



Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

St. Ignace Police Department benefits from Sault Tribe 2 percent funding disbursement

BY SCOTT BRAND

Under the 2% agreement between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the state of Michigan for gaming revenue sharing, the tribe is required to disburse 2% of its slot revenue to local units of government.

In the latest round of funding, the St. Ignace Police Department was the recipient of more than \$13,000, which it used to purchase four shields, one for each patrol vehicle, to enhance officer safety.

“We believe it is important to protect our protectors and part of that is acquiring effective equipment,” said Chief Kevin James of the St. Ignace Police Department. “It’s equipment you hope you don’t need, but you’re glad you have it. They are a great investment.”

James expressed concern that some members of the public are confusing these protective shields for riot shields, which are commonly employed in urban areas during civil unrest. The hand-held shields purchased by the St.

Ignace Police Department are designed strictly to repel a bullet from a rifle or pistol, or a shotgun blast.

“They were bought for one purpose and that is to protect our officers and the public from gun fire threats,” said James, adding the company that produces them, United Shield, is a Michigan-based operation. “They are very lightweight and made from modern material and replace our older, bigger and more cumbersome ones.”

The St. Ignace Police Department employs six officers. The department’s jurisdiction extends well beyond the city limits as they frequently respond to the nearby reservation and out to the Kewadin Shores Casino to the north on Mackinac Trail.

“We regularly assist the Sault Tribal Police and they work hand and hand with us,” said James. “We very much appreciate our mutual friendship and respect.”

The new shields arrived in January and the officers received in-house training before they made their way into the patrol vehicles.

“We are very thankful to the Sault Tribe for the opportunity to purchase this new equipment,” concluded James.



Chief Kevin James of the St. Ignace Police Department holding one of four bullet-proof shields purchased recently with a 2% funding disbursement from the Sault Tribe.

Sault Tribe powwow schedule as of April 14

Returning of the Thunders Powwow April 2

Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities, Returning of the Thunders Rudyard area Schools Traditional Jingtamook from 1-3 p.m., Rudyard Harris Kahl Gymnasium, 11185 W. 2nd St., Rudyard, Mich. For more information, contact: Jackie Minton at (906) 440-1800, Miriam Clark or Julie Perry at (906) 39 -3 41.

Manistique’s Niiwin Noodin Powwow June 6

Niiwin Noodin Powwow, Manistique powwow grounds, 5698W US Highway 2, Manistique, Mich. Vendors call Kelly Tovar (906) 39 -8486. General Powwow contact Kim Hampton at niwinnoodinpowwow@gmail.com or (906) 440-8138.

Bringing Our Community Together Newberry Powwow June 3

Bringing Our Community Together Newberry Powwow held at 4935 Zee Ba Tik Lane

in Newberry, Mich. Vendors free (must be tribal) contact Charlie Treleaven at ctreleaven1@saulttribe.net. Powwow Information call (906) 635-6510 or email cjodoin@saulttribe.net.

Bahweting Summer Gathering and Powwow July 3 5

Bahweting Summer Gathering and Powwow at the tribe’s powwow grounds off of Shunk Road on Ice Circle in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Questions, call Sault Tribe Language & Culture at (906) 635-6510.

29th Annual Sugar Island Powwow July 17-19

Sugar Island powwow grounds, 3 Mile Road, Sugar Island, Mich. Follow the signs from the ferry. For more information, email sitraditionalpowwow@gamil.com.

Munising Powwow Aug. 8

Munising Powwow, Kitchi-Miniss Jingtamok, Bay Furnace, Munising, Mich.

Updates will be posted as they become available.

Cadreau presented with the 2026 Excellence in Advocacy Award

Don Cugini from Midwest Truck Driving School surprised Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Program Manager Brenda Cadreau March 26 at her office in the Education Division when he presented her with the 2026 Excellence in Advocacy Award.

This award is given to an outstanding counselor or partner who goes above and beyond supporting job seekers and community members on their career paths.

“We are very proud of Brenda and our partnership with Midwest Truck Driving School - CDL Training,” Education Division Director Stephanie Sprecker said.

Cadreau is deeply committed to assisting tribal members reach their career goals. Her support and referrals have helped many prospective CDL drivers discover new opportunities and build meaningful career paths while staying local, Sprecker added.

For more information on opportunities provided by the WIOA Program, call Cadreau at (906) 635-4767.



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Up to date members' addresses sought

Sault Tribe members whose addresses are not up to date have "bad addresses" with the tribe's Enrollment Department. Check names on the list online and if you see a friend or relative on the list let them know.

Go to saulttribe.com and scroll down to Membership

Services and to Tribal Enrollment.

Then go to the Information column on the left side of the Enrollment page and select "Up to date addresses sought."

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

Culture & Language Department asks for community survey input

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Language and Culture Department is seeking community input to help shape a 3-year Anishinaabemowin language learning project. Your feedback will help the department understand community needs, barriers and priorities. Questions? Call (906) 632-6510.



Apply for Summer Youth Employment Program

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program. This program is for Native American youth ages 14 to 24 who reside within the seven-county service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and

Schoolcraft counties).

Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office, located on the 2nd floor of the Big Bear, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or BCadreau@saulttribe.net. Deadline to apply is May 15, 2026.

Tribal Food Sovereignty & Safety Project funded

On April 15, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCMI) announced a new grant of nearly \$925,000 to strengthen food sovereignty and safety in tribal nations across the state.

The Tribal Food Sovereignty and Safety Project, an initiative driven by ITCMI, furthers MDARD's innovative work through the Farm to Family Program to improve communities' access to nourishing, locally grown foods. It also builds on MDARD's existing Food Safety Education Fund Grants by supporting community-driven food safety training and infrastructure projects.

"On behalf of the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, we extend our sincere gratitude to Governor Gretchen Whitmer and MDARD for their partnership and support of the Tribal Food Sovereignty and

Safety Project," ITCMI Executive Director Clayton Kincheloe said. "This investment reflects a shared commitment to advancing safe, nutritious and culturally relevant foods within the Tribal Communities across Michigan, while strengthening sustainable, community-driven food systems that will improve the health, resilience and quality of life for the next seven generations."

Under the Tribal Food Sovereignty and Safety Project, MDARD will provide ITCMI with \$924,984 of grant assistance over the next four years to:

- Support Michigan's Tribal Nations as they plan and implement food infrastructure projects that enhance storage, processing, distribution and other capacities.

- Deliver educational programming on food safety, production and nutrition and conduct community outreach on food access and infrastructure needs.

- Create a new mobile appli-

cation that provides culturally relevant food safety, nutrition and environmental health guidance for wild game, fish and foraged foods.

- Assess every Michigan Tribe's food sovereignty needs, environmental risks and infrastructure gaps.

- Build sustainable food systems and align national, state and tribal food safety standards.

The Tribal Food Sovereignty and Safety Project joins a suite of other MDARD grant programs designed to enhance quality of life in Michigan.

Founded in 1968, ITCMI is a consortium of Michigan's 12 federally recognized tribal nations. Among other activities, ITCMI advocates for and supports the development of programs and policies that improve the economy, education and quality of life for Michigan's Native Americans. For more information about food and agriculture funding opportunities, visit MDARD's grant web page.

Tribal Youth Summit slated for June 17-18

FROM ITCMI

The 2026 Rooted in Wellness Tribal Youth Summit will take place at the Multicultural Center at Michigan State University in East Lansing on June 17-18, 2026.

The Tribal Youth Summit strives to empower tribal youth with knowledge, skills, network, and cultural support needed to make healthy choices and remain free from commercial tobacco.

"Youth from all backgrounds are welcome to attend and learn alongside their peers in a support-

ive environment. We hope that Native youth leave the summit feeling empowered, informed, and supported. The goal is for participants to gain knowledge, build skills, develop connections with other youth, and strengthen cultural values that encourage healthy lifestyles and tobacco-free choices," said Ashley Young, program manager at Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan.

The event is hosted in collaboration with the Bay Mills Community Health Department, Indigenise LLC, Inter-Tribal

Council of Michigan, Lac Vieux Desert Health Center, Michigan State University Multicultural Center, Michigan State University Native American Institute, and Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Department.

For full information and registration, visit www.itcmi.org/tys26

The Multicultural Center at Michigan State University is located at 535 N. Shaw Ln., East Lansing, MI 48824. For further questions, contact Ashley Young at ashley.young@itcmi.org or (906) 632-6896.



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Chat: www.strongheartshelpline.org

Committee vacancies — Sault Tribe volunteers needed!

The following Sault Tribe Committees have vacant seats or upcoming vacancies. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation (forms available online or contact Lona) from other members to Lona Stewart at lstewart2@saulttribe.net, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 498 3, or call (906) 635-6050 with any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - One vacancy - male (4-year term)
Child Welfare Committee - Two vacancies - one term expires November 2026, one expires May 2029
Conservation Committee: Commercial Fishers - Two vacancies (4-year term) (current terms are expired)
 Non-Commercial Fishers - Two vacancies (4-year term) (current terms are expired)

Commercial Fisher - One vacancy (current term expires May 2026)
 Non-Commercial Fisher - One vacancy (current term expires May 2026)
Elder Advisory Committee
 Unit I - Sault - One regular vacancy (4-year term), one alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit II - Newberry - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy - term expires October

2029, two alternate vacancies (4-year terms)
 Unit V - Marquette - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Elder Subcommittees
 Unit I - Sault - One regular vacancy - term expires September 2029
 Unit II - Naubinway - One regular vacancy - term expires May 2027
 Unit II - Newberry - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit III - St. Ignace - One alternate vacancy - term expires March 2028
 Unit IV - Escanaba - One regular

vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit IV - Manistique - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit V - Munising - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit V - Marquette - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Food Sovereignty Committee - Three vacancies (4-year terms)
Health Board - One vacancy (4-year term)
Sault Tribe Election Commission - Three vacancies terms expiring November 2030

Tribal gas, cigarette discount locations

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

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:

- MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
- MidJim Convenience Store, 3045 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781
- White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store, 7889 E. W. M-28, Christmas, MI 49862

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas discount only:

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

Not tribal owned stations offering gas discounts only:

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

Membership liaisons work to assist membership

Membership liaisons work to assist with membership issues and concerns. The liaisons will also respond to and follow up on membership issues to ensure they are resolved.

Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact liaisons when they need help with tribal

issues by emailing membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or individually at the contacts below. Please note that although the liaisons are located at sites across the seven-county service area, they serve all tribal members.

Michelle Moore
 Available for in-per-

son meetings at Sault Tribe Administration.

Phone: (906) 635-6050 Ext. 26359

Cell: (906) 259-3862
mmoore@saulttribe.net

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

chudak@saulttribe.net

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

mjenerou@saulttribe.net

Membership liaisons answer your questions

Q: *Is there a strategic plan available to the members of the tribe and if so, where would it be located?*

A: The Sault Tribe Board of Directors master plan is the only strategic plan that is available for the membership to view. This plan can be found on the Sault Tribe website under "Government-Board of Directors-Downloads." The website address is <http://www.saulttribe.com/government/board-of-directors/board-download-files>.

Q: *Will I be penalized if I break a dental appointment?*

A: A dental appointment is considered broken if a member is responsible for one of the following:

- Does not show up for the scheduled appointment.
- Cancels a scheduled appointment with less than 24 hours' notice.
- Arrives 15 minutes past the scheduled appointment time.

Please note that an exception may be made due to inclement weather or an unintended personal crisis. It is recommended to request a later morning/day appointment if traveling a long distance to the clinic.


A patient who breaks two appointments will not be allowed to schedule any further appointments for a year and will only be able to receive emergency care.

Foster Parents Needed in Our Community

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) is looking for caring people within our tribal community. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, contact ACFS at (906) 632-5250.


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.

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Email: _____

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Sault Tribe News offers digital edition

Tribal members and subscriber's receiving the print edition of the newspaper can switch to digital to receive the "early" digital edition. A link will be sent to digital subscribers the same day the print edition goes to press. Read your paper at least 6 days early!

Write to slucas@saulttribe.net to switch or get details.

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

April 22, 2026
Sucker Moon
Namebin 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 Anishnaabemowin, 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.

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Sault Tribe invests in Bay Mills cultural programs

BY CHELSEA CAMERON, BMCC MARKETING MEDIA SPECIALIST
Brimley, Mich. — Bay Mills Community College is honored to recognize a \$10,000 investment from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to enhance cultural activities that support Anishnaabeg identity, community connection, and student success across the region.

This investment reflects more than financial support. It represents a collaborative effort between two tribal institutions committed to creating opportunities to gather, learn, and celebrate Anishnaabeg culture while strengthening educational pathways for Native students.

BMCC's identity as a tribal college is foundational. Cultural activities are not supplemental

— they are essential to student success. Research highlights that culture-based support directly influences Indigenous students' academic persistence and sense of belonging, which are strong predictors of retention and completion. A new study by the National Native Scholarship Providers, which includes the American Indian College Fund, found that institutional support (defined as students' sense of acceptance, inclusion, and identity affirmed by their institution) increases Indigenous students' sense of belonging by up to 65%, making it the most powerful predictor of belonging among the factors measured.

Tribal support, campus climate, and peer networks were also significant contributors to a

stronger sense of belonging.

The impact of this partnership is reflected in long-term outcomes. Since 2000, BMCC has served more than 2,000 Sault Tribe members. Nearly 500 of those students have earned at least one credential. Since Fall 2020 alone, 654 Sault Tribe members have enrolled, with 184 earning credentials in just 5 years. These outcomes demonstrate both sustained trust and a measurable return on investment in education.

Currently, 232 Sault Tribe members are enrolled at BMCC, representing nearly one quarter of the student body. This continued demand highlights the importance of maintaining culturally grounded support systems while expanding access to education.

“Sault Tribe's investment rein-

forces something we see every day,” Candice LeBlanc, former BMCC Director of Institutional Advancement, said. “When students are supported as whole people and feel connected to their culture, they are more confident, more engaged, and more likely to succeed. This partnership helps ensure our students do not have to choose between education and identity.”

Funding will support cultural activities that strengthen belonging while complementing BMCC's commitment to access through free tuition opportunities for federally recognized tribal members and first-generation descendants, along with flexible online and hybrid programming. These options are especially important for working profession-

als balancing careers, families, and community responsibilities while seeking to advance their education.

For tribal leaders, this partnership demonstrates how targeted investment strengthens cultural continuity, supports workforce development, and expands educational opportunity for Sault Tribe citizens. For current and future students, it signals that BMCC is a place where Native identity is honored, supported, and central to the educational experience.

Bay Mills Community College extends sincere gratitude to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for their continued partnership and shared commitment to education, culture, and community well-being.

Permanent Supportive Housing Community being planned

FROM STHA

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority (STHA) is pleased to share that it has officially submitted an application through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program to develop a new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) community. This effort represents another important step in addressing housing instability and expanding supportive housing opportunities for tribal members across our service area.

PSH is a proven model designed to serve individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness or those at highest risk of long-term housing instability. It combines safe, affordable housing with voluntary, person-centered supportive services that help residents maintain sta-

bility, improve health outcomes, and work toward greater self-sufficiency.

STHA's proposed development is designed to serve individuals identified through the local continuum of care's prioritized list, with a focus on those experiencing chronic homelessness. The project will include a mix of fully accessible units to ensure that residents with disabilities have safe and appropriate housing options. Accessibility is a critical component of PSH, as many individuals' experiencing chronic homelessness also face physical or behavioral health challenges.

What makes this project especially meaningful is its commitment to being culturally focused and rooted in Anishnaabe values. The development is being thoughtfully planned to reflect

the traditions, identity, and lived experiences of the Sault Tribe community. This includes incorporating culturally relevant design elements, creating spaces that support connection and healing, and ensuring that services are delivered in a way that respects and honors each resident's background.

Supportive services will not only address housing stability but will also emphasize cultural reconnection, community belonging, and holistic wellness. By integrating culture into both the physical environment and service approach, the project aims to create a space where residents feel seen, supported, and at home.

In addition to housing, the development will offer on-site supportive services provided by trained service coordina-

tion staff. These services may include assistance with accessing healthcare, behavioral health services, employment resources, and other community-based support. Participation in services will remain voluntary, ensuring that residents maintain autonomy while having access to the resources they need.

STHA is working in close partnership with tribal departments and community providers to ensure a coordinated approach to care. This includes collaboration with Sault Tribe service providers and other service partners to support residents holistically and sustainably.

If awarded, this project will not only expand the tribe's housing portfolio but also strengthen our ability to respond to homelessness with solutions that are

both compassionate and effective. PSH developments across the country have demonstrated long-term success in reducing homelessness, decreasing emergency service utilization, and improving quality of life for residents.

The Housing Authority recognizes that housing is foundational to the well being of our community. This application reflects our continued commitment to developing housing that meets people where they are, honors who they are, and supports them in building stable, healthy futures.

The Housing Authority will keep the community informed as it moves through the application review process and will share updates as they become available.

For information about this project, visit the STHA website at www.saulttribehousing.com.

Tribe approves FY2026 budget documents, land leases, legal filings and new policy measures at March 3 meeting

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors met March 3 at Kewadin Casino and Convention Center, approving a wide-ranging slate of fiscal year 2026 budget documents, land lease actions, legal filings, and new policy measures including a prohibition on artificial intelligence in official tribal communications.

Resolutions approved:
ACFS Division – USDA FY26 Budget — The board established a fiscal year 2026 budget for the ACFS Division with \$20,000 in federal USDA revenue. There is no effect on Tribal Support.

Health Division – ARPA Maintenance and Improvements and COVID Services/PRC Budget Modifications — Directors approved two related FY26 budget modifications: one reallocating ARPA Maintenance and Improvements expenses toward the purchase of property, and a second reallocating COVID Services/PRC expenses to fund renovations of that newly purchased property.

Health Division – Emergency Preparedness and Third-Party Revenue Budget Modifications — The board approved modifications increasing Emergency Preparedness state of Michigan

revenue by \$196,018 while reducing a transfer in from Third-Party Revenue by \$55,879.05. A corresponding modification to Third-Party Revenue decreases the transfer out to Emergency Preparedness by the same amount.

Health Division – Administration and Third-Party Revenue Budget Modifications — Directors approved a reduction in the transfer into Health Center Administration from Third-Party Revenue by \$118,796.48, with a matching reduction in the transfer out from Third-Party Revenue.

FY26 Budget Document 002 (Schedule B Budgets) — The board approved Budget Document 002 totaling \$11,949,456, of which \$517,505 comes from Tribal Support.

FY26 Budget Document 003 (Schedule C Budgets) — Directors approved Budget Document 003 totaling \$98,196,968, of which \$19,590,711 comes from Tribal Support.

FY26 Governmental Capital Expenditures — A governmental capital expenditure budget of \$2,001,284 was approved, with \$1,008,284 coming from Tribal Support.

Continuing Funding Authority – Governmental FY26 Schedule

B Budgets — To prevent a lapse in services while budget reviews continue, the board extends funding for governmental Schedule B programs (excluding the Health Division) at 2025 spending levels through May 31, 2026.

Continuing Funding Authority – Governmental FY26 Schedule C Budgets — The board similarly extended continuing funding for Schedule C programs operating on a January-to-December fiscal year at 2025 spending levels through May 31, 2026.

Continuing Funding Authority – FY27 April-to-March Programs — Directors approved interim funding through June 30, 2026, for several cost centers beginning their FY27 April-to-March cycle, including the NSIP Grant, Title VI, SYEP, SYEP Administration, Jr. Police Academy, and Boreal Forest programs, all at their FY26 spending levels.

NRD – Application to Accelerating Natural Climate Solutions Program — The board authorized the Natural Resources Division to submit a funding proposal of up to \$1 million to the Allen Family Philanthropies 2026 Accelerating Natural Climate Solutions in the United States Program, supporting tribal leadership in natural resources

decision-making and ecological resilience across the 1836 Ceded Territory.

Residential Land Lease Cancellation – Directors authorized cancellation of Lease No. 469-2000540252 on Lots 497 and 498 of Cedar Grove Estates III in Kinross Township, at the request of the personal representative of the deceased leaseholder. The board requested the Bureau of Indian Affairs complete the cancellation.

Residential Land Lease – The board approved a new residential land lease on the same parcel — Lots 497 and 498 of Cedar Grove Estates III in Kincheloe.

Authorizing Amicus Brief in Treaty Fishing Case — Directors authorized the drafting and filing of an amicus brief on behalf of the tribe in *People of the State of Michigan v. Walter Joseph Caswell*, currently pending before the Michigan Supreme Court. The case involves the scope of the 1836 Treaty and the tribe's rights as a signatory.

Rescind Resolution 2024-54 – Waiver for American Wagering Inc. — The board rescinded its prior authorization and waiver of sovereign immunity related to an online gaming and sports betting agreement with American Wagering Inc. The waiver is no

longer necessary as the online gaming license is being transferred to the Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority, which has approved its own waiver. The rescission is effective immediately.

Protecting Tribal Artisans from Artificial Intelligence — The board prohibited the use of artificial intelligence in official tribal government communications, including advertisements, flyers, social media posts, and videos, citing concern that AI-generated content could mimic or displace the work of tribal member artisans. Individual board members are similarly prohibited from using AI in official communications on behalf of the tribal government. The Tribal Legal Department was directed to bring forward code changes to codify AI protections for Sault Tribe artisans.

Snowmobile Trail on the Keldon Property — Directors authorized the Director of Commercial Real Estate and Property Management to work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Les Cheneaux Snowmobile Club to establish a right-of-way or easement for a snowmobile trail on the tribe's Keldon Property, a BIA trust par-

Board meets March 24 — approves resolutions

“We are not building a single data center. Period,” said Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes at the March 24 Board of Directors addressing rumors that the tribe was exploring a proposal to bring such a project onto their lands.

Lowes’ assurances, however, did not curtail membership participation with more than a half-dozen individuals showing up to the meeting voicing their concern for the land, water and wildlife posed by the construction of any data center and most calling for the board to impose a moratorium to prevent this from occurring.

The board did not immediately act on the moratorium request, already having a full agenda on the table, but it seemed as though this matter may come up for a

vote at a future session.

The board did approve the following resolutions:

— Approved a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026b budget for the Hessel Community Center Building with other revenue of \$162,153.06 and \$105,000.03 from the fund balance.

— Approved the establishment of FY 2026 budget for a utility authority contract in the amount of \$56,418.72.

— Established nine FY 2026 budgets for with state of Michigan MiLEAP monies in the amount of \$705,355 specifically for after school and summer programs Sault Ste. Marie, \$87,420; Rudyard, \$49,825; Hessel, \$87,420; St. Ignace, \$62,950;

Manistique, \$74,920; Escanaba, \$62,220; Munising, \$74,920; Marquette, \$14,400 and Lake Superior Academy, \$191,280.

— Approved FY 2026 budget modifications to deliver \$81,392.63 in third-party revenue to Cultural Administration.

— Approved a FY 2026 budget modification for the Wellness Program in the amount of \$8,235.36 from third-party revenue for a part-time fitness weight room monitor.

— Approved amendments to the Cultural Committee bylaws and changed the Higher Education Committee name to Education Committee while also updating the new entities policies, procedures, and codes to reflect

the name change.

— Approved a memorandum of understanding with the Sault Area Public Schools for a 2026 summer program providing six weeks of instruction with culture at the forefront, including breakfast and lunch for attendees.

— Authorized the Natural Resources Division to pursue up to \$360,000 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding to support and protect wetlands.

— Adopted the 2026-29 Transportation Improvement Plan.

— Donated \$25,000 to the Native American Honor Flight to be divided in \$5,000 increments between each units Cultural Enhancement dollars to cover the

costs of flights, meals and hotels for veterans who win an upcoming lottery to visit Washington, D.C.

— Rejected a resolution with no definitive plan or timetable to utilize 3% of a hotel tax for the Tribal Land Claims Fund and 2% of hotel tax revenue for the Culture Department after a great deal of discussion and failed amendments.

— Established a policy to limit reservations for the Escanaba and Manistique Community Centers only to Sault Tribe members.

— Authorized the Sault Tribe’s participation in the Survey of Native Nations conducted by the Center for Indian Country Development.

Board approves moratorium prohibiting the development of data centers at April 7 meeting

There will be no artificial intelligence data centers on tribal lands as the Sault Tribe Board of Directors approved a moratorium effectively prohibiting the development of the large-scale industrial facilities on any land under its jurisdiction. While there was an argument that a 2024 resolution already would have prevented the construction of data centers on tribal lands, the board unanimously opted to fortify this prohibition at the April 7 meeting with the moratorium.

In other action the board approved the following resolutions:

— Approved a Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget modification to Eagle Lending Capital and Debt in the amount of \$86,443.69 in conjunction with the Economic Development Corporation and approved the FY 2025 year-end reconciliations in the amount of \$1,488,982.18.

— Established multiple ARPA budgets for fiscal years 2025 and 2026 to meet federal require-

ments.

— Established a FY 2026 budget for aquatic invasive species with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service monies in the amount of \$16,719.58.

— Established a FY 2026 budget with \$43,265.02 in Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Forestry funds designated to assist with timber management and habitat improvements.

— Established a FY 2026 in the amount of \$107,024 for the purchase of a boat and other supplies through BIA monies under the GLRI Coastal Initiative.

— Established a FY 2026 budget for Tribal Victim Services in the amount of \$267,526.35 with U.S. Department of Justice monies and accepted a grant of \$531,628 through that program for a 5-year period with a FY 2026 budget of \$122,744.56.

— Approved FY 2026 budget modification for the tribal attorney in the amount of \$113,529.29 creating a new position for a public relations manager.

— Approved a contract with Loyola University of Chicago in the amount of \$61,008 to refine the manoomin (wild rice) habitat suitability model.

— Approved the Natural Resources Division request to apply for up to \$7 million in grant money through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s National Coastal Resilience Fund to support wetlands stewardship and restoration in the St. Mary’s River.

— Accepted \$150,231 in funding from the state of Michigan, Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division’s Local Cybersecurity Grant Program for the IT Department and a second grant in the amount of \$27,638.36 from the U.S. Department of Treasury also earmarked for IT.

— Amended a previously passed resolution and appropriated \$14,465,591 in third-party revenue for the Sault Ste. Marie Health Center Construction and

Health Division Annex Project.

— Approved a governmental wage grid for the Sault Tribe Housing Authority.

— Terminated the Sault Tribe’s Chief Judge and

announced that a press release would be issued to explain this action on April 8.

— And approved a resolution clarifying the separation of governmental and economic entities.

Board meets March 3

From “Meeting,” page 4

-cel designated as a wetland mitigation site. The trail is intended to improve winter access to local businesses.

Allocation of Hotel Tax Revenue to Tribal Lands Claim Fund and Culture Department

— The board approved directing a portion of tribal hotel use tax proceeds to two designated purposes: 3% to the Tribal Lands

Claim Fund for land claim-related activities, and 2.5% to the Culture Department restricted for cultural and educational programming, including language preservation, events, and curriculum. The Finance Department was directed to establish tracking codes for both allocations, and the Culture Department will provide periodic summary reports to the board.

JKL student job shadows his grandmother, Sandy Graham, at tribal administration



Karson Segura job shadowed his grandmother, Sault Tribe Administration Receptionist Sandy Graham, for his Career Readiness eighth grade class taught by Mr. Litzner at JKL School. Karson said he learned how to use the mail machine, logged incoming US mail, and input data. He liked how the Pitney Bows machine works. Most of all, he liked Popcorn Friday!

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Anishinaabemowin 2026

"Language focuses your attention. It points you in different directions. It's like a road. If there's no road, you don't think to go down there. Anishinaabemowin gives you access to other ways to see the world."
(YouTube: PBS Language Keepers / Ojibwe/Technology)

Oonh! Gnaajiwān giizhigad aawan.

Oh! It's a beautiful day.

Minwaake miinwaa n'mino-ayaa.

The sun is shining and I'm feeling good.

N'wii baamase gojiing, iidik.

I'll take a walk outside, I guess.

Wegonesh waa waabndamaanh?

What will I see?



N'da waabndaan *miikaan*.

I (right now) see *the road*.

N'da waabndaan *miikaanens*.

I see *the sidewalk*.

Wiigwaaman n'da waabndaanan.

Houses I see.

N'da waabndaanan *boodwaajiganan*.

I see *chimneys*.

N'da waabndaanan *waasechiganan*.

I see *windows*.

N'da waabndaanan *bijibii'gan-makakoons*

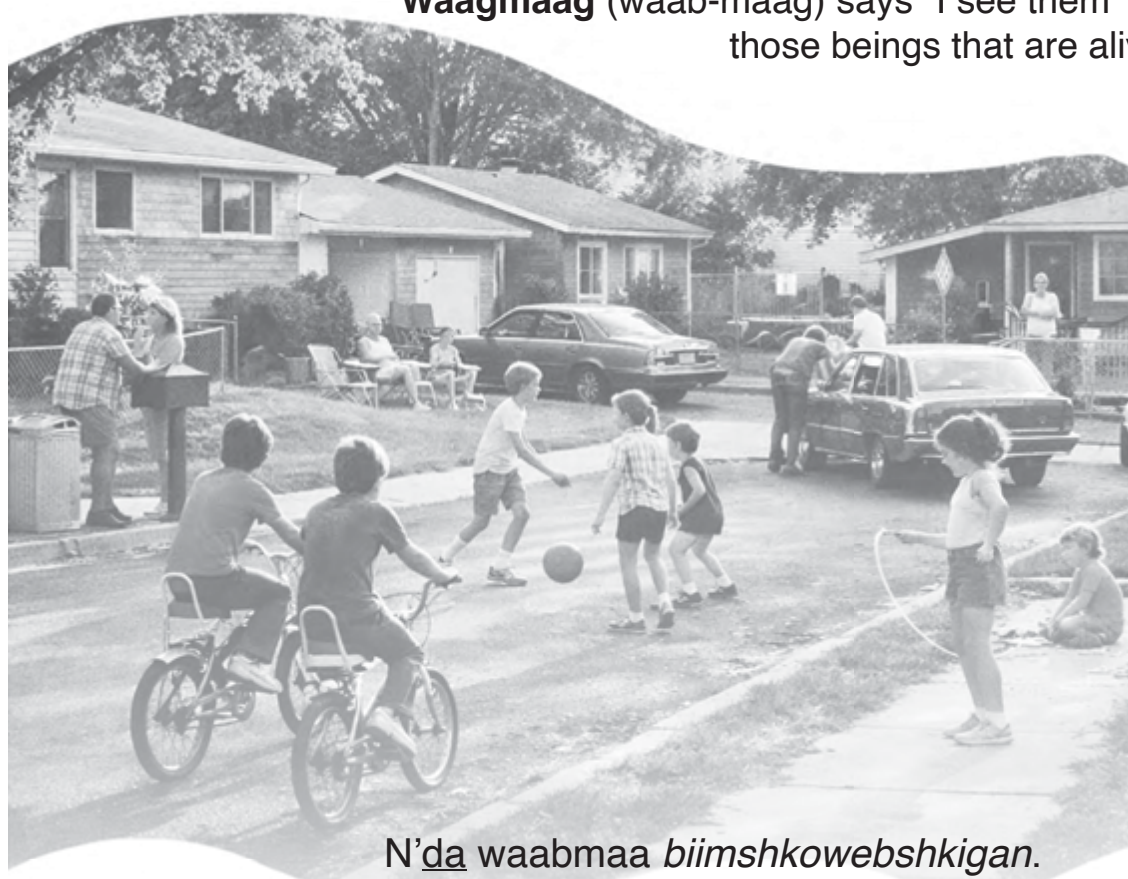
I see *mail boxes*.

Gnawaajchigan n'da waabndaan.

A sign I see.

Aankwadoon n'da waabndaanan.

Clouds I see.



N'da waabmaa *biimshkowebshkigan*.

I (right now) see *a bicycle*.

N'da waabmaa *nimosh*.

I see *a dog*.

Daabaanak n'da waabmaag.

Cars I see.

Wiigwaam-gindaaswinak n'da waabmaag.

House numbers I see.

Gaazhak n'da waabmaa.

The cat I see.

N'da waabmaag *gwiwizensak*.

I see *the boys*.

Nswi *bineshiinhak* n'da waabmaag.

Three *birds* I see.

N'da waabmaag *mitigook*.

I see *trees*.

Bimiwzhiwe-daabaan n'da waabmaa.

A bus I see.

G'da-aan na shkiizhik naasaap migizi?

Do you have an eagle eye?



Did you realize **N' says "I"?

Did you notice everything being seen here is being seen right now (presently)? You can tell because 'da**' indicates present tense.

Did you understand that the word order can change with no problem: **Clouds I see is the same as **I see clouds**?

**Were you surprised to see that cars, bikes, busses and numbers are considered alive? Yep! They're alive in spirit, in our way.

Nouns (things) - **miikaan for example - can say 'road' or '**a** road' or '**the** road.

Ways to look at the world in our language!



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: these combinations: **nh**, **ns**, **ny** in a word signal the previous vowel is said nasally. The n in these is *always silent* but you pronounce the second letter. It's only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have a stuffed-up nose!

Namebin Giizis Sucker Moon

by Susan Askwith



Maanda ezhi-nokiimagak!

This is the way it works!

Our people divide the world into what is alive and what is not alive. **Anishinaabemowin** (our language) reflects that.

Waabndaan (waab-in-daan) says "I see it" meaning something that's not alive.

Waabndaanan (waab-in-daan-an) says "I see them" (things that aren't live).

Waabmaa (waab-maa) says "I see it" meaning someone or something that is alive.

Waagmaag (waab-maag) says "I see them" those beings that are alive



Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)

The optometrist told Jim to do some eye exercises.

But Jim said, "eye can't."

What do you say to a pirate with 2 eyes?

Eye, eye, Captain!

What do you call a deer with no eye?
no-eye-deer

What web page is best for people who suffer with chronic eye pain? (One that's a site for sore eyes.)

Why do bee-keepers have such beautiful eyes?

Because beauty is in the eye of the bee-holder.



Nanaboozho and the Bulrushes ...

There is still snow on the ground, so we'll tell one more legend about Nanaboozho, as retold by Cathy DeVoy, from the Win Awenen Nisitotung archives.

The sun was setting as Nanaboozho made his way home along the lake. Long shadows stretched from the trees and



bulrushes that lined the shores. The wind blew quietly, causing them to sway gently. Soon it would be dark, so Nanaboozho quickened his pace.

It had been a boring day and Nanaboozho wished for some excitement. He thought to himself, "Oh, how I would like to go to a dance. It's been so long since I've had any fun."

He sighed as he trudged along the path.

After a while, Nanaboozho stopped to rest. As he looked around he saw in the distance

what appeared to be a group of people dancing. Nanaboozho became very excited and rushed over to them.

What he saw was a very strange sight indeed! He had never seen dancers like this before. They were tall and thin with strange headdresses made of

flowing plumes. Even the dance was different from anything Nanaboozho had ever seen.

As Nanaboozho approached the dancers he greeted them. "Boozhoo, Niigii. May I join you? It's been a long time since I've been to a dance."

But Nanaboozho received no reply. "These people are certainly strange," he thought to himself. "Since they don't speak, I guess I'll have to show them what a good dancer I am."

So Nanaboozho danced and danced. Still, no one spoke to

him or even seemed to notice he was there.

Finally, Nanaboozho spoke out again. "I challenge anyone here to out-dance me!" But everyone ignored him.

"I'll show them," he said to himself. "I'll dance all night long without stopping. Then they'll have to notice what a fine dancer I am."

And he did just that.

Nanaboozho performed his fanciest steps, always staying in beat, twirling and swaying as he went.

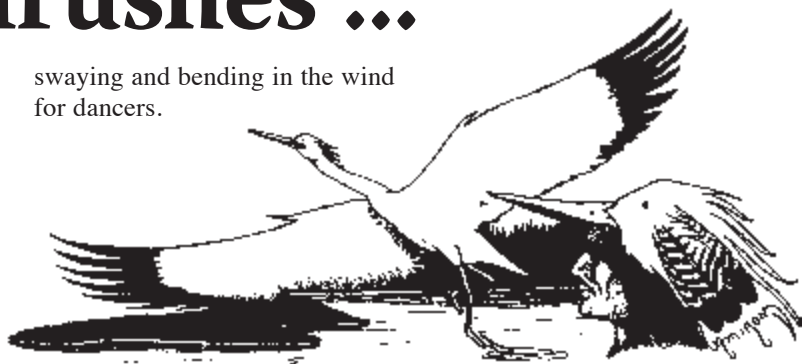
He danced for what seemed like hours until he was so tired he felt as if he couldn't go on. Still no one spoke to him; they just kept dancing.

Nanaboozho could not understand it. "Why do all the other dancers not seem tired at all?" Now he was more determined than ever he would show them how good he was.

On he danced until he could not lift one foot in front of the other. Just as he was ready to give up, the sun began to slowly peek over the horizon. The sky was growing lighter as Nanaboozho lifted his tired head to see if the others were still dancing. But when he looked up, he could not believe his eyes. Nanaboozho had not been at a dance at all — he had been dancing alone among the bulrushes all night long.

Poor, foolish Nanaboozho, in his haste to have fun and show off, had mistaken bulrushes

swaying and bending in the wind for dancers.



**Sault Tribe Health Division
Traditional Medicine Program**

GERARD SAGASSIGE

2026 May Healer Clinic Schedule

May 4, 5, 11, 12, 26
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906) 632-0236

Wednesday, May 6th
Munising Health Center
(906) 387-4721 or
(800) 236-4705

Wednesday, May 27th
Hessel Community Center
(906) 484-2727

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

NAMEBINI GIIZIS - SUCKERFISH MOON - APRIL 2026

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
1	2	Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	1 Maadagiza. (It is the beginning of the month.)	2 Nimkiikaa. (There are lots of thunders.)	3 Goon igizi. (The snow is melting.)	4 Giigoonhke. (S/he is fishing.)
5 Gimiwan. (It is raining.)	6 pichi (robin)	7 Minookimik. (It is Spring.)	8 Giibaastaagazin! (Say something silly!)	9 waabanang (in the East)	10 shki bimaadiziwin (new life)	11 namebini (suckerfish)
12 aki (land/earth.)	13 Gchi noodin. (It is very windy.)	14 Biikaa. (There are mud puddles.)	15 name (sturgeon)	16 waawaanoon (eggs)	17 Tisige. (S/he is coloring/dyeing.)	18 Shkaakamakwe (mother earth)
19 waaboozoonh (rabbit)	20 kookibinaagan (basket)	21 waawaaskone (flower)	22 Shkaakamakwe Giizhigad	23 bgoji zhigaangwizhiik (wild leek)	24 baakaakwenh (chicken)	25 zhiishiibenhsag (ducklings)
26 ozisigobimizh or zisgomizh (pussywillow)	27 t'kibi (spring water)	28 Biidaaban. (It is the light before sunrise.)	29 kwe maanzinan (lady slippers)	30 gokolii mkizan (the lady slipper flower)		

Bay Mills Community College celebrates 2025-2026 Students of the Year

This year, Bay Mills Community College honors both a standout Native student receiving national recognition and an exceptional non-Native student who embodies the spirit of the Pikes. Nicole Maleport has been named the College Fund Student of the Year, while Victor Chugunov has been selected as the BMCC Student of the Year. Both students will be recognized for their dedication to their studies, their leadership, and their contributions to the campus community.

“We are thrilled to congratulate Nicole and Victor on this well-deserved honor,” said BMCC President Duane Bedell. “I am extremely proud of Nicole and Victor for being selected as Students of the Year. This recognition reflects not only their academic achievement, but also the positive impact they have made within our campus community through their commitment, leadership, and respect for others. Their engagement with faculty, peers, and the broader college community



Nicole Maleport has been named the College Fund Student of the Year.

embodies the values of service, responsibility, and perseverance that are central to our mission as a tribal college. I look forward to witnessing their continued academic growth and the contributions they will make to their communities in the years ahead.”

Both students will be honored at the 2026 BMCC Commencement Ceremony in the spring.



Victor Chugunov has been selected as the BMCC Student of the Year.

Maleport is from the Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., area. She is pursuing an associate degree in Native Studies and Anishinaabe Language Instructor at BMCC. She has a passion for learning. While living away from home, she developed an interest in holistic teachings. Gardening, Thai massage, yoga, arts, and traditional lifeways enrich her. When she’s

not busy with schoolwork or at work, she enjoys being outside, exploring nature, watching the shorelines, and being creative and crafty in a myriad of media, especially sewing.

In the fall of 2021, Nicole began taking classes at BMCC while still living away. Over time, it became clear that home was calling her back. There was no better way to pursue the Anishinaabe language and deepen her understanding of her Ojibwe culture than to return to her home area, where she is actively involved in learning the Ojibwe language and participating in cultural events. These experiences teach about our interconnectedness and ways to carry bimadaaz-iwin for future generations.

Victor Chugunov was born in 2006 in LaGrange, Ind. His parents and older sister immigrated from Russia in 1998 and

have lived in the United States since. Chugunov lived in Indiana for the first several years of his life before his family moved to the small town of Constantine, Mich., where he attended first through sixth grades. In fourth grade, he became interested in playing music and joined the school band, playing the baritone all the way through his high school graduation. After finishing sixth grade, his family moved again to Sault Ste. Marie, where he still resides. He attended seventh and eighth grade and all of high school in the Sault, graduating from Sault Area High School in 2024. Chugunov began attending BMCC that same year and is on track to graduate in May 2026.

Chugunov said, “I am beyond honored to be selected as the non-Native student of the year at BMCC.”

2026 Elder Scholarship Program opens

The Sault Tribe Elder Advisory Committee and Sault Tribe Elder Services have released the 2026 Elder Scholarship Program.

Applicants must be a Sault Tribe member graduating in 2026 who has been accepted at a trade school, college or university.

Applicants must submit a 500-word essay on one of the three following topics: How the scholarship will help you financially, positive experiences you have had participating in various tribal programs growing up, or future

plans using these funds.

Please send a copy of your tribal card, high school transcripts, and letter of acceptance along with your essay to Sault Tribe Elder Services, 207 Shunk

Rd., Sault Ste. Marie MI 4983.

Applications are due no later than July 2, 2026.

Questions? Contact us at kpeabody@saulttribe.net or (906) 635-497.

Public Hearings Region 9 Area Agency on Aging in May

The Region 9 Area Agency on Aging will conduct two public hearings on its proposed multi-year plan for fiscal years 2027-2029. The plan will outline the use of funds and provision of services under the Older Americans Act for the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon.

The hearings are scheduled as follows:

— Wednesday, May 6, at 1 p.m. at the Hale Senior Center, 310 N. Washington St, Hale, Mich.

— Monday, May 18, at 1 p.m. at NEMCSA, 2569 US-23 S, Alpena, Mich.

To register, contact Connie at (989) 358-4661 or mcquarrie@nemcsa.org.

A summary of the plan will be available upon request, 15 days prior to the public hearing. Copies may be obtained by calling (989) 358-4661 or online at www.nemcsa.org.

Written testimony or email will be accepted through June 10, 2026.

This ad is endorsed by Cole Goudreau.

A COMMITMENT TO INTEGRITY, HERITAGE, AND PROGRESS



Unit 4
COLE GOUDREAU
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors - Unit 4

 **VOTE JACKIE MINTON**
UNIT 2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

 **VOTE TRIBAL ELDER JACKIE MINTON, UNIT 2**
I WILL BE YOUR FULL TIME BOARD REPRESENTATIVE!

“Meet the Candidate”

RUDYARD Saturday May 2, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Rudyard High School Library 11185 W 2nd, Rudyard, MI	CEDARVILLE Thursday, May 14, 6-8 p.m. Les Cheneaux Community Library 75 Hodeck St., Cedarville, MI
PICKFORD Tuesday, May 5, 6-8 p.m. Pickford Library 137 E Main St Pickford, MI	NEWBERRY Tuesday, May 19, 6-8 p.m. American Legion 7964 Stare Hwy M-123, Newberry, MI
EAST LANSING – OKEMOS * Friday May 8, 4-7 p.m. Nokomis Learning Center 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI	DRUMMOND ISLAND Thursday, May 21, 6-8 p.m. Drummond Island Township Hall Drummond Island
DETROIT AREA* Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. NAIA-North American Indian Association of Detroit 22720 Plymouth Road, Detroit, MI	NAUBINWAY Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Naubinway Pavilion W11609 Main St., Naubinway, MI

*There will be a tobacco pouch making workshop after discussion

Contact Jackie Minton: Ph. (906) 322-6423;
Email: jackiemintonunit2@gmail.com

 **“Vote Jackie Minton Unit 2”**
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✓Defend ✓Protect ✓Enhance
Our Tribal Nation & Its People
This ad is endorsed by Jackie Minton

Sault Tribe Health Division hires marketing specialist

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Sault Tribe Health Division has hired an experienced communications professional, bringing more than a decade of expertise in public information, marketing and community outreach.

Rose Ann Davis, a Sault Tribe member, joined the division as a marketing specialist.

Davis most recently worked as a communications officer supporting the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services through the CDC Foundation from 2022 to 2025.

Prior to that, she served nearly a decade as public information officer and outreach coordinator for the Grand Traverse County Health Department, where she was recognized as a media liaison for public health programs, emergency preparedness initiatives and community outreach efforts. Davis said her decision to join the Health Division was driven by both professional and personal motivations.

“My attraction to this role was threefold,” she said. “I wanted to be closer to help my elderly mother, who now resides in Brimley. I have always wanted to learn more about the culture and traditions of the Sault Tribe and that part of myself. And the expectations of the job very much aligned with my skill set.”

Throughout her career, Davis has developed communication strategies, managed marketing campaigns and created content across multiple platforms, including print, web, video and social media. Her work includes writing press releases, coordinating emergency and risk communications, and producing newsletters using platforms such as Mailchimp, Constant Contact and GovDelivery.

She has led training initiatives, designed internal communication systems and served on web and website committees to improve organizational messaging and accessibility. Her experience also includes marketing and multimedia design, creating outreach strategies to expand public health

Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry dates

Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry distributions at Big Bear Arena, located at 2 Ice Circle, in Sault Ste. Marie for the remainder of 2026: May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10.

Distribution begins at 4 p.m. and ends at 6 p.m. or until the food has been given out.

There is a two limit proxy per vehicle.

Volunteers please by at the Big Bear by 2:30 p.m.

Volunteer Coordinator is Austin Lowes, (906) 635-6050.

Foster Parents Needed in Our Community

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) is looking for caring people within our tribal community. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, contact ACFS at (906) 632-5250.



program awareness and engagement across diverse populations.

In addition to her communications background, Davis has extensive experience in project and event management. She has negotiated contracts, managed stakeholder relationships and directed more than 100 live

Michigan Indian Elders Association alternate seat

After a recent resignation, there is an opening for an alternate seat to represent the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in the Michigan Indian Elders Association. Interested Elders, aged 60 and above, can submit a letter of intent, along

event programs for corporate and charitable organizations, including leadership conferences and community events. She has also developed analytical reports using tools such as PowerBI.

Earlier in her career, Davis held roles in communications consulting, media design and information technology with Steelcase Inc., where she worked as a media systems design engineer, IT project manager and quality coordinator.

She holds a bachelor's degree in linguistics from Oakland University and has completed training through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Institute, including coursework in incident command systems and emergency response. Her technical skills include Adobe Photoshop and InDesign,

with three letters of recommendation from other Sault Tribe Elders to Elder Services, 2076 Shunk Rd, Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783 RE: MIEA Candidate

Please contact Elder Services for more information at (906) 635-4971.

social media analytics, Google Analytics, PowerBI, WordPress, HTML and instructional design tools. She also served on the messaging and media committee for the Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium from 2015 to 2019.

As the Health Division's sole dedicated marketing professional, Davis will lead efforts to unify marketing and branding across the department, with an increased focus on analytics and performance evaluation.

“I will be doing much of the

same work I have done in the past, with a greater focus on analytics, evaluation of performance data, and unifying different areas from a marketing and branding perspective,” she said.

Davis said she hopes to grow with the Health Division as it continues to expand.

“Currently, I am the only dedicated marketing person for the entire division,” she said. “As the Health Division continues to grow, I am hopeful the department will grow with it.”

Celebrating April birthdays



Unit 1 elders Dave Nainan, Annette King, Danny Cadotte, and Tom Cook (L-R) celebrated their April birthdays at the Unit 1 meeting at the Sault Elder Center this month with cake and ice cream for everyone provided by the Unit 1 Elder Sub-Committee.

VOTE BIG DEAN HYSLOP FOR UNIT 2
Commercial Fisherman FED UP WITH TRIBAL CORRUPTION!

To all my Unit 2 Supporters, Voters, Friends, and Blood Brothers and Sisters:

Until now, my campaign has been focused on bringing accountability, responsibility and transparency back to the Board of Directors. Today I would like to focus on bringing back trust and communication between the members and the Board of Directors through leading by example. Many of the current Board Members are doing the bare minimum to inform unit members, but I am willing to take it a step farther.

As your representative, I vow to represent you with truth, honesty and humility. I will always look out for all Tribal members, especially Elders and at-large members. Becoming a board member is not a fly-by-night decision for me. I take this role seriously and with honor.

As a full-time board member, I plan on holding office hours in different locations throughout the unit. I have met so many wonderful people over the last couple months. Unfortunately, time and weather made it difficult to meet everyone. But I would eventually like to meet and spend time with everyone. I want to hear your concerns and issues so I can make decisions in your best interest. And I want to hear your ideas, so together we can move this Tribe forward.

I also plan on having monthly meetings in locations throughout the state and possibly in Wisconsin to discuss issues and topics you would like! If you are unable to attend in person, I will do my best to have the meetings televised and recorded. I feel it is my responsibility to listen to and work with everyone to fulfill our needs.

My goal for Unit 2 is to bring back a sense of belonging as a community. For members to be heard and valued regardless of whether your ancestry traces back to any of the six historical bands or the Mackinac Band, regardless of whether you live within or outside the service area, and regardless of whether you are an Elder or an infant.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Together we are the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Miigwetch to all Sault Tribe Members!

Good luck to everyone who devoted themselves to run for the tribe!

VOTE BIG DEAN HYSLOP FOR UNIT 2 to make a difference!



This ad is endorsed by Dean Hyslop, Sr.

To Volunteer: Call: 906-322-8470 ~ OR ~ JOIN ME ON FACEBOOK @BIG.DEAN.HYSLOP.FOR.UNIT.2

VOTE BIG DEAN HYSLOP FOR UNIT 2 - SAULT TRIBE ELECTION

Sault Tribe Health Center set to launch electronic health record system June 2

FROM SAULT TRIBE HEALTH CENTER

Sault Tribe Health Center will launch a new electronic health record (EHR) system, NextGen Healthcare, on June 2, 2026, marking an important step forward in improving care for patients and the community.

The new system is designed to enhance the overall patient experience by making it easier for individuals and families to access their health information, communicate with care teams and stay connected to their care.

“With this transition, we are dedicated to the improvement of the tools that will help us better



Sault Tribe Health Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

serve our patients today and into the future.” Health Division CEO James A. Benko said. “This is about increasing access, coordination and the overall experience for our community.”

The NextGen system brings several new features that patients will begin to see over

time, including:
— A new patient portal for easier access to health records
— Appointment reminders and updates
— Improved coordination across care teams
— More streamlined check-in and communication processes
These enhancements are designed to support more connected, efficient and patient-centered care.

While most of the improvements will happen behind the scenes, patients may notice small changes as the organization transitions to the new system. During the initial go-live

period, appointments may take slightly longer than usual as staff and providers adjust to the new technology.

“We appreciate everyone’s patience during this transition,” Benko said. “Our team has been working extremely hard to prepare, and we are confident this will bring long-term benefits for everyone we serve.”

Sault Tribe Health System has been preparing for this transition for several months, with staff training and system setup already underway to help ensure a smooth implementation.

The move to NextGen Healthcare also supports

improved coordination of care by allowing providers to access more complete and connected patient information, helping them deliver more informed and personalized care.

Community members will receive additional information in the future, including details on how to access the new patient portal and what to expect during their visits.

For now, patients are encouraged to continue their care as usual. The organization looks forward to introducing these new capabilities and continuing to provide high-quality care to the community.

Child Abuse and neglect can happen anywhere

FROM ACFS

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. It’s meant to bring attention to something that a lot of people don’t always see, but it affects families in our communities every day. In tribal communities, children are at the center of everything. They are our future, and it’s up to all of us to make sure they are safe and taken care of.

Abuse and neglect can happen anywhere, including in the home, and a lot of times it involves someone the child knows. That’s

part of what makes it difficult, but also why it matters that we talk about it. Abuse can look different depending on the situation. It can be neglect, when a child’s basic needs aren’t being met, physical abuse when a child is intentionally hurt, sexual abuse involving any kind of inappropriate contact or exploitation, or emotional abuse, which might not be visible but can have a long term effect on a child.

Kids don’t grow up on their own. It takes support, not just from parents, but from the peo-

ple around them too. Sometimes that just means checking in, offering help, or being someone others feel comfortable talking to. Taking care of yourself matters too, because when adults are overwhelmed, it can affect the whole household.

If something doesn’t seem right, it’s important to say something. Reporting concerns isn’t about getting someone in trouble, it’s about making sure kids are safe and families get the support they need. In a lot of cases, it helps connect people to

resources that support families and create safer situations for kids.

The impact of abuse doesn’t just go away. It can follow kids into adulthood and affect their mental health, relationships, and everyday life. That’s why early support matters.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) provides support to tribal children and families across our service area. If you or someone you know needs help, you can call (906) 632-5250 to learn more

about available services.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Child Protective Services 24-hour hotline at (855) 444-3911, or call ACFS at (800) 726-0093 or (906) 632-5250. Reports are confidential, and your identity is protected.

Protecting our children is something we all share. Looking out for each other and stepping in when something isn’t right can make a real difference.

VOTE JENNIFER MCLEOD TYSON, UNIT 1

Jen McLeod endorses this advertisement



A VISION ROOTED IN TRADITION.

A FUTURE BUILT ON UNITY and SELF-RELIANCE

The Wisdom of Our Ancestors is Our Map.

Our Ancestors did not leave our future to chance. They gave us a gift—a blueprint for survival and success etched into our Tribal Constitution. For too long, progress has been stalled by boardroom bickering and social media fighting. Our ancestors survived and thrived through far harder times by remaining true to who we are. It is time we are wise enough to listen to them again, and return to Our Four Foundations.

The Four Foundations of Our Sault Tribe Ancestors

Perpetuation of Our Way of Life

Our culture, our language, and our hunting, fishing, and gathering rights are not just “activities”—they are the basis of who we are. **It is our Birthright.** Having taught these traditions from kindergarten through the college level for many years, I know their power. I will work tirelessly to make this knowledge available to every one of our members, regardless of where you live.

Geography should never be a barrier to our identity.

Welfare and Prosperity of Our People

As long as **one of us** is in need, our work is unfinished. We must look to our own resources and innovation and stand on our OWN.

- **Housing:** We must build **our own** houses and apartments on our own land, for single person to larger families.
- **Education/Jobs:** Our children deserve—Trade Schools, Apprenticeships, and paid internships, alongside traditional college paths. We must foster independence and business ownership.

Self-sufficiency is the heartbeat of a thriving Nation. I have the experience needed **to help Our People.**

The Right of Self-Government

The threat to our existence is no longer just “noise.” Recently, we have seen legislation drafted with the intent to make Tribes like ours disappear. **Termination is a real threat**, but I am not intimidated.

I have stood in those Washington D.C. meetings and testified before Congress to defend our sovereignty. If elected, I will return to those rooms with the strength and knowledge required to ensure the United States honors its Nation-to-Nation responsibility to our Tribe, as the Supreme Law of the land.

We ARE a Tribal Nation... forever.

Protecting Our Property and Resources

The Board of Directors holds a sacred trust to act in the best interest of our People and to those who depend upon us for their livelihoods. Like many of you, I have watched actions that raise serious questions. I am appalled that Wage Compression still exists. As a private citizen, information is often shielded from view. However, once I am at that Board Table, I will demand transparency. I will seek out the truth and call for outside investigations into any action that violates the trust of our citizens.

I pledge to be open, forthcoming, and accountable to you.

Aaniin! I’m Jen, and I offer over 30 years of dedicated service to our tribal communities. A retired educator and business owner, I continue to serve as an online college instructor, mentor, and Elder. My leadership experience is extensive: I served two terms on the Sault Tribe Board, testified before Congress, and chaired national committees for tribal health and food distribution. I have spent my career navigating the intersection of education, financial responsibility, and tribal advocacy.

Now, I am ready to put that seasoned wisdom to work fo all of us – regardless of where we live. To thrive, we must end internal conflict and move toward self-sufficiency. Together, we can honor our ancestors’ vision, find common ground, and move forward in strength and unity.



From the Classroom to Congress * Proven Leadership for Our Tribe!

Vote - JEN MCLEOD TYSON, Unit 1

See my videos on facebook, Jennifer McLeod – Sault Tribe, Instagram@jenmcleodsaulttribe and TikTok Contact me at Jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com, (906) 440-9151



BETTY FREIHEIT

~ Sault Tribe Board of Directors ~



Dear Unit 1 Voters Everywhere:

It takes courage to do what's right. I will always fight for you and your rights; like your right to vote for your Tribal Chairman. When the Board voted to **illegally appoint DJ Hoffman** as Chair, I wrote and sponsored the following resolutions to fix this:

- 1) **Vote of NO Confidence of Hoffman as the illegally appointed Tribal Chair**
- 2) **Vote to Vacate the Chair seat and Call for a Special Advisory Election**
- 3) **Appoint Austin Lowes as our Chairman after you the voters advised us to**

This picture is from the night of Chairman Lowes' special advisory win with 2X as many votes as Hoffman + Sorenson combined. When Austin ran for re-election in 2024, he again defeated Hoffman in a landslide!

Please vote for accomplishments and not empty promises. Below are just some of what we have achieved on your behalf and what we will accomplish together. I highlight my blueprint for what we will work on in the first 30 days and first 100 days.

I would appreciate if you vote to allow me to be your strong & honest advocate at the Board table. ~ Betty

BETTY'S BLUE-PRINT FOR RESULTS

~ FIRST 30 DAYS ~

- ◆ **Secretarial Election for 3-Branch Tribal Government NOW!**
- ◆ **Resolution to Repay Elder Fund \$23M in 30 days of swearing in**
- ◆ **Referendum for Members to Set Board Pay & Term Limits**
- ◆ **Add Emmet & Cheboygan Counties to Health Service Delivery Area**
- ◆ **Tribal Labor Law for Grievances & Termination Appeals for all**

~ FIRST 100 DAYS ~

- ◆ **Strategic Plan for Services to Kincheloe/Kinross Area & At Large**
- ◆ **Transparency & Background Checks for Cultural Workshops**
- ◆ **Solicitor to investigate Unit 2 Trailer, \$300K Private Bankruptcy, etc.**
- ◆ **Feasibility to Add Health Center Down State at Sibley & I-275**
- ◆ **Shut Down Failing Business with no ROI like Hessel Golf Course**

What We Have Already Accomplished Together...

- ◆ Sponsored Resolution to Discontinue BOD Pension going forward
- ◆ WON Election Complaint on Corrupt Election Committee Member
- ◆ Sponsored Resolution to Give All Tribal Members a Pandemic Check
- ◆ Exposed Unit 2 ~ \$76,468 Cares Act Give-A-Way to Non-Tribal person
- ◆ Testified in DC to Protect Victims of Crime; Especially our Children
- ◆ Served as 1st Tribal Court Lay Advocate (for free)

What We WILL Accomplish Together...

- ◆ Grant Immediate Tribal Citizen Standing & Due Process in Tribal Court
- ◆ Indian Preference Goals in Hiring | Our Tribe; Our Jobs!
- ◆ Set Tribal Contractor Preference at 10% ~ Let's put our People to Work
- ◆ Protect our Treaty Rights and Tribal Sovereignty & Re-Build Tribal Relations
- ◆ State & Federal Bi-Partisan Advocacy | Congress & the US President
- ◆ Tribal Labor Law to Protect ALL Tribal Employees' Due Process Rights
- ◆ MI Indian Tuition Waiver based on Tribal Citizenship NOT blood quantum
- ◆ Free Tribal Enhanced IDs & Sault Tribe Citizen License Plates
- ◆ Pay for Tribal Elder Medicare Supplemental Insurance to close donut hole
- ◆ Work with Chairman Lowes to Represent All Members Everywhere

The 3 Branches of Government



I spent two years of my life serving on the Constitutional Committee. So did Jennifer McLeod [who skipped half the meetings]. Just before the poll vote where a landslide of voters chose a 3-Branch government, McLeod called it the "**WHITE MAN'S WAYS**"!

In 2012, when the Board voted to meet for 6 months to review the draft, McLeod boycotted but still got paid.

Now she claims to support a 3-Branch government. Does she really expect us to believe her?

Wolf in sheep's clothing?!

~ Paid for and Endorsed by Betty Freiheit ~

Keep your information
FRESH to KEEP

SNAP

food assistance benefits.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP KEEP FOOD ON THE TABLE.

If you're getting SNAP food assistance benefits, are you getting the right amount? When it's time to update your information, it's important to report any changes to your income, employment, family situation or address.

Learn more at Michigan.gov/FoodAssistance.



Soo Lakers JV Hockey claims another title

BY SCOTT BRAND

The Soo Lakers JV Hockey Team captured the Division I Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) 2026 State Championship celebrating their victory on home ice at the Big Bear Arena.

The team, comprised of 19 players ranging in age from 14 to 18, is coached by Joe Esson with Jason Payment and Andy Heyboer serving as assistant coaches.

Having claimed the 2025

Division II State Championship last year, also on home ice, made this an improbable run.

"The odds of this have to be under zero percent," reported Coach Esson in the wake of the repeat championship. "To win a state championship is probably the greatest feeling you can have in hockey. To do it on home ice is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It doesn't feel real. Doing it twice in a row is unheard of. These young men set their minds and hearts to it

and refused to let anything stand in their way."

Sault Tribe was well represented in this year's championship, said making up more than half the squad including Alex Payment, Dylan Bouschor, Brendon Krull, Kayne Payment, Caleb Host, Bailey Frost, Aiden McCoy, Robert Thompson, Leo Esson, Maysn Esson and Assistant Coach Jason Payment.

The Soo JV Lakers finished the regular season as one of the top

four teams in their division earning the right to enter the tournament.

On opening night, they defeated the Kalkaska Rhinos, 6-2, but dropped game number two to the top-seeded Trenton JV Prep Team, 3-2 setting the stage for a must-win game three where they rode Goalie Maysn Esson's shutout performance to a 2-0 victory.

In the semi-final game the Soo Lakers got goals from Alex Payment, Kanye Payment and Brendon Krull to propel them past

the Kalamazoo K-Wings before heading into championship game where they once again faced the Trenton JV Prep Team, but this time the script was flipped with the Lakers up 3-2 as the final horn sounded.

The team credits its success not only to hard work on the ice, but also to strong community support, adding that home ice advantage at the Big Bear Arena played a major role with fans packing the stands throughout the tournament.

JKL Bahweting celebrates April 15 powwow



Ice Circle Singers playing at the K-8th grade end of marking period powwow.



Luna DeVoy provided multiple solo hoop dances throughout the day, drawing loud applause from the bleachers crowded with parents, students and school personnel.



Above and below, the JKL Bahweting School gymnasium was buzzing with activity throughout the event.



Left, Henry claims \$25 in cash from Laura Bouschor after winning the heads or tails dance. Right, Harper celebrates earning \$10 in the spot dance.

Left, Team Captains Dylan Bouschor and Alex Payment claim the state championship banner and trophy following the victory. Right, the entire team comprised of forwards Eddie Bowers, Alex Payment, Dylan Bouschor, Matthew Ennes, Caleb Host, Byron Hockersmith, Jimmy McKee, Ayden McCoy, Grady Heyboer, Kayne Payment, Gavin Miller and Leo Esson, with defensemen, Nathan Rioux, Ian Bowers, Jaxon Clark, Bailey Frost and Brendon Krull, along with goalies Maysn Esson and Bo Thompson, gather on the ice with head coach Joe Esson, and assistant coaches Andy Heyboer and Jason Payment to celebrate with a team photo.

USDA fish prep and tasting using commodities



Sault Tribe Community Health Educator Cody McLaren (above left) gave a presentation March 20 at the Sault Tribe's USDA distribution facility on the different types of freshwater fish offered through the program. They went over texture and flavor profiles, how to choose fish, how eating fish benefits your health and how to prepare it. The event was sponsored by the USDA Food Distribution Program, Sault Tribe Community Health Education, and Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country grant. Above right: (L-R) Myah McKerchie, Toni Mills, Kelly Erickson, Nancy Evans, Annette King, Jodi Thompson, Diane Boutilier and Cody McLaren.



BY BRENDA AUSTIN
SAULT STE. MARIE — Community Health Education is continuing its collaboration with the Sault Tribe USDA Food Distribution Program by offering hands-on classes that help community members make the most of

available foods. The partnership focuses on canning, preserving and cooking classes using commodities provided through the USDA program, while also incorporating traditional food knowledge and nutrition education. On March 20, the two programs

hosted a freshwater fish tasting and cooking class in the tribe's USDA-certified kitchen. Participants had the opportunity to learn preparation techniques and sample locally sourced fish, highlighting both nutrition and cultural connections to traditional foods.

Community Health Education, part of the Sault Tribe's Community Health Department, works to promote health and prevent chronic disease through research-based education that honors Anishnaabe practices. The USDA Food Distribution

Program provides nutritious foods to eligible low-income individuals and families across a 15-county service area. Together, the programs aim to increase food access, build practical skills and support healthier lifestyles across the community.



Danielle Walcher with daughter Teagan and her friend Emyla McDowell.



Three generations were in attendance with Dixie Picotte and Jane Buckanaga there to see Victor Buckanaga dance.

Photos by Scott Brand



Ogimaa Minisino, the JKL Bahweting School Drum, led by Chris Gordon Ph.D., included Timothy Moore, Ethan Ball, Wyatt Kibble, Wyatt Kinchelo, Hendrix Mackie, Jamison Amo, James Harp, Blake Nault and Cooper MacDonald performing for their dancing classmates in separate events throughout the afternoon.

Hands-on learning at the 2026 Sugar Bush



Tyler Bouschor welcomes Mrs. McDowell's fifth-graders from JKL Bahweting School, under the tutelage of Mrs. Bouschor's culture class, to the Mary Murray Camp on April 7 where 75 trees had been previously tapped awaiting the first visitors. Students were brought to the Sugar Island location to learn the history of maple syrup harvest and collect their own sap as part of the experience.



Above and below, while students are normally discouraged from running down the classroom halls, there was no such prohibition on this field trip. An established path, laid down by the tracked 4-wheeler during the tapping process, provided firmer footing and a fast pace, before the walking got more difficult in the deep snow where the maple trees flourish. Unlike their Easter egg hunts from the previous days, this time the students were seeking the blue bags collecting the sap.



Above, a collection bag secures the sap that accumulates overnight. Below, the frozen sap before it heads to the boiling pot.



This group displayed teamwork as they attempted to extract the frozen sap from a collection bag, emptying it into a five gallon bucket to be hauled back to the waiting tracked four-wheeler. It takes an average of 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup.

Photos by Scott Brand



Returning the bag to the tree to ensure additional sap harvest.



Scott Garcia compacted the trail and carted the heavy buckets back to the boiling site.



Brett Blackwood examining the student collected sap.



A large kettle steams as the open fire boils sap down into syrup.

“BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER” NEWBERRY POWWOW

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

SATURDAY - JUNE 13, 2026

4935 ZEE BA TIK LANE (NEWBERRY, MI)

Head Staff

- Emcee - Josh Homminga
- Head Veteran - Nick VanAlstine
- Arena Director - Bud Biron
- Host Drum - Mukwa Giizhik
- Invited Drums - Ice Circle & Frog Hills
- Head Male Dancer - picked each session
- Head Female Dancer - picked each session

Schedule of Events

- Vendor Set Up - 10:00am
- Grand Entry - 1:00pm
- Feast (Indian tacos) - 4:30pm
- Grand Entry - 6:00pm
- Giveaway - 8:00pm
- Traveling Song - 8:30pm

- Drum Split for all other drums (must have 4 singers) -
- Honorarium for all dancers in regalia -
- Spot Dances & Giveaway -
- Drug & Alcohol Free - No Pets - No Politics -

Vendors Free (Must be Tribal)
contact Charlie Treleven
CTreleven1@saulttribe.net

Powwow Information
Call (906) 635-6510 or email
cjodoin@saulttribe.net

Hosted by the Sault Tribe Language & Culture Department

April observes Sexual Assault Awareness Month

FROM ARC

April marks the observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a crucial time for communities to come together to raise awareness, educate, and support sexual assault survivors. This annual campaign aims to shed light on the prevalence of sexual violence in our communities and promote prevention efforts. Sexual violence and assault were virtually foreign to our people until the arrival of colonialism to our lands in the 15th century. Since that time, the rise in sexual assaults perpetrated on Indigenous peoples has exploded exponentially, and every community here on Turtle Island, whether Indigenous or otherwise, has felt its ramifications.

Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), “Sexual violence is any unwanted sexual contact.” This is not a gender exclusive definition, as statistics given to us by the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) show that a staggering 1 in 2 Indigenous women and 1 in 5 Indigenous men will experience some form of sexual assault in their lifetime. Another startling statistic shows that approximately 8 out of 10 acts of sexual violence are committed by someone with whom the survivor is familiar. This

pattern of sexual violence in our Native communities has become generational in nature, contributing to many of our relative survivors becoming trapped in depression and addiction as they struggle with these unaddressed wounds. Crucial steps need to be taken in order to break down the “rape culture,” which is defined as “prevailing societal stereotypes and passive views on sexual abuse.” Modern media often makes light of rape by normalizing sexual violence and excusing the objectification of women. It is essential to place the

blame where it lies, in the hands of the perpetrator. We must condition our minds away from the normalization of sexual assault and toward believing survivors. We as a community need to come back to the traditions of protecting and respecting one another, because what harms one of us harms all of us. This is fundamental thinking in the fight to support survivors and to assist them in receiving the help they need to begin the healing process in a good way.

sexual abuse, report it to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at (855) 444-3911 (or your local DHHS if not in Michigan) and your local police department. Please remember, if you see something, say something. You can remain anonymous. Find more information about sexual violence at <https://www.rainn.org/> RAINN is the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, and has hotlines available 24/7 or a live chat option on the website.

If you are a survivor of sexual assault, help is available. The Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) has advocates on hand to offer support and guidance. Anyone can use ARC services. Contact an advocate at (906) 632-1808. If you suspect child

You can also visit www.arc-saulttribe.com for more information on sexual abuse. Advocacy Resource Center advocates can be reached at (906) 632-1808. The Lodge of Bravery Shelter is open 24/7 and can be reached at (906) 632-1808 any time.



Take Down Tobacco Day 2026 on April Fool's Day

Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action was April 1, 2026 – a nationwide movement to protect the next generation from nicotine addiction.

expose deceptive marketing tactics, and advocate for healthier, tobacco-free communities.

“calling Big Tobacco’s bluff.”

was the day to say, “We are not fooled.”

The Nicotine Crisis — With the rise of e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches, youth nicotine addiction is a growing concern that requires urgent community action.

Organized by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, this event (formerly known as “Kick Butts Day”) has evolved into a powerful platform for young people to speak out against Big Tobacco,

Since its inception in 1996, this movement has grown from a small group of activists to thousands of events held in all 50 states and around the globe.

While tobacco companies claim to have changed and advocate for “smoke-free” living, they are simultaneously launching new high-nicotine products designed to hook kids and new users.

Why this movement matters: **Targeting Youth** — 90% of adult smokers started before the age of 18.

Persistent Tactics — Despite regulations, thousands of flavored products — like “blue razz” and “mint” — remain on the market, specifically designed to appeal to teenagers.

The 2026 theme is “Calling Their Bluff.” This year’s campaign leans into April Fool’s Day by

From colorful nicotine pouches to flavored e-cigarettes, the industry continues to gamble with the health of our youth. April 1

Public Health — Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, claiming approximately 480,000 lives every year.

Walking on...

CARL L. BOSLEY

When I think about my dad, I think of his sense of humor — but even more, his kindness. It was a quality that defined him and shaped the way he treated people.

enjoyed them and took pride in maintaining them. Dealerships joked they lost money when he traded them in because they were always in such good condition. He even kept a notebook recording car wash dates and times.

newly married, Dad began his career as a meat cutter at Swift & Company and later at Vollwerth & Company. “A meat cutter, not a butcher,” he would always say — “They’re two very different things.” He later worked in the meat department at Kincheloe Air Force Base in Kinross, Mich. When it closed in the mid-1970s, he moved our family to Marquette, Mich., where he worked in the meat department at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base commissary and later became department manager. After that base closed, he continued working at a local grocery store.

Spring is Here —



Is Your Business Ready?

My dad, Carl L. Bosley, was born Nov. 4, 1933, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Carl R. and Elizabeth Bosley. He passed away Jan. 26, 2026, at Carilion



Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Roanoke, Va., after a well lived and deeply loved life. He was one of seven children (his brother Teddy died as a baby), growing up with five brothers and one sister. Whenever the Bosley siblings gathered, there was laughter, plenty of jokes — and the ongoing debate over who was “The Good Looking One.”

He served two years in the Army, stationed in Germany during peacetime, working with heavy artillery and cannons — an experience that later contributed to his hearing loss.

He worked until age 75, wanting to stay busy, especially after

See “Walking on,” page 18

Dad was preceded in death by my mom, Donna (2001); my brother, Tim (2025); his parents; his sister, Donna and her husband, Rueben; and his brothers, Larry and Rick. His brother, Ray was living at the time of Dad’s passing but has since passed as well. Ray’s wife, Ruth, passed several years earlier.

He is survived by me, his daughter, Deb (and my husband, Rick); his brother, Walt and Walt’s wife, Nancy; and his sisters-in-law, Sandy and Cheryl.

Dad played football in high school until a broken leg during his freshman year ended that chapter. His first car, a dark blue 1953 Mercury two-door hardtop, began a lifelong habit of meticulous care for every vehicle he owned. He didn’t collect cars or rebuild them — he simply

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Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 17

Mom died. In retirement, he kept active at his place in Gwinn, Mich., — mowing in summer and snowblowing the heavy winter snow, which he always said he preferred. He was a true Michigan native at heart. He also made frequent road trips to visit Tim and me wherever we were living.

One of the clearest reflections of who my dad was came when I was a teenager. A grocery store cashier was having a difficult day, and instead of responding with frustration, Dad met her with steady kindness. Later he told me, "Her bad mood doesn't have to change who I am." It was how he lived — quiet, patient, grounded in compassion — and it's a lesson I've carried with me ever since.

Dad didn't speak easily about his feelings, but in recent years he expressed gratitude for living with Rick and me in Virginia — as if he were ever a burden. Caring for him was my honor, just as he had always cared for me. He was a steady presence throughout my life, and my life will not be the same without him.

I have been surrounded by kindness as I've navigated this loss, and many words of comfort have meant more than I can say. One in particular, shared by my Aunt Cheryl — who is still grieving the loss of her husband, Dad's youngest brother, Rick — continues to resonate: "We must learn not to live without them, but to live with the love they left behind." That thought feels like a steady guide for me now.

I will carry his kindness, strength, and love with me always.

Honoring his wishes, there will be no formal funeral service. Our family will gather privately at a later time to lay his ashes to rest. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a donation to the charity of their choice.

Canale-Gwinn Funeral Home and Cremation Services is assisting the family where memories of Carl may be shared at canalefuneral.com

MARGARET "MAGGIE" ANN (OBERLE) BRANNSTROM

Margaret "Maggie" Ann (Oberle) Brannstrom, 71, of St. Ignace, Mich., died on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey, Mich. She was born on Dec. 29, 1954, in Detroit, Mich., to Daniel Sr. and Vivian (Andress) Oberle.

Maggie was one of nine children, growing up with five brothers and three sisters. In 1968, she moved to the Upper Peninsula with her family and graduated from Rudyard High School in 1973. After graduation, she attended Lake Superior State College, where she earned an associate degree in data processing and later a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1985.

Maggie began her career working for the state of

Michigan Insurance Bureau and later worked for the Michigan Department of Corrections, where she retired after many years of dedicated service. She was known as a hard worker, something clearly reflected throughout her career.

Maggie was a member of the Moose Lodge in St. Ignace.

Maggie enjoyed spending time with friends and family, watching the Detroit Tigers, going to the casino, and sailing on cruise ships. She especially loved the laughter and memories shared during those moments and always looked forward to time spent with the people she cared about most.

Maggie is survived by her son, Jason Oberle of Sault Ste. Marie; granddaughter, Alyssa VerWiebe of Aspen, Colo.; brothers, Richard LaDuke of Clinton Township, Mich., Daniel "Dan" Oberle Jr. of Carson City, Mich., William "Bill" Oberle of Beaverton, Mich.; and sister, Linda Oberle of Abilene, Texas.

Maggie was preceded in death by her parents, Daniel Sr. and Vivian; brothers, Jerry LaDuke and Erland LaDuke; and sisters, Bonita (LaDuke) Pyzik and Brenda (LaDuke) Smerecki.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the summer of 2026. Family Life Funeral Homes — St. Ignace assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

KATHLEEN F. EGERT

Longtime Rexton, Mich., and current Newberry, Mich., resident Kathleen "Kathy" Frances Egert, 73, passed away on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at Helen Newberry Joy Hospital.

Born May 12, 1952, in San Bernardino, Calif., Kathy is survived by her loving husband, George Egert, whom she married on Nov. 9, 2002 in Manistique, Mich. She is also survived by her children: Khris (Laura) Alvarez of Midland, Mich., Ann (Doug) Savage of Harrison, Mich., Anthony (Jennifer) Egert of Birch Run, Mich., Angela (Jeremiah) Harris of Newberry, and Kelly (Danis) Flores of Portland, Ore.; 15 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and her siblings Joe (Karen) Hoerz of Alborn, Minn., Betty Hoerz of St. Ignace, Mich., Linda (Brian) Missler of Cadillac, Mich., and Sherri O'Crotty of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Kathy was preceded in death by her mother, Lillian Hoerz; stepfather, Walter Hoerz; son, Ron Munro; sister, Beverly Derusha; and aunt, Gay Mattson.

For more than 20 years, Kathy was employed at the former Newberry Florist, where her creativity and warmth touched countless lives. A proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, she served as Unit 2 Elder Chairperson for the past eight years. During this time, she played an instrumental role in organizing powwows, leading talking circles, and teaching Native traditions — work that

reflected her deep respect for culture, community, and heritage.

Kathy was also a dedicated member of the American Legion Post #74 Ladies Auxiliary, where she enjoyed assisting as a bingo game operator. In her leisure time, she enjoyed baking and spending time with her family. Above all, she will be fondly remembered as a devoted wife and a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose presence brought comfort and joy to all who knew her.

A gathering of family and friends took place on April 10, 2026, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Funeral services celebrating Kathy's life — including Native American rites conducted by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians — followed with Pastor Melinda VanderSys officiating. Interment will take place in the spring of 2026 at Maplewood Cemetery in Hudson Township.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the family for a future designation. Condolences may be shared at <https://www.beaulieufuneralhome.com/obituary/kathleen-egert>.

Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry assisted the family.

GARY L. BRIGHT

Gary Lee Bright, 71, of Deckerville, Mich., passed away at home surrounded by family on April 1, 2026.

Gary was born Jan. 12, 1955, to Robert and Bonnie Bright in Cass City, Mich. He attended Deckerville Schools and married Doreen Osantowski on Aug. 19, 1978. Gary worked for Breiten Lumber for 46 years. He loved being outside hunting and watching wildlife out his backdoor. Gary was also an active member of the Sanilac County 4H program and loved horses. He also liked going to casinos. Above all, Gary loved doing everything with his family.

Gary is survived by his wife, Doreen Bright; four children, Jeremy (Andrea) Bright, Jennifer (Craig) MacNeil, Jamie (Derek) Hoff and Jeanna Bright; eight grandchildren, Gabrielle, Emma and Evelyn Bright; Rhyann, Paisley and Charleigh MacNeil; and Cameron and Jaelynn Hoff; his mother, Bonnie Bright; and siblings, Kathy Bezemek, Steven (Vicky) Bright, Cindy Pozsgay and Sherrie Armstead.

Gary was preceded in death by his father, Robert Bright; mother- and father-in-law, Robert and Erma Osantowski; and brothers-in-law, Ernest Bezemek, Daniel Pozsgay, Andrew Osantowski, Jim (Theresa) Brecht, Gerald Osantowski and Harry (Mary) Grifka.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorials can be made out to Residential Hospice, 1681 Woodbridge Park Drive, Lapeer, MI 48446.

Friends may share an online condolence at www.marshfuneral.com

Arrangements were made by Marsh Funeral Chapel, 396 South

Sandusky Road, Sandusky, MI 48471.

JAMES "BERT" MALLOY

James "Bert" Malloy, 83, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed April 2, 2026 at Medilodge of Sault Ste. Marie. He was born July 6, 1942, in Sault Ste. Marie and Margaret (Sylvester) Malloy.



He was raised by the Pingatore Family, attending St. Joseph's Catholic School, excelling in ice hockey and enjoyed fishing and the outdoors. Following a tour with the U.S. Air Force as military police (MP), he moved to Appleton, Wisconsin, working primarily as an 18-wheel semi-truck driver with Foremost Dairies, CW Transport, and Hennes as member of Teamsters Local 563. A.K.A. "Honky-Tonk". Bert enjoyed the road listening to the likes of Cash, Twitty, and Rich before returning to his family in Appleton, and riding his motorcycles, camping, and boating.

The consummate charmer, he was best known by friends and family for his kind gestures, soft demeanor, humor, and "words of wisdom" as he often described, imparting guidance through simple yet masterful insight "a little enthusiasm goes a long way; the first 100 years are the hardest," and often reassuring those surrounding, the honor of their presence bestowed upon him "while not an everyday occasion, a pleasant one when it occurs."

Bert loved his family and friends, Jennifer, brothers "Tom" and "Bobo," and sister Lucille, whom he had fond memories of taking to Detroit Tigers games and meeting their favorite baseball player Al Kaline. He was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Bert is survived by his sons, Brian (Joann Santiago) Malloy and Patrick Malloy; their mother and life-friend, Joan Malloy; grandchildren, Kayla (Diego Miguel) Malloy, James Malloy, and Ryan Malloy; brother, John "Bobo" (Kathy) Malloy; sister, Joan Crane; brother-in-law, Daniel White; former in-laws, Jeanie and Larry Wellnitz; and many cherished nieces and nephews.

Bert was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Margaret (Sylvester) and Dee Malloy; brother, Thomas "Tom" Edward Malloy; and sister, Lucille White. Remembrance and farewell will be held at a later date.

The Malloy family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude to the staff and friends at Medilodge of Sault Ste. Marie.

Family Life Funeral Homes — Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements.

Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

JERRY E. BELLANT

Jerry Edward Bellant, 58, passed away Thursday, March 12, 2026. He was born July 24, 1967,

in St. John's, Mich., the son of Richard and Judith Bellant.

Jerry grew up in Lansing and graduated from Eastern High School in 1985. He attended Lansing Community College and was employed by Michigan Department of Corrections. Jerry was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Jerry had a deep love for praying the rosary. He also loved fishing, hunting, playing the lotto and bingo, and watching movies with a buttery popcorn bucket nearby. He also loved visiting the Portland District Library and was thrilled to show off his membership card.

Jerry was a kind-hearted man who would do anything for his twin. Since birth, Jerry and Mary have had an inseparable bond. The twins have celebrated every birthday together and countless dinner and movie dates. Being twins, they had a special connection that could never be broken. Jerry often viewed his twin as his better half. He was proud to introduce Mary as "his twin" and would then joke, "We're not identical."

Jerry was preceded in death by his only son, Jarret Paul.

Left to cherish his memory are his parents, Richard and Judith; his siblings, Richard II (Cindy), Dicksie (Warren) Hengesbach, and beloved twin, Mary Jane (Lou) Hengesbach; his faithful furry friends, Ollie and Stewie; only godchild, Cassie Bellant; along with many loving nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all the friends and family who have supported them, especially his caring neighbors.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 17, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with Rev. Eric Weber presiding. The Rite of Committal followed at St. Mary's Cemetery. The family received friends March 16 at St. Mary's Funeral Chapel, with a rosary prayed at 3:30 p.m. Arrangements were entrusted to Lehman Funeral Homes, Portland. Online condolences may be shared at www.lehmanfuneralhomes.com.

JUDITH K. STUCKE

Judith "Judy" Kay Stucke

(nee Eddy), passed away on March 30, 2026, at Froedtert West Bend Hospital. She was born Nov. 5, 1942, in Newberry, Mich., daughter of the late Leslie and Pauline (nee Kelts) Eddy.

Judy was a 1961 graduate of Newberry High School in Newberry and a 1965 graduate of Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Mich., as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

See "Walking on," page 19



Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 18

Judy was a member of Trinity Methodist Church in Lomira, Wis. She was a member and an elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Judy was a Licensed Practical Nurse for 39 years. She worked at St. Agnes Hospital and various nursing homes until her retirement in 2003.

Judy enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren, and friends. She enjoyed puzzle books, playing cards, as well as an occasional old fashioned.

Survivors include her children Dennis (Yvonne) Stucke Jr., Andrew (Sheila) Stucke, and Corey (Lisa) Stucke; 17 grandchildren, Alyssa (Andres), Dennis III (Barbara), Rebecca (Killian), Maria, Matthew, Nicole (Ryan), Alec, Rachel, Stefani, David, Grayson, Lucy, and Tommy; two great grandchildren, Thorin and Sofia; her brothers and sisters-in-law, David Pies, Nancy (George) Doebler, and Patricia Stucke; as well as many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Judy was preceded in death by her husband, Dennis Frederick Stucke Sr. in 1982; sisters, Joan (Bill) Karlson, Barbara (Ray) Simmons, Sally (Clarence) Burke, Marie (Tom) Smith; brothers, Kim (Judy) Eddy, and Robert (Louise) Eddy; her brother and sister-in-law, Diane Pies and Ralph Stucke.

A memorial service for Judy was held April 10 followed by burial at Salem Cemetery in Lomira.

The Myrhum – Patten Funeral & Cremation Service was entrusted with Judy's arrangements. Additional information and guest book may be found at www.myrhum-patten.com.

MEAGAN N. KRUCZYNSKI

Meagan Nicole Kruczynski, Zhoonziian Nigeyekwad (Silver Circling Cloud), 37, of New Baltimore, Mich., walked on to meet the Great Spirit on Tuesday, March 3, 2026.



Meagan was born to Joseph and Ruth Kruczynski of Fair Haven, Mich., on Nov. 22, 1988. She was the oldest of three daughters. She married Dustin Schave on March 18, 2017. Meagan was a devoted fur mom to Phantom, Willow, Estella, Miss Cleo, and Audrey II. She was a passionate singer, an accomplished music director, a dedicated caregiver in her work, a wonderful cook, and a loving wife, daughter, sister, aunt and friend. Meagan claimed that she never met a stranger. She never hesitated to help someone in need or offer a warm shoulder. Meagan was proud of her Native American and Polish heritage.

Meagan is survived by her husband, Dustin Schave, her parents, Joseph and Ruth Kruczynski, her grandmother, Mary Kruczynski, her sisters, Sarah (Daniel) Calihan and Lea Hollows, and her nephew, Corey

Calihan.

Meagan was preceded in death by her grandparents, Peter and Valerie Paczkowski, and Casimir Kruczynski. Meagan left a lasting impact on countless lives, and she will be greatly missed.

One more time, dancing in a circle around the room,
*"Chiquitita, you and I cry
 But the sun is still in the sky and
 shinin' above you
 Let me hear you sing once more
 like you did before
 Sing a new song, Chiquitita"*

A Funeral Mass was held on March 10, 2026, at Immaculate Conception Church in Ira Township, Mich. Meagan was laid to rest in Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township, Mich.

SHIRLEY MONDOSKIN

Shirley Jean Margaret (Andrews) Mondoskin, 92, of Hessel, Mich., died on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at her home. She was born on Jan. 10, 1934, in Hessel to Mike and Alice (Smith) Andrews.



Shirley was born and raised in Hessel and graduated from Cedarville High School with the Class of 1952. Following graduation, she moved to Saginaw, Mich., where she married and raised six children. In 1974, she returned to the Upper Peninsula, where she continued raising her family. After her children were grown, Shirley made the decision to return to school, attending Bay Mills Community College, where she earned an associate degree in business administration. She later worked for the Sault Tribe Housing Department and also worked on Mackinac Island and with Star Line Ferry as a cashier for an additional 10 years before retiring.

Shirley was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and served for many years on the Sault Tribe Health Committee.

Shirley loved to read, with Danielle Steel being her favorite author. She also enjoyed sewing and even made her daughters' wedding dresses. She enjoyed attending car races and watching NASCAR, especially cheering on her favorite driver, Dale Jr.

Shirley is survived by her daughter, Louise Easterbrook; son, Glenn "Sam" Bohling; daughter, Veronica Hetzner; and sons, Roger Bohling and LeRoy Bohling; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and sister, Joann Pierce.

Shirley was preceded in death by her daughter, Bonnie Sue Bohling; first husband, Ralph Backie; second husband, LeRoy Bohling; and third husband, Vernon "Vernie" Mondoskin; parents, Mike and Alice; brothers, Mike Andrews, Glenn Andrews and Kenny Andrews; and sisters, Mildred Henry, Loreen Causley, Nina Eckart, Kathleen "Kathy" Landreville and Margie Schmidt.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring with details to

be announced.

Shirley's final resting place will be at Old Mission Indian Cemetery in Hessel.

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

NICHOLAS E. MASSAWAY

Nicholas Earl Massaway, 33, of St. Ignace, Mich., died on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at Medilodge in Cheboygan, Mich. He was born on Oct. 15, 1992, in Petoskey, Mich., to Nicholas Brian and Kristine (Spayde) Massaway.



Nicholas grew up in St. Ignace and graduated from LaSalle High School with the Class of 2011. Following graduation, he entered the workforce and enjoyed working as a blackjack dealer at both Odawa Casino in Petoskey and Kewadin Casino in St. Ignace.

A proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Nicholas held a deep connection to his heritage and community.

Nicholas loved spending time outdoors and being with his family, especially during the summer months. He enjoyed swimming at the rock quarry in Hessel, Mich., and cherished the many memories made there. Nicholas also had a passion for dealing and playing craps and could happily talk for hours about the days he spent at the tables. In his younger years, he loved hunting with his father and his Uncle Frank, and he also enjoyed fishing. Nicholas had a deep love for adventure and fun, whether it was taking trail rides or making the kids laugh by doing donuts. He was truly adored by his family and will be remembered for his biggest smile, his one-of-a-kind laugh, and the joy he brought to everyone around him.

Nicholas is survived by his fiancée, Catelyn McLean; daughter, Nora Massaway; stepchildren, Aubrey, Benjamin, and Lyncoln Sharp; parents, Nicholas and Kristine; sister, Kayle Massaway; and his future in-laws, Judd and Pat Spayde.

Nicholas was preceded in death by his grandparents, John and Veronica Massaway; and many other family members.

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

MYRL R. PAYMENT

Myrl Ruth Payment, 83, passed away peacefully on March 12, 2026. She was born on Sept. 19, 1942, and lived a life filled with love, resilience, joy, and deep devotion to her family.



She is survived by her loving and loyal husband of 40 years, Edward "Gaboo" Payment; her one and only daughter, Rean

Margot; and her favorite son-in-law, John Amato. As well as her son, Kaol Snyder. Rean blessed Myrl with three amazing grandchildren: Jessica Nadine and her husband Benton Farrell; Austin James Freund and his wife Katie, along with their son Weston; and Luciano Michael Amato and his longtime love Mallory Hoaltin. Myrl was also deeply loved by her many nieces and nephews.

Myrl grew up in a large, close-knit family. She is survived by her siblings: Monica (William) Marsh; Bonita Hoops; Brenda (Thomas) Cook; Laury Henry; John "Jack" (Gail) McKerchie; Thelma McKerchie; David "Jerry" McKerchie; Janene (Thomas) Budnick; Donald (Joanne) McKerchie; and Richard McKerchie. Their lifelong bonds were a source of comfort and strength throughout her life.

Myrl was married for 40 years to her devoted husband, Edward Payment. Through him, she was embraced by another loving family, including Ed's parents Lois Payment, and James and Sharon Payment, and his siblings Nathan Payment; Sam (Debbie) Payment; Krista Jones; Sandy Stonge; Andrea Payment; and Pierre Payment. One of Myrl's favorite simple pleasures was going for a ride. She would often say to her "Wubby" with a smile, "Let's go for a ride," and he always knew exactly what that meant — it was time for a trip to the casino. These spontaneous adventures were part of their special rhythm together, filled with laughter and shared excitement. Myrl loved to gamble and was quite lucky at it.

In her early years, Myrl became well known as an exceptional bartender in Grand Rapids, Mich., working at the Silver Spur and The Swinging Door in Comstock Park. She was adored in the industry, instantly recognized for her big, beautiful pearly-white smile and her warm, welcoming nature. After returning to her birthplace, Sault Ste. Marie, she continued her bartending career at the Red Bird Inn and the Hilltop on Sugar Island, where she formed lasting friendships and became a beloved face in the community.

Later, Myrl discovered her true passion when she became a home care nurse for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. For 19 years, she cared for community Elders with gentleness, dignity, and compassion. This work brought her deep fulfillment. She had a heart of gold and touched countless lives through her kindness.

Myrl also loved celebrating life at her beautiful home in Hessel, Mich., where she took joy in hosting family and friends. She also loved gazing at the moon, sun, and stars — simple, peaceful moments that reflected her deep appreciation for nature.

She cultivated vibrant gardens filled with flowers, trees, and a special "people garden" full of personality. Myrl decorated the yard with meaningful Native American trinkets that reflected her spirit and heritage. For many springs, she and Ed welcomed loved ones to join them in mak-

ing maple syrup — a beloved tradition filled with laughter and togetherness. They cherished hosting family gatherings and enjoyed taking big side-by-side rides, creating unforgettable memories for all who shared those moments.

Myrl will be forever remembered for her warmth, her strength, her brilliant smile, and her unwavering love for the people around her. Her legacy lives on in the family she adored, the community she served, and the countless hearts she touched.

Myrl also had a deep love for her four-legged furry companions. Her most recent beloved pet was her loyal lab, Sky'a, who brought her endless comfort and joy.

Myrl was preceded in death by her firstborn son, Kevin Snyder; her parents, Ruth McKerchie and David McKerchie; and her siblings John (Jack) McKerchie, Thelma McKerchie, David "Jerry" McKerchie, Janene Budnick and her husband, Thomas Budnick, Donald (Duck) McKerchie and his wife, Joanne McKerchie, and Richard (Dick) McKerchie. She was also preceded in death by her brother-in-law Nathan Payment, her sister-in-law Debbie Payment, and her mother- and father-in-law, James Payment and Sharon Payment.

A celebration of life ceremony will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that you please consider donations to the 'Hospice of the EUP' and/or 'North Woods Home Care and Hospice.'

RENE T. KERNS

Rene Therese Kerns, 77, of Naubinway, Mich., passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

Born Jan. 8, 1949, in Harvey, Ill., she was the daughter of the late Melvin A. and Shirley M. (Snyder) Biang. Rene spent her early years in Illinois before her family relocated to Lake Odessa, Mich., and later to Naubinway along the Black River. She attended Engadine Consolidated Schools, where she was active in cheerleading.

Rene worked in several roles over the years, most often as a waitress and server, a job she enjoyed for the people it brought into her life. She retired when her health no longer allowed her to continue, though she carried her warm, welcoming spirit with her always.

As a young woman, Rene played softball for the Sea Gals, and throughout her life she found joy in dancing, watching movies, and tackling Sudoku and crossword puzzles. She was a devoted sister, daughter, mother, aunt, and grandmother, and her family remembers her for her the deep love she held for them.

In addition to her parents, Rene was preceded in death by three

See "Walking on," page 22



Grand Portage Band regains historic tribal land

GRAND PORTAGE, Minn. — The Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, in partnership with Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation and the Minnesota Land Trust announced March 16, 2026, the completed purchase of land that restores to the Band three significant parcels of land that were lost from Band ownership over the last 200 years, marking the largest land return to Grand Portage in recent history.

“The return of this land to Grand Portage is the largest land return in our recent history, and it carries meaning for our Grand Portage families that goes far beyond just acreage,” said Robert Deschampe, Chairman of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

“These three parcels were lost three different ways over 200 years — federal policy, taxation, and outside speculation. Getting them back in a single transfer is something our Grand Portage Members have not seen in our lifetimes. In an era when land acknowledgement statements have become common, this is what reconciliation actually looks like. The Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation has set the new leadership standard when it comes to restorative justice work with Tribes.”

The three parcels of land totaling approximately 87 acres are being returned to the Grand Portage Band through a partnership with the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, which made a grant to the Band to acquire the properties from the B. Van Johnson Trust and other family members. The acquisition closed on Feb. 16, 2026.

The acquisition is historically significant because it restores to band ownership parcels that reflect three different ways in which the band’s land was lost over the last 200 years:

Paradise Beach, 5.19 acres – A stretch of Lake Superior shoreline along Highway 61 south of Grand Portage, a gathering place of deep cultural significance to the band since time immemorial. This land was lost to the band as a result of land cessions to the United States in the Treaty of Sept. 30, 1854. Following that treaty, Paradise Beach was located outside of the band’s reservation.

Francis Island, Susie Islands Archipelago, 1.8 acres – The Island is part of the historic canoe routes connecting Grand Portage to Minong (Isle Royale), used for fishing, hunting, gathering, and ceremony. The return of the island continues the restoration of the Susie Islands following the 2017 return of Susie Island from The Nature Conservancy. The Island was lost to the band when the United States transferred the land to the state of Minnesota as State School Trust Lands.

Mineral Center Road Forest Parcel, 80 acres – Forested land approximately 5 miles west of the Grand Portage community, within the reservation, supporting hunting, gathering, and traditional stewardship practices. This parcel of pristine and unique forest was lost to the band through allotment.

The band entered a treaty

with the United States in 1854 that set aside a portion of the band’s homeland along the north shore of Lake Superior as its permanent and undisturbed homeland. However, just 20 years later, the federal government changed course, dividing reservation land and selling it to timber and mining interests, as well as to homesteaders under the General Allotment and Nelson Acts. Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, federal allotment policy systematically dispossessed Minnesota’s Ojibwe people of their lands.

Though titled, “An Act for the Relief and Civilization of the Chippewa Indians,” the law was designed to break up communally held tribal lands, relocate the Ojibwe to a single reservation, and open the remaining lands to timber companies, railroads, and white settlers. Many tribal families lost their allotments through

unpaid taxes, fraud, and the manipulation of local officials.

The General Allotment Act and federal allotment policies were considered a failure, having failed to break up tribes and having resulted in the impoverishment of tribal people through the greatest land dispossession in American history.

August Van Johnson, who served as Cook County Registrar of Deeds during the early 20th century, had unique access to tax delinquency records, enabling him to acquire a significant portion of Grand Portage and Chippewa City lands during this period, often without money changing hands. His nephew, Lloyd K. Johnson, later served as Cook County Attorney, eventually went into business with his Uncle, and went on to build substantial land holdings across northeastern Minnesota.

See “land,” page 21



By the B. Van Johnson Revocable Trust

Paradise Beach, 5.19 acres – A stretch of Lake Superior shoreline along Highway 61 south of Grand Portage - is one of three parcels of land totaling approximately 87 acres are being returned to the Grand Portage Band through a partnership with the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, which made a grant to the Band to acquire the properties from the B. Van Johnson Trust and other family members. The acquisition closed on Feb. 16, 2026.



Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2026 Elk Application

The 2026 elk application period will run from May 1, 2026 to June 1, 2026. **All applications must be received by Sault Tribe Law Enforcement before 5:00 pm on June 1, 2026.** Applications received after 5:00 pm on June 1, 2026 **will NOT be accepted.** A lottery will be conducted at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Tribal members **MUST** possess an Inland Hunting Harvest license and be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear and elk.

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Male Tribal File #: _____ STS #: _____

Female Date of Birth: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

There is a \$4 application fee for each application. Each application must be accompanied by a check or money order (you may write one check for multiple applications). Checks and money orders can be made out to “Sault Tribe”. Sault Tribe Elders (60 & older) and youth (10-16) are not required to pay application fees.

Please send all bear and elk applications to:

**Sault Tribe Law Enforcement
 Bear & Elk Applications
 P.O. Box 925
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

For any questions, please contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement at (906) 635-6065.

STLE Office Use ONLY

Elder Pymt Method: _____

Youth Date _____

Grand Portage Band regains historic tribal land

From "land," page 20

Under allotment, individual parcels of land were issued to tribal members in trust, and the remaining unallotted lands were declared "surplus" or "residue" and were placed in the public domain and made available for non-Indian acquisition. While the General Allotment Act was amended by the Burke Act in 1906, which allowed the trust restriction on individual Indian allotments to be lifted before the expiration of 25 years.

The federal allotment policy was disastrous for tribes and their members. While it resulted in the impoverishment of Indians and represented one of the greatest legally sanctioned dispossessions of land in modern history, it failed to break up tribes. In 1934, as the failures of the allotment policy were laid bare by the report of

Lewis Merriam, "The Problem of Indian Administration," Johns Hopkins Press (Baltimore: 1928) (Merriam Report), the United States turned fully away from its former policy, and a new period of supporting tribal sovereignty and self-governance began. The legislative cornerstones of this change were the Wheeler-Howard Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA).

While some land was restored to the band under the Indian Reorganization Act, control of a significant number of parcels on the reservation remained in the hands of non-Indian owners. The band has been dedicated for decades to restoring these parcels to tribal ownership. The effort could not happen overnight, since the band was compelled first to acquire the lands in fee from the non-Indian owners and then request that the

United States agree to hold them in trust for the band, which is a process that is both expensive and time-consuming, especially where available band resources are dedicated to delivering governmental services to its members.

Starting in late 2024, the foundation began working with the band, the owner of the land, the B. Van Johnson Trust, and the Minnesota Land Trust to arrange the acquisition of the land by the band, which was an important goal for the B. Van Johnson Trust:

David Berner, representing the B. Van Johnson Trust, said the trust and other Johnson family members felt strongly that the land should return to the people with the deepest historical and cultural connection to it. "Our family recognized how meaningful this land is to the Grand

Portage Band, and we are grateful to have worked together with the Grand Portage Band, the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, and the Minnesota Land Trust to make this return possible."

The foundation then voted unanimously to approve a grant to the band to acquire the land directly from the trust. The grant marked the single largest grant the foundation had made, representing an unprecedented commitment both to the Bands' land restoration efforts and to amending the historical relationship between the Band and the family:

"The Foundation has put significant effort into understanding the history and impacts of Mr. Johnson and his family's business dealings along the North Shore," said Erik Torch, Foundation Executive Director. "We have worked to build a

relationship with the Grand Portage Band and to support their goals for their people and nation. This land return is an important chapter in what we hope will be a long and positive partnership. The foundation is grateful to the Johnson family for their willingness to return this land, and to the Minnesota Land Trust for their critical help in this effort."

"Nothing can undo what happened to our Grand Portage families over the past 200 years," said Deschampe. "But returning these lands to the Band is very meaningful — for our ancestors, for our people today, and for the generations who will care for and keep these lands pristine after us. We are grateful to the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, the Minnesota Land Trust, and the B Van Johnson Trust for making this happen."

Submit your ideas for 2026 GLEXPO sessions or speakers

JACKIE PERKINS AND CHRISTINA CURELL, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION Great Lakes Expo (GLEXPO) organizers have created an online submission form to gather new ideas for sessions and speakers from attendees and industry members.

The Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo (GLEXPO) is a premier conference for fruit, vegetable, horticulture and farmer market growers to see and learn about all of the latest research and innovations in farming. The GLEXPO board along with Michigan State University Extension hosts a variety of educational sessions and discussions to further the knowledge and resources growers need to be competitive in today's markets.

The 2026 GLEXPO will be Dec. 8-10 at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The GLEXPO organizers and Michigan State University Extension would like your ideas as we plan future education sessions. We want to hear from growers and industry members about ideas for topics and speakers that you think would be of value to your farming operations as well as other growers.

To facilitate this endeavor, the Great Lakes Expo board has created a fillable online form. Ideas can be submitted year-round via the online form. For ideas to be considered for inclusion in the 2026 education program, they must be submitted by June 12, 2026.

For more information on the Great Lakes Expo, visit <https://glexpo.com>.



Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2026 Bear Application

The 2026 bear application period will run from May 1, 2026 to June 1, 2026. **All applications must be received by Sault Tribe Law Enforcement before 5:00 pm on June 1, 2026 will NOT be accepted.** A lottery will be held at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Tribal members **MUST** possess an Inland Hunting Harvest license and be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear.

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Male Tribal File #: _____ STS #: _____
 Female Date of Birth: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Please select only **ONE** of the following Bear Management Units (BMU). Please note that all Sault Tribe bear permits are only valid within the 1836 Ceded Territory. Please see the map below for generalized boundaries of each BMU.

Upper Peninsula

- Drummond
- Baraga
- Gwinn
- Newberry

Lower Peninsula

- Baldwin
- Gladwin
- Red Oak



There is a \$4 application fee for each application. Each application must be accompanied by a check or money order (you may write one check for multiple applications). Checks and money orders can be made out to "Sault Tribe". Sault Tribe Elders (60 & older) and youth (10-16) are not required to pay application fees.

Please send all bear and elk applications to:

**Sault Tribe Law Enforcement
Bear & Elk Applications P.O. Box 925 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

For any questions, please contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement at (906) 635-6065.

STLE Office Use ONLY

- Elder
- Youth

Pymt Method: _____

Date: _____

Successful dental health for our ASD children

By Jessica A. Rickert DDS,
Anishinaabe Dental Outreach

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that affects communication and behavior, often with heightened sensory sensitivities. One in 36 children is diagnosed with ASD. Fortunately, this diagnosis can be made very young, so parents can access help early in the baby's life.

ASD patients can and do achieve excellent dental health. These efforts should begin at birth. With ASD children, prevention is key, because treating dental disease can be difficult for ASD patients.

When a baby finishes feeding, a warm, wet cloth can gently wipe the inside of the mouth. Brushing the teeth should start when the first tooth appears; toothpaste is not necessary. Use a soft, infant brush with warm water.

Tapping the lower lip softly with a silicone baby spoon or your finger can often get the baby to open, along with verbal cues.

Massage is another option. Move your fingers in a circular motion beginning at the temple and work down to the jaw angle, then onto the cheek, to where the lower jaw angles forward. Little circles with a downward nudge usually work well.

Softly singing during oral care, the same song each time, will help. Although the ASD baby may not respond, it is still especially important for caregivers to repeatedly speak and sing in a gentle voice, letting the baby know what is about to happen.

The best positive reinforcement is repetition, enthusiasm, and praise. Let the child model your own good behavior, saying, "I am so happy it is my turn to brush my teeth!"

The Autism Alliance of

Michigan offers more advice: <https://autismallianceofmichigan.org/>

Never put milk or juice in a bottle in the bed with baby.

For toddler's brushing routine, let them hold a favorite toy while sitting in a caregiver's lap, perhaps with a weighted blanket or a pressure vest. Use singing, music, or a video. When older, let the child brush first, with the caregiver brushing after. Sometimes, breathing patterns through the nose can help.

For optimal nutrition, it's best to minimize how much sugar a child has. Sweets offered at meals are less harmful. Milk and water are the recommended drinks for all children.

All babies should first see a dentist when they have their first tooth or before their first birthday. If the ASD child has not been to a dentist, be sure to prepare for the first dental visit. There are amus-

ing books that explain the dental office, so read these to the child many times. Talk about your own "wonderful and fun" visits to the dentists. Repeatedly explain what will happen at the office.

Let the dentist know the special needs of the ASD patient; a sensory preference list can be shared with the dental staff. Ask for staged exposure to the office. Sit in the reception area for 10 minutes for acclimation well before the appointed day. Perhaps a tour of the office is in order when other patients are not there, when it is quiet. Introduce the staff by name without masks or glasses or gloves. If lights bother the patient, bring sunglasses. Bring a favorite "comfy." This might be a toy, a blanket, clothing, a hat, or a music recording.

Is there a time of day when the child is more cooperative? Make the dental visits for that time. Possibly make shorter

appointments, such as for a short exam and oral hygiene instruction with fluoride varnish on the front teeth. Another appointment can include a professional exam and cleaning with fluoride varnish on all the teeth. Ask if the hygienist has a mild polishing paste, or suggest the hygienist please use the paste the child uses at home.

Excellent dental health is of paramount importance to ASD individuals, from birth to adulthood. Any speech development depends on natural, strong teeth. Digestion starts in the mouth, ensuring optimal nutrition for growth. Facial expression and recognition depend on natural, strong teeth.

The Delta Dental Foundation has excellent resources for families which can make caring for folks with ASD easier. Also, the Autism Alliance of Michigan offers free support with finding a dentist for ASD patients as well as other beneficial services.

Walking on, continued...

From "Walking on," page 19 sisters.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Melanie and Robin Chaffin of Naubinway; her grandson, Dolan, and granddaughter, Shauna; and three sisters, Linda Shearer of McMillan, Mich., Nanette Biang of Lake Odessa, and Caroline Salazar of St. Ignace, Mich.

Honoring her wishes, cremation has taken place, and no public services will be held.

Condolences may be shared at <https://www.beaulieufuneral-home.com/obituary/rene-kerns>.

Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry assisted the family.

SHARON LYNN (CORP) TOTH

Sharon Lynn (Corp) Toth, 70, of St. Ignace, Mich., died on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at Mackinac Straits Hospital in St. Ignace. She was born on Feb. 13, 1956, in Ypsilanti, Mich., to James W. and Roseline A.

(Elsner) Corp.

Sharon was a loving, caring, and kind person who found joy in life's simple pleasures, reading, cooking, and watching her favorite television shows. She deeply cherished time spent with her daughters and niece and had a special place in



her heart for animals. In her later years, she enjoyed the peace and beauty of the Upper Peninsula while living with her sister.

Sharon is survived by her daughters, Melanie Toth of Commerce, Mich., and Emily Toth of Westland, Mich.; granddaughter, Valentina Kaaufman; sisters, Terry Corp of St. Ignace and Joan (Frank) Kaiser of Centereach, N.Y.; brother, Daniel (Mary) Corp of Livonia, Mich.; as well as several nieces and

nephews who will all miss her dearly.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, James and Roseline; and brothers, Jed Corp, Michael Corp, and Patrick Corp.

Per Sharon's wishes, no services will be held at this time. Family Life Funeral Homes – St. Ignace assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

The Great **GREEN GRAB** All Sites - Excludes St. Ignace May 23

Saturdays in May

Win Your Share of Over **\$100,000 CASH & Credits**

Hot Seat Draws start at 3 p.m.
Win up to \$200 Kewadin Credits

Putting Promotion starts at 8 p.m.
Win up to \$500 CASH

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

MANISTIQUE • ST. IGNACE • HESSEL • SAULT ^{DE} MARIE • CHRISTMAS

APRIL SHOWERS BRING CASH FLOWERS
All Sites | Saturdays in April

LUCKY LOOT FRIDAYS
Christmas | Fridays in April

PIRATES GOLD
All Sites | Thursdays in April

IN IT TO WIN IT
Sault Ste. Marie | Fridays in May
Win Your Share of \$24,500 CASH & Credits

PAR-TEE TIME
Christmas | Fridays in May
Win a Golf Cart & Golf Accessories

TOURNAMENTS
Check out our Full Schedule of Exciting Tournaments | Visit kewadin.com/gaming/tournaments

ULTIMATE BATTLE TOURNAMENTS
All Sites | Wednesdays

SPRING FEVER TOURNAMENT
Sault Ste. Marie | April 20 - May 19
Mondays & Tuesdays

FOOD & DRINKS

MOTHER'S DAY DINING
Celebrate the wonderful women in your life with a special meal. Go to kewadin.com for hours and more details.

SAULT STE. MARIE
The Eatery
Fresh Start Breakfast Club | Fahrenheit 906 – Now Open
Northern Wok – Coming Soon
First Light Café – Now Open

THURSDAY TRIVIA
Sault Ste. Marie | Rapids Lounge | April 9, 16, 23, 30
Come for Prizes, Fun and Bragging Rights

HAPPY HOUR & DRINK SPECIALS
Come in for Watch Parties, Live Entertainment, Drink Features, and More.
Visit our Facebook Page for More Information

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



KEWADIN
EVENTS



KEWADIN
DINING

1-800-KEWADIN | KEWADIN.COM



MOTHER'S DAY
All Sites | May 10
All Women Earn 2x Points

MEMORIAL DAY
All Sites | May 25
Valor Card Holders Receive \$10 in Kewadin Credits

SPIN TO WIN
St. Ignace | April 10-12

YOOPER TOURNAMENTS
Christmas & Hessel | Mondays
Manistique | Thursdays

TASTY TUESDAY DEAL!
One Pound of Ribs,
Three Coconut Shrimp
and French Fries \$13.99

\$19.99

SIZZLIN' STEAK AND SCAMPI THURSDAYS
6 oz Sirloin Paired with Shrimp Scampi
and Choice of Soup or Salad and One Side

Black Rock
BAR & GRILL

MANISTIQUE - ST. IGNACE - SAULT ^{DE} MARIE - HESSEL - CHRISTMAS

Chairman Lowes monthly update

ADVOCACY, UPDATES, ELECTION REMINDER



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.
ADVOCACY

As noted in last month's report, I traveled to Washington, D.C. in March to participate in several important activities. This included attending the quarterly meeting of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST), testifying before the House Appropriations Committee to advocate for increased funding for the Sault Tribe and Indian Country, and visiting the National Archives to view treaties impacting our tribe.

Last year, I viewed the 1836 Treaty of Washington alongside Director McRorie, Director LaPlaunt, and Legislative Director Mike McCoy. This year, our delegation viewed the 1794 Jay Treaty, the 1820 Treaty of Sault Ste. Marie, and the 1855 Treaty of Detroit.

Seeing these treaties firsthand is a powerful reminder of the

sacrifices made by our ancestors and reinforces our responsibility as leaders to honor those commitments for the next seven generations.

CASINO CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO)

The Sault Tribe is currently conducting interviews for the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) position for our casino operations. This is a key leadership role responsible for overseeing the casino's financial team and operations. The position reports directly to the Board of Directors, which is leading the interview process. Once a candidate has been selected, I will provide an update in a future unit report.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

On April 10, the Sault Tribe

hosted its annual Family Fun Night at Big Bear Arena. This event is a collaboration across multiple tribal departments and continues to be a well-attended community event.

Family Fun Night offers a variety of activities and games for all ages and is attended by hundreds of families each year. Chi miigwech to everyone who helped plan, organize, and support this important event.

GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE INAUGURATION

A new international bridge connecting Detroit, Mich., and Windsor, Ont., will be opening this spring with an inaugural ceremony. Leaders from both the United States and Canada, along

with First Nations leadership, will be in attendance. I was honored to be invited by the Governor's Office to represent the Michigan tribes on the United States side of the bridge. I will proudly participate in a cultural gift exchange with First Nations chiefs as part of this historic event.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Several concerts are scheduled at our gaming properties. Bush and Candlebox will perform on July 18 at Kewadin Shores Casino. Jake Owen will perform on Sept. 3 at Kewadin Casino. We look forward to welcoming guests and community members to these events.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Over the past year, the Board of Directors has conducted a

series of workshops to develop a proposed constitutional amendment for tribal citizens to consider through a secretarial election conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

This process involves multiple stages of review. The tribe has recently received its first round of feedback from the BIA. The next step is for the board to review this feedback and determine whether revisions to the proposed amendment are necessary.

Following this, the BIA's regional office in Bemidji will conduct an additional review. Once that process is complete, the amendment will be finalized and submitted for a secretarial election. Because the election is administered by the BIA and not the tribe, the exact timeline remains uncertain. I will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

ELECTION REMINDER

We are currently in the middle of our tribal election cycle. Regardless of who you support, I strongly encourage all eligible voters to participate. Primary ballots will be counted on April 30. General election ballots will be counted on June 25.

If you have not received your ballot, please contact elections@saulttribe.net.

Our ancestors worked tirelessly to protect our way of life and establish the government we have today. One of the best ways we can honor their sacrifice is by participating in the democratic process.



Tribal advocacy ensures needs and priorities are heard



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,

As we move into April, the land is alive with change, reminding us that renewal comes through patience and care. Longer days and warmer air encourage us to stay grounded, tend to our relationships, and move forward in a good way. With the quick melt and rising waters, it is important to stay aware and look out for one another's safety as conditions shift. Remember that nature brings constant balance, and while the flooding is frightful, our streams, rivers, and lakes will be full of life come the summer.

Update on Wetmore Reservation

Our Wetmore reservation will soon be growing again. That's right! The Pilot Tiny Home project was just the beginning to meet dire housing needs with a new outlook. The engineering designs for the remaining 15 acres are now complete and will have a variety

of housing options for our citizens once complete.

The new addition will take many years to complete, but since the plans are now in the annual Indian housing plan, we will see movement as funds come down and grants are received. This year, Housing has informed me that they should be able to get all of the roadways up to gravel, for infrastructure development next year and eventually a full-blown housing project.

In the plan are single studios, 2-bedroom homes, 3-bedroom homes, 2-bedroom duplexes, 3-bedroom duplexes, quadraplex-

es, and a NEW COMMUNITY CENTER! I cannot wait to see this project come to life, strengthen an already strong community, and eventually, meet the housing needs of our Munising area relatives.

Cultural Activities

We are in full swing across both the Munising and Marquette areas, thanks to the help of Stacie Chambers and all of the amazing volunteers who have stepped up to provide teachings in each of our communities. We now have activities occurring every month in both locations, and more being planned by the day. If you are interested in

providing a teaching and just need support for coordination, please reach out to myself or Stacie at SChambers1@saulttribe.net.

Tribal License Plates and IDs

The Tribe is currently in the process of coming to an agreement with the State of MI and MIDOC to create a Tribal License Plate program. Our hope is that this will be offered to our entire seven county service area but would need an agreement from the Secretary of State.

Additionally, we are currently in discussions with a vendor to develop new Enhanced Tribal IDs. These will help add security,

as well as be more recognizable for travel with less restraints.

More to come on both of these amazing initiatives!

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

Chi Miigwech for all you do to strengthen our community.

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

CORRECTION TO FOURTH QUARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS TRAVEL REPORT

Board Member	Board of Directors Workshops / Meetings	Government-to-Government	Tribal Conferences	Lobbying Efforts	Miscellaneous (Elder meetings, ground breakings, office hours, meetings, etc.)	Total by Board Member
Austin Lowes, Chairman	\$0.00	\$765.76	\$0.00	\$575.22	\$506.80	\$1,847.78
Kimberle Gravelle, Unit 1	\$284.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$284.80
Isaac McKechnie, Unit 1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Michael McKerchie, Unit 1	\$144.20	\$339.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$483.81
Robert McRorie, Unit 1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Aaron Payment, Unit 1	\$0.00	\$1,357.49	\$5,399.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,757.06
Lana Causley-Smith, Unit 2	\$212.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$727.10	\$939.90
Kimberly Lee, Unit 2	\$425.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$196.00	\$621.60
Shawn Borowicz, Unit 3	\$68.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$68.60
Bridgett Sorenson, Unit 3	\$403.20	\$0.00	\$8,708.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,112.16
Larry Barbeau, Unit 4	\$1,610.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,610.00
Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4	\$660.80	\$0.00	\$4,759.42	\$0.00	\$154.00	\$5,574.22
Tyler LaPlaunt, Unit 5	\$705.60	\$0.00	\$4,353.39	\$0.00	\$261.80	\$5,320.79

The expenses above include Motorpool expenses, mileage expenses, hotel expenses, per diem, airfare, train fare, parking expenses and any other miscellaneous travel-related expenses.

Ziigwan “spring season” and happy Easter!



LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aaniin,
Spring is finally arriving across the UP and hopefully here to stay. My daughter and I enjoyed an amazing spring break together. Soon maple syrup season will be upon us and we will be out in our sugarbush boiling away. With that, fishing season will be here in no time, too. As we begin to get into the spring season, I want to share a short update on what's happening across our communities and with-

in the tribe.

Tribal Elections

This year is another important year for our tribe and is also an election year. The primary election will take place this month on April 30, 2026. The general election is scheduled for June 25, 2026. Ballots have been mailed to registered tribal members. Remember, it is important to ensure your mailing address is current with the Tribal Registrar's office (Enrollment Department). Every vote matters! Participation from our membership helps shape the future direction of our tribe.

Upcoming Meetings for the Month (Subject to Change)

We have a few scheduled meetings coming up for the month of April; including, board workshops/meetings (one in Manistique), JKLFC meetings, Kewadin Gaming Authority meetings, Enterprise Authority meetings, Conservation meetings, etc.

April 7 – Board workshop at 10 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

April 14 – Board workshop/ JKLFC meeting starting at 9 a.m.

in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

April 20 – Conservation Committee meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

April 21 – Board workshop/ Enterprise Authority meeting starting at 9 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. at the Manistique Health Center.

April 28 – Board workshop/ KGA meeting starting at 9 a.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

We encourage all tribal elders to attend the elder meetings. The next meeting in Manistique will be held April 8 at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. The next meeting in Escanaba will be held April 8 at 5 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center. The Elder Advisory Meetings started back up in March. Their April meeting is April 17 at 1 p.m. EST at the Newberry Tribal Center.

Important Dates to Remember

April 8 – Board member in person office hours in Manistique

9 - 11:30 a.m.

April 10 – Escanaba Coffee Clutch from 9 to 11 a.m. Manistique Town Hall-Indian Point Cemetery from 5 to 7 p.m.

April 11 – Escanaba Snow Snake Workshop for Youth at 11 a.m. Call (906) 203-5888 for further details.

April 12 – Escanaba Snow Snake Workshop for Youth at 9 a.m. Call (906) 203-5888 for further details.

April 13 – Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow meeting in Manistique at 5 p.m. (Zoom option available.) April 17 – Escanaba Coffee Clutch from 9 to 11 a.m. Board in person office hours in Escanaba 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Escanaba Town Hall-Indian Point Cemetery from 4 to 6 p.m.

April 18 – Honoring our Elders Pow Wow from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Escanaba High School. Doors open at 10 a.m., Grand Entries at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., Feast at 4:30 p.m. For vendor information contact: chuckjennifer09@gmail.com.

April 20 – Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Meeting in Manistique at 5 p.m. (Zoom option available.)

April 22 – Board in person

office hours in Manistique 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

April 24 – Escanaba Coffee Clutch from 9 to 11 a.m. Elder Functional Fitness Class in Escanaba from 12 to 2 p.m. Call (906) 632-5210 for further details.

April 25 – Black Ash Basket Workshop in Escanaba from 12 to 6 p.m. Call (906) 379-8486 for further details.

April 27 – Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Meeting in Manistique at 5 p.m. (Zoom option available.)

April 28 – Escanaba Community Craft Night from 3 to 7 p.m.

Contact information

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

As always, I encourage Unit 4 members to stay engaged with tribal government and attend meetings and tribal community events when possible. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas, please reach out. Hearing directly from our members helps guide the work we do on the Board. Miigwech to all of you, and I hope everyone has a safe and productive April.

Discussing chief judge and data center issues



KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii, I believe it is safe to say spring has begun. The time when Mother Earth awakens, and

life begins again after a long winter's rest. Springtime brings balance, growth, and reconnection both to the land and our spirit. As new life begins, animals return, and the days grow longer, we want to honor this change through ceremony. Please consider attending the spring feast on Saturday, May 30, at the Hessel Tribal Center. Spring carries the teaching that just as the earth renews itself, so can we. Letting go of what doesn't serve us and moving forward in a good way, with respect for all living things.

I want to take a moment to address two issues that have recently been in the spotlight and need clarification. First, regarding the removal of our chief judge: this decision was not based on a FOIA request.

It directly relates to protecting our sovereignty. Our judicial system is a crucial part of how we govern ourselves, uphold our laws, and ensure decisions affecting our people remain within our nation. The independence and integrity of our courts must always be protected. Any action of this magnitude must be approached carefully. The vote was 10-1, with 10 board members deciding that this was in the best interest of protecting our nation. I hope this offers reassurance that we had no other option.

Separately, there has been ongoing discussion about data centers, and I want to acknowledge the information circulating. When information is incomplete, it can lead to confusion and division within our community.

Our members deserve accurate information so that decisions are based on facts, not assumptions or uncertainty. While it is heartwarming to see members coming together to defend Mother Earth, rest assured that a resolution was passed to establish a moratorium to reassure tribal members that this is not going anywhere at this time, given the harm it would cause.

I'm happy to share that the Newberry powwow will take place on June 13. This is always a special time for our community to gather in a good way. Celebrating our traditions, enjoying our culture, and sharing time. With our elders and youth together, we pass down the teachings of our ancestors and strengthen the bonds that connect us. More details will be shared as they become available.

Please mark your calendars for June 13. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

As promised, a Cultural Enhancement funds update. Over the past month, Unit 2 spent \$450 on snow removal from the Hessel Fire Lodge roof and entry points. Maintaining access to and care of this space is important, as it allows continued use for ceremony and gathering, ensuring it remains a safe and respected place for our community.

As always, my focus remains on protecting our membership, and ensuring that decisions are made with the long term strength of our Nation in mind. Miigwech for your time and trust.

Kimberly Lee
Unit 2 Director
Klee@saulttribe.net
(906) 379-8965

Clear summary of board actions and decisions



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Dear Citizens,
I'm changing up how I communicate what's going on in our tribe, so my goal is to provide a clear summary of board actions and keep members informed on the decisions being made.

At the March 24, 2026, regular meeting, the board considered a wide range of issues

involving budgets, education, cultural policy, natural resources, transportation, and community services. Based on the posted meeting packet and roll-call sheet, resolutions 79 through 91 were approved.

A significant portion of the meeting focused on FY 2026 budget actions. The board approved the Hessel Community Center Building budget, funded with \$162,153.06 in other revenue and \$105,000.03 from fund balance. It also approved the Utility Authority Contract budget in Natural Resources with \$56,418.72 in other revenue and no effect on Tribal Support. The board approved nine MiLEAP education budgets totaling \$705,355 to support educational programming in Sault Ste. Marie, Rudyard, Hessel, St. Ignace, Manistique, Escanaba, Munising, Marquette, and Lake Superior Academy.

The board adopted bud-

get modifications affecting Human Resources, Cultural Administration, Wellness, and Third-Party Revenue. These actions included a decrease in Governmental Human Resources support, an \$81,392.63 transfer to Cultural Administration, and an \$8,235.36 transfer to the Wellness Program. These changes reflect the board's ongoing work to adjust and realign resources within tribal government operations.

On the policy and education side, the board approved amendments to the Cultural Committee bylaws and renamed the Higher Education Committee as the Education Committee, effective immediately. The board also approved an agreement with Sault Area Public Schools for a 2026 summer program, continuing support for educational opportunities for tribal youth and families.

In Natural Resources and

infrastructure, the board authorized the Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$360,000 in EPA Wetland Program Development grant funding. If awarded, the funding would support continued development of a formal tribal wetlands program. The board adopted the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan, an important step in maintaining eligibility for BIA Tribal Shares transportation funding.

The board further approved a \$25,000 donation to Native American Honor Flight, with the donation split evenly among the five units using Cultural Enhancement dollars. The resolution states that at least two members from each unit will be selected to participate, with the selection process to be determined later.

One of the more notable items involved a proposed change to the use of hotel tax

revenue. The resolution directs 3% of hotel tax revenue to the Tribal Lands Claim Fund and 2% to the Culture Department for educational and cultural purposes. The proposal calls for separate accounting, reporting, and a formal implementation plan. According to the packet, those changes do not take effect until the board separately approves that implementation plan.

The board approved a policy limiting community center reservations to tribal members only, with an exception for Big Bear and for events already booked. Another approved item authorized participation in the Survey of Native Nations, which is intended to support stronger data collection and long-term tribal planning.

Sincerely,
Isaac Mckechnie
imckechnie@saulttribe.com
(906) 440-6661

Sorenson reviews board meetings and actions



BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

On March 23, the Housing Commission held its monthly meeting in the Soo in the morning and then met with the Board of Directors in the afternoon. We discussed some of the ARPA projects such as the Hessel (elder duplex) and Newberry (elder quadplex) being ready to go soon as well as the Hessel Community Center sometime in June. St. Ignace is stilling waiting on BIA approval for the infrastructure project to continue. Odenaang in the Soo will be getting an elder quadplex and a 20-unit apartment building.

Land development is being looked into in Manistique, Escanaba and Wetmore. Many of our areas could use more housing but we have limited land in many areas so the quickest way to build or place homes is in the areas we already have land in trust.

We discussed the point system housing uses for the application process. Anyone applying needs to

also update their application every 90 days. The process is fluid, meaning the day a unit is ready for occupancy whoever is at the top of lists (most points) will get the unit. So, if a person suddenly became homeless or another major change, their points can put them at the top of the list, serving the neediest.

I have many members reach out to me for housing and they don't always realize that its hard to get a unit in a quick manner. We do have waiting lists, we are not placing single people in 3-to-4-bedroom units; we are trying to right size our members with the right size units. Some areas we don't have smaller units to move people to. This is how the St. Ignace Elder Complex filled their units by having elders move from a 3-bedroom home to a 2-bedroom apartment. This process will also be how members are placed in the new elder units if there are elders living in bigger units.

Housing is also working on transitioning units quicker when people move out. It really depends on how much damage a unit has had or if hasn't been vacant in many years, then they may need to do many updates prior to the next tenant taking over.

At the March 24 board meeting, the board voted on many budgets and budget modifications, and the bylaws for the education and cultural committees were updated. The Higher Education Committee will now be called, "Education Committee." There was an MOU between Sault Schools and the tribe for a summer program. We

approved the TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan), which is updated every year for 5 years with fixing roads, sidewalks, etc. in our areas. We approved a donation to the Native American Honor Flight, which will be for 2027 for, I believe, 12 veterans with two per unit and two at large.

The resolution for Hotel Tax, the Land Claims Fund and Cultural Enhancement Funds was again on the agenda. There should be a workshop scheduled to discuss with all pertinent divisions at the table. During election season, some board like to throw things at the wall to see what sticks to make them look good not necessarily the impact or plan. There was also a resolution to request Indian Health Services to add Emmet and Cheboygan Counties to PRC (Purchased and Referred Care). Currently these members are seen in our clinic but we do not get money for them and if they need to be referred out, PRC cannot cover it.

John Perault was appointed to the Unit 3 Elders Subcommittee.

On April 7, the Board of Directors voted to approve a 2025-year end reconciliation, ARPA budgets for 2025 and 2026, establishing budgets for some natural resource grants, a Legal budget modification to hire a Public Relations Manager (instead of paying an outside agency), Health was reallocating traditional medicine (\$1 million) and recovery campus (\$4.76 million) and lost third party reimbursement funding (\$8.7 million) to be used to build/

expand the Sault Health Center across the street. The board passed the governmental compensation grid for Housing (theirs was less than governmental), and we passed a moratorium on AI data centers on tribal lands.

I did vote to reallocate funds to the Sault Health Center expansion but I do have concerns with the money we earmarked for a recovery campus. The board prior to 2022 set aside \$25 million to focus on recovery, then the new board cut it to \$5 million and now there isn't money set aside. Comments were made that the church was converted on Shunk Rd. to Shedawin Haven for meetings and support and then the MAT (Medical Assisted Treatment) was established. I agree with both resources but would still like to see outreach in the other areas. I had advocated back then for each unit to get \$5 million so they could have a smaller scale recovery space instead of a big hospital in the Sault. We all know our members suffer from addictions and having a place in our communities is vital. St. Ignace is fortunate enough to have Wellbriety meetings with local elders facilitating on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. at the McCann School or longhouse at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture.

The data center issue has been a hot topic since the bitcoin mining began in Dafter, affecting the Lake Superior Academy and many residents in the area. I personally went to my local township meeting after that ask-

ing them not to allow them in our area, too. Many members have reached out to the board and came to meetings to let us know that they do not support them on tribal lands. It became very political, with many women being accused of stirring the pot and lying. Some of the biggest complainers are the same people rallying people to contact your board members and show up at a meeting. I guess it is ok if they are on your side of an issue?

On Wednesday, April 9, we hosted Dean Sayers of Batchewana for a potluck and storytelling at the McCann School. We had about 40 attendees and Dean was also able to bring his three grandsons as his helpers. We had a great time learning about historical events. We are planning on having him be our guest again in the future.

I am in the beginning stages of planning an MMIP event in St. Ignace on Sunday, May 3, since the 5th is on a board meeting day and maybe we will have more people able to attend. Please stay tuned for posters and more information.

I would like to wish Sue Caldwell, St. Ignace cook at the elder meal program, well on her next endeavor. Sue has been very helpful and caring for the elders the last few years with home health and as a cook.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, Bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.

Separation of powers tribe's most important issue



ROBERT MCRORIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

To all of my fellow members, I hope you are well. I pray for you all daily that Creator keeps you and your families in good health and spirits. In this report I will give a quick health update and speak on the separation of powers as I believe this is the single most important issue within our tribe to uphold the rights of our members.

One month after my kidney transplant, I am thankful to report that I feel much better, with increased strength, more energy, and labs within a normal healthy range. In two weeks, I expect to return to full public engagement and full-time in-person work. I am deeply grateful for the prayers, love, and support I have received throughout this journey.

On July 15, 2025, during the board of directors meeting in Lansing, I made a motion to conduct a membership survey so the

members themselves could decide whether they wanted a one-, two-, or three-branch separation of powers structure for our government.

I believe this decision should come directly from the members, not the board.

On Oct. 17, 2025, the tribe mailed a survey to the membership to determine how members wanted to separate the powers of government.

After the votes were counted, it became clear that the members support a three-branch government. Under that structure, the members retain the power to elect an executive, a legislative body, judges and judicial staff.

The membership has made clear that it no longer wants a one-branch system where the board keeps all authority and limits the rights of the people. Members also do not want a two-branch structure where the board controls the chair, even though the chair is elected by the members. The chair should be accountable to the staff and members of the tribe, not controlled by the board.

For more than 20 years, members have demanded a true separation of powers. In 2005, a Constitutional Committee made up of members from all units, with legal guidance, drafted a new constitution that established a three-branch government.

Over three years, that draft was carefully developed, shared with all five units for input and approval, and ultimately passed unanimously by the committee.

This reflects what the people

have wanted for years.

The proposed two-branch system came directly from the board table as a way to preserve authority that the membership and Constitutional Committee never intended the board to keep.

Members should not fall for that approach, because it only continues to restrict the rights and

powers of staff and Sault Tribe members.

To help move this process forward, I brought forward a resolution to submit a Separation of Powers Amendment to the BIA for review and approval, allowing a secretarial election so the Sault Tribe membership can vote to amend the Constitution.

Together, we will establish a government that is accountable to you, the members, and return the powers of government to the members of our tribe, where it belongs.

Miigwech,
Director McRorie
rmcorrie@saulttribe.net
(906) 630-0017

Behavioral Health Programs



KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin,

Finally warmer weather is here — the water is and open and the migratory birds are returning. I think spring is fooling with me when I look out my backdoor and still have 5- to 6-foot snowbanks.

The budgeting process continues to be the major focus of the board and keeping it balanced. Our goal is to increase revenue and seek additional funding for

services. Our staff does a great job of writing grants for the different departments to help with our membership programs.

A couple of programs our Behavioral Health Department offers is Enhanced Outpatient for Substance Use Abuse Disorders, Alcohol/Drug Education and Awareness and Continuing Care Counseling. We also have a Road to Wellness Program (RTWP), which will provide rides to Sault Tribe members who are patients in the Behavioral Health program.

The Road to Wellness Program will enroll clients with SMI/COD (serious mental illness/co-occurring disorders) into the program and set up coordination to transport them to and from appointments.

The objective is to reduce the no call/no show rates in the 7-county service area within the Sault Tribe Health System, ensuring clients receive the services they need. This will help the untreated health conditions of patients who participate in the RTWP.

This service serves all of the 7-county service area for those enrolled in the MAT program, Behavioral Health, Recovery Homes, and the Homeless Shelter over the age of 18. When a driver is not available, gas vouchers and bus passes will be given to the patient. Other additional services are provided along with assistance with insurance enrollment for uninsured tribal members. For more information about other programs available you can contact Sault Tribe Behavioral Health at (906) 635-6075 or toll free at (800) 726-9105.

As always, keep the men and women in the armed forces in your prayers for a safe return to their families. I would also like to thank our team members for their hard work and continued dedication.

Please feel free to call me at (906) 259-3742 or email at kkgavelle@saulttribe.net. Please leave a message and I will return your call.

Miigwech,
Kim Gravelle

30th anniversary of first being elected 24TH YEAR OF TRIBAL SERVICE



AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

A CALL TO SERVICE

I first ran for the tribal board in 1996 out of sheer need. Despite all of our casino success, I saw disturbing signs of government corruption. Recall the \$2 Million barge purchase without board approval; the race car; \$30 million in wasted investments over a 2-year period with no ROI; and unemployment costs at over \$3 million a year as a result of the casino executive's retribution firings.

It became evident that the power and greed that came with the rapid success of our casino monopoly was too much for some to manage. I first ran for the board in 1996 to reform our tribal government. I was surprised when I won 85% of the vote on my first try. In 2000, I increased my vote by 122% and was close to of the winning chair candidate with votes from just one unit.

POLITICAL RETRIBUTION

In 2002, Michael Lumsden was just re-elected with the highest vote during that election but was fired for not voting for the chair's \$856,275 salary! His fiancé was also fired. The Chairman at the time unilaterally agreed to pay out over \$700,000 in contract severances for these terminations. In 2004, I had no plans to run for chair but the voters pushed me into running and I beat the 17-year incumbent to win the primary.

NEED FOR CHECKS & BALANCES!

Recall the 7+1 lawsuit for the terminations on election night [2004] of top executives to pay-out their severances to the tune

of over \$3 million! Never forget, the conspiracy of how they orchestrated this under the cloak of darkness. Sadly, those who would otherwise serve as a check and balance to stop the payout of nearly \$3 million on election night 2004 were cut in on the deal. Unfortunately, without a three-branch separation of powers, these corrupt past acts are just as likely today as they were in the past.

2008 BALLOT STUFFING?

Some speculate I lost in 2008 due to what they perceived as personal retribution over the 7+1 case. I have a different theory. I supposedly lost in 2008 by 800 votes but won again in 2012 by nearly 1,000 votes! This suggests ballot stuffing in 2008 which now deceased tribal elder Wayne Goetz (a retired postal worker) detected and reported at the time that a large quantity of ballots voting for my opponent that were not postmarked, which meant they were dropped off the day of the election and not run through the postage meter. Recall when a Moore innocently asked an election volunteers asked at a board meeting why we printed extra ballots but NEVER issued replacement ballots. I won in 2012 by nearly 1,000 votes. I then won in 2016, and again in 2020 with a record number of votes, which stands to this day. Chairman Lowes, however, has the percentage record with 60% of the votes against Hoffman (a 20% margin)!

TRIBAL GRM

I first ran 30 years ago to reform our tribal government. In 2004, Todd Gravelle was elected to the tribal board, he became the legal mind and architect of the government reform movement (GRM) which included enacting a three-branch separation of powers. In 2005, we sponsored a resolution to establish a Constitutional Convention Committee (CCC), which in turn recommended a three-branch separation of powers. It has been nearly 20 years and still we wait.

THREE-BRANCH GOVERNMENT!

Secretly cutting checks over \$3 million; stuffing ballots to change election outcomes; paying

a chairperson's personal bankruptcy attorney over \$300,000; and giving away a \$76,000 trailer to a non-Sault tribe person in violation of federal funding is exactly the reason why we need a separation of powers. The tribal corruption will continue until we have a three-branch separation of powers.

Recently, with my cancer diagnosis, I have been assessing my life's contribution. The so-called censure investigation did not find any criminal or civil offenses but nonetheless cost the tribe over \$100,000. The kind of corruption and collusion that would allow for a coordinated censure and removal process would be discoverable and actionable if we had Tribal Court standing. I say why wait? When I brought a resolution to immediately grant you standing in Tribal Court, several board members claimed that I had a conflict. Consider for a moment, however, those who oppose offering you Tribal Court standing to be able to bring a cause of action against them if they violate your rights. Might it be them who have a conflict to not be held legally accountable?

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS MORE!

I'm proud of my contributions over the last 30 years to the tribe's financial stability. Even before the pandemic, I was successful in increasing our federal annual appropriations and third party funding by at least \$50 million. Then came the pandemic; the first success was to secure \$3 million for broadband access to Indian country in the Jobs and Infrastructure Act. I worked directly with Vice President Harris to write the formula which she publicly acknowledged. This resulted in easily over \$35 million for our Sault Tribe broadband access.

As the first vice president for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), I sat at the table and negotiated the Indian Country funding formulas for both the Cares Act and the Rescue Act that ushered in well over \$43.6 billion to tribes for pandemic relief. Our tribe got over \$500,000,000! All of the deliverables across the service

area with new health center in Marquette, fitness centers, tiny homes, golf courses, impending apartment complexes, homeless shelters, casino renovations, and all capital expansions and improvements since 2022 were funded by the funds I secured before leaving office. This \$500 million is more than 30 years of casino net revenues budgeted for tribal support. When we closed our health centers during the pandemic and could not collect third-party revenue, I advocated directly to Senators Schumer and McConnell and Speaker Pelosi for what I called, "unrealized third-party" and we got \$8 million!

I share all of this because during campaign cycles (I'm not up for another two years) you hear a bunch of promises including from tribal board members who have NEVER and will NEVER achieve this level of success. Of course, I did not do this alone and credit our legislative team, the chair's team, and our federal policy team for their assistance.

MEANWHILE SERIOUS BUDGET THREATS LOOM

While the politics of destruction loom and select board members look to find new ways to exercise their retribution, I am focusing like a laser on the existential threats the Trump administration represents to Indian Country budgets. Always remember, we prepaid for every penny with our land. At this time, we need unity and each board member to support our chairman and work as a team. No one should get a free pass.

The president proposes a 12.5% overall decrease to US Health and Human Services budget including: a 3.4% decrease to the Centers for Disease Control; no increase for Head Start (no increase for inflation or COLA); and eliminating LIHEAP, which helps with heating during our severe cost winters for Sault Tribe tribal families. While the President's budget includes a 13% increase in Department of Justice funding overall, it includes a massive 24% decrease in the Office on Violence Against

Women.

The U.S. Department of Energy includes a 9.8% increase but targets tribes with a 68% decrease in the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program and a 33% decrease in the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. Housing and Urban Development, which includes NAHSDA (Indian Housing), includes a 12.7% decrease and 22% decrease in the Indian Housing Block Grant Program and to eliminate the IHBG competitive grants and a 95% decrease in Indian Community Development Block grants. The U.S. Department Education is slated to be eliminated entirely but the president's budget proposal includes a 4.1% decrease and to level fund (no increase) Indian Education Programs.

Food assistance will see drastic cuts with a proposed 19% decrease in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Budget, including reducing Food and Nutrition Services overall by 3.8%, which includes cuts to Commods (-13.3%), SNAP (Bridge Cards by -5%), WIC (-2%). Fighting for appropriations is one of my greatest skills. This should be supported by the board rather than retribution.

As I look back at the 30 years for which I invested 24 years of my life to tribal service, I'm humbled by the hundreds of millions that I brought to the tribe and our people. I'm grateful to have been able to make financial contributions out of my own pocket to help our people as I try to live a traditional way of life and a Christian Good Samaritan way of life to serve others.

I've got two years left in my current board term at which time I will be close to retirement age. Whether I continue or not, there's lots of things we can do as citizens to contribute to our tribe. Who knows what's next? Tribal members, please take care and love yourself, your family and your tribe!

Chi Miigwech

Aaron

Phone: (906) 440-8946

aapayment@saulttribe.net

Hampton reports on Unit IV meetings, events



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aniin gakina waya. We are now moving through April and into May, a season when the signs of spring are all around us and the land is fully awakening after the long winter months. The days are brighter, the air carries more

warmth, and the trees, flowers, and waters remind us that renewal is here. Our communities begin gathering more often, spending time outdoors, and preparing for the busy and beautiful months ahead. This is a season of growth, energy, and new possibilities.

This time of year reminds us of the strength and resilience of our people. Just as the earth comes alive once again, our communities continue to thrive through unity, shared values, and our commitment to one another. I encourage everyone to take time to enjoy the beauty of this season, reconnect with family and neighbors, and embrace the opportunities that come with longer days and new beginnings. Together, we continue building a strong future for the generations yet to come. Miigwech.

Reminders:

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

I encourage everyone to "like" the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page. Meetings are scheduled for May 4, 11, 18, 27, June 1 all at 5 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. Zoom option is available with Group ID: 906 440 8138, Password: KimHampton.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

The next meetings in Manistique will be held **May 20 and June 10 at 11:30 a.m. EST.**

The next meetings in Escanaba will be held **May 20 and June 10 at 4 p.m. EST.** If you plan to attend please RSVP the week before by calling (906) 635-4971.

The next meetings in Marquette, for Units 4 and 5, are scheduled for May 7 and June 4

at 5 p.m. EST at the Community Center located at 204 Cherry Creek Rd, Harvey, Mich.

Board Member In-Person Office Hours

Manistique Office Hours held at the Manistique Tribal Center:
May 6 and 27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
June 10, 9-11:30 a.m.
June 24, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Escanaba Office Hours held at the Escanaba Community Center:

May 15, 29, June 19, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Town Hall Meetings
Manistique Community Town Hall Meetings located at the Manistique Tribal Center are scheduled as follows:

May 8 and June 12, 5-7 p.m. EST.

Escanaba Community Town Hall Meetings located at the Escanaba Community Center

are scheduled as follows:

May 5 and June 19, 4-6 p.m. EST.

Escanaba Elders Coffee Clutch

Every Friday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. is a Coffee Clutch at the Escanaba Community Center. I want to give my sincerest thanks for trusting me to represent Unit 4 members and Sault Tribe. I am always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. I 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.

My contact information is below:

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

The right way and wrong way to explore options



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

First and foremost, I want to thank all the members that reached out and voiced your concerns regarding Data Centers on our lands. There are many opinions out there on both the pros and cons on this emerging opportunity. I fundamentally oppose it but don't blame any leaders for exploring if it could benefit our members. But there is a right way to explore options and a wrong way. Standing Rock Tribe recently held public hearings to discuss and explore options with input from their membership. That is how our tribe should have proceeded but did not.

"No comment" and "I'm not allowed to discuss, due to a Non-Disclosure Agreement" are legally the best answers to give on the subject matter. Which makes it difficult to communicate with

the membership when the board enters into such agreements. Only a few members voted against the resolution, which may surprise members that a vote even took place. The board voted to create an Enterprise Authority last year, this step was much needed to allow our enterprise branch of the tribe to streamline policies and procedures, benefit packages, etc., more in line with business models rather than a government model approach, which our tribe has been doing for decades. This is a good move and something I fully support. Now many of the tribe's business decisions are made by the authority and not the board. Currently the Enterprise Authority is composed of all the board members, which may change in the future but that is the current set-up.

The Enterprise Authority meetings are still open to membership and are still broadcast on our social media pages. I say this because many members showed up at our last meeting expecting to see a vote on data centers only to find out we held the meeting early that day as the "Enterprise Authority." This illustrates the need to do better at communicating how our tribe functions. But make no mistake, a few members advocating and getting the membership to contact the board helped shape our tribe. Chi Miigwech, I applaud their efforts and am glad the board and

Enterprise Authority respected your voices.

Several on the board will be upset at "leaks" on the board and may introduce legislation and witch-hunts to find the source. I prefer to take this opportunity to state that each authority, whether it's the Gaming Authority, the Enterprise Authority, committee and/or the board takes this

opportunity to be more transparent with the membership. I don't believe we were very transparent; I believe non-disclosure agreements are needed in some instances and provide legal protections where necessary but not in this instance and not with something as important as data centers. Again, I will state there is a right way to explore options

and a wrong way. Hopefully some lessons were learned, and we move forward in a positive way. As always, I urge members to check upcoming events and make time to join committees, be involved, and attend events when you can. Please reach out to me to discuss any issue, I can be reached at (906) 440-7768.

Chi Miigwech.

Unit III's projects, upgrades



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Boozhoo,

Well it has been one heck of a winter all over our state and I hope the snow is over. Now comes spring and the flooding begins. The Cheboygan Dam issue is in full swing as I write this report and hopefully will be resolved by the time you read this. I met with several tribal cit-

izens in Cheboygan the weekend of April 11 and 12 and offered any assistance if it was needed. Will continue to monitor this situation and continue to get updates from the officials dealing with this issue.

Our housing project is still moving forward as soon as the snow melts and the weight limits are lifted on the roads. Housing has applied for more grants to continue to see this needed project continue. Relating to upgrades, the Shores casino is slated to get more renovated campsites and possibly an entirely new campground. We have several good concerts coming to St. Ignace Shores casino this summer. If you're an elder remember you get two free tickets to any event at your casinos.

Our tribal elder van has been a great addition and it's hard to believe we never had one before. I drive elders and handicap citizens to appointments or last-minute unscheduled events when

elder services are already scheduled elsewhere. This in no way takes any job from an employee and is confirmed with elder services before doing so,

I would like to leave with stating while voting on things at the board level, I rely on testimony from our executives with proof and factual information with the best interest of the tribe and our citizens at stake. Because sometimes we can't or are advised not to elaborate on certain votes, nothing is being hidden from you and as soon as we can comment we do so. Sometimes social media takes these issues and blows them out of proportion.

Most other tribes I've worked for had a member only portal and why we don't have this option in this day and age is crazy. Many have asked for this to be implemented and it has yet to happen.

Respectfully,

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

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38TH

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

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

MAY 22

JOE NICHOLS

LIVE at 8 p.m.

MAY 23

WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$10,000 CASH

CASH DRAWS START AT 3 P.M.
Win up to \$1,000 CASH

Cake, hors d'oeuvres and champagne at 8 p.m.*



Steve & Andy
The Gatlin Brothers

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