that retrieving or deleting the photo is nearly impossible.

- Teach children and teens never to reveal personal information such as address or phone number or share their location online.

- Don’t chat with strangers and avoid “friending” anyone they do not know.

- Never respond to threatening emails, messages, posts, or texts. Use only a screen name, and do not share passwords with anyone (except parents, guardians, or caregivers)

- Children should never agree to meet up or get together in person with anyone they have met online without parental approval and/or supervision.

- Encourage your child to show you or come to you when they encounter any communication or conversation that is scary, threatening, or hurtful. By having conversations about this subject

often, children and teens may feel more comfortable coming to you when they have an issue.

- It is also important to teach our children to be kind when online with others. The same rules apply online as they do in person. Treat others how you would like to be treated.

- Children should ask permission before downloading an app or using a new device.

- Using devices close to bedtime should be avoided so the child’s brain can rest and get a healthy amount of sleep.

Check the Advocacy Resource Center’s website at [www.arc-saulttribe.com](http://www.arc-saulttribe.com) for more information, and be sure to follow our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC](http://www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC) for a list of potentially dangerous apps for children and teens.

The Advocacy Resource Center can provide advocacy for those in need of support services and can be reached at (906) 632-1808.

## Huge morel find



Phyllis Gregg planted morel mushroom seeds in her yard off of Mackinac Trail in Dafer, Mich., over two decades ago. She’d given up hope of seeing the fruit of her labors when nothing sprouted over the years. So it was a shock when one of her sons saw them growing near her shed while he was cooking breakfast and looking out a kitchen window. He dropped what he was doing and ran outside, coming back with a few huge morels. She went outside again later and found more morel gold.

### SAULT TRIBE HEALTH DIVISION

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## JULY 16TH-19TH

### APPOINTMENTS WITH DR. HAMILTON



**906-643-8689**  
Follow prompts for medical reception -  
Call for more Information!





# PAYMENT

Thank you Unit 1 Voters to your Support and Vote over the years and in this election. When drafting this ad, we were two weeks away from election day. Whether or not we win, I appreciated the opportunity to communicate directly with you and hopefully clarify a few things after the political coup. I have loved serving you. I pray I have yet another opportunity to prove myself once again. Whether advocating for you in Congress or giving away bikes at the pow wow, it has been my pleasure. **Chi McGwitch, ~Aaron A. Payment**

# Walking on...

## SANDRA SUE BLAKELY

Sandra Sue Blakely, 68, of Newberry, Mich., died on May 15, 2024, at McLaren Hospital-Flint surrounded by her loving family.

Born June 8, 1955, in Pontiac, Mich., daughter of the late Clarence and Marie (Paquin) Bellant, Sandy was employed as a cook as Shirley's Cafe for several years and also was a day care provider for many friends and family in Newberry. Sandy was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Sandy was an amazing gardener in her backyard and supplied kids in Newberry pumpkins from her annual pumpkin patch. She also enjoyed camping throughout the years. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister who truly enjoyed being with her grand babies and family. She was affectionately referred as the "block mom" as she was a mom and grandma to many kids all over Newberry. She had a huge, caring, giving, selfless heart.

In addition to her parents, Sandy is preceded in death by her siblings Wayne Bellant, Janice Bellant and Charles Bellant; nephew Bruce Bellant.

Survivors include her loving husband, Mark of Newberry; children Michelle Carson of Newberry and Charles (Melissa) Carson of Newberry; grandchildren Paige (Lenny) Maguire, Kelsey Carson and Devin Carson; great-grandchildren Emalyn Maguire and Mason Maguire; siblings John Bellant of Waterford, Mich., and Carol (Gordon) Elkans of Fenton, Mich.; sister-in-law Rosanna Bellant of Clarkston, Mich.; and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held on June 8 at Forest Home Cemetery in Newberry. Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry assisted the family.

## DERICK RUSSELL EITREM

Derick Russell Eitrem, 60, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on June 12, 2024, at Hospice of the EUP in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born Aug. 15, 1963, in Sault Ste. Marie to Joseph Valentine and Dorothy Lorraine (Craven) Eitrem.

Derick grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault Area High School in 1981.

After graduation he moved to Los Angeles, Calif., and started his franchise business of three Domino Pizza stores. Derick moved back to Sault Ste. Marie in 1993, and got back with his high school love Jill, and they raised five boys together. He was such a devoted family man who always put them first.

Derick was very athletic in many sports and cross trained at all times with alternate sports. He



ended up a boxing champ, going all the way to winning the Golden Gloves.

Derick got into construction then flooring installation, which brought him to running the Weirs Carpet Mart. He and his partner, Joe Greener, ended up buying the store together six years ago and changed it to U.P. Carpet Mart. He took such pride in the store making it extremely successful.

Derick enjoyed being outdoors, spear fishing, hunting, camping and telling stories for entertainment around the campfire, bush craft, woodworking and teaching his kids outdoor skills, along with anything else he could pass along to them.

Derick is survived by his wife, Jill Eitrem, children, Matthew Sturgul of Nekoosa, Wisc., Joshua (Jessica) Beseau of Doyline, Louisiana, Jeremy (Erin) Eitrem of Sault Ste. Marie, Joseph (Ashley) Eitrem of Sault Ste. Marie, Ariana Eitrem of Pleasant Ridge, Mich., Jacob (Jessica) Eitrem of Sault Ste. Marie, Dylan Eitrem of Sault Ste. Marie; and many grandchildren and a great-grandchild, mother Dorothy (Craven) Eitrem, and sister Renee (Cameron) Anderson along with many nieces and nephews.

Derick was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Eitrem, brother, Steven Eitrem; sister-in-law, Jodi Eitrem. Along with his grand-parents and many aunts and uncles.

Memorial contributions may be given in honor of Derick to the Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

A celebration of life was held June 15, 2024, at the First Church of Christ in St. Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., with a service and a luncheon following.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifehome.com](http://www.familylifehome.com).

## LORIS ANNE (FORREST) MCKERCHIE

Loris Anne (Forrest) McKerchie, age 73, died on April 6, 2024, at her home in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., surrounded by her family. She was born March 13, 1951, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Melvin and Delema (Geist) Forrest.

Loris was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie and attended Sault High School. Loris met Daniel McKerchie and the pair quickly fell in love. Married on July 30, 1976, Loris and Daniel started a family of their own shortly after. Outside of being a mother, Loris worked as a waitress at Big Boy and Clyde's before settling into being a Resident Service Specialist for the Sault Tribe where she worked for close to twelve years.

Loris was a member of a pool league and the VFW Auxiliary. She spent many hours planning VFW kids Christmas parties and volunteering for VFW funerals.

Loris enjoyed reading, spending time outdoors camping, helping others, and spoiling her grandkids.

Loris is survived by her loving husband, Daniel "Sanman" McKerchie; daughter, Diane Kempf; sons, Wayne (Sara) McKerchie, and C.B. Kempf; grandchildren, Amanda Malpass, Tadd Hill, Cassandra Dias, and Madison McKerchie; and great-grandchildren, Hayden Mclean, Liem Malpass.

Loris was preceded in death by her parents, Melvin and Delma Forrest; and brother Gene Forrest.

A graveside service was held at Bay View Cemetery in Brimley, Mich., on May 18, 2024, with a celebration of life held following the service at the VFW in Sault Ste. Marie. In lieu of flowers, a memorial contribution can be made in Loris' memory to a foundation of your choice.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifehome.com](http://www.familylifehome.com).

## JACK MILLIS

Jack Millis, 84, who believed faithfully in the Lord, passed away peacefully on June 16, 2024, at his home surrounded by his beloved family.

He was born on Sept. 4, 1939, to Amherst and Katherine

(Lee) Millis of Muskegon, Mich. Jack attended Muskegon Heights High School in the 1950s. Jack furthered his education by studying Arc Welding at Muskegon Community College, honing skills that would serve him throughout his life.

Jack is survived by his devoted wife of 66 years, Anna (Smith) Millis, his daughter Jacki (Keith) Burns, son Terry Millis (Carol), grandsons Adam (Megan) Ingalls, Ryan Burns and granddaughter Kayla Burns, and four great-grandchildren, Josie, Olivia, Ellery and William. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his parents Amherst and Katherine (Lee) Millis, sister Rosemary (Bramer) Martinsen, and brother George Millis.

Jack dedicated 42 years of his life to Sealed Power/Dana before retiring. He was a proud member of Local 63 U.A.W. and served on the Norton Shores Fire Department for four years.

Jack had a passion for the outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman. He also loved woodworking and spent many hours crafting beautiful pieces. Jack was skilled at working on cars and took great pride in his mechanical abilities.

Throughout his life, Jack found joy in the simple pleasures of spending time with loved ones and enjoying the outdoors. He loved playing cards and games on the computer. He had a deep love for his family and cherished every moment spent together, especially during vacations and

family gatherings.

In addition to his accomplishments and hobbies, Jack was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and cherished his heritage. He enjoyed the excitement of visiting casinos and found joy in the thrill of gaming.

Jack was under the compassionate care of Harbor Hospice for nearly a year, where he received exceptional support from the extraordinary staff. Their dedication and kindness provided comfort and solace to Jack and his family during his illness.

Jack will be remembered for his kind heart, contagious sense of humor, strong work ethic, and his ability to find happiness in life's simple pleasures. His legacy of love and dedication to his family will continue to inspire those who knew him.

He cherished his close relatives and friends, finding joy in their company and the memories they shared.

At Jack's request, there will be no funeral or memorial service. Instead, a private family celebration of life may be held later to honor his memory and share stories of his life well-lived.

Rest peacefully, you will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew you.

## HILDA OTOWADJIWAN

Hilda Shirley Marcella Otowadjiwan, 80, of Negaunee

Township, Mich., passed away peacefully at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich., in the comfort of her loving family on Saturday, June 1, 2024. Hilda was born on April 29, 1944, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., Canada to Theresa (nee Wassegijig) and Lawrence Lewis (Otowadjiwan).

She graduated from Loretto Catholic Central High School, Class of 1962. She married the late Wayne Tadgerson, and together, they raised their family in Negaunee. When her children were grown, Hilda returned to school and earned her Early Child Development degree from Northern Michigan University, Class of 1997.

Hilda, Niigaanigiizhigokwe (Leading the Day Woman) was a proud member of the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, Manitoulin Island, Ont., Canada. Hilda enjoyed spending time with her family and was an avid harvester and gardener. She was an expert crafter in beadwork, basket making, quillwork, leatherwork, and sewing. All of her crafts were lovingly gifted to family and friends. She looked forward to attending the annual family moose hunting trip in

See "Walking on," page 16



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Sault Ste. Marie, MI



We are not Indians  
We are First Nations Citizens  
[SaultTribeGuardian.com](http://SaultTribeGuardian.com)

# JKL Bahweting holds 25th annual jingtamok



*Photos by Scott Brand*

Above left, the Grand Entry kicked off the May 31 powwow with (above right) students, family members and school staff joining in. A solemn moment on the lower right to honor veterans followed by more dancing over on the left.



Above and below, participants of all ages were invited to the JKL Bahweting powwow.



Frog Hills Singers, Dylan Garrick, Mason Cameron, Greg Solomon, Al Belleau, Oscar Reo, Mike Willis, John Hutchinson and Geezhik McCoy.



Above and below the students enjoyed the powwow.



Ice Circle Singers, Tyler Bouschor, Nimnki Ailing, Les Ailing, Kayden Gentry, Geezhik McCoy, William Ruthruff and Greg Solomon.



Ideal weather conditions greeted the dancers.



Dr. Gordon was joined by Elijah, Ethan, George and Wyatt on Ogiimaaminisinoo along with his daughter Maci.



Long lines formed for icy cold drinks.

# Manistique hosts Second Annual Niiwin Noodin Powwow on June 8



Miriam Clark helps Willow Rowles, 9, get her hair ready in preparation for the powwow.



Above, Marsha Damer (left) and her daughter Stacey Goldi were hard at work in the Stacey's Creative Crochet vending booth before the crowd rolled in. Above right, Tom Tuftnell of Thompson provided a ride to Linda and Jim Kumler of Little Lake to the powwow grounds.



L-R: Jasper Anderson, Charlotte Erickson, Emily Henry, Allie Peterson, Lilah Hinkson, Finley Hinkson, Layla LaVance and Lilly LaVance represented the Manistique YEA.



Above, Four Thunders drummers.



Remembering those who fought for our freedom.



The Ice Circle Singers from Sault Ste. Marie perform.



The Crazy Boy Drum.

*Photos by Scott Brand*



Jingle Dress Dancers.



Above, Teal Lake Drummers perform followed by The Medicine Bear Drum, below.



Regalia on display.



Veterans bear flags to open the powwow.



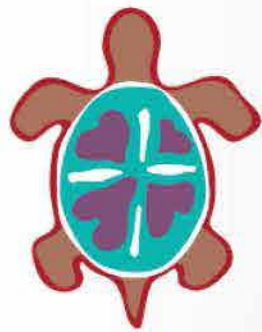
Dancers pay tribute during the flag ceremony.



More Jingle Dress Dancers.



Head female and male dancers lead the way around the dance arena.



**STRONGHEARTS**  
Native Helpline



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**StrongHearts Native Helpline is a confidential and anonymous helpline for Native Americans and Alaska Natives affected by domestic and sexual violence.**

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**StrongHearts advocates are available 24/7 and offer:**

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- Personalized safety planning
- Crisis intervention
- Referrals to Native-centered domestic violence and sexual violence service providers
- Information and education about domestic and sexual violence
- General information about jurisdiction and legal advocacy referrals
- Help finding a medical clinics trained in the care of sexual assault and forensic exams
- Basic information about health options

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**Chat online at [www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org)**

StrongHearts serves all individuals who reach out for their services regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or any other factor protected by local, state, or federal law.

# Health Division employees honored by IHS

From "Award," page 1 and constant willingness to 'go the extra mile' in order to accomplish Health Division's goals had positive impact on the lives of tribal patients."

McLean's pivotal role involves recruiting healthcare professionals for the nine health clinics scattered throughout the region, spanning various disciplines crucial for comprehensive healthcare delivery. Her responsibilities extend far beyond recruitment, as she also provides invaluable support to the leadership and team members within the Health Division.

Colleagues and peers alike commend McLean for her unmatched dedication and willingness to go above and beyond in every task she undertakes. Regardless of the challenge at hand, McLean's steadfast commitment to the well-being of the tribal community shines through in her every action.

McLean's efforts have not only filled critical healthcare positions within the community but have also fostered an environment of trust and reliability within the Health Division. Her proactive approach to recruitment ensures that healthcare

Photo by Ashley Vogel  
At right, Health Recruiter Mary McLean receives her IHS Director's Award for Customer Service from Health Director Leo Chugunov.

services remain accessible and uninterrupted, ultimately contributing to the overall health and well-being of the tribal members.

Receiving the National IHS Directors Award for customer service is a well-deserved recognition of McLean's outstanding contributions to her community and the healthcare sector at large. Her exemplary work ethic and unwavering commitment serve as an inspiration to all who have the privilege of working alongside her.

In light of this remarkable achievement, the Sault Tribe Health Division extends its warmest congratulations to McLean. Her dedication, compassion, and professionalism embody the spirit of service excellence, making her a true asset to the tribe and a beacon of hope for those in need of healthcare services.



## Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court of Appeals: Vacancies

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians seeks qualified licensed attorneys and/or non-attorneys for the position of Appellate Judge in the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Appellate Court. The Appellate Court has the following vacancies to fill licensed attorney positions (active & reserve); Elder position (reserve); and community member (active & reserve).

These positions include a monthly stipend (if not employed by the tribe). Licensed attorney positions are also paid via contract.

Qualifications for Licensed Attorney position include:

- Must be a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Must be a member in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan

Qualifications for Elder (attorney or non-Attorney) position include:

- Must be a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Must be age 60 or older
- If an attorney, must be a member in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan

Qualifications for community member (attorney or non-attorney) position include:

- Must be a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Familiarity with the structure of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians tribal government and tribal government operations
- Knowledge of community values and cultural norms
- Demonstrated capacity to understand and problem solve related to complex legal/community issues in an objective and unbiased manner
- If an attorney, must be a member in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan

To further be considered for these positions, all Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they have:

- Substantial education and experience working with tribal, state and federal law
- Extensive knowledge in administrative, constitutional, civil, juvenile, criminal and child welfare proceedings
- Knowledge and understanding of the history and traditions of the Sault Tribe
- Excellent communication and writing skills
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office including Outlook and Word

A letter of interest, resume, and application should be submitted to [tswan@saulttribe.net](mailto:tswan@saulttribe.net) via email or by mail to: SSM Chippewa Tribal Court, 2175 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, Attn: T. Swan.

Applications can be picked up at the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court or found at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com), in the download section of Tribal Court's webpage under the Government tab. A copy of Tribal Code is also available to view at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

For more information, please contact the Court Administrator's office at 906-635-7747, or via email at [tswan@saulttribe.net](mailto:tswan@saulttribe.net).

**The deadline to submit an application is July 12, 2024.**

# Michigan's AG visits Sault Tribe

From "AG visit," page 1 shut down, are we likely to find live defendants? Lowes said yes, some in the very same communities as their victims. Nessel likened the cases to clergy abuse investigations where convicted abusers were in prison despite being in their 80s, rightly so for all the lives they ruined.

ARC Attorney Jennifer Constantino talked about ICWA and the untapped state and federal resources that could help Sault Tribe families in the state and nationwide. According to Constantino, although there is a growing body of evidence of how ICWA is in the best interest of Indigenous children, it remains under attack. The AG's

office can help by supporting the new final rule that expands access to federal funding for ICWA attorneys, ensuring the AG's Children & Youth Services division abides by ICWA, and continuing to lead efforts to defend ICWA. The AG said ICWA is very complicated and agreed that her office needs to have people trained specifically on ICWA, adding that they need to develop a "concentrated plan" to properly address these cases.

On the Opioid Settlement, Nessel referred the tribe to state agencies, advising that they apply for funds since tribes are eligible. "It's there, ready to be dispersed," she said.

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**Thank You For Your Support Over the Years and Vote in the General Election for Unit 1**

Some forget where they come from. As long as we have Members in need, our work is not done and we can't rest. Long before being elected, I attended nearly every meeting for two decades. I first ran to advocate for you and push certain reforms across the finish line like a separation of powers. I am committed to seeing this through. I hope to continue to serve. It has been my pleasure to serve you.

Thank you, ~Betty Freiheit

# Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 10 Canada. Hilda loved hosting and cooking for her family every holiday and family gathering. She followed her children's, grandchildren's, and great-grandchildren's sports and extracurricular activities until her recent illness.

Surviving are her children: Cheryl (Dave) Bernier of Brimley, Mich., Aaron (Teresa) Tadgeon of Brimley, Lynn (April) Tadgeon of Negaunee, Danny (Terri) Tadgeon of Brimley, Patrick (Tammy) Tadgeon of Brimley, Jimmy (JoAnn) Tadgeon of Negaunee, Jennie (Errol) Lukkarinen of Negaunee, Dennis (Tasha) Tadgeon of Marquette, Mich., Carrie Hale of Sault Ste. Marie and Raymond (Jessie) Tadgeon of Reno, Nev.; two brothers: Chet (Peggy) Lewis of Westerville, Ohio, and Richard (Stephanie) Lewis of Sault Ste. Marie; sister-in-law, Joan Lewis of Front Royal, Virg.; and twenty-five grandchildren, thirty-six great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Hilda is preceded in death by her parents; her son, Michael Tadgeon; and two brothers, Kenny and Byron Lewis.

A traditional fire was lit at Hilda's home, 174 Valley Rd., Negaunee. Visitation was held on June 5, at Koskey Funeral Home and continued throughout the night. Traditional Native American services were held at the funeral home on June 6, before burial services in the Negaunee Cemetery. A luncheon followed at the Negaunee Elks. Hilda's memorial page may be viewed at [koskeyfuneralhome.com](http://koskeyfuneralhome.com)

## CHRISTOPHER ALEX PAQUIN

Christopher Alex Paquin, 56, of St. Ignace, Mich., died unexpectedly on May 18, 2024, at his home. He was born on Dec. 27, 1967, in St. Ignace, to Ronald and Carol Jean (Shomin) Paquin.

Chris grew up in St. Ignace and graduated from LaSalle High School with the class of 1986. After graduation, he went

right into the workforce and started working construction on the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Chris also started helping his father with his commercial fishing business, since age twelve and eventually took over the family fishing licensing.

Over the years, Chris worked on many projects and was ready to get started on the old big boy project.

Chris was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Christopher liked hanging out with his friends, and being outdoors, especially fishing, snowmobiling, golfing, and camping. He enjoyed listening to music, watching movies, and being with his dogs, Ice, Ziggie, and Ace. But above all, he loved spending time with his boys.

Chris is survived by his father and stepmother, Ronald and Molly Paquin; sons, Christopher (Lexis) Jordan and Ronald (Kristina Pashina) Paquin; grandchildren, Maylee Paquin and Joshua Wayland.

Chris was preceded in death by his mother, Carol Jean Paquin; and infant sister, Marie Paquin.

A visitation was held May 21, 2024, at St. Ignace Tribal Community Center with a Traditional Ceremony following. Christopher's final resting place is at Wequayoc Native American Cemetery in St. Ignace Township.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

## MERLE ELDRED SORENSON

Merle Eldred Sorenson, 90, of Hessel, Mich., passed away at MyMichigan Straits on May 29, 2024. He was born Dec. 16, 1933, in St. Ignace to Myron and Leone (Reiman) Sorenson.

Merle graduated from LaSalle

High School in St. Ignace, with the Class of 1951. He met Catherine H. Varney in 1956, and they married on Feb. 2, 1957. They resided in St. Ignace most of their life before moving to Hessel in 1984, where they spent the rest of their retirement together.

Merle worked for the State of Michigan for 32 years, was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose, where he received a Pilgrim Degree, and was a proud member of the Sault Tribe. He also earned a spot in the Bowling Hall of Fame in St. Ignace.

Merle loved the outdoors, was an avid fisherman, his best fishing buddy was his wife, among other family and friends. He was part owner in a great hunting property with his two amigos' Howie Everson and Ernie Krause. Many family memories were made there. He was also a major fan of sports. He always supported his favorite teams, the Detroit Red Wings, and Michigan Wolverines. He enjoyed playing cribbage and doing jigsaw puzzles.

Merle is survived by his wife, Catherine, of 67 years; daughter, Denise "Dee Dee" (Gerald "Soap") Bickham; grandchildren, Erin and (Sean) Hendricks, and Dr. Rebecca and (Nick) Boston; great-grandson, Everett. Brothers, Duane (Dorothy) Sorenson, and Roger (Cheryl) Sorenson; brother-in-law, Douglas; sisters-in-law, Doris Mackenzie, Minnie Varney, Jan Varney and Shirley Sorenson. Also, numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

Merle was preceded in death by his parents, three-month-

old son, Bruce; daughter Julie Norton; brother, Gerald Sorenson; brothers-in-law, William Varney, Rod Varney, Max McKenzie, Alvin Mc Kee; and sisters-in-law, Sue Varney, and Carol McKee.

A graveside memorial service will be held July 23, 2024. Graveside service at 12 p.m. in Lakeside Cemetery, St. Ignace, Mich., with a luncheon to follow at the Moose Lodge of St. Ignace, 2999 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, Mich.

Memorial Contributions can be made out to the Clark Township Ambulance Corps, P.O. Box 367, Cedarville, MI 49719 or the Moose Lodge, 2999 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781, or the Moose Lodge 999.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

## TERESIA LYNN LECKSON

U.S. Navy Veteran, IT2 Teresia Lynn Leckson, age 54, of Gladstone, Mich., passed away Friday, May 31, 2024, surrounded by her family.

Teresia was born on Feb. 18, 1970, in Flint, Mich., and was the daughter of Robert and Tana (Barbeaux) Leckson. She graduated from Big Bay de Noc High School in 1988 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduation, where she spent 12 years and achieved the rank of E5, as an Information Systems Technician. Her duty stations were plentiful, being stationed in Antigua, West Indies; Puerto Rico; Guantanamo Bay,



Cuba; Naples, Italy; and Norfolk, VA. While stationed in Naples, Teresia became a proud mother of two beautiful daughters: Ashlyn Bosley, born in 1992 and Alysyan Bosley, born in 1994.

After separating from the Navy in 2001, she relocated back to Michigan where she continued her education at Northern Michigan University, obtaining her B.S. in health and fitness management. Teresia's love for helping people could be seen in her everyday life as she spent countless hours volunteering her time with the American Red Cross, FEMA, Community Emergency Response Team, Disaster Relief and many hours at the Jacobetti Home for Veterans.

After finishing her degree, Teresia moved to Chicago and began working as an I.T. analyst for the IRS. She retired in 2014 and moved back to Michigan to be with her family. A beautiful soul who walked to the beat of her own drum, she was mystified by what the outdoor world had to offer. You could often find her sipping a piping hot cup of coffee, while watching the wildlife off the back of her deck with her dog, Lazaro.

She loved spending time at her parent's home, sewing with mom or out in the back 40 (as she called it), pruning and picking apples with dad, antiquing and shopping with her sister Melisa, or adventure seeking with Larry. Her greatest joy was spending time with her daughters and grandchildren. Her daughters were her best friends, each sharing a unique bond. With Ally, they talked for hours about anything and everything. They were each other's confidants.

See "Walking on," page 18

### TRIBAL MEMBER REGISTRATION IN THE TAX AGREEMENT AREA

#### TRIBAL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

(Including the Issuance of Certificates of Exemptions)

#### INITIAL REGISTRATION AND OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Under the Tax Agreement between the Tribe and the State, tribal members who live within the "Agreement Area" are able to claim exemption from certain state taxes. In order to take advantage of these benefits, the member must be registered with the Tribal Tax Office and must prove that they do live in the "Agreement Area."

The registration process begins with the member filling out an "Address Verification Card" and providing their name, address, and other personal information. The member must also provide a copy of their MI driver's license, MI State ID card, or voter's registration card. All of these forms of State identification MUST have the member's current address and that address must be located in the Tax Agreement Area. Members must also include a utility bill in their name and their current address as an additional proof of residency in the Tax Agreement Area.

The Tribal Tax Office cannot register a member with the MI Department of Treasury unless these documents are included with the "Address Verification Card."

#### CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTIONS

Tribal Code 43.1103 states that Resident Tribal Members shall notify the Tribal Tax Office in writing prior to moving their principal place of residence.

If the Tribal Tax Office receives a request for a Certificate of Exemption and the address for the member on the request is not the same as the address that the Tribal Tax Office and MI Department of Treasury have on record, then no Certificate of Exemption can be issued.

We will usually attempt to contact the member to ask them to update their address by filling out the "Address Verification Card" and providing the required documents, but it is the member's responsibility to provide this information. A Certificate of Exemption cannot be issued unless the member has filed the correct information proving that they live within the Agreement Area.

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# Summer Internship Program hosts ten students

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Summer Internship Program began on June 3, with 10 interns arriving at the Kewadin Casinos Convention Center for a full day of orientation.

Cecil Pavlat opened the event with a welcome song and prayer followed by a brief presentation from Language and Culture Director, Catherine DeVoy.

“This will be a busy and fun summer, promised Education Director Stephanie Sprecker.

“You will gain experience working hands-on, as a Sault Tribal employee, for the next 10 weeks.”

The morning session saw the interns, all college students pursuing various degrees, preparing for their summer roles getting photographed for their employee badges and completing all necessary paperwork for the Human Resources Department.

In the Afternoon session, Sault Tribal Chairman, Austin Lowes and Executive Director, Christine McPherson spoke to the students before they were formally introduced to their department supervisors, closing out their first day.



Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes (center) with the summer interns.

The 2024 Intern Class consists of the following individuals:

- Katherine Carter – Recent graduate of Northern Kentucky University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Integrative Studies – Placed in Governmental Human Resources
- Delaney Cushman – Harvard University majoring in History of Science – Placed in Language and

- Culture
- Chelsea Deuman – Central Michigan University majoring in Psychology – Placed in Recreation.
- Sage Everett – Michigan State University majoring in Political Science – Placed Sault Tribe Natural Resources Department, Environmental Program

- Henry Finfrock – Michigan State University majoring in Computer Science – Placed in Planning & Development
- Cole Kachur – Eastern Michigan University majoring in Biology – Placed at J.K.L. Bahweting School and Sault Tribe Early Childhood Program
- Claire Leighton – Central Michigan University majoring

in Conservation Biology and English – Placed in Sault Tribe Natural Resources Department, Wildlife Program

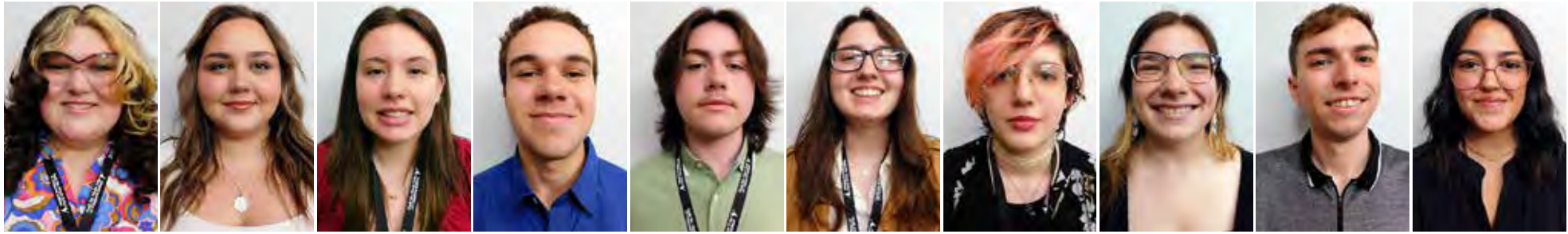
• Trenten Maleport - Michigan State University majoring in Environmental Studies – Placed in Sault Tribe Natural Resources Department, Environmental Program

• Kaitlyn Smith – Western Michigan University majoring in Advertising and Promotion – Placed at Kewadin Casinos in the Marketing Department

• Summer Smith – Lake Superior State University majoring in Criminal Justice – Placed at J.K.L. Bahweting School and Sault Tribe Y.E.A. Program

Started in 1997, the Sault Tribe Internship Program is designed to provide Sault Tribe college students with a valuable experience, where they can both apply their skills and learn new ones, as they work in their field of interest.

Their internship gives them real world experience and helps them find permanent employment upon graduating college; with the hope that they come back and work here at Sault Tribe.



Katherine Carter Delaney Cushman Chelsea Deuman Sage Everett Henry Finfrock Kaitlyn Smith Cole Kachur Claire Leighton Trenten Maleport Summer Smith

## Volunteers meet to clean up Indian Point Cemetery mid-May

Sault Tribe Unit IV Board Representative Darcy Morrow, along with volunteers, family and friends, took time mid-May to clean the grounds at Indian Point Cemetery in Nahma, Mich. “What a beautiful day we had taking care of our ancestors,” she said. “The turnout was awesome. Chi Miigwech to everyone who took time to come and help. Miigwech to Beau and his staff from the casino for their help and bringing our lunch and drinks.”



Volunteers clean the grounds at Indian Point Cemetery in Nahma, Mich.



## Parr receives Academic Excellence Award

Allendale, Mich. – Mary Parr of Grand Rapids, Michigan has been awarded the Academic Excellence Award for Biology from Grand Valley State University. Mary Parr is a graduate of West Catholic High School and is supported by Beth and Jim Parr.

The Academic Excellence Award honors one undergraduate student and one graduate student in each academic major. Faculty

### Letter to the Editor - Mackinac Straits Medical Office Building completion slated for July 31

We are pleased to be nearing completion of the Medical Office Building project. The teams amongst Clark Construction and Integrated Design Solutions have worked tirelessly, throughout the past year to ensure timely completion of the project, slated for July 31, 2024.

The newly built tribal space will include all of the services presently offered in the existing space including Pharmacy, General Medicine, Optical, Traditional Medicine, Dental, Community Health and Behavioral Health. The plans include additional parking for patients, employees and visitors. Additionally, the tribal leadership team has allocated space for future growth, to serve the tribal community well into the future.

This project allows the hospital to expand its operations in the areas that have experienced substantial growth in recent

from each department select the award recipient for their academic major.

Grand Valley is dedicated to providing a rich learning environment for students, offering a wide range of majors and hands-on research opportunities. Highly credentialed and responsive faculty and individual advisors and mentors promote a liberal education that teaches students critical thinking and problem-solving.

years. Plans are underway for the next phase of the hospital renovation. The plans will address the space constraints throughout the System, including, but not limited to, Pharmacy, Inpatient Services, Outpatient Surgery, Central Processing and Ambulatory Services. The Mackinac Straits Health Foundation will continue its fundraising efforts, “Bridging Dreams to Reality.”

We are grateful for our partnership throughout the past 15 years with the Sault Tribe. This project further demonstrates the strength of the relationship and our ability to work cohesively, while continuing our steadfast commitment to care for our community, providing quality and accessible healthcare.

Sincerely,  
**Karen Cheeseman**  
President & Chief Executive Officer, Mackinac Straits Health System



# Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 16

With Ashlyn, they loved to watch TV and documentaries on crime shows and unwind and relax on the couch; always enjoying each other's company. Teresa loved playing games with her grandchildren, monster trucks, and watching them zoom around the back yard in their green buggy.

Teresa is survived by her daughters, Ashlyn Terese Bosley, Alysah Dahyl Bosley; grandsons, Liam and Zander; parents, Tana and Robert Leckson of Garden, Mich.; sister, Melisa (Dennis) Johnson; nephew, Robert Johnson; niece, Emilie Johnson; loving partner, Larry Rochefort and many uncles, aunts, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents and beloved dog and best friend, Baxter.

A celebration of life was held

at the Garden Congregational Church on June 15, 2024.

Pastor Greg Williamson officiated the memorial service. A burial with military honors followed at New Garden Cemetery in Garden, Mich.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Teresa's name to the Garden American Legion Post 545.

Fausett Family Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements.

## PETER N. GOKEY

Peter N. Gokey, 85, of Traverse City, died June 18, 2024 at his home.

Peter was born on Nov. 11, 1938, in his family's log cabin in Bliss, Mich., the son of Peter and Esther (Marshall) Gokey. He attended school at the West Bliss schoolhouse and in Pellston before joining the United States

Navy at age 17.

Peter proudly served his country in the Navy from 1955-1959. He had the opportunity to sail on a world tour aboard the battleship Wisconsin.

When he returned home, he worked as a bus driver for North Star and then later became an over the road truck driver. He enjoyed buying and selling cars, riding his motorcycle and deer hunting in the fall.

He was a member of the VFW and the teamsters. He'll be remembered for his quiet, gentle presence.

Peter is survived by his life partner Linda Gokey of Traverse City; children Pete and Mark Gokey; brothers Bob (Marie) Gokey of Idaho, Gary (Elaine) Gokey of Harbor Springs, Bernie (Peggy) Gokey of Bliss, Dick (the late Sherry) Gokey of Delaware, Michael "Mick" Gokey of

Kansas, and Todd Gokey; seven grandchildren, five great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews including a special nephew Christopher Gokey.

He is preceded in death by his daughter Koreen Egler; first wife Nancy Gokey; niece Melissa Gokey; and by his parents.

Peter will be laid to rest at Bliss Township Cemetery and a

celebration of his life is being planned for later this year. Details will be announced by Stone Funeral Home.

Donations in his memory are asked to please be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105) and the Cherryland Humane Society (1750 Ahlberg Rd, Traverse City, MI 49696).

## CHRISTOPHER A. PAQUIN

The family of Christopher A. "Widow" Paquin (12/27/67 - 5/18/24) of St. Ignace, would like to thank everyone for their sympathy, love and support during this difficult time.

## Defending against Social Security scammers

BY HILLARY HATCH,  
SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

One common tactic scammers use is posing as federal agents or other law enforcement officials. They may claim your Social Security number (SSN) is linked to a crime. They may even threaten to arrest you if you don't follow their instructions. Here are three things you should do:

Hang up right away and don't reply to emails.

Never give personal information

or payment of any kind.

Report the scam at [oig.ssa.gov](http://oig.ssa.gov).

You should continue to remain vigilant if you receive a phone call from someone who claims there's a problem with your SSN or your benefits. If you owe money to us, we will mail you a letter explaining your rights, payment options, and information about appealing.

We will never:

Threaten you with benefit suspension, arrest, or other legal action.

Promise a benefit increase or

other assistance in exchange for payment.

Require payment by retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency, or prepaid debit card. Demand secrecy from you in handling a Social Security-related problem.

Send official letters or reports containing personally identifiable information via email.

For more information on scams please visit [www.ssa.gov/scam](http://www.ssa.gov/scam). Please share this information with anyone who may need it.

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# Working with tribes and state, federal government



**AUSTIN LOWES**  
**TRIBAL CHAIRMAN**

Aaniin! I will begin my unit report by sharing good news: I was unanimously appointed as the president of United Tribe of Michigan at our last meeting. United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) is an organization made

up of the 12 federally recognized tribes in the state of Michigan. The organization's mission is to advance, protect, preserve, and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the Michigan tribes for the next seven generations.

The leader of each tribe makes up UTM's council, and they decide who the organization's officers are. I was honored to receive the unanimous support of the chiefs, ogemas, presidents, and chairpersons in Michigan. I look forward to advocating for Indian Country at this level.

In addition to expanding my leadership role, I continue to work hard to improve our tribe's relationship with the state of Michigan and the federal government. Last month, the Sault Tribe hosted the First Lady and the Second Gentleman. This month,

we hosted the Attorney General of Michigan, Dana Nessel.

During our meeting with the Attorney General, we discussed boarding schools, missing or murdered indigenous persons, domestic violence prevention, ICWA, and opioid settlement funds. No matter who is in office, tribal leaders have a responsibility to remind them of their treaty and trust obligations to tribes. As my friend and mentor Frank Ettawageshik likes to say, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." I will continue to meet with members of both parties to advocate for our members.

In addition to hosting state and federal leaders, I have also worked diligently to increase congressional appropriations for our tribe. I have accomplished this by building relationships with lawmakers, who have made

congressional directed spending (CDS) requests on our behalf.

The following lawmakers have made requests:

— Michigan State Senator John DaMoose- \$750,000 to help fund the Sault Tribe's homeless shelter.

U.S. Congressman Jack Bergman- \$2,000,000 to help fund a three-story, 18-unit apartment complex.

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow- 1.) \$2,000,000 to help fund the construction of an apartment complex for families transitioning out of the Tribe's homeless shelter; 2.) \$1,500,000 to help renovate the forty-two homes that require renovation at Sawyer Village.

U.S. Senator Gary Peters- 1.) \$1,500,000 to repair the water and sewer infrastructure at the Riverside Trailer Park; 2.)

\$1,500,000 to renovate low-income homes at Sawyer Village; 3.) \$2,000,000 to build homes for families transitioning out of the Tribe's homeless shelter; 4.) \$2,000,000 to install water and sanitation infrastructure in the vacant lots at Odenaang.

This represents over \$13 million in requests, which will change the lives of tribal families if approved by Congress. I am proud of this work, and I greatly appreciate the assistance provided by Mike McCoy and our Legislative Department, along with our Vice Chairman Tyler LaPlaut, who has been an asset to our tribe during these congressional meetings.

I look forward to continuing to serve our tribe to the best of my abilities.

Austin Lowes, Sault Tribe Chairman, (906) 635-6050

# Tribe needs an independent ombudsman's office



**SHAWN BOROWICZ,**  
**DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Boozhoo, If this tribe is not going to change the current Constitution,

bylaws and the separation of powers, it's time to have an independent department that oversees complaints from members, employees and staff — a separate department with several investigative staff completely independent of every other tribal department. This staff would be known as the ombudsman's office. These employees should not be related to any member of the tribe and be given a three to five-year contract so if there investigations turn up any wrongdoing and it's reported to the tribal board, the Legal Department or the Tribal Prosecutor. By giving them a contract that guarantees their job,

they will do an accurate investigation with no repercussions from the tribal board or other department. Instead of board members sitting in on employee appeals, this department could function in this capacity and be completely independent of any worker or department. Lately, there has been far too many complaints from employees and this is an option that needs to be looked at. This process has worked in many communities throughout our state and I believe it should be looked into

further.

Programs, renovations and projects in Unit 3 are all on track with the biggest one being our new health center, which we were given an update on by our health staff and Dr. Leo at our monthly elder luncheon. During the move to the new facility, no interruption of services should occur except to the pharmacy and that will be minimal for a short period of time.

Our last full workshop and meeting was held at the Shores in St. Ignace and very few mem-

bers were in attendance. If you would like to get involved or ask questions of the tribal board, that is the time to do so. While there, we toured our juvenile detention center and witnessed the progress that is taking place under the guidance of its director Mr. Froslund and his staff, who are all doing an excellent job.

Enjoy the summer. Minawaa giga-waabaminsee. Any questions or concerns I can be contacted at (906) 379-8511 or sborowicz@saulttribe.net

Shawn

## ACFS attends collaborative sessions



Anishinaabek Community and Family Services' Child Welfare Program staff and other attendees at the Breakthrough Series Collaborative Learning Session in Minneapolis, Minn., on April 24 participated in Denim Day to help bring awareness to sexual violence.

Anishinaabek Community and Family Services' (ACFS) child welfare program participated in their final two-day Breakthrough Series Collaborative Learning Session in Minneapolis on April 23 and 24. Teams showcased innovative strategies to enhance worker well-being, foster connection, and improve employee retention. Engaging in deep discussions, self-assessments, and idea sharing, the teams left with new concepts and plans to expand on previous strategies to meet workforce needs. The collaboration is set to conclude at the end of June, with each team presenting a virtual showcase of their work throughout the collaborative. The current focus is on how teams will sustain existing

strategies, develop new strategies, and expand their efforts after the collaborative concludes.

This initiative is part of an 18-month breakthrough series collaborative launched by the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute to improve recruitment and retention in the child welfare workforce and build cultures that value justice, equity, diversity, and belonging. Five tribal and nine public multi-level teams are working together to create anti-racist, anticolonial child welfare programs that support workforce well-being and the families and communities they serve.

Teams are using the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle to design and test change strategies, guided by a Collaborative Change Framework based on the Surgeon General's Framework for Workplace Mental Health & Well-Being. Throughout the collaborative, team members work together to implement changes that improve the workforce from their individual positions.

## High in Plain Sight: Current Drug Trends Training

Sault Tribe and Bay Mills Behavioral Health proudly welcome Officer Jermaine Galloway, aka "The Tall Cop"

Join us for an educational training to identify the drug trends in our community to prevent substance misuse on:

### Monday, July 1, 2024, 8 am-12 pm, at the Grand Ballroom, 2186 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 49783

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- Stop in for 15-20 minutes after the event to visit the Hidden in Plain Sight trailer, 18+
- If you have any additional questions, please contact ayoung2@saulttribe.net
- This event is sponsored by SAMHSA grant #3H79TI085653-02S1

# Education in Indian Country, tribal opportunities



**ISAAC MCKECHNIE**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

I think we can all agree that in most measures of educational success, Native American students trail every other racial and ethnic subgroup of students. Low rates of high school graduation, among other grim educational outcomes, weigh on Indian Country. In spite of these deep concerns, many Native leaders see a direction for how to improve student achievement and

academic prosperity, including through the preservation of tribal cultures and languages.

Our staff has been working to address the needs of students who have been disrupted by the pandemic. The best means for assessing the gaps in learning due to the lack of traditional face-to-face instructional hours is periodic testing and monitoring. We currently test our children four times a year with the testing results submitted to our Educational staff and board members for assessment.

## OTHER EDUCATIONAL UPDATES

### Summer Internship Program

The summer internship program began on June 3. We have 10 interns placed throughout various tribal programs, including Planning & Development, Marketing, HR, Language & Culture, Natural Resources, and two at JKL. These young adults are doing great at their worksites, and, equally important, seem to really be enjoying their experience. After the election, I will

be asking the board to consider increasing the number from 10 to 20. I feel it is imperative that we mentor our future tribal leaders.

### Ted Grant Scholarship Updates

Our TED Scholarships, administered through the Education Director's office, are \$1,000 each, awarded per semester, to eligible Sault Tribe college or vocational students enrolled part-time or full-time in the U.S. We had awarded almost 300 scholarships this semester. We recently closed the application period for Winter-Spring 2024 and are wrapping them up right now. We will be announcing the next round, for students taking courses this summer, over the next couple of weeks. Please keep in mind, that students are eligible to receive consecutive funding if they are in fact enrolled each semester.

### Youth Development Fund

Since the new fiscal year began on Jan. 1, 2024, we have serviced almost 200 tribal youth through this fund, which helps pay for activities such as sports registrations, Drivers Ed, sports

equipment, language lessons, camps, class trips, and other items.

### Unmet Needs Grant

In April, 52 students were awarded unmet needs grants to help offset costs of the Winter 2024 semester.

### Scholarship Program 2024-25

We have made some changes to our 2024-2025 Higher Education Scholarship Program. We are currently accepting applications through Friday, Aug. 2. These \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to Sault Tribe members of various types — undergraduate or graduate, vocational or trade, full- or part-time, as well as several other scholarships with special criteria. The application is available at saulttribe.com. Go to Membership Services and scroll down to Education.

### WIOA

Our summer youth employment program just kicked off with 40 student workers hired and placed all across our tribe. This is a great program for our high school age youth to explore

the different areas of employment within the tribe.

### YEA

Our YEA summer programs have begun in all units. Our Tribal Youth Council and YEA staff will be attending the UNITY Conference in Portland, Ore., at the end of this month.

Staff has been working hard to develop and revamp internal procedures, forms, the processes for conducting meetings, communicating with parents and legal guardians on expectations, and safety protocols prior to any travel.

The Youth Empowerment Powwow is scheduled for July 27. This year's powwow will take place in Hessel and will bring together youth from all seven YEA sites. In a change from previous years, the event will rotate locations, with Hessel being the first host in the rotation.

Sincerely,

Isaac McKechnie, Unit 1  
Director  
(906) 440-6661  
imckechnie@saulttribe.net

# Director Hampton reports to the membership



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aniin kina waya (hello everybody). Welcome to summer and warm weather. I want to take this time to kindly remind everyone of dehydration and heat safety.

Remember to stay hydrated, wear lightweight loose clothing, avoid direct sun exposure, and know the signs of heat exhaustion. The signs of heat exhaustion may include dizziness, thirst, nausea, dark colored urine, and dry skin. If you experience signs of dehydration or heat exhaustion, immediately move to a cooler place to rest and rehydrate. If someone experiences heat stroke, high body temperature, flushed skin, altered mental state, call 911 immediately and move the person to a cool location.

I also want to remind everyone of pet safety for the summer. Prior to bringing your pet for a walk on a warm day, test the heat of the pavement with your own bare feet. If the pavement is too warm for your feet then it is also too warm for your pet's paws. Do not ever leave a pet in the vehicle, even for a few minutes. Even a vehicle with windows opened can quickly reach an unsafe temperature. Signs of heat stroke include heavy panting, being unable to calm down, and fast pulse rate. If you suspect your pet has heat stroke, cool them down in a cool bath then bring them to the veterinarian's office to ensure there is no internal damage.

I would like to openly welcome all to keep an eye out for additional activities in the Manistique and Escanaba locations as our new fitness center and community centers begin to open. When the time is appropriate there will be grand openings for these facilities so stay tuned for those announcements.

### Katchup with Kim

During the end of February 2023, I started holding Zoom meetings called "Katchup with Kim" as an avenue for our tribal membership, within Unit 4 as well as any of our units, including at-large members, to converse with myself and hold discussions regarding upcoming resolutions, ideas members have for our tribe and current issues. I openly welcome anyone to attend these Zoom meetings as change will take a tribe. Below is the Zoom meeting schedule with meeting ID and password:

Thursday, July 18 at 7 p.m. EST; Meeting ID: (906) 440-8138; Password: KimHampton

### Powwow Meetings

The second annual 2024 Niiwin Noodin Powwow was held on June 8. There was a great turnout with a strong sense of community. Chi miigwech for everyone who helped and everyone who attended. At the wrap up meeting that was held on June 10, a 2025 date for the third Annual Niiwin Noodin Powwow was set for June 7, 2025. SAVE THE DATE for the 2025 Niiwin Noodin Powwow scheduled for June 7, 2025.

I also encourage everyone to "like" the Niiwin Noodin Powwow Facebook page to keep updated on events.

### Unit 4 Elder Meetings

I encourage our tribal elders to attend elder meetings to become involved as well as stay updated on what our elder committees are working on.

The next meeting in Manistique will be held July 10 at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. This year's elder picnic is scheduled for Aug. 21,

2024.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held July 10, at 5 p.m. at the Delta County Chamber Building. This year's elder picnic is scheduled for Aug. 10, 2024.

### May/June Activities

Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC): Myself and the rest of THSAC are currently taking a breather after our first assignment and briefing.

Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center: Both projects are wrapping up shortly. Stay tuned for the announcement of the grand opening for the Escanaba Community Center. I have had a lot of members asking when the Manistique Fitness Center will be opening. We are aiming for the middle of August but watch for updates. Sault Tribe is currently actively seeking candidates for open positions at these two locations so please visit the Sault Tribe website, employment section.

### Community Events

May/June:

May 21- Board workshop; Board Meeting  
May 28-participated in Board workshop  
May 29-participated in meeting regarding Escanaba Community Center's Grand Opening

June 3-Attended Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow committee meeting 6/4/2024-Attended Board workshop and meeting held in St Ignace

June 5-Participated in Key Employee interviews

June 6-Attended employee appeal hearings; Attended Sault Tribe Inc's monthly meeting

June 7-Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow teaching and talking circle

June 8-Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow water ceremony and event

June 9-Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow cleanup

June 10-Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow wrap up meeting

June 11-Attended a

Communities that Care meeting in Manistique; Board Special Meeting

June 12-Attended the Manistique Elder meeting; Attended the Escanaba Elder meeting

June 13-Participated in Key Employee interviews

June 14-Attended Headstart Advisory Board Meeting; Attended the Manistique Kewadin Casino's 30th Anniversary Celebration

June 15-Participated in a Native funeral

June 17-Participated in an Escanaba Community Center Grand Opening Meeting

June 18-Attended JKL Fiduciary Meeting; Met with Repatriation and the Schoolcraft County Historical Society for the repatriation of Native items; Attended Board workshop and meeting

### Looking Forward

I look forward to re-engaging with members during Katchup with Kim sessions, planning

additional cultural teachings, editing and passing the new Sault Tribe Code of Ethics, holding grand openings for the Escanaba Community Center and the Manistique Fitness Center, as well as moving forward on goals I have for Unit 4, including community input sessions, and working with the rest of the Board of Directors to move Sault Tribe forward toward unity and growth.

Chi Miigwech for allowing me to represent and advocate for our members. I am always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. I encourage members to participate in Maamawi Craft Nights, the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow meetings, and all other activities and events occurring throughout Indian Country.

My number is (906) 440-8138, email is KHampton@saulttribe.net.

Kimberly Hampton,  
Unit 4 Representative



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# Addressing Unit 3 issues, events, and beyond



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

I attended the annual Team Member Appreciation Luncheon on June 22. The committee did a

great job putting the event together. The speech by the chairman was about team building and team work, which made me feel embarrassed since we as leaders of the tribe cannot seem to work together.

On June 25, I attended the Native American Festival in St. Ignace at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture. As usual it was very well attended. Carl Burnside always does a great job as the MC. It was the first year that Shirley Donovan retired, so Tom and Francie Wyers did a good job facilitating the event.

The annual St. Ignace board meeting was held on June 4. There were only a few members in the audience, which I attribute to the way meetings are conduct-

ed and members are being treated. The board did vote to censure Betty with a written warning after several outbursts and name calling. I was disheartened that it was not a unanimous vote. It is the chair's responsibility to keep the decorum in the room and it seems that there are minimal restraints on Betty, but audience members can't say a word and are tossed out for 30 days or more.

The tribe will contract with Housing on the Unit 3 ARPA dollars to build or purchase homes, which will allow the extra time to get the funds spent. Currently, there is an engineering company evaluating the infrastructure needs. Once that is completed we can move forward with an overall plan with the property and hous-

ing site. The tribe has owned this property for decades so it is time to put it to good use.

At the last elder meeting some representatives from Health were present and elders requested information on Blue Stone findings and the mobile medical unit purpose. The board will be meeting with Health staff and Health Board on June 26. Soon after, hopefully, a document of findings and plans can be released to the membership.

As far as the mobile medical unit going downstate, I support it going to areas to bring services to our downstate members, but we may need to hire a crew specific to do this outreach because there were many complaints from patients not being able to see

their doctor during the days they went downstate. If there are openings at the clinic, most people like to see the same person for continuum of care.

Months ago, the board voted to hold a board meeting in Detroit on July 16. I am in support of holding member sessions in other areas but do not really support an actual meeting because then the staff will have to travel as well as our videographer and it could be quite expensive.

I think the board could attend and meet with members in a relaxed setting with no 5-minute rules, like a meet and greet with updates and questions taken as well as answers, since regular meetings you usually don't get answers.

# Working on housing in Newberry and Hessel



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

We have recently secured the contract for the work on the environment assessments for the quadplex and duplex Elders units in Newberry and Hessel. We have worked toward this for the last three years and it will begin. The Housing Department will be processing the applications for these units in the future so once that process starts we will let you know.

I would like to thank the Housing Department for assisting us through the process to get out the RFP and Andrew, in our facilities department for his work on this and the new fitness community center project.

I would also like to announce that our health division is working on making it possible for members to use the "new" fitness facility in Newberry — once it has been secured the Newberry Tribal will have the information.

I will also keep you posted in reports.

Both the Hessel and Newberry powwow committees have been working to secure the gatherings for this year. Newberry's will be held in Sept. 7 at the Newberry Tribal housing site location (health center) and Hessel's will be Aug. 16 through 18. Both committees are working on flyers to announce and that will be coming

out soon.

In this report I would like to give a Miigwech to all our units volunteers, whether it's on a committee, helping with the youth and Elders or simply giving of your time to make our tribe better. It takes committed members that care about the communities to make us thrive and we have that in our unit. Thank you, too, all that make that happen.

In closing, I know that there are plenty of questions about the work we are doing with our ongoing health system assessment. The board has asked and voted to make a communication detailing what Blue Stone has gathered

and what the plans and timelines are for moving forward. I want you to know that I will be using experienced judgment moving forward with the contract as that it makes our systems better for our members and just not hiring to leave things on the shelf to not take actions for best practices and increased services.

In closing, please always feel free to reach me at (906) 322-3818 or email [Lcausley@sault-tribe.net](mailto:Lcausley@sault-tribe.net) to meet or discuss any concerns or input you have need help with.

Baamaapii,  
Lana Causley-Smith  
Unit II Director

# MAT Clinic opening to help communities heal



**KIMBERLY LEE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

age you to approach this situation with a fresh perspective.

Not all of our healthcare is covered by IHS funding, and the remaining balance for providing care comes from third-party revenue (money generated from accurate coding and insurance billing). These funds are earmarked solely for health-related expenses.

It's crucial to understand that healthcare must bring in as much revenue as possible to retain and recruit staff and offer new services to provide the best care for members without them having to seek care elsewhere. It may sound overly optimistic and complex, but I believe it's achievable, and we need partners like Bluestone to help bring this vision to life. So yes, revenue is significant for our healthcare and our future. Whether we accept it or not, the federal government doesn't provide all the funds needed to offer the best care for tribal members. Rest assured that will always be a top priority of mine. Without our health, the quality and quantity of life are compromised, and we deserve the best of both.

I regret to address the events on Tuesday, June 4, at the meeting in St. Ignace. I feel compelled to explain my actions in response to the lack of respect and professionalism exhibited during the meeting. Unfortunately, the behavior at the table was highly disparaging, and it was disheartening to witness such unproductive conduct. I motioned to address a fellow board member who was being loud and belittling while I was trying to share my thoughts. However, it was falsely claimed that I used inappropriate, untrue language. As your repre-

sentative, I take my role seriously and strive to conduct myself professionally. I understand that this incident has caused embarrassment and frustration for our members, especially considering its circulation on social media. I want to offer my sincere apologies for having to witness such a lack of maturity and respect. I will continue to compose myself professionally and attempt to shut down what I feel are uncalled-for behaviors.

The MAT clinic doors will be

opening very soon. It is something that I believe will be a great stride in aiding healing for our community. Addiction is one of those terrible sufferings that has affected the majority of our lives in one way or another. MAT has helped many with those struggles, managed them, and helped them be productive members of society, spouses, dads, co-workers, and neighbors. The resolution recently passed, opening this clinic for members and non-mem-

bers to seek needed treatment, and it came with an amendment to add that if it ever got to the point of turning members away, it would be a member's priority and addressed. I supported that. I am excited about our team building this program and that it brings our loved ones and ourselves hope.

Miigwech, for your time.  
Kimberly Lee, Unit II Rep.  
[Klee@saulttribe.net](mailto:Klee@saulttribe.net)  
(906) 379-8965

# Sault powwow coming up



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Regardless of what happens in this election there is a lot of work to be done. The Board of Directors will need to come together to address some long-standing issues and concerns. Something I previously shared but will share again: "My mom once told me there are two types of people: 1) People

who throw rocks and 2) People who build with those rocks. She taught me to build. She said you may have to duck from time to time and you may be tempted to throw some of those rocks thrown at you, but don't — just keep building. She wanted us all to be builders, so let's keep building."

Our tribe recently hosted Michigan's Attorney General Dana Nessel for a discussion on VAWA, Child Welfare, MMIP, Boarding School concerns and the opioid settlement. It was a good meeting and our team members did an excellent job not only pointing out our concerns but they also presented her with recommendations for possible solutions. I've attended several of these but this one was one of the best ones. Our team presented well and were very professional, Dana thanked them for the insights and for providing achievable solutions. The Kewadin team members provided a great meal and venue site. Chi Miigwech to

all those involved.

I hope to see you at the upcoming Baaweting Homecoming Powwow July 4 weekend. The powwow committee has great drum and dance prizes, with a few specials in mind as well. It's a great time to catch up with family and friends. We have a lot of food and craft vendors already signed up and there will be something for everyone. For up-to-date information and to learn more about cultural events taking place, please visit "Sault Tribe Language and Culture" Facebook page. We have many involved in this year's powwow committee and it should be a great event.

As always, I urge members to continue to get involved, always get both sides of the story, and continue to hold the board accountable with your voices. Please reach out to me to discuss these issues or any issues, I can be reached at (906) 440-7768.

Chi Miigwech.

# Director LaPlaut discusses Unit 5 happenings



**TYLER LAPLAUNT**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,

It's hard to believe that it's almost the end of June already and the longest day of the year has come and gone. I've been thoroughly enjoying our beautiful early summer weather in the U.P. This last month has shown us the beauty of nature, from blooming flowers and trees to the Northern Lights and an amazing lightning display over Lake Superior.

The beauty of this planet never grows old, and only becomes more noticeable and potent as we age. The interconnectedness of everything around us is so beautiful to take in. If you feel you've been too busy to get outside, take a moment for yourself to take some of it in, especially for those of you who live in the beautiful U.P. I've found myself walking along the shores of Lake Superior almost daily, and it's been a tremendous boost to my mental health. So, however you choose recreation, get out and enjoy our beautiful lands.

Update on open enrollment. As of June 15, there have been 4,103 applications entered into the tracking system. These are adults only. They have enrolled 73 members this week. To date, they have enrolled 977 members since Feb. 1, including children, and 38 applications have been denied. This is a tenuous process for our enrollment department, and they will continue to do their due diligence to ensure that only those applicants who can properly trace lineage are enrolled. Chi miigwetch to our entire enrollment department for all of their hard work.

Last month we announced that

our Tribal Health System will undergo a 2-year re-invigoration plan. The focus is to enhance our member services and provide the absolute best treatment to those who use our health services. We have done a thorough analysis, and the implementation is now underway. Thankfully, at the last board meeting, we voted to release the analysis results to the staff so that they can understand where we currently stand and the direction we are heading. From there, I'd like to see a release to the public, so you too can be informed of the direction we are heading and the changes that you all can anticipate.

One thing that is coming up very soon is to finally get a new wage grid adopted in the Health Division. We were a bit behind the times prior to the pandemic, and the pandemic exacerbated those issues with a provider shortage worldwide. My hope is that the Board will vote to approve this new wage grid analysis once and for all. Taking care of the employees who take care of us is the first step in a series of this 2-year marathon. I'm very excited to see what the future holds for our Health Division staff and patients alike.

Kewadin Casino renovations in the Sault are still underway and slightly ahead of schedule. We should see the first set of newly renovated rooms open up to guests within the next month. I'm so excited to see the unveiling of these rooms. This will only enhance the customer experience. It is long overdue and something we can all be proud of. This too is a long arduous process, but the results will be well worth it in the long run. Keep up the good work Kewadin team!

Back in the Spring, we hosted an Indigenous Archaeologist in Marquette at the Peter White Public Library. His name is James Paquette. I wasn't really sure what to expect, but he did an absolutely amazing job telling his story. His tenacity and dedication to uncovering some of our area's past was beautiful and brought up so many emotions in the audience. You could feel his commitment in how he told his story.

Anyway, I recently spoke with James, and he is ready and willing

to come to Munising and do it again for us. His gift to our ancestors was to spread the knowledge that he gained. I am working with a small committee in Munising to bring him to our Munising Tribal Health Center Community room to share these experiences. He is also willing to do a broadcast for the Tribe. I'm trying to make something happen there so we can do both the in-person event and a Facebook live for those at-large who might not otherwise be able to attend cultural events way U.P. north. Stay tuned for a date and time, this is still in the planning stages.

I am also working with some Elders in the Marquette area to host a showing of the Bad River film. We are talking about renting out one of the theater rooms at Thomas Theater for a private showing. This event is likely to be planned to happen around the end of September. As soon as we get a date and time locked in, we will get it posted. We recently found out that one of our very own Marquette Elders has a daughter who works as the head of the Natural Resources Department at Bad River. Her name is Naomi Tillison. I love to see our tribal citizens leading the way with such amazing work.

Keep your cultural ideas coming. It's so nice to support those of you out there who are taking the lead to bring these events to our communities. I want to take a moment and thank you all for stepping up and helping to organize, plan, and teach. That's part of what makes us a Tribe and our cultural programming is growing more and more vibrant in Unit 5. Slowly but surely, we are making progress. With that, I'd like to congratulate Stacie Mattson on becoming the new West End culture coordinator. With her help, we are sure to get more things going in our community. I'm very excited to see what the future holds.

WE HAVE MOVED! With the recent purchase of the old U.S. Army Reserve building in Harvey, we will be moving Marquette Culture night to 204 Cherry Creek Road. That is the new home to the Marquette Community Center. While we are still waiting for renovations to be complete, there

is plenty of room for us to gather and have a place to call our own. Culture Night will remain on the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 5:30-8 p.m. Everyone is welcome and dinner is always provided.

Even if you've never been involved in any of our cultural activities in the past, please come down and visit with us. Worst case scenario is you get a free meal and get to listen to a few songs on the drum. We're still seeing more and more new faces every week. Even if you're just curious to check out the building, just show up to Culture Night. Building use will be limited until re-zoning and renovations are complete.

I'd like to thank all of the Elders who helped me throw a short notice celebration picnic on June 2. This was an unplanned event, but many were excited to see what our new space would look like and the potential it could have. So, we hosted a community picnic, and throughout the day, we had over 150 people show up to check out their new community space and say hi to each other. It was a perfect day, the weather cooperated, and we finally got to fly our Tribal flag in Marquette.

Again, chi miigwetch to everyone who helped make this picnic happen and chi miigwetch to everyone who came and shared in such a momentous occasion. #Landback!

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Munising will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at the Munising Tribal Health Center from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 Elder aged 60+.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Marquette will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at the Holiday Inn of Marquette from 6 to 8 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 or surrounding Unit 4 Elder aged 60-plus.

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

Chi Miigwetch,  
Tyler Migizii Migwan  
LaPlaut,

Unit 5 Director/Vice-Chairman  
tlaplaut@saulttribe.net  
(906) 440-8294

The Sault Tribe is providing space for drum practice and fellowship for anyone interested in learning about traditional Northern-style drumming. Welcoming all levels of ability and experience! Come to drum, listen, craft or just hang out!

## CULTURE NIGHT

**LOCATION:** Sault Tribe Community Center  
204 Cherry Creek Rd, Harvey  
(Look for the Fraco sign)

**WHEN:** Second & Fourth Thursday of each month

**TIME:** 5:30-8:00 PM




Adults, youth, and elders are all welcome  
(youth need to be accompanied by an adult) Dinner will be served  
Contact TJ Derwin for any questions:  
**(906) 236-3681**

# Our tribe on the road to healing & leadership



**BETTY FREIHEIT,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello Tribal Members,

First allow me to congratulate Chairman Austin Lowes at being appointed as President of the United Tribes of Michigan.

He was appointed by his counterparts from the other Michigan tribes. It's an honor to be recognized by other tribal leaders. Just over a year ago, Chairman Lowes was appointed as Vice President of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign tribes. This work complements his leadership as chair and gains access for our tribe to expand our reach and helps rebuild our regional, national and inter-tribal reputation. This is healing for our tribe.

The United Tribes of Michigan was formed around 2000 following a grand assembly of tribes meeting at the Saginaw Chippewa reservation where it was shared that it was prophesized that tribes would put their differences aside and come together to address common issues. Former Chair Aaron Pay-

ment served as vice president and president of UTM for over a decade, so it feels right to return this leadership role to our tribe. While tribes have differences, we have shown we can work well together.

The influence this inter-tribal collaboration makes is significant. In 2019, UTM invited Michigan Attorney General candidate Dana Nessel to share her campaign platform at UTM. As a non-partisan 501(c) 3, UTM is opened to any and all candidates to do the same. At this session, the future MI AG shared her desired to work closely with tribes to address issues of tribal sovereignty, to articulate agreements and cooperation to protect tribal victims of crimes, to collaborate on issues related to murdered and missing indigenous

people, and to hold an initial and on going consultation with tribes to address any holes in jurisdiction. In 2020, AG Nessel addressed a conference Sault Tribe held on MMIP. She has made good on her word to pull together tribal leaders and their judicial branch leads to walk through jurisdictional issues. At the most recent, UTM meeting, she participated in yet another round table discussion with tribal leaders to ensure we close the gap in jurisdictional issues.

On top of all of this, she has attended several Paddle Out Protests in Mackinaw City to protect our Aki (Mother Earth) and Nigii (waters). From at least two years before being elected MI AG, she attended these grassroots efforts and has been a consistent partner in mitigating the legal challenges

and efforts to Shut Down Line 5. This is appreciated as one spill at the Straits of Mackinac that would likely forever eliminate our whitefish population. While some see these issues as liberal environmental fluff, it is purely a matter of self-preservation, survival and protection of our centuries old practices of subsistence in fishing. As elected officials, we are the front line stewards of this resources. With that I thank AG Nessel for her steadfast partnership and leadership with Michigan tribes.

Please keep yourself and family safe. Help your neighbors anytime you can. And please look out for our elders.

Betty F. Freiheit  
Unit 1 Director  
bfreiheit@saulttribe.net  
(906) 379-8745

# Separation of powers needed for constitutional reform



**ROBERT MCRORIE**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, Boozhoo, to all of my fellow Sault Tribe citizens. I hope my report finds you and your family in both good health and spirit. I hope you are enjoying the nice weather with family and friends. I apologize for missing my previous couple of unit reports. I have been dealing with some unexpected serious health issues for the last few months. Although my condition will require ongoing medical attention and treatment, I am happy to report that I am feeling much better lately and beginning to regain my energy. I am excited and looking forward to getting back to a full schedule and working on the initiatives we set out to accomplish together. Please, always pay attention to your body and how you are feeling, get routine checkups and bloodwork, and always seek medical attention if something does not feel right. Be kind to yourself.

One of the major initiatives we set out to accomplish is to give our membership the right to vote on a governmental structure change that separates the authority and duties of the governing branch(es). As it stands, we have a one branch government that retains all of the authoritative power within the government. The Board of Directors is the supreme authority within our tribe. This structure of governance does not ensure, promote, or protect the rights of our members as there is no checks and balances to legislation or board authority. Our members deserve the right to an independent court that has the authority to interpret the

Constitution and determine constitutionality of legislation passed by the Board of Directors. I do believe this is the only way to truly ensure that our membership retains its constitutional rights. The function of government should always be to empower its citizens to be the driving force of legislative decision making and to protect their rights and civil liberties.

A recent Appellate Court ruling on the Open Enrollment Referendum Contest further illustrates the need to separate the powers of government. The Appellate Court made clear in its decision that the court lacks jurisdiction to rule on constitutionality of law. The scope of what the court has jurisdiction to rule on is very narrowly legislated by the Board of Directors. The Court does not have any constitutional authority, meaning any authority the court has is delegated from the Board of Directors. We must, through Secretarial Election, amend our Sault Tribe Constitution to separate the powers of government in order to establish a true checks and balance system of government that protects the rights of all members. The governing body that is elected to legislate should not also be the body of government that interprets and determines constitutionality of law.

Prior to becoming ill, I was working very hard on a draft of a Separation of Powers Amendment. This draft is an edit of the original Separation of Powers brought forward within the "New Constitution" by the Sault Tribe Constitutional Committee. The edits simply bring the functions together under one amendment, as it was originally spread out within the "New Constitution." All of the functions of the original document remain intact with no major deviations away from what the Constitutional Committee intended to establish after meeting with members from all units and gathering input. Since elected, I have had countless conversations with members regarding what our citizens feel is the most important change our tribe needs to make. Without question the issue that comes up most often, by far, is the

need for Constitutional Reform. Specifically, members from every political spectrum agree that we need to establish a true Separation of Powers via Constitutional Amendment. As a representative of our people, within the next month, I will bring forward and present to the members a draft amendment. I will also place this on the Board of Directors' meeting agenda for a vote. I urge all members to pay close attention to how each director votes on this. You deserve directors that represent you and fight for your rights, not directors who seek to preserve their own power through unchecked legislative authority.

I would like to say congratulations and Chi Miigwech to every single Sault Tribe team member within every department of our tribe. On May 22, Sault Tribe held an Employee Recognition Luncheon where team members were recognized for their years of service to our tribe. Because of your hard work and dedication to our sovereign nation, many youth, elders, and families receive crucial services that give them and their family a higher quality of life. None of this is possible without our team members. And for that, they deserve all of the credit and recognition in the world. Chi Miigwech!

I am also very pleased to report that our casino renovation project is progressing and looking amazing. This is a major accomplishment for our tribe. Our casinos are still the driving force of revenue. It is essential to update and maintain our facilities in order to stay competitive in the market. A huge

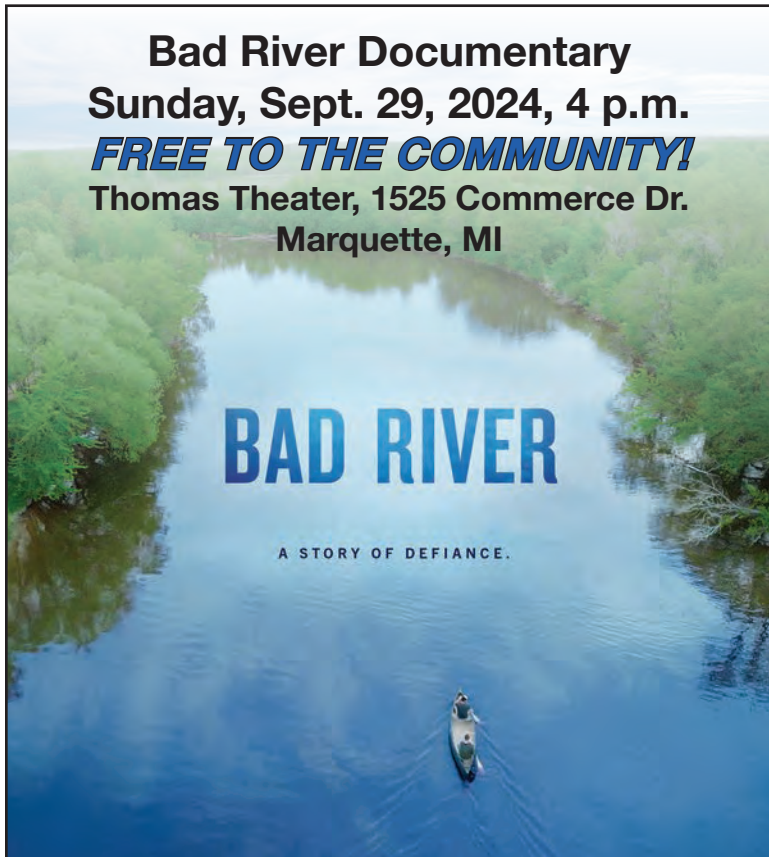
shoutout to all staff that have stepped up to make this possible.

A special shoutout to our Sault Tribe Powwow Committee and Language and Culture Division staff. With powwow season rapidly approaching our powwow committee is working extremely hard to make our ceremonies a success. Prior to being on the committee, I did not realize just how much time and effort goes into organizing and managing all of the moving pieces of our powwows. It is truly amazing and humbling to see the dedication that the committee members have to preserving our ceremonies

for our people. Although none of them do this for recognition, they certainly deserve a round of applause for their service. Chi Miigwech.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have or ideas you would like to share to continue to move our tribe forward in a positive way. I always love hearing from our members. It may take me a little longer than usual to respond as I had to take a little time off to deal with my health, but I will always respond to members who reach out.

Miigwech!



**Bad River Documentary**  
Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024, 4 p.m.  
**FREE TO THE COMMUNITY!**  
Thomas Theater, 1525 Commerce Dr.  
Marquette, MI



## Sault Tribe Powwow Grounds

Down the road from Big Bear Arena  
2 Ice Circle  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783



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### HEAD STAFF

Emcees - Joel Syrette & Shannon Martin	Arena Director - Nick VanAlstine
Head Veteran - Melissa Doud	Head Dancers - Picked each session
Head Drum Judge - Keith Smith	
Dance Judges - Julie Whitepidgeon and Ray Cadotte	

### Invited Drum - Midnight Express

<h4 style="margin: 0;">DRUM CONTEST</h4> <p style="font-size: small;">Must have 5 registered singers for all sessions</p> <h4 style="margin: 0;">DRUM PRIZES</h4> <p>1st Place - \$10,000 2nd Place - \$8,000 3rd Place - \$6,000 Drum Split for non-placing drums</p>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">DANCE PRIZES</h4> <p style="font-size: small;">Golden Age (Combined) Men's/Women's \$1,000; \$800; \$500 Adult Men's/Women's (Traditional, Fancy, Jingle, Grass) \$1,000, \$800, \$500 Teen Boys/Girls (Combined) \$300; \$200; \$100 Junior Boys/Girls (Combined) \$200; \$100; \$50 DANCER HONORARIUM SATURDAY &amp; SUNDAY</p>
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### SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 4th • Sunrise Ceremony  
Friday, July 5th • Spiritual Gathering & Grand Entry 7 p.m. - Dance Specials - Pop up Contest!  
Saturday, July 6th • Grand Entries at 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
Sunday, July 7th • Grand Entry at 12 p.m.

### KEWADIN CASINO SAULT STE. MARIE HOTEL INFORMATION

Call 1-800-539-2346 use block rate code 25922

For Vendor Applications, Call 906-635-6510 or email [Acausley@saulttribe.net](mailto:Acausley@saulttribe.net)



# KEWADIN CASINOS ENTERTAINMENT

**80'S ROCK INVASION**

**ACE FREHLEY**

*Great White*

**SLAUGHTER**

**STEVEN ADLER**  
of GUNS N' ROSES

*WIXEN*

**JULY 20**  
DOORS 4:30 P.M. | SHOW 6 P.M. TICKETS \$65 | \$85 | \$95  
OUTDOOR EVENT

**Stephen Percy**  
of **RATT**

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**STEELHEART**

**SEPTEMBER 21**  
DOORS 7 P.M. | SHOW 8 P.M.  
DREAMMAKERS THEATER  
TICKETS \$39.50 | \$49.50  
AN ALLSTAR PROMOTIONS CONCERT

**LEAD SINGERS OF CLASSIC ROCK**  
TWO GREAT SINGERS... TWO GREAT SETS OF CLASSIC ROCK...

**JASON SCHEFF**  
LONGTIME LEAD SINGER  
of Chicago

**TOMMY DECARLO**  
A FORMER LEAD SINGER  
of Boston

**OCTOBER 12** | SHOW 8 P.M. EVENT CENTER TICKETS \$45 | \$55

## JULY 19



# 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### Win Your Share of up to \$5,000 CASH and Credits

**HOT SEAT DRAWS**

12 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

for your chance to play Plinko

CASH Draws Start at 3 p.m.

CASH Grand Prize

Draw at 11 p.m.

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



[tickets.kewadin.com](https://tickets.kewadin.com)  
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