



Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

Ransomware attack hits tribe, its businesses

TRIBE CONTINUES TO OFFER ITS SERVICES IN LIMITED CAPACITY

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – The following statement is attributed to Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes in response to the recent ransomware attack impacting tribal computer systems.

“On Sunday morning (Feb. 9), the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians suffered a ransomware attack. This attack impacted multiple computer and phone systems across tribal administration, including the casinos, health centers and various businesses. In response, the tribe has had to temporarily close many departments and businesses.

“Our hope is that this issue gets resolved within a week, but we are prepared for it to last longer. Any updates will be communicated on the tribe’s various Facebook pages.



**Tribal Chairman
Austin Lowes**

“We understand the disruption this is causing to many members’ and employees’ lives and are working diligently to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

“We also understand there are many questions. The Board of Directors is being updated as new information is available, but due to the ongoing investigation there is little more they can share at this time and we ask for your patience and understanding.

“The tribal government will remain open in a limited capacity to serve our members to the best of our ability despite this incident. Below is a list of services still available to the membership along with a temporary method of reaching those departments.”

Available tribal services
Sault Tribe Administration
– (906) 379-7216 or (906) 440-8108

Anishinaabek Community & Family Services

ACFS is fully operational at this time, including our Advocacy Resource Center, Family Services & Child Placement, Direct Services and USDA. Please contact the below numbers for Anishinaabek Community & Family Services:

(906) 440-6491 – ACFS Main
(906) 440-5780 – ACFS

FOR UPDATED INFORMATION

Please keep checking with Sault Tribe’s official Facebook at www.facebook.com/sault-tribe for all the latest updates. The Sault Tribe website [saulttribe.com](https://www.saulttribe.com) is currently down.

USDA

(906) 440-6492 – ACFS Lodge of Hope
(906) 440-6523 – ACFS – Kincheloe
(906) 440-6521 – ACFS – Manistique

Communications

Communications will continue to publish its monthly newspaper. To submit news, obituaries, accomplishments, etc., or request coverage, email baustin@saulttribe.net or sbrand@saulttribe.net. To sign up for the newspaper or update your address, email slucas@saulttribe.net. To purchase an ad, email jdale-burton@saulttribe.net.

Communications can be reached at (906) 440-6586.

Education

Education Services, including Early Head Start, Head Start, Child Care Center, and Youth

Education & Activities are fully operational, please contact Sault Tribe Education at that the following:

(906) 440-6493 – Education Main / WIOA
(906) 440-5225 – Head Start / EHS / CCC – Sault
(906) 440-6512 – Head Start / EHS – St. Ignace
(906) 440-6584 – Education Higher Education
(906) 440-6570 – YEA Sault
(906) 440-6603 – YEA Hessel
(906) 341-3362 – Manistique
(906) 789-0972 – Escanaba
(906) 643-8500, ext. 173 – St. Ignace

(906) 440-1870 – Rudyard
(906) 387-1014 – Munising

Elder Services

Elder Services are fully operational at this time, including our meal programs, transportation to appointments, Home Health Tech visits, Outreach Worker visits, Medication deliveries (Sault Ste. Marie only) and all Elder Committee meetings. Members needing to submit for Elder Health Fund requests, should contact Elder Services. Elder Services can be reached at (906) 440-6537.

Enrollment

Enrollment is currently unable to print new membership cards.

For questions, Enrollment can be reached at (906) 440-5839.

Enterprises

All MidJim locations were temporarily closed starting Feb. 10. We will update this message once there is reopen date available. Please contact (906) 203-5111 for MidJim related questions.

Other Enterprise Operations

DeMawating Development will continue normal operations. Please call (906) 498-9800 with questions.

Sawyer Village will continue normal operations. Please call (906) 346-3919 with questions.

Real Estate questions can be directed to DeMawating or Sawyer Village.

Gitchi Home and Auto will be operating as usual.

White Pine Lodge Hotel will be operating as usual.

Housing Services

Sault Tribe Housing is open and fully operational. Please contact Housing at the phone numbers below:

(906) 440-6567 – Housing

Main

(906) 440-6562 – Rental

Applications

(906) 440-6595 – Sanitation &

See page 5, “Ransomware”

Sault Tribe Health offering limited services

The following is an update from Sault Tribe Chairman Lowes regarding how the Health Division has been impacted by the recent cyber attack and what services are currently being provided by the Health Division for the time being. We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding.

A Sault Tribe data security incident has impacted Sault Tribe Health Division’s ability to provide comprehensive medical

services. Please see the information below if you plan on coming to any of the clinics. Thank you and we apologize for the inconvenience.

An Information Center has been set-up in the auditorium at the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Center to provide information on current health services.

For any general questions please contact the numbers below:

REGISTRATION

Sault Ste. Marie - Phone Number: (906) 440-8243 or (906) 379-8992
St. Ignace - Phone number: (906) 440-6750 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)

Manistique - Phone number: (906) 440-6751 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)

Munising - Phone number: (906) 440-6752 (Operational on

Feb. 14, 2025.)

AUDIOLOGY

Phone number: (906) 440-8252
Location: Various Locations
All current services are available to members.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Sault Ste. Marie - Phone number: (906) 440-1365; (906) 630-1954

St. Ignace - Phone number: (906) 440-6720 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)

Munising - Phone number: (906) 440-6709 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)

All scheduled in-person therapy appointments are able to be continued with limited capability

See “Health,” Page 5

Sault Tribe elder turns 100



Tribal elder and Veteran Eleanor Fitzpatrick at her 100th birthday party with her family.

Submitted by Bridgett Sorenson

www.saulttribe.com

PRSRT STD
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Win Awenen Nisitotung
531 Ashmun St.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Winter tips, tricks

BY SAULT TRIBE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Sault Tribe Housing Authority (STHA) would like to share some tips and tricks for winter safety.

Salt is most effective to use before a storm. Salt breaks apart water molecules from bonding, making it a challenge for water to freeze.

When it's too cold for salt to activate, putting down sand is a great way to get traction. Remember, walk like a penguin! Extend your arms out, keep your knees loose, point your toes out, take short steps.

It is our intent to always give the best service possible, but due to unpredictable snow accumulation and the time it takes to clear the

snow affectively, this may take multiple days. On day one, for larger snow storms, staff begins removing snow from driveways and exterior accessible routes are shoveled and salted. Depending on snow accumulation, walkways may be shoveled and salted. If time permits, STHA staff will remove the snow from the walkways on the second day and clear the secondary doors and exits on day three. Please keep in mind staff will not return to clean up the end of your driveway after the main road has been plowed, this will be done the following day.

Current tenants, contact our maintenance line at (855) 205-2840 with any issues.

BARENAKED LADIES coming to St. Ignace casino

BARENAKED LADIES presents LAST SUMMER ON EARTH 2025 with special guests SUGAR RAY & FASTBALL at Kewadin Casino St. Ignace on Saturday, July 19!

Special guests SUGAR RAY with the immortal No. 1 "Fly" along with "Someday," "Falls Apart" and "Every Morning," and FASTBALL's "The Way" and "Out of My Head" will open an

incredible night of music at the waterfront.

Tickets on sale now at tickets.kewadin.com, at the Box Office or at Kewadin Casino St. Ignace.

Presented by Kewadin Casinos and Z93.

Saturday, July 19, 2025
Tickets start at \$65 USD*

Doors: 5:30 p.m./Show: 7 p.m.

*Does not include convenience or handling fees.



Social Security Video Service

Bringing Our Office To You



Speak to a live Social Security representative from this convenient location. Use our video service for a variety of your Social Security needs.

Where: Manistique Tribal Health Center 5698W US HWY. 2

Hours: 4th Monday of the Month from 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

For video service questions, call: 906-341-8469

www.socialsecurity.gov 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)



There are enough things out there going viral.



Get your COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

Help keep your immune system from going viral. Talk to your health care provider.

Michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV



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 tribal members to Lona Stewart at 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or call (906) 635-6050 with any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee – Five vacancies:

Three males (two with 4-year terms, one term expires July 2028), two females (4-year term)

Child Welfare Committee – Four vacancies: two vacancies (4-year terms); one vacancy, term expires November 2026; one vacancy, term expires January 2027

Higher Education Committee – Two vacancies (4-year term)

Housing Commission / Utility Authority — Two pending vacancies: One for Unit 1,

one for Unit 5 (4-year terms)

Special Needs/Enrollment Committee – Six vacancies (all 2-year terms)

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: Naubinway, one regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit II: Newberry, one regular vacancy (4-year term), one alter-

nate vacancy (4-year term)

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

Unit IV: Escanaba – One regular vacancy, term set to expire August, 2026

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

Elder Subcommittees

Unit II: Naubinway – Three regular vacancies, two with terms expiring May 2027, one with term expiring October 2026

Unit III: St. Ignace – One reg-

ular vacancy, term expiring April 2027

Unit IV: Manistique – One regular vacancy, term expiring November 2026

Unit IV: Escanaba – One regular vacancy (4-year term); two regular vacancies, terms expiring May 2026; one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit V: Munising, two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit V: Marquette, two alternate vacancies, one 4-year term, one term expiring March 2028.

See Thrive’s online business directory: saulttribethrive.com/business-directory/

Membership liaisons help answer your questions

By MICHELLE MOORE, CLARENCE HUDAK, MARY JENEROU, SAULT TRIBE MEMBERSHIP LIAISONS

Q – I’ve moved, who should I contact update my address?

A – Contact the Enrollment Department at (800) 251-6597 or (906) 632-8552. Members can also email Stacey Synett at ssynett@saulttribe.net with the following information:

Full name, date of birth, phone number, old address and the new address.

Members should also contact Latisha Willette at the Tax Agreement Office to update their change of address to ensure they are eligible to continue, or receive, tax benefits. To contact the tax office, call (866) 632-6281 or (906) 632-6281. Or email: lwillette2@saulttribe.net.

If you are receiving the Sault Tribe newspaper members also need to update the Communications Department with their new address. Contact Sherrie Lucas at (906) 632-6398. Members can also email their full name, old address, and new address to slucas@saulttribe.net.

Q – Does the Sault Tribe offer assistance to cover attorney fees or provide assistance to hire an attorney?

A – The Sault Tribe does not provide assistance for attorney fees or to hire an attorney. Members may contact Michigan Indian Legal Services for some cost-free services. Call (231) 947-0122 or visit their website at www.mils3.org.

Q – What is the LIHEAP Program and who is eligible for assistance?

A – The LIHEAP program provides eligible members with heating assistance, crisis energy assistance, and cooling assistance. Members who reside in the 7-county service area and meet one of the following household criteria are eligible to apply for assistance:

- Households with adults 60 years or older and are enrolled members of Sault Tribe.
- Households with disabilities (Sault Tribe members receiving

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, the program may reimburse an employer 50 percent of your wage for a specified period.

Candidates must meet eligibility requirements and be a resident of the seven-county service area.

Apply at WIOA at Big Bear Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or call Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 for more information.

Pharmacy hours expanded at Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Center


Effective Nov. 12, 2024, the Sault Tribe Health Pharmacy located in Sault Ste. Marie will open at 7:30 a.m. instead of 9 a.m., allowing the pharmacy to accommodate patients who require earlier access to pharmacy services.

New Pharmacy Hours

Monday - Friday

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Closed Saturday and Sunday.



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

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

First/Middle/Last Name

Date of Birth

Date of Death

Murdered/When/Where

Perpetrator Name if known:

If Missing:

Nickname/Alias

Date Last Seen/Went Missing


Physical Description

Distinctive Physical Features

Vehicle Information

Any information would be appreciated.

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



Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

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

☐ new subscription
 ☐ change of address

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State and Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

February 19, 2025

Bear Moon

Makwa 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: The regular rate is \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. Please call for other foreign countries.

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

Advertising: \$8.50/column inch.

Submission and Subscriptions: Win Awenen Nisitotung

Attn: Communications Dept.

531 Ashmun St.,

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Telephone: (906) 632-6398

Fax: (906) 632-6556

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

EUP Foster Family Enrichment Fund: Helping foster children in Chippewa, Mackinac, and Luce Counties

In December 2022, the EUP Foster Family Enrichment Fund was established to provide foster children in Chippewa, Mackinac, and Luce Counties with opportunities for new, fun, and educational experiences.

A dedicated committee, which includes foster care licensing workers from MDHHS, Anishnaabek Community and Family Services, Bay Mills Indian Community, and the Regional Resource Team from Great Lakes Recovery Center organizes events and activities throughout the year.

In 2024, the fund helped provide foster families with tickets to LSSU hockey games, Mary Poppins Jr., and Willy Wonka, as well as an opportunity to attend a foster family Christmas party, a basketball camp in Rudyard, ukulele classes, a Halloween event, and a visit to the GarLyn Zoo, among others.

These experiences bring moments of joy and normalcy to foster children, helping them cope with challenges and thrive.

The fund is managed through the Chippewa County Community Fund. To learn more or to donate,

visit <https://chippewacountycommunityfoundation.org>.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) is facing a critical shortage of foster homes to support the growing number of children in care. ACFS prioritizes placing children in tribal foster homes to help maintain their connection to Native American culture and traditions. The agency also oversees tribal cases nationwide and works to match children with tribal resource foster homes, even outside the seven-county service area.

Having a strong network of resource foster homes makes it easier to ensure children are placed in culturally appropriate environments.

ACFS is urgently seeking



Santa with ACFS Licensing Case Worker Michele Nettleton at the Foster Family Christmas Party.

foster families both within and outside its service area.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent and making a meaningful impact in a child’s

life, please contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at: (906) 632-5250, (800) 726-0093 or acfs-fosterhomes@sault-tribe.net

Membership liaisons answer questions

From “LIHEAP,” page 3

SSI or SSI Disability in their own name).

— Households with children under the age of 5, child is an enrolled member of Sault Tribe, and a permanent year-round resident in the service area.

Members applying for assistance must also have an income at or below 100% of poverty, (125% for crisis), and must demonstrate a need for assistance.

Applications can be picked up at any of the ACFS offices:

Sault Office: 2218 Shunk Rd. (906) 632-5250 or (800) 726-

0093.

Kincheloe office: 60 Kincheloe (906) 495-1232.

St. Ignace office: 1140 N. State St. (906) 643-8689.

Manistique office: 5698 W. Highway US 2, (906) 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137.

Munising Office: 622 W. Superior St., (906) 387-3906 or (800) 236-4705.

Applications can also be downloaded from the Sault Tribe website – www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/acfs/direct-services/low-income-home-energy-assistance.

Free Mindfulness for Better Sleep program

BY ANITA CARTER, MSUE

Michigan State University Extension is offering a free program, Mindfulness for Better Sleep.

This virtual program will run Tuesdays starting March 4 through April 8, 2025. Join us from 1 to 2:30 p.m. CT/2 to 3:30 p.m. ET as we explore mindfulness ins and outs and learn some great strategies to improve quality of sleep. This series includes Mindfulness and the Sleep Education for Everyone

Program. Research has shown that practicing mindfulness is effective in reducing stress-related symptoms such as worry, depression, physical tension, and may be helpful in managing chronic conditions.

This mindfulness program introduces participants to the experience and practice of mindfulness. Topics include mindfulness basics, mindful breath, body awareness, thoughts, emotions, and building personal practice.

Participants will also learn techniques to improve the quality and quantity of their sleep.

We will cover the relationship between pain and sleep, sleep basics, sleep hygiene, stimulus control therapy, mindfulness, physical activity, and sleep myths. You will be given a sleep challenge to try, so you can track the effectiveness of changing your sleep behaviors.

Call Anita Carter at (906) 360-9732 (carte356@msu.edu) or register online: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/mindsleep2025march/>.

SATURDAYS IN MARCH
ALL SITES

WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER
\$60,000 CASH AND CREDITS

Win Up to \$150
Kewadin Credits
or \$300 CASH

Draws Start at 4 p.m.

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

MANISTIQUE • ST.IGNACE • CHRISTMAS • SAULT DE MARIE • HESSEL

FROSTY'S CASH AND CREDITS
All Sites | Saturdays in February
Win Your Share of Over \$68,000 CASH and Credits

KEWADIN REWARDS SLOT TOURNAMENT
Sault Ste. Marie | Mondays & Tuesdays | February 3 - March 31
Daily \$250 CASH and 30,000 Bonus Points Prize Pool

\$22,500 MEGA BINGO
Sault Ste. Marie | February 22
13 Games Plus a Mega Bingo Jackpot Game Up to \$7,500

DOUBLE DICE & DOLLARS
Christmas | Thursdays in March
Win Your Share of \$7,000 CASH and Credits

LUCKY CASH
All Sites | March 17
Win Your Share of \$5,000 CASH and Credits

MARCH MADNESS TOURNAMENTS
Christmas & Hessel - Mondays | Manistique - Wednesdays
Daily Prize Pool 35,000 Bonus Points

CABIN FEVER SLOT TOURNAMENTS
St. Ignace | Thursdays
Daily Prize Pool 30,000 Bonus Points

WINTER WARM UP AT THE HESSEL CABIN
Hessel | December 1 - April 30
Only \$99 per Night • Receive \$10 Kewadin Credits per Night

THE FUN STARTS HERE! - KEWADIN CASINO HOTEL
Sault Ste. Marie | Snow Season 2025
Take advantage of our direct trail access with a great snowmobile package

HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS
Hessel | Christmas | St. Ignace
Check out our Happy Hour Specials. Visit our Facebook Page for more information

RESTAURANT SPECIALS
Check out our Restaurant Specials. Visit our Facebook Page or website for more information

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

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EVENTS

KEWADIN
DINING

1-800-KEWADIN | KEWADIN.COM

MANISTIQUE • ST.IGNACE • SAULT DE MARIE • HESSEL • CHRISTMAS

Health services and contacts throughout service area in wake of cyberattack

From “Health,” Page 1
-ties.

Walk-in urgent care services are also available.
Residential Treatment for Substance Use Disorder Coordination.
Road to Wellness transportation active clients over 18.
Their Home of Hope (recovery housing).
Peer recovery coaches.
Harm reduction, prevention and recovery supplies are still available.

Family Spirit program visits (Eligibility: Sault Tribe Members pregnancy through 5th birthday), Perinatal opioid care and support coordination (Eligibility: Pregnant, thinking of becoming pregnant, or with children).
No Therapy or Psychiatric tele-sessions are available at this time.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Sault Ste. Marie - Phone number: (906) 440-8252
St. Ignace - Phone number: (906) 440-6720 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)

The following services are available: nursing, diabetes, nutrition, tobacco cessation, medical fitness, home visits, office visits, footcare, incontinence supplies, car seat program and breast- feed-

ing supplies.
DeTour - Phone number: (906) 440-6725 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)
Existing medication pick up, incontinence supplies, car seat program and breast-feeding pumps and supplies. Es
Hessel - Phone number: (906) 440-6727 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)
Existing medication pick up, incontinence supplies, car seat program and breast-feeding supplies.

DENTAL
Sault Ste. Marie - Phone number: (906) 440-8750
St. Ignace - Phone number: (906) 440-6728 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)
Manistique - Phone number: (906) 440-6729 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)

Until further notice ALL scheduled appointments are canceled. The Dental Department will be open for emergency walk-in dental services between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. The Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace clinics will be open Monday through Friday and the Manistique clinic will be open Monday through Wednesday only.

LAB

vices: (906) 440-6520 or (906) 440-6503.

Natural Resources
The Natural Resources Division remains open to the membership. Fisheries and Wildlife staff are working on harvest reporting and are available to answer questions. Environmental staff are working on air, water, and Brownfields planning, as well as ambient and indoor air assessments. Contact Natural Resources at (906) 440-6533 for questions.

Recreation
The Big Bear Arena is operating as normal for all scheduled events and activities with the following exceptions. At this time, only cash payments can be accepted, there is an ATM on-site for customers. The Concessions menu may be limited during operating hours. The facility’s website is also available at www.bigbear-arena.com, email bookthebear@

Sault Ste. Marie - 906-440-6749
Please call the lab before coming into the Health Center.
MAT – THE HEALING PLACE
Sault Ste. Marie - Phone number: (906) 440-8249
We will be seeing patients as scheduled. Patients that have missed appointments will need to contact the number above or present to the clinic to be seen or rescheduled.

MEDICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY CARE SERVICES)
Sault Ste. Marie - Phone number: (906-) 440-8241
Until further notice ALL scheduled appointments are canceled.

WALK-IN CLINIC
Sault Ste. Marie - Phone number: (906) 440-8239
The Walk-In Clinic will be open Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. to see patients for acute needs. For ALL appointments, please bring a list of all current non-prescribed medications and all prescription bottles. Lab services are currently limited.
OPTICAL
Sault Ste. Marie - Phone number: (906) 440-8259
St. Ignace - Phone number:

saulttribe.net or phone at (906) 440-6536.

Repatriation & Historical Preservation
Repatriation & Historical Preservation is fully operational, including the Ojibwe Learning Center & Library. Questions can be directed to (906) 440-6587.

Sault Tribe Legal Department & Tax Office
Please contact Sault Tribe Legal Department and Tax Office at the below numbers:
(906) 259-3595 – Legal Department / Tax Office or (906) 379-8192 – Tax Office.

Tax Office Facebook: “Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Tax Office.”
Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court
Tribal Court is fully operational and can be reached at (906) 440-6539. All hearings will be connected via Zoom.

(906) 440-6742 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)
Manistique - Phone number: (906) 440-6744 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)
If you had a previously scheduled appointment, please contact the above numbers to discuss your existing appointment. Eye glass pick-ups, repairs, and any ocular emergencies will be handled on a walk-in basis.

PHARMACY
See page 16 for further details
Sault Ste. Marie - Phone number: (906) 440-8165
St. Ignace - Phone number: (906) 379-7384
Manistique - Phone number: (906) 440-6746 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)

Munising - Phone number: (906) 440-6747 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)
NON-CONTROLLED medications, please bring your prescription bottles/boxes to your local Sault Tribe Pharmacy, and the staff will provide you with a 30-day supply of medication. For Marquette, Escanaba and Newberry please contact your local Sault Tribe primary care pharmacy for refills.

Prescriptions that were requested prior to the closure can be picked up at your local Sault Tribe Pharmacy.
For all refills on **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**, you must contact your local Sault Tribe Pharmacy, and a hard copy

written prescription will be provided and will need to be filled at an outside pharmacy.
Any **NEW** prescriptions written from your local tribal clinic for acute needs will be filled by an outside local pharmacy. These prescriptions will be filled at no cost to you at an outside pharmacy location, once you speak to a Sault Tribe Pharmacist. Any prescriptions filled at a pharmacy that is not where the pharmacist recommends, the patient is responsible for costs.
PURCHASED REFERRED CARE (PRC)
Sault Ste. Marie - Phone number: (906) 440-8276 or (906) 440-6712 (Operational on Feb. 14, 2025.)

At this time, we do not have the ability to issue any new authorizations/voucher numbers for services or new medications. If you have an existing medication at an outside pharmacy, those pharmacies have agreed to fill them as usual. Upcoming medical services needing vouchers can still be reported to PRC staff. Once systems are accessible, PRC will call patients to follow-up or complete the authorization requests. Any previous authorizations are valid.
RADIOLOGY
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Anishinaabemowin 2024

Family is not necessarily defined only by our genes. We built that family and tribe - and maintain it - by love that’s active, no matter who it included. Part of that interactive support and caring can include a few words of our language!

In February we celebrate Valentine’s Day. We say “**Zaagidwin Giizhigad**” — *Love Day*. But really *every day is love day*. (*endso giizhigak zaagidwin giizhigat aawan.*) **Weweni zaa-gididaa.** — *Let’s love one another in a good way.*

Aaniish waa zhi gkendayaanh e-zaagiyan? *How will I know that you love me?*
“G’zaagin,” g’dizh. *“I love you,” you say to me.*
Gegoo wiindimooshi-ke jina. *Don’t just tell me.*
Kidwinan wenpanadoon. *Words are cheap.*
Zhinoomooshin, mii dash g’daa debwetawin. *Show me, and then I can believe you.*

G’zhinoomaw zaagiyan pii baapiyan.
You show me that you love me when you smile at me.

... pii bizindaw iy an	when you <u>listen</u> to me
... pii gnoon iy an	when you <u>talk</u> to me
... pii naadimaw iy an	when you <u>help</u> me
... pii mikwenim iy an	when you <u>remember</u> me
... pii boonigidetw iy an	when you <u>forgive</u> me
... pii bimini iy an	when you <u>support</u> me
... pii kaanzi miy an	when you <u>encourage</u> me
... pii miigwechiw iy an	when you <u>thank</u> me
... pii aabiitooji iniy an	when you <u>hug</u> me
... pii wiidibam iy an	when you <u>sit with</u> me
... pii widoopam iy an	when you <u>eat with</u> me
... pii bbaa-wiiji wiy an	when you <u>go places with</u> me
... pii nsastaw iy an	when you <u>understand</u> me

N’bazigim
n’zaagaa

G’mbinidimi

N’binoojiinhik
n’zaagaag

N’binoojiinhik
n’zaagaag

G’zaagin

N’nokomis
n’zaagaa

Mikwenimiyan



Long and Hard? Actually, our language, our words, aren’t really more difficult to learn than others. Think of it as a flower that opens gradually, and makes you happy from bud to bursting. Take baby steps (**masen naasaap binoojiinhs**), learn some comments you like to say, one at a time. No rush. Enjoy the journey, have fun, feel confident and competent, feel proud to be Anishinaabe, to live the Anishinaabe way.

Pronunciation?? You’ll find the Anishinaabemowin words used here as well as those in the calendar, pronounced at our FaceBook link:
www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture.
You can also use the guide shown below!

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*
We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.
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!

N’gitziimak n’zaagaag.	I love my parents.
N’nokomis n’zaagaa.	I love my grandma.
N’mishoomis n’zaagaa.	I love my grandpa.
N’binoojiinhik n’zaagaag.	I love my children.
N’wiidigemaagan n’zaagaa.	I love my spouse.
N’dawemaag n’zaagaag.	I love my siblings.
N’zigosak n’zaagaag.	I love my aunts.
N’zhishenhyik n’zaagaag.	I love my uncles.
N’niitaawisak n’zaagaag.	I love my cousins.
N’wiijkiwenhik n’zaagaag.	I love my friends.
N’bazigim n’zaagaa.	I love my sweetheart.
G’mbinidimi.	We lift each other up.
Enh, kina n’da nowemaaganidook n’zaagaag.	Yes, I love all my relatives.

Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)



I always wanted to marry an archeologist. The older I get the more interested she would become!
*I just went on a date with a welder.
Man were the sparks flying!*

My girlfriend said, “You act like a detective too much. I want to split up.” So of course I said, “Good idea. We can cover more ground that way.”
They say kissing is a love language. Do you want to start a conversation? (Jii-mishin! (kiss me.))

I just put my grandma on speed dial. I call it instagram.



Photo by Nikole Weir
Sault Tribe Language and Culture recently hosted a puckered toe moccasin class at Niigaanagiihik Building in the Sault. Above are Kim Freele, Melissa Causley, Bambi Burham (a member from Lansing), with instructor Michelle Reed (right). Below: Some of the 17 students that completed a pair of moccasins.



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Wednesday, March 12th
Manistique Health Center
(906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

Thursday, March 13th
Escanaba Community Center
(906)632-0236

Wednesday, March 26th
Munising Health Center
(906)387-4721 or (800)236-4705

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

ZIISBAAKDOKE GIIZIS - MAPLE SYRUG MAKING MOON 2025

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
						<div>1<p>Aambe daminadaa goon-genebik! (Let's go play snow snake!)</p></div>
<div>2<p>Giizhookonawen (Dress warmly!)</p></div>	<div>3<p>Aapiji go gisinaa! (It is very cold!)</p></div>	<div>4<p>Mikoomiikaa. (There is lots of ice. It is icy.)</p></div>	<div>5<p>Giziibiigininjiin. (Wash your hands.)</p></div>	<div>6<p>kaad kik (pot w/legs)</p></div>	<div>7<p>ninaatig (maple tree)</p></div>	<div>8<p>kikoonhsag (pails)</p></div>
<div>9<p>Maadse gibeyiing giizhigat. (Daylight savings time begins.)</p></div>	<div>10<p>ziisbak-adaaboo (maple sap)</p></div>	<div>11<p>shkode (fire)</p></div>	<div>12<p>Skagamizige. (S/he is boiling down sap.)</p></div>	<div>13<p>ziisbaakadoonhs (maple candy)</p></div>	<div>14<p>Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)</p></div>	<div>15<p>ninaatig ziiwaagmide (maple syrup)</p></div>
<div>16<p>Gjibdan! (Taste it!)</p></div>	<div>17<p>Happy St. Patrick's Day Gchitwaa Pedii Giizhigat (St. Patrick's Day)</p></div>	<div>18<p>Zookpo. (It is snowing.)</p></div>	<div>19<p>Nchiiwad (snowstorm)</p></div>	<div>20<p>Ntam Mnookomik (First day of spring)</p></div>	<div>21<p>Minisedaa. (Let's cut firewood.)</p></div>	<div>22<p>Getzid (elder)</p></div>
<div>23<p>Mkoomiis (ice cube/ small ice)</p></div>	<div>24<p>Mkoom (ice)</p></div>	<div>25<p>Getzipiitziig (elders)</p></div>	<div>26<p>Goonkaa. (There is a lot of snow.)</p></div>	<div>27<p>Zhooshkwaa. (It is slippery.)</p></div>	<div>28<p>Nigwaankwat. (It is cloudy.)</p></div>	<div>29<p>Gii boonpwa. (It stopped snowing.)</p></div>
<div>30<p>Mkoomiis (ice cube/ small ice)</p></div>	<div>31<p>Mkoom (ice)</p></div>					

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan welcomes Madison Lamma and Ashley Young

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe members Madison Lamma and Ashley Young were recently hired by the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan's (ITCMI) office in Sault Ste. Marie.

Lamma is working with the Maternal and Early Childhood Health Department to support the Michigan Health Endowment Fund Community Health Impact Grant called "Increasing Health Literacy."

Ashley Young has joined ITCMI in the Health Education and Chronic Disease Department as a program manager for Our Breath is Sacred: Menthol and Flavored Tobacco Program and the Smoke Free Homes Program.

Lamma said the health literacy project aims to enhance health literacy and increase access to culturally tailored mental health

resources for tribal members residing in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, as well as individuals participating in ITCMI's Tribal Home Visiting and Healthy Start Programs. Materials developed by the health literacy program will be available to all ITCMI partners.

Before coming to the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan; Lamma was a community health educator at the Sault Tribe Health Center where she supported grant programming, and facilitated, planned and developed health education materials. She was also a Community Health educator for the tribe's Medical Fitness Program where she assessed the health needs of individuals and group populations and developed material, events, and programs to educate specific populations.



Madison Lamma (left), program coordinator with ITCMI, will be supporting the Increasing Health Literacy – Michigan Health Endowment Fund Community Health Impact Grant. Ashley Young (right) is the new program manager for Our Breath is Sacred - Menthol and Flavored Tobacco, along with the Smoke Free Homes Programs and the Truth Initiative offering This is Quitting.

Young said the Our Breath is Sacred: Menthol and Flavored Tobacco Program and the Smoke

Free Homes Program are being implemented in six Michigan tribes and organizations: Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Chippewa Indian Community and Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and Leelanau Investing For Teens.

Young will also be supporting the REACH – Healthy Native People Coalition as well as the Youth Coalition.

The ITCMI has also partnered with Truth Initiative to offer This is Quitting, the first-of-its-kind, free and anonymous text message quit vaping program with over 750,000 currently enrolled. This program is designed for teens and young adults looking

to quit e-cigarettes and provides participants with tailored advice, cognitive and behavioral coping strategies, and social support.

Results from a clinical trial published by JAMA Internal Medicine found that young adults 18-24 who used This is Quitting from Truth had nearly 40% higher odds of quitting compared to a control group.

Young people in Michigan who are looking to quit vaping can enroll in This is Quitting by texting SACREDBREATH to 88709.

The Smoke-Free Homes: Some Things are Better Outside program offers intervention that is evidence-based and assists households in creating smoke-free rules to help decrease exposure to secondhand smoke.

Social Security questions and answers

BY HILLARY HATCH, SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Q: I went back to work after getting retirement benefits, but now the company I work for is downsizing. I'll be receiving unemployment benefits in a few weeks. Will this affect my retirement benefits?

A: No. When it comes to retirement benefits, Social Security does not count unemployment as earnings, so your retirement benefits will not be affected. However, any income you receive from Social Security may reduce your unemployment

benefits. Contact your state unemployment office for information on how your state applies the reduction to your unemployment compensation.

Q: A few months after I started receiving my Social Security retirement benefit, my former employer offered to take me back. It's a great offer. Can I withdraw my retirement claim and reapply later to increase my benefit amount?

A: Social Security understands that unexpected changes may occur after you begin receiving retirement benefits. If you change your mind, you may be

able to withdraw your Social Security claim and reapply at a future date. This withdrawal must occur within 12 months of your original retirement, and you are limited to one withdrawal during your lifetime. Keep in mind, you must repay all the benefits you received. You can learn more about the 1-year period when you can postpone your benefits at www.ssa.gov/manage-benefits/cancel-your-benefits-application.

Q: I am expecting a child and will be out of work for 6 months. Is there a short-term disability from Social Security?

A: No. Social Security pays

only for total disability — conditions that make you unable to work and are expected to last for at least a year or end in death. No benefits are payable for partial disability or short-term disability, including benefits while on maternity leave.

Q: I have been getting Social Security disability benefits for many years. I'm about to hit my full retirement age. What will happen to my disability benefits?

A: When you reach "full retirement age," we will switch you from disability to retire-

ment benefits. But you won't even notice the change because your benefit amount will stay the same. It's just that when you reach retirement age, we consider you to be a "retiree" and not a disability beneficiary.

Q: When a person who has worked and paid Social Security taxes dies, are benefits payable on that person's record?

A: Social Security survivors benefits can be paid to: A surviving spouse—unreduced benefits at full retirement age,

See "Social Security," page 16

Toney and Ruth celebrate their marriage January 15

Victoria Toney of Niles, Mich., and Eric Ruth of Cassopolis, Mich., were married at Cass District Library Local History Branch on Jan. 15, 2025. Eric's grandmother dedicated over 50 years of her life documenting the history of Cass County, Mich., so this was a beautiful memory to have.

Victoria's parents are Aaron Toney (Sault Tribe) and Toni (Jeff) Crowel. Victoria's lineage grandmother is Judith Morgan, deceased, of Ludington, Mich. Eric's parents are Dan and Charmin Ruth.

Eric and Victoria currently reside in Cassopolis, Mich., and have two sons, Easton, 8, and Owen, 3.

Victoria works as an agricultural specialist for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi in Dowagiac, Mich.

Eric works at DC Cook Nuclear Plant as a lead fire technician in Bridgman, Mich. Eric is also a volunteer firefighter for the Penn Township Fire Department in Vandalia, Mich.

Victoria and their children are Sault Tribe members.



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Walking on...

LESLIE JOSEPH RUDITIS

Leslie Joseph Ruditis, age 66, of Sault Ste Marie, Mich., died at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie, on Jan. 22, 2025. He was born on Oct. 19, 1958, in Butte, Mont., to Joseph and Rose (Mendoskin) Ruditis. Leslie moved to Sault Ste. Marie and never left. He graduated from Lake Superior State University. He was a pipe carrier for thirty plus years and a member of St. Isaac Jogues Church for many years. Leslie was an active member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He taught young children how to drum and sing the native traditional songs. He was passionate about teaching the traditional ways and how things were done. He wanted people to understand why it was done the way it was. Leslie was a man of great faith and very proud of his heritage. He was an amazing teacher for many things but especially his culture.

Leslie was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Rose; and sister, Stella Ann.

A visitation was held on Jan. 27, at the Niigaanagiiichik Cultural Building in Sault Ste. Marie, with the funeral service followed by the pipe ceremony. A traditional ceremony was held Jan. 28, 2025, at the Niigaanagiiichik Cultural Building.

Leslie’s final resting place will be Wilwalk Cemetery on Sugar Island in Sault Ste. Marie.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Leslie Joseph Ruditis please visit our Sympathy Store.

EVELYN MARIE (KINNEY) JOHNDROW

Evelyn Marie (Kinney) Johndrow, 83, died on Jan. 17, 2025, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was born on Oct. 22, 1941, on Sugar Island, to Walter and Elizabeth (Joseph) Kinney.

Evelyn grew up on Sugar Island and attended Loretta High School.

Evelyn was a member of the St. Issac Jogues Catholic Church.

Evelyn enjoyed traditional native activities. She made delicious native dishes and liked native art, with her favorite pass time, weaving baskets. She also loved to listen to music.

Evelyn is survived by her sons, Tadd Shannon of Kincheloe, Mich., and Aaron Shannon of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Matthew (Alicia) Shannon, Stephanie Shannon, Chris Shannon, Charliene Shannon, Kaleb Shannon, Hallie Shannon, and Miranda Shannon; great-grandchildren, Ariana, Emmet, and Henrick; brothers, Michael (Susan) Kinney of Sault Ste. Marie, Philip Kinney of

Munising, Mich., and Harold (Julie) Kinney of Sault Ste. Marie.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, William; sons, Todd and Jody; and daughter-in-law, Cindy.

A Memorial Service was held on Jan. 24 at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie.

Evelyn’s final resting place will be the WilWalk Cemetery on Sugar Island.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Evelyn Marie Johndrow please visit our Sympathy Store.

DONALD WAYNE KERRIDGE

Donald Wayne Kerridge, 69, from Garnet, Mich. passed away Saturday Dec. 21 2024 just before midnight at Golden Leaves Living Center in Newberry. He had been a resident there since May 2022 where he had been receiving great care and lots of love from the staff. Don was born April 15, 1955, at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing to the late Lee and Shirley (Peters) Kerridge.

Most of Don’s life was spent as a carpenter and general laborer as he was skilled in many areas of construction from cement work to framing and even finish work. He also spent many years as a sawyer and cutting firewood. He loved plowing snow and also spent a few years as a volunteer fireman for Hudson Township.

He was a true outdoorsman that didn’t miss an opportunity to be out hunting deer, rabbits and grouse. He was also a keeper of many “secret” spots for mushrooms, berries and the best fishing holes. His love for the outdoors found him lifelong friendships with lots of folks from out of the area that came up to share in the same activities. Attention to detail in his care for wild game was also a thing he took great pride in.

DK as he was known by many of his friends and family will always be remembered as one of the toughest guys around. His strength was reflected as early as high school football and continued with his work in the woods and on the jobsite.

Born to a family with seven siblings and two adopted his family extends deep including those who preceded him- Karl Kerridge, and Debbie Carlson. Living family is Joann Kerridge, Steve (Deb), Larry (Barb), Sue Crittenden, Cindy Niskala, Harvey Peters, and Mickie Darnell. Don and his former wife Karen (Derusha) had two children, Lance and Whitney. Grandchildren are Ryley Kerridge and Ava Outwater from Lance and wife Ashley, and Whitney is expecting a daughter with Jason Jorgensen.

Don was cremated and his

remains will be spread in some of his favorite spots in the wild and at his property in Garnet. A celebration of life will be held in the spring so friends and family can gather to share stories and joy in remembrance of DK.

Condolences may be expressed at www.beaulieufuneralhome.com Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry is assisting the family.

QUENTIN “Q” ARTHUR GOUDREAU

Quentin “Q” Arthur Goudreau, 84, of St. Ignace, Mich., passed away on Jan. 16, 2025. He was born on May 29, 1940, in St. Ignace, to Benjamin and Elvira (Cheeseman) Goudreau.

“Q” grew up in St. Ignace and graduated from Mackinac City Schools. As a young man, he delivered ice to the town residents with his father from Gros Cap. He attended high school in Mackinaw City in 1957, taking the ferry across the lake until the Mackinac Bridge was completed. He graduated from high school on a Friday, and then the following Monday he was hired as a deck hand on the J.F. Schowcough, where he worked for two years.

After this, he made the leap to go to college in Detroit to become a barber. He officially started his barber career in Rudyard and later at Skyberg in Kincheloe. Later, he took a job at Porky’s in Sault Ste. Marie where he worked until he opened his own business, “Quentin’s Barber Shop” in 1964. He worked there until he was offered a job with Yale Medical Supply in a management position in 1966. Shortly after, he returned to his previous barber shop working under the new owner until he bought it back in 1968. While still running his business he drove the St. Ignace school bus from 1971 to 1983, playing Kenny Rogers “The Gambler” daily. In 1981, he bought the bowling alley in town and moved his barber shop business into that building until 2008. After the sale of the bowling alley, he moved the barber shop to downtown St. Ignace and later to his home.

“Q” met Shannon and the couple married June 6, 1996. He was always adventurous and known to enjoy life to the fullest. He loved going pleasure boating, snowmobiling, racing, camping, traveling, and deer hunting. He also enjoyed donating to the Casino now and again. He loved to chat, and he was rarely wrong.

Quentin is survived by his wife, Shannon; son, Troy Goudreau of Minnesota; daughter, Robyn (Brad) Spring of Rudyard; grandchildren, Nick, Jordan, and Aimee; stepdaughter Amanda (Rick) Herscher of Petoskey; step-sons, Curt (Randi Walker) Binger of Gaylord, Christopher (Kali McNamara) Binger of Petoskey; brother, Ben Goudreau of St. Ignace; brother-in-law, Doug Frazer of St. Ignace; step-grandchildren, Alysha, Brandon, Caden, Hayden, Halle, Kaidence, Haleigh; and great-grandchildren,

Ellie and Hudson. As well as many great friends.

Quentin was preceded in death by his parents, Benjamin and Elvira; brother, Abraham Goudreau; sisters, Diane Frazer and Pauline Godin; and sister-in-law, Shirley Goudreau.

A memorial gathering was held Wednesday, Jan. 22, at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace.

Q’s final resting place will be Gros Cap Cemetery, in St. Ignace, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made in his memory to Evergreen Living Center, 1140 N. State St, St. Ignace, MI 49781.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Quentin “Q” Arthur Goudreau please visit our Sympathy Store.

LEROY EDWIN DERUSHA

Leroy Edwin Derusha also known to many as Peter D passed away at home, in the house he designed and built, Thursday Jan. 23, 2025, early in the morning hours with his family and friends by his side.

Pete was born and raised in Newberry, Mich. and was the son of Leroy and Lotus Derusha. He was smack dab in the middle of 11 children, 10 handsome boys and one beautiful girl. He was a graduate of Newberry High School and in 1964 he married Shirley Taylor (Hokkanen). Together they had two sons, James Allan Derusha and Brian Michael Derusha, both of Traverse City. In 1984 he transferred from the Newberry Regional Mental Health Center to Traverse City State Hospital and was promoted to the head of the Structural Maintenance Department.

Traverse City is where he met and married a local girl Jenelle Clark on April 19, 1986. Together they built a beautiful farm in the Lake Ann area, where he enjoyed nature and hunting, building and fixing things, neighbors visiting, family gatherings and front porch sitting.

Peter D was a man of many talents.

As a child he worked on paper routes, Windy Hanson’s Farm during the Summer and anything to stay busy. He was a janitor for the Catholic School, ran the first ambulance in Newberry, a welder, cement plant worker, equipment operator, house builder of many, Fixer Upper of Everything, farmer, gardener and horse trainer. You name it he could and would get it done. He helped so many in his 77 years of life. He was also a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Pete is survived by his wife Jenelle Clark-Derusha, sons Brian Derusha (Laurie Emmett) and Jim Derusha. Grandchildren Brandon Derusha (Emily Pavlich) and Delaney Derusha, great grandchildren Stella, Theo and Eily

Derusha. Siblings Charley Derusha (Bernie), Leslie Derusha (Kitty), Michael Derusha (Kathy), Skip Derusha, Mary Lou Hicks, Billy Derusha (Patty), Bob Derusha (Vicki) and Gary Derusha (Laura), sisters in law Sandy Derusha and Bev Derusha and many very special nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, great great nieces and nephews and great great great nieces and nephews. He had many dear friends in his life that he also cherished.

Pete was preceded in death by his parents Leroy and Lotus Derusha, brothers Jack Derusha and Ron Derusha, brother-in-law Dr. Sam Hicks, sisters-in-law Winnie Derusha and Lori Derusha.

His niece Ashley Niess summed him up perfectly!

The man never met a stranger. If I ever took you home, he quickly became your Uncle Pete, as well! He loved babies, making people laugh, building things and pie. I am forever thankful to have had 36 years with him, and time at the end to say goodbye. My life is better having known and been loved by him. Peter D you will be missed big time.

There will be a celebration of Peter D’s life Saturday, July 19, 2025, at noon.

Derusha Family Farm
19897 Fowler Road
Lake Ann, MI 49650

DANIEL LEROY STURGEON

Longtime Newberry resident, Daniel LeRoy Sturgeon, 67, passed away suddenly Saturday Feb. 1, 2025.

Born June 17, 1957, in Newberry, son of the late Albert Sturgeon Jr. and Patricia (Deverney) Gordon, Dan married the former Retha “Jane” McNamara on June 17, 1988, in Newberry.

Dan was employed as a corrections officer at the Newberry Correctional Facility for 20 years until his retirement. Dan enjoyed anything to do with the outdoors and with his family including camping, hunting, fishing, mushroom picking and blueberry picking. Dan also enjoyed “tinkering,” building things, spending countless hours in his garage, drinking coffee, playing the guitar, playing cards, garage sales and holidays with his loving family. Dan was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Dan is preceded in death by his parents Albert Sturgeon and Patricia (Harry) Gordon; in-laws Dolly (Ken) Fox and Charles McNamara; siblings Robert “Bob” Sturgeon, Timothy Sturgeon, Donald “Craig” Gordon and Meg Bullis.

Survivors include his loving wife Retha “Jayne” of Newberry; children Kay (Joel) Petersen, Brian Sturgeon, Danny (Jamie) McNamara, Julie (Chris) Bolda, Sara (Joe) Taylor and Keri (Steve) Sturgeon; 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; siblings Jean (Wally) Struntz of Grand Haven, Dave (Alyce) Sturgeon of Fruitport, Allen (Lori) Sturgeon of Muskegon, Kathy (Tom)

See “Walking on,” pg 12



Gladstone Health Center Grand Opening

BY SCOTT BRAND

Future users, health care staff, elected officials and Sault Tribal employees gathered at 2002 Minneapolis Avenue in Gladstone, Mich. on Feb. 5, for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of a new facility.

The Gladstone Tribal Fitness Center, more than a year in the making, boasts 1,800 square-feet of space loaded with exercise equipment. During its first month of operation the fitness center will be open strictly to Sault Tribe members, but it appears as though the facility will open its doors to additional users and groups in the coming months after staff has a chance to evaluate demand.

“Our community has faced so many health challenges over the years,” said Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes of the ailments that disproportionately affect Native Americans underscoring the importance of the new health center. “We are addressing those problems head-on and giving everyone the tools to fight back.”

Weight Room Monitor Lee

Carlson explained the facility is designed for all skill and strength levels with exercises ranging from five pounds on the low end to 1,300 pounds for the most ambitious body-builders. A long list of stations includes, free weights, lap pull downs, leg extension, leg curls, leg press, dip-assisted pull-up bar, squat rack, mobility equipment, dumbbells up to 100 pounds, EZ curl and curl bars.

“It’s for everybody to use,” said Rural Health Program Manager Nicole Fuson encouraging anyone interested to begin their journey to better health.

And if lifting weights isn’t your thing, there are multiple treadmills inside the fitness center providing safe footing away from the snow, slush and ice for those who just want to get their heart rate up by walking.

The Gladstone Fitness Center is currently open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

There is no charge for Sault Tribe members to visit and begin working out.



Unit IV Directors Kimberly Hampton and Larry Barbeau wielded the ceremonial big scissors on Feb. 5 as the Gladstone Tribal Fitness Center was officially opened to the public. They were joined by, from left to right, Unit I Director Isaac McKechnie, Rural Health Program Manager Nicole Fuson, Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes and Sault Tribe Health Division CEO James Benko.



Fitness Center Supervisor Sara Roberts provided registration paperwork, while Weight Room Monitor Lee Carlson displays the huge rack of dumbbells.



The Copper Kettle Women's Drum, comprised of Jeanny Kennedy, Gail Sulander and Wendy Martin played multiple songs.



Traditional Healer Gerard Sagassige poses with Chairman Lowes and Directors Hampton, McKechnie and Barbeau.



Ernie Demmon of Gladstone tests one of the new machines at the new facility.



The exterior of the Gladstone Tribal Fitness Center located at 2002 Minneapolis Avenue in Gladstone.

BY SCOTT BRAND

Making connections and strengthening bonds seemed to be the theme on Jan. 31, as Kewadin Casinos hosted multiple events on the night before the green flag dropped on 56th Annual I-500 Snowmobile Race.

While the bulk of the activity was taking place downstairs in The DreamMakers Theater where race officials, teams and drivers were joined by the I-500 Queen and Court, a host of dignitaries convened on the second floor for a special reception featuring addresses from Sault Ste. Marie Mayor Don Gerrie, Senator John DaMoose, Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes, Vice President of Michigan Travel Kelly Wolgamott and Executive Director Linda Hoath of the Sault Ste. Marie Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB).

More than a dozen members of the Michigan State Legislature, from both the Senate and the

House of Representatives, were in attendance for the presentations allowing face to face meetings with local folks and elected representatives from throughout northern Michigan.

Hoath used her speaking time to unveil the launch of the I-500 Trailhead Pavilion grant-matching fundraiser offering \$100 from her own pocket to get things underway. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation has pledged to match up to \$50,000 in donations over the next 60 days potentially delivering a \$100,000 boost to the \$2.5 million Trailhead Pavilion project.

“The pavilion represents more than an upgrade to the I-500 Track — it’s an investment in our community’s future,” said Hoath. “We’re calling on our community to help us cross the finish line. Every dollar brings us closer to making this dream a reality.”

The 40’ X 80’ pavilion will replace the temporary vendor tent

that has been historically used on race week. It will also provide a durable and functional space for fans to enjoy food, drinks and vendors and will serve as a year-round hub for community events.

Immediately following the reception, invited guests were ushered into a second room for additional comments from Senator John DaMoose and Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes before dinner was served. Michigan Legislators included Sen. DaMoose representing the 37th District, Senator Ed McBroom of the 38th District and State Representatives, Brian BeGole, 71st District; Timmy Beson, 96th District; Mike Hoadley, 99th District; Tom Kunse, 100th District; John Roth, 104th District; Ken Borton, 105th District; Cam Cavitt, 106th District; Parker Fairbairn, 107th District; David Prestin, 108th District; Karl Bohnak, 109th District; and Greg Markkanen, 110th District.



Senator John DaMoose of the 37th District meets with Unit I Director Kim Gravelle, her son Joe Gravelle, and Unit II Director Kimberly Lee.



Unit IV Director Kimberly Hampton dined with her daughters, Jasper and Harper.



Left, State Rep. Karl Bohnak of the 109th District meets with Unit V Director Tyler LaPlaunt. Center, Jane Markkanen and her husband State Rep. Greg Markkanen of the western U.P.'s 110th District. At right, Sault Ste. Marie City Manager Brian Chapman and Jay Gage of Sen. Elissa Slotkin's Office gave the event two thumbs up.



The Sault Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Team of Margaret Knecht, Executive Director Linda Hoath, Jaden Sorenson, Jodi Wizauer, Debbie Goeschel and Nick Nolan presented their pitch for the I-500 Trailhead Pavilion launching a fundraising campaign designed to bring improvements to the iconic race track.



Michigan State Representative Parker Fairbairn, center, whose 107th District covers both northern lower Michigan and portions of the Eastern Upper Peninsula shares a laugh with his wife, Victoria and Sault Ste. Marie Mayor Don Gerrie.



Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Chairman Austin Lowes shared his table with Senator John DaMoose.

Walking on continued...

From “Walking On” Page 9
Gordon of Newberry, Jackie (Joe) Whalen of Newberry, Amy (Jon) Geeck of Coleman and Kathy (Dale) Fetter of Austin, Texas; several nieces and nephews.

Per request, cremation services were accorded with a celebration of life for Dan to be held at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to the family in his loving memory for a future designation.

Condolences may be expressed online at Beaulieu Funeral Home.

CONSTANCE “CONNIE”ADRIENNE THORNE

Constance “Connie” Adrienne Thorne, 93, passed away on Jan. 10, 2025, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was born on Dec. 8, 1931, in Sault Ste. Marie to John and Ceceila (Pellow) Crawford.

Connie entered the military, after graduation, where she served her country for two years. While in the military she was assigned to special services where she sang with some of the biggest stars of her day such as Bob Hope and Dean Martin and even escorted Stars such as Elizabeth Taylor and Marilyn Monroe. Also, while stationed overseas, Connie adopted her two oldest sons Steven and Daniel from Germany. After her military tour ended Connie returned to Sault Ste. Marie where she began work as a secretary. She was then reintroduced to Bill Thorne and



they began their courtship and eventually married in 1967 and were married forty-eight years until Bill’s death in 2015. In 1968 and 1969 Bill and Connie had two more sons, Ed and John. Connie had many secretarial jobs over her lifetime and worked for John Lambros for many years. Connie said that “the time she spent working for John was her most fulfilling and happiest of her career.”

Connie was known for her laugh, sense of humor and “telling it the way it was”. She was often lovingly referred to as “Lucy” as in Lucille Ball by her family. She also loved to be with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In her later years, she enjoyed going to the Shunk Family cabin in Barbeau, Mich., with her son John for barbeques and boat rides. She loved traveling the country with her son Dan to visit some of the National Parks. She enjoyed her weekly Saturday lunch outings and treasure hunting with her son Ed. Connie was an avid Detroit Red Wings fan and hardly ever missed a game. She loved listening to her brother Bill Crawford, as the voice of the Laker Superior Laker’s. Some of her favorite things were Pepsi, cinnamon donut holes and Hershey Chocolate Bars. So much so that on her 90th birthday she was gifted with 90 bars of chocolate. Along with many more favorite things, one of her most favorite things was going to the casino with her closest friend, Marsha Ewing.

Connie is survived by her sons, Daniel (Kris) Thorne, John (Marcey) Thorne and Ed (Michael) Thorne; grandchildren; Chelsey (CJ) Weber, Harrison

(Ashley) Thorne, Julie (Wally) Bazinau, Rebecca (Beth) Veit; great-grandchildren, Knox Weber, Tatum Weber, Aspen Thorne, Atlas Thorne, Taylor Pitko, Eden Veit, Elijah Veit, Josie Veit, Jonah Veit, and Charlotte Bluemer; brother, Bill (JoAnn) Crawford, sister, Marion Crawford; and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Connie was preceded in death by her husband, William Thorne; daughter; Rebecca Thorne; son, Steven Hollingsworth; parents; John and Cecilia Crawford; and brother, Ford Crawford.

Funeral services will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Constance’s honor to Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Ave., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Constance “Connie” Adrienne Thorne please visit our Sympathy Store.

CARRIE MARIE MAYER

Carrie Marie Mayer, 58, died Feb. 12, 2025, at the Evergreen Living Center in St. Ignace, Mich. She was born Aug. 7, 1966, in St. Ignace, to Francis and Connie (Furlott) Mayer.

Carrie grew up in Rudyard, Mich., and attended Rudyard High School, graduating in 1992. She worked with Northern Transitions trying several ways of work, including working at McDonald’s, the Soo Locks, cleaning, and recycling. After covid, she was unable to work anymore and moved to Evergreen

Living Center.

Carrie enjoyed word searches and organizing everything. She loved country music, especially the artist John Denver. Her favorite TV shows were the classic Happy Days with the Fonz, Hee-Haw, country shows and music videos, and football. She liked to drink her Diet Coke and go out to eat. Carrie was feisty and bossy but always smiling with that adorable loud personality.

Carrie was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rudyard, Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and a Special Olympics competitor in swimming, basketball, snowshoeing, skiing, diving, and running.

Carrie is survived by her mom, Connie; siblings, Colette (Andy) Cozort of Rudyard, Faron (Natalee) Mayer of Cheboygan, Mich., Michelle (Ron) Coffey of Rudyard, Anthony (Dena) Mayer of Rudyard, and Aaron (Katie) Mayer of Sault Ste. Marie; and many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, and cousins.

Carrie was preceded in death by her dad, Francis; brother, Francis Jon Mayer; great-nephew, Grant Coffey; and her grandparents.

Visitation was held Feb. 15, 2025, at the St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church in Rudyard, Mich., with a Mass of Christian Burial following.

Memorial contributions may be made in Carrie’s honor to Evergreen Living Center, 1140 N. State St., St. Ignace, MI 49781 or St. Joseph Roman



Catholic Church, 11497 W. H-40, Rudyard, MI 49780.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

TROY DOUGLAS ESTES

Troy Douglas Estes was born to Jen Glashaw and the late Jim Estes on Jan. 25, 1968 on Mackinac Island. He died on Nov. 6, 2024.

Troy loved to socialize and have fun by going to lunch with friends and family and also loved to play a good game of cards. He was a teacher and had numerous additional jobs throughout his life. He lived in Toledo, Ohio, for many years.

He is survived by his son Stephen Estes, brother Todd Estes (Lisa) and their children Tera and Tyler Estes of Monroe, Mich., sister Joann (Rob) and their daughter Amber of Calif. He is also survived by grandchildren Brody, Bryson, Bennett, Harlo, and Lincoln. He will be buried on Mackinac Island in the spring.



TODD WILLIAM PETERSEN

Todd William Petersen was born March 19, 1967, and died Nov. 22, 2024, at the age of 57. He was the youngest son of Gordon and Judy Petersen, and brother to Raymond, Edward, John and Jodi. He was a husband to Sue, and father of Megan, Camryn and Breana.

Iron and vitamin C: the perfect pair

Iron-dense foods are best when paired with foods high in vitamin C to help the body absorb non-heme or plant-based sources of iron.

Iron is the most common nutritional deficiency. This deficiency is most prevalent in infants, people who are pregnant, people with heavy periods, folks who donate blood often and people with certain medical conditions such as heart failure or cancer.

Signs of iron deficiency include fatigue, lack of energy, pale skin and fingernails, weakness, dizziness, frequent headaches and breathing difficulty. However, these symptoms only arise when iron deficiency has reached the classification of anemia, where iron stores have become so drained that the red blood cells cannot carry enough oxygen throughout the body.

Iron is found in many foods such as red meat, poultry, and seafood. It can also be found in beans (black, pinto, kidney, soy, and lentils) and dark green leafy vegetables. Some foods are “iron-fortified” which means iron has been added. This is commonly found in wheat and other flours, and most likely found in cereals. Iron originating from animal-based sources, called heme iron, and plant sources, called nonheme iron, are absorbed differently.



Photo: Pixabay.com

Iron-dense foods are best when paired with foods high in vitamin C to help the body absorb nonheme or plant-based sources of iron.

Our bodies tend to not absorb the nonheme iron, or plant-based iron, as easily. It has been found that vitamin C can increase the amount of iron the body absorbs from plant sources.

Look no further than the fruit and vegetable food groups to find your vitamin C; foods such as strawberries, citrus fruits, tomatoes, potatoes, citrus fruits, green and red bell peppers, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, and kiwis are great sources of vitamin C.

Try pairing iron with vitamin C to have maximum absorption from non-heme or plant sources.

- Add sliced strawberries to oatmeal
- Spinach salad with tomato slices and green pepper strips
- Baked chicken with broiled grapefruit for dessert

- Breakfast burrito with whole-grain tortilla, eggs and a side of cantaloupe
- Kale salad with tuna or cooked dry beans and green peas
- Seafood with a citrus salsa topping

If you are interested in being screened for iron deficiency anemia, visiting a community health center or clinic can assist in getting a blood test. If you or your infant or toddler is enrolled in the Women, Infants & Children program, or WIC, talk to staff about being screened for hemoglobin levels.

This article was written by Caitlin Lorenc, Michigan State University Extension It was updated from an original article written by Stepanie Marino and Colleen Kokx. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>.

Social Security question and answer

From “Social Security,” page 8
or reduced benefits as early as age 60; A surviving spouse with a disability—as early as age 50; A surviving spouse at any age if they take care of the deceased’s child who is under age 16 or has a disability and is receiving Social Security benefits; Unmarried children under 18 or up to age 19 if they are attending high school full time. Under certain circumstances, benefits can be paid to stepchildren, grandchildren, step-grandchildren, or adopted children; Children at any age who developed a disability before age 22 and continue to have a disability; Dependent parents aged 62 or older.

Even if you are divorced, you still may be eligible for survivors benefits. For more information, go to www.ssa.gov/survivor.

Q: I got an email that says it’s from Social Security, but I’m not so sure. They want me to reply with my Social Security number (SSN), date of birth, and mother’s maiden name for “verification.” Did it really come from Social Security?

A: No. Social Security will only send you an email if you

have subscribed to receive them and only in limited situations. We will never send you an email asking you to share your personal information, such as your SSN, date of birth, or other private information. Beware of such scams — they’re after your information so they can use it for their own benefit.

When in doubt, or if you have any questions about correspondence you receive from Social Security, contact your local Social Security office, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to see whether we really need any information from you.

Q: I usually get my benefit payment on the first of the month. But what if the first falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday? Will my payment be late?

A: Just the opposite. Your payment should arrive early. You can find the payment schedules at www.ssa.gov/pubs/calendar.htm. Any time you don’t receive a payment, be sure to wait three days before calling to report it. To ensure your payments go to the right place, create a personal my Social Security account. Please visit www.ssa.gov/myaccount to create your account.

Ribbon skirt workshop teaches skills and culture



L-R: Storme Roma, Mary Belthouse, Myah McKerchie, Bambi Burnham, Kristin Tadgerson, Pamela Perry and Yvette Pitwanakwat learn new skills.



L-R, Eli Morelli and in the living room are Carol Plitz and Chloe Kannan.

SUBMITTED BY LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Experienced facilitators Becki Miller and Melissa Causley guided participants through sewing techniques and cultural teachings behind the ribbon skirt. The workshop attracted a diverse group of attendees ranging in age from elder to baby and from beginners who had never sewn before, to individuals with quilting experience who had never attempted ribbon skirts. Many of the members traveled from downstate to attend.



Becki Miller was a workshop facilitator who helped participants with sewing techniques.



Chloe Kannan



Eli Morelli



Elowyn Regamor, 3 months



Jordan Carroll



Melissa Causley and Stephanie Johnson



Storme Regamor



Trisha Gough and Melissa Causley



Yvette Pitwanakwat

From mother to daughter – a journey in traditional beading

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

Nikole Wynn (Gwiinin Suswaan Dening, Mukwa, Bahweting) learned many valuable life lessons from her mother, Sault Tribe elder Edye Nichols (Sept. 18, 1945 – Nov. 17, 2021).

In the early 1980s when her family began attending powwows and traditional tribal ceremonies, Wynn learned how to do leatherwork and how to make some items on a loom. She also became accomplished at doing an off-loom beading technique called the peyote stitch, that she used to dress feath-

ers and make beautiful keychains. Her specialty and what she really enjoyed doing, was making dance fans, bone chokers and fringing old-style fancy shawls.

After spending many years in Texas, she returned home to the Sault in 2017 and her niece taught her the more contemporary techniques for the sets she now makes.

“My mother taught me colors study and we worked together on ribbon skirts for several years, it was the most important time of my life. It was the highest honor to be with her to help and learn,” she

said.

Wynn said that during her beading journey she has enjoyed learning about and collecting vintage and rare beads from around the world. The oldest beads she has are from about 1910. “Collecting has helped to strengthen my skills in working with bead soup. This is a complex type of work in that there are few consistencies, and it takes tremendous patience - no short-cuts,” she said.

Bead soup is made up of the leftover beads from each project that are stored together. “The fur-

thest my bead soup brooches are found is in Morocco and my earrings have been shipped as far as Russia.”

The majority of her beaded items have been earrings and brooches. “My style is a distinct original design. Custom items are a rarity.”

Wynn said that many times throughout her life she has struggled with depression. “The spirit berries (beads) give me back a sense of community and have gifted me with friendships I never expected,” she said.

Over the years she has gifted much of her work to family and friends. She also sells her items at local powwow and conferences, generally sharing a table with another artist.

“My home is a safe place to visit and talk beads. I understand knowing how to create and source supplies is to be passed on and take the business of sharing knowledge very seriously,” she said.

Wynn sells her items at the Sault Kewadin Casino Gift Shop and she can be found on Instagram at: @nikole_wynn.



Nikole Wynn and some of her beautiful creations.





SAULT TRIBE HIGHER EDUCATION

WINTER 2025 GRANT PROGRAM

Applications Now Being Accepted!



ELIGIBILITY:

- ✓ Enrolled Sault Tribe Member
- ✓ Undergraduate Student
- ✓ Enrolled Full-Time
- ✓ Must Attend an Accredited Michigan Public University/College



TO APPLY:

Email highereducation@saulttribe.net and request an appllcation.

DEADLINE EXTENDED: 02/28/2025 AT 11:59 PM

 906-635-7784

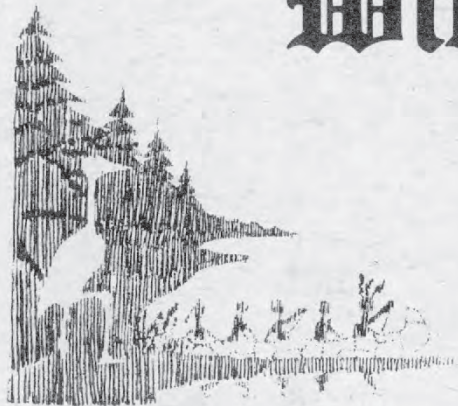
 highereducation@saulttribe.net

 2 Ice Circle Dr. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Win Awenen Nisitotung archives - from 1981

Win Awenen Nisitotam

'He Who Understands'



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Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

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Tuition waiver threatened

Indian students may lose their tuition waivers at Michigan's colleges and universities if funding is not appropriated by the state by the end of the spring term.

Detroit Senator Jackie Vaughn's Indian tuition waiver bill passed two years ago, stated that institutions of higher learning in Michigan would be reimbursed for Indian students tuition. However, funding to back the bill was never appropriated.

Jack Kibble, director of the Sault Tribe Johnson O'Malley education program, was informed by Ferris State College (FSC) last week that that college would no longer honor the tuition waiver. Ferris as well as other universities have received no tuition payments from the state since the bill was passed. Increasingly tight budgets at FSC forced them to finally make the decision to no longer honor the bill.

Various groups throughout the state have challenged Ferris' decision including the Native American Legal Group of Traverse City who informed the college that their action was illegal.

On Monday, February 9, Kibble and Indian educators throughout the state met with the Commission on Indian Affairs in Lansing. Their purpose was to plan a strategy in approaching Governor Milliken to persuade him to

appropriate monies to support the waiver. They formed a task force to present a statement at the upcoming quarterly meeting of the Committee of College and University Financial Aid Officers to gain their support.

Meanwhile, Ferris has agreed to honor the waiver through the spring semester. Michigan State University is considering cutting that part of their budget after the present term as well. They are close to \$100,000 in the red. If they decide to cut the tuition waiver a significant precedent will be set since they are one of Michigan's largest universities.

In a letter to Senator Vaughn the Commission on Indian Affairs protested the lack of reimbursements to the colleges. They also said "many Indian students are being deprived of other supplemental monies that is being held by some of the colleges and universities until they are reimbursed for tuition. . . This action prevents these students from buying necessary books and meeting needs that the monies were intended for."

Approximately 100 Sault Tribe college students, 90 of which are in Michigan, would be affected according to Kibble. The majority of these students attend Northern Michigan University and Lake Superior State College.



Martha Snyder

MICWA
receives
license

The Michigan Indian Child Welfare Agency (MICWA) became the first organization of its kind to become a licensed child placement agency February 5.

According to Executive Director Martha Snyder of Sault Ste. Marie, MICWA is the first Indian child placement agency in the country they are aware of to be licensed by the state.

The state-wide agency recruits and licenses Indian foster and adopting homes for Native American children. Their aim is to keep Indian children in Indian homes. Their main office is in Sault Ste. Marie.

MICWA began as a research project in 1977 and received provisional certification from Michigan's Department of Social Services (DSS) October 1, 1979.

The DSS spent several days reviewing MICWA's files to make sure they meet state requirements. "It's a big step. We've worked for and achieved the state format and they've approved of it," said Snyder.

She praised the agency's social workers and especially Andrew LeBlanc, administrative assistant, who acted as the "thorn in the workers' sides." LeBlanc spent evenings and week-ends updating files and verifying information.

MICWA's Upper Peninsula offices are in the Sault and Baraga.

Tribes propose sanctuaries

By Leslie Eger

The Sault Tribe, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Bay Mills Indian Community have recently proposed the establishment of fish sanctuaries in lakes Michigan and Huron.

The purpose of the joint effort is to encourage permanent reproducing populations of Lake Trout in the two lakes by providing protected breeding areas. The area proposed includes 1,000 square miles near Beaver Island in northern Lake Michigan, statistical district MM-3. The Lake Huron areas, dispersed throughout MH-1 in the northeastern corner of the lake including Hammond Bay, total approximately 300 square miles.

According to William Eger, tribal biologist, "We feel the refuge concept is the best way to restore and rehabilitate the lake trout populations."

So far Michigan's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has relied on yearly restocking of juvenile lake trout and regulating the numbers that may be removed by fishing. This method however, has not been very successful because the planted trout are not reproducing. In order to keep lake trout in the lakes it is necessary to keep putting them there. The concept of a refuge involves completely protecting the planted lake trout in a specific area rather than trying to control the numbers of trout taken throughout the upper Great Lakes. The establishment of a permanent population is a long one and its success depends on being able to maintain a sufficient stock of sexually mature fish (5 to 6 years of age or older).

Although the DNR decides where the fish are planted, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service provides the fry. In Lake Huron, planting has been going on

Continued on page 2



JOM students visit Washington

Six Johnson O'Malley students were fortunate enough to be in Washington, D.C. four days during Reagans' inauguration in January.

The trip, chaperoned by tribal employee Menola Fox, was made by Marie Bellant and Jackie Erskine of St. Ignace, Bobbi Andress of Mackinac Island, Randy Menard of Sugar Island and Tammy Reno and David Fox of Sault Ste. Marie.

According to Mrs. Fox, a highlight of the trip was meeting and being photographed with Senator Bob Davis.

Tribal health clinics pharmacy process as of Feb. 14

Please see instructions for refills based on medication pick up location:

SAULT STE. MARIE (906) 440-8165

Medication Refills: Bring all pharmacy medication bottles/boxes to the Sault pharmacy. Pharmacy will provide you with a 30-day supply of medication. This process may take up to 2-hours to complete. You may request a phone call when your medications are ready for pick up. If you are a patient of elder care or community health, those employees may assist you with this process.

Medication Refills for CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: Call or present to the pharmacy to request your refill. Pharmacy will request a prescription from your provider. The prescription can be picked up at Arfstrom Pharmacy at no cost to the patient. Due to a sharp increase in prescription volume, Arfstrom Pharmacy is requesting 72 hours to fill your medication.

NEW PRESCRIPTIONS generated from a visit with a Sault Tribe provider will be written on a hard copy prescription and can be taken to Arfstrom Pharmacy to fill at no cost to the patient.

ST. IGNACE (906) 379-7384

Medication Refills: Bring all pharmacy medication bottles/boxes to the St. Ignace pharmacy. Pharmacy will provide you with a 30-day supply of medication. This process may take up to 2-hours to complete. You may request a phone call when your medications are ready for pick up. If you are a patient of community health, those employees may assist you with this process.

Medication Refills for CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: Call or present to the pharmacy to request your refill. Pharmacy will request a prescription from your provider. The prescription can be picked up at Mackinac Straits Pharmacy at no cost to the patient.

NEW PRESCRIPTIONS generated from a visit with a Sault Tribe provider will be written

on a hard copy prescription and can be taken to Mackinac Straits Pharmacy to fill at no cost to the patient.

MANISTIQUE (906) 440-6746

Medication Refills: Bring all pharmacy medication bottles/boxes to the Manistique pharmacy. Pharmacy will provide you with a 30-day supply of medication. This process may take up to 2-hours to complete. You may request a phone call when your medications are ready for pick up. If you are a patient of community health, those employees may assist you with this process.

Medication Refills for CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: Call or present to the pharmacy to request your refill. Pharmacy will request a prescription from your provider. The prescription can be picked up at Putvin Pharmacy (Manistique location) at no cost to the patient.

NEW PRESCRIPTIONS generated from a visit with a Sault Tribe provider will be written on a hard copy prescription and can be taken to Putvin Pharmacy (Manistique location) to fill at no cost to the patient.

MUNISING (906) 440-6747

Medication Refills: Bring all pharmacy medication bottles/boxes to the Munising Tribal Health Center. The Pharmacist or nursing staff will write down your medication order and fax the request to the pharmacy. Pharmacy will provide you with a 30-day supply of medication within 3 business days. You may request a phone call when your medications are ready for pick up. If you are a patient of community health, those employees may assist you with this process.

Medication Refills for CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: Call or present to the Munising Tribal Health Center to request your refill. A prescription will be requested from your provider. The prescription can be picked up at Putvin Pharmacy (Munising location) at no cost to the patient.

NEW PRESCRIPTIONS generated from a visit with a Sault Tribe provider will be written on a hard copy prescription and can be taken to Putvin Pharmacy (Munising location) to fill at no cost to the patient.

MARQUETTE (906) 225-1634

Medication Refills: Call the Marquette Health Center to set up an appointment with the Community Health staff to bring all pharmacy medication bottles/boxes to the Marquette Tribal Health Center. The Community Health staff will write down your medication order and fax the request to the pharmacy. Pharmacy will provide you with a 30-day supply of medication at the next scheduled Marquette medication delivery (Tuesdays). You may request a phone call when your medications are ready for pick up. If you are a patient of community health, those employees may assist you with this process.

Medication Refills for CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: Call the Marquette Tribal Health Center to request your refill. A prescription will be requested from your provider. For medication pick up instructions, please contact the Marquette Tribal Health Center as pick up instructions may vary based on the nature of medication. Controlled medications may be filled at Peninsula Pharmacy (1414 W Fair location) or any Snyder Drug Store location at no cost to the patient.

GLADSTONE (906) 825-1000

Medication Refills: Call ahead to schedule an appointment with Community Health staff or present to the Gladstone Health Center with all pharmacy medication bottles/boxes. The Community Health staff will write down your medication order and fax the request to the pharmacy. Pharmacy will provide you with a 30-day supply of medication at the next scheduled Gladstone medication delivery

(Fridays). You may request a phone call when your medications are ready for pick up. If you are a patient of community health, those employees may assist you with this process.

Medication Refills for CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: Call the Gladstone Tribal Health Center to request your refill. A prescription will be requested from your provider. For medication pick up instructions, please contact the Gladstone Tribal Health Center as pick up instructions may vary based on the nature of medication. Controlled medications may be filled at Peninsula Pharmacy (Escanaba location) at no cost to the patient.

NEWBERRY (906) 440-0296

Medication Refills: Call the Newberry Health Center to set up an appointment with the Community Health staff to bring all pharmacy medication bottles/boxes to the Newberry Tribal Health Center. The Community Health staff will write down your medication order and fax the request to the pharmacy. Pharmacy will provide you with a 30-day supply of medication within 3 business days. You may request a phone call when your medications are ready for pick up. If you are a patient of community health, those employees may assist you with this process.

Medication Refills for CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: Call the Newberry Tribal Health Center to request your refill. A prescription will be requested from your provider. For medication pick up instructions, please contact the Newberry Tribal Health Center as pick up instructions may vary based on the nature of medication. Controlled medications may be filled at Snyder’s Drugstore or Newberry Hometown at no cost to the patient.

DETOUR (906) 440-6725

Medication Refills: Call the DeTour Health Center to set up an appointment with the Community Health staff to bring

all pharmacy medication bottles/boxes to the DeTour Tribal Health Center. The Community Health staff will write down your medication order and fax the request to the pharmacy. Pharmacy will provide you with a 30-day supply of medication within 3 business days. You may request a phone call when your medications are ready for pick up. If you are a patient of community health, those employees may assist you with this process.

Medication Refills for CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: Call the DeTour Tribal Health Center to request your refill. A prescription will be requested from your provider. For medication pick up instructions, please contact the DeTour Tribal Health Center as pick up instructions may vary based on the nature of medication. Controlled medications may be filled at Arfstrom Pharmacy (Cedarville location) at no cost to the patient.

HESSEL (906) 440-6727

Medication Refills: Call the Hessel Health Center to set up an appointment with the Community Health staff to bring all pharmacy medication bottles/boxes to the Hessel Tribal Health Center. The Community Health staff will write down your medication order and fax the request to the pharmacy. Pharmacy will provide you with a 30-day supply of medication within 3 business days. You may request a phone call when your medications are ready for pick up. If you are a patient of community health, those employees may assist you with this process.

Medication Refills for CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: Call the Hessel Tribal Health Center to request your refill. A prescription will be requested from your provider. For medication pick up instructions, please contact the Hessel Tribal Health Center as pick up instructions may vary based on the nature of medication. Controlled medications may be filled at Arfstrom Pharmacy (Cedarville location) at no cost to the patient.

Hunting antler sheds: A fun and informative winter pastime

BY KATIE OCKERT, MSUE

Finding deer sheds is a great way to get outside and enjoy winter while learning valuable information about the deer in your area.

Michigan has an abundant deer population, and many people enjoy searching or hunting for antler sheds as a winter outdoor activity. The antler cycle is controlled by photo period, or day length. Male deer grow antlers rapidly in spring and summer. After the breeding season, as the days get shorter, the amount of the reproductive hormone testosterone drops.

Testosterone controls the antler cycle; when testosterone levels drop, specialized cells called osteoclasts are activated. These osteoclasts eat away at the pedicle, or base of the deer’s antlers, which cause the antlers to become weak and eventually fall off. This cycle occurs annually in deer. The best time to search for antler sheds is between mid-January and

March.

Here are some tips for a successful antler shed hunt.

Look along deer trails. Deer trails are a great place to find sheds because the deer are traveling along these routes, likely bounding or jumping over downed logs, fences or small streams. The impact of landing may help antlers to drop. Also, look in areas on the trail where brush is thick. The thick brush may pull at the antlers, helping them to drop.

Areas that offer a feeding site can also be areas where sheds can be found. During the winter months, areas that offer abundant and quality nutrition will be a natural congregation site, which increases the odds that sheds can be found.

Deer sheds pose very little risk in spreading chronic wasting disease. Wipe any organic material from sheds and always practice good hand hygiene after handling antler sheds.



Photo by Sam Smith

Deer antler sheds can give you valuable information about the deer herd in your area as well. Antler size is dependent upon the animals’ age, the quality of nutrition it is receiving, and its genetics.

Evaluating antler sheds can give you an idea of the age struc-

ture of the bucks in the area. A one-year-old deer will have thin beams, or the central stem of the antler, and the spread is usually inside the ears of the animal, whereas a four-year-old deer will have thicker, heavy antlers with good bases and multiple points. The spread will expand beyond the ears.

Good nutrition is essential for antler growth. Regardless of age, a buck needs an adequate intake of protein for growth and development; as the deer ages, its protein requirements will decrease because it is using less of the dietary protein for body development therefore it can be utilized in antler growth.

Additionally, deer require vitamins and minerals, calcium and phosphorus in particular for antler growth. While the antlers are growing, the deer mobilizes calcium and phosphorus from skeletal sites, such as rib bones, and then uses it in antler development. If the soil in your area doesn’t con-

tain the proper amounts of vitamins and minerals, antlers may not develop to their full potential.

Lastly, genetics play a role in antler development. The buck will inherit physical characteristics from its parents; the combination of the parents presents a “genetic potential.” It is difficult to measure how influential genetics are in antler development due to the various external factors that impact antler growth—nutrition, stress, environment, and overall animal health.

For more information about deer management, chronic wasting disease, tips and tools for hunters and venison consumers, and other deer related topics, visit Michigan State University Extension’s Chronic Wasting Disease website.

For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/experts>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

Updating the membership on issues of the day



Trump Administration

In the early weeks of the Trump administration, the Sault Tribe faced several challenges due to executive orders that could impact our tribal funding. Thankfully, the checks and balances within our federal government allowed several federal judges to block the broad actions of these orders. The Sault Tribe is committed to protecting the funding that supports vital services for our members, and we will continue to advocate fiercely on their behalf. Within the next month, I will be testifying before Congress twice to do just that. I will also be meeting with our senators and representative during these visits.

The Sault Tribe has strong relationships with elected officials from both parties in the federal and state government. These connections are the result of our ongoing efforts, with elected officials like myself traveling to Lansing and Washington, D.C. to remind our leaders of their treaty and trust obligations to tribes. I take this responsibility seriously and work hard to educate these leaders on the issues that matter most to Indian Country.

Furthermore, the Sault Tribe works closely with Indian policy experts, who are instrumental in advocating for our interests at both the state and federal levels. We also maintain active membership in several influential tribal organizations, including the

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST), the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA), and the United Tribes of Michigan (UTM). As the Vice President of CORA and the President of UTM, I can assure you that we have a strong presence at each of these tables.

Lastly, our Legislative Department continues to do outstanding work in helping us navigate the challenges brought by the new administration. Together, we will continue to fight for the well-being of our Tribe and its members.

RX Kids Program

I'm excited to share the expansion of the RX Kids program to five counties in the Upper Peninsula! This program will provide much-needed financial support to pregnant women and families in the following counties: Chippewa, Luce, Alger, Schoolcraft and Mackinac. This program is not income-based, and individuals do not need to be tribal members to benefit. This program is run through a non-profit that was originally going to pilot only in Chippewa County and the city of Flint. I have been in communication with the non-profit for well over a year about expanding their program to include as many tribal members as possible. I am proud of this program, and the assistance it will provide our families.

Eligible participants will receive \$1,500 during their pregnancy and \$500 per month for the first six months of their child's life, totaling \$4,500. One of the key features of this program is its accessibility—individuals can apply via their phones, and payments can be received via pre-paid debit cards mailed directly to them or through direct deposit.

I will have the honor of attending a press conference with Lt. Governor Gilchrist, Senator DaMoose, and Dr. Mona Hanna, the pediatrician who spearheaded

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

this program, on Valentine's Day. This program is set to last at least two years, with a possible extension based on funding. Infants born after March 1, 2025, will be eligible. In my next unit report, I'll provide more details about the program, including how to sign up.

Unity Conference

The Sault Tribe recently sent a delegation of our youth to the Unity Conference, and I am

incredibly proud of the young people who participated. Our youth are the future of our tribe, and investing in their education, leadership, and growth is one of our highest priorities. It is inspiring to see our youth take an active role in shaping their future, and I am confident that the experiences they gained at this conference will have a lasting impact on them and our community.

Cyber Attack

On Feb. 9, 2025, the Sault Tribe fell victim to a ransomware attack that has significantly impacted our ability to access our network and, in turn, some of our services. While this situation is unfortunate, I am deeply proud of our employees who have worked tirelessly to find ways to contin-

ue offering essential services to our members during this difficult time.

The tribe will continue to post updates on our social media pages to keep our members informed about which services are still available and how to access them. Our team is working around the clock to restore operations, and I want to thank our members for their patience and understanding during this process. Rest assured, we are doing everything we can to get back up and running as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support, and please stay tuned for more updates in the coming weeks.

Austin Lowes
Sault Tribe Chairman



Sault Tribe youth at the Unity Conference pictured above with Aaron Payment at right.

Patients were asked, “Should you wish, please provide any comment regarding this physician’s office/clinic visit.”

And you told us...

The Tribal Center does a good job caring for the patients.

Margaret Comfort Medical...The clinic is very much needed here. I don't know what I'd do if I didn't see Margaret. The clinic is accommodating and very easy to work with.

She is great. I give her a 12 out of 10 score...she gives excellent care!

She's a good doctor and the pharmacy there is fantastic, too.

It's an excellent place. Friendly. Been going there for quite a few years. It's always a good place to go. It's a nice experience when you have to go.

This is a very good clinic. They are very helpful!



MANISTIQUE TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

The doctors and nurses are great!!

The staff is always willing to help. If they don't know something, they don't hesitate to refer you out for services...Thanks for excellent care!

Dr. Muth Optical...Dr. Muth did a great job and I'm satisfied with the care I received.

He's great...I'd like to see him stay...They have taken very good care of me.

The office staff and services are amazing.

I'm very happy with the service. They went above and beyond.

They're just all very good. We've gone there for years.

Tribal nations unite to save our sovereignty (S.O.S.)



**AARON PAYMENT,
DIRECTOR UNIT I**

As I write this “Call to Action,” I am traveling to Washington, D.C. to join the National Congress of American Indians Executive Winter Session to protect our tribal sovereignty. At Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes’ request, I am attending to help strategize a plan to safeguard our existence. I appreciate Chairman Lowes recognizing my strengths and asking for my help.

The First Two Weeks!

The first two weeks of the second Trump administration have presented serious challenges and threats to our existence. The administration’s legal push to overturn a century-and-a-half precedent of birthright citizenship questioned our sovereignty and citizenship. This move, I believe, was a deliberate message to tribal nations. As Indigenous people, we hold a unique perspective on the immigration battle.

Consider the hypocrisy—descendants of immigrants who came to Turtle Island without

papers now turning their backs on others simply because of their skin color. The administration’s legal filing questioned Native citizenship despite the 1924 Snyder Act (commonly known as the Indian Citizenship Act) and constitutional recognition of our rights. We didn’t cede nearly 2 billion acres of land for nothing—our ancestors fought for legal protections enshrined in treaties and the U.S. Constitution.

What’s different this time?

Two key differences stand out. In 2017, Trump lacked the understanding of the government to dismantle it effectively. Now, with Project 2025, he knows exactly which levers to pull. While he denies direct involvement, his administration is implementing it. Previously, Congress shielded us from devastating attacks on tribal nations—this time, I’m not confident they will.

Trump persistently opposed exemptions for American Indians and Alaska Natives from the Affordable Care Act work requirement, despite the federal government’s treaty obligations to provide health, education, and social welfare. His administration claimed such exemptions were race-based, similar to today’s DEI arguments. While lawsuits blocked those efforts last time, his current retribution agenda suggests he is not done.

Previously, Congress ensured our funding was shielded from Trump’s proposed draconian cuts, including a 35% reduction to Indian Child Welfare, elimination of Johnson O’Malley Indian Education and Recreation

funding, and the abolition of the Affordable Care Act, which permanently reauthorized Indian Health Services. Will bipartisan support be enough this time? With billionaires threatening to primary any disloyal Republicans, I am fearful. Recall the budget brinkmanship and near-government shutdown in December.

The influence of big business and the super-rich in government cannot be ignored. The Citizens United ruling allows corporations to funnel enormous sums into elections, swaying policy at our expense. No one elected Elon Musk, yet his \$350 million contribution to Trump’s campaign makes him a de facto power broker. Check out the cover of Time Magazine.

Not Welfare, Not Reparation – We Pre-paid for It!

As the late Cathy Abramson, a tribal councilwoman from my tribe, used to say, “We pre-paid for everything we get.” Our federal funding is not reparations or welfare but a contractual obligation from treaties. Though we are both an ethnic and racial class, we are first and foremost sovereign nations.

Our treaty and trust obligations are not tied to DEIA. The Supreme Court case Morton v. Mancari affirms our status as a political classification, not a racial minority. Any cuts based on DEIA should exclude our funding. Fortunately, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum and Senate Indian Affairs Chair Lisa Murkowski have stated our funding should be exempt from such cuts.

Inter-Tribal Unity - 574 Tribal Nations Strong!

We must unite—at home and among Tribal Nations—to protect our sovereignty. There are 574 Tribal Nations with nearly 9 million enrolled citizens. We can and must take action.

Contact your Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and your two U.S. Senators. Share these points:

— Our funding is NOT welfare, reparations, or DEIA—it was prepaid with the blood, sweat, and tears of our ancestors and nearly 2 billion acres of ceded land.

— Either honor the treaties or return our land.

— We must protect our sovereignty for future generations. Partisan politics are foreign to our traditional governments. We didn’t create the federal deficit, and our funds should not be cut to balance the budget.

— A government is only as good as its word. What little we receive was promised and pre-paid. We will hold the federal government accountable.

Honoring Health, Education, and Social Welfare

Project 2025 proposes changes to Indian education, including Educational Choice for Tribal Grant Schools, fully funded by the Bureau of Indian Education. Our people, with a direct right to education per treaty obligations, should not have the worst outcomes. If the Department of Education is dismantled and new funding does not materialize, we face more broken promises.

If the Affordable Care Act is

repealed, Indian Health Services must be fully funded at a minimum of \$50 billion, as recommended by the IHS Tribal Leader Budget Formulation Work Group. Another \$50 billion is needed for Indian Health Service Portability, ensuring healthcare access as a treaty right, similar to veterans’ healthcare.

Tribal services—including Head Start, general assistance, LIHEAP, housing, emergency needs, FDPIR (Commods) and SNAP, and Title VI Indian Elder Meals—should be provided without means testing. Despite the 2018 U.S. Commission on Civil Rights’ Broken Promises Report highlighting our needs, income eligibility was never part of treaty negotiations and should not be now.

Finally, all Indian Country funding must be moved to the mandatory side of the federal budget and fully funded. We did not create the federal deficit. The proportionally small amount allocated to Tribal Nations will not make or break the federal budget. It is time the federal government honors its promises in full.

Tribal Members, please take Care and love yourself, your family and your Tribe!

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

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TODAY!

U.S. House of Representatives
www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative

U.S. Senators (2)
www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm?lang=en

Unit I director discusses new administration, issues



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR UNIT I**

I realize many members are concerned with recent actions by the President and his executive orders. First of all, it’s going to be a process to evaluate, review, and see what the impacts are and what the best way to approach each incident. Many of these issues are already being challenged by the courts. Many of the grants that the tribes receive including ours are fulfilling treaty and trust obligations and have much to do with educating elected leaders on the federal side of tribes legal and political status and that is not race-based or “hand-outs.”

After every election, many tribal leaders take on the task of informing our federal counterparts on our status and rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. The same document that gives all Americans the freedom of speech and the right to “keep and bear arms,” also

gives Congress the authority to negotiate and “make commerce” with tribes. Tribal leadership hold meetings, invite speakers to national conventions and take the time needed to educate and advocate for tribes’ treaty and trust responsibilities and ensure past agreements are honored.

“Tribes are classified as political entities because of their longstanding history as sovereign nations that existed before the United States was formed.”

Many members of Congress on both sides of the aisle are already aware and we have their support to make sure those responsibilities are upheld. This will be a long process and there are potential areas that will be affected while all this get sorted and the board will be meeting to address these issues as they arise and we will continue to remind the federal government of its responsibilities.

Our tribe recently conducted a massive market wage review and implemented the findings. Since I’ve been on the board, it was easily the most difficult roll-out and implementation I’ve seen. Information was hard to get, not presented in similar formats, and several delays occurred due to multiple changes that were occurring daily. I ask our team members to remain patient as we comb through and see all the short-comings the market study unveiled as well as our need to address wage compression (years

in a position vs. new hires in same position).

While our tribe should be getting together and finding solutions as well as juggle budget deficits in the upcoming years, we continue to struggle with in-fighting, trust, communication and accountability within our tribe. I had hoped our last election would help guide the board as whole, unfortunately it

has Ednot. This is not what our previous leaders fought for. Many board members have personal agendas, vindictive motives, and continue to micro-manage all aspects of our tribe.

Political retaliation is real, and our members deserve a separation of powers and have a separate court that can hear constitutional violations. I wish I could end on a more positive note but the reality

is we have a long road ahead to deal with the impacts of the federal government, executive orders as well as confronting our own in-fighting issues. As always, I urge members to continue to get involved and continue to hold the board accountable with your voices. Please reach out to me to discuss issues and concerns, I can also be reached at (906) 440-7768. Chi Miigwech.

Students tour Administration Complex



Photo by Scott Brand

Mr. Liztner’s class from JKL recently visited the tribal administration complex on Ashmun St. in the Sault and toured all four levels, escorted by Executive Assistants Amber Lemon (second row at right) and Education Executive Assistant Breanna Sliger.

Unit IV directors report on tribal issues, events



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR UNIT IV

Aniin. Boozhoo kina waya. We are happy to announce that the Manistique Fitness Center and the Gladstone Fitness Center are both open. Chi Miigwetch to all who made the Grand Openings for both of the fitness centers. The celebrations were much awaited.

Reminders:

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow



LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR UNIT IV

A planning meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST, Manistique Tribal Center, 5698W US-2, Manistique. All are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE for the 2025 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow scheduled for June 7, 2025. We encourage everyone to “like” the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page to keep updated

on events.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

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

The next meeting in Manistique will be held March 12, 2025, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held March 12, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center, 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba. If you plan to attend please RSVP at (906) 635-4971 at least a week prior.

The next meeting in Marquette, for Units 4 and 5, will be held March 6, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 2472 US 41 W, Marquette, MI 49855.

Updates:

Gladstone Fitness Center: The Fitness Center is now open for members, which can be obtained by visiting the

Fitness Center located at 2002 Minneapolis Ave., Gladstone.

Manistique Fitness Center: The Fitness Center is now open for memberships, which can be obtained by visiting the Fitness Center.

Looking Forward

We both understand that with the passing of the tribal wide compensation studies, that there were impacts not so favorable. We want to assure members that we are working with the rest of the board in making some additional changes to ensure parity and equity. We are hard at reviewing budgets and getting them passed for the year 2025, as we have been operating on a continued budget from 2024. Additionally, we want to ensure members that Sault Tribe is not just sitting by, doing nothing, while the new federal administration is settling in and making initial changes. Sault Tribe has been busy taking precautions, and continuing to advocate behind the scenes.

Lastly, we wanted to remind members to watch for upcoming cultural events to participate in. Our culture is a priority and we must continue partaking in learning and passing knowledge on to others.

We both want to give our sincerest thanks for trusting us to represent Unit 4 members and Sault Tribe. We are always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. We encourage members to participate in Maamawi Craft Nights, office hours, community input sessions, Katchup with Kim, and all other activities and events occurring throughout Indian Country.

Our contact information is below:

Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4 representative. Phone (906) 440-8138. Email is khampton@saulttribe.net.

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

Sorenson discusses tribal business and budgets



BRIDGETT SORESEN,
DIRECTOR UNIT III

At the Feb. 4 board meeting, an agenda item for our biggest budget (schedule C) was listed. I advocated to table the budgets, which the board supported. The reasons for me were that we are already operating on a continuing resolution under last year’s spending until March 31, 2025,

and we did not have a balanced budget. We are facing a budget deficit and we haven’t made all the decisions to fill those gaps other than a couple recommendations that actually didn’t cover the full deficit.

The casinos used to pay the government \$17 million to operate programs and services. The tribe has a tax code and it has been stated for a few years that the casino is being taxed too heavy but no changes have been made to the tax code. So, for 2025 the casino may or may not be giving us the proper amount. These issues or concerns have not been fully discussed. I am hoping we can all sit together and find realistic solutions with the least amount of impacts to everyone.

Sometimes people like to portray that the sky is falling and I do not believe we are there. I think it is important to be trans-

parent with the membership when we have all the information and be cautious of this year’s budget concerns but at this time, there should be no need to panic. I absolutely hate when our back is against the wall and we try to make decisions and they usually always result in mistakes.

A hot topic seems to be the closing of the gas station in Christmas that is next to our casino and hotel (The White Pine Lodge). I believe we purchased it in 2019 and the building is paid off and it is in trust land so there are not any property taxes to pay. We have staff that could check hotel guests in and be a cashier for gas and goods. The gas discount and equipment will be given to the Shell station in Munising, so the members can still receive a discount. The discount will be bigger than our station because our benefits are usually better than the other gas

stations, which increases the gas price. There are also many members who like to purchase from our own businesses so that the money goes to the tribe instead of other people.

The gas stations, along with all of our businesses, pay tribal taxes to the government to also contribute to the programs and services. Maybe the taxes should have been lowered, maybe the benefits should have been changed, etc. I feel bad for the EDC CEO because sometimes you get pulled into political things and don’t know which way to go.

We have had some nice workshops in our community recently such as mittens with Jackie Minton and a hand drum with Tony Grondin. We have a couple more in the next few weeks that are full and I am going to work on a few others in the next couple of months as well.

I had a member below the bridge contact me this weekend with some concerns and just wanted to share some of

the information. The tribe only receives money for the tribal members living inside the 7-county service area. We do NOT receive a dollar amount per member of our entire membership. I think many people are confused about that. So, the number is around 16,000 members that we are getting funding for, not the 54,000 or so that make up the entire Sault Tribe membership.

I would like to remind members that Unit 3 does have unit meetings on the third Monday of the month at the McCann School at 6 p.m. Sometimes there is no one that shows up and I usually wait until 6:20 p.m. before I leave.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536. Email or messages are usually easier and faster than phone calls since I maybe in a meeting but regardless, will get back to you as soon as I can.

I-500 meet & greet a success



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR UNIT III

Boozhoo,
The wage studies for all employees were workshopped and passed. All employees should have gotten their wage adjustment by now, except for the health side, which is passed but has not been distributed to those employees as yet. This process has been long overdue

as our employees are the greatest asset we have, especially our front-line workers who come in contact with our customers on a daily basis. I’m sure some workers feel they didn’t get enough of an increase and I hope these workers bring this to the attention of there managers so it can be looked at.


The voluntary early retirements that were proposed was not approved by the board at this time. After much discussion it was determined there would not be as much of a cost saving measure as we initially projected. It’s not on the table for now, but could be looked at again in the future.

Attended the I-500 meet and greet/dinner at the Sault casino, which had a great turnout. Several state legislatures were in attendance, local elected officials and board members. Mr. Rex Wheeler who sponsored the race, owns Wheeler Trucking and the Owosso Motor Speedway, was

also in attendance. I spoke to Rex, who I’ve known for years and thanked him for all he does for this event and the Sault area in general. State Representative Brian BeGole was also in attendance. Brian was the Sheriff of Shiawassee County who I became friends with when we were both officers there. We spoke for a long time and he stated if there is anything he could help us with, do not hesitate to call. I explained a few issues we were working on and advised him to call as well if he needed anything from our end.

The UP-pond hockey tournament will be coming up the weekend of Feb. 14-16 in St. Ignace. This event is always a great turnout for the area and good luck to all the teams, sponsors and event coordinators.

Respectfully,
Shawn Borowicz
sborowicz@saulttribe.net,
(906) 430-7612 or (906) 379-8511.



SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEPT. AND
YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES DEPT.

RIBBON SKIRT BEGINNER CLASS



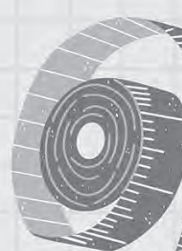
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COMMUNITY CENTER.**

MUNISING- MARCH 15TH 10AM-4PM @ WETMORE YEA BUILDING

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@ 906-203-4768**





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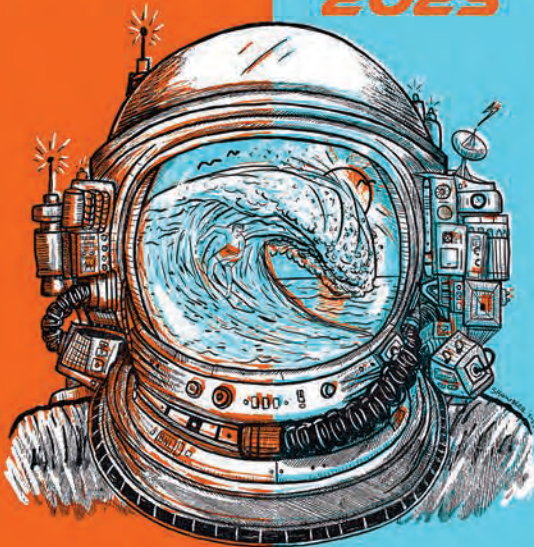


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