



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

November 27, 2024  
Frozen Moon • Mshka'odin Giizis  
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

## STI Federal awarded prestigious contracts

### EXPANDING STI FEDERAL'S IMPACT ACROSS CRITICAL AREAS INCLUDING PUBLIC HEALTH

**SAULT STE. MARIE** – Sault Tribe, Inc. (STI) Federal unveiled four newly awarded government contracts beginning September 2024. These contracts include projects for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Influenza Division, the U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence (USAICoE), the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command Quartermaster School, and the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Southwest Region Airports Division (ASW).

Through the first contract, awarded by the CDC Influenza Division and valued at \$17.9 million, STI Federal will provide all administrative, analytical, and advisory support; serve the division's health marketing and communications efforts; and maintain the dynamic SharePoint portal for the division. The contract was granted after one year of STI Federal's exceptional service supporting R&D, bioinformatics, and quality control for the same division.

The second contract for the USAICoE will support its Education, Doctrine, and Instruction for Intelligence Efforts. STI Federal will provide training, graphics, editing, and other support services under the Doctrine Production and Staff and Faculty Development.

Awarded by the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command Quartermaster School, the third contract will involve virtual reality training for petroleum supply and water treatment specialists. Focusing on the

Quartermaster School's efforts to move into a blended learning environment, STI Federal's work will have a dramatic impact on the way Quartermaster soldiers learn.

The final award for the FAA will entail upgrades to the ASW Regional Office building's Texas Conference Center, a 10,000 square-foot facility utilized by FAA organizations across the nation. The upgrade will include a complete overhaul of tech and AV systems, video conferencing systems, cameras, wireless table microphones, as well as a complete overview and training on the newly installed systems.

"These four government contracts indicate a significant step forward for STI Federal and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians that we represent," said Rachel Heckel, CEO of STI. "It's inspiring to see our people's hard work recognized through these accomplishments."

The federal contracts mark a notable progression in expanding STI Federal's impact across critical areas including public health-care, environmental services, information and technology, and training and education. They reinforce STI Federal's commitment to promoting the economic development and sovereignty of the tribe.

Sault Tribe, Inc. (STI) is the independent business arm of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Sault Tribe, Inc. exists to enhance the economy and improve the quality of life for tribal members, primarily through STI Federal, the government contracting division.



Photo by Carrie Sayles

**CHI-MIIGWECH** — Newly enrolled Sault Tribe elder Harold Hilborn II is a blacksmith and owner of Holy Hammer Ironworks in Sault Ste. Marie. Hilborn said it took him 6 hours to make this beautiful piece for the tribe's Enrollment office in appreciation for all the hard work they are doing and for helping his family with their enrollment and in becoming new tribal members. He is also the famous Santa in town!

## Air Force grants TSgt Joshua Walden right to keep long hair

By Scott Brand

"So I am thinking of fighting the military," texted TSgt Joshua Walden of the U.S. Air Force to his mother, Vicki, on June 21, 2023. "Might need your help."

Born in Sacramento, Calif., in 1984, Joshua was just an infant when he came to Munising, Mich., in July of that year. He grew up in a home on the reservation on Kinoje Court and graduated from Ishpeming High School before joining the Air Force in the spring of 2006. He is currently stationed at Joint Base San Antonio in Lackland, Texas.

As a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Joshua's proposed fight with the military revolved around his ability to grow his hair and he outlined his rationale in another text to his mother.

Respect for All Life: Native

American spirituality often emphasizes a deep respect for all forms of life. Hair, being part of the human body, is seen as a physical manifestation of the growth of spirit. Cutting hair can be seen as stunting this spiritual growth or not showing respect for this natural process.

**Connection to the Earth:** Native American traditions view long hair as a symbol of the individual's deep connection with the Earth, their ancestors and the Creator. In this view, hair serves as a physical reminder of the connection and embodiment of one's heritage and lineage. Cutting hair could be viewed as severing this important connection.

**Strength and Wisdom:** Long hair symbolizes strength, wisdom and honor. Warriors often wore their hair long as a sign of their bravery and skill in battle. Elders

also keep their hair long to symbolize their wisdom and experience.

**Symbol of Life Events:** Cutting hair is associated with specific life events, such as mourning the loss of a loved one. If a person's hair is cut outside of these contexts it could be seen as inappropriate or disrespectful.

**Ceremonial Purposes:** Long hair is often used in various ceremonies and rituals among many tribes, serving as a sacred component of these practices.

"That is what he meant when he said, 'I might need your help, mom,'" Vicki recalled, and he came to the right place. As her official title is Unit V Munising Elder Committee Chairperson, Vickie immediately set to work compiling elder statements and obtained additional support from

See "Walden," page 5

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# Successful hunts



Tribal member Raynee Gillett, 13, of Sault Ste. Marie hunted her bear in Bruce Township. She is the daughter of Ray and Britnee Gillett.



Tribal member Olivia Ingalls, 12, shot this 8-point in Muskegon County, Mich., on Oct. 19. Olivia is the daughter of Adam and Megan Ingalls of Twin Lake, Mich.

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*More Details to be Announced Soon*

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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/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** - Four vacancies -

two males (4-year term), two females (4-year term)  
**Child Welfare Committee** - Two vacancies (4-year term); One vacancy - term expires November 2026; One vacancy - term expires January 2027

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

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

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 IV - Escanaba - One regular vacancy, term set to expire

August, 2026

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

**Elder Subcommittees**

Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy - term expiring November 2026

Unit II - Naubinway - Two regular vacancies - both terms expiring May 2027

Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy - term expiring April 2027

Unit IV - Manistique - One

regular vacancy - term expiring November 2026

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

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

Unit V - Marquette - Two alternate vacancies - one 4-year term, one term expiring December 2027.

# Tribal gas and cigarette discount locations

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

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

• MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste.

Marie, MI 49783

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

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

**Tribal-owned gas station**

**offering gas discount only:**

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

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

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

• Cedar Pantry, 159 W M-134,

Cedarville, MI 49719

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

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

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

# Up to date addresses sought

Sault Tribe members whose addresses are not up to date have “bad addresses” with the tribe’s Enrollment Department.

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

Go to 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.

# 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 or contacting them individually at:

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

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

Michelle Moore at (906) 635-6050, mmoore@saulttribe.net.

# 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.

# Pharmacy hours expanded at Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health

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

**New Pharmacy Hours Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday.**

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

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



**First/Middle/Last Name**  
**Date of Birth**  
**Date of Death**  
**Murdered/When/Where**  
**Perpetrator Name if known:**

**If Missing:**  
**Nickname/Alias**  
**Date Last Seen/Went Missing**  
**Physical Description**  
**Distinctive Physical Features**  
**Vehicle Information**



Any information would be appreciated.

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

## Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

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

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## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

November 27, 2024  
 Frozen Moon  
 Mshka’odine Giizis

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Subscriptions:** \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. Call for other foreign countries.

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

**Advertising:** \$8.50/column inch. (Paid advertising with editorial content will be treated as editorial content.)

**Submission and Subscriptions:**  
 Win Awenen Nisitotung  
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# Sault Tribe Health Division welcomes new CEO

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

James Benko has accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer for the Sault Tribe Health Division. Benko started his new position the first week of August and is located on the third floor of the Sault Health Center. Benko and his wife are making the transition to the Upper Peninsula from the Flint area.

Benko oversees the tribe's nine clinics and the Medication Assisted Treatment Clinic, which administer health care services to thousands of tribal members and their families.

With 36 years of experience in health administration, Benko holds a master's degree from the University of Phoenix and a bachelor's from the University of Michigan.

Wanting to learn more about the tribe, Benko stayed up until after 4 a.m. watching board meetings. "Seeing people really dedicated to health care and knowing the commitment I saw from the board members, especially to children and the elders — I was locked in. My wife knew that once I heard that I was hooked. She told me to apply

and I was blessed enough to be chosen."

When he started in August, Benko said he held staff meetings to get to know everybody. "I want the health center to be a great place to come to for our patients to get outstanding health care and be a great place for our team members to work. I am confident with our team that it can be done — our focus is on serving the tribal community," he said.

Benko's past work experience includes as a director of Physician Enterprise - Regional

at Ascension and director of operations at Hurley Medical Center.

"Growing up, it was always a big deal to go to the Upper Peninsula," Benko said. "We used to go to Crystal Falls to fish, and there was a little place that had cottages there that we stayed at. We've always wanted to live up here," he said.

Benko has been married to his wife, Jerri, for 31 years, and they have a 21-year-old son Michael, who is attending Kettering University and pursuing a degree in industrial engineering.



James Benko

# Sault Tribe Housing Authority Halloween



Photos by Scott Brand

Sault Tribe Housing Authority staff gathered for "spooktacular" group shots in their favorite costumes.



## DASHING Through The DOUGH

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Win Your Share of Up to \$8,400 CASH and Credits

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Hessel | December 1 - April 30  
Only \$99 per Night + Receive \$10 Kewadin Credits per Night

**BOGO SPECIAL - KEWADIN CASINO HOTEL**  
Sault Ste. Marie | December 1-30 | Sunday - Wednesday  
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Sault Ste. Marie | January 24-26  
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**\$22,500 MEGA BINGO**  
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# TSgt Walden granted right to keep long hair

From "Walden," page 1

Unit V Director Tyler LaPlaunt and Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes. "He turned all the paperwork in to command on July 7, 2023."

While Joshua's argument had ample supporting documentation,

it did not lead to an automatic decision from his superiors. There were individual discussions before his case went before the Religious Accommodation Board, and then it went further up the chain of command, all the way to the Air Force Headquarters at the

Pentagon.

"It was a pain in the butt," said Joshua, crediting the Sault Tribe community for delivering a convincing case on his behalf. "The help from my mom and all the others was huge."

In May, the official ruling

came down, allowing Joshua to grow his hair.

"This is legitimately something that is important to our culture. It is bigger than just me," said Joshua, adding that he was willing to share this story so other Native Americans can see that

they can bring their traditions when they enlist and take them across the world when on deployment.

Joshua is married to Elizabeth Walden and resides in Texas with their two children, Emily and Emilia.

# Secretarial election: what is it and how is it different from a tribal election?

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

One of the most important things to understand about a secretarial election is that it is not a tribal election. A secretarial election is a completely different process with a completely separate voter registration and voting. Sault Tribe citizens have not voted in a secretarial election since 2011, so there are many new voters who have not been through the process.

If a secretarial election is not a tribal election, then what is it? A secretarial election is a special election held to amend or revise the tribal constitution and is a federal election, governed by federal regulations and overseen by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This is why tribal members must register for each and every secretarial election that is held.

In contrast, tribal elections are held by the tribe, overseen by the tribe's election commission and governed by the tribe's Election Ordinance (Ch. 10 of the Tribal Code). Once you register to vote in tribal elections, you don't have to keep registering for each tribal

**A secretarial election is a special election held to amend or revise a tribal constitution and is a federal election, governed by federal regulations and overseen by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This is why tribal members must register for each and every secretarial election that is held.**

election, unless you move.

The Sault Tribe's Constitution provides for secretarial elections in Article 10, in which the Constitution and bylaws "may be amended by a majority vote of the eligible voters of the Tribe voting at an election called for that purpose by the Secretary of the Interior, provided that at least thirty (30) percent of those entitled to vote shall vote in such election, but no amendment shall become effective until it is approved by the Secretary of the Interior. It is the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to call an election on any proposed amendment upon receipt of a resolution passed by the majority of the Board."

The secretarial election process begins when the BIA

receives a resolution from the Sault Tribe Board of Directors along with the proposed changes to the constitution. The request goes to the local BIA office, where it is reviewed and sent to the regional BIA office for legal review and authorization.

For a 90- to a 180-day period after receiving the request, the BIA regional office conducts a technical and legal review of the proposed changes and works with the tribe on any concerns before authorization. If authorized, an election board consisting of a BIA official (who chairs the election board) and at least two tribal representatives will be formed to oversee the election. Sault Tribe appointed four tribal representatives in the 2007 secretarial election and has appointed four for

the 2010 secretarial election. Generally, the secretarial election must occur within 90 days after authorization or it becomes invalid. This deadline could be extended under certain circumstances.

The Secretarial Election Board will notify the membership about the need to register to vote in the pending secretarial election, how to register to vote, the election process and the date of the election.

A tribal member who was registered to vote in the secretarial election has three days after that election to challenge the election results. The Secretary of the Interior has 45 days from the date of the election to approve or disapprove the proposed amendment. Decisions on all challenges must occur within that same 45-day period.

Sault Tribe's elections are

conducted by mail-in ballot. To participate in any vote put to the tribal members, it is crucial that members keep their address up to date with Tribal Enrollment. All tribal mail is sent to members' last known address on record. If Enrollment does not have your updated address, the tribe has no way to mail election materials to you. You can also check the list of bad addresses on the tribe's website: [www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/tribal-enrollment/21-membership-services/tribal-enrollment/5659-up-to-date-addresses-sought](http://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/tribal-enrollment/21-membership-services/tribal-enrollment/5659-up-to-date-addresses-sought).

Update your address by calling toll free at (800) 251-6597. Please give this toll free number to friends and relatives who need to update their address.

(Regulations for conducting secretarial election are contained in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations 25 CFR Part 81.)

# Notice of review - Tribal Transportation Program improvement plan

Notice is hereby given of availability for public review and comment of the following document: Draft FY2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Transportation Department invites membership and the public to review and comment on the Draft 2025-2028 TIP. The 30-day review period will begin on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2024. This notice is in accordance with 25 CFR 17:170.413, 170.422, 170.423. The TIP is the short-term strategic transportation plan detailing the departments planning, maintenance, safety, construction, transit, and administrative projects over the next five years. The Draft 2025-2028 TIP will be available for review at the following location:

Tribal Administrative Offices, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

The TIP is a federally mandated document that provides a brief description of each project that will use federal transportation funds. Projects must be listed on the TIP to use federal funding. In addition, this Public Notice satisfies the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians public participation process for the development of its Program of Projects.

The department will accept comments from the public on TIP until the close of business day on Dec. 6, 2024, at 5 p.m. In addition, comments can be sent to Wendy Hoffman, Transportation Department, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or sent by email to [whoffman@saulttribe.net](mailto:whoffman@saulttribe.net). For

questions or concerns about the TIP, contact Wendy Hoffman at (906) 635-6050.

Special accommodations: The location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for any accommodations can be made by calling Wendy Hoffman at (906) 635-6050 at least 48 hours in advance.



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# Kewadin Casinos goes non-smoking


As resolved by the Sault Tribe Board of Directors at its meeting on Sept. 17 and supported by Kewadin Casinos executive management team, Kewadin Casinos will become non-smoking within all five of its locations Nov. 11.

Kewadin Casinos CEO Allen Kerridge said, "This policy change aligns with our mission to create the very best experience possible for all our guests. We've heard from many customers and team members who feel a smoke-free environment is the


right step forward. We're excited to meet their needs and provide an even more welcoming atmosphere at all our properties."

All Kewadin Casinos locations will provide a designated outdoor area with seating for smokers as well as easy access to step outside as needed.

Renovations and sanitation will begin soon to complete the transition to non-smoking and will include carpet and tile replacement, painting, HVAC and duct cleaning.




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# Anishinaabemowin 2024

“Sharing food with another human being is an intimate act that should not be indulged in lightly.” M Fisher, *And share our language with good humor and fun!*

## Baashkaakodin Giizis Freezing Moon

by Susan Askwith

When we gather, we always eat! Even a casual visit calls for food. On holidays we feast! As we close 2024, we celebrated Thanksgiving (**Miigwech Giizhigad**), and Christmas time (**Niibaanamaang**) is just around the corner. Here are some ‘sharing food’ (**G’wiisinimi maamwi.**) comments you can use when you’re together.

**Aaniin! Biindigen!**

**N’gchi-nendam gaa bizhaayin!**

**Wenesh waa yaaman -**

**makade-aaboo maage niibiishaaboo?**

**N’gii mbijiizige zhebaa.**

**G’wii gojipidaan na maanda**

**bakwezhigan megwaa?**

**Zaawaamide minwaa bashkaminsigan**

**tenoon zhiwi doopwining.**

**Jaanaagwa n’gii zhi’aa kosmaan**

**biitoojiishkweganigan.**

**N’gbojiizwaag mizise miinwaa**

**binewak nangwa.**

**miinwaa n’gbojiizwaag piniik.**

**Wiiba ka gchi-wiisinimi!**

**Aabdek gwa n’ga zhisjige geyaabi.**

**Naadimooshin na?**

**Maampii tenoon doopwiniigan**

**miinwaa gziidoonegaanhsan.**

**Ode tenoon wiisini-naabijichiganan,**

**naaganan, nitaasan**

**miinwaa minikwajiganan.**

**Miigwech! Kina gegoo**

**zhiitaawsinoon.**

**Wiiba kina waya wii dagoshinoog.**

**Kina ka minendaagozimi!**

Hi! Come in!

I’m so glad you came!

What will you have -

coffee or tea?

I baked bread this morning.

Do you want to check out the taste

of the bread right now?

Butter and jam

are there on the table.

Yesterday I made pumpkin pie.

I am roasting the turkey and

partridges today

and I’m roasting potatoes.

We will be feasting soon!

I still have to set the table.

Will you help me?

Here are the table cloth

and napkins

Over there are silverware

plates, glasses

and cups.

Thanks! Everything

is ready.

Soon everyone will arrive.

We’ll all have a good time.



*“Food for us comes from our relatives, whether they have wings, or fins or roots. That is how we consider food. Food has a culture. It has a history. It has a story. It has relationships.”*

Winona LaDuke (Ojibwe, White Earth, MN.)

**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.



**Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)**

**How do you savor a hot dog? (with relish)**

Which friends should you always take out to dinner? (*Your taste buds*)

**Eating too much cake is the deadly sin of gluttony, but not eating too much pie because the sin of pi is always zero.**

What did the turkey say to the computer?  
*Google, google, google!*

**How do you ask a foodie out to dinner?**

Say, “*Lettuce meat for a date.*”

# ITCMI introduces Gigiigoo'inaan "Our Fish" app for smart phones

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCMI) in partnership with The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) has released the updated version of the Gigiigoo'inaan application (App for iPhones, AndroidS, or similar Smart devices) to guide users in their fish-eating choices throughout the Great Lakes and Bemidji Region waterways.

Environmental exposures in the waterways such as PBT or Mercury can disturb human health. The Gigiigoo'inaan "Our Fish" App makes personalized recommendations for safe fish consumption based on the user's biological sex, weight, portion size, and the waterway where fish is coming from.

The input for the design and content of the app came from representatives from the five Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) tribes; Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Features of the app support help users of all ages and life phases make informed choices regarding fish consumption by providing personalized recommendations for fish harvested from Lakes Huron, Michigan, Superior, Inland Lakes and even store-bought fish. The app includes details of the fish's habitat, behaviors and in some circumstances gaming regulations to support

sustainable harvesting. The app also features simple and affordable fish recipes from the local regions. A significant and valued feature of the app is that it DOES NOT collect or store any personal data.

Fish are more than just a healthy food source for the Anishinaabe. Cherished fishing traditions are threatened by environmental risks. This work is significant because it addresses the

need for effective fish consumption advice for the Anishinaabe whose tribal governments oversee treaty-related natural resource practices in Northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

This app is the result of a multi-year project aimed to develop culturally tailored advice to encourage consumption of low contaminated species of fish among Native American

Anishinaabe peoples and waterways. However, this app supports safe fish consumption for people of all races.

The app was previously tested in Michigan tribal communities in 2019 and reviewed again in 2023. It was observed that app users reported improved confidence, increased fish consumption and increased understanding of environmental health in response

to the Gigiigoo'inaan "Our Fish" app. The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan and the Medical College of Wisconsin are grateful for the input and support provided by the Anishinaabe people that makes this resource available to all.

Those looking for more information on the Gigiigoo'inaan "Our Fish" app see [www.itcmi.org/fishapp](http://www.itcmi.org/fishapp).

## MANIDOO GIIZOONHS - LITTLE SPIRIT MOON DECEMBER 2024

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIUWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
1  n'di nawe-maaganidoog (my relatives)	2  Gwawaan mitig. (S/he is cutting down a tree.)	3  aagamag (snowshoes)	4  zigaabiiginige waawaashkesh (reindeer [leashed deer])	5  ishkode daabaanens (little train)	6  daminawaagan (doll)	7  Niibaanamaa waaskonenjiganan (Christmas lights)
8  jigjigaaneshiinh (chickadee)	9  bkwaakat (ball)	10  zhooshk'jiwe daabanens (sleigh)	11  pkwezghaanhsag (cookies)	12  segaajiganan (decorations)	13  Weweni baamasen. (Walk in a good way.)	14  N'biingech! (I am cold!)
15  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	16  Niibaanamaa mdaas (christmas stocking)	17  gwiizenhs dewe'iged (little drummer boy)	18  Niibaanamaa mitig (Christmas tree)	19  zisbaakadoonhs skowin (candy cane)	20  aankoosenh (sled [something linked to another thing])	21  Winter Ntam Bibooni giizhgad (First day of winter)
22  Gichi-miigwet (Santa Claus [one who gives greatly])	23  wiigwebjibjigan mazinigan (wrapping paper)	24  Niibaanamaam. (It is Christmas.)	25  Mino Niibaanamaan. (Have a Merry Christmas.)	26  shkabijigaanhs (little packages)	27  taataagaansan (bells)	28  nagamwinan (songs)
29  maagweng (gift [something you are given])	30  zhengwenhsanan (jingle bells-round bells)	31  aazheniinsag (little angels)				

Calendar created by Sault Tribe Language & Culture Division

# Bad River documentary brings community together

SUBMITTED BY GREAT LAKES CREATIVES

On Oct. 19, a screening of the documentary film Bad River was held at Kewadin Shores Casino in St. Ignace, Mich. It was organized by Sault Tribe citizen Monica Cady, Andrea Pierce of Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Calvin Carter (who served as MC), and Amanda Jean Robert of MICAN. It was sponsored by the Anishinaabek Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party, Michigan Climate Action Network (MICAN), Up North Advocacy, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The film chronicles the Bad River Band's fight for sovereignty in Wisconsin, specifically against

the Canadian oil corporation Enbridge, which owns and operates the Line 5 pipeline through the tribe's lands. This 71-year-old pipeline continues through Michigan's Upper Peninsula and under the Straits of Mackinac, through the Lower Peninsula and to refineries in Sarnia, Ontario, which lies on the shores of Lake Huron.

The film documents the history and ongoing battle to protect the land, Lake Superior, and all who rely on it. People of all ages attended the community viewing of the Bad River documentary including Sault Tribe Board members Kimberly Lee, Shawn Borowitz and Larry Barbeau. We hope that other Sault Tribe units will bring this documentary of

resilience and determination to their communities.

After the film, four panelists, Andrea Pierce (founder of the Anishinaabek Caucus), Colleen Utter (Sault Tribe), Sue St. Onge (Sault Tribe), and Dr. Ed Timm (retired Dow engineer and scientist) answered questions and discussed the threat that Line 5 poses to the Great Lakes watershed and what people can do to help protect our waterways from oil spills. Strategies discussed included education, voting, township and county resolutions against the pipeline, prayer, and, of course, community building.

Multiple groups tabled at the event, including sponsor Michigan Climate Action Network, Oil and Water Don't

Mix (non-profit organization for shutting down Line 5), Straits of Mackinac Alliance, Straits Area Concerned Citizens, and Jodi Decker, candidate for the 107th House of Representatives. Members of Great Lakes Creatives, a state-wide group working in water protection through the arts, helped attendees make sachets with dried lavender from Full Circle Lavender Farm of Maple City, a grounding and inspiring activity.

Everyone involved wanted to keep up the momentum from the annual Pipe Out Paddle Up, which was held on Aug. 31, 2024, in St. Ignace. For the past nine years the event has been held in Mackinaw City, but this year was

shifted to St. Ignace, or "ground zero."

Organized by Andrea Pierce, this event brings together many water protectors to kayak and canoe in the Straits. It also welcomes all concerned individuals and families to take part in this community event and picnic.

It was sponsored by The People's Water Board Coalition, Great Lakes Water Protector Network, Anishinaabek Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, Mackinac Straits Watersports, and Black to the Land Coalition.

Drums were Sturgeon Bay Singers and Ice Circle Singers (Sault Tribe).



Andrea Pierce and Jodi Decker (L-R).



Bad River audience.



Bad River panelists Andrea Pierce, Colleen Utter, Sue St. Onge, and Dr. Ed Timm, answered questions and discussed the threat that Line 5 poses to the Great Lakes.

# Annual Pipe Out Paddle Up was held in August 2024

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year was shifted to St. Ignace, or "ground zero."

Organized by Andrea Pierce, this event brings together many water protectors to kayak and canoe in

the Straits. It also welcomes all concerned individuals and families to take part in the community event and picnic.



2024 PIPE OUT PADDLE UP NINTH ANNUAL FLOTILLA TO SHUT DOWN LINE 5 — Citizens from all over Michigan convened on the water in St. Ignace at the end of August to demand Enbridge Line 5 be decommissioned permanently.



# Documentary *Sacred Waters* premieres at DreamMakers



Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes welcomes attendees to the event.



Lori Gambardella spoke for the water and conducted a water ceremony.



A panel of fishery experts fielded questions after the show.



Sault Tribe elder Cecil Pavlat gave the invocation.



Above left, Robin Clark moderated the panel. Above right, Jackie Robinson served water to the drum.



The crowd stands for the invocation. About 100 guests attended.



Community Engagement Specialist Jackie Robinson served water.

Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton

Sault Tribe documentary about the tribe's Fisheries Dept. work and the tribe's commercial fishermen, "Sacred Waters: Anishinaabeg Naagdawenmaanaanig Giigoonhkewin (The First People Taking Care of the Fishery)" screened Oct. 21 at Sault Kewadin Casino's DreamMakers Theater to a crowd of proud Board of Directors members, Natural Resources staff, Conservation Committee members, tribal team members, and 100 guests. Chairman Austin Lowes made introductions. Sault Tribe Elder Cecil Pavlat delivered the invocation. Frog Lake Singers performed a welcome song, followed by a water ceremony by Lori Gambardella. Natural Resources Director Robin Clark moderated a panel after the showing, with Rusty Aikens, Jack Tuomikoski, Clarence Hudak, Dave Frazier and Ryan Mills serving as panelists.



## Thanksgiving: A Time For Family And Friends

Thanksgiving is a time to appreciate family and friends. A time to share our gratitude for a bountiful harvest, a prosperous year and good health to those we hold dear. A day of great football, grandma's turkey, and pumpkin pie.

We'd like to share our appreciation for you. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

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### ACFS Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program

Sault Tribe's Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) 2024-25 Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program is accepting applications for income eligible members.

Applications are available at [www.saulttribe.net](http://www.saulttribe.net) and at the following ACFS locations:

Sault Office, 2218 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 632-5250

Manistique Office, 5698 W HWY US-2, Manistique (906) 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137

St. Ignace Office, 1140 N State St., St. Ignace, (906) 643-8689

Munising Office, 622 W Superior St., Munising, (906) 387-3906

Kincheloe Office, 60 Kincheloe, Kincheloe, (906) 495-1232.



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FIRST NATIONS NEWS

# Carrie Gregg participates in MSU research program

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Michigan State University (MSU) offers a 10-week summer program called Building Bridges that provides research opportunities for Native American STEM students currently enrolled in an undergraduate program. The program is tailored to members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Bay Mills Indian Community, and other federally recognized tribes and connects students to the Native American community within MSU.

STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that STEM jobs will grow by 10.8% through 2032.

Students accepted into the Building Bridges program receive a \$6,000 stipend, plus \$200 in travel expenses. The program helps students identify appropriate room and board, and provides them with up to an additional \$3,500 in support for housing costs.

Working side-by-side with faculty, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to obtain experience in scientific techniques, experimental design, and oral presentation, students spend up to 40 hours a week in a laboratory. The program culminates in their participation in the Undergraduate Research Fair held on the MSU campus in July. Students also learn about preparing for graduate school applications, the process of graduate training, and opportunities offered by MSUs graduate programs.

Sault Tribe member and



Photo by Rachel Passage

**In Michigan State University's bustling STEM Teaching and Learning Facility, student Carrie Gregg fields questions on cutting-edge science that may increase biofuel production.**

a 2024 program participant, Carrie Gregg wanted to gain hands-on research experience to help clarify her career path. During her search for summer opportunities at MSU she was initially interested in a program for pre-vet students. After speaking with Heather Murdoch and

Dr. David Arnosti, they recommended the Building Bridges program as a way for Gregg to gain research experience. "Dr. Arnosti supported me wanting to participate in both programs simultaneously if there were no scheduling conflicts. I was proud to be a part of the first cohort of

Building Bridges, empowering Native American individuals from low-income backgrounds to pursue research in a graduate program," she said.

Gregg said that during the times she participated in the program she worked with two different groups of students. "The first cohort [in 2023] I participated along with Maddy Yarema and Nevaeh Marshall. The second cohort I participated in [2024] was with Rachel Passage and Trevor Moran. All who are members of the Sault Tribe."

In 2023 student's attending the inaugural Building Bridges program focused on research in green energy, immunology, and plant biology. During this past summer students engaged in virology, neurobiology, and green energy projects and presented research projects that included plant biology, structural biology, and energy metabolism.

Gregg said the program helped highlight the importance

of collaboration and allowed her to foster a sense of teamwork with other students who were just as excited to learn as she was. "I was able to attend the Sweet Grass Powwow with other members of the Building Bridges program, which allowed me to reconnect with my Native American heritage and build lasting friendships," she said. "The supportive community at MSU gave me a sense of belonging, which made this experience not only transformative, but memorable." Gregg graduated from Lake Superior State University in 2024 with a bachelors in biology pre-vet concentrating in veterinary medicine with minors in biochemistry and chemistry.

Professor David Arnosti, in the MSU College of Natural Science's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB), founded and currently leads the program. He said that Building Bridges engaged-  
*See "Building Bridges," pg. 11*

## Aghmar promoted to grey belt



**Congratulations Rami!** - Sault Tribe member Rami Aghmar was recently promoted to gray belt status in the Gracie Jui-Jitsu program after training diligently for the last 6 months. The 7-year-old is the son of Sault Tribe member Korina Aghmar and Ryan Aghmar and lives in Appleton, Wisc. Rami is the grandson of Sault Tribe member Jerry Terrian and Karen Terrian.

# 2024 Sault Tribe Children's Christmas Parties

### SAULT STE. MARIE

**Dec. 14, 2-5 p.m. at the Big Bear Arena, ages 0-13. Registration is required. To register, contact Lisa Burnside at (906) 635-4944, ext. 26314, or email lburnside@saulttribe.net. Register by Dec. 6.**

### CEDARVILLE

**Dec. 14, 3-5 p.m., Ages 0-17 years. New Location: Clark Twp. Community Center, 133 M-134, Cedarville. Families must be registered. Register with YEA at (906) 484-2298 or kwindsor@saulttribe.net.**

### MANISTIQUE

**Dec. 14, 12-3 p.m., Manistique Tribal Center, 5698W Hwy US 2, Manistique. Registration required by Dec. 6. Contact (906) 203-4768 or smattson@saulttribe.net with child's name & age. Ages 0-18.**

### ST. IGNACE

**Dec. 15, 1-4 p.m. at the Shores Casino Event Center, ages 0-12.**

### MARQUETTE

**Dec. 15 at the NMU Northern Center 12-3 p.m., up to age 18. Registration required. Call Marquette Tribal Health Center at (906) 225-1616.**

### ESCANABA

**Dec. 13, 4-7 p.m. at the Escanaba Tribal Community Center, 3721 Jingob, Escanaba, ages 0-18. Must pre-register by Dec. 6. Contact (906) 203-5888 or shoffmeyer@saulttribe.net with youth name & age.**

### NEWBERRY

**Dec. 7, 3-5 p.m., ages 0-17. LMAS District Health Dept., 14150 Hamilton Lake Rd., Newberry. Register with YEA at (906) 484-2298 or kwindsor@saulttribe.net. Also for Curtis, Engadine, Naubinway, and Gould City.**

### MUNISING

**Dec. 14 at the Munising Tribal Health Community Center, M-28, Munising, 12-2 p.m., ages birth-18. RSVP to Jennifer Meyer, (906) 450-5246. Sign up before Nov. 27.**

# Herbal Lodge participates in Indigenous Voices

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe member Nathan Wright, the owner of Herbal Lodge, had an opportunity recently to teach fifth graders in the Troy school system about Anishinaabe culture through a new program called Indigenous Voices.

During the first two weeks of October, Troy Historic Village hosted Troy Public School's fifth graders as members of Michigan's Native American communities shared their clothing, traditions, music, language, and more.

Wright participated in the program by hosting an herbal class that was attended by Michigan's Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II. Wright said there has been a growing recognition of the importance of integrating Indigenous history and culture



**Celebrating Indigenous Leadership - Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II attends an herbal class at Troy Historic Village that was hosted by Nathan Wright, owner of Herbal Lodge.**

into mainstream educational programs in recent years. Wright said the lieutenant governor's presence underscores the state's commitment to elevating and respecting

Indigenous knowledge systems. According to Wright, he and the lieutenant governor also discussed wild rice and the need to be involved with the state in creating

regulations to make it sustainable for everyone to harvest, including Indigenous communities.

During the event, students learned how to drum, dance, and make cornhusk dolls to take home. Staff and presenters taught the fifth-graders some Ojibwe words and Wright said they enjoyed hearing them say "baamaapii" (which means "until later," or "see you again") as they got back on their buses.

Wright said these interactions between state officials and Indigenous groups are pivotal in bolstering the visibility and validity of Indigenous-led educational programs and agricultural businesses, which he has helped to pioneer.

Wright hopes to see Indigenous peoples teaching their histories and cultures within schools statewide in the near

future. "These programs are crucial for cultural preservation and for fostering cross-cultural understanding. Empowering Indigenous voices encourages pride and strengthened identity among younger generations."

Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II (@LtGovGilchrist), posted the following comment on X: "I was honored to attend the Indigenous Voices program in Troy MI today! It was a powerful experience filled with storytelling, culture, and connection. Listening to Indigenous perspectives reminds us of the importance of heritage and community. Grateful for the insights shared!"

Wright said he has formed a non-profit and is in the process of reaching out to other schools to offer similar programming. Wright can be contacted by texting to (231) 622-9063.

# Carrie Gregg participates in MSU research program

From "Building Bridges," pg. 10 -es and prepares STEM leaders for the future. In 2022, Arnosti worked with two MSU graduate students from the Sault Tribe, Heather Murdoch and Katie Thompson, to create the program.

Murdoch said, "Katie and I observed that there was a need for indigenous representation in STEM. During my journey, it's been isolating being one of the only Indigenous people in my program. I struggled with belief in myself for the majority of my journey and had to navigate how to get to grad school on my own. We aim to empower Indigenous students in STEM and give them the tools they need to successfully apply to graduate school. I love helping students pursue their dreams and interests, whatever they may be!" she said.

Arnosti said, "In our university's strategic plan, we specifically note that we need to 'take steps to forge authentic connection

and collaboration' with Native American communities. This has not been enacted in the area of STEM education and training, a deficiency that Building Bridges is designed to meet.

"As the founding land-grant, we have a particular responsibility not only to raise awareness of the history of Michigan State and land-grant universities, but also to elevate the visibility of Indigenous people and cultures and take steps to forge authentic connection and collaboration with Native American and Indigenous communities affected by land-grant policies."

Building Bridges is supported by contributions from the MSU Graduate School, the College of Human Medicine, the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, the College of Natural Science, and core departments and programs of the Biomolecular Sciences umbrella



**Carrie Gregg (left) discusses her research with the public at Mid-SURE.**

program.

Arnosti said he is also work-

ing to obtain federal support to expand the reach of the program.

Applications for summer 2025 will be accepted in January.

# Tribe's Elder Advisory Council awards \$500 scholarships

FROM ELDERS SERVICES

The Sault Tribe Elder Advisory Council awarded \$500 to a deserving young lady in an effort to support her continuing education. Kaelynn Duchene, a 2024 Graduate of Escanaba High School, is currently enrolled in nursing school, and has goals to give back to Sault Tribe when she has finished her degree.

Applicants were required to submit an essay as part of the application process, and the following is from her winning words. "Once I obtain my nursing degree, I would love to work at a tribal facility. I have had the opportunity to work as a student worker at a local tribal clinic over the past 2 years, and have learned so much. I feel it would be very rewarding to care for tribal members, knowing that I share some of the same culture, values and beliefs. I think that having a deeper understanding and respect for our culture would allow me to offer better care."

When Kaelynn was notified that she was the recipient of the scholarship, she was overjoyed.



**Kaelynn Duchene**

"I am so excited and appreciative, and I promise it will be put to good use!"

Congratulations, Kaelynn! Gavin Cadreau, a 2024 graduate of Linden High School, was the other recipient of the \$500 scholarship. He is enrolled at Oakland University, majoring in cybersecurity. His family's passion for helping others helped send him down this career path.

In his application essay, Cadreau said, "I want to use what



**Gavin Cadreau**

I've learned to not only defend against cyber threats, but also to spread awareness about how to stay safe online. It's my way of continuing my family's legacy of service, but in the digital age. My path to cybersecurity isn't just about my interest in technology; it's about carrying forward the values of service that my family taught me."

When notified of being chosen as the recipient of one of the scholarships, Gavin's family said,

"We are so grateful for the Sault Tribe Elder's Scholarship – any amount is very generous and appreciated."

The Elder Advisory Committee is committed to con-

tinuing to support tribal youth and their future educational goals. Students in the upcoming graduating class of 2025 should watch for the scholarship application process in early Spring.

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# Berry elected to serve as president of Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists for 2024-2025

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe member Dee Berry is a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) from Sister Lakes, Mich., and has been elected as the first Native American president to lead the Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists (MANA) for the 2024-25 term.

Berry was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and is a 1987 graduate of Sault Area High School.

CRNAs are highly trained healthcare professionals who provide anesthesia and related care for patients undergoing surgical, therapeutic, diagnostic, and obstetrical procedures.

Berry's career in healthcare began as an advanced emergency medical technician. She then earned a bachelor of science in nursing from Oakland University, followed by a master of science in anesthesia and a diploma in anesthesia from DePaul University/Northshore University Health System, culminating in a doctor of nurse anesthesia practice degree from the University of Michigan-Flint.

Berry said she will continue



Dee Berry, CRNA

to prioritize strong advocacy by ensuring CRNAs remain recognized and respected in healthcare; that professional development remains a top priority by providing continuous learning opportunities - from workshops to online courses, ensuring members stay at the forefront of advancements in anesthesia.

Being elected president of the MANA is a three-year commitment. "I was voted in one year ago. You spend a year being the president elect, and from there you slide into the president role

for a year before becoming the immediate past president. Think of it like an elder," she said. "So, I will then be on the left side of that new president so they can turn to me to be their voice of experience and wisdom and to help shape our future."

There is a lot that goes into the three-year commitment she has made. She said, "We do a lot of advocacy in Lansing and D.C., and build relationships with the governor and attorney general."

As MANA's president, Berry oversees nine committees - with the two most vital being the Government Relations Committee and MANA's Political Action Committee. "My vision for MANA is an unwavering commitment to the professional development of our 3,000-plus CRNAs in Michigan," she said. "Less than one-percent of CRNAs are Native American. I am very proud to be a part of that little number, but at the same time I would love to see that number increase - we are very underrepresented."

Although CRNAs are the primary anesthesia providers in Michigan, CRNAs are the

best kept secret in anesthesia according to Berry. "That may be because there is no difference in care provided between the two disciplines - we provide the same safe quality of care. The only difference is a physician anesthesiologist will go to medical school; CRNAs start out in nursing school and are the only anesthesia professionals with critical care experience before beginning formal anesthesia education," she said.

Berry works as an independent anesthesia contractor. "I contract myself out to provide services to hospitals, surgery centers, dentists, podiatrists - services they require when they have a shortage for some reason, maybe someone took a vacation or is on maternity leave or an extended sick leave, or they are in-between hiring permanent employees."

Berry said her first memories of health care were visits to the Indian Health Center on the Sault Tribe reservation in the 1970s. "I eventually became a paramedic and was living in southeast Michigan. After some time, there were issues with

being a paramedic and we were starting to get fitted for bullet-proof vests so I decided maybe this wasn't for me anymore. I went into the ER at our local hospital and someone there said I would make a great nurse anesthetist. I really didn't know what that was, so I shadowed one. Even though I loved working in the ER something was missing and I couldn't put my finger on it. When I shadowed that CRNA and walked into that first patients' room and I saw how terrified this patient was and what a vulnerable position they were in that they had decided to completely entrust their whole being to this person that they were just meeting - to me it was that feeling of honor and I decided this was the profession for me."

"I went to nursing school and worked in an ICU for three years and was accepted into anesthesia school and haven't looked back since," she said.

Berry said she was excited to be inducted as MANA's president during Native American Heritage Month.

## Join the Great American Smokeout 2024 and quit

BY COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATOR LYNDEE ZEIGLER

The Great American Smokeout (GASO) is an annual event, held on the third Thursday of every November to encourage individuals across the United States to quit smoking or support a loved one in quitting.

Organized by the American Cancer Society, this event provides resources, support, and motivation to start a healthy,

smoke-free life and overcome tobacco addiction.

It also challenges people to view the day as "Day One" on their journey to a smoke-free life.

With millions of Americans who smoke cigarettes, cigarette consumption remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the world. In fact, one in five deaths can be attributed to smoking.

If you or a loved one smokes cigarettes, consider joining the movement. Let the Great American Smokeout on Nov. 21 inspire you to start tobacco-free living.

No matter your age or how long you've smoked, quitting improves health both immediately and long-term.

For example, soon after you quit, your heart rate and blood pressure decrease and the nico-

tine level in your blood drops to zero. Within a couple of months, your coughing decreases and your lung capacity improves. In one to two years, your risk of a heart attack drops sharply. And the list of benefits goes on and on.

Quitting commercial tobacco is a journey, but research has shown both counseling and cessation medications increase successful quit attempts.

One great resource from the Sault Tribe is the Nicotine Dependence Program. This program provides individuals with the tools and support they need to successfully quit using commercial tobacco products, as they meet one-on-one with a tobacco treatment specialist.

For more information about the program, call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

## Introducing Elder Service's elder outreach workers

Sault Tribe Elder Services has a variety of team members that play an important part in ensuring that the elders are well cared for, and have what they need.

A relatively new position that was developed as a result of negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the elder outreach worker is responsible for establishing key relationships with Sault Tribe elders and families in the home, clinic, or community setting.

They may assist with coordinating programs and services to help tribal elders maintain a good quality of life and age in place. The elder may be linked to resources that assist with a variety of physical, mental, psychological or social needs, related to aging.

Elder Services currently has four women that cover the seven-county service area, and each of them are incredibly dedicated to their elders.

Heather Jarvis covers Marquette and Delta counties and has been in this position for four years. When asked what outreach means to her, she replied, "Outreach to me means consideration, compassion, kindness. I enjoy helping our elders with many of our tribal applications and other applications that they may need help filling out. If it wasn't for our elders, we would not be

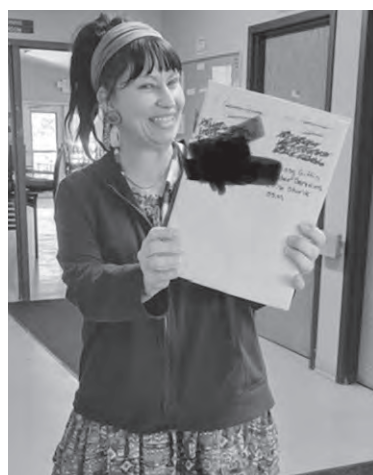


Heather Jarvis with an elder.

here. I hold a special place in my heart for our Sault Tribe elders." Heather has been providing the most wonderful care to her elders. Whether assisting with running errands, picking up food commodities, or ensuring an elder has a special guest to accompany them to a special event, she is there.

Krissy Giffin has been an Elder Services outreach worker for two years, and covers Chippewa and Luce Counties. "When introducing the Outreach program to our elders, we tend to focus on assistance with applications, paperwork, or help with conducting personal business, however there is so much more that Outreach workers offer.

The Outreach program creates



Krissy Giffin

an important element of trust and human connection. It is reassurance that someone cares, and will do everything we can to help in a variety of situations. It is a greatly needed hug on a difficult day, or a handshake and a smile when times are tough. Aging can be a scary experience when health declines and limitations are put on life and capabilities, and we need to keep in mind that we ourselves will be elders one day. We endeavor to make sure that every elder we assist feels safe, comfortable, and cared for. The Outreach team works hard to see to it that our elders know how important they are, and to follow the grandfather teachings in all of our work and interactions. We love our elders



Jenna Goudreau

like family, because compassion and respect are traditional!" Krissy has a special way of connecting with her elders, and more recently has been an incredible source of support to elders that are grieving a sudden loss.

Jenna Goudreau joined the Elder Services team in July of this year and covers Schoolcraft and Alger counties. She has picked up her role beautifully and has been making connections with elders in both counties. Jenna is willing to help with transportation to important medical appointments, assist with picking up food for elders, and helping plan social events like the summer picnics and Christmas cookie decorating. She also attended a number of health fairs in the



Krista Schnicke

western end of the service area, promoting elder services. The Unit 4 and 5 elders are really lucky to have Jenna!

Krista Schnicke is the newest member of the Outreach team and she covers Mackinac County. A resident of Cedarville, Schnicke is already learning many facets of the position, as well as other ways she can support the Unit 3 elders, including covering the St. Ignace meal program when needed. "I am super excited to learn." She is a welcomed addition to the team and will no doubt serve the Mackinac County elders well.

If you'd like more information, or would like to be connected to an elder outreach worker in your area, call (906) 635-4971.

# Walking on...

## CHARLES JOSEPH BEAUDRY

Charles Joseph Beaudry, 40, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died Oct. 18, 2024, in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born Aug. 30, 1984, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Joseph Beaudry and Janet Lee (White) Bennett.



Charlie was born and grew up in Sault Ste. Marie. He went into carpentry after school. He was known to help family and friends, no matter the chore, from cutting grass, snow blowing to shoveling the neighbor's sidewalk.

Charlie loved spending time with his children, family and friends. He spent most of his time outdoors having bonfires, going to the beach, teaching his children about the carpentry trade, camping, and riding motorcycles. He liked to watch cage fighting, and goofing around with family and friends, climbing trees, and sneaking out from the second story of his home as a child.

Charlie is survived by his daughter, Honestei Beaudry; twin sons, Joeseph and Jaxon Beaudry; mother and stepfather, Janet and Ricky Bennett; sister, Katie Bennett-Bouschor; multiple aunts and uncles; nephews, Eugene Gravelle, Damein Bouschor, Raul Bouschor and Rick Bouschor; grandparents, R. Curtis and Marilyn White; and stepmother, Mary Beaudry.

Charlie was preceded in death by his son, Haven Beaudry; father, Joseph Beaudry; sister, Melissa Beaudry; grandparents, Louie and Betty Beaudry; and aunt, Jenise Corbiere.

Tribal services were held Nov. 5, 2024, at the Niigaanaagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie.

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

## DARLENE (RICKLEY) BROWN

Darlene (Rickley) Brown peacefully passed away at Evergreen Living Center on Friday, Oct. 18, 2024. She was born Feb. 8, 1942, in St. Ignace, Mich., to Deward and Mabel (Moses) Rickley.



Darlene enjoyed living in St. Ignace, where she and her husband Herbert (Herbie) raised their five children. She was involved with the local Brownie and Girl Scout troops. She was an accomplished seamstress. For many years she was a representative for World Changers helping Native children. Darlene was known for her love of flowers in her flower gardens, she enjoyed bird watching, reading, doing her word search, and watching Hallmark movies. She will be dearly missed by her children.

Darlene worked for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in enrollment in the seventies, then medical input later on. She also served on the tribal board of directors from 1992 to 1996. She did bookkeeping for her husband's company, Pulp Co. and Winkleman's Clothing Store. Darlene enjoyed working at the Forestry, Community Action and

the St. Ignace Library in her later years.

Darlene is survived by her daughters, Sandra (Thomas) Cronan, of St. Ignace, Susan Brown of Bentonville, Ark.; son, Herb Brown of St. Ignace; grandchildren, Justin (Amy) Cronan of Nashville, Tenn., Joshua (Kara) Cronan of Eagle River, Alaska, Gerald (Tammy) Cronan of Wassilla, Alaska, Jeffrey (Maria) Brown of Bentonville, Ark., Carley Brown of Oscoda, Mich., and Zach Smith of Oscoda; great-grandchildren, Evelyn, Emma, Zayden, Emry, Freya; and siblings, Judy, Russell, Christine, and Diane.

Darlene was preceded in death by her loving husband of 42 years, Herbert; daughter, Shirley; mother, Mabel; father, Deward Sr; brothers, Deward II, Robert, Gerald, Roger, John and Ronald. Funeral Services will be held in the Spring of 2025.

Darlene's final resting place will be Wequayoc Cemetery in St. Ignace Township.

## WILLIAM R. MCKERCHIE

William R. McKerchie, of Barbeau, Mich., died Nov. 7, 2024. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Sept. 14, 1939, to Albert and Louise McKerchie. Bill was a member of the Ironworkers Local 60 in Syracuse, N.Y., and a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.



He was the beloved husband of Marilyn (nee Cline) McKerchie; devoted father of

William (Roxanne), Richard McKerchie, Rebecca (Shaunessy) Ryan, Mark Kiernan, Mark Smeltzer, and the late Randy McKerchie; cherished grandfather of seven; adored great-grandfather and great-great grandfather of many; loving son of the late Albert and Louise McKerchie; dear brother of Darlene (late Barrie) Graham, Douglas (Lynn) McKerchie; and the late Shirley (RT) Young. He was also also survived by many family and friends.

Services were held Nov. 16 at the Lombardo Funeral Home (Snyder Chapel), of New York. In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's memory may be made to Sault Tribe Elder Services, 2076 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or The Brothers of Mercy Foundation, 4520 Ransom Rd., Clarence, NY 14031.

## ZANE ATLEY KROUPA, JR.

Zane Atley Kroupa, Jr., 67, known as Butch to family, was born Sept. 21, 1965, in Oakland County, Mich., and died Sept. 20, 2024, at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, Vt., from a family genetic disease PKD.



At 17, Butch (a rebel) hated high school and quit to join the U.S. Marine Corp, serving four years and successfully escaping incarceration. By his late twenties he had acquired enough self-taught natural skills to start his own contractor business. While working in Florida a Vermont physician (not a farmer, sorry

Dutchies) hired Butch to build a home in Vermont. He quickly fell in love with the area and planted his feet in Panton, Vermont until God called him home.

He was a member of the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

He loved his dog Moo Moo, beer, hunting, fishing, the Patriots, his sisters Yooper pasties, not being bothered by stupid people (which was everyone), tormenting his nurses during dialysis and most of all, freely sharing his outstanding vernacular in the art of cussing.

Survived by: Jacob Garrison (stepson, U.S. Airforce), Tara Freese (daughter, Cincinnati, Ohio), siblings, Julie Kroupa (Green Bay, Wisc.) and Stephen Kroupa (Sherman, Texas), aunts, cousins and many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by: parents Zane Sr. and Mary (Reffruschinni), daughter Renée Jean, and siblings Renée, Veronica, Dorthy, and David.

There will not be a service but well-wishers are encouraged to write a farewell on your favorite can of beer and drink in his honor. Butch struggled with organization and can now find every tool he scattered across the county looking down from heaven. He can also find the tools borrowed and never returned so best to drink a second toast to him if you fall in this category if you know what I mean.

Our beloved Zane will be missed and was laid to rest on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Munising, Mich.

Butch's obituary and online guestbook may be viewed and signed at [bowermanfuneralhome.net](http://bowermanfuneralhome.net)

See "Walking on," page 16

**Patients were asked, "Should you wish, please provide any comment regarding this physician's office/clinic visit."**

**And you told us...**

*Wonderful clinic! I really love them. They're good folks.*

*I love the doctors there. I love all the people that work there, and I like going there. It's like family.*

*The experience at the tribal health service in Munising is always a positive experience.*

**Dr. Kroupa-Kulik Medical...The clinic is awesome. Dr. Kroupa-Kulik is the best, we love her. She's been with us since the beginning and we don't plan on going anywhere else.**

**This is a very nice clinic. Dr. Kroupa-Kulik is very good. The office just keeps getting better and better.**



## Munising Tribal Health Center

**Myrth Condon Medical...The staff and Dr. Condon are great! They are prompt, knowledgeable, and thorough!**

**They're very thorough, very patient-oriented. They always return phone calls to answer questions...appreciate that they called to follow up. They're just very good.**

*Thank you for being good healthcare providers.*

*They're a good group of people and they take pride in their work.*

*Everybody is always courteous, it's always timely, and they always have time for their patients.*

*I appreciate everyone that I have dealt with there. They all treated me really good, and I enjoy going to see them.*

*There is excellent care provided and it is very much appreciated.*

**J.L. Morgan telephone survey of a random sample of Sault Tribe patients from 2023**

# DreamMakers Theater in Kewadin Casino hosts 2024 Veterans' Powwow



Beneshe Schwander of the Little Traverse Bay Band with her grandmother, Jane Buswa-Schwander.



Tara Hetrick, Tina Gardner (center) and Bernadette Azevedo.



Grand entry begins.



A view of the powwow from the stage in DreamMakers Theater.



Nashoba Stobnicke Sr., Nashoba G. Stobnicke Jr., Aliviya D. Stobnicke (on her father's lap) and Cheyton Villaluz (right).



Jordan General with her uncle Richard.



Womens head dancer Alexia Hall-Pine.



LouAnn Dougherty and Ken Tufnell.



Debra-Ann Pine with her mother, Jolene Nertoli.



Veterans dance around the circle to an honor song.



Kelly Paquin, Shelby Fisher and Autumn Bindschatel.



Quinten Schwander with daughters Beneshe, 8, and Nodiin, 5.



These girls were participating in the spot dance for a chance to win some cash.



Carrie (left) and Brianna Bennett with Blake and Brook Nault (right).



William Ruthruff with his mom Victoria Albert-Ruthruff.



Dancers make their way around the DreamMakers Theater during the afternoon grand entry.



Good friends Maria Perry and Rita Bouley, traditional women's dancers.



Men's traditional dancers making their way around the circle.



Thanking and honoring veterans for their service.



# Domestic abusers sentenced to federal prison

## Sixth defendant in Northern Michigan sentenced in six months for domestic-violence related offenses

FROM DOJ

MARQUETTE – U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan Mark Totten announced Nov. 19 that Ronald Burt Krull, 56, of Kinross, Mich., was sentenced to 30 months in prison for assault by strangulation of an intimate partner.

“The harsh reality is that millions of Americans live in fear of domestic violence every day,” Totten said. “My office stands with victims and will continue to do everything we can to protect them and work with law enforcement partners to hold their abusers accountable.”

Krull is the sixth defendant sentenced in the last six months for domestic-violence related offenses after being charged by the Northern Division of the United States Attorney’s Office

for the Western District of Michigan. The Court previously sentenced the following defendants:

On June 5, Steven Webster, 31, of Green Bay, Wis., was sentenced to 60 months’ imprisonment for domestic assault by a habitual offender.

On June 26, Jacob Wolf, 28, of Marquette, Mich., was sentenced to 38 months’ imprisonment for domestic assault by a habitual offender.

On July 18, Eric Halfaday, 39, of Wilson, Mich., was sentenced to 24 months’ imprisonment for assault by strangulation of an intimate partner.

On Sept. 5, Jaden Plank, 25, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., was sentenced to 37 months’ imprisonment for assault by strangulation of an intimate partner.

On Nov. 18, Jason Michael

Noguess, 33, of Delta County, Mich., was sentenced to 33 months for assault by suffocation of an intimate partner.

“Today’s sentencing of Ronald Krull, a violent offender, underscores the FBI’s commitment to investigate domestic violence related offenses on federal trust land,” said Cheyvoryea Gibson, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI in Michigan. “Members from the FBI in Michigan, in partnership with the Sault Tribal Police Department and the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Western District of Michigan, worked diligently to investigate and bring Mr. Krull to justice. Domestic violence is a terrible offense, and the FBI remains committed to working with our law enforcement partners to protect victims and ensure the

safety of communities across Michigan.”

The FBI, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Police, Sault Tribal Police Department, Hannahville Police Department, Marquette City Police investigated the cases.

Domestic violence occurs throughout the country every day. It impacts victims and witnesses physically, psychologically, and socially. Unlike many crimes, domestic violence often involves years of emotional and psychological trauma, as well as physical violence that becomes increasingly frequent and more severe over time.

Unfortunately, many victims do not view themselves as victims and do not realize that domestic violence is a crime perpetrated against them. Local law enforcement officers, child

and family services workers, community leaders, educators, coaches, parents, siblings, and loved ones all play a critical role in identifying, intervening, and providing treatment in cases of domestic violence.

Additional information and resources related to domestic violence can be found at the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Domestic Violence webpage, as well as through StrongHearts Native Helpline (1-844-762-8483) and the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence (1-855-863-2374).

If you or a family member has been or is being impacted by domestic violence, please contact your local law enforcement agency and local domestic violence agency.

# Strangulation is a warning for lethality in domestic violence

FROM ARC

The Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) is recognizing November as Strangulation Awareness Month. Strangulation is a lethal form of assault that can kill a person within minutes. Strangulation is not to be confused with “choking.” Strangulation is described as pressure being applied from the outside, cutting off airflow and blood vessels in the neck, preventing oxygen from reaching the brain. Choking, meanwhile, refers to a blockage or obstruction inside the throat, making breathing difficult.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 2003 and 2014, 55.3% of female homicide victims in the United States were the result of intimate partner violence (IPV). The CDC also reports that nearly one in four adult women and approximately one in seven adult men report having experienced severe physical violence, including strangulation, from an intimate partner in their lifetime. According to the 2015 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), 21.4% of female respondents have experienced severe physical violence in their lifetime.

Strangulation is a significant warning sign for lethality in domestic violence cases. Perpetrators often use strangling as a form of power and control over their intimate partner. Pressure placed upon the victim’s throat can cause unconsciousness and death. Strangulation is just below homicide on the continuum of domestic violence risk assessment. It has been reported that a woman who has survived strangulation by her partner is eight times more likely to die by his hand in another attack. According to the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, the odds for homicide via strangulation increase by 750% for victims who have been strangled previously compared to victims who have never been strangled.

Strangulation is relatively easy to identify as many symptoms occur in the facial areas. Some common visible signs of strangulation include petechiae (red spots) in the eyes or the whites of the eyes may be filled with blood,

swollen lips, droopy eyelids, facial drooping or swelling, scratch marks to neck or face, raspy or hoarse voice, trouble swallowing, drooling, petechiae on earlobes, bruising on or bleeding from ears, swollen tongue or bumps on head from falling or blunt force trauma. Some signs a victim may suffer from are not visible, such as intense pain, vision changes, ringing in the ears, cuts in the mouth, swelling of the neck or throat, difficulty breathing or voice changes.

Strangulation may not cause death immediately and has been known to cause death several days later due to collapsed trachea or tracheal damage. Strangulation can cause serious health issues and psychological problems. Data on strangulation reveals a harsh picture of the severity of this kind of assault. One in four women will experience intimate partner violence in her lifetime. Of those, up to 68% will suffer near-fatal strangulation at the hands of their partner.

It is important also to note other forms of oxygen restriction which may lead to death or brain injury.

— Suffocation is a general term indicating death caused by reduced oxygen content in inspired air. For example, placing a plastic bag over one’s head is a form of suffocation.

— Smothering is another form of suffocation in which air (oxygen) is prevented from reaching the lungs by obstructing the nose and the mouth. Abusers may use their hand or a pillow and press it firmly over the victim’s face. Facial injuries usually indicate smothering.

— Gagging, obstructing the mouth with a cloth or an object. While breathing is possible through the nose, if secretions accumulate in the nose, asphyxia (suffocation) may occur.

— Ligature strangulation, restricting air to lungs by use of rope, wire, or cloth

— Hanging, a form of self-induced suffocation where the body weight causes pressure on the neck to restrict breathing

— Drowning, a form of suffocation, and often used as a fatal term in which a victim dies via

submersion and inhalation of water or other liquid

Michigan law states that any person who assaults another person by strangulation or suffocation is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both. The law defines “strangulation or suffocation” as “intentionally impeding normal breathing or circulation of the blood by applying pressure on the throat or neck or by blocking the nose or mouth of another person.” Under

the law, it is not necessary for a victim to suffer any actual injury for the state to charge a person with assault by strangulation. An aggressor’s intent may be inferred simply from physical violence.

If you have experienced any of these variations of oxygen restriction, please consider reporting the incident to the police. The Advocacy Resource Center can assist with court accompaniment, victims’ rights, and referrals to community partners for further assistance. Advocates are avail-

able to assist you and can be reached by calling (906) 632-1808. If you are ready to leave your situation and need shelter services, you can call and screen for the Lodge of Bravery Shelter at the same phone number 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you are a victim of strangulation and would like advocacy, contact the Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808.

For more information, visit our website at [www.arcsaulttribe.com](http://www.arcsaulttribe.com). You are not alone. There is help.



## Social Security Video Service

### Bringing Our Office To You



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

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

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

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

[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)



# Tribal court celebrates adoptions and family

**FROM TRIBAL COURT**

November is an exciting month not only for Tribal Court, but for our tribe and its people. November is Adoption Month in Michigan and also recognized nationally.

This special month is dedicated to celebrating and promoting the adoption of children who are in foster care and recognizing the loving families who open their hearts and homes to provide permanent, stable and caring environments for children in need of a forever family.

A collective effort by Tribal Court, ACFS/Binogii Placement Agency, attorneys and other advocates made for 10 children to find the love and connection they need in their forever homes, a record number of adoption petitions finalized in November in Tribal Court.

Efforts made to find lifelong support systems and connecting these children to their adoptive families who honor their race,



**Doris and Clinton Bradley finalize their adoption in Chippewa Tribal Court.**

culture and ethnicity allow for a sense of belonging, creating lifelong bonds that help our children build resiliency and overcome

challenges.

“Adoptions are one of the most significant legal proceedings we do here in our Tribal Court

and as a tribe. There is no greater act of love than giving a child a forever family,” said Court Administrator/Magistrate Traci

Swan said.

If you’re interested in learning more about adopting, visit <https://www.mare.org/For-Families>.



**The Schalow family – a party of six gets their forever home!**

# November is National Adoption Awareness Month

**FROM ACFS**

November marks National Adoption Awareness Month, a time to spotlight adoption related issues with a particular focus on children in foster care awaiting permanent families. This month is dedicated to raising awareness for children and youth in foster care who long for the stability, love, and support that a permanent home can provide.

Since 1985, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, through the Sault Tribe Binogii Placement Agency, has been providing adop-

tion services with a commitment to honoring and preserving Native American culture. Central to the agency’s mission is the priority of keeping tribal children with their families whenever possible. In situations where children cannot remain with their families, Sault Tribe works actively to match tribal children with tribal families, ensuring that children remain connected to their culture and heritage. These cultural connections are vital, as they allow children to develop a sense of identity, belonging, and

pride in their Native heritage, which are all factors essential to their well-being and development.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) also monitors tribal cases nationwide and can assist in connecting children with tribal resource foster homes, even outside the seven-county service area. A larger pool of resource foster homes allows for a better match, ensuring that children can grow up in a supportive, culturally affirming environment. Those interested in fostering, regardless of

location, are encouraged to reach out.

Currently, numerous tribal children across the nation are in foster care, waiting for families who can provide both nurturing support and respect for their cultural heritage.

However, a shortage of foster and adoptive resources poses a significant challenge statewide, nationally, and among tribes, including the Sault Tribe. There is an immediate need for committed foster and adoptive parents who can offer not only a stable and loving home, but

also a deep respect and commitment to honoring Native culture.

Every child deserves a loving family, and every tribal child deserves to remain connected to their heritage.

If you are interested in making a difference in a child’s life by becoming a foster or adoptive parent and supporting their cultural identity, please contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (906) 632-5250, 1-800-726-0093, or via email at [acfs-fosterhomes@saulttribe.net](mailto:acfs-fosterhomes@saulttribe.net).

# Advocacy Resource Center Night of Wicked Awareness

**FROM SAULT TRIBE ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER**

The Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) hosted a new event this year in lieu of their annual Walk for Domestic Violence awareness. With the uncertainty of weather, the possibility of relocating the event at a moment’s notice, and a lack of community participation, the ARC decided it was time to revamp the October awareness event.

ARC’s Community Educator Jess Gillotte-King, created “A Night of Wicked Awareness,” combining Halloween festivities and domestic violence awareness. The idea included family, friends, food, fun, and education about domestic violence awareness for adults and youth. Educating youth about healthy relationships

and treating others with respect is essential to preventing domestic abuse in the future.

Participants attending the event were provided a short quiz about domestic violence prevention to complete in exchange for a reusable lighted glow wand.

The Advocacy Resource Center had an awareness table with information on domestic violence prevention, safety planning, and the misuse of power and control, along with various promotional items.

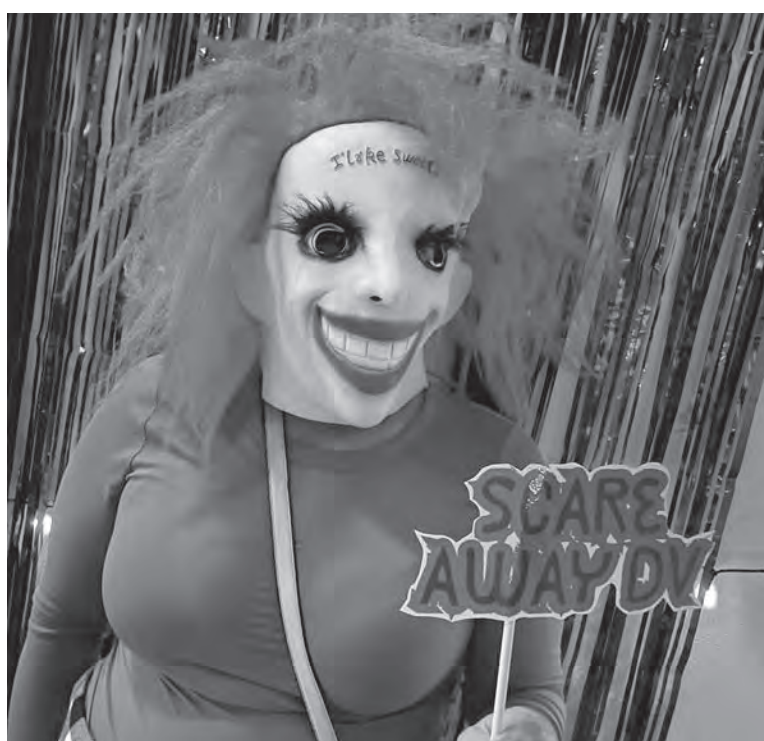
The Diane Peppler Resource Center joined the ARC and provided a family-friendly activity and their domestic violence resources. Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) also offered activities and games; the USDA and Sault Tribe Law Enforcement also

attended and brought candy and activities to enhance the event.

Event-goers enjoyed a cupcake walk, pizza and drinks, various games, candy and prizes, a photo booth, spooky music, and lots of dancing. The event was an unexpected hit, with nearly 200 people in attendance.

Chi miigwech to Big Bear Arena, volunteers Ella, Kenzey, Danika, Kenzie, and Addison, ARC staff, the Diane Peppler Resource Center, ACFS, USDA, and Sault Tribe Law Enforcement for making our event a big success.

Next year’s event is already in the works, with the date slated for Oct. 18, 2025. If you’d like to host a table at next year’s event, please contact Community Educator Jess Gillotte-King at [jgillotte@saulttribe.net](mailto:jgillotte@saulttribe.net).



Photos by Jessica Gillotte-King

Jennifer Gillotte's sign says it all - Scare away DV!



Amelia, Genevieve, and Savannah



Michelle and Marlene from USDA



Wyatt, are you behind that Ninja turtle mask?

# Protecting yourself from a food allergy reaction

BY TARA HOVIS, MSU  
EXTENSION

Having a food allergy can be a scary situation but knowing what foods to avoid and how to recognize symptoms can help you manage food allergies.

With all the interest in food allergies today, you might think that this is a recent problem. In reality, food allergies have been around as long as we've been consuming food. An estimated 33 million Americans live with food allergies, and while there is no cure, there are ways to help control the possibility of a reaction.

Food allergies are reactions in the immune system that occur after you eat an offending food. These foods contain a protein that triggers the allergy such as the proteins in milk, eggs,

or wheat. For people with a food allergy even a tiny amount consumed or breathed in can cause symptoms such as rashes, hives, digestive problems, and swelling of the lips, tongue or throat. Severe reactions include anaphylaxis, a condition where the air passages swell, shutting off the airways and possibly becoming life-threatening. Anaphylaxis needs immediate medical attention.

Thanks to the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004 (FALCPA) and the Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education, and Research (FASTER) Act of 2023, the ability to find allergens in foods is easier than ever. Prior to 2006, it was nearly impossible to determine whether a known food allergen

was an ingredient. For example, a starch listed in the ingredient panel would be listed as a "food starch" and the consumer would have no idea if that starch came from a potato or from wheat. Now with the food allergen labeling laws, the nine foods causing over 90% food allergy reactions are required by law to be listed on the food label in plain language. These nine foods are: milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, soy and sesame.

Food allergies can be life threatening, so learning to manage your food allergy is also important. Managing a food allergy can include the following steps:

- Learning how to read food labels and ingredient lists.
- Knowing the major food

allergens and which foods or ingredients you are allergic to and need to avoid.

— Knowing the symptoms of an allergic reaction.

— Learning what measures to take if an allergic reaction occurs.

— Becoming an advocate for yourself and loved ones when it comes to choosing foods that are allergy free.

— Carrying an epinephrine auto-injector if your doctor recommends one for you.

By following the above steps and other steps your doctor suggests, you can lessen your chance of accidentally exposing yourself to a food allergen and avoid adverse reactions or life-threatening conditions. Consult your primary care physician for a treatment plan when

reactions do happen, but in the event of life-threatening conditions call 911.

If you suspect food allergies for you or someone you care for, MSU Extension suggests having a conversation with your medical provider to get a medical diagnosis.

If diagnosed with a food allergy, inform schools, employers, restaurants, and family members.

Continue to educate yourself on food allergies and take precautions when dining out or eating. Have regular medical checkups and follow your doctor's orders.

For information about food allergies, visit the Food Allergy Research and Education website or American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology website.

# Simple steps to minimize your chance of falling

BY NICOLE WETHINGTON,  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

Are you at risk for falling? Prevent falls by knowing potential safety concerns and working with your healthcare provider. Family, caregivers, and friends can help older adults stay safe in their homes.

As we get older, falling may seem unavoidable, but there are ways to beat the odds of falling. According to the National Council on Aging, one in four adults age 65 and older fall each year. While falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries for people over age 65, falls are preventable. Older adults who take actions to avoid falls can greatly reduce their risk for hip fractures, broken bones, and head injuries, as well as increase their chances of maintaining their health and independence.

Common factors that can lead to falling include:

Balance and walking/gait issues. As we age, we may start to lose coordination, flexibility and balance (primarily through inactivity), making it easier to

fall.

Eyesight issues. As the eye ages, less light reaches the retina, making contrasting edges, tripping hazards and obstacles harder to see.

Medications. Some prescription and over-the-counter medications can cause side effects such as dizziness and dehydration, or interactions with other medications can contribute to a fall.

Environment. Homes and neighborhoods may have fall hazards, such as loose or cracked steps, poor lighting and other conditions that may make safe mobility more challenging. Older adults can make simple home modifications to keep their living spaces safe.

Chronic conditions. More than 94 percent of older adults have at least one chronic condition such as diabetes, stroke, obesity or arthritis. These conditions may increase one's fall risk due to a loss of function, inactivity, depression, pain or needing to take multiple medications.

Minimize the chances of falling, or help a loved one, by

taking simple steps:

Talk with a healthcare provider to determine your fall risk and learn about community resources. Prepare a list of questions for a healthcare provider and talk candidly together about your risks and concerns. Prior to the conversation, you can also take the National Council on Aging's brief falls free check-up to have an idea of what your provider may ask you about.

Review your medications regularly with your healthcare provider to see if medications or an interaction between medications could affect your balance. Find an easy and accurate way to track your medicine so you remember to take the prescribed doses at the appropriate times.

Work on strength and balance. Adding exercises such as tai chi, walking, or chair exercises can improve your mobility and increase your strength. The CDC recommends older adults stay as active as able. Ideally, older adults should aim towards 150 minutes of moderate physical activity per week and incorporate two days of muscle-strengthening activities. If

you are currently inactive, have difficulty rising from a chair, or feel physically weak, ask a healthcare provider to refer you to a physical therapist. A physical therapist can help you create an exercise program to increase your balance, strength, and gait. Ask if using mobility aids such as a cane or walker can help you with safety. Any movement is better than no movement at all.

Schedule regular eye exams with an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Changes in eyesight can put anyone at greater risk of a fall.

Improve the safety of your home. There are ways to make a home more fall-proof, such as switching out lightbulbs for better lighting, securing cords and installing a grab bar or a shower seat in a bathtub or shower. Pets and rugs are common culprits for tripping people in their own living spaces. Take extra care to remove slippery throw rugs on floor areas and train pets to stay down and away from feet to prevent falls. Use a checklist to look at different areas of your living space.

Michigan State University Extension, often in partnership with many local senior centers and Area Agencies on Aging across the state, offers community-based fall prevention programs. A Matter of Balance helps older adults learn how to reduce their risk and fears of falling and incorporate a variety of fall prevention strategies into daily living. Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention supports older adults with a safe and fun physical activity environment to learn gentle tai chi movements. Ongoing research has found tai chi practice can help people with a variety of chronic conditions. These programs are offered virtually and in-person.

If you also live with chronic health conditions such as chronic pain or diabetes that can contribute to falls, MSU Extension is here to support you with Personal Action Towards Health (PATH) self-management workshops.

Updated from an original article written by Linda Cronk, Michigan State University Extension.

# Highlighting importance of frequent hand hygiene

BY JESSICA RICKERT, DDS

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) highlights frequent hand hygiene as one of the most important acts in preventing disease. Hand hygiene includes washing and sanitizing hands. Let us review these recommendations about hand hygiene:

1. Whenever a messy chore is done, wash your hands, because dirt is visible on the hands. But it is what we cannot see that is dangerous.

2. Germs are invisible. Germs are microorganisms such as bacteria or viruses.

3. Germs are everywhere. They are within and on our bodies and on every touchable surface.

4. Not all germs are bad. Good germs help to keep us healthy and to keep our immune

system strong. On our hands are good germs that live under the deeper layers of the skin, and most are not removed by washing with soap and water.

5. Our hands can also have transient, bad germs on the outermost layer that cause illnesses.

6. Health experts recommend washing our hands with soap and clean, warm water for at least 20 seconds. Singing "Happy Birthday" twice equals 20 seconds. Be sure to work up a good lather and clean the back of the hands, the wrists, between the fingers and under the nails. Dry them using a clean towel or a hot air dryer.

7. Using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer is another way to keep our hands clean. 60% alcohol is recommended.

8. If neither soap nor sanitizers are available, follow the above steps with water and vigorous rubbing.

9. Let us model good behavior by washing our hands, because our children want to do what we do. Wash babies' hands and teach children to wash their hands after the bathroom and before eating.

Handwashing reminder signs increase frequency and length of handwashing. A cell-phone photo of our children washing their hands can be printed and posted near the sink.

So, we must take hand cleanliness seriously by remembering other healthy hand habits:

Learn to control your hands by not coughing or sneezing into hands. A typical human sneeze emits around 40,000 droplets, carrying germs from

the mouth. Sneeze or cough into your shoulder or into your elbow.

Let's not put our hands or fingers in your eyes, nose, ears, or mouth.

Germs can live on surfaces from three hours to seven days; germs survive less on dry surfaces. Germs live on shared surfaces such as door handles, counters, phones, remote controllers, keyboards, piano keys, ink pens, sports equipment, handling food, toys, and others' hands.

Sometimes, we can handle these items with a tissue. We can turn off water faucets and open many doors with our elbows; latch doors handles can be opened with the ring and pinky fingers of the nondominant hand, often the left fingers. Small hand-sanitizers can fit in

our pocket or purse, to use after touching items.

We learned from the COVID pandemic that the COVID virus is less likely to spread when excellent hand hygiene is practiced.

According to the CDC, handwashing can prevent one in three diarrhea-related illnesses. And handwashing prevents one in five infections, including the flu, colds, pneumonia, and sore throats.

Worldwide, about 1.4 million children under age five die from diarrhea and pneumonia. Handwashing can stop many of these deaths. Why not do what we can to help our children?

This is why we love National Handwashing Week in December, because by this small effort we can protect ourselves, our family and each other.

# From the archives – Christmas flashback 1980



Vol. 2 No. 6

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Of Chippewa Indians

December 1980

**'Our ceremonies to celebrate Earth Mother's gifts took place year around'**

## Giving was an everyday custom

By Bill Church (Odawa)

(Bill Church is the Director of Indian Education for the Sault Ste. Marie Public Schools.)

Well, here it is. Christmas is upon us. There have always been plenty of good memories about this holiday. Lately, however, some Native people are having difficulty identifying with the reason for the holiday – the birth of Christ.

In a like manner, some of our traditional people who follow the Old Ways are patiently waiting for the prophet our native traditions tell us will come from the East. This belief has, however, almost been totally undermined by Christian teachings.

Irregardless of our beliefs there is one aspect of Christmas that all Native people can participate in during the holiday. We can give and we can share.

Notice that there is no mention of receiving in the opening statement about this holiday. Receiving what is necessary for our daily lives was not looked at by our people as something that we should celebrate only at one special time of the year. Our ceremonies to celebrate Earth Mother's gifts took place year round. Being able to give at these occasions was the instruction of the Creator. By giving one could insure receiving when the need arose.

Ever hear of an "Indian giver"? This should be looked at as an honorable statement of our Way. Here's why. At the time of the first contact by white people with our woodland Indian culture it was a general rule that "tis better to give than to receive". Some of the first traders and trappers who came to this area found our people living comfortably even in our harsh climate.

"The giveaway was really a daily affair and the celebration of it was to teach and remind us of it."

These Che-mok-mon, however, not having the support of the many friends and relatives which we had arrived at our 'doorsteps' very poor, in need of food, clothing, and other necessary supplies. These things we gave to them freely. This was our Way.

When someone came to visit us it was our custom to greet them, invite them in, feed them, discuss what they came to see you about – and, give them what they needed to insure their safe return.

It was also our custom to exchange gifts upon making someone's acquaintance. The greater gift one could give, the greater the bond of respect would be. This was the Way the original instructions from the Creator taught.

In the Indian Way, as it was practiced, there was little hunger; if any member of a group had food, all had food. To the first white people our system was indeed strange!

For a few measly trinkets Native people would offer many furs, food, even horses. What the white man didn't understand and later understood all too well was that giving was the most respected act that could be engaged in by Indian people. Giving was a common everyday custom. It was a well understood one.

There were instances where white traders were given prize horses in acts of friendship. Giving, by anyone, however, must be reinforced. This still

And here we are at Christmas. Some of us are wondering what we're going to give; some of us have become traders and trappers and follow the foreign ways and wonder only about what we're going to get.

When we again understand the truth about our past ways we should be able to unite our thoughts and actions and join in on Christmas festivities and celebrations like it. The Christian tradition of giving and sharing at Christmas is so reminiscent of our past ways. We can be confident of the fact that the spirit of Christmas violates no tradition that we hold. All societies either celebrate the coming of a great teacher, or wait with celebrated anticipation.

"some of us have become traders and trappers and follow the foreign ways and wonder only about what we're going to get."



Photo by Susan Moore

Kateri Tekakwitha gave her life to the old, sick and infirm and was proclaimed a saint. She was Mohawk and Algonquin Indian.

is true today. The early trappers eagerly received and gave little in return. They did not understand our way of maintaining our feeling of community. We lost respect for their inability to share their possessions and as if to say "we are no longer friends" we sometimes took back our gifts, like the prize horse, as an act of discontinuing our relationship. In effect we divorced them.

They called us "Indian givers" and robbers. We had only pity for their selfish ways. Their way was understood as a way not taught by the original instructions.

Giving is sharing. Sharing is giving of yourself. By sharing of yourself you will receive. This is the spirit and foundation of the concept of sharing referred to today as "reciprocity". This is what historians call our way of: supplying each other's needs.

Elaborate ceremonies were held in woodland pre-white contact society to honor the young at special plateaus in their life. At other times food and gifts were given. These ceremonies were simply called "giveaways".

Giveaways were held following the death of loved ones, at the time of matrimony, at the birth of the young as well as other times. Wherever we now have become accustomed to receiving, we used to give. The giveaway was really a daily affair and the celebration of it was to teach and remind us of it.

Maybe we could learn the lessons that many of our children are slowly learning through cultural re-education and we could have feasts and giveaways at our birthdays, at our wedding days, and after our setbacks and losses of loved ones. The reality of these acts can only develop friendship and respect for each other and the acts of giving and sharing are the cornerstones of the concept of what a real Indian community is.

Think about giving this Christmas. Think about how you can honor your friends and relatives. Join in and be proud of the fact that Jesus learned his teachings from the same Creator who gave us our instructions for giving and sharing. Christmas is truly for everyone, each in his own special way.

# Composting Q&A: Recycle yard and garden waste

BY REBECCA KRANS AND ELIZA HENSEL, MSUEXTENSION

## What is composting?

Composting lets smart gardeners use chemistry to produce their own garden soil amendment. Some consider compost black gold! Compost is decomposed organic material such as leaves or vegetable scraps that, once broken down, turns into humus and resists further breakdown. Decomposition takes place through the work of microscopic organisms including fungi and bacteria, and larger organisms like earthworms, sow bugs, millipedes and more.

## Why compost?

Composting is a smart gardening practice because it recycles and reuses valuable nutrients through organic matter returned to the garden. It is a free source of organic matter or natural fertilizer for your garden! Using compost in your garden improves soil health by:

Improving tilth which refers to soil structure and aggregates increasing water retention creating air pockets for plant roots to grow.

## Where should I compost?

Make sure you place your compost in a convenient place, close to your garden and a water source. The ground needs to be level and well-drained so that water does not collect. Excess water will not allow enough air in, and this will make your compost smell bad. It is best not to place your compost pile in full sun as the sun will dry out the pile faster. It is the microorganisms that create the heat in the

pile.

## How do I compost?

You can buy one of the many different compost bins sold by retailers or create your own from various materials. The amount of time and effort you would like to spend recycling your garden waste will help you choose whether to use a “cold” or “hot” composting method. Make sure you can easily access one side, so you can mix the pile from ground level.

**Bin Options:** There are a variety of methods to create a compost bin depending on available resources. You can purchase bin structures such as pallets to create walls, allow your pile to be free standing, use a liner to create structure, or you can use a tumbler for a slower cold compost method. Bin style all depends on what suits your yard and your needs.

## Hot vs. Cold Composting

Hot composting usually produces compost within six to eight weeks. To be successful, you will need to provide the microorganisms in the pile with the materials they require to complete the process of decomposition: food, water, proper temperature, and oxygen. Usable food materials are referred to as “brown” or carbon source-C) or “green” (nitrogen source-N).

Cold composting is easier but slower. If you do not care if you get finished compost within one growing season, cold composting is for you. Simply pile up your yard and kitchen vegetative material as it becomes available and let nature take its course. If you

mix it occasionally, and it has a moist sponge consistency, then you should have some usable composted material the following season.

## Materials and Getting Started

**Browns** include any coarse, dried vegetative material such as leaves, twigs, straw, or dried grass stalks. It is best to mulch or shred materials before adding them to the pile as this speeds up decomposition.

**Greens** include kitchen wastes (except meat and dairy as these take longer to break down and tend to attract critters), weeds, and other green vegetative material. It is always a smart practice to pull weeds before they set seed, reducing the chances of spreading those weeds.

**Directions:** The recommended ratio of mixing browns (Carbon or “C”) to greens (Nitrogen or “N”) is 2:1 Carbon to Nitrogen or 3:1 Carbon to Nitrogen (C:N). Start your pile by piling up two times the volume of browns to greens. Top the browns with the appropriate ratio of greens. On top of this layer, sprinkle some existing soil or compost to supply the necessary microbes. Wet this layer so it is moistened, but not overly soaked.

Continue to layer, adding soil or compost and watering this way until the bin is full. Make sure you thoroughly mix the pile weekly using a garden fork, moving the outer layer to the inside and vice versa. Your pile should not stink but have an earthy smell.

Check the moisture level of

the pile. Too much water in your pile can reduce the level of oxygen and invite oxygen-deficient bacteria and a foul. When your pile is actively decomposing, a handful of the compost should have the consistency of a wet sponge with only a few drops of water able to be squeezed out.

## How can I use compost?

Use your finished compost as a 3-inch layer of mulch around herbs and annuals, or a 6-inch layer around perennials, trees, and shrubs. Not only will it provide nutrients, but it will help decrease topsoil erosion, reduce evaporation from the soil surface and create a more even soil temperature. You can also mulch around or side dress your vegetables with the compost. Although composting takes extra effort and planning, the finished product is a free source of organic matter and nutrients that, when returned to your garden annually, will reward you with improved soil health and lush garden plants.

## Composting FAQs

Is all bagged compost ‘created equal’? No, all compost is not created equal. Be sure to read the label carefully, and if possible inspect the product inside. Compost should be light and fluffy, smell earthy not stinky, and should be free of trash, maggots or invasive worms.

Can I use too much compost? Yes, it is possible to use too much compost. Compost should be used as an amendment to your soil, not the only material used to fill your beds. Planting directly into pure compost can be too strong for your plants.

Can I compost in the winter? Absolutely! Compost can happen all year long. The decomposition process may happen a bit slower in the winter months due to low temperatures slowing the process and cooling the pile, but the microbes will still get to work.

What if my plant material was diseased? Can I use that in my compost pile? While it is best to avoid diseased materials, if you do need to compost them, be sure to use a hot pile and ensure it reaches thermophilic conditions (3-5 days at >131°F) to kill off diseases.

What about putting weeds into compost? If adding weeds to your compost, make sure you pick them before they go to seed. Also, make sure they are not currently listed on the MI Invasive species list.

To continue learning, you can take our free, online master composter course that goes in depth on a variety of compost topics and methods, [www.canr.msu.edu/courses/master-composter-online-course](http://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/master-composter-online-course), or visit MSU’s [www.migarden.msu.edu](http://www.migarden.msu.edu) to view composting videos.

For more information on a wide variety of Smart Gardening topics, visit [www.migarden.msu.edu](http://www.migarden.msu.edu) or call MSU’s Lawn and Garden hotline at 1-888-678-3464.

This work is supported by the Crop Protection and Pest Management Program [grant no 2021-70006-35450] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



Photo by Ryan Roy

A compost tumbler can be used for easier turning of your compost and protection from rodents.



Photo by Eliza Hensel, MSU Extension

A temperature probe can be used to measure how hot your compost pile is.



Photo by Caitlin Splawski, MSU Extension

If you would like to have a continuous supply of compost, consider a three-bin system like the one shown here. Once one bin is full and decomposing, you can work on filling another. Notice the structure’s open sides that allow air flow, sunlight and water to pass through.

# Rapson decorates his Lumsden Way home for Xmas



Sault Tribe member and long-time employee Richard Rapson decorated his home on the tribe’s Sault reservation on Lumsden Way for the Christmas holiday.

# Progress, challenges, and the road ahead ...



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

As your Chairman, I have always prioritized transparency and open communication with our tribal citizens. Today, I will share updates on several important initiatives, as well as challenges that lie ahead. These efforts are aimed at improving the health, well-being, and livelihood of our people, and I remain committed to leading the tribe through these developments.

## Going Smoke-Free across our casino properties

On Nov. 11, we made a significant move to improve the health and safety of both our customers and team members by making all

of our casino properties smoke-free. This decision was made with the well-being of our community in mind. Smoking indoors presents serious health risks, and we believe it is crucial to protect the health of those who work and visit our properties. Furthermore, cigarette smoke has caused lasting damage to our facilities, leaving behind odors, yellow stains, and burn marks.

This change also ties into our effort to protect our multi-million-dollar renovation of our flagship gaming property in Sault Ste. Marie. We are committed to ensuring that our spaces are inviting, safe, and welcoming. This move is an important step toward maintaining the long-term integrity of the properties we have worked so hard to improve.

## Compensation Study: A call for action

Several years ago, the tribe took an important step by allocating over \$10 million in ARPA funding to conduct compensation studies throughout our organization. These studies are critical in determining whether we are paying our team members fairly and in line with market standards. However, after years of

## A Message from the Chairman

waiting, only the Health Division and the Housing Authority have seen their compensation studies approved, leaving many of our dedicated team members without the wage adjustments they deserve.

The compensation studies have confirmed what many of us already knew: our wages are stagnant and have not been updated in many years. It's concerning to me that the board has yet to approve the studies for the rest of our team members. Worse still, the tribe has until the end of December to obligate these funds for wage increases or other allowable ARPA expenses, or the money must be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

The responsibility for this inaction lies with your elected officials, not our staff. The board waited until the 11th hour to act on these compensation studies, and for some, this isn't enough time to obtain answers to their

questions. This money has been set aside for this purpose for several years, and it could have been approved anytime since then.

While the money has sat dormant in our investment account, it has accrued a significant amount of interest, which I find troubling because the tribe shouldn't profit from not paying our team members fairly. This delay cannot continue. I urge the board to prioritize the implementation of these studies for the financial well-being of our team members.

## Kewadin Casino Renovation: A work in progress

I'm pleased to report that the renovation of our flagship Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie continues to progress as scheduled. The feedback I've received from those staying in our newly renovated hotel rooms has been overwhelmingly positive. The exterior of the building, once marred by peeling siding, has undergone significant improvements and is now much more welcoming. This is just the beginning of what will be a continued effort to enhance this property, and I remain committed to securing funding that will further elevate our gaming facilities.

## Supporting Our Community: A successful hunting season

I want to take a moment to wish good luck to all of our hunters as they practice their treaty rights. I have been fortunate to have a successful hunting season so far, which has allowed me to donate venison to our Cultural Center and Elder Center in Sault Ste. Marie. It is my goal to donate venison, which is a cultural important food, to tribal citizens in every unit. Hunting and sharing food is integral to our culture and community, and it is an honor to support our elders this way.

## Condolences to those who have walked on

Lastly, I want to offer my heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have recently walked on. It's never easy to lose a member of our community, and my thoughts are with those grieving their loss. These moments remind us of the importance of family, tradition, and the deep connections we share as a tribe.

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

# A Time to Reflect



**ISAAC MCKECHNIE**  
**DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

As a lifelong resident of this Unit 1 and citizen of the Sault Tribe, I cannot remember a time in my life where I was not actively involved in trying to make our tribal communities a better place to live. I chose to immerse myself in the community through youth sports, and by volunteering for the various tribal committees (Child Welfare, Election, Enrollment, Health, and Housing).

Many people make promises that they do not fulfill. Since being on the board, I have proven results and a voting record demonstrating the courage to make tough decisions when called on. Some of these decisions have caused unrest in some people's eyes, which I offer my sincere apologies and hope we can mend these differences. There is still a lot of turmoil within our tribal board, which I understand firsthand the perils of board decisions made in a hyper political climate. I am and will always be committed to the people, and will fight for protecting the best interests of our tribe. If we look back, there have been a lot of devastating business decisions that were made that cost us hundreds of millions of dollars,

some of these failed businesses include Greektown Casino, Bates Garage, New Boston/Lansing Casinos, Mississippi Barge, and NorthStar Neon, etc.

The challenges we face are many and pose an ongoing threat to our sovereign nation. I will continue to stand tall and speak with a strong voice for our people at the state and national level, in issues related to our treaty rights, housing, education, health, gaming and the environment. I will continue to dedicate myself to financial accountability, sustainable economic development, debt reduction and defending the sovereign rights of our tribal nation. For example, our five casinos operate restaurants within these facilities, and since the day they were opened they have not generated a profit. The restaurant located in the Sault casino loses on average \$1.2 million annually. Kewadin management with board approval decided to issue an RFP to seek out companies to lease the restaurant space in the Sault casino. After years with no takers, I took it upon myself to seek potential suitors, which we now have an agreement in place with Black Rock Bar & Grill.

We may not always take the easiest path, but with hard work and dedication, we can and will reach our goals by focusing on the future and respecting and ensuring our cultural ways remain a cornerstone of our tribal nation. This Thanksgiving, I want to recognize the incredible teamwork from all of the employees throughout the tribe. Your collective dedication, creativity, and hard work is truly inspiring. Thank you for everything you do, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Happy Thanks Giving to all!  
Isaac McKechnie  
(906) 400-6661  
imckechnie@saulttribe.net

**SAULT TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**  
\*\*FAMILIES MUST BE REGISTERED\*\*

**UNIT 2 CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**DECEMBER 14TH, 3-5PM**  
**AGES 0-17 YEARS**

**\*\*NEW LOCATION\*\***  
**CLARK TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER**  
133 M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719

Register with Y.E.A.  
(906)-484-2298  
Kwindsor@saulttribe.net

Hosted by: Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors and Youth Education & Activities Program for Unit 2

**Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians**

**UNIT 2 CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Registration required for Newberry, Curtis, Engadine, Naubinway, Gould City.

**December 7th**  
**3pm-5pm**  
**Ages 0-17 years**

**LMAS District Health Department**  
14150 Hamilton Lake Road, Newberry, MI 49868

Register with Y.E.A.  
(906)-484-2298  
Kwindsor@saulttribe.net

Hosted by: Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors and Youth Education & Activities Program for Unit 2

# Grateful for ghost feasts



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

The board had recently been presented the compensation studies for the casino, government and EDC on an agenda for the Nov. 5 meeting. The resolutions had been placed on the agenda admitting not completed and therefore was taken off the agenda to better prepare. There had also been a special workshop and special meeting planned for a

completion of the study, this was scheduled for Nov. 13. I was and still am not clear on the parity or fairness of the study in totality. The last health study the board approved for compensation came with struggles, so therefore I was not comfortable approving. The discussion is set to continue to present again for all the other team members. We should have an outcome by the next report.

Here is the listing for our units children's Christmas parties please register and attend. I would like to say Chi Miigwech to our YEA program Kara and Kelly. They do an amazing job planning and everyone is looking forward to this special time.

Our recreation facility has had a time set back and we had to change the request for proposals and it is back out to bid. I'm very hopeful the project will be back on track to place the schedule moving forward. The homes for Newberry and Hessel are still on schedule and moving forward.

I would like to speak about our recent ghost feast in Hessel for our ancestors. This is a traditional ceremony we hold each year and all are invited. I'm so grateful for all who attended and helped. It's an honor to be part of this and I appreciate our unit carrying this on for those that needed to be taken care of through the long winter months. The past couple of months have been hard on so many of our families as we lost many loved ones recently. I would like to offer my sincere condolences to all the families that have had to go through the pain and loss.

If you would like to meet or discuss any ideas, concerns please contact me at lcausley@saulttribe.net or (906) 322-3818. Baamaapii and I hope all of your families have a safe holiday coming up.

Lana Causley-Smith  
Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
Board of Directors

# LaPlaunt discusses tribal issues, Unit V events



**TYLER LAPLAUNT**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,

Winter is coming! You can feel it in the air. As I've mentioned before, I'm very excited for the cooler weather, and hopefully a more normal winter. Winter is always a great time for reflection, storytelling, and bundling up and spending time with friends and family. We will continue to bring cultural activities to Unit 5 and are looking to shift seasonally to more storytelling and teachings workshops.

I'd again like to thank our entire Kewadin team for record profits. Our revenues continue to increase and since getting on board, our 2% allocations have increased over 150%. That's huge for our tribe and our communities. All of our Kewadins went smoke-free on Nov. 11 and revenue still continues to climb. All while we are still under renovation at our flagship and due for a restaurant overhaul as well. I cannot wait to see our Kewadin team thrive in this newly updated environment. Empowering them to do their best to succeed is the best thing our board could have done and I couldn't be more proud of all of our staff that continue to provide for this tribe.

**2% ALLOCATIONS**

The total 2% allocations for Unit 5 this Fall are \$84,732.90. Since I've been on board, I've split the allocations down the middle between the Marquette and Munising areas. As you will notice, Munising has a slightly higher allocation this Fall. I did this because there were two very important requests. One, the food pantry was running out of funds, so I fully funded them at their request. Food is a basic necessity and I know that many of our citizens rely on that pantry, as well as the local community. Two, the schools was in dire need of new instruments, so I fully funded that as well. Instruments are an extremely important part of developing our youth, and many families cannot afford their own. Additionally, I always fully fund both Title VI requests (Native Education).

**ALLOCATIONS:**

- Munising:
- Alger County Food Pantry = \$25,000 (Fully Funded)
- Munising Area Schools (Native Ed) = \$3,686 (Fully Funded)
- Munising Area Schools (Musical Instruments) = \$18,968.92 (Fully Funded)
- Total = \$47,654.92
- Marquette:
- City of Marquette (Modems for City Police Patrol Cars) = \$9,185 (Fully Funded)
- City of Marquette (YMCA) =

\$3460.98 (Partially Funded)

County of Marquette (Central UP CISM Mental Health Fund) = \$15,815 (Partially Funded)

Marquette Area Public Schools (Native Ed) = \$8,617 (Fully Funded)

Total = \$37,077.98

**CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

The Munising Christmas Party will be held at the Munising Tribal Health Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 12-2 p.m. We are adding ages up to school aged 18 this year. I want to thank Jennifer Meyer for the tremendous work she has done to hold this up for the past decade. She has been an amazing asset to the community and puts her heart and soul into this party. Excited to see you all there!

The Marquette Christmas Party will be held at the Northern Center at NMU from 12 to 3 p.m. Children birth to 18 are permitted this year. I want to thank all of the volunteers in Marquette who have been assisting, but a special shout out to my Elders Cindy Hanson and Rosemary Larson. I absolutely love how both of our communities come together to make these events so special.

**UNIT 5 PROJECTS UPDATE**

In Munising, the tiny home project is officially underway. The bid proposals are coming in to add six tiny homes to the existing reservation. Hopefully, by the end of next year we can get a few more people into affordable housing. On top of that, we have some additional funds that we will be using to buy existing housing, land, or update buildings in the Munising area. The idea is to be creative and get more people into affordable tribal housing.

In Marquette, remodeling of the clinic and community center are full speed ahead. We hope to do a press release with a groundbreaking at each site, just to grow the excitement in the community and get the word out. When we select a date, I will post this on my Facebook page and give everyone an opportunity to show up and join in. Exciting stuff.

**ENROLLMENT**

Update on open enrollment. As of Nov. 1, there have been 4,564 applications entered into the tracking system. These are adults only. They have enrolled 40 members this week. To date, they have enrolled 1,975 members since Feb. 1, including children, and 132 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.

Additionally, we have tasked our Enrollment Department with updating our tribal IDs. This will potentially be a hybrid process of regular and enhanced IDs with more security features. Our tribal IDs are long overdue for updating and upgrading to today's technology and security features. This is in the beginning stages as we are vetting vendors and processes. We are excited to see what this ends up looking like. I want to thank everyone in enrollment for all of

the hard work they continue to do for our tribe.

**CULTURAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

I'd like to apologize for the hand drum workshops that were canceled. There was a serious emergency, and our cultural facilitator was not able to teach the classes. He has agreed to come back up in early 2025, and everyone who was on the list will be contacted to see if they are still interested. I appreciate your patience and understanding. What is meant to happen will happen.

We have a new event coming up with Sault Tribe citizen Leah Blanchard who owns Little Agate in Marquette. She will be hosting a reusable diaper workshop at her shop, date TBD. We will be able to provide up to eight families with enough reusable diapers, which saves quite a bit of money. So if you or someone you know has a baby, or is expecting, keep an eye

out for this limited workshop. If this is popular, we will continue to bring it back to help provide for our families and help them save money. What a great gift, miigwech, Leah!

We continue to host bi-weekly culture night every second and fourth Thursday from 5:30 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 provided for everyone in attendance. People are welcome to bring a dish to pass or story to share, but absolutely nothing is expected other than kindness and consideration of others.

**ELDERS**

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and meal in Munising will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5, 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 Munising elders are also hosting their holiday meal on Thursday, Nov. 21 from 12 to 1 p.m.

The next Unit 5 Elder meeting and meal in Marquette will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Holiday Inn in 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 questions, comments, or would like to discuss something with me, use my contact information below. You can also contact 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



# Employment should follow policy not politics



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

I am hoping to work together with all board members but some refuse to change with the times and are stuck so that tribal politics have to be about attacking team members, misleading the membership and playing games rather than addressing our problems and

trying to come up with solutions. I fully believe the membership wanted change and not the same old games being played.

Recently, a 30-plus year team member was harshly disciplined and a lot of allegations have been made online by fellow board members designed to attack his character and make it about several other things and a conspiracy rather than the substance of his disciplinary action. The team member claimed the disciplinary guidelines and policy weren't followed, nor the grievance policy, nor the appeal policy. The truth is, I don't believe the policies were followed, either. Team members count on policies and procedures to protect them from political retribution and unfair attacks. Management neglecting to follow these policies failed this team member; and his position was

quickly filled before the closing of the job vacancy. The team member is my brother.

Let me be clear, I made no effort to interfere in any of this process, but believe a great injustice was made. Any effort I make to bring this to light will be made with attacks and false claims of nepotism when in fact, this is about policy and procedure and lack of protections for our team members. I believe some board members continue to play games and micromanage by meeting with executives, directors, and managers. My head is held high because I have not played games and I have not engaged in any nepotism or these unethical behaviors. Expect things to get worse, once a handful of board members can get away with violating policy once, they will keep on violating policy and target those they deem

political threats or their family members. This is not, in any way, what's best for the tribe, it is vindictive and has no place in our tribal politics.

No one on the board supports nepotism. The nepotism claims are a distraction from what's really going on, which is a handful of board members that are bullying with their personal agendas and don't want any resistance. They micromanage and ignore policy and procedure, then don't want anyone questioning it. I fully believe the next few election cycles will help change the course of this negativity and help us keep moving forward in a good way.

Good things can and are still happening — the board needs work together to prioritize solutions. If questions arise that team members weren't afforded due process for their employment, the

board should look into it as we have for several other team members in the past. This shouldn't be political and policies should apply to everyone. If our tribe had a separation of powers, it would be likely that our courts would be addressing this issue; unfortunately, that is not the case. I'm not sure what the solution is, but turning a blind eye and allowing our policies and procedures to fail our team members is not the answer. The board should look for solutions, make sure staff wasn't directed, and ensure fair treatment of all team members.

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

# Director Lee provides overview on tribal topic



**KIMBERLY LEE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Aanii. I sincerely apologize for missing my October Unit Report in last month's newspaper edition. I submitted it, but unfortunately, it was unintentionally overlooked. I completely understand that mistakes can happen; we're all human, and these things occur. I truly appreciate your understanding and patience. In this report, I'll include the critical topics from my previous submission so you don't miss any vital information. Miigwech, for your support.

My heart goes out to everyone affected by the storms in the South. It's devastating to see fellow members, families, and friends displaced and hurt. Let's cherish our loved ones and do everything possible to keep them safe during life's small and large storms. Remember, we are all

crucial to one another's survival and future. We all face storms, some sadly tragic, but together, it is the only way to get through.

On Sept. 26, I participated in the Recovery, Hope, and Healing Walk, an event organized by behavioral health for the past 14 years. It was a profoundly moving experience that highlighted the impact of addiction on individuals and communities. Hearing the personal stories of those affected served as a powerful reminder of the challenges many people face on their journey to recovery.

The event also emphasized the importance of breaking the stigma surrounding addiction and providing hope for those battling this issue. If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, consider reaching out to Behavioral Health at (906) 635-6075 or the MAT clinic at (906) 635-8877. Your recovery is worthy, and you are worth it!

Director Causley-Smith and I continue diligently working to finalize our housing plan for Newberry and Hessel for the upcoming spring. Despite our best efforts, we have encountered challenges finding a suitable location due to the high infrastructure cost. As a result, the process has taken longer than expected. This has required us to consider adjusting the Powwow grounds to accommodate the Elder fourplex in Newberry. Our housing team

is putting in tremendous effort to ensure these homes are built and ready for our communities.

On Oct. 26, I attended the "BAD RIVER film" at Kewadin Shores, which shares powerful revelations, stories of loss, unwavering resilience, and inspiring defiance. The film provides an in-depth look into the ongoing efforts of the Bad River Band as they fiercely battle for sovereignty and work tirelessly to protect and save the waters of Lake Superior. This thought-provoking documentary offers a compelling exploration of the intersection between environmental conservation, indigenous rights, and the spirit of the Bad River Band. If you can watch it, I highly recommend it.

Sault Tribe Construction is currently on-site at Epoufette Access Site, focusing on the second phase of tree removal in the project's Bottomland area. While this process has taken longer than initially anticipated, we greatly appreciate the work put in to ensure everything is completed safely and effectively. Thank you for your continued patience as they progress. After the tree removal process is completed, Sault Tribe Construction will begin constructing the access road, coordinating with engineers for proper planning and execution.

During the Oct. 22 board of directors meeting, I proposed a motion that would prioritize the elderly on the waiting list for open enrollment by moving them to the top of that list. I'm pleased to share that this motion passed. I understand that not everyone may agree with this decision, and I genuinely respect those differing viewpoints. However, I felt this was necessary for the elders who have patiently waited for years to become members. As we age, every moment becomes precious, and many of our Elders seek community and vital access to healthcare and elder services. I want to acknowledge the enrollment department for their unwavering dedication. They have worked tirelessly, even adding more staff, to ensure they can manage the influx of applications with compassion and care. Seeing

their commitment to supporting those in need during this process is heartening.

Incredibly, we're already gearing up for Christmas Parties for Unit 2! The excitement is in the air! I hope to see many of you over the holidays.

YOUTH PARTIES are as follows

Dec. 7, 3-5 p.m. — Newberry, Curtis, Engadine, Naubinway, Gould City - surrounding areas. Location-LMAS District Health Department 14150 Hamilton Lake Rd, Newberry

Dec. 14, 3-5 p.m. — Cedarville, Hessel, Pickford, Rudyard, DeTour, Drummond. Location-Clark Township Community Center, 133 M-134,

Cedarville, MI 49719

Must register for parties, ages 0-17. To register, email [kwindsor@saulttribe.net](mailto:kwindsor@saulttribe.net)

ELDER PARTIES

Dec. 10 — Unit 1, 2, and 3, Sault Kewadin, DreamMakers Theatre

Dec. 13 — Hessel Elders, Hessel Tribal Center

Dec. 20 — Newberry Elders

Every day, we can create the change we wish to see for the benefit of future generations and in honor of our elders and ancestors. Let us fulfill this responsibility to the best of our abilities.

Miigwech for your time

Kimberly Lee,

Unit 2 Director, [Klee@sault-tribe.net](mailto:Klee@sault-tribe.net), (906) 379-8965

# Shores wage study



**SHAWN BOROWICZ,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Hello to all,

I hope this report finds you all healthy, happy and prepared for the upcoming holidays. Hope all the hunters had a good season and harvested enough venison to fill their freezers. It was a good hunt for my family in Cheboygan county this year, with a lot of memories made with relatives and friends.

The wage studies have been completed for awhile now and we have been workshopping them continuously to come to an end result that will benefit all workers. In my opinion, the front-line workers in our casinos should benefit the most from these studies as they are the backbone of our businesses. These workers come to work every day and

interact with our guest and give them a welcoming experience while here.

This wage study although helpful was not representative of the Shore's casino workers needs. In this area we need to be competitive with Mackinaw City, St. Ignace and Mackinac Island, as their wages during the summer months average several dollars an hour more. So, we need to bring our workers to that wage or at least have a two-tier wage scale, where they are paid more from Memorial Day to Labor Day to keep and retain our valuable employees. To compare our workers to our four other casinos does not work as they do not have to compete with these other tourist establishments. I hope this makes sense and we can come to a consensus on this and get this passed.

Our annual children's Christmas party is scheduled for Dec. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Kewadin Shores Event Center and every family is invited. This is always an event I look forward to and is prepared by Mr. Ryerse and his staff of volunteers. It is always first class, so come on out and see Santa, Mrs. Claus, elves and other Christmas characters.

Respectfully,

Shawn Borowicz

[sborowicz@saulttribe.net](mailto:sborowicz@saulttribe.net) or (906) 379-8511



# Directors report on Unit IV and tribal business



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**



**LARRY BARBEAU,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aniin. Boozhoo kina waya.

We are now into the month of November so winter and the Holidays are quickly approaching. Just a reminder that Nov. 1 was the opening for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Applications can be picked up in Manistique at the Tribal Center, located at 5698W US Highway 2. If you have any questions contact the center at (906) 341-6993.

#### Feeding America Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, at 10 a.m. EST-Drive Thru-Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital, 7870W US Highway 2, Manistique, MI 49854

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, at 12 p.m. EST-Drive Thru-Munising Wesleyan Church, N6310 Knox Street, Munising, MI 49862

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, at 9 a.m. EST-Drive Thru-North Iron Church, 910 Palms Ave., Ishpeming, MI 49849

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, at 10 a.m. CST-Drive Thru-Redemption Hill Church, 332 S Carpenter Ave, Kingsford, MI 49802

Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, at

10 a.m. EST-Drive Thru-Silver Creek Thrift Store, 219 Silver Creek Road, Marquette, MI 49855

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024, at 12 p.m. EST-Drive Thru-NMU Berry Events Center, 1401 Presque Isle, Marquette, MI 49855

#### 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 as well as socializing.

The next meeting in Manistique will be held Jan. 8, 2025, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Jan. 8, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center, 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba, MI.

The next meeting in

Marquette, for Units 4 and 5, will be held Jan. 2, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 2472 US 41 W, Marquette, MI 49855.

#### Updates

**Manistique Fitness Center:** There have been a lot of members asking when the Manistique Fitness Center will be opening. We have been hopeful that despite delays we would be seeing an opening within 2024. However, at this point, we are at the mercy of the pump manufacturer so are trying to wait patiently as we cannot obtain a firm delivery date. We apologize for the long wait.

#### Board Members Activities for the last month

Oct. 15-Attended Tribal Leadership Summit in Mount Pleasant, MI from 10/15/24 until 10/16/24 Participated in Perinatal Collaborative Meeting. Communications with community organizations regarding youth events.

Oct. 17-Attended Manistique Fitness Center update meeting with U.P. Engineers and Architects. Attended Tribal Youth Council meeting.

Oct. 21-Held Escanaba Community Land Usage Input Meeting.

Oct. 22-Board Workshop.

Oct. 23-Held Manistique Office Hours.

Oct. 24-Attended Sault Tribe Inc monthly meeting. Decided Fall 2% allocations.

Oct. 27-Nov. 1-Attended National Congress of American Indians convention in Las Vegas.

Oct. 29-Board Workshop.

Oct. 31-Attended Traditional Health Medicaid coverage webinar.

Nov. 5-Met with Community leaders including School Superintendent, Sheriff,

Undersheriff, City Police, County Commissioners regarding strengthening school safety. Board Workshop and Meeting.

Nov. 6-Gaming Authority Meeting. Attended Employee Appeal Hearing.

Nov. 9-Attended Veteran's Day Pow Wow.

Nov. 12-Board Workshop.

Nov. 13-Board Workshop.

Nov. 14-Attended Water Ceremony Cultural Teaching.

Nov. 18-Attended

Compensation Study Review meeting. Attended UP Maternal and Family Well-being

Committee meeting. Attended Sault Tribe Inc Monthly meeting. Attended US Department of Labor Tribal Engagement Consultation Session. Attended FEMA Consultation regarding Great Lakes.

#### 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, Director Hampton and Director Barbeau, will continue 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. These office hours seem to be welcomed by members so we will continue offering this avenue of communication.

We will also be scheduling monthly community input ses-

sions and will also be made public. Initially we will do meetings, during office hours, on a first come first serve basis and then will transition into scheduled meeting times for members. We still want to encourage members to contact us via cell phone or email as well.

The schedule for December office hours is as follows:

Office hours to meet with board members in Manistique: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the meeting room by the dining area.

Office hours to meet with board members in Escanaba at the community center at 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba: Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. EST.

#### Ketchup with Kim

Ketchup with Kim will be Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, at 7 p.m. EST. Meeting ID: 906 440 8138; Password: KimHampton. Join to “Ketchup” and find out what the Unit 4 board members are working on.

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, Ketchup with Kim, and all other activities and events occurring throughout Indian Country.

Our contact information is below:

Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 440-8138. Email is khampton@sault-tribe.net.

Larry Barbeau, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 259-3040. Email is lbarbeau@sault-tribe.net.

# Director discusses bringing atikameg back to lakes



**KIM GRAVELLE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Merry Christmas to our service men and women who cannot be home for the holidays and their families who support them. Thank you to our team members for their continued hard work and dedication.

Our Sault Tribe Natural Resource Division has been busy working on an experimental whitefish (atikameg) rearing project for stocking the Great Lakes that fall within the 1836 Treaty Area. Sault Tribe manages these fisheries through research, monitoring, licensing, permitting

and regulations. While many species are targeted, atikameg (lake whitefish) makes up the cornerstone of the commercial fishery. Atikameg are an economic, cultural, and historically important species to Sault Tribe members. Members have been fishing for atikameg in the Great Lakes basin for thousands of years.

Atikameg stocks have been on the decline in lakes Michigan and Huron since the mid-1990s. Agencies across the Great Lakes have been studying possible reasons for the decline in recruitment, often focusing on the effects of dreissenid mussels upon both habitat and food resources for atikameg. Lake Superior, where recruitment has remained relatively stable, and the bay of Green Bay, Lake Michigan, where recruitment is increasing, are the remaining locations of successful atikameg recruitment in the upper Great Lakes likely due to low dreissenid abundance and high food availability, respectively.

In addition to the in-lake reef spawning life history common today, atikameg historically

spawned in tributaries throughout lakes Michigan and Huron, including the Elk, Muskegon, Manistee, St. Joseph, Jordan, Manistique, Kalamazoo and Grand Rivers in Michigan. These river spawning stocks likely contributed significantly to overall Lake Michigan atikameg populations.

However, these spawning runs were lost by the late 1800s due to pollution from massive amounts of sawdust and sediment from deforestation and dams blocking access to habitat. In spite of the impairments to Great Lakes tributaries, atikameg spawning runs have been discovered in several Green Bay tributaries in Wisconsin and Michigan with at least the Menominee River run providing significant production to Green Bay. It is possible that increased production from tributaries has contributed to high levels of recruitment in Green Bay and could similarly help to improve the atikameg population in the main basins of Lakes Huron and Michigan.

Atikameg have been reared in hatchery settings at least as far back as the 1930s and are being

reared around the globe using a variety of methods. The Sault Tribe and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians are experimentally rearing atikameg in earthen ponds in the Great Lakes region. Pond culture, along with tributary stocking, are likely critical if managers choose to scale up atikameg culture to rehabilitate Great Lakes stocks.

Sault Tribe is committed to the long-term recovery of atikameg. The development of a consistent and reliable fish culture program can be a lengthy process. Applying what has been learned has allowed us to be leaders in atikameg rehabilitation in the Great Lakes. The pilot pond culture showed success and is the first of its kind in North America. The prospect of rehabilitating a river spawning strain of atikameg is an exciting strategy that we feel deserves significant effort. River spawning atikameg may fill a niche that allows Great Lakes' populations to be more resilient.

Sault Tribe's commitment to atikameg can be measured in the amount of our own resources we put into the project. In addition

to staff dedicated to this project through BIA-GLRI funding the Sault Tribe's regular staff spend over 1,500 hours supporting this work. A big thanks to the whole fisheries team for the work they put into this project and for the information provided for this report.

If you would like more information regarding the atikameg restoration project you can contact: Rusty Aikens, Fisheries Enhancement Coordinator, Natural Resources Division Director Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Office: (906) 632-5040.

If you have any questions, call me at (906) 259-3742 or email me at kkgavelle@sault-tribe.net. Please leave a message on my phone if you don't get through to me. Since I moved to Sugar Island my wifi doesn't always pick up my calls and I don't get them until I get to the mainland. I like discussing the issues and find this is the best way to clear up any misunderstandings or incorrect information that is put out to the public.

Miigwech,  
Kim Gravelle



# Working on new housing plan for St. Ignace



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

At the Oct. 22 board meeting, the board approved doing interagency agreements with the Housing Authority to use the ARPA money to construct housing in Units 2, 3 and 5. With many of the projects being stopped in 2022, it has taken awhile to get these projects going again and the money needs to be spent by Dec. 31 unless we contract with Housing, which then gives us until 2026, I believe, to finish the projects.

Unit 3's plan is to build on the Savard property that we have owned for many years and is already in trust. Shawn and I have been meeting with Sidock and Housing to get drawings and costs. We are hoping that we can get bids sent out by early Spring.

The cost of the infrastructure could be about \$7 million. We are working with the Transportation Department to cover the roads and sidewalks and possibly working with the city and county on shared resources for water and utilities.

We are looking at mixed use with some low-income houses, tiny homes, quadplex's as rentals, and then also allowing lots for members to build their own home on as well as lease to own options. The Housing Authority will then apply for grants to build more homes there as well.

Oct. 27-31, I attended the National Congress of American Indians conference. I attended sessions on HUD consultations, suicide prevention on Native vets, USDA funding for tribes and individuals, and a Midwest caucus meeting. A few of us also had dinner with Michelle Castagne, our federal policy analyst. The mornings are for general assembly and then the afternoons are different presentations and meetings that you can choose which of them to attend. I try to attend Housing or Early Education, as those are the committees I am on, and others that are of importance to our tribe.

Individuals who are looking to purchase a home can consider going through USDA to have a low-down payment and low interest rate; financing can go up

to at least 33 years, too. When I bought my house through the tribe in 2011, I went through the USDA. I later re-financed through First Tribal Lending to pay it off quicker. You do not have to live on reservation land to apply for these loans.

At the Nov. 5 board meeting, there were many items taken off the agenda. Not sure who decided to take off Issac's Constitution Committee resolution or Aaron's nepotism resolution. The compensation study resolutions should not have been added, as only half the board could attend the workshop on these because of attending the NCAI conference. There was also a key employee resolution that would allow those newly hired to be able to use their sick or vacation time prior to their introductory period as recruitment incentives.

The chair then called a special meeting for Nov. 13 to workshop the compensation studies and then vote on them at 5 p.m. There was no need for the special meeting because it was clearly not ready for a vote, and if it was, it could have been on the next meeting agenda. All this did was make team members angry and doubt that the board does want to pass the study. That is not true, but I am not going to pass something unless we have all the necessary information as well as the impacts on the future budgets. The board

already passed a resolution that when the compensation study is passed, those who have qualified for an increase would get retro pay to Oct. 1.

On Sunday, Nov. 10, I drove the elder van along with Mike, a shuttle driver from the casino, to bring some Unit 3 elders to the Sister Act play at the Cheboygan Opera House. We then went to the Chinese buffet for dinner. A good time was had by all. The Elder Committee raises its own money and organizes these outings.

On Nov. 11, all Kewadin Casinos went smoke free. I think this will be very positive, not only for our team members, but for many customers as well.

There are plenty of smokers who do not smoke inside their cars or houses, so I think they will adjust. There is outside heated space at each casino that if not ready, will be soon. Smoking has cost us plenty of money by having to replace, carpet, stools, toilet seats, etc. Many of the casinos will have new carpet, painted or washed walls, duct work cleaning and new ceiling tiles, as well.

On Nov. 11, JKL Day (Veteran's Day) we had a removal of the flag's ceremony at the Wequayoc Cemetery. We had a good turn out with Mukwa Giizik also in attendance. The Moses' ladies made wreaths for all the veterans, which were placed

after the flags were removed and we had a ceremony and potluck. I presented a plaque to the Cemetery Committee of all the deceased vets name on it. In the Spring, it will be placed in the cemetery cabinet sign.

Nov. 25 will be the first open workshop with the board and the membership to discuss constitutional change. The session will take place 4 p.m.-6 p.m. and will also be available on Zoom and Facebook livestreaming.

The annual Unit 1, 2 and 3 elder holiday meal will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sault. Please sign up at the elder meal site or call elder services (906) 635-4971. There is limited transportation available as well.

Our court case for our consent decree will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 10 in Cincinnati at 1 p.m. US vs MI. Our chairman, our conservation chair and our attorney will be in attendance.

The Unit 3 tribal kids Christmas party will take place at the Kewadin Shores Casino Event Center on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m.

I would like to wish all our members and all of our team members a very Happy Thanksgiving!!

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

## Challenging times require collaborative leadership



**AARON PAYMENT  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Another federal election has occurred and we are still here. There are, however, some serious threats to our treaty and trust obligation funding. My unit report this month is federal-Indian-policy-informed and intentionally non-partisan. The election is over, so we must face forward but be hypervigilant to monitor our federal appropriations for the stated risks that may very well become reality. Our job as your tribal government demands we work as a team in a non-partisan way to protect our sovereignty, and treaty and trust obligation funding.

To put in into perspective, our federal funding and third-party revenues are easily 10 times the net revenues from all of our enterprises and casinos. Yes, we need to diversify our economic portfolio but most of our services and government operations funding comes from the federal government per the treaty and trust obligation.

Now is the time to come together. Every single board member must follow the chair's lead, accept assignments and be prepared to testify in Congress, meet with federal administrative officials, canvass Congressional Hill to advocate for our funding, and report back to our membership. We cannot shirk this responsibility at such a critical time.

### PRE-PAID OBLIGATIONS

I have long said that our federal funding is not welfare or reparations for the centuries of abuse our ancestors have endured. It is a legal obligation for the 2 billion acres of Indian lands ceded to the federal government. Our tribe, along with four other Michigan tribes, ceded 14 million acres of land per the 1836 Chippewa Ottawa Treaty that allowed Michigan to achieve statehood a year later. Our ancestors made this country great by welcoming the first wave of immigrants who fled tyrannical governments to be free. The very freedoms that all other races — who are immigrants or descendant of immigrants and now reside on Indian land — is due to our sacrifices and our agreement per treaties that exchanged our lands for "health, education and social welfare" forever! We expect our treaties and our funding to be honored not slashed by immigrant Elon Musk.

Trump will once again be president and sworn in on Monday, Jan. 20. He will control both houses in Congress as well as have the opportunity to appoint at least one, maybe

two, justices to the US Supreme Court to ensure his immunity is interpreted broadly and widely. While in the past, some in the Republican party stood their ground and supported Indian Country appropriations, it is less likely this time that the checks and balances between the Legislative and Administrative branches will hold as republican house members will likely support the president's wishes.

With the House, Senate and Presidency aligned and with House Speaker Johnson announcing plans to repeal the ACA, and Elon Musk threatening to cut \$2 trillion out of the federal budget with discretionary spending at \$1.6 trillion, 100% of federal discretionary programs may be on the chopping block. This likely means that 100% of our funding could be cut along with it as our funding is considered "discretionary." I have spent the last 10 years fighting to secure "mandatory" funding for the treaty and trust obligation and was successful securing advanced appropriations for the Indian Health Service funding (2022). This, too, is threatened under the new Trump Administration Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

### CATERING TO BILLIONAIRES OVER THE MIDDLE CLASS!

The risk to federal funding disguised as efficiencies in reducing the size of the federal government and establishing operating efficiencies has been around since the Reagan Administration, which proposed large tax cuts in order to reduce the federal bud-

get, which in turn required eliminating funding for social safety net programs like food stamps, commods, WIC for mothers and new babies, etc. The trickle-down economics strategy has never worked. Think of it, putting billionaires in charge of slashing social safety net programs for the poor in order to reduce their own taxes. While the first two years of the Biden administration saw free and reduced lunch funding and child tax credits raise the majority of our nation's children out of poverty, the Republican Congress allowed these benefits to expire. The richest country should not have the poorest children.

The threat to our health care funding is deadly serious. If the ACA is defunded, the tribe may need to plan to adjust our operations without our IHS third-party revenues recapture. This is significant as our third-party revenue has approximated our annual funding agreement from IHS. This likely means a loss of well over \$20 million in health care funding. This is not a scare tactic, it is a realization that we may need to adjust our practice to operate without these funds.

In 2017, when Trump was elected, he directed 35% cuts across the board for Indian Country budgets including Indian Child Welfare, Johnson O'Malley Indian Education Budgets, Law Enforcement, MMIP and Victim's funding, etc. At the time, we fortunately had support in the House and Senate on the Republican side who told us not to worry as, "the president proposed but Congress disposes." While I hope

our Republican friends in the legislature shield us once again, the balance of power dynamic has changed in this election such that we cannot automatically depend on others to support our funding.

### TIME TO WARRIOR UP

So, our work begins again. We have to be 100% on point to ensure we have support on both sides of the political aisle. We absolutely need Republican support. We do have some champions like Chickasaw citizen Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK), who can help mitigate the onslaught of what we may face. Congressman Cole and Ho-Chunk citizen Sharice Davids (D-KS) co-chair the Congressional Native Caucus. They will be critical to protecting both our funding and our sovereignty. We also have a friend in Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) who is admittedly a Republican ideologue, but he is also a Cherokee citizen and has long supported tribal sovereignty and our funding. The work we do has to not be "R" or "D" but "I" for Indian.

My hope is that some of talk of retribution we have heard throughout this campaign gets put aside. We have endured the worst with Andrew Jackson (President Trumps self-proclaimed role-model) but please pray for our future that the horror stories do not come true.

Tribal Members, please take care and love yourself, your family and your tribe!

Chi Miigwech, ~ Aaron

Phone: (906) 440-8946

AAPayment@saulttribe.net

# Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 16  
ments. Condolences may be left  
to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

## ROBERT JOHN RENO

Robert John "Talking Wing gnii-RJRJ" Reno, 71, died Oct. 20, 2024, at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey, Mich. He was born Dec. 25, 1952, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Robert and Mary Lou (Michau) Reno.



Robert grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault High School with the Class of 1971. He married his loving wife, Darlene Swanson on Sept. 19, 1997.

Robert was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Robert enjoyed hunting, fishing, and gardening. Fall was his favorite season, and he had many skills of his tribal heritage, with his most popular skill of braiding sweet grass. Robert was known to be a creative storyteller and could make anyone laugh.

Robert is survived by his wife, Darlene; his many pets and wildlife; and his family and friends who will all miss him dearly.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Mary

Lou.  
Per Robert's wishes, there will be no services.  
Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

## STEVEN DOUGLAS CAUSLEY

Steven Douglas Causley, 63, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away Oct. 26, 2024. Born on Dec. 2, 1960, to Louis "Buddy" Joseph LaFrenier and Anne Charlotte Causley.



Steve graduated from the Sault Alternative School. As a teen, Steve attended trade school where he went on to join the union and worked for years in the trade (carpentry) he loved. Steve spent a handful of years spending time at the ice arena with his sons skating and watching them develop their hockey skills. He coached the Soo Storm Hockey Team with his brother Darian for three years before hanging up the towel in coaching.

Steve loved music and at any family function you would see him with a guitar in his hand, singing away. He enjoyed playing the hot slots at Kewadin Casino, wrenching on cars and taking

on home improvement projects (even when not needed). Steve enjoyed helping others and would often be chauffeuring people to appointments or wherever they needed to be. He had a huge heart and truly cared for others. He enjoyed watching and reading tribal politics and was an avid YouTube guy. He loved tinkering around and fixing computers. But most importantly, Steve loved being with his family. He had a hard exterior but was a big softie and had the biggest heart. If someone needed help, he was there. Steve also had the best sense of humor and would do absolutely anything to get a laugh out of others. He was truly one of a kind and will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him.

Steve is survived by his life partner, Catherine McDonald; children, Darian "Bushy" Causley and Michael Causley; grandson, Stephen Michael Allen; brothers Darian Causley and Paul LaFrenier; sister Corrina LaFrenier; nieces; Page Hassink, Brenda McDonald; nephews; Austin McKay, Cecil "Anthony" Cairns, Charlie "Chaz" Wilkes, and John McBride and special cousins Rita Vassar and Louie Benoit.

Steve was preceded in death by his son Steven McDonald, his parents Buddy and Anne and sister, Mary Causley.

A Celebration of Life took

place Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, at the Hessel Tribal Center in Hessel, Mich., with a feast following.  
Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements.

## JOHN ALLAN THOMAS

John Allan Thomas passed away Aug. 24, 2024, at the age of 59 with his sister by his side after a very short battle with cancer. John was born Sept. 19, 1964, in Ashland, Wisc., to Robert and Marjorie (Miller) Thomas. John graduated in 1983 from Waukesha South High School.



John was always musically inclined. He sang in school and played viola. He also played piano and dabbled with the accordion. His all-time favorites were playing guitar and singing. He would play at school, he would sing karaoke, and sing and play for family and friends whenever he could. He was a big Elvis fan, along with many other country singers.

John spent most of his adult life cooking at various restaurants in Wisconsin, Indiana, Colorado, and Florida. He started his career at Paul's Restaurant in Waukesha, Wisc.,

and worked almost right to the end at both Highland Street Café and Dora Café in Mount Dora, Fla.  
John was also attending school for medical coding and billing. In April 2024, he received his associate of applied science in health information technology with honors and had also finished one semester toward his bachelor of science in technical management. We are very proud of him and his accomplishments!

John was a proud member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.  
John leaves behind his son, John R. Thomas, of Maryville, Tenn.; his mother, Marjorie Thomas of Waukesha, Wisc.; and sisters Linda (John Kerr) Widmar of Arkdale, Wisc.; Diana (Tom Pike) Thomas of Waukesha; and Jewell (Keith) Braun of Waukesha; his two cats, Stanley and Penelope, now of Waukesha; and many other relatives and friends.  
John is preceded in death by his father, Robert Thomas; sister, Roberta (Birty) Thomas; grandparents; and other relatives.  
Arrangements entrusted to ICS Cremation and Funeral Home, in Lake City, Fla.  
A celebration of John's life will be held at a later date. Please keep John alive in your heart and mind. We miss him dearly.

# There are enough things out there going viral.

Get your COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

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

[Michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV](http://Michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV)

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

# A Midnight of Money



DECEMBER 31st • ALL SITES

Over **\$40,000** CASH & CREDITS

Noon Year's Eve

Hot Seat & CASH Draws start at 10 a.m.

New Year's Eve

Hot Seat & CASH Draws start at 6 p.m.



Party Favors, Champagne Toast, Cake Hors d'oeuvres, Live Music\*

See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. Must earn 50 base points to qualify for promotion. \*May not be offered at all sites.

**MANISTIQUE - ST. IGNACE - HESSEL - SAULT <sup>LES</sup> MARIE - CHRISTMAS**

## THE AMERICAN PATRIOT TOUR 2024



**FRIDAY**  
DECEMBER 13 AT 8 P.M.  
DREAMMAKERS THEATER  
TICKETS \$85 | \$75 | \$60



TICKETS AVAILABLE @  
TICKETS.KEWADIN.COM



## KEEPIN' IT REAL TOUR 2025

FEBRUARY 28 | 8 P.M.  
TICKETS 65 | 75 | 85  
DREAMMAKERS THEATER



TICKETS.KEWADIN.COM