



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

July 24, 2024  
Blueberry Moon • Miin Giizis  
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

## Board members take the oath, elect officers

There were many familiar faces on July 9, as the Sault Tribe Board of Directors convened for a special meeting to certify the 2024 general election results. A swearing in ceremony immediately followed.

Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes garnered 3,800 votes, besting challenger DJ Hoffman with 2,542, to retain his seat.

In Unit I, the top three candidates out of a field of six won seats on the Sault Tribe Board of Directors. Incumbent Michael McKerchie led the way with 1,301 votes in his reelection bid. Kimberle Gravelle, who came up just short in her reelection bid in 2022, came in second with 1,235 votes as she reclaimed a seat on the tribal board, while former Tribal Chairman Aaron Payment mounted a successful campaign to return to political office with 1,173 votes. Joanne Pavlat-Carr came in fourth in Unit I balloting with 1,146 votes, followed by incumbent Betty Freiheit with 1,113 and Michael J. Lumsden at 962 votes.

In Unit II Director Lana Causley-Smith cruised in her reelection campaign 463-196 over



Photo by Scott Brand

Taking the oath of office at the July 9 installation ceremony were (L-R) Unit II Director Lana Causley-Smith, Unit III Director Bridgett Sorenson, Unit I Director Michael McKerchie, Unit IV Director Larry Barbeau, Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes, Unit I Director Kimberle Gravelle, and Unit I Director Aaron Payment.

Dean Hyslop Sr.

Likewise, in Unit III, Director Bridgett Sorenson retained her seat besting challenger John Rickley 680-478.

In Unit IV, challenger Larry Barbeau defeated the incumbent, Darcy Morrow, 401-323, to claim the final seat up for grabs in this election cycle.

Following the swearing in ceremony and installation, the board reconvened for the election of officers.

Tyler LaPlaunt was select-

ed to be vice chairman by a board majority, while Kimberly Hampton was tagged as secretary. Isaac McKechnie will serve as treasurer.

## Tribe releases 1 million walleye in N. Michigan waters

### Total walleye stocked has now passed 20 million since 1995

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians announced July 8 the results of their 2024 walleye stocking efforts in northern Michigan. Following a successful open house at its walleye hatchery in Dafer on June 12, where the public was

invited to get an up-close look at its pond-rearing techniques, Sault Tribe staff transported and released an estimated 1,178,555 walleye fingerlings into the waters of the Eastern Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula.

“The Anishinaabe people have always been responsible stewards of our region’s land and waters, and our tribe’s walleye and whitefish stocking programs are a continuation of that same philosophy,” Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes said.

“In addition to contributing to a healthy ecosystem, the more than 1 million walleye and more than 45,000 whitefish we released in June will help provide meals for Michigan families and recreation for anglers.”

The tribe’s walleye hatchery is a well-established program that has been in effect for nearly 30 years. This year’s release marked the 20 millionth walleye raised and stocked by Sault Tribe biologists.

Every year, Sault Tribe fisheries biologists collect, fertilize and incubate walleye eggs and then raise the walleye in ponds until they are large enough to be released. In 2023, the Sault Tribe contributed to 33% of all walleye fingerlings released in the state of Michigan. These efforts generate an estimated \$2.5 million economic impact for the commercial fishing industry and \$2.14 million in sport fishing activity each year.

This year, the pond-raised walleye were transported and released in the following locations and estimated quantities:

- Lake George, 77,018
- Sault Area, 66,507
- Charlotte River, 89,730
- Raber Bay, 71,373
- Potagannissing River, 170,000
- Upper River, 102,899
- St. Martin’s, 312,525
- Cheboygan, 145,033
- Epoufette, 67,167
- Bay de Noc, 76,303

Of special note is the 170,000



Walleye fingerlings ready stocking.

walleye stocked in Potagannissing Bay, which came from a private pond on Drummond Island owned and operated by the Fairchild family. Through a well-honed collaborative effort with the family and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Sault Tribe provided the fry, fertilizer and the technical support to raise the walleye that were stocked in the bay.

“We are proud to have some of the best biologists in the state who are passionate about ensuring we have a sustainable fishery that is not just here for this gener-

ation but for the next seven generations into the future,” Lowes said. “Thanks to their work, we were able to celebrate releasing our 20th million walleye this year, which is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to our long-term commitment to stewardship. Our hope is that we will be able to take this experience and continue to refine it for whitefish, which is another staple fish that has been harmed by invasive species.”

See Page 14 for, “Tribe releases thousands of young whitefish into Pine River.”

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# Isis Howell selected to have painting displayed in D.C.

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

Sault Tribe member Isis Howell, 18, entered one of her paintings into the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Division of Environmental Services and Cultural Resources Management (DESCRM) Young Tribal Leaders Art Contest in late 2023. Although her work didn't place in the top three, it was one of just 20 selected to be displayed for a year in Washington, D.C.

The contest received over 100 submissions from tribal citizens aged 14-30 across the nation. These pieces included various artistic mediums including painting, sculpture, beadwork, weaving, photography, and film,

all of which centered the contest themes of culture, environment, and climate.

A selection committee chose three winners whose artwork best depicted those themes.

The committee also chose 20 additional outstanding works to exhibit online in the BIA's 2024 Young Tribal Leaders Art Contest Gallery as well as at the Main Interior Building in D.C.

Howell hopes to visit sometime this year to view her work on display inside the Main Interior Building.

Learning about her culture and the teachings of the seven grandfathers was important to Howell and she represented that in her

painting in the form of spirit animals.

"I also used the medicine wheel as well. To me all of these things combined fit the themes of the contest," she said. "I put dots on all the floral to make it look like beadwork. The seven grandfather teachings of truth, respect, honesty, humility, wisdom, courage, and love are represented. I included mountains and trees for the climate; I also put teepees in the background. I wanted to include more than just things local to my tribe and area; I wanted it to include things that could relate to any tribe or clan. That way if others saw it they could see culture, climate, and environment in it as well."

As a student, Howell was a member of the Sault Tribe Tribal Youth Council and participated in their events and activities.

Howell is a 2023 graduate of Malcolm High School where she was speaker of her class. She likes working with different art mediums including painting, sculpting, beading, and is learning the art of theater makeup.

She is currently working and saving her money to attend the Multimedia Makeup Academy of Esthetics, Cosmetology, and Special Effects in Troy, Mich.

Howell said she would love to work in the entertainment industry doing makeup and special effects.

She is the daughter of Melissa Causley and Nathan Jones of Sault Ste. Marie, and Clayton Howell of Palmer, Alaska; and the granddaughter of Jeff Causley and Connie Benoit, and Beverly Benner-Shannon and Bill Shannon of Sault Ste. Marie.



Isis Howell's painting was one of just 20 selected to be displayed for a year in Washington, D.C.

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# Committee vacancies — volunteers needed!

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

**Anishinaabe Cultural Committee** - Nine vacancies -

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

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

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

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

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

Unit I - One vacancy

Unit II - Two vacancies

Unit III - Two vacancies

Unit IV - One vacancy

Elder Advisory Committee

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

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

Unit II - Naubinway - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

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

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

**Elder Subcommittees**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Tribal gas and cigarette discount locations

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

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

• MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Marie, MI 49783

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

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

**Tribal owned gas station offering gas discount only:**

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

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

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

• Cedar Pantry, 159 W M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719

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

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

• Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI 49837

## WIOA funding is available

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

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

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

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

## Membership liaisons help answer your questions

Three membership liaisons work with the chairperson's office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. The liaisons respond to membership issues and follow up to ensure they are resolved.

Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact the liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing them at [membersconcerns@saulttribe.net](mailto:membersconcerns@saulttribe.net) or contacting them individually at:

Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, Mich., (906) 643-2124, [chudak@saulttribe.net](mailto:chudak@saulttribe.net).

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

Michelle Moore at (906) 635-6050, [mmoore@saulttribe.net](mailto:mmoore@saulttribe.net).

## July 27 fundraiser for Dwight Frazier

A benefit and silent auction is being held July 27 for Dwight Frazier, who has multiple myeloma. This is to help with treatments and travel expenses.

The event is July 27, 2024, 3-7 p.m., at Naubinway pavilion.

— Luncheon will be served with donations.

— 50/50 tickets  
— Silent auction

Auction contacts are Karen Frazier, (906) 477-6294, and Brenda Frazier, (906) 360-0767.

## Up to date addresses sought

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

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

Go to the tribe's website at [saulttribe.com](http://saulttribe.com) and scroll down Membership Services to Tribal Enrollment. Then go to the Information column on the left side of the Enrollment page and select "Up to date addresses sought."

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

## Welcome to our new subscribers!

Welcome to all our new tribal member subscribers! We would like you to know that you have become part of our community newspaper. You are welcome to send in your news, such as obituaries, births, graduations and other accomplishments. There is no cost.

Send in your news to [jdale-burton@saulttribe.net](mailto:jdale-burton@saulttribe.net). (Read details below on our banner.) If you have any questions, feel free to email or call (906) 632-6398.

We also have an official Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/saulttribe/> and an official website at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

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

In an effort to maintain the Sault Tribe MMIP database for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP), the Advocacy Resource Center is seeking information regarding missing and murdered individuals who are members of the **Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians**. Please message or call the ARC at 906-632-1808 with information that can be entered into the database. The information provided does not have to be current information. The ARC is seeking information for ALL missing or murdered tribal members including the seven county service areas and tribal members across the world. Please ask for Community Educator Jess 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](mailto: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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## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

July 24, 2024  
Blueberry Moon  
Miin Giizis

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

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

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

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

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

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

See our full, online edition at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

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# Tribe purchases property in Sault's Tourist District

On June 24, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians purchased the former 7 Seas Motel located at 351 W. Portage along the City of Sault Ste. Marie's Tourist District. Sitting directly across from the Soo Locks, the acquisition includes three commercial summer rentals — Soo Locks

Candy Shop, Sugar Daddy Bakery and Simply Soo Gift Shop — store fronts that capitalize on the foot traffic in the area. The purchase also includes 12 studio apartments, nine one-bedroom residential units and one two-bedroom residential unit. "The stores rent from us

and they can sell what they want," said Real Estate Manager Helen Wilkins of the Sault Tribe's Economic Development Corporation (EDC), adding that the revenue generated from the commercial rentals will be used to offset taxes and make improvements on the property. "We have been exploring more housing for our portfolio for over a year," said Wilkins, noting the 22 units were the keystone of this purchase. "Our purpose under the EDC is to build a portfolio to enhance tribal services and help our community as a whole throughout the seven-county service area."

With the Eastern Upper Peninsula, along with many other parts of the country, facing a housing shortage, it is believed



From left to right, Realtor Courtney Dunning goes over the numerous documents to complete the sale of 351 W. Portage with Director Isaac McKechnie, who serves as the Tribal Board of Directors' Treasurer, Chairman Austin Lowes, Real Estate Manager Helen Wilkins of the Sault Tribe's Economic Development Department and EDC Director Dan Doyle before making the purchase on June 24.

that there will be great demand for the residential units.

Wilkins outlined an ambitious plan to begin renovations on the four vacant units including new windows, flooring and a fresh

coat of paint on both inside and out.

"By the end of the summer we will renovate each unit to improve the standard of living," she concluded.



Isaac McKechnie, Austin Lowes and Dan Doyle visit the property immediately after closing the deal.

# Kewadin Casino renovation project enters another phase



Kewadin's CEO Allen Kerridge, CIO Michael Jackson and General Manager Dana Schlehuder with Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The multi-million dollar upgrade project at Kewadin Casinos in Sault Ste. Marie continues with the first 40 completed rooms opening to the public following a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 11.

An additional 26 rooms were scheduled for completion before the end of the month.

The overall project, which began in May 2023, was scheduled to run in phases to minimize the impact on guests.

Phase One focused on the exterior along with the installation of new windows, before

work crews took on the second phase, which involved fully renovating the 268 available rooms.

"While our guests' experience is of the utmost importance to us, we also recognize the need to revitalize our flagship property, which provides revenue to support our services offered by our tribe and within our local communities," said Kewadin Casinos CEO Allen Kerridge as the project began. "Soon, along with our premium gaming experience, our guests will have that same experience

at our newly-renovated hotel in Sault Ste. Marie."

That day is now here for the first wave of guests.

Work will continue on the remaining 200-plus hotel rooms in phases, with the entire project slated to be completed in the winter of 2025.

"We're excited to see the new changes within our hotel and to watch our guests experience us again for the first time all over again," said Kewadin Sault General Manager Dana Schlehuder in anticipation of the project's completion.

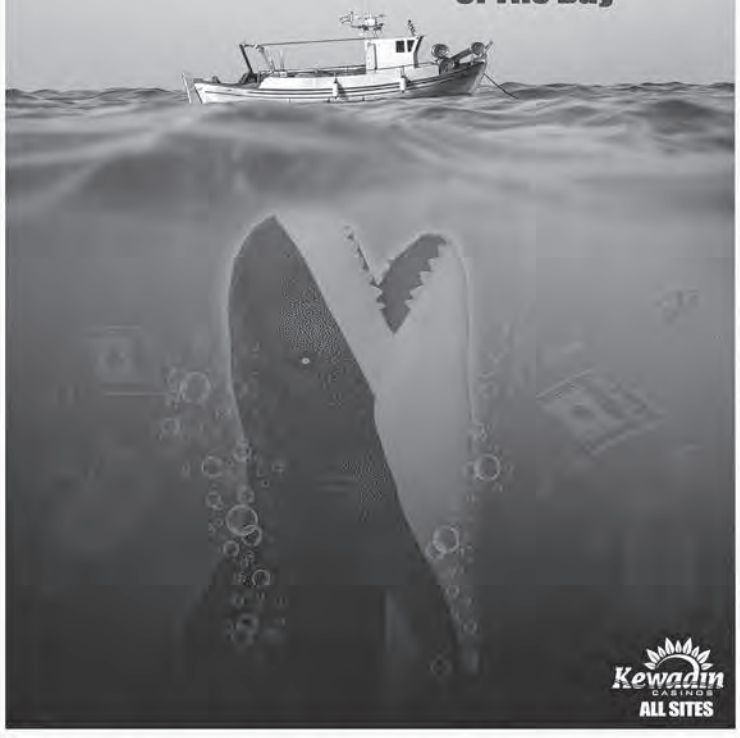


Photos by Danielle Price  
Grand Re-Opening attendees included Kewadin's Shawn Carlson, and Ron Radke and Dan Viau of Gundlach Champion, Inc.

Saturdays in August

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# Anishnaabek Community and Family Services puts call out for Anishinaabe foster homes

Joining Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) as a foster parent means providing care and stability to a child while keeping them connected to their cultural roots. It's essential for Native American children to be placed in Native American foster homes to preserve their cultural identity and sense of belonging. A safe and

loving environment can have a profound impact on a child's life.

Key qualities for foster parents include a loving heart, patience, and a willingness to learn. Within the seven-county service area, the process begins with expressing interest, completing an application with background checks, participating in training, and undergoing a home

study. ACFS then matches you with a child whose needs align with your strengths.

ACFS also monitors tribal cases across the United States and can help match a child with a tribal resource foster home, even if they are located outside the seven-county service area. When there is a pool of resource foster homes, it is easier to

match the child with a tribal home. Therefore, ACFS is in need of foster homes both inside and outside of the seven-county service area.

ACFS is dedicated to fostering a caring, inclusive, and supportive environment for all children and families. We honor the traditions and values of the

Anishinaabe people and strive to promote the well-being and resilience of our community.

For more information, contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (800) 726-0093 or by email at [acfs-foster-homes@SaultTribe.net](mailto:acfs-foster-homes@SaultTribe.net). Together, we can empower our children and strengthen our community.

# Behavioral Health highlights community events

Sault Tribe Behavioral Health (STBH) had three successful community events in 2023-2024 focusing on substance use and recovery. These events included the 13th Annual Recovery Walk held in September, the second March Recovery Gala, and, most recently, bringing forth the Tall Cop's High in Plain Sight training in July.

Almost 200 individuals attended the Tall Cop training, setting a record for attendance. STBH and Bay Mills Behavioral Health collaborated to make this training possible. It was open to the public, age 18 and older, and those seeking education on current drug trends in our community and nationwide. In addition, the MSU Extension also collaborated with STBH to bring their Hidden in Plain Sight trailer for attendees to experience.

STBH is eagerly looking forward to partnering with other



Almost 200 individuals attended the Tall Cop training at Kewadin Casino, setting a record for attendance.

organizations in the future. We invite you to watch for other training and events we will host in the

upcoming months. Stay tuned for more exciting opportunities to learn and engage with our community!

# In memory of Whitney-Jo DeVaughn Anderson

In April 2008, family and friends mourned the loss of 9-year-old JKL third-grader Whitney-Jo DeVaughn Anderson.

Whitney loved to dance and family and friends called her "our princess" because she loved to dress up and have tea parties and wear a dress, tiara, or wings for dinner or trips to the store.

She passed away at home, quickly and peacefully, April 19, 2008, surrounded by family members and loved ones. She had battled a heart condition and cancer for much of her life and her doctors at University of Michigan nicknamed her "None of Your Business," because that was quite often her answer to their questions.

After her passing, a tree was planted at JKL in her memory. However that original tree needed more sunlight and had to be moved to a new location recently and a new tree was planted in front of the school in her honor.

JKL Administrator Carolyn Dale said the new tree commemorates Whitney's spunk and vitality.

"We thought it would be nice to showcase the new location right out front of the school and take a moment to remember her," Dale said.



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# Anishinaabemowin 2024



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

"Let the rain wash away your worries, and the breezes blow strength into your spirit."  
(unknown) *And let the language of your people fill you with insight and pride.*

## Aaniish naamdikwewin?

What is the weather like?

### Here's a conversation about the rain:

Nagwaankwad.	It's cloudy.
Wii gimiwan ganabaaj.	It might rain
Gaawiin gnabaaj.	<i>I don't think so.</i>
Enh! Maajii-gimiwan megwaa.	Yes! It's starting to rain right now.
Bangii eta gimiwan.	It's just raining a little.
Ginemaa wii boonbiisaa	<i>Maybe it'll stop raining.</i>
Begish naa da gimiwan.	I hope it will rain.
G'ndawendaanaan maanda gimiwan gegeti.	We need this rain for sure.
Pane gimiwan!	<i>It's always raining.</i>
G'di nendam wi eta.	You just think that.
Kaa; gii gimiwan zhebaa.	<i>No, it rained this morning.</i>
miinwaa gii gimiwan dibikong.	<i>and it rained last night.</i>
Naangodnang gaawiin naasaab-sii pane.	Sometimes is not the same as always.
Oonh! Nimkiikaa!	Oh! It is thundering!
G'noondaan na?	Do you hear it?
Miinwaa nishke!	And look!
G'gii waabndaan na wi waasese?	Did you see that flash of lightning?
Gii mmaandaa wi!	That was incredible/amazing!
N'gotaan, genii.	<i>As for me, I'm afraid of it.</i>
Oonh, aashiish-maajii!	Oh, for crying out loud!
Gego gotaan-ke kina gegoo.	Don't be afraid of everything.
Ginemaa g'wii waabndaan nagwaagan	Maybe you'll see a rainbow.

## How can I start to learn our language? It too difficult.

If you want to become a fluent speaker, you probably should take one of our many classes. But to give it a little try and feel good about using a phrase or two, that works well, too! Pick a **phrase** you use often (maybe like one from this weather "lesson"). Practice pronouncing it (from the guide here or listening on our Facebook site). Say it often to yourself and others, until you can say it comfortably and easily. Invite friends and relatives to learn it too. Have fun together!



## ... And another about a sunny day.

Mizhaakwad nangwa.  
Minaanimad.  
Minozhide.  
N'wii namadab enji-kajigaak.  
N'wii nendam mino-nendamwinan.  
N'wii noondawaag bineshiinhak.  
N'wii gnawaabmaag kina n'da nawemaaganidook.

Aapiji gwa n'miigwechendam.

The sky is clear today.  
There's a nice breeze.  
It's a sunny day.  
I want to sit in the shade.  
I'll think good thoughts.  
I will hear the birds.  
I will watch all my relatives.  
I am deeply thankful.

## "Aambe, baapin!" (Come on, laugh!)

While I was doing a DIY project, my spouse noted that I hammer like lightning — I never strike the same place twice.

*You never see owls courting in the rain... because it's too wet to woo.*

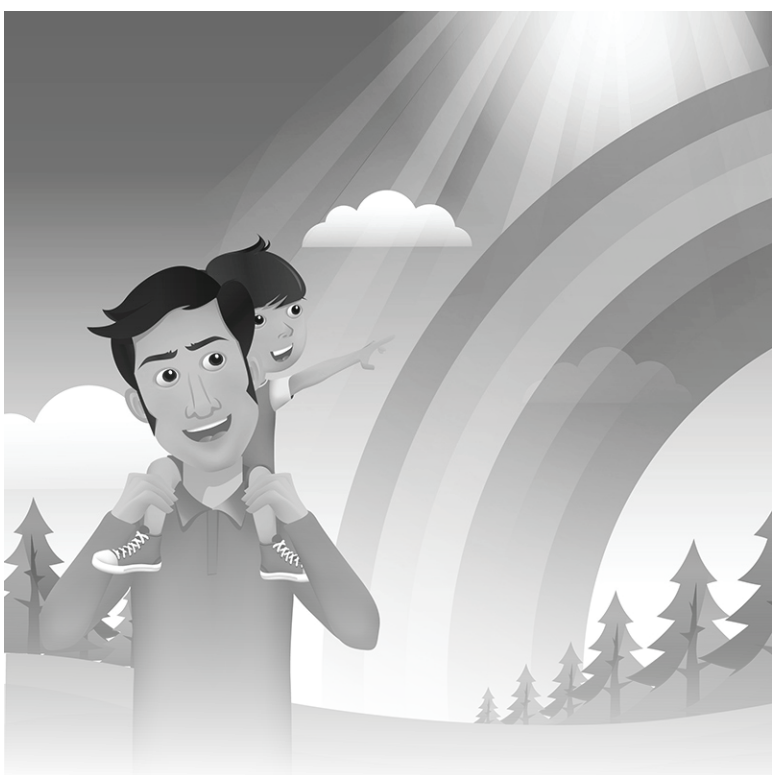
Why did a woman go outside with her purse open?

Because she expected some change in the weather.

*What did one raindrop say to another? "Two's company; three's a cloud."*



What's faster: lightning, light, or diarrhea? Well, I ran like lightning to the bathroom, and flipped on the light as I streaked in, but diarrhea was already there.



**Pronunciation??** You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words used here as well as those in the calendar, pronounced at our FaceBook link:

[www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture](http://www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture).

You can also use the guide shown below!

**Making our Sounds** Most letters sound like they do in English. Here are the exceptions.

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

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

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

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

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: 'nh' in a word has no sound! It's only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have a stuffed-up nose!

# Letter to the Editor — Dr. Leo shows unselfishness and unwavering care for our community

The most a person can do is live a life of fulfillment. How does someone achieve such a lofty goal? It doesn't seem that it would take much to accomplish.

What is a life of fulfillment? It may take different meanings, as for myself, a life of fulfillment would be one that is unselfish, giving with no expectation in return, concerning one's self with the betterment of family and community.

Dr. Leo Chugunov could be the spokesperson for what it means to be, what I can only describe, as a "nice person." Dr. Leo personifies what it means to be, "human," although his extreme work ethic would lead one to believe otherwise.

I have been working with the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians for a few years now, and have had more than a few interactions with Dr. Leo. Every introduction, as well as every goodbye, has been with a smile and a, "good to see you, how are you," and thankfully to lifted COVID restrictions, a handshake.

COVID-19 was and is a very horrible disease that brought sickness and, in some cases, death, to many communities around the world. Which is where Dr. Leo came from, across the world and to our community.

Dr. Leo was encumbered with one of the most responsible positions in our tribe, one that would navigate us through this extremely difficult moment in our lifetime. Protecting our tribal members and employees from this pandemic to ensure our survival. Many of our community members have faced the horror of losing loved ones, and have faced the dooming effect of the COVID pandemic. Dr. Leo faced this pandemic with scrutiny and was not always praised for some of the difficult decisions made during this time. It's easy to

scrutinize from the sidelines, as most do, and even easier to do so when there is only a small portion of well-informed, intelligent folks that can separate what is good from what is right.

Through it all, there was Dr. Leo, facing unwavering scrutiny for every decision made. Most people might have thrown in the proverbial towel. Dr. Leo stuck with his duties and with the community, always with a smile and gracious attitude. You may think that Dr. Leo is more interested in photo opps, seeing his picture in the paper often, but I don't believe that's the case. He is always in the newspaper because he is always doing something to better our community. Dr. Leo has been instrumental in opening many new health clinics in order to better serve "our people" and making sure the health needs of our rural communities are being cared for. Even during the war conflict in Ukraine, where Dr. Leo still has family, he continues his work for our community. Dr. Leo does not stop there, for he is always trying to do the best for his and every tribal employee.

I have been privileged to receive Christmas gifts and cards from Dr. Leo and I'm not even a health employee. I have heard from certain employees that Dr. Leo purchased gifts for each and every employee of the Health Division, and hand delivered them in full Santa costume. Why would someone do such a thing? The answer, just to be nice. Why buy three cases of sausages and cook them yourself? To make sure your employees understand your gratitude for work well done.

I'm not saying this deserves a medal, but a little gratitude would go a long way. I've also been privy to meeting Dr. Leo during various school functions that I had attended, and Dr. Leo does not miss any

of his son's events.

Getting back to the fulfillment aspect of this story, I believe Dr. Leo has it covered. The graciousness to which he serves his community, as well as his position as Health Director, and his family.

Never asking for anything in return, but I will ask for him.


If you see Dr. Leo, give a tip of the hat, a smile, or a simple "thank you," for all he does and wishes to do for our community.

Instead of scrutiny and ill

words about the writing of this letter, think of the unselfishness and unwavering care that Dr. Leo shows for our community and the employees he serves.

**James Bremer Jr.,**  
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

## SAULT TRIBE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM














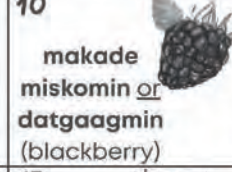

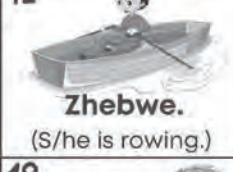
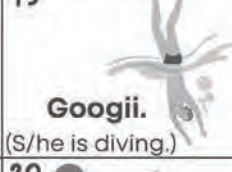


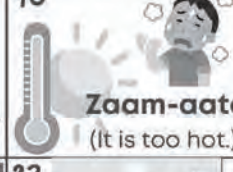
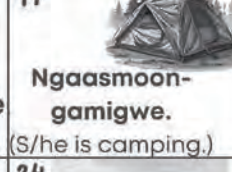



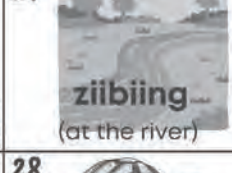

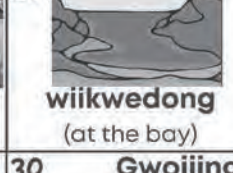








# GERARD SAGASSIGE

### 2024 AUGUST HEALER CLINIC HOURS

<p><b>August 5,6,12,19,20,26,27</b> Sault Ste. Marie Health Center (906)632-0236</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, August 7th</b> St. Ignace Health Center (906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, August 21st</b> Hessel Community Center (906)484-2727</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, August 28th</b> Munising Health Center (906)387-4721 or (800)236-4705</p>

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

## MANOOMINIKE GIIZIS - RIGING MOON - AUGUST 2024

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
				1  jiigbiik (at the beach)	2  negweki (sand)	3  Bagiza. (S/he is swimming.)
4  maanwang (fruit)	5  mskomin (raspberry)	6  miinan (blueberries)	7  wiigwaasmin (cherry)	8  N'da abwez. (I am sweating.)	9  shkode (fire)	10  makade miskomin or datgaagmin (blackberry)
11  jiimaan (canoe/boat)	12  Zhebwe. (S/he is rowing.)	13  Googii. (S/he is diving.)	14  Damina. (S/he is playing.)	15  Biimskowebshkige. (S/he is riding a bike.)	16  Zaam-aate (It is too hot.)	17  Ngaasmoon-gamigwe. (S/he is camping.)
18  Boodwe (S/he is making a fire.)	19  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	20  Giigoonhke. (S/he is fishing.)	21  ziibiing (at the river)	22  zaag'iganing (at the lake)	23  wiikwedong (at the bay)	24  noopiming (in the woods)
25  ginebig (snake)	26  makinaak (snapping turtle)	27  miskwaadesi (painted turtle)	28  mishiikenh (turtle)	29  niibin (summer)	30  Gwojiing wiisini. (S/he is having a picnic.)	31  ngaasmoon-gamig (tent)

# Sault Tribe Business Alliance holds conference

BY SCOTT BRAND

Dozens of interested individuals attended the 2024 Sault Tribe Business Alliance Conference in the Grand Island Room at Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie on July 2.

Attendees were greeted with a continental breakfast and a welcome ceremony from Cecil Pavlat before the first presenters approached the podium. Interim CEO Rachel Heckel of Sault Tribe, Inc. (STI), explained that as a Section 17 Corporation, STI was able to steer Sault Tribe businesses into governmental contracts without opening the tribe to lawsuits and audits.

“Other tribes have been extremely successful with this,” she said of the ability to procure government contracts. “These programs help tribally-owned businesses compete.”

One government contract, Heckel pointed out, is STI’s with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta where more than three dozen members are supporting the battle against influenza. “STI and its partners are on the front line in saving lives,” observed Heckel, looking to expand and diversify these services on behalf of Sault Tribe



Interim CEO Rachel Heckel of Sault Tribe Inc. makes her presentation.

members to grow the revenue stream. “That’s why we are here, we really partner with companies of all sizes.”

Business Development Director Paul Guindon of Sault Tribe Thrive added that his agency is eager to work with those in attendance as well.

“Connect with us,” said Guindon. “Don’t hesitate to make yourself known.”

Guindon urged any Sault Tribe member with a business enterprise to visit the Tamarack Business Center at 531 Ashmun, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. to register for the business directory, which

appears both online and in the Sault Tribe’s Newspaper. Your information can also be submitted via e-mail to info@saulttribe-thrive.com.

Tom Durkee of the Michigan Economic Development Commission (MEDC), has been with that agency for 25 years with more than half his tenure dedicated to developing businesses for tribal members across both the Lower and Upper Peninsula.

“We try to bring and retain businesses here to benefit Michiganders,” said Durkee of the MEDC’s role. “If we can’t



Ellie Mitchell poses with her beads after her session.

help you directly we probably know someone who can.”

Ellie Mitchell of powwow-supply.com., an e-commerce store specializing in supplies for Indigenous bead art, gave a presentation on “The Importance of Integrating Powwows into the Indigenous Entrepreneurial Toolkit.”

“I spent many years on the powwow trail,” said Mitchell of establishing her market before shifting focus to the e-commerce store in 2018. Despite making the change, Mitchell continues to attend powwows as a vendor and offered up lots of

good advice to businesses looking to tap into this market. “Our communities are wildly underserved.”

Other presenters included Patrick Frazier, “Applying Big Business Ideas to Small Business,” a fireside chat with Taryn Sulkes and Veronica Johnson, “How Certification Benefits You,” Lorri Rishar and Gianna Ferraro with “Top 10 Marketing Trends on 2024,” and a legal workshop with Rose Coonen entitled “Future-Proofing Native American Owned Businesses: Proactive Legal Risk Management.”

# New Sault Tribe clinic will help those battling addiction

Naandwejegamig, or “Healing Place,” will provide medically assisted treatment programs to help people overcome alcohol and opioid use disorders.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians announced June 24 the opening of a new health clinic specifically designed to combat drug and alcohol addiction. The Naandwejegamig, or “Healing Place,” will be the first clinic within the Sault Tribe Health Division to specifically serve patients struggling with opioid and alcohol use disorders by offering medically assisted treatment programs.

The clinic will meet an important need in the Eastern Upper Peninsula where people often drive long distances for specialized addiction treatments. It will be open to all patients, both tribal and non-tribal, with no prior referrals necessary.

Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes said, “Addiction is a horrible disease that can trap anyone, regardless of their social status. It’s something that has been especially damaging to Native American communities both here in the U.P. and across the country, so the Sault Tribe is very proud to be able to offer a safe and effective place for those seeking help.”

Lowes noted that the Sault Tribe Board of Directors had begun planning for a medically assisted treatment clinic more than a year ago and that the need was also identified as part of the tribe’s healthcare revitalization efforts.

The state Department of Health and Human Services reported 2,536 opioid deaths in Michigan in 2021. According to the National Center for Drug and Alcohol Statistics, the number of deaths in Michigan related to excessive alcohol use has averaged at 4,548, with nearly 60% stemming from chronic causes such as use disorder and liver

problems.

Research has proven that medication can help relieve withdrawal symptoms and the psychological cravings caused by chemical imbalances in the body when a person is working to overcome substance abuse issues. Patients receiving outpatient addiction treatment at Naandwejegamig will be administered evidence-based medication by trained nurse practitioners who are overseen by a physician.

Teresa Plummer, MSN, FNP-C, will serve as Naandwejegamig supervisor. She is a certified family nurse practitioner with a Master of Science in Nursing and a specialization in addiction medicine. Dr. Lowell Styer is the collaborating physician who will oversee all prescribed treatments.

Prior to joining the Sault Tribe Health Division, Plummer worked at MyMichigan Health where she treated more than 200 patients throughout the Upper Peninsula and northern Michigan.

“I’ve had the opportunity to work closely with Teresa during my career as a medical social worker helping patients overcome addiction, and I’ve seen firsthand the dedication and attentive care she provides to her patients,” Lowes said. “We are very fortunate to have her lead addiction treatment on behalf of the Sault Tribe Health Division.”

The Naandwejegamig is located at 2861 Ashmun St. in Sault Ste. Marie. It will be open Monday-Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Patients seeking addiction treatment should call (906) 635-



Grand opening — Naandwejegamig, or “Healing Place,” will provide medically assisted treatment programs to help people overcome alcohol and opioid use disorders.

8877 to schedule an appointment. All forms of insurance are accepted, and no one seeking

treatment will be turned away based on their insurance or lack thereof.



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# June shines light on elder abuse prevention

Our elders are one of our most precious resources. Elders are the connection to our past and hold stories and facts of our family's history. Elders should always be treated with kindness and the utmost respect. Sadly, this is not the case for many of our loved ones.

An elder is legally defined as a person 65 and older. However, in Native American communities, becoming an elder is not typically reaching a specific age but a distinct cultural status earned from wisdom, knowledge, and responsibility to others. Being an Elder is different from being elderly. "Elderly" is associated with age and the ability to care for oneself. Elder and elderly status varies from tribe to tribe. Out of respect, the term Elder will be used here.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines elder abuse as "a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship with an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person. This type of violence constitutes a violation of human rights and includes physical, sexual, psychological, and emotional abuse; financial and material abuse; abandonment; neglect; and serious loss of dignity and respect."

Such abuse can include physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse, financial or material exploitation, neglect, self-neglect, abandonment, and spiritual abuse. Our Elders are at a greater risk for abuse due to an increase in Elder population and limited caregiving services and support. WHO reports that the global population of people aged 60 and older will increase from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion in 2050.

Elder abuse is one of the least investigated forms of abuse and does not get addressed as frequently as other social issues. Research suggests that 4-6% of older people suffer from abuse, most of which go unreported. It is reported that Elder abuse instances

happen primarily in the home of the Elder, and a family member commits 90% of abuse and neglect incidents.

Elders may not always feel comfortable reporting such abuse. Therefore, we must advocate for our seniors and give them a voice. Often, seniors fear repercussions for reporting the abuse or are too frail to do so. It is crucial for us to be aware of signs of abuse and to report the abuse to the proper authorities. Adult Protective Services for Michigan can be contacted at (855) 444-3911. Anishnaabek Community and Family Services provides Adult Protective Services and may be reached at (906) 632-5250 or (906) 495-1232.

**Warning signs for caregivers and family members of elders to watch for are:**

- Pain that is "new" or different
- Fear or anxiety
- Depression or becoming aggressive
- Isolated or not responsive
- Difficulty sleeping
- Cuts, sores, or burns
- Broken bones, bruises, or welts
- Untreated bed sores
- Torn, stained clothing or blood on undergarments
- Dirty, unkempt hygiene
- Hazardous or poor living conditions
- Lack of or broken medical aids: glasses, walker, dentures, hearing aids, medication
- Sudden change in function or mobility
- Unusual weight loss, poor nutrition, dehydration
- Change in overall mood or demeanor
- Bills not paid or utilities turned off
- Significant changes in finances

There are many forms of abuse against older people. Including:

**Physical:** Hitting, shoving, restraining, or confining; anything causing physical pain or impairment.

**Emotional:** Intimidation,

humiliation, routine blaming, ignoring, isolating, causing anguish or distress, degrading, ridiculing, insults, using silence or profanity.

**Sexual Abuse:** Sexual harassment, sexual activity without consent (rape), forcing elders to watch sexual acts or to undress.

**Financial Abuse:** Stealing money, property titles, or possessions; taking over accounts or bills; spending without permission; abusing the power of attorney privilege; scamming/lying.

**Financial Neglect:** Allowing essential bills such as mortgages, utilities, insurance, medical bills, or property taxes to go unpaid, resulting in shut-off notices, eviction, foreclosure, or not having insurance coverage.

**Financial Exploitation:** Misusing or exploiting property, belongings, or assets. For example, using an Elder's money, credit cards, or property without consent, under false pretenses, or through intimidation and manipulation.

**Health Care Fraud:** Healthcare professionals overcharging or billing twice for services, falsifying claims, or charging for services not rendered.

**Elder internet, mail, and phone scams:** Elders are often victims of significant financial loss due to scams disguised as charity donations, investment opportunities, lottery winnings, sweepstakes, or making wire transfers to thieves imitating a family member.

**Spiritual/Moral Abuse:** Denies access to religious services or leaders, makes fun of victim's values or religion, ignores or ridicules cultural or religious traditions, intimidates and threatens for practicing beliefs.

**Neglect:** Failure to fulfill duties or obligations for elders, not caring for hygiene or condition of the home, poor nutrition, bed sores, soiled clothing, medical neglect-missed appointments, not reporting medical issues.

**Self-Neglect:** Refusal by elder to care for themselves; inadequate nutrition, improper clothing, lack of or unkempt shelter, poor hygiene, not taking medication, and not following safety precautions.

Sault Tribe Elder Services has many programs that can assist with Elder's needs. The Elder In-Home Services program provides services that give frail and homebound elders the ability to stay in their homes, maintain a good quality of life, and age in place. In-home care services consist mainly of personal care, homemaking, and respite care.

The Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Program provides rides to medical appointments. This program is to assist elders who, for a variety of factors, have difficulty using conventional means of transportation to reach medical health care services. There are wide varieties of appointments, from routine medical care to chemotherapy and radiation therapy for cancer patients and scheduled dialysis for those requiring ongoing care. Rides are provided to tribal health clinics, hospitals, and medical buildings in several areas, including Petoskey and Gaylord, Mich.

The Elder Health Fund provides payment on various services for duly enrolled tribal elders age 60 and over living in the United States and as certified by the Tribal Registrar. The fund assists with partial payment for dentures, eyeglasses, and other items deemed "medically necessary" by a physician and compliant with Medicare standards.

The Elder Meal Program provides congregate meals at meal sites throughout the tribal service area. Daily meal programs operate in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Hessel and Manistique. Three sites provide home-delivered meals (Meals-on-Wheels) to homebound elders and their caregivers.

Sault Tribe's Elder Outreach Service program is designed to establish critical relationships

with tribal elders and families in their homes. The Elder Outreach Worker coordinates programs and services to help tribal elders maintain a good quality of life and age in place. Outreach Workers travel to tribal elders' homes to assess and identify elders' and family needs and find resources to meet those needs. They also organize and promote Elder involvement in aging programs. Outreach workers will assist in the coordination of home care services, assist tribal Elders in completing applications for tribal service programs, and assist in the coordination of meals-on-wheels services, transportation, and any other service needs of tribal elders.

Areas of assistance may include physical, mental, psychological, and social aging-related needs. Four full-time Elder Outreach Workers cover the seven-county service areas at each end of the Upper Peninsula.

Let us celebrate our Elders and show them the honor and respect they deserve. Please visit your elders and let them know you are there for them. If they can, go for a walk or play a game with them. Please encourage them to share stories about your family. With their permission, record their stories via audio or video to cherish the memories when they walk on. Bring their favorite snacks or treats to lift their spirits. Play their favorite music, brush or comb their hair, help clean their home or bedroom, or make a phone call to let them know you are thinking of them. Your kindness can truly make a difference.

The Sault Tribe's Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) offers Elder-related victim services such as advocacy and financial services. Advocates may be reached at (906) 632-1808. For more information, visit [www.arcsaulttribe.com](http://www.arcsaulttribe.com) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC](http://www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC).

## Sault Tribe Elders announce scholarships

Applications are being solicited for two one-time \$500 scholarships from the Sault Tribe Elders for qualified freshmen enrolled in public colleges, universities or trade schools. All applicants must be registered Sault Tribe members with the following qualifications:

— Graduated from an accredited high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5. Or, successfully completed and passed all five General Education Development (GED) equivalency tests with a minimum score of 40 and an average score of 45 and must possess a GED certificate.

— Accepted or enrolled in any two- or four-year public college, university or trade school in any field of study as a full-time student.

Applicants must submit letters of application that include:

- Cover page that includes name, address, telephone number, email address, proof of tribal enrollment and academic major or course of study to be pursued.
- Transcript from applicant's

high school verifying cumulative grade point average. Or, proof of achieving GED requirements.

— Letter from the college, university or trade school, showing acceptance for 2023-2024.

— Essay of 300-500 words describing how you feel a college education will benefit you, your career objectives and why this

scholarship will help you achieve your goal.

Deadline for applications is Aug. 31 at 5 p.m. All requirements listed above must be received by the Elder Service Division, ATTN Elder Scholarship, 2076 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 49783.

For questions contact Katie Peabody at (906) 635-4971.

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*Migwech*

*I am truly humbled by the outpouring of support during this election cycle.*

*Thank for you all the phone calls, emails, messages and allowing me to put signs in your yards.*

*I pledge to continue to work for the best interest of the TRIBE and all MEMBERS.*

**Bridgett Sorenson, Unit III Director**

Bridgett Sorenson endorses this ad.

# Tribe hires Elder Services Director Katie Peabody

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

With the retirement of former Elder Services Division Director Holly Kibble, the search was on to fill the newly vacated position. Katie Peabody interviewed and started her new job as director on June 19.

As the Elder Services Division Director, Peabody is responsible for providing leadership, quality care and services in home health, transportation to appointments, congregate meals and meals delivered to elders' homes, outreach, geriatric programming and recreation planning.

She is also responsible for managing a number of grants that support a significant amount of the services they provide. She will be traveling on a monthly basis to nine different communities throughout the seven-county



**Katie Peabody was hired recently as the Sault Tribe Elder Services director.**

service area and also serve as a liaison between the Elder Services Division and the Elder Sub-Committees.

"The Elder Services

Division has an outstanding group of individuals who are committed to the elders we serve, and I am proud to work with this wonderful group of people," she said. "I am very honored to have this opportunity to work for Sault Tribe. Moving to the Sault nearly 20 years ago, I immediately discovered that the culture and traditions were incorporated throughout the community. It's important to me to continue to honor and respect these traditions in every aspect of the Elder Services Division."

Peabody said her educational background is in Therapeutic Recreation and Spanish. "It was my desire to immerse myself in a culture and honor and respect the members of that culture, providing meaningful interactions and activities. The end goal when I graduated from Grand Valley

State University was to live in a big city, but life is funny sometimes, and somehow I ended up moving back to the U.P. and living on a farm on Sugar Island. I couldn't imagine a more beautiful place to live, and wonderful place to raise our children," she said.

Her professional experience has been in the inpatient psychiatric setting and skilled nursing facilities and long term care units. "I enjoy working with the elderly population, and ensuring they are treated with dignity and respect," she said. "With all of my experience in the inpatient world, I was interested in learning more about the community-based sector. The Elder Services Division seemed like a really good fit, as many of the services provided by our team are parallel to what the elders

receive who live in a long-term care unit. Being part of a team that provides many of these needed services to elders that get to remain in their homes is a beautiful thing."

Peabody added, "This is the third place that Tonya Robbins RN, and I have worked together. She's an amazing nurse who leads by example and wants nothing but the best for the elders in her care."

Katie and her husband Eric have three children. Peabody said she loves gardening, spending time outdoors, cooking, traveling, and watching her children participate in their various sports and activities, and spending time with her family and friends.

Peabody can be contacted by call the Elder Services Division at: (906) 635-4971, or by email at: kpeabody@saulttribe.net.

## Elder Service Division hires Registered Nurse Tonya Robbins

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Tonya Robbins recently accepted a position with the Sault Tribe Elder Service Division as a registered nurse. She performs in-home assessments, reassessments, makes and evaluates care plans and discharges; supervises, schedules and evaluates home health technicians and outreach workers; and coordinates the Ramp Program.

Robbins said she coordinates the care of 80 tribal elders in the tribe's seven-county service area. "My goal and the goal of the Elder Service Division is to enrich the lives of our tribal elders through in home services," she said. "I have a dream job right now. I get to set up and provide so many services to

tribal elders in need, thanks to the generous and amazing tribal leadership. I love this job and am so grateful for everything we are able to accomplish at the Elder Service Division."

Robbins has a passion for caring for the elderly, beginning with her nursing career in high school as a certified nursing assistant (CNA). She worked at War Memorial Hospital (WMH) as a CNA while going to nursing school at Lake Superior State University. As a graduate nurse, Robbins started in Long Term Care (LTC), then moved over to the Medical Surgical Ward. She also worked as the director of WMH's LTC.

"I worked as a wound care specialist for five years and



**Tonya Robbins, RN**

became expert in my wound care skills. I also worked on LTC for 10 years (I always stayed cross trained and picked up shifts while

working medical surgical and wound care) and I also became expert in skilled nursing and geriatric nursing skills," she said.

"I have worked with Katie Peabody [now the Director of Sault Tribe's Elder Service Division] for many years at Medilodge, WMH, and MyMichigan. When I started as the LTC director, she was the LTC administrator. We were hired around the same time for those roles. She was absolutely amazing. A great leader, very passionate and caring and amazing with the elderly. I cried happy tears when she was hired as the Elder Service director. She is going to do amazing things for the tribal elders. I am going to continue doing my best to reach out to as

many tribal elders as I can, growing relationships with other tribal and non-tribal health agencies, building relationships with staff, visiting with tribal elders, and coordinating home care services."

Robbins says the staff have been amazing, very knowledgeable, caring, and driven to provide the best care possible for the elders. "I am so lucky to be here and it is an absolute privilege to do what I do," she said.

Robbins is a tribal member and said her grandmother was Geneva Sika (Eitrem), and her brother is Nick Eitrem (Kewadin IT director).

Robbins is married, has a son, and they live on a little hobby farm in the Sault with chickens and three dogs.

## Study identifies identify ways tribal health clinics can expand telehealth efforts, identify unmet demand, and address concerns

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich.

— The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has released the findings of a new telehealth study done in partnership with Connected Nation Michigan (CN Michigan) with support from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, according to a (July 10, 2024) release. The research provides new insights into how the tribal members use telehealth, what barriers exist, and attitudes toward telehealth.

"We want to improve health equity among all Tribe members — ensuring they have access to the critical health care resources that can help improve their quality of life," Sault Tribe Strategic Planning Director Larry Jacques said. "Telehealth can save tribal members time and money; connect them with high-quality health services; and ensure continued access to health care practitioners when weather or health concerns makes it difficult to travel."

The study was conducted using a series of surveys and virtual conversations with tribal members. The purpose was to identify ways tribal health clinics can expand their telehealth

efforts, identify unmet demand, and address concerns that may prevent some tribal members from adopting telehealth services.

"Native Americans have long experienced poorer health outcomes than other populations in the United States," CN Michigan Research Development Director Chris McGovern said. "Telehealth is one way we can bridge those gaps and improve health equity."

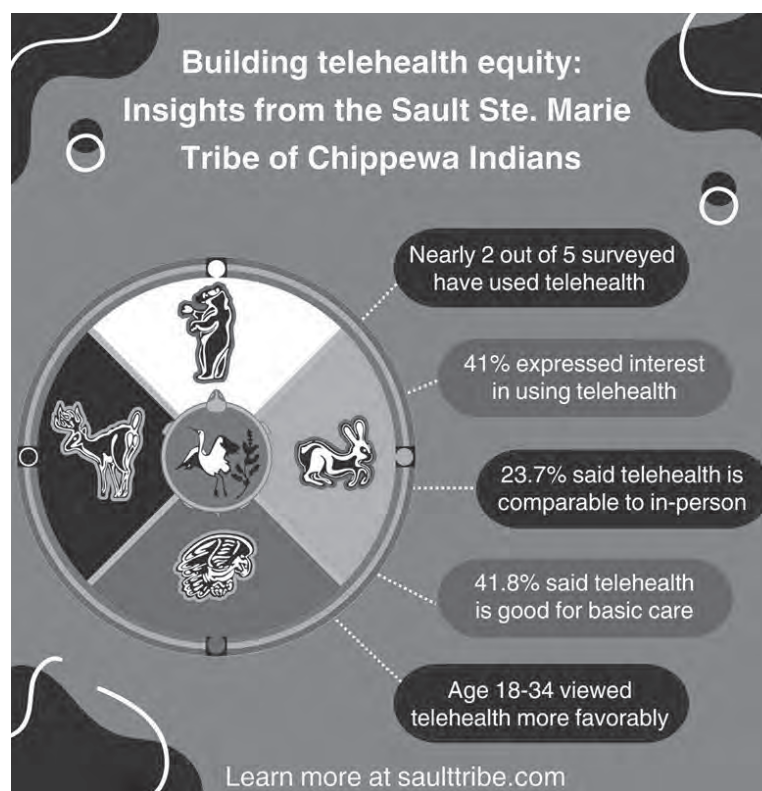
Some of the surveys' key takeaways include:

— Nearly 2 out of 5 surveyed households (38.1%) reported having used telehealth services.

— A similar share of telehealth non-adopters (41%) expressed interest in using telehealth despite not having used it in the past.

— Nearly one-quarter of respondents (23.7%) said that telehealth visits are comparable to in-person visits.

— More than 2 out of 5 survey respondents (41.8%) said that telehealth visits are good for initial consultations or basic care, while 34.5% believed it would never match in-person quality of care.



— In general, young populations (age 18 to 34) had a more favorable view of telehealth visits.

In addition, CN Michigan spoke with Tribe leadership and its health care providers to learn what barriers may exist for expanding telehealth. Three key takeaways emerged:

— Telehealth services are

currently being offered to patients through Tribal health clinics.

— Expanding broadband infrastructure in the Upper Peninsula is crucial to improving telehealth access.

— Health care providers and their patients face challenges when adapting to telehealth services, but they consider its

numerous benefits to be worth the extra effort.

Based on the research of both local and national trends, Tribal leadership and CN Michigan identified five recommendations for expanding the use and understanding of telehealth's benefits.

— Tribal health clinics should seek out ways to promote their telehealth services. Clinics should prepare all telehealth patients to engage with their provider prior to their appointment.

— All health care providers in the region should provide training to medical staff to ensure Tribe members are met with cultural sensitivity.

— Tribal health clinics should create a systemwide online patient portal.

— Policymakers should continue to support efforts around expansion of broadband infrastructure.

To learn more about the above findings and recommendations, access the entire report by visiting [https://s3.amazonaws.com/connected-nation/2a4e3db4-c777-4cac-9fab-86ee6ca76541/Building\\_Telehealth\\_Equity\\_FINAL.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/connected-nation/2a4e3db4-c777-4cac-9fab-86ee6ca76541/Building_Telehealth_Equity_FINAL.pdf).

# JKL Superintendent tapped for MiCAREER

The Michigan Consortium for Addressing Rural Education Expansion and Retention (MiCAREER) Resource Hub, a consortium of universities and rural school districts collaborating to support prospective rural educators through certifications and early career experiences has

gathered key stakeholders to provide input on their Advisory Board. MiCAREER is excited to announce that Dr. Carolyn Dale, Superintendent of JKL Bahweting Anishnabe PSA, has been selected to serve as one of two PK12 representatives from the Upper Peninsula. The

work of MiCAREER has been made possible by a grant from the Michigan Department of Education and will begin offering services to individuals living in rural communities and working in rural districts. **(At right, Dale poses with Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Bryan Newland.)**






## U.P. State Fair Wristband Day for Unit 5 Sault Tribe Children

**\*\*In order for your child to get a free wrist band for the fair, YOU MUST register them before 5:00pm on August 9, 2024**

**AGE REQUIREMENT:** Bands available for Unit 5 Sault Tribe Children, up to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**DATE OF EVENT:** Native American Day, Thursday August 15, 2024

**WRISTBAND PICK-UP TIME:** Bands can be picked up between 11:00am – 2:00pm.

**WRISTBAND PICK-UP LOCATION:** Wristbands will be available for pick up inside the Ruth Butler Building, next to the Kewadin Casinos booth.

**TO RESERVE A WRISTBAND:** Call or Text the Unit 5 Sault Tribe child's name and age to Mary Jenerou @ (906) 450-7011. You can also call Mary @ 906-341-8469.

**Deadline to register children for wristbands is 5pm on August 9, 2024**

**\*\*In order to pick up the wristband on August 15, 2024 for all registered Unit 5 Sault Tribe enrolled children, the child MUST be present and you MUST have the child's tribal card present as well**



**Great Funding Opportunity for Students!**

## TED Grant Scholarship 2024 Summer Semester

Must be an Enrolled Sault Tribe Member



**APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN FOR FULL AND PART-TIME COLLEGE AND/OR VOCATIONAL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CLASSES FOR THE 2024 SUMMER SEMESTER**

\*This Scholarship is awarded per semester. If a student received a scholarship last semester, they can still receive a scholarship again this semester, as long as they are deemed eligible and provide proof of enrollment.

Visit <https://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/education> or email [education@saulttribe.net](mailto:education@saulttribe.net) for application

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: 8/30/24 AT 11:59PM**

**\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP**




## U.P. State Fair Wristband Day for Unit 4 Sault Tribe Children

**\*\*In order for your child to get a free wrist band for the fair, YOU MUST register them before 5:00pm on August 9, 2024**

**AGE REQUIREMENT:** Bands available for all ENROLLED Unit 4 Sault Tribe Children (and any other child(ren) in the same household), up to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**DATE OF EVENT:** Native American Day, Thursday August 15, 2024

**WRISTBAND PICK-UP TIME:** Bands can be picked up between 11:00am – 2:00pm.

**WRISTBAND PICK-UP LOCATION:** Wristbands will be available for pick up inside the Ruth Butler Building, next to the Kewadin Casinos booth.

**TO RESERVE A WRISTBAND:** Call or Text the Unit 4 Sault Tribe child's name and age to Mary Jenerou @ (906) 450-7011. You can also call Mary @ 906-341-8469.

**Deadline to register children for wristbands is 5pm on August 9, 2024**

**\*\*In order to pick up the wristband on August 15, 2024 for all registered Unit 4 Sault Tribe enrolled children and any child(ren) in the household, the child MUST be present and you MUST have the child's tribal card present as well**



## 19TH ANNUAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT POWWOW

**July 27, 2024**

Hessel Powwow Grounds  
3355 N. 3-Mile Rd. Hessel MI

Honoring the lessons gained from the 2024 Circle of Life Summer Program.

**Friday Night Seven Hills Teachings**  
Adriane Shipman  
**Fire Teachings**  
John & Jeff Causley

**Saturday Grand Entry 12:00**  
Host Drum: Mukkwa Giizhik  
Head Veteran: Nick VanAlstein  
Head Male Dancer: Jessy Farley  
Head Female Dancer: Julie Perry  
Head Youth Dancers: Chosen on site  
Arena Director: Geezhik McCoy  
Emcee: Tyler Bouschor  
Youth Arena Director: Chosen On Site  
Youth Emcee: Chosen On Site  
Cooks: Mona Gugin  
Joy Bruce  
Dorothy Currie

**VENDERS WELCOME DRUM WELCOME OPEN TO PUBLIC**



**Supported By:**  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
Youth Education & Activities Program  
Bureau of Indian Affairs; Tribal Forestry Summer Youth Camp Grant  
Donation By: Indian Energy

# Sault Tribe hosts 42nd Annual Baaweting Homecoming Powwow from July 5-7 on reservation



Kathy Egert (left) is the chairman of the tribe's Newberry Elder Committee. She attended the powwow with her niece, Jodi Hokenson, also of Newberry, Mich.



Young jingle dress dancers.



Mattelin Pheasant, 9, gets her hair done by her aunt, Kristol Abel.



Grandma Veronica Medicine and oldest son Johnathan Medicine greet Veronica's favorite ex daughter-in-law Sonja Ballew (right). "She hugged me and cried so much happy tears! Covid was long and then she went to Florida with her daughter for the past five years and I just learned that she is back in Michigan now," Ballew said.



Hillary Sayers from Batchewana First Nation, Ontario Canada.



Young dancers in their beautiful regalia.



Family gathering — The people on the left are the Henry Visnaw family from California and several western states, including some from Detroit and Neebish Island, Michigan. The people on the right are Louella Visnaw Mitchell family members from Rochester, N.Y., Nebraska and Sault Ste. Marie. The family has been getting together every year at the powwow for over 30 years, including lots of cousins and friends.



Saturday afternoon's grand entry.

The 42nd Annual Baaweting Homecoming Powwow was held July 5-7 at the tribe's powwow grounds off of Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie. Thursday's events included a sunrise ceremony and spiritual gathering; Friday's grand entry was at 7 p.m., with dance specials and pop up contests; Saturday's grand entries were at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., and this year's final grand entry was held Sunday, July 7, at 12 p.m.

*Photos by Brenda Austin*



John and Barbara Hillman from Livonia, Mich., have been attending the Sault Tribe Powwow for over 40 years.



Joe Tucker of Westland, Mich., is a woodworker who uses Native designs as his inspiration and Michelle Bouley (left) makes jewelry and paints.



Head female and male dancers lead the dancers around the circle.



Oh baby! — Toddlers learn about powwows and gatherings from a young age when they attend tribal events with their families.



Billi Jo Sylvester (left) and Lisa Shannon were selling crafts, jewelry, skirts and doing regalia repair. Their business is called Chi Nodin Crafts and you can find them on Facebook by doing a search for: Lisa Waaskonekwe Claudio.



Making memories at the Sault Powwow.



# Tribe releases thousands of young whitefish into Pine River

By Scott Brand

If you just look at them wrong they'll die.

That sentiment was often repeated as the Sault Tribe Fisheries Department partnered with the Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians on June 26 delivering thousands of young whitefish to Chippewa County's Pine River in a groundbreaking program.

Through trial and error, the tribe's Fisheries Department has essentially taught itself how to hatch their own whitefish over the last five years with a great degree of success.

The eggs and milt were collected from commercial fishermen working the northern waters of Lake Huron near DeTour last November. The fertilized eggs

were incubated at the Nunn's Creek Hatchery from mid-November on into March before hatching. They remained at this location, with fisheries staff carefully controlling temperature, oxygen levels and other variables as the yok sacks were absorbed. Once conditions at the Odenaang Housing Development Pond were ideal, approximately 150,000 whitefish fry were trucked north and released into the 2-acre pond on April 26.

"It's really amazing how fast they grow at this age," Fisheries Enhancement Coordinator Rusty Aikens said as the microscopic fry had grown to an average of 3 inches in length during their two-month stay in the pond.

In 2023, the whitefish were held in the pond until the fall



with a 25 percent survival rate. There was some speculation that the warm July and August temperatures may have caused an increase in mortality. Again, since the science of raising whitefish is being made right here in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, there isn't a lot of existing research to fall back on. With that in mind, the 2024 stocking was done in June to see if this would increase the survival rate.

Work crews introduced a copper sulfate into the middle of the Odenaang Pond on the

evening of June 25 and the small fish moved away from that concoction into the numerous collection nets along the shoreline. The Sault Tribal Fisheries Department was assisted by the Little Traverse of Odawa Indians Natural Resources Division in this year's stocking program.

"We help each other out on stuff like this," said Aikens, adding the Little Traverse truck did not take any whitefish back home with them. "All of the fish will be going where we want them to go."

The destination for the 2024

planting was the Sullivan Creek Truck Trail Bridge which runs over the Pine River.

While there appeared to be some mortality, again someone might have looked at one wrong, the vast majority of the whitefish fry released swam away, seemingly in good health. The hope is, as Aikens explained, the small whitefish will acclimate to the Pine River and continue to grow before swimming roughly 24 miles downstream where they will enter northern Lake Huron.

If all goes according to plan, they will continue to mature and reach spawning age, before returning to the Pine River to spawn.

"That's the thing about doing something nobody has done before," concluded Aikens. "You just don't know."



Above and below, the Sault Tribe Fisheries Department deployed special nets to re-capture the whitefish that had been released in Odenaang.



Intern Sage Everett with the Sault Tribe's Natural Resources Environmental Program dumps salt into one of the holding tubs used to transport the fish from the nets onto shore. The salt has a calming effect on the fish and also helps to kill parasites and bacteria. He was joined in the background by fellow interns Trenton Maleport and Claire Leighton.



Photos by Scott Brand

Above, Matt Allard loads up the Sault Tribe's Hatchery truck while below, Pat Goetz and Rusty Aikens use a tube to deliver the whitefish at the Sullivan Creek Trail Bridge which runs over the Pine River.



Above, the fish were transported by bucket brigade from the boats to the waiting trucks. Below the Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians utilized a long hose on their hatchery truck with D.J. Smith guiding the fish to their new home.



# Accessing your personal my Social Security account

By HILLARY HATCH, SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

For over 10 years, my Social Security has helped many people access our programs and services online. Soon, we will change the way you sign in to all our online services, including my Social Security.

You will no longer be able to sign in to your personal my Social Security account using your username and password.

Instead, you'll need to use one of our credential service providers, Login.gov or ID.me. If you already have a Login.gov

or ID.me account, and can sign in to our online services, please continue using that account.

If you only have a Social Security username, our screens will guide you through the process to transition your account to Login.gov. Login.gov provides enhanced online security, helps protect you from identity theft, and allows you to create an account that can be used across other agencies. It will only take a few minutes to create a new Login.gov account.

To transition your account, please go to [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) and select 'Sign In.' On the

next page, select 'Sign in with Social Security Username.' After you successfully sign in with your Social Security username and password you will receive a prompt to create an account with Login.gov. You will then be taken to the Login.gov website.

Once you successfully link your Social Security username with your new Login.gov account, you will see a confirmation screen. You can start using your new Login.gov account to access our online services immediately. You will no longer be able to sign in with your personal my Social Security account using

your Social Security username.

Login.gov has 24/7 customer support through phone and chat at [www.login.gov/help](http://www.login.gov/help) to help you set up an account, if needed.

If you're not receiving benefits, you can use your personal my Social Security account to: Request a replacement Social Security card. Get estimates for future benefits. Get your Social Security Statement instantly. Get proof that you do not receive benefits. Check your application status.

If you're receiving benefits, you can use your personal my

Social Security account to: Request a replacement Social Security card. Get an instant benefit verification letter. Start or change your direct deposit. (Social Security beneficiaries only). Change your address. (Social Security beneficiaries only). Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S instantly for tax season. Opt out of mailed notices for those available online.

For more information, please read our publication my Social Security: How to Create an Online Account at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10540.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10540.pdf).

# Social Security Administration supports rural communities

By HILLARY HATCH, SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Social Security touches the lives of nearly every American. Millions count on us — retirees, people no longer able to work due to disability, dependents, and survivors. As a member of the Rural Partners Network, we want to continue reaching out to rural communities.

Our website offers a convenient way to apply online for benefits.

Visit [www.ssa.gov/applyonline](http://www.ssa.gov/applyonline) to learn how to apply for: Retirement or Spouse's Benefits — you must be at least 61 years and 9 months and want your benefits to start in no more than four months; Disability benefits — our disability program pays benefits to workers who are insured and certain family members. This means that they worked long enough — and recently enough — and paid Social Security taxes on their earnings;

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) — SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness, or people 65 or older, who have low income and resources. After you begin your application online, we will review the information you submit and contact you by mail or phone if we have questions; Medicare — Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people who are 65 or older or have a disability or

end-stage renal disease.

If you are not receiving Social Security benefits and not covered under an employer group health plan, you may want to consider applying for Medicare three months before turning age 65; Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Costs — Extra Help assists with monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and co-payments related to Medicare prescription drug coverage for people with limited income

and resources. Apply at [www.ssa.gov/extrahelp](http://www.ssa.gov/extrahelp).

Sign up for a personal my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

Or call 1-800-772-1213, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. If an office visit is required, we can make an appointment.

Automated phone services are available 24 hours a day. Learn more at [www.ssa.gov/agency/contact/phone.html](http://www.ssa.gov/agency/contact/phone.html).

# Ultraviolet rays safety awareness and knowing signs of lip cancer

By JESSICA A. RICKERT, DDS, ANISHINAABE DENTAL OUTREACH

UV are Ultraviolet rays come from the sun and from sunlamps and tanning beds. There are two types of UV rays that damage human skin: UVA and UVB.

Lip cancer is oral cancer that is of special concern to dentists. Lip cancer develops from abnormal squamous cells that grow out of control on the lips and on the skin surrounding the lips. Lip cancer may not have any symptoms.

What are signs and symptoms of possible lip cancer, which you should discuss with your dentist or doctor? A sore, blister, ulcer, or lump on the mouth that doesn't go away; a red or white patch on the lip; cracking and bleeding that doesn't go away; pain or numbness on the lips.

Dentists are often the first to

notice lip cancer during a routine dental exam. Lip cancer is highly curable when diagnosed early.

Most sores or lumps on the lips are not cancer, though.

**How can lip cancer be prevented?**

Minimize exposure to the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., the hours when UV rays are strongest. Apply lip balm with sunscreen 30 SPF before going outside. Re-apply every two hours, even on cloudy days and after swimming or eating. Some cosmetic lipsticks contain sunscreen. Consider using Zinc Oxide, although its opaqueness might be considered unattractive. Wear a wide-brimmed hat that provides shade for the entire face, including lips. Do not use sunlamps or tanning beds. Sand, concrete and water reflect UV rays, so cover up and wear sunscreen while outside. Snow and ice also reflect

UV rays. Protect children from the sun, because skin damage from UV rays early in life can lead to skin cancer later in life. Keep babies younger than six months out of direct sunlight.

**What behaviors increase the risk for lip cancer?**

Using tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, or chewing tobacco); Heavy drinking of alcohol; Prolonged exposure UV rays (both natural sunlight and artificial); Recognize that outdoor activities and outdoor work result in many hours outside; Having

light-colored skin; Being male; Having had the human papillomavirus (HPV); Being older than 40 or living nearer to the equator.

**How is lip cancer diagnosed?**


Dentists and doctors perform a physical exam of your lips and other parts of your mouth, head and neck to search for abnormalities. Dentists and doctors will also ask you about your health history, smoking and alcohol history, past illnesses, medical and dental treatments, family history of disease and any medications in

use.

If lip cancer is suspected, a referral to an oral surgeon is in order. A simple biopsy can confirm the diagnosis.


If the biopsy results confirm lip cancer, the oral surgeon and dentist and cancer specialist will determine the best course of treatment.

Remember, lip cancer is highly curable when diagnosed early. Because many cases of lip cancer are first discovered by dentists, it is important to make and keep regular dental appointments.



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**TRIBAL MEMBER REGISTRATION IN THE TAX AGREEMENT AREA**

**TRIBAL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

**(Including the Issuance of Certificates of Exemptions)**

**INITIAL REGISTRATION AND OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

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

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

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

**CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTIONS**

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

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

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

# Shingle Bay Preserve: plans for new lands & waters

BY SAGE EVERETT, SAULT TRIBE SUMMER 2024 INTERN

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors recently designated management responsibilities for over 500 acres of land on Sugar Island to Ezhi-Inawendiyang, the tribe's Natural Resources Division. The tribe purchased these lands in 2023 as part of a strategic effort to restore tribal landholdings. These lands include forested uplands, lowlands, and 7,000 feet of shoreline along Shingle Bay, collectively called the Shingle Bay Preserve. The Shingle Bay Preserve includes mature sugar maple, yellow birch, and hemlock forests, vernal pools, and coastal wetlands, providing food, medicine, and essential habitat for our plant, fish, wildlife, and other relatives. The Shingle Bay Preserve also borders the University of Michigan's Chase Osborn Preserve to the east and the Little Traverse Conservancy's Bailey-Lagerstrom Preserve to the south. Together these preserves form a large, contiguous expanse of forested ecosystems with great

conservation value.

The Shingle Bay Preserve mission is to promote and revitalize Sault Tribe member relationships with Sugar Island ecosystems and the plant, fish, and animal relatives that support them. Preserve management will focus on promoting cultural connections through hunting, fishing, gathering, and ceremonial activities. The division will work with the tribe's research institute, the Consortium for Cooperative Ecological Research (CCER), to demonstrate relational engagement with these lands and waters, with research and management drawing from Anishinaabe and Western sciences. The Division and CCER will support late-successional forest communities and their medicines in the inland forested areas and restore manoomin (wild rice) in the Bay. Furthermore, the tribe is eager to provide needed space for ceremonies, pursue co-stewardship of adjoining lands and waters, and ensure a more holistic approach to land co-management.



Photo by Eric Clark

Shingle Bay Preserve was purchased in 2023 to help restore Sault Tribe land holdings.

## Gidayaangwaami'idimin Ezhi-inawendiyang

BY TRENTEN MALEPORT, SAULT TRIBE SUMMER 2024 INTERN

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors recently passed a resolution acknowledging the Anishinaabe name for the tribe's Natural Resources Division. This name, Gidayaangwaami'idimin Ezhi-inawendiyang, refers to the commitment and responsibility of the division and staff to be careful in the way that we are being related to our plant, fish, wildlife, water, and other relatives.

Although "natural resources" is a widely used term in our field of work, it is associated with an exploitive relationship with our planet, animals, fish, and other relatives. We as Anishinaabeg understand that plants, fish, waters, and other animals are our

Gidayaangwaami'idimin Ezhi-inawendiyang, refers to the commitment and responsibility of the division and staff to be careful in the way that we are being related to our plant, fish, wildlife, water, and other relatives.

elder relatives in creation; they have looked out for us throughout our existence and it's our responsibility to reciprocate that care and respect.

The division's Anishinaabe name provides instructions for

doing our work in a good way.

With this Anishinaabe name, we are better supported in following these teachings and in promoting our Ojibwe language and ways with Sault Tribe membership and the public.



## A deep dive into wetlands, nature's natural phenomena

BY TRENTEN MALEPORT

Wetlands are one of nature's natural phenomena. Not only are they beautiful, but they're also beneficial for many ecological purposes. A wetland is defined as an area of land covered in water for most periods and usually fed by groundwater, streams, lakes, and even seawater. Wetlands are home to many forms of life, whether aquatic, wildlife, plants, or humans. Wetlands also have many functions. They are home to various species and help clean the environment, sustain the ecosystem, control floods and storms, and help with erosion control.

Michigan has approximately 6.4 million acres of wetlands, with ranging varieties.

These are protected under Part 303 of Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Clean Water Act. Implementation and regulation of these rules are enforced by the state of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). In order to build or make any alterations to the land on these wetlands, you need

to obtain a permit from EGLE. If you don't get a permit, you will be fined and charged to restore the wetlands to their original state. When filling in a wetland, you might be required to create a wetland mitigation, which generates another wetland due to the one you destroyed. Wetland mitigations can be costly as you have to buy land and then have it converted into a wetland that represents the one that was lost.

There are many different types of wetlands, such as swamps, marshes, bogs, and fens. Each of these wetlands offers different characteristics, such as what's found there, locations, types of functions, depths, and so forth. Swamps are wetlands filled with trees such as ash, elm, maple, black willow, and aspen and are constantly saturated with water throughout the seasons. Typical vegetation, although limited, includes cattails, water lily, and duckweed. Animals that reside within the swamp wetlands are whitetail deer, raccoons, frogs, turtles, snakes, minks, and beavers.

Marsh wetlands are a little

different as they aren't as dominated by trees, like swamps and other wetlands tend to be, but are instead dominated by grasses and herbaceous plant life. There are three types of marshes: tidal salt, inland, and tidal freshwater. Tidal marshes serve a significant role as they help in erosion control, absorb excess nutrients, and slow down stormwater. Inland freshwater marshes are typical for Michigan as they are found alongside lakes and rivers. Different kinds of coastal marshes are also all over Michigan as the Great Lakes surround us. Coastal marshes are categorized into three types: riverine, barrier-protected, and lacustrine. Riverine marshes are found along rivers and are influenced by riverine water flow. Barrier-protected marshes are located behind barriers such as sand dunes or barrier islands, which shield them from direct oceanic impact. Lacustrine marshes are associated with lakes and are influenced by lake water levels and conditions. The vegetation and animal life throughout these marshes can vary as some might not be saturated with water

at all times, changing what can be supported there. Typical vegetation and animal life include herbaceous plants, frogs, snakes, ducks, raccoons, and bears.

Other types of wetlands mentioned are bogs and fens, which have similarities but also differ in several aspects. Bogs have higher acidic waters, receive water from precipitation, are low in nutrients, and the floor is covered in thick sphagnum moss. Ferns have abundant nutrients due to drainage from surrounding areas, are less acidic, and can help support a vast array of life. Fens can sometimes turn into bogs when the peat builds up and blocks the water supply, whether that is groundwater or runoff.

Bogs and fens are susceptible to disturbances that can disrupt their ecosystems. Common disturbances include harvesting top layers of sphagnum, mowing, or grazing livestock. A variety of animals and plants call bogs and fens home, such as the bog lemmings, sundews, ducks, deer, pitcher plants, red-winged blackbirds, Nashville warblers, alder, mice, shrew, foxes, frogs, mink,

and raccoons.

Wetlands are crucial for water filtration and flood mitigation. The soil and plants within the wetland help filter pollution and deficient nutrients out of the water so they do not spread to other areas or animals. They also help with flood mitigation by holding so much water before it reaches capacity, and it spills over and floods the surrounding areas. Wetlands are well known for carbon sequestration, where the carbon released from decaying plants and animals within the wetland is trapped within whether that be in soil, litter, roots, or peat. Carbon is then returned to the air due to the disturbances of the soils and hydrology. Wetlands hold large amounts of carbon, which means when we lose/destroy wetlands, we lose that carbon storage area, and all the stored carbon is released back into the atmosphere.

Please reach out to the Sault Tribe Environmental Program for more information on the wetlands the tribe currently owns and manages at (906) 632-5575.

# Walking on...

## JEROME PAUL PETERSON

On June 19, 2024, Jerome Paul Peterson, 94, of Manistique, Mich., joined the love of his life in heaven.



He was born Nov. 9, 1929, in Manistique to his parents Rueben and Pearl Peterson. Jerome spent several years with the U.S. Air Force before joining civilian life and joined his father in the family business, Peterson Fisheries.

On Aug. 19, 1950, he married the former Mickey McMillan at the First Baptist Church in Manistique. Together, they had five daughters.

Joe was a tremendously outgoing guy. He was a member of the Mason's and the Shriners. As a Native American, he served with pride as a board member with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He was always a proud Anishinaabe. Joe loved using his hands and did so creatively through his wood-working. He was a social person and enjoyed playing a good game of cards. His excellent sense of humor, his outgoing, genuine, friendly nature endeared him to everyone who knew him. His grandchildren loved him, and never wanted to leave his house when they were little, because they felt loved and cherished. To this day they sing "Jesus loves me this I know because my papa told me so."

Jerome is survived by his children, daughters, Carole Hare of Seattle, Wash.; Jo-Nell (John) Berger, Janet Krueger, and Kelly (Randy) Hatinger all of Manistique, Mich. Additionally, he is survived by 11 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, his son-in-law Steve Norman of Chatham, Mich., and sister-in-law Marlene Peterson of Manistique.

Jerome is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 58 years, Mickey, daughter Linda Norman, and son-in-law Kenneth Krueger, his parents, four brothers and five great-grandchildren.

Visitation took place on July 1, 2024 at Zion Lutheran Church in Manistique. The memorial service with Pastor Tommy Richter was held at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon at Augustana Hall. The burial service took place at Thompson Cemetery.

Memorial donations in Jerome's name may be directed to the Backpack Buddies, the Zion Lutheran Church general fund and the Shriners.

Fausett Family Funeral Homes is assisting the family with arrangements.

## RANDALL JOHN LIETZ

Randall John Lietz, 65, died on June 27, 2024, at MyMichigan in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He was born on April 29, 1959, at Muskegon, Mich., to Herbert and Etta (Raffaele) Lietz.



Randy was a graduate of Sault High School. He attended college in Traverse City, Mich. Randy was a long-time employee in the produce department of the Soo Co-op Grocery Store and later at Super Valu Grocery Store. He owned and operated Showcase Comics and Collectables for several years and was co-owner of the retail store, Ozone of the North, with his cousin Charles "Yogi" Rosini.

Randy was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Sault Ste. Marie.

Randy was an avid collector of comic books, sports cards, and rocks/minerals. He was very passionate and knowledgeable on all Michigan sports teams.

Randy is survived by his siblings, Tracey (Jonathan) Lounds, James "Sonny" (Akemi) Gordon, and Holly (Harry) Norquest; aunt, Rita Hudson; and cousin (like a brother), Charles Rosini.

Randy was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Etta; and sister, Stephanie Gordon.

A Graveside Service was held on July 8, at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

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

## LINDA J. NORMAN

Linda J. Norman, 72, of Chatham, Mich., died Dec. 13, 2023, at UPHS Marquette. She was born in Highland Park, Mich., on April 24, 1951, the oldest of five daughters to Jerome "Joe" and Edna "Mickey" (McMillan) Peterson.



Growing up in a commercial fishing family, Linda and her family spent time in Harbor Beach and then moved to Manistique. Cherished family memories included camping with her parents and sisters.

She graduated from Manistique High School in 1969 and earned her bachelor's degree in teaching from Northern Michigan University. It was there where mutual friends introduced her to Stephen Norman. They were married on Sept. 7, 1974.

Steve always said that Linda blessed him with three wonderful children. Linda put her career on hold to stay home and raise her children. When they were of school age, she returned to the workforce and always remained in elementary education. Linda

worked and subbed at local schools, but her true love and passion was found in Deerton at the AuTrain Onota Public Schools. Mrs. Norman spent 15 years teaching there and she loved every one of them. Even in her retirement, she was involved with the activities at the school.

Linda was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a faithful and active member of Sion Lutheran Church where she shared her love of teaching and the Lord to the children during their Vacation Bible School.

Music was also important to her, especially Christian music and singing in the choir at church.

Linda and family built and ran The Corner Station where the community could get pizza, subs, and ice cream. She and Steve would travel around the country to spend time with kids, grandkids, cousins, and siblings.

Linda poured herself into family whether raising her own children or helping with the family businesses. Her life was a ministry of loving and caring for children.

She is survived by her loving husband of over 49 years, Steve Norman of Chatham; children, Paul (Tara) Norman of Spring Branch, Texas, Michelle Lorimer of Richland, Mich., and Nathan (Kristy) Norman of Tyler, Texas; exchange students from Sweden, Patrik Hulterström and Terése Hulterström, who became her children while they lived here and still call Linda "Mom"; father, Joe Peterson of Manistique; grandchildren, Bella, Jacob, Caleb, Liam, Alina, Maizee, Sophie, Camden, and Levi; son-in-law Blair Lorimer; sisters, Carole Hare of Mill Creek, Wash., Jo-Nell (John) Berger, Janet Krueger, and Kelly (Randy) Hatinger all of Manistique; brothers-in-law, Bart (Maureen) Norman of Brighton, Mich., and Mike (Keely) Norman of

Chatham; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Linda was preceded in death by her mother Mickey, brothers-in-law Ken Krueger and Tom Norman, and parents-in-law Henry and Helen Norman.

Visiting time with family and friends took place at the Bowerman Funeral Home on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, and on Jan. 6, 2024, at the Sion Lutheran Church in Chatham. Rev. Bo Baumeister conducted Linda's memorial service. Interment took place at the Pine Grove Cemetery in Chatham.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials in Linda's name be made to the Sion Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School (P.O. Box 131, Chatham, MI (49862) or the AuTrain Onota Public Schools Children's Activity Fund (P.O. Box 105, Deerton, MI (49822).)

## DIANE LINDSEY

Lifelong Newberry resident Diane Lindsey, 65, passed away on June 29, 2024 at her daughter's home in Sheboygan, Wisc., after a brief illness.

Diane was born on Aug. 18, 1958, to the late Coral and Barbara Edgar in Newberry, Mich. She was a proud member of the Sault Ste Marie Chippewa Indians.

On April 30, 1993 Diane married the love of her life Thomas Lindsey Sr. Together they managed the Newberry KOA until Tom's retirement. Diane went on to drive for Dial-A-Ride in Newberry until May 2024.

In her spare time Diane enjoyed spending time with her kids and grandkids. She enjoyed watching the Detroit Tigers play, and played a variety of computer

See "Walking on," page 18



# Mystic Visions opens on Ashmun Street in Sault

## BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The next time you take a drive down Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie, climb the stairs at 409 Ashmun up to the second floor where Mystic Visions makes its home and meet owner and Sault Tribe member Maria Larson. Step into a room dedicated to just crystals where you can shop for the perfect one. Would you like a tarot card reading? Larson has a dedicated reading room where she uses tarot cards to help her clients gain insight into their life and also offers hypnotherapy.

A very creative person, Larson also enjoys selling homemade candles, elixirs, tinctures, polished rocks from the Great Lakes, dreamcatchers she makes along with her paintings and drawings and the occasional woodburning. She also offers home décor items.

Larson began her journey by studying anthropology at the University of Michigan in 1998 and theology at the University of Missouri in 2002. "I have studied many cultures and have been fascinated with the idea of divination and prophecy. I instantly took to a form of cartomancy,

where practitioners use tarot cards to purportedly gain insight into the past, present, and future. I found that I was gifted with the craft," she said.

Her tarot card readings are non-judgmental, reality based and spirituality focused. "I am a natural intuitive reader and do not utilize tarot as fortune telling. The energy of free will is operable during a tarot reading and the future will and can change by your actions now. I believe that the source of a tarot reading emanates from within and aids in guidance and the opportunity to be all that you can be. Relationships, love, money, business, connecting to your higher power; all subjects are welcome."

Larson picked up her first tarot deck at age 20 and she said it kick-started her fascination when she performed readings on friends and family. Thirty-two years later, she's still fascinated by the complexity of individual cause-and-effect, and is devoted to helping people make better decisions – and lead happier lives. "I believe that nothing is fated, that everything is fluid –

and that the cards have the power to inspire courageous, life-affirming action. But only if you honor your emotional and intuitive reactions for what they really are – a quiet guiding intelligence," she said.

Larson said that starting a metaphysical store can be really rewarding work. She said Mystic Vision's promise is to assist individuals on their life's path by enhancing their knowledge, encouraging their curiosity, empowering their actions and embracing their uniqueness.

For those interested in having a hypnotherapy session, she guides people through a process to induce a trance-like state that helps them focus their minds, respond more readily to suggestions, and become deeply relaxed. She said the healing is done by the person, that as the therapist she helps in the process by using appropriate verbal suggestions.

Larson can be contacted by calling (906) 440-0917 or by email at: [marirala4@gmail.com](mailto:marirala4@gmail.com). They are open M-F from 5 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday's from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Mystic Visions owner Maria Larson.

Photo by Scott Brand





# Serving our tribe has been the honor of my life



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

I would like to begin my unit report by thanking our membership for re-electing me chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians by such a large margin. Serving our tribe has been the honor of my life, and I will continue to perform my duties to the best of my abilities.

I would also like to thank everyone involved in the election process. That includes the candidates who ran clean races, our Election Commission, and our internal staff. Among our staff, Ryan Mills, Lona Stewart, and Ashlee Mielke went above and beyond. Each of them put in long hours to ensure that our election ran smoothly, and I deeply appreciate their professionalism and hard work.

I will now discuss a board concern that was raised by Director Hampton at the end of the July 2

board meeting. To begin, Director Hampton is someone that I deeply respect, and I believe she is an exceptional board member. With that said, I believe her board concern was an unfair attack on our Legal Department.

Director Hampton's concern was based on how our Legal Department processed several complaints against an election commissioner. The board previously amended our Election Ordinance to create a mechanism to sanction election commissioners who had substantiated allegations against them. When the board receives complaints against commissioners, they vote to send the complaints to Tribal Court for a hearing. The Legal Department can contract these cases to outside law firms to avoid the perception of bias, which was done in this case. Tribal Court then determines the validity of the complaints and issues sanctions if needed. After votes are cast, the board is no longer involved in the process. That is due to the obvious reason that during elections, half of the board is up for re-election, which creates a major conflict of interest.

To be clear, our Legal Department did what the majority of the board voted for them to do, which included Directors McKechnie, Lee, Freiheit, McRorie, and Hampton. Worsening this issue is misinformation that is currently being spread by a small faction within

our tribe alleging that our Legal Department acted independently and sent this case to Tribal Court without a board vote.

We can do better than this. Alleging that our Legal Department engages in litigation without the board's consent is factually inaccurate and slanderous because it insinuates that staff are operating outside of their professional code of ethics. The board voted to send this case to Tribal Court on May 7. Members can watch this meeting on the tribe's social media account to verify it for themselves. When this motion was being discussed, the following statements were made, which verifies the board knew exactly what they were voting on:

*Tribal Attorney: "Chapter 10 states that the board is the only body that motions the removal from Election Committee over to Tribal Court. Only the board can do it. That's why it's here."*

*Director Causley: "So we are putting it to the Tribal Court to determine the removal?"*

*Tribal Attorney: "Correct."*

*Tribal Attorney: "A petition for a removal of an Election Commission member may be brought by majority vote of the tribal Board of Directors, the hearing procedures for a removal of the commission member shall be an administrative hearing conducted by the Sault Tribe Court Chief Judge."*

*Board Administrator: Five*

*"yes" votes, four "no" votes, and one abstention.*

*Director LaPlaunt: This moves this issue to Tribal Court, who will have full jurisdiction to make a decision.*

I firmly believe we have some of the best employees in Indian Country, including our Legal Department, which is 100% staffed by Sault Tribe attorneys. I have the utmost faith in this department that helped our tribe navigate out of the \$88 million JLLJ lawsuit last year, which threatened our ability to pay our employees.

Moving on from this topic, I am pleased to announce that the state of Michigan will be allocating funds to help cover the costs associated with operating our homeless shelter, the Lodge of Hope, for one year (\$750,000). This was spearheaded by our State Senator, John DaMoose, who I deeply appreciate. The state is doing this because they view the Lodge of Hope as a model for how to combat housing insecurity.

To conclude, I have begun taking lawmakers on tribal commercial fishing boats to help provide them with an education on treaty rights. This will help correct misinformation that is being spread about tribal commercial fishing operations. I would like to give a chi miigwech to Jason Grondin, a Sault Tribe commercial fisher-



**Sault Tribe Commercial Fisherman Jason Grondin**

man who is helping me with this. I would also like to give a chi miigwech out to our tribal departments who helped me obtain my helpers card and the necessary observer permits. I encourage all board members to get helpers cards and accompany our commercial fishermen on the water. There is no better way to learn.

Miigwech for reading!  
Austin Lowes  
Sault Tribe Chairman  
(906) 635-6050

## Anishinaabemowin is important for sovereignty



**ISAAC McKECHNIE**  
**DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Dear Citizens,  
Sovereignty is the supreme and independent power or authority in government by a community, such as a nation or a state. Indian tribes possess sovereignty.

Before European settlers came to America, Native American peoples governed themselves. After the European settlers arrived, Native American peoples continued to govern themselves. Individual and independent tribes made treaties with the settlers, who came to govern themselves as a nation of peoples, the United States of America. The tribes never gave up their sovereignty to the United States federal government, the state governments of the United States, or anyone else.

To this day, each and every Indian tribe retains its sovereignty, and, through a lot of case

law, their status has evolved to that of a nation within a nation. The federal government has a trust responsibility, originating with the treaties, to each tribe. And, each tribe has a government-to-government relationship with the United States.

The status of American Indians is complex. American Indians are a citizen of their tribe, the state in which they reside and the U.S., and they have rights in each jurisdiction. (All American Indians were made full U.S. citizens in 1924, whether they liked it or not.)

American Indian tribes' sovereign status has, in the eyes of federal law, changed over the years at the whims of the U.S. Congress and U.S. Supreme Court. In an era of termination beginning in the 1940s, the federal government terminated numerous tribal rights, tribes and Indian treaties. Hundreds of Indian tribes have been eliminated as political entities in the United States

You may not realize how important our language and culture is to Indian country, and our tribe, as well as to ourselves as individuals. Our language teachers begin by reminding us that we are a sovereign nation today because of these attributes, but that status is threatened by outside interest. You see, that sovereignty is a legal standing with the United States government. Because of it, we receive federal funding for health, education,

housing, and social programs. What could threaten that? It turns out our sovereignty depends on three basic requirements: a land base (which we have been accumulating), cultural practice (which we engage in and which is overseen by our Language & Culture Department) and the use of our language (again this overseen by our Language & Culture Department). If even one of these requirements is challenged and fails, we are at risk of losing our identity, and sovereignty.

Many of our teachers admit the use of our language by our members is our weakest link. Like in other tribes, our Language Program is working to revitalize the way we speak with each other — using at least some Anishinaabemowin, the language of our people. They know that to do that, our members need to see value in the language, personally for that sense of belonging and pride, as well as for the good of the tribe as a whole. So, our language teachers are using a number of avenues to help us become speakers at whatever level we are ready for.

Here's what they have been doing. Some of us will only want to have a few useful phrases. They will find a language page in every issue of our monthly tribal newspaper (Win Awenen Nisitotung) to help them. Others will want a deeper dive into how Anishinaabemowin is put **See "McKechnie Report," Pg. 21**

### Back to School Swapping event Aug. 6

"Back to School Swapping"  
WHEN: Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024  
WHERE: Chi Mukwa Arena Bear Cub Court  
TIME: 12-6 p.m.  
Bring a Bag!  
Bring your gently used and washed clothing to Big Bear Arena before Aug. 2 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (ask for Lisa) to swap for used clothing for chil-

dren in Head Start through High School on Aug. 6.  
Items accepted: Shirts, Tops, Hoodies, Sweaters, Light Jackets, Winter Coats, Pants, Jeans, Sweat Pants, Shorts, Dresses, Sports Equipment (Cleats, Skates, Sticks, Balls, Dance Items), Backpacks, Shoes and Boots.  
Hosted by the Sault Tribe Tap Committee.

*Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians*

## Escanaba Community Center

# OPEN HOUSE

**July 29, 1-6 p.m.**

**3721 Jingob St., Escanaba, MI 49829**  
Located on the Escanaba Housing site, next to the YEA building

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony begins at 1:30 p.m.**

- Light Refreshments
- Departmental Displays
- Building Tours

For more information, contact Mary Jenerou at (906) 341-8469 or (906)450-7011.

# Unit 5 updates, events from Director LaPlaunt



**TYLER LAPLAUNT  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V**

Aanii, Boozhoo,

Beginning on a more somber note than usual, what happened on July 13 was appalling and yet another dark time for this great nation. Regardless of your political viewpoints, differences should never lead to attempts on anyone's lives. Innocent people lost their lives or are in critical condition. Those families will never be able to hold their loved ones again. Why? For supporting someone for what they believe in?

The importance of democracy is that we can get together and air out our grievances like adults. Not everyone believes in the same thing, nor should we. Attempted murder, assassination, and the innocent loss of lives is inexcusable and has no place in our country. Disagreements in political views should never lead to this. Please pray, lay your assema, or send positive energy to those who have lost loved ones this past week.

On a tribal level, I'd like to congratulate everyone who ran this last election cycle. You all stood up for what you believe in, put yourselves out there, and made positive change. Our little ones are always watching and each and every one of the candidates should be proud of themselves and hold their heads up high. I look forward to continuing to work with those who were re-elected, as well as the newly elected board. Again, we can disagree on key issues, but doing so respectfully and with the best interest of the tribe in mind is always of the utmost importance.

I'd like to also take a moment to recognize the hard work of all our staff involved in the election process. It isn't easy and they put in countless hours to ensure that everything ran as smoothly as possible. This tribe would not operate without people like them, who commit so much time and energy, not just because it's their job, but because they love our tribe. So, to everyone involved, chi miigwech for all the work you have done and all the work you continue to do.

Last, but most definitely not least, I'd like to thank our volunteer Election Commission for its effort and dedication to our tribe. We knew this election cycle was going to be bumpy with the new policy put in place and the new commission taking the lead, but they toughed out the process and saw it through. These volunteers put their hearts and souls into this work, again, for the love of our tribe and our people. I hear they have a laundry list of fixes for us to review, and I look forward to

working with the election commission and board to strengthen our election process even further. Chi miigwech to our Election Commission and everyone who volunteered to assist in the election process.

Update on open enrollment. As of July 5, 2024, there have been 4,180 applications entered into the tracking system. These are adults only. They have enrolled 30 members this week. To date, they have enrolled 1,163 members since Feb. 1, 2024, including children, and 39 applications have been denied. This is a tenuous process for our Enrollment Department, and they will continue to do their due diligence to ensure that only those applicants who can properly trace lineage are enrolled. Chi miigwech to our entire Enrollment Department for all of their hard work.

Kewadin Casino renovations update. The Kewadin Sault had its ribbon cutting for our first batch of finished hotel rooms. Forty rooms are now finished and available, along with another twenty six opening the following week. Chi miigwech to all of our staff that helped see this along. Renovations will continue well into 2025 until our flagship is completely revamped. This is an exciting time. Investing in our infrastructure and sustainability is investing in our future and I cannot wait to see what the future holds.

Gifts from Our Past! Jim Paquette, an Indigenous archaeologist, will be telling his story at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community Room on Thursday, Aug. 8, 2024, starting at 6 p.m. Dinner will be provided to those in attendance. For the first time ever we will be broadcasting a Unit 5 cultural event to the entire tribe thanks to our new videographer, Joe Street, and the kindness and willingness of Jim Paquette to share his story. For those of you unable to attend this event, you will be able to tune in on the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe's Facebook page to hear his story.

We now also have a date for the screening of the Bad River film at Thomas Theater in Marquette. The screening will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 4 p.m. Admission is free and will include popcorn and pop for everyone in attendance. If you are interested in attending, please email Stacie

Mattson at smattson1@saulttribe.net so we can begin to get a headcount and make sure we have enough space for everyone interested. This is a Unit 5 activity, but open to ALL Sault Tribe households who are able to attend.

We continue to host bi-weekly culture night every second and fourth Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Marquette Community Center on 204 Cherry Creek Road. Everyone is welcome, whether you are an Elder knowledge keeper or someone new to our culture and taking your first steps. This is a safe space to ask questions, participate, learn, and make great friends. Dinner is always provided for everyone in attendance. People are welcome to bring a dish to pass or story to share, but absolutely nothing is expected out of those in attendance other than kindness and consideration of others.

Finally, we will be purchasing U.P. State Fair wristbands for the youth of all Unit 5 households. These bands are for Native American Day on Aug. 15, 2024, and can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Kewadin Casino booth inside the Ruth Butler building. To reserve a wristband call or text the Unit 5 Sault Tribe child's name and age to Mary Jenerou at (906) 450-7011. You can also call Mary at (906) 341-8469.

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

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Marquette will be held on Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024, at the Holiday Inn of Marquette from 6 to 8 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 or surrounding Unit 4 Elder aged 60-plus.

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

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



**PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING  
SPEAKER JAMES PAQUETTE  
Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 6 p.m.  
Grand Island Chippewa Community  
Center, 622 West Superior Street,  
Munising, MI 49862  
Dinner will be provided after the  
presentation.**

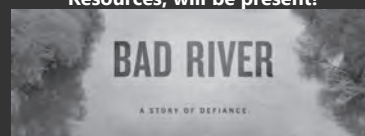
## BAD RIVER MOVIE NIGHT!!!

Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
Sponsored by UNIT 5



**4:00 P.M.** ★ **Thomas  
Theater  
1525  
Commerce  
Drive  
Marquette,  
MI**

Please join us for a FREE showing of BAD RIVER, a new documentary film which chronicles the Wisconsin based Bad River Band and it's on going fight for sovereignty! Naomi Tillison, Director of Bad River Mashkiizibii Natural Resources, will be present!



**SAULT TRIBE  
ANISHINAABEMOWIN  
CLASSES**

Wednesdays  
6pm-8pm

With Susan Askwith & Paul Blondeau

[www.tinyurl.com/susanpaul](http://www.tinyurl.com/susanpaul)  
or join by phone at 1-312-626-6799  
(Meeting ID: 926 5838 7956 passcode: 631691)

Thursdays  
10am-12pm

With Cecil E. Pavlat Sr.

[www.tinyurl.com/shirleycecil](http://www.tinyurl.com/shirleycecil)  
or join by phone at 1-646-558-8656  
(Meeting ID: 951 9196 1173 passcode: 346018)

**U.P. State Fair Wristband Day  
for Unit 5 Sault Tribe Children**

**\*\*In order for your child to get a free wrist band for the fair,  
YOU MUST register them before 5:00pm on August 9, 2024**

**AGE REQUIREMENT:** Bands available for Unit 5 Sault Tribe Children, up to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**DATE OF EVENT:** Native American Day, Thursday August 15, 2024

**WRISTBAND PICK-UP TIME:** Bands can be picked up between 11:00am - 2:00pm.

**WRISTBAND PICK-UP LOCATION:** Wristbands will be available for pick up inside the Ruth Butler Building, next to the Kewadin Casinos booth.

**TO RESERVE A WRISTBAND:** Call or Text the Unit 5 Sault Tribe child's name and age to Mary Jenerou @ (906) 450-7011. You can also call Mary @ 906-341-8469.

**Deadline to register children for wristbands is 5pm on  
August 9, 2024**

**\*\*In order to pick up the wristband on August 15, 2024 for all registered Unit 5 Sault Tribe enrolled children, the child MUST be present and you MUST have the child's tribal card present as well**

# Let's come together and set aside our differences



**KIMBERLY LEE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

elected board of directors.

- Chairman Lowes
- Unit 1 Kimberle Gravelle, Michael McKerchie, and Aaron Payment
- Unit 2 Lana Causley-Smith
- Unit 3 Bridgett Sorenson
- Unit 4 Larry Barbeau

Let's come together and set aside our differences for the sake of all members' well-being. This is a tribute to our ancestors, a demonstration of love for our elders, and a promise to support the future of our youth.

Regarding healthcare, our new CEO has officially accepted the position, and it is expected to commence shortly. With the guidance of the professionals at Bluestone and the incoming CEO, they will collaborate to initiate various changes and new implementations to shape the future of our healthcare services. Additionally, the Mackinac Straits Health Facility is scheduled to transition to a new hospital section by the end of August. Rest assured, we will continue collaborating with Mackinaw Straits to offer laboratory services, specialized treatments, and diagnostic tests.

Powwow season is in full force. I was able to attend the Soo Powwow. How incredibly heartwarming and healing. With every beat of the drum, I could feel our ancestors near. The committee that organizes and volunteers works so hard for our people to gather—Chi miigwech to all of



you for this event. Triple the size in one year is huge. We get to gather and heal because of your love of our traditions, dedication, and honor. I hope to see every one of you at one or all of the upcoming powwows.

— The YEA (Youth) will host their's on July 27 in Hessel. They are now moving locations each year, circling the seven-county service area. They work incredi-

bly hard to make this a fantastic event. If you get an opportunity to go on to spectate the future of our culture, please do. You will not regret it.

— The Hessel Powwow will be on August 16, 17, and 18.

— Newberry Powwow is on Sept. 7.

Get involved in any way you are able. Volunteers are needed to continue the success of our pow-

wows.

Take care of yourselves physically and spiritually. Ask the Creator and your ancestors for help and be forgiving and kind when possible.

Miigwech for your time  
Kimberly Lee  
Unit 2 Board of Directors Representative  
Klee@saulttribe.net  
(906) 379-8965

Aanii,  
July arrived so quickly. I hope you all enjoy all it has to offer.

The 2024 election season is behind us. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who dedicated their time and effort to our ancestors, elders, and future by participating in the voting process. I also want to acknowledge the Election Commission for their often overlooked volunteer hours and express my deep respect for their accountability to all members. While we still have a long way to go, I am reassured by the courage, strength, and resilience of those who stepped up to make a positive impact. Thank you for your service, strength, and commitment to our tribe.

Congratulations to the newly

## Directors Hampton, Barbeau combine reports



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aaniin. Boozhoo kina waya. This month's unit report is a combined effort between both Unit 4 Director Hampton and Director Barbeau. We both want to assure the membership that we will work together, as a team, to move Unit 4 forward. We have already begun the planning and have developed a 90-day team plan and a 6-month team plan.

Aaniin everyone. My name is Larry Barbeau and I am the newly elected Unit 4 Director. I want to say chi miigwech for your support and I look forward to working with, and for, all members. I am excited to begin this journey and am honored to serve you all.

Aaniin, Kimberly Hampton here. I look forward to the next 90 days and the next 6 months while I work with Director Barbeau and also work on taking another look at the unit goals I have been working on. I look forward to positive changes. Stay



**LARRY BARBEAU,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

tuned for some exciting news.

Reminders:  
**Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow**  
SAVE THE DATE for the 2025 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow scheduled for June 7, 2025.

We encourage everyone to "like" the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page to keep updated on events.

### Unit 4 Elder Meetings

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

The next meeting in Manistique will be held Aug. 14, 2024 at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. This year's elder picnic is scheduled for Aug. 21, 2024.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Aug. 14, 2024, at 5 p.m. EST at the Delta County Chamber Building. This year's elder picnic is scheduled for Aug. 10, 2024.

### Updates

Escanaba Community Center Open House: Monday, July 29, 2024, 1-6pm with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Please join us in this event. All are welcome.

Manistique Fitness Center: There have been a lot of members asking when the Manistique Fitness Center will be opening. We are aiming for the middle of August for the opening of the fitness center but watch for updates. Sault Tribe is actively seeking candidates for open positions at both the fitness center and the Escanaba Community Center, so please visit the Sault Tribe website saulttribe.com employment section.

### Looking Forward

We both look forward to working together, with the membership, to bring improvements in all areas including, but not limited to, community input sessions, office hours for Board of Directors within Unit 4, increasing fishing and hunting accessibility, and more.

We, Directors Hampton and Barbeau, will be scheduling regular office hours for both Manistique and Escanaba and will publish days and times, publicly, once they have been set. The days and times will be posted on social media, in the Sault Tribe newspaper, as well as at the Manistique Tribal Health Center and the Escanaba Community Center. We will also be scheduling monthly community input sessions that will also be made public.

We both want to give our sincerest thanks for trusting us

to represent Unit 4 members and Sault Tribe. We are always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. We encourage members to participate in Maamawi Craft Nights, office hours, community input sessions, Katch-up with Kim, and all other activities and events occurring throughout Indian Country.

## Director McKechnie's Report Continued

*From "McKechnie Report," Pg. 19*

together. For that, we have two time-options of online classes per week. There are also well over 100 lessons recorded and archived to guide members on that journey. Our teachers assist counselors to help students use basic language at schools in the Upper Peninsula. They are also available to respond to questions from individuals about translations. And when crafts are taught, Anishinaabemowin words and phrases are included. Working under a grant, a group of committed teens attend after-school lessons through activities with one of the teachers.

While many tribal members have engaged in these opportu-

Our contact information is below:

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

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

## Time change for Escanaba Elders Sub-Committee meetings

The Unit IV - Escanaba Elders Sub-Committee will now be meeting at **4:30 p.m.** on the second Wednesday of the Month at the Delta Co. Chamber Building (Fair Grounds). Upcoming meeting dates are Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11. (No meeting in August.)

# The 2024 tribal election was like no other



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

I would like to thank the members who supported me during this long and very ugly campaign cycle. I appreciate all that voted for me and will continue to hopefully earn your support if you did not vote for me.

I think it is fair to say this election was like no other. There were many changes over the last year, such as allowing non-registered tribal members to vote for the chair. Members convicted of felonies and past board members who were removed were allowed to run. The Election Committee was disbanded and an Election Commission was put together minutes before the Notice of Election. I believe it was all with the intentions of voting out the last four of us that remained.

The Special Advisory Election was thrown out because they said the ballots went out early and a candidate's family member opened envelopes on the night of

the count. This election cycle, the ballots also went out early and there was a candidate's family member working at the company that printed the ballots, so how is that not a concern of the same majority of board members?

There were also several issues with members not receiving their ballots that usually always did before. Some have never received ballots before and did this cycle, too. A big concern also is the change in the number of ballots received in the Primary and those received in the General Election. Normally, there is an increase not a decrease. In Unit 3 there were 268 less, Unit 2 there were 59 less, the chair ballots were 899 less and the count from Unit 4 from 2 years ago was down significantly, too. It is hard to get a good number on Unit 1 because of the three choices but it looks like 1,199 less votes. I think there needs to be an investigation into the last two cycles and code changes as well, but not just minutes before the next election cycle.

The things that came up at Election Commission meetings, such as members being allowed to contribute to a candidate's campaign, seems like a conflict when other things like Facebook posts were vilified. I did not support the actions taken against Jackie Minton as it seemed politically motivated, but as a candidate I needed to stay out of it. We spent who knows how much to remove a volunteer elder who also happens to work for the tribe and is a very respected cultural

and traditional kwe for nothing that was even remotely criminal. Thankfully, the case was dismissed.

These five people serving on the election commission are all volunteers and was their first time doing it as well as all the code changes. I am not sure how much they knew or understood the codes. We need to start holding member sessions to make changes before 2026.

July 9 was the swearing in and election of officers. I am very grateful to be able to represent our tribe but it was hard to really celebrate when once again the knowledge and experience some of us have were not even considered with officer elections. In the past, the chair would accept nominations to the floor and then when voting for a position, board members would say a person's name for that vote. Right out of the gate, Aaron motioned to keep the same officers and that got a second. I motioned to sever so the officers were voted on separately which did get support and happened but at no time did anyone have the opportunity to nominate new officers. When I first got elected Aaron messaged me about supporting board members that had served for several years as officers but clearly, he forgot that this time.

I do not pretend to be a cultural expert by any means, I did not grow up with the culture but have been learning many things from my elders over the last few years. I do know from the teachings that I have had that our ancestors

held our women in high regard and they tried to keep balance in everything they did. This way is either not known or they do not care to practice it.

I would like to thank Darcy Morrow for her years of service to our tribe. She was definitely dragged through the mud the last couple of years with her health and political motivation. Darcy and Denise were some of the biggest advocates for their unit, Unit 4 has never received so much as they have under their leadership.

I am happy that our meetings should be more professional and no more chanting and antagonizing other board members, members or team members. Hopefully, no more team members needing to get PPOs, either.

I would like to thank all candidates for putting yourselves out there. It is definitely not easy and if there is anything they can use against you, they will and if there is nothing, they will make things up. Elections bring out the worst in people. I hope at some point we can put the tribe and its members first, and not family, friends, contractors, etc. I had also hoped that we could bring the tribe back together and it will be hard with people that created the divide in the first place and continue to use it for us against them.

The board voted to hire a CIO (Chief Information Officer) for the tribe and a CEO (Chief Executive Officer) for Health. I did not support the Health CEO position because there was a qualified Sault Tribe candidate

who had applied prior to second interviews. As long as a member meets the minimum qualifications they are granted an interview. That failed to happen but there were plenty of excuses.

Since St. Ignace will not be having a powwow this year, I encourage you to attend the one in Hessel on Aug. 17-18. It is always a nice gathering and usually very hot. Hessel will also be hosting a board meeting on Aug. 20.

The St. Ignace new medical building is scheduled to have its open house on Thursday, Aug. 29 at 3 p.m.

The Unit 3 Elder Picnic will be held on Friday, Aug. 30 at the elder complex at 12 p.m. Shawn and I will be purchasing and cooking the meat and others will be bringing side dishes and desserts. Dishes to pass are not required.

Shawn and I are meeting with Housing and the engineering firm this week to discuss the infrastructure and timelines to be able to move forward with housing opportunities in St. Ignace.

I would like to say Congratulations to Noah Leask for being appointed to the STI Inc. board and thank those that have served and got us to where we are today. Noah has been a great friend of the tribe, donating thousands of dollars for scholarships as a business owner.

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

# Thank you for entrusting me to represent you



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Chi Miigwech to the voters of Unit 1 for entrusting me to represent you on the Board of Directors. I will continue to do so in a good way and will work to unite our tribe. I will work in a positive way and continue to advocate for the best interest of all our members. Our tribe still has several areas that need to be addressed with the primary focus being on separation of power and diversifying our economy.

I'm looking forward to meeting with the new members of the board and addressing these concerns. Good news is that several of these concerns are already being addressed but it's a slow process.

The Elder Advisory Committee continues to work on how to advise the board on how to move forward with a constitutional amendment addressing the separation of power that our tribe desperately needs. I am

confident that they will have drafts to us in the upcoming months to consider. Once that part is complete, a public input session will be called for to gather membership input on the proposed changes then the board will consider sending the revised draft to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for them to conduct the constitutional reform election. This will be a long process but worth the wait.

With the departure of our long-standing judge, the code revisions to temporarily have our courts review constitutional issues has been delayed. The new board will need to address how members can challenge unconstitutional laws; I will be bringing this issue up for our legal team to address at or first meeting as my board concern. With every new board, there is opportunity to help move our tribe forward and we need to bring accountability back and stop the micro-managing.

Also at this time, I want to thank the Sault Tribe Homecoming Powwow Committee for an excellent powwow this year. Despite the weather on day 1, and all the mud the rains brought, we had a huge turn-out of dancers, vendors, and spectators. For those who weren't able to attend, you missed a good one. The new sound system sounded amazing and the vendors enjoyed the improvements made the powwow grounds. The committee and the Cultural Department did an outstanding job and it

paid off as the event ran very smooth and everyone really seemed to enjoy themselves. Chi Miigwech.

As always, I urge members to continue to get involved, always get both sides of the story,

# Thanks to Unit 2 supporters



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

I would like to begin my report by offering a sincere Miigwech to all the members in Unit 2 who have supported me through this election. I can't tell you what an honor it is to have your trust with representing our families and our tribal nation. I spoke to many members during this as I always do — but one thing that was made clear is having priorities that will lead to a separation of powers with our executive, judicial and legislative branches. My priority has been set and I've already had meetings and spoke with like-minded rep-

resentatives to work toward this — I believe this is the time to get this moving forward and will request a constitutional amendment be drafted and discussed.

As reported last month, we are moving forward on the new Elder units in Newberry and Hessel and also the community facility to house our tribal programs as well as fitness and gathering space for well-being of our members. I'm hoping that our YEA program can coordinate with all youth groups in our entire unit so we can use this as a hub (bussing) to create a social, cultural and healthy place for all of our communities. I look forward to these projects and will do all I can to keep them moving along — it's been suspended and delayed way too long due to politics. We deserve these projects to begin and stay the course.

Our powwows in Unit 2 will also be held in the upcoming months — Newberry area is seeking volunteers and our Cultural Department is taking the lead to see it through for a September gathering — this is slated for a September date. Hessel will be Aug. 17 and 18 with a spiritual gathering on Aug.

16 throughout the day, we will also light the fire (four days) the morning of Aug. 15 at sunrise and all are welcome to this.

It's been a very long year this far and I have reflected on the outcome of the elections and many hurtful things have been stated and it was one of the hardest political campaigns I've witnessed in a while — for many people. I appreciate all the work past leaders have done and say thank you to them and welcome our new ones. All that ran need to be commended because it's not easy to do — I have and will always commit to moving our tribe forward and will do that with members of the board who are professional and willing to work toward fair and better government. I don't toot my own horn often but I have made history in our tribe as the most terms (six) as a representation. I feel so grateful that you all support and count on me. I will do my very best.

As always if you would like to meet or contact me - Please call or email 906-322-3818 - lcausley@saulttribe.net Baamaapii, Lana Causley-Smith

# Chi miigwech for electing me to serve!



**AARON PAYMENT**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello Tribal Members,

As I write this unit report, I reflect on the fact that it has been just over two years since I had the privilege of serving you and all Sault Tribe citizens everywhere! Every vote counts and every vote matters as the tight margin in the Unit 1 race demonstrates. Many voters shared their concerns after the General Election that they thought the primary vote was final. Others shared that with all of the controversy over the “white ballots,” bad addresses, and not having received a ballot in the primary, they felt demoralized, that their vote would not count and may have chosen not to vote in the General Election. Clearly, election reform is needed. As such, I will collaborate cooperatively with those board members who agree and will then plan to introduce a resolution sponsored by a majority.

Concerns in the election process appear to have been borne out in the significant drop in voter participation from the primary to the general. Normally in our tribal elections, we see about a 20% increase in voter participation from the primary to the general. For the first time in our history, we saw a hugely significant decrease. For Unit 1, a total of 1,200 total less votes were cast in the general than in the primary. For the chair’s race, we saw a 12% drop in total votes from the primary to the general, despite Chairman Lowe’s vote count being nearly identical. This may be partially explained in that about 900 votes cast for Lori Jump in the primary did not vote for Hoffman in the General.

Chairman Lowes resoundingly defeated Hoffman by 1,258 votes or an unprecedented 20%

margin of victory and an election landslide! In the past, my margin over my competitor was 12%. This means that Austin was a strong candidate for chair, and Hoffman was a much worse candidate — likely the worst ever in history of our elections. In the past, Hoffman filed frivolous lawsuits such that I suspect he is not done with his brand of undermining our tribe. He also filed or instigated filing two election complaints against me that resulted in our Appellate Court rejecting them as violations of my Constitutional rights and having been arbitrary and capricious. Transcending the ugly past

Hoffman’s role in the censure of my past role as chair, an estimated \$50,000 investigation to apparently try to find justification for removal, colluding with removal petitioners to use the same justification from the censure to the removal, and his appointment to the Chair without a vote of the people, has brought shame on our tribe. The voters clearly agree. While I am not at liberty to discuss the details of what retired board member Betty Freiheit dubbed a “political coup,” I can attest and swear to you that nothing in investigative findings revealed anything that would lead to any civil or criminal charges. The proof? I have never been charged and I was cleared to run as a Unit 1 candidate for the board. While some past and even existing board members have insisted that they wanted to “let the investigation lead us where it does” and “no one is above the law, not even the chairman,” they have never apologized for putting our tribe through this baseless controversy.

The fact remains that absolutely nothing existed to warrant the investigation in the first place. What is also true is that the members clearly did not support the actions of the board in 2022 to censure, investigate, and any other actions leading to my “resignation.” Nor did the voters support appointing Hoffman, which was discussed in a clandestine secret June 20, 2022 workshop. They actually shared their intent in their statements to “not picking up the ballots,” “not counting the ballots,” and appointing someone to our top elective position with absolutely no regard for what the voters of the tribe want. They wanted a vote of the people for



**Aaron with his sister Dr. Karen Alexander at the Sault Tribal Board Installation. Also pictured is Aaron's great nephew, Tyler Langston, who Aaron is raising.**

the chairperson position and just did so in December 2022. The people made their voice clear by replacing all six incumbents.

Between election complaints filed against me and others, frivolous filings when the board rescinded his illegal appointment as chair, his role in instigating the censure and so-called investigation of me that resulted in nothing adverse, and several assault complaints and personal protection orders against Betty Freiheit (an Elder woman in her 70s), Hoffman has easily cost the tribe well over \$100,000 in frivolous complaints that resulted in either dismissals or reversals. Just think of how many tribal scholarships that represents. My hope is that the old guard and those who made it back onto the board will now cut him loose rather than wear him as an anchor around their necks. It’s time to allow our tribe to move forward without the drama and controversies he engendered.

### Moving forward

It was shameful to our tribe to diminish and erase the national level prominence we were able to garner over the years by earning top leadership roles with the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST), United Tribes of Michigan (UTM), United States Health and Human Services Secretary Tribal Advisory (STAC), the Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC), and an Executive Officer position on the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). To put it simply, it was just stupid to waste this well-earned political capital as part of a “political coup”

that only hurt our tribe. Several chairs, chiefs, and presidents of prominent tribes across the country (Navajo, Cherokee Nation and others) advised the board to not throw the baby out with the bath.

It will take some time to rebuild this rapport and reputation. Chairman Lowes, Secretary Hampton, Vice Chair LaPlaunt and others have already moved forward by securing the Vice President of MAST, President of UTM (both Chairman Lowes), Vice Chair of the Homeland Security Tribal Advisory (Secretary Hampton), and Member of the National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory (Vice Chair LaPlaunt). Still our prominence with the leading Native org (NCAI) is waiting to be returned.

Going forward, I pledge to work with Chairman Lowes, Vice Chair LaPlaunt, Secretary Hampton, Treasurer McKechnie and others to rebuild our national reputation and to secure once again, these advisory positions to build political capital beneficial to our tribe, Michigan tribes and all tribes across the country.

### Native GOTV

Another promise I will honor going forward, is to call attention far and wide to the 100th Anniversary of the Snyder Act which recognized American Indians as U.S. Citizens with the right to vote. Of course, we did not gain full access until the 1964 Civil Rights Act and even today political/ ideological swings on the US Supreme Court call in to question the integrity of our Nation to honor the “all men are created equal” clause in the U.S. Constitution. Our right to vote,

however, is only as good as our exercise of it. Please register to vote and vote!

At press time for my unit report, I was offered the role of National Native American Get Out to Vote Campaign Manager. If this comes to fruition, I will approach this role in a non-partisan way. Remember, as your chair I have met with Presidents Obama, Biden and Trump and Senators and Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. A good friend of mine, Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel (ret.) always reminded me that we are not “D” for Democrat nor “R” for Republican but “I” for Indian. As such, we should vote for candidates at all levels who support us as American Indians and who articulate a detailed plan for Indian Country.

Campaign platforms become Presidential, House or Senate legislative agendas so participating by sharing our expectations of a “sovereignty ticket” or “treaty and trust obligation” platform and agenda well past an election is how we positively and effectively ensure leadership is not taking our vote for granted. In the 2016 and 2020, the Native population was multiples larger than the margin of victory for the 2016 and 2020 candidates at all levels.

With segments of populations impacted by the Israel-Palestine war, the small but significant population of American Indians will be the margin of victory. The candidate who has the greatest record in the past but more importantly the best plan going forwarding will win the Native Vote and become President, Senator, or Congressman in key and battle ground districts.

### Thank you, Betty!

Finally, I want to thank Betty Freiheit for her friendship and service to our people. I pledge to carry on her commitment to at-large members, enacting a constitutional amendment toward a separation of powers, promulgating Indian preference in employment as law, and enacting election reform. Thank you, Betty, for your heartfelt and passionate service to our people.

Take Care and love yourself, your family and your tribe!

Chi Miigwech,

— Aaron

aaronapayment@saulttribe.net  
(906) 440-8946

## Board needs to look at tribal election concerns



**SHAWN BOROWICZ,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Boozhoo,  
The recent election is over

and we still have concerns with missing ballots, bad addresses and other concerns as in the attempted removal of a respected elder from the committee. These committees are voluntary and it takes a dedicated person to agree to take time out of their busy schedule to do this. Then, when a volunteer and tribal elder is accused of doing things and taken to court in an attempt to be removed from the committee is wrong. Obviously, there was no wrongdoing or this member would have been removed by our court system. But this member held her ground and won in court and, rightfully so, is still on

the Election Commission. A lot of tribal dollars were spent on this attempted removal, money that could have been used more wisely to benefit tribal members instead of trying to blemish their name. This is wrong any way you look at it, and it has happened all too often within this tribe and it needs to be looked at further by this board.

The Unit 3 housing project seems to be moving along with the engineering firm working on the infrastructure and underground utilities. Once that is completed, we can put in some roads and begin pouring some footings for whatever type of homes that are needed to benefit

the members. Things sometimes move slow, but, rest assured, myself and Bridgett are trying to get this started as soon as possible.

Two of the four wage studies were completed and will be instituted in October for those employees and if the other two come back in a timely manner they may be able to take effect around the same time. Previous studies were completed in years past and were never used for unknown reasons. These ones will be used and should benefit all employees. Our employees are all deserving of an increase in wages, especially the front line workers who interact with

our members and guests on a daily basis and keep this tribe operating.

The classic car giveaway at the Shores during the St. Ignace car show was a huge success. I’ve been pushing for more giveaways and raffles at the Shores since being on the board and I’m hoping our marketing team sees how beneficial this is to all involved. Our guests like the free play but they also would like to see more things raffled on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

Respectfully,  
Shawn

sborowicz@saulttribe.net or  
(906) 379-8511



# KEWADIN CASINOS ENTERTAINMENT

## STARRING

WORLD-RENOWNED  
HYPNOTIST  
**ASAD MECCI**

INTERNATIONAL  
COMEDY ICON  
**COLIN MOCHRIE**



# SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23

SHOW STARTS AT 8 P.M.  
TICKETS \$40 | \$45 | \$55

## DREAMMAKERS THEATER



# HYPROV

IMPROV UNDER HYPNOSIS



# Stephen Pearcy OF RAT



**SEPTEMBER 21**  
DOORS 7 P.M. | SHOW 8 P.M.

DREAMMAKERS THEATER TICKETS \$39.50 | \$49.50  
AN ALLSTAR PROMOTIONS CONCERT



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