



Win Awenen Nisitotung

May 21, 2025
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

The red dress honors and remembers our murdered and missing relatives

BY JESS GILLOTT-KING

Each year, on May 5, we honor and remember our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR). For many, the red dresses, the marches, the prayers, vigils, and stories bring a painful but necessary light to the ongoing crisis facing our Native relatives. However, for our families and communities, this is not just for May 5, but every day of the year.

Over the past few years, we have seen some progress. On the federal level, we have passed Savanna's Act and Operation Lady Justice, which were created to bring attention to our MMIWR and to improve communication and coordination between tribal, federal, and state agencies. However, legislation alone cannot heal the wounds or stop the violence. We need your help.

Tribes still face jurisdictional barriers that limit their ability to investigate or prosecute certain crimes committed on their land, especially when a Non-Native perpetrator is involved. Fortunately, on Sept. 27, 2022, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors passed a resolution authorizing criminal code revisions necessary to expand tribal

Board to hold Lansing meeting July 14

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors will be holding a community meeting in Lansing, Mich., for Sault Tribe members residing in the area on Monday, July 14, from 6-8 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hilton hotel.

There will also be a board of directors workshop and regular meeting on Tuesday, July 15, at the same location.

Once the workshop and meet-

Sault Tribe members still missing



Yvonne Renee (Jones) Scott



Christine Marie Honson

jurisdiction over non-Natives committing crimes against Native citizens involving child violence, sexual violence, sex trafficking, stalking, and assault against justice personnel that occur on tribal land.

Among other issues is a lack of funding for our tribal justice systems. They lack the resource-

ing agendas are finalized, additional details will be provided.

Members are welcome to contact Lona Stewart or Ashlee Mielke at (906) 635-6050 for more information. Please note that as additional details are finalized, they will be posted on the tribe's website saulttribe.com and official Facebook page www.facebook.com/saulttribe. Please check for updates.



Stephen J. Houghton



Joanne (Somes) Vogt

es to pursue the thousands of missing and murdered cases. Lastly, the lack of proper data and reporting is an issue that remains unresolved. Many of our relatives are still misclassified, overlooked, and go unreported.

"A big reason the media ignore Indigenous issues is due to the repeated dehumanization and stereotyping of Native people. Indigenous people, throughout all American history, have been turned into spectacles, becoming mascots for sports games, costumes for Halloween, and the

subjects of many tattoo designs. Our medicines, such as white sage, and our sacred items, such as dreamcatchers, have been appropriated by those who don't understand how important they are to us. Modern views of Indigenous people have caused movements like MMIW to be seen as "Indian issues" that aren't worth the time to explore. These attitudes fuel the urge of the country at large to turn a blind eye, as it's not affecting people they deem worthy of help."

—www.stopthehurt.org/mmiw-an-important-issue-no-one-is-talking-about

The ARC believes that our community and culture are our medicine. While we continue to advocate for change at the federal level, we also feel significant changes can occur here, in our hometowns and communities.

We must look out for one another. We must support our survivors of intimate partner violence and assist them with their needs in hopes of preventing revictimization. We need to educate our youth about their worth and the value of others. We need to model healthy relationship behaviors for our youth. We must empower young girls to speak up and not tolerate unhealthy relationship behaviors. We must reclaim our culture and traditions because Native Americans are not naturally violent people. We are kind, loving, and good to women, children, and two-spirit individu-

als. Violence is NOT our tradition.

You don't have to work in advocacy to make a difference. You can help your community by sharing the stories of missing and murdered individuals in your area. Speak their names and keep their spirits alive. Continue to remember them and let everyone know that their lives mattered. You can support families of missing and murdered relatives by donating to a memorial fund, lending a listening ear, and attending events in honor of our MMIR.

The Advocacy Resource Center hosts an MMIR event each year to promote awareness for our stolen relatives. Over the past two years, ARC has made efforts to bring awareness to more Sault Tribe communities. In 2024, ARC hosted an MMIR event in St. Ignace, Mich., with a powerful march down State Street. This year, we hosted our March in Manistique, Mich. ARC encourages all communities to host an MMIR event regardless of ARC's presence. It does not take much to gather others together in a space, wear red, and stand for what you believe in. You can make signs, say prayers, and speak the names of your lost loved ones to show your support. It would be incredible to have every community unite in solidarity to honor our stolen relatives on May 5.

What else can you do to show your support? You can display a

See "MMIR," page 19

Olympian Billy Mills becomes Sault Tribe honorary member



Photo by Scott Brand

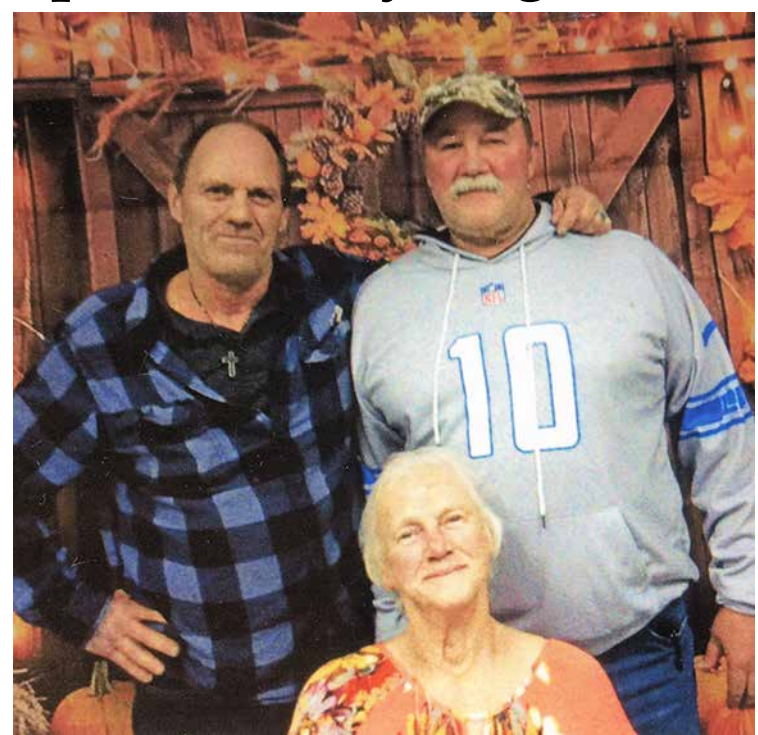
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Chairman Austin Lowes surprises gold medal Olympian Billy Mills with an honorary Sault Tribe membership during his May 8 visit. Mills was also presented with a black ash basket.

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Mother and sons celebrate April birthdays together



Karen Frazier (Center), of Naubinway, Mich., celebrated her 81st birthday on April 13, 2025, at the Cut River Inn in Epoufette, Mich. She worked there for 22 years. Her birthday is April 6, her son Doug's birthday is April 21, he's 58, and her eldest son, Dwight, celebrated his 61st birthday on April 22. They both enjoyed a nice meal with family.

It's been a tough two years for this family. Doug has double lung cancer, Karen has melanoma on her face and head, and Dwight has multiple myeloma. Doug was a commercial fisherman for many years. He had two heart attacks before the cancer. He has two boys, Dylan and Drew Frazier.

Dwight was working for the Soo Locks. He has a son, Josh, and a daughter, Whitney.

Karen said that with the help of family and friends, and many prayers, they are managing.

"It's not easy being a mother in a situation like this," Karen said. "Love, enjoy, every day you have them. My mom always told me, 'I don't care how old you are, you are still my kids.' Love unconditionally. Have you kissed your kids today and told them you love them?"

3rd annual Niiwin Noodin Powwow Saturday, June 7, 2025

Behind Manistique Tribal Community Center, 5698W US Highway 2
Manistique MI 49854, Next To The Kewadin Casino

Elder Parking. Limited Handicap
Parking. Transit by golf cart available.

Public Welcome to Attend!

Host Drum: Medicine Bear
Co-Host Drum: Four Thunders
Invited Drum: Teal Lake
Head Veteran: Danny Garceau
Head Male Dancer: Michael Hatch
Head Female Dancer: Hannah Garcia
Junior Male Dancer: Arrow Hatch
Junior Female Dancer: Ruby Derwin



Friday, June 6
Teaching & Talking Circle, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 7
Vendors Open, 10 a.m.
Grand Entry, 1 p.m.
Community Feast, 6 p.m.
(Elders, drummers, dancers eat before the general public.)

Vendors call:
(906) 450-0213

General Powwow Contact:
niiwinnoodinpowwow@gmail.com
or (906) 450-4309



Niiwin Noodin
Powwow



Small moments make a big impact.

Anytime. Anywhere.

Helping your child learn to read can happen anytime, anywhere! Every time you read, sing and talk with your child, it helps them build important skills. Parents: You have the power to turn a trip to the grocery store into a teachable moment.



**Visit ReadWithMi.org
for local resources.**



MILEAP
Michigan Department of Lifelong
Education, Advancement, and Potential

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 - Five vacancies - three males (Two 4-year terms,

one term expires July 2028), two females (One 4-year term, one term expires July 2028)

Child Welfare Committee One vacancy (4-year term); One vacancy, term expires Nov. 2026; One vacancy, term expires Jan. 2027

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 - Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit IV - Escanaba - One regular vacancy, expires Aug. 2026

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

Elder Subcommittees

Unit II - Naubinway - Two regular vacancies - one term expires Oct. 2026 and one May 2027

Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy - expires April 2027

Unit IV - Escanaba - One reg-

ular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV - Manistique - One regular vacancy - expires Nov. 2026

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

Unit V - Marquette - Two alternate vacancies - one term expires Dec. 2027 and one 4-year term

Election Commission One vacancy, term expiring Jan. 2026

Food Sovereignty Committee Six vacancies (4-year terms); one

vacancy, term expiring Feb. 2027

Health Advisory Board One vacancy - term expires April 2027

Housing Commission/Utility Authority

One vacancy - Unit 1, (4-year term)

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

Unit I - One vacancy

Unit II - Two vacancies

Unit III - Two vacancies

Unit IV - One vacancy

Tribal gas and cigarette discount locations

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

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:

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

Marie, MI 49783

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

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

Tribal owned gas stations

offering gas discount only:

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

Not tribal owned stations offering gas discounts only:

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

- Cedar Pantry, 159 W. M-134,

Cedarville, MI 49719

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

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

- Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300 Ludington St., Escanaba, MI 49837

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.

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

Sault Tribe News offering digital edition

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

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

Sault Ste. Marie bike rodeo

Sault Tribe Health Education and YEA Program are collaborating with the Sault Ste. Marie Police Department on May 31, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the LSSU Norris Center, to offer bicycle safety education for all youth up to age 12 who are independent riders. For information, contact Officer Daryl Meyette at (906) 32-5744 or dmeyette@saultcity.com.

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

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



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

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



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

Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

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

☐ new subscription
☐ change of address

Name: _____

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City: _____

State and Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

May 21, 2025
Flower Moon
Waaskoone Giizis

Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
Scott Brand.....Staff Writer
Win Awenen Nisitotung welcomes

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

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

Win Awenen Nisitotung is funded by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and is published

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summer Youth Employment

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department will be accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program until May 22.

This program is for Native American youth ages 14 to 24 that reside within the seven-county service area.

Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office, located on the second floor of the Big Bear, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or bcadreau@saulttribe.net.

Deadline to apply is May 22, 2025.

Leather Mittens Workshop

Sault Tribe Health Education is partnering with Sault Area Art Center to offer a free leather mitten making workshop with Rennel Lee Ailing on May 30, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Pre-register at <https://www.saultartcenter.com>

Michigan Department of State sets schedule for driver’s license restoration program

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of State has released dates and locations for the 2025 season of the Road to Restoration program, a free opportunity for residents to speak with departmental experts and volunteer attorneys to learn the steps they can take to restore their driving privileges. The fourth year of the program kicks off March 6 in Kalamazoo.

View the full schedule at Michigan.gov/R2R.

In collaboration with Michigan 2-1-1, the Michigan Department of Attorney General, Detroit Justice Center, DTE Energy, Michigan Association of United Ways, Michigan WORKS! Association, and Miller Canfield, free clinics will be held statewide to assist Michigan residents in understanding how to get their driving privileges restored.

“I am thrilled to launch the fourth year of the life-changing Road to Restoration program,” Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson said. “We will continue to meet people where they are and give them the one-on-one expert advice they need to restore their driver’s license and safely return to the road. I am looking forward to another successful year thanks to our dedicated volunteer attorneys, department staff, and community partners.”

“Over the past three years, the

Road to Restoration program has made a real difference in the lives of everyday Michiganders looking to regain their driver’s licenses,” said Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. “Through this impactful work, we have connected with nearly 10,000 residents, helping them understand the steps to restore their driving privileges. I look forward to continuing this partnership to help even more residents across the state get safely back on the road.”

“We are really thankful for the local partners we worked with to present these clinics - from providing the physical space to meet with large groups of people, to helping to get the word out about the clinics, in addition to arranging support for residents,” said Abigail Venman, Road to Restoration program director. “We’re grateful to our local partners and sponsors to help us make these clinics possible.”

“The Detroit Justice Center supports this collaboration as the clinics offer solutions for ‘real life’ legal issues with the one-on-one personal review of an attendee’s driving record safely and confidentially,” said Rubina Mustafa, senior staff attorney for the Detroit Justice Center. “After each discussion, clinic participants learn the steps they must take and what to expect along their journey engaging with government agencies. This work

is deeply rewarding as it alleviates our clients’ confusion and frustration, which is well worth the hard work and preparation that the clinics entail.”

“We are proud to once again support the Road to Restoration clinics across Michigan. Restoring a driver’s license can open doors to stable employment, education, and independence, transforming lives and communities. It’s a privilege to use our legal expertise to make a meaningful impact for those we serve,” said Wendy Richards, pro bono counsel for Miller Canfield.

“In Michigan, the inability to drive is also an inability to work or help your family. Combine that with the incredibly complex process of restoring your license and to me, it’s a Herculean task,” said JoAnn Chávez, senior vice president and chief legal officer of DTE Energy. “Our Road to Restoration partnership recognized this and delivered a community based, one-stop-shop solution. For me, the clinics show what’s possible when we come together and remove barriers preventing good people – our neighbors, friends or family members – from prospering fully.”

The Road to Restoration program has provided expert guidance to nearly 10,000 people across the state. It was created after changes to state law in 2021 lifted suspensions for drivers who failed to pay tickets or court fines or

failed to appear in court for certain non-moving and other violations. While the new laws removed suspensions for more than 150,000 Michiganders, many must still take further action to get their driver’s license restored.

To sign up for one of these clinics, visit Michigan.gov/R2R or dial 2-1-1. Preregistration is strongly recommended. Clinics do not provide DUI expungement services and license reinstatement is not guaranteed.

Home Energy Rebates provide savings for about 15,000 Michigan homes

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has rolled out their Home Energy Rebate Programs. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) authorized by the U.S. Department of Energy has awarded Michigan \$210 million for MiHER. These rebates will help offer low- and moderate-income households thousands of dollars to help them upgrade their homes and lower their energy costs.

Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES) focuses on whole-house energy saving retrofits and will base rebate amounts on the amount of energy savings that the project achieves, with a maximum rebate per household of \$20,000.

The Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR)

helps finance the installation of specific energy efficient technologies such as; electric heat pumps, electric stove or cooktop, ventilation, air sealing, insulation, and electric panel or wiring upgrades, with a maximum rebate per household of \$14,000.

The State of Michigan has a quick income tool on their website to calculate if the home you live in qualifies for a rebate before going through the application process. Once you apply and are accepted in the program you can access the list of prequalified contractors to help install your improvement(s).

Visit the state website at www.michigan.gov/egle for more information.

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Daily Prize Pool \$100 CASH & 35,000 Bonus Points

TGIF SLOT TOURNAMENT
Manistique, Christmas & Hessel | April 4 - August 1 | First Friday Monthly
Daily Prize Pool \$800 CASH & 110,000 Bonus Points

SPRING FEVER SLOT TOURNAMENT
Sault Ste. Marie | Every Monday and Tuesday | April 21 - May 20
Daily Prize Pool \$300 CASH and 25,000 Bonus Points

KEWADIN OLYMPICS TOURNAMENT
Sault Ste. Marie | May 30 - June 1
Up to \$11,500 CASH/Bonus Points

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Sault Ste. Marie | June 20-22
Up to \$15,000 CASH/Bonus Points

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Hessel | Bear on the Mountain Golf Course
Purchase 18-hole Round of Golf Receive \$10 Kewadin Credits
With same day receipt

GOLF & STAY
Kewadin Casino Hotel Sault Ste. Marie | Tanglewood Marsh Golf Course
Kewadin Casino Hotel St. Ignace | Bear on the Mountain Golf Course
June 1 - September 30
\$20 Kewadin Credits per room and \$20 gas per room

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

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

Board holds April meeting in Manistique

By the narrowest of margins, 6-5, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors voted to keep the Tanglewood Marsh Golf Course open for the 2025 season at its April 15 meeting in Manistique. The decision came after a lengthy debate and a flurry of proposed amendments. Directors Lana Smith-Causley, Mike McKerchie, Larry Barbeau, Kimberly Lee, Bridgett Sorenson and Kim Gravelle defeated the resolution to close the golf course due to the operation’s inability to yield a profit over the last three years. Directors Robert McRorie, Sean Borowicz, Aaron Payment, Kim Hampton and Tyler LaPlaunt voted to close the facility. In other board action, the board approved the establishment of a fiscal year budget for staff operations with Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs Agency revenue monies of \$137,079.93 and Tribal support monies of \$13,800.86 and a modification to ICWA Subpart IV-B to decrease Federal HHS Revenue monies \$18,224 and increase Tribal support \$19,038.96. Every upcoming powwow for the 2025 season was awarded \$10,000 resulting in the proposed expenditure of \$90,000 for 2025. This was an increase over the proposed \$70,650 originally placed on the agenda which would have delivered a little over \$7,800 for the nine powwows throughout the seven-county service area. The board also approved the expenditure of \$4,500 in Other Revenue monies and Tribal Support monies of \$87,100 for the Bahweting Homecoming Powwow in the Sault. An expenditure of Other Revenue monies totaling \$35,000 and Tribal Support monies of \$729,459.27 was approved to the 2025 Culture Camp budget. The money will be used to hire activity coordinators throughout the four units. The board accepted the 2024 Kewadin Casino and 2024 Kewadin Casinos Gaming Audits with minimal discussion. Emma Donmyer was appointed to a four-year term as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Designee with Cecil Pavlat designated as an Alternate. Their terms will expire in May of 2029. Bulletproof IT was awarded a security assessment and testing contract in the amount of \$50,310 and an additional \$7,500 for consultant travel and incidentals related to this project. The board rejected a resolution directing the Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Operations to provide the board with financial information on any business under their supervision that is operating at a loss. The majority determined that information could be accessed in an annual report instead of the short 30-day timeline proposed. On April 29, a special meeting of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors was held at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center. The lone action item saw Nick Eitrem named Interim CIO of the IT Department for up to six months as the search for a new director continues.

May board meetings - casino settlement amended

Olympian Billy Mills was made an honorary member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians highlighting the May 6 action as the Sault Tribe Board of Directors quickly approved more than a dozen resolutions before taking the unusual step of recessing the meeting with plans to reconvene on May 7. Mills, according to Olympics.com, was a member of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux Tribe), grew up in poverty and was orphaned at a very young age. Finding solace in sport, the Native American became an avid runner culminating in his gold medal performance in the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, where he posted a winning time of 28 minutes, 24.4 seconds, setting the Olympic record for the 10,000 meter race. Mills went on to become a motivational speaker and helped to found Running Strong for American Indian Youth and became the organization’s national spokesperson. In this role, he has visited the Sault Tribe on numerous occasions and inspired the ongoing Billy Mills Fun Run/Walk. The honorary membership was awarded to recognize Mills’ lifetime commitment to Indian Country and Indian youth. In other action the board approved a budget of \$44,287.92 for Shedawin Haven, the future home of a program to help those recover from substance abuse. A budget of \$2.26 million was established for the RAISE Grant with Federal Department of Transportation monies. Three amendments were approved to Chapter 71 prohibiting breaking and entering, improper use of 911 services and threatening to commit violence at a school under the criminal offense code and establishing fines and punishments for these offenses. The board authorized the Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$10 million in National Fish and Wildlife National Coastal Resilience Fund monies and approved the same department to apply for up to \$2 million in NOAA Coastal Habitat and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities funding. The board approved a request for funding for the Administration for Community Living/ Administration on Aging Older Americans Act Title VI grants from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2029 and participation in a survey with instructions to keep that information strictly for the Elder Services Division unless the tribe authorizes sharing this information with other entities at a later date. The structure at 2163 Migisa Court was transferred from Sault Tribal Facilities to the Sault Tribe Housing Authority for \$116,000. The interior will be converted to office space. The board authorized an amendment to the contract between the JKL Fiduciary Committee and JKL School essentially agreeing in writing to follow federal law when administering funds. The CEO of Enterprise Operations received authorization to implement budgetary and staffing changes as part of the restructuring needed to operate the Tanglewood Marsh and Bear on the Mountain golf courses. The contract for Dennis McShane to serve as the interim prosecutor was approved. The law firm WilmerHale was approved to provide legal assistance for a potential U.S. Supreme Court Case, *United States vs. Michigan*. On May 7, the board reconvened approving a litigation update coming out of an emergency gaming commission meeting an authorized negotiation for the Sibley property adding that an official announcement would follow and released the following on May 8: **Kewadin Casinos agrees to amendment to settlement with its former development partner** The Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians announced today that they have approved in principle an amendment to the 2023 settlement agreement they had reached with the former development partners for its proposed Lansing and Romulus casinos. Under the previous agreement, Kewadin Casinos was obligated to pay its former partners, JLLJ Development and Lansing Future Development II, a total of up to \$35 million, of which \$30 million was guaranteed. Of the total amount due, \$25 million was paid in 2023. An additional \$5 million was due beginning May 1, 2025, and the final \$5 million would be due from the proceeds of Kewadin’s malpractice claim against its former legal counsel, Patterson, Earnhart, Real Bird & Wilson LLP. Unfortunately, staff failed to make the required May 1 payment, which resulted in a default causing the tribe to quickly work toward an amended settlement. An internal investigation will occur to determine culpability for the missed settlement payment, and those responsible will be held accountable. The original settlement represented an approximate 75% reduction from the \$88 million plus interest in damages Ingham County Judge Joyce Draganchuk had previously ordered. If an agreement to amend the settlement had not been reached, the tribe would have been liable for \$60 million minus the \$25 million that had already been paid out through the 2023 settlement. The amended agreement announced today is pending JLLJ approval and will see Kewadin Casinos pay \$7 million. This fee includes the \$5 million already owed under the 2023 settlement agreement plus an additional \$2 million. The tribe will also transfer the land it had been working to put into trust for the proposed Romulus casino, known as the Sibley parcel, to its former partners. However, it will no longer be required to pay any proceeds obtained from the Patterson lawsuit under this amended agreement. While board members are extremely disappointed to be forced into this situation, they remain hopeful that some costs will be recovered through the Patterson lawsuit. They also note the transfer of the Sibley parcel will save the tribe \$100,000 per year in taxes and other expenses for a property that could not be used after the Supreme Court ended the tribe’s efforts to force the United States to place the land into trust when it declined to hear the case. While the Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority and the Board of Directors voted in favor of the amended settlement on May 7, they will meet again on Tuesday, May 13, to reaffirm their votes and address a procedural error before the amended settlement can be finalized. **Special meeting of May 13** At the May 13 session, the board voted to accept the resignations of the tribe’s Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel and Kewadin Casino Chief Financial Officer. Interim appointments were made as follows: Jessica Dumback Chief Executive Officer, Bill Connolly Chief Financial Officer and Ryan Mills as General Counsel. In a subsequent press release, tribal officials did not identify the individuals who submitted resignations at the May 13 meeting. They did, however, explain these resignations resulted from the recent class action against the tribe and its entities as well as the recent default that occurred after the tribe’s staff failed to make a required May 1 payment in the original settlement reached with the former development partners for its proposed Lansing and Romulus casinos. Adding that under the previous agreement, Kewadin Casinos was obligated to pay its former partners, JLLJ Development and Lansing Future Development II, a total of up to \$35 million, of which \$30 million was guaranteed. Of the total amount due, \$25 million was paid in 2023. An additional \$5 million was due beginning May 1, 2025. And, because the required May 1 payment was not made on time, Kewadin Casinos defaulted on its agreement and had to quickly work towards amending the settlement. As a result of this mistake, the board accepted the resignation of the four staff members at its May 13 board meeting. Concluding the amended agreement now requires Kewadin Casinos to pay \$10 million to its former partners. This includes the \$5 million already owed under the 2023 settlement agreement.



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2025 team member recognition luncheon



Tina Fox was recognized by Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes for 40 years of service.



Shelley Shelleby also has been employed by the Sault Tribe for 40 years.



Joan Hill was one of seven employees recognized for 35 years of service.



Kent Arley and 29 other individuals have 30 years under their belt.



This recipient celebrates with a handshake from Unit I Director Isaac McKechnie.



Crystal McGrath was among the 16 staff members honored for 25 years on the payroll.



Ozro Smith and 33 others claimed 20 year certificates at the April 29 luncheon.



Michelle Kroupa-Kulik and 24 others were recognized by Chairman Lowes for 15 years of hard work.



Danielle Walcher and 28 more recipients earned their 10 year certificates.



Forty-nine guests, including Michael Castagne, took home insulated drink-holders for logging their first five years.



Sherrie Lucas, 25 years, poses with sons James McLeod III, 20 years and Jared Lucas, 5 years.



Unit V Director Tyler LaPlaunt congratulated recipients as they made their way to collect their certificates.

Anishinaabemowin 2025

Preparedness is like a Swiss Army Knife. You never know which tool you'll need, but you'll be glad you have it.



Waaskoone Giizis
Flower Moon

by Susan Askwith

Jiingtamog (one powwow)

Jiingtamogin (more than one)

Nokaajiganan da tenoon Jiingtamog-ing.

There will be crafts at the powwow.

Wii gnaajiwana niwi nokaajiganan

Those crafts will be beautiful.

Ginemaa g'wii giishpinadoonan aanind.

Maybe you will want to buy some.

Mii dash, g'daa zigaakinaan zhoonyaa.

And so, you should put aside some money.

Bebangii eta.

Just little by little.

Jiingtamog-miijim da temagad ode.

There will be powwow food over there.

Wii minomaate.

It will smell good.

G'wii bakade.

You will be hungry.

G'wii giishpinadoon aanind *mii gsha.*

You will want to buy some, *that's for sure.*

Mii dash miinwaa g'daa zigaakinaan

zhoonyaa - bebangii.

And so again you should put aside some

money, little by little.

G'wii minwendam gaa zhichigeyin wi.

You will be happy that you did.



In next month's issue of Win Awenen Nisitotung, we'll have more about powwow season! See you then!

Zhiitaan! Get ready!

It's time for you to get ready.

Mii sa piichaag mbe ji zhiitaayin.

It's time for you to get ready for the Powwow.

Mii sa piichaag mbe ji zhiitaayin Jiingtamog.

Zhiitaa (he or she is *getting* ready)

Giizhiitaa (he or she *actually is* ready)

Zhiitaan! Get ready! (the final 'n' makes it a command)

G'da **zhiitaa** na? Are you getting ready?

Enh, n'da **zhiitaa**. Yup, I'm getting ready.

Wiiba n'wii **giizhiitaa**. I'll be ready pretty soon.

Miinshin naano-dbagaanhs. Give me 5 minutes.

G'da **giizhiitaa** mshi? Are you ready yet?

Bekaa! Gaawiin mishi. Hang on! Not yet.

Nahaaw. N'da **giizhiitaa** nangwa. OK. I'm ready now.

Aambe! Zhaa-daa! Come on! Let's go!

N'maamiikwi-yaa gwa! I'm so excited!

G'da'aan na niimi-gwinaan?

Do you have regalia?

(our word for regalia is literally 'dance-clothes')

Ginemaa g'daa zhitoon gegoo.

Maybe you could make something.

G'daa zhitoon *zenbaanh*-mijigoodenh,

You could make a *ribbon* skirt,

maage *zenbaanh*-babagwayaan.

or a *ribbon* shirt.

Mikwendan Remember / keep in mind

Niimi-gwinaan are fun and beautiful, but they're not

necessary. Our dancing is a connection with

Shkakimikwe - Mother Earth, as our feet follow the

drum. When we dance at **Jiingtamogin**, it's also a

sign of our connection with our community and our

culture.

Anishinaabe gda'aaw - you are Anishinaabe.

Piitendaagozi g'da'aaw - you are valuable.

G'da gwinaan aagwiita aawanoon. Your clothes

are extra.

(Ge giishpin g'btakzhe, gaawiin daa-nishinzinoo

gaa go wi!) (On the other hand if you are naked,

that would not be good, either!)

G'bishigendaanaan ji baapiying!

We like to laugh!



Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)

Restaurant customer: How do you prepare the

lobster? Waiter: Well, we just tell him the truth:

This is the end of the line, bud.

Why don't birds prepare for speeches? They like to wing it.

I have a friend who's always ready for anything.

His name is Justin Case.

They say you are what you eat. Today I bought

some ready-to-eat chicken and sure enough I

was ready to eat chicken!

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

www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture.

You can also use the guide shown below!

Making our Sounds Most letters sound like

they do in English. Here are the exceptions.

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

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

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

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

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!

Tea and Teachings a hit

Traditional Medicine Supervisor Lori Gambardella and Helper Autumn Pavlat gave a talk and served a traditional tea April 23 at Sault Area Art Center.



Traditional Medicine Helper Autumn Pavlat smudged participants.

Traditional Medicine Supervisor Lori Gambardella's medicine wheel teaching.



The 22 participants enjoyed their tea.

Answering questions after the talk.

43rd Annual Baaweting Homecoming Powwow

July 4th - July 6th 2025

Across from the Niigaanagizhik Building, 11 Ice Circle

Sault Ste Marie, MI

Head Staff

Emcees

Shannon Martin

Beedahsiga Elliott

Arena Director

TBD

Head Veteran

TBD

Drum Judge

Keith Smith

Dance Judges

Ray Cadotte

Julie Whitepigeon

Head Dancers

Each Session

Specials

Friday Night

Iron Mocs

\$500, \$400, \$200, \$100

Saturday Night

Bells Only Special

\$500, \$400, \$300, \$200

Sunday

Sweetheart Special

\$800, \$600, \$400, \$200

Dance Contest

Golden Age (Combined) Mens/Womens

\$1,000, \$800, \$500, \$250

Adult Mens/Womens

(Traditional,Fancy,Jingle, Grass, Woodland)

\$1,000, \$800, \$500, \$250

Teen Boys/Girls (Combined)

\$300, \$200, \$100, \$50

Junior Boys/Girls (Combined)

\$200, \$100, \$50, \$25

Drum Contest

MUST HAVE 5 REGISTERED SINGERS

Host Drum duties asked at start of session

1st Place - \$10,000

2nd Place - \$8,000

3rd Place - \$6,000

4th Place - \$4,000

5th Place - \$2,000

Schedule

Sunrise Ceremony Daily

Thursday, July 3rd - Spiritual Gathering - 10 am

Friday, July 4th - Grand Entry 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 5th - Grand Entries at 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 7th - Grand Entry at 12 p.m.

Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie Hotel Information

Call 1-800-539-2346

For Vendor Applications, Call (906) 635-6510 or email Rmiller@saulttribe.net

ODEMIN GIIZIS (STRAWBERRY MOON) - JUNE 2025						
SUNDAY (the 7th day)	MONDAY (the 1st day)	TUESDAY (the 2nd day)	WEDNESDAY (the 3rd day)	THURSDAY (the 4th day)	FRIDAY (the 5th day)	SATURDAY (the 6th day)
NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAD	NTAM GIIZHIGAD	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAD	NSWO GIIZHIGAD	NIIWO GIIZHIGAD	NAANO GIIZHIGAD	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAD
1 bshkwashagan (lawnmower)	2 nimkii dikman (moth)	3 N'wii bshkcozhige. (I will cut the grass/mow the lawn.)	4 N'ga bmibtoo. (I'm going running.)	5 binoojiinhyag (children)	6 wiika (late)	7 mbaasjigan (airplane)
8 makazinan (shoes)	9 daabaan (vehicle)	10 wiigwaam daabaan (camper/RV)	11 Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis. (It is a full moon.)	12 wiiba (early; soon)	13 Beginoshin (Call me on the phone)	14 biimskowebshkigan (bicycle)
15 eshkiniigijig (young people)	16 de'minan (strawberries)	17 bagwan (shirt)	18 bmaadizijig (people)	19 wiikwaan (hat)	20 Giizhigaate. (It is a bright, sunny day.)	21 Ntam Niibin (First day of summer)
22 Noos Giizhigad (Father's Day)	23 Gebeying giizhigad. (It is a long day.)	24 giizhkinatagoonh (cut off - shorts)	25 maajiibigan mkak (mail box)	26 Kinoomaadiigamig (the institution of school)	27 N'wii oo baamase. (I want to go walking.)	28 biilbiigan (a written letter)
29 mkade ojiinhsag (black flies)	30 gilzis shkilzhigokaaiganan (sunglasses)					

In memory of Missing & Murdered Indigenous People



In an effort to raise awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous people, rallies were held throughout the country including events in St. Ignace, Manistique and Grand Rapids.



The Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) tent at the Manistique rally.



Marching through Grand Rapids after setting up on the banks of the Grand River.



Aralea Brown, 11, Leann Brown, Mary Pollard and Gracen Lorzen, 3, claimed T-shirts distributed by Bill Conrad.



Manistique's March has a great turnout.



Buddy patiently waiting for a treat before accompanying Sally Valentine and her son, Scott Alexander, on the hike.



Kim Fyke visits with Jess Gillotte-King before the rally.



More than 70 participants marched in St. Ignace, leaving the Museum of Ojibwa Culture grounds. Many of them carried hand-crafted signs they created and bore red hands across their mouths, representing the missing.



Five of many Manistique participants.

Celebrating Jane Johnston Schoolcraft Day

Celebrate the life and heritage of Jane Johnston Schoolcraft, honoring her contributions, accomplishments and recognition by scholars and historians to be the first Native American writer of the historical, oral and traditional stories and songs of the Ojibwe people.

Jane and her brothers and sisters were proud of their Anishinaabe heritage gained from their mother Oshauguscodaywayquay. Their father was the fur trader John Johnston. Jane translated stories told to her by her mother and

Thursday, Aug. 14, 1-4 p.m.
On the grounds of historic homes on Water St. near the Schoolcraft house (east end of Water St.), in Sault Ste. Marie.

other family and friends and wrote poetry in both Ojibwe and English.

Join us as we celebrate her life with music, poetry, and other activities. The event is sponsored by the Chippewa County Historical Society and the city of sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Contact Karen Sabatine at (906) 635-0971.



Jane Johnston Schoolcraft



The historic Schoolcraft house on the east end of Water St. in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Native artist debuts at Sidney & Berne Davis Gallery

By BRENDA AUSTIN

Southwest Florida’s art scene welcomed a powerful new voice this month as artist Scott Killips debuted his first exhibition at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in downtown Fort Myers. Though this isn’t his first show, it marks the first time Killips has formally exhibited his deeply personal Native American-themed paintings, which draw upon his evolving connection to his heritage and his self-taught artistic journey.

Originally from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Killips is a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Though he didn’t grow up immersed in Native traditions, he’s spent his adult life reconnecting with that identity—studying history, honoring ancestral teachings, and expressing what he learns through layered, symbolic artwork.

“I try to present our rich Native history, teachings, and challenges in a simple, but powerful manner,” Killips said. “I hide messages and symbols within the pieces to spark curiosity and conversation. Art has become a way for me to tell our stories—and invite others to learn.”

Killips, who graduated from Sault Area High School in 1988 and moved south shortly thereafter, now resides in Fort Myers with his wife. He is a husband, father of three, grandfather of four, and a cancer survivor. Art is just one of his many passions, which also include photography and fishing.

His work spans a wide range of materials and methods—from acrylic on canvas to spray paint, teas, coffees, and natural pigments sourced from mineral deposits around the world. “I vary in styles to teach myself new techniques and better understand art history,” he explained. “I don’t have a background in art. I just thought it would be a great way to express some of my thoughts and ideas.”

Despite the growing attention around his work, Killips keeps his focus on accessibility. He doesn’t regularly sell originals or take commissions. Instead, he offers affordable framed prints of his work—typically ranging from \$200 to \$600—so that more people can experience and share his message.

“Many people who appreciate art can’t afford the originals, and that’s okay. I want the story to



Southwest Florida’s art scene welcomed a powerful new voice this month as artist Scott Killips debuted his first exhibition at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in downtown Fort Myers.



reach as many people as possible,” he said. “Plus, 20% of every purchase goes directly to friends and family fighting cancer. My wife and I are both survivors, so that commitment is personal.”

Killips’ pieces have already made their way into important community spaces. One of his paintings currently hangs in Anishnaabek Community and Family Services—a gift he made to the tribe years ago.

The exhibition at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center has drawn positive responses from both the art community and everyday visitors, many of whom were struck by the quiet power of the symbolism woven into Killips’ work. “People are curious. Many are shocked by the history they didn’t know. That’s why I do this—to open doors to

conversations that matter.”

As he continues to grow in his craft and find his voice, Killips remains rooted in both his tribal identity and his love for storytelling. He has family still living in the Sault, including his godmother, aunts, uncles and cousins, nieces and nephews. His eldest brother, Frank Killips Jr. who lives on Spruce Street, introduced him to painting—his art continues to bridge two worlds: past and present, personal and communal.

Those interested in seeing more of Killips’ work can find them on social media, where he often shares new creations and upcoming appearances. He can be contacted on Instagram by doing a search for “Scott Killips,” or by emailing him at: boss_99_smk@yahoo.com.



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Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. If you have any questions, please contact Elder Services Division Director Katie Peabody at (906) 635-4971 or kpeabody@sault-tribe.net.

May brings us Asthma Awareness Month

BY PIERCE MAYVILLE, SAULT TRIBE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AIR SCIENTIST

Imagine you’re enjoying your day breathing normally when suddenly it feels as if the air has thickened and your chest is being squeezed by an invisible force. Each breath becomes a conscious, desperate effort, like trying to

“When I have an asthma attack I feel like a fish with no water.” — Jesse, age 5

inhale through a straw that’s pinched shut. Panic sets in quickly as you reach for your inhaler in search of relief.

This sensation is unfortunately

something many people experience regularly. Approximately 40% of people with asthma reported having at least one asthma attack a year in 2021.

Asthma is a serious, sometimes life-threatening chronic respiratory disease that affects the quality of life for over 26 million Americans, including 4.5 million

children. Or one in 13 Americans.

May is recognized as National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month. In support of this campaign, we want to share information about the elements that can help reduce asthma triggers. Together, we can all do our part to help our fellow community members reduce their chances of

having an asthma attack.

Triggers are things that can cause or exacerbate asthma symptoms and should be avoided by those suffering from asthma, such as: Secondhand smoke, dust mites, molds, cockroaches and pests, pets, nitrogen dioxide, outdoor air pollution, chemical irritants, wood smoke, and pollen.

No Tobacco Day being held on May 31

BY JESSICA A. RICKERT, DDS, ANISHINAABE DENTAL OUTREACH

Tobacco (and nicotine) use in any form—cigarette, cigar, pipe, smokeless and vape—can have a negative impact on appearance at an early age.

Your complexion can get worse with discoloration and skin tags. Your face can look dull, sullen and leathery. Fine lines may develop around your eyes and dark bags will form under them.

Eyes can become bloodshot and dry. Deep wrinkles can form around your mouth.

Your hair can lose luster and shine because the chemicals in cigarettes cause hair to be starved of oxygen, making it dull and

brittle.

Bad smells include stinky breath and smoke on your hair, body and clothes.

Smoking can ruin your teeth—gum disease results in red, puffy, ugly gums with increased pain. Teeth stained by smoking can be up to five shades darker than non-smokers. Smokers are twice as likely to lose their teeth than non-smokers. More than 48,000 Americans are diagnosed with oral cancer every year, mainly caused by using tobacco.

Often, your voice will weaken, accompanied by a cough.

Tobacco use remains the nation’s number one cause of preventable, premature death

because smokers are starving the cells in the body of oxygen.

Tobacco users have a much greater incidence of all cancers at an earlier age, especially mouth, throat and lung cancer. Here are just a few other health impacts: Severe blood cancer is associated with tobacco use. (Acute myeloid leukemia)

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, including chronic bronchitis and emphysema, makes it difficult to breathe. All pneumonias are more frequent in smokers and are harder to treat.

Heart attacks occur more often and at younger ages in tobacco users.

Strokes occur when the supply of blood to the brain is interrupted or blocked completely, causing brain tissue to die.

An abdominal Aortic Aneurysm is a bulge in the lower part of the largest blood vessel, the aorta; this is life-threatening if untreated.

Eye diseases leading to blindness occur in tobacco users. You are twice as likely to develop macular degeneration compared with people who do not smoke. You are three times more likely to develop cataracts compared with non-smokers.

Vaping is particularly dangerous. All the above diseases and afflictions can happen at younger and younger ages. Vapes contain nicotine and many toxins and metals, all heated to a higher temperature than cigarettes. Additionally, the cartridge contains batteries that can explode and disfigure you for life.

Tobacco marketing is dominated by themes of social desirability, empowerment and independence, which are conveyed by images of slim, attractive, sultry and athletic models. Don’t believe it! Athletic prowess is greatly weakened by tobacco use. Can you afford to burn money? The average cost of a pack of cigarettes is \$6.96, which means a pack-a-day habit sets you back \$208.80 per month or \$2,541.00 per year.

Quit today by calling toll-free 1-855-5AI-QUIT (1-855-524-7848) to connect directly with American Indian Commercial Tobacco Program counselors.

Your Anishinaabe health department can help you to stay strong.

World No Tobacco Day

World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), observed every year on May 31, is one of eleven global health campaigns run by the World Health Organization (WHO), encouraging all persons worldwide who use commercial tobacco to quit for at least 24-hours.

The theme of WNTD 2025 is “Unmasking the Appeal: Exposing Industry Tactics on Tobacco and Nicotine Products.”

This theme highlights the deceptive tactics used to make these products attractive, particularly to young people. Major industry tactics include:

Flavors: Changing the smell, taste or appearance of products, masking the harshness of tobacco, and improving the palatability.

Coolants and additives: Making smoking experience smoother, promoting continued use and discouraging quitting.

Glamorized marketing: Attracting younger generations through sleek designs, alluring colors and flavors, and digital media promotions.

Deceptive designs: Mimicking items that are naturally appealing to children, such as candies and cartoon characters

By unmasking these strategies, this global health campaign will shine a light on the ways the industry markets addiction, driving demand for reduction efforts and supporting long-term public health. Please visit the WHO website for more information at <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-no-tobacco-day/2025>.

SAULT TRIBE VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT — APPELLATE COURT JUDGE

APPELLATE COURT JUDGE – Community Member and Elder Positions (regular & reserve)

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, is seeking tribal members for the community and elder member positions on their appellate court in its Tribal Court System. Judges at the appellate court level hear appeals as prescribed by Chapter 82 of the Tribal Code. The successful candidates will be one of five appellate judges. Additional candidates may be appointed as reserve judges.

Pursuant to Tribal Code Chapter 82.134(2)(d), the successful candidate(s) will be based on:

1. Integrity and moral courage.
2. Legal ability and experience
3. Intelligence and wisdom.
4. Culturally oriented.
5. Deliberate and fair minded in reaching decisions
6. Industrious and prompt in

performing his or her duties as a judge

7. Personal habits and outside activities compatible with judicial office
8. Courteous and considerate on the bench

Applicants shall have the highest moral and ethical character; and significant experience and knowledge of the Tribe and its history and culture.

Application deadline is: **June 5, 2025.**

Applications can be found at www.saulttribe.com, under government/tribal court tab, downloads section, or by contacting the court below.

Qualified candidates should send a letter of interest, resume and completed application to: Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court.
Attn: **Traci Swan**
2175 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Telephone: (906) 635-7747
By E-mail: tswan@saulttribe.net

INDIAN TRUST SETTLEMENT

Are you an Heir of an Individual Indian Money Account Holder?

\$38 MILLION IS AVAILABLE TO PAY HEIRS. THE DEADLINE TO FILE A CLAIM IS JUNE 30, 2025.

A \$3.4 billion dollar settlement was approved in a class action lawsuit, called *Cobell v. Salazar*, that claimed individual Indian land, funds and other assets were mismanaged by the federal government. \$38 million is available to pay heirs and awards could be significant.



Who is eligible?

You are eligible for a money award if you are an heir of one or more of the over 17,000 Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders whose *Cobell* settlement awards were not distributed. You must submit a claim form with proof that you are an heir. Claim forms can be submitted online or can be downloaded and mailed to the administrator by **June 30, 2025**. More details are available on the website.

Here’s what you need.

Heir eligibility proof includes any of the following:

- A state or tribal probate order identifying estate heirs; or
- A last will and testament approved by a probate order; or
- A small estate document from an approved state in accordance with small estate procedures; or

- Documentation showing the appointment of an estate Executor, Administrator, or Personal Representative; or

- A federal probate order that directs distribution of trust funds or trust lands.

A copy of a tribal, or state, or federal probate order is needed to establish whether the Settlement Administrator can pay the heir(s) directly for the estate’s Settlement award.

If you do not have a tribal or state probate order but a personal representative or executor has been named for the estate, funds may be released to the representative or executor and they will be responsible for distributing the funds according to the wishes of the deceased Class Member.

You must act quickly.

The deadline to file is June 30, 2025.

After the deadline, all remaining funds will be distributed to the Cobell Scholarship Fund, which is managed by Indigenous Education, Inc.

LEARN MORE

CobellSettlement.com

800-961-6109

Indian Trust Settlement
c/o Kroll Settlement Administration
P.O. Box 5324
New York, NY 10150-5324

Manistique Fitness Center grand opening

BY SCOTT BRAND

With the opening of an 11,220 square-foot facility, Sault Tribe members will now have 24/7 access to the Manistique Fitness Center, located at 5696 W. U.S. 2 located between the Manistique Tribal Health Clinic and the nearby Kewadin Casino.

“It’s been a long time coming and were excited its finally open,” said Unit IV Director Kim Hampton as guests streamed through the facility for the April 16 open house.

The fitness center was originally supposed to open in February, shortly after the Gladstone Health Center began operations, but the ransomware attack derailed that timeline.

“It will be nice to have a facility for our members to come and

work out and work on getting our community healthy,” said Unit IV Director Larry Barbeau.

Fitness Center Supervisor Sara Roberts provided a long list of equipment that is currently available for use including a chin/dip machine, multi-press, pec fly/rear delt, leg press/calf press, Smith machine, two power racks, dumbbells up to 100 pounds, free weights, box jumps, ab crunch/back extension, lat pulldown/low row, leg curl/leg extension, two elliptical machines, two treadmills, a recumbent bike and sit-up bike.

A second room inside the facility is seemingly focused on flexibility sporting mats and other accessories and is capable of holding future classes for activities such as yoga, dance or any

other collective activity designed to increase the heart rate, either solo or in a group setting.

The largest room in the fitness center serves as a half-basketball court, but can also be used for a myriad of activities including pickleball and dodgeball. The indoor track, for running or walking, allows visitors to get their steps in as well with 24 laps needed to complete a mile-long walk.

Showers and lockers are also inside the facility to clean up after a heavy workout.

For the first month, the Manistique Fitness Center will be open solely to members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Staff will then assess use patterns and may welcome others into the facility sometime in May.



Sault Tribe Health Division CEO James Benko and Rural Health Program Manager Nicole Fuson assisted Unit IV Directors Larry Barbeau and Kim Hampton as they employ oversized scissors for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



From Left to right, Tim Derwin joined the Kitchi-iti-kipi singers, Brennan Hoholik, Kayden Siewert, Kogan Drewan, Christopher Reed and Nate Lavance performing the welcome song.



Wendy Martin and Jeanne Kennedy of the Copper Kettle Women's Drum.



Outside view of the new facility.



West End Maintenance Coordinator Chris King enjoys a plate of food



Carol Dixon and Phyllis Smith scored new water bottles.



Photos by Scott Brand
Left, Lisa Kerridge proudly displays her new fob providing 24/7 access to the Manistique Fitness Center. At right, a large crane decorates the half-gymnasium floor located at 5696 W. U.S. 2 between the Manistique Health Center and the Kewadin Casino.



Hessel breaks ground on its own fitness center

BY SCOTT BRAND

With the successful completion of two new fitness centers one in Gladstone and the second in Manistique earlier this year, work has begun on the newest facility to be constructed at 2601 N. Three Mile Road in Hessel with a May 5 groundbreaking ceremony.

“It’s going to be about 9,000 square feet,” said Unit II Director Lana Causley-Smith giving an overview of the project. “It will also house our YEA (Youth, Education and Activities) program.”

U.P. Engineering has been selected to conduct the pre-construction planning, design services and construction man-



Photo by Brenda Austin
The groundbreaking ceremony for the 9,000 square-foot fitness center in Hessel.

agement of the project while McGahey Construction was contracted to carry out the work.

The Hessel Community

Fitness and Wellness Center, according to Causley-Smith, will be very similar to the Manistique facility. It will house various

exercise equipment with some focused on improving stamina and others designed to increase strength. It will also feature a

half-gymnasium to host indoor recreational activities and a walking track.

“We’re putting this building up to benefit our youth,” said Tribal Elder John Causley as tobacco was laid during the ceremony. “It is a tribute to them and our elders.”

“This is an exciting time for our members and the community,” said Unit II Director Kimberley Lee expressing the belief that the new facility will not only improve fitness and wellness but also promote unity for the community.

The new facility, if all goes according to plan, should be ready to celebrate its grand opening in the spring of 2026.

Rudyard Area Schools hosts inaugural traditional jingtamook for students April 23



Head Veteran Nick VanAlstine leads the Grand Entry at the Rudyard Area Schools powwow.



Head male and female dancers Jessie Farley and Julie Perry follow Tony Grondin with POW/MIA flag.



The Rudyad gymnasium provided an ideal location for the event.



Students of all ages joined in the fun.



Above and below, attendees patiently wait their turn to dance.



Above and below, still waiting



Another group eager to perform.



Above, dancers make their way around the circle. Sault Tribe Youth and Activities (YEA) Program sponsored the "Returning of the Thunders" event which celebrates the end of winter and rebirth as the warm rains promote new growth throughout the region.

Photos by Brenda Austin and Scott Brand



Above, an unidentified dancer in full regalia. Below, Miriam Clark braids the hair of eight-year-old Paisley Holmes.



Everyone in attendance was invited to join in the festivities.



Left, Coraline, a third grade student, collected the \$10 prize in the first spot dance from Arena Director Brock Lewis. Right, Nova Lee, center, shares time with friends before heading out to dance.



The drummers on Ogimaaminisino, led by Dr. Chris Gordon included Ethan Ball, Timothy Moore, Wyatt Kincheloe, Wyatt Kibble and Aires Gento.

Family Fun Day held May 2 at Big Bear Arena

Big Bear Arena in Sault Ste. Marie was buzzing with excitement as community members came together for Family Fun Day on May 2, hosted by Anishnaabek Community and Family Services. The event was a

mix of fun and purpose, aiming to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Families enjoyed a variety of activities, including a bounce house, games, and delicious treats like pizza, snow cones, cotton

candy, and popcorn. Airbrush face painting and balloon twisting added to the festive atmosphere, bringing smiles to faces of all ages. In addition to the entertainment, the event featured com-

munity resource booths offering valuable information and activities focused on creating safe and nurturing environments for children. Prizes were given out towards the end of the evening, adding

an extra layer of excitement for attendees. Family Fun Day was more than just an evening of entertainment; it reflected our community's shared dedication to supporting and protecting our children.



Photos by Ashley Morrow

Community members came together May 2 at Big Bear Arena in the Sault for Family Fun Day, hosted by Sault Tribe's Anishnaabek Community and Family Services.



A groundbreaking ceremony for the Newberry Elder Quadplex was held on April 21. Participants included, from left to right, Newberry Elder Chair Kathy Egert, Unit II Directors Kimberly Lee and Lana Causley-Smith, Sault Tribal Housing Authority (STHA) Construction Manager Tony McKerchie, STHA Operations Manager Veronica Beaumont, STHA Procurement Contract Administrator Ryan Madigan, Sidock Group Engineer Jeff Murdock and Vice President Mark Jacques of Nomad Construction, Inc. "We are grateful that this project is slated to begin this spring," said Causley-Smith following the event. "Chi-Miigwetch to our housing department that has helped us throughout with our ARPA funding process and planning." She also expressed her appreciation for the Newberry Elders and tribal community for their patience as efforts continue to create more housing in Unit II.

Elder Center May birthday



Judy LaJoie was the lone celebrant in May. Each month Elder Services celebrates elder and team member birthdays at the monthly Elder Sub-Committee meetings. Those in attendance sing the traditional birthday song before cutting the cake which serves as the dessert following the meal.



Above, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson poses with Unit I Director Aaron Payment and Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes before she began helping to pass out food in April.



Birth announcement



Cody and Kayla Reed announce the birth of their daughter, Holland Aeryn. Holland was born at My Michigan (War Memorial) in Sault Ste. Marie on April 16. She weighed 7 pounds,

15 ounces, was 20.5 inches in length and is absolutely gorgeous! She joins big brother Harrison, 2, to make their family complete. Three sets of grandparents will help with upbringing.

Anderson & Hernandez

Mallory Jean Anderson and Antony Maximilian Hernandez were married in Detroit, Mich., on Oct. 13, 2024.

Mallory, along with their son Woodrow and her mother Paula, are members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

In attendance were parents of the bride, Paula and Roy Anderson of Dexter, Mich., and the groom's parents, Toni Silva of Corpus Christi, Texas and Woody and Tina Hernandez of Alice, Texas. Eighty close friends and family attended from Upper and Lower Michigan, Florida, Texas and California. Lisa Ann Wickman Perez of Battle Creek, Mich., officiated.

Guests celebrated by dining and dancing and with karaoke. Congratulations to the newlyweds!



May is National Foster Care Month — ACFS is facing a shortage of foster care homes

BY ASHLEY MORROW, PROJECT SPECIALIST, ANISHNAABEK COMMUNITY & FAMILY SERVICES

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the unwavering dedication of foster parents, kinship caregivers, mentors, and child welfare professionals who open their hearts and homes to children navigating difficult life cir-

cumstances.

These individuals provide more than just shelter; they offer stability, care, and hope.

Across the country, more than 368,000 children and youth are currently in foster care. Their stories and needs vary, but the solution remains the same: compassionate adults who are willing to step in and make a difference.

This month is not only about

appreciation, it is also a powerful reminder that the need for foster homes is ongoing and urgent.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) extends its deepest gratitude to the foster families who have made a meaningful impact in our tribal communities. Your dedication helps ensure that children grow up safe, supported, and connected to their cultural identity.

Right now, ACFS is facing a shortage of foster homes and is actively recruiting new tribal foster families, who can help keep children close to their culture, values, and traditions. ACFS also monitors the placement of children in tribal homes beyond its seven-county region, ensuring children remain connected to their culture, regardless

of location.

If you have ever considered becoming a foster parent, no matter where you live, now is the time. Your commitment can transform a child's life. To learn more about how you can help, contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (906) 632-5250, (800) 726-0093, or email acfs-fosterhomes@saulttribe.net.

Advocacy Resource Center attends MMIR events

BY JESSICA GILLOTTE-KING

Sault Tribe's Advocacy Resource Center hosted its annual MMIR March in Manistique, Mich., this year. The Manistique event was held in Triangle Park with nearly 60 attendees dressed in red, ribbon skirts, and hoisting their MMIR signs held high for the powerful event.

ARC's Community Educator Jess Gillotte-King, Cultural Healing Educator Krissy Giffin, and ARC advocate Stephanie Shannon traveled to Manistique to raise awareness for the MMIR crisis.

The march took place after a peaceful sign-making gathering, red-hand face painting, and a beautiful prayer from elder Tim

Derwin.

Participants marched through downtown Manistique to demonstrate awareness and show their support for our missing and murdered indigenous relatives. It was an amazing event with a fantastic group of participants.

Next year's event is slated to take place in Newberry, Mich.

ARC was able to visit the St. Ignace March for MMIR, hosted by Unit 3 members. It was a beautiful turnout for such a powerful event. The food truck, provided by the Museum of Ojibwe Culture, served delicious food from JR's Grill while participants danced, visited, made their signs, and prepared to march for their ancestors and

lost relatives.

ARC staff also traveled to Grand Rapids, Mich., for their annual MMIP march in Ah-Nab-Awen Park. Sylina MacDougall, Ella Black, Jessica McKerchie, Jacob Farley, Rebecca Nertoli, Rayann Bertram, and Clarinda Bailey represented the Sault Tribe for the monumental event.

See photos on page 9.

Recent findings prove testing errors to blame for reports of elevated PFOS levels in Lake Superior's smelt

BY MIKE LANGENDORF, ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR FOR THE CHIPPEWA OTTAWA RESOURCE AUTHORITY

Springtime has once again returned to the Great Lakes region and so has the seasonal smelt run. The annual smelt run provides the opportunity for not only fishermen to harvest Great Lakes smelt but also provides many others a chance to simply enjoy eating these tasty fish offered by local restaurants and fish markets.

For decades the tradition of fishing for smelt and having them available at grocers and restaurants has been a staple of the early season Great Lakes fish market. Although still highly available in the spring and continually sought after by many, the last few years has seen these small but tasty fish, particularly those from Lake Superior, come under much scrutiny due to various levels of criticism that suggests that these fish were highly contaminated with the contaminant known as PFOS. In this article we will explain what PFOS is and explain the background for the recent reports that have suggested that PFOS was at high levels in smelt, and how these previous conclusions have since been determined to have been the result of using inadequate testing procedures.

What is PFAS/PFOS and why the concern for these chemicals? Perfluorooctane -sulfonate, also known by the acronym of PFOS, is a specific substance from a classification of man-made chemical substances that are known as Per/Polyfluoralkyl substances (PFAS). These substances can be commonly found in a variety of industrial and everyday products, with the most notable use of PFAS being found as an ingredient in what is known as Aqueous Film Forming Foam or AFFF. The use of AFFF has primarily

been as a fire fighting agent and is associated with widespread PFAS contamination being found at military bases, aviation installations and fire-fighter training grounds throughout the country. In recent decades, PFAS has become a concern following numerous studies that have indicated that these substances may cause an array of human health impacts and that these chemicals are also resistant to degradation and have become ubiquitous within the environment which can lead to chronic exposure. Due to these ongoing concerns, the EPA recently changed the status of two of the more pre-dominant PFAS substances known as PFOA and PFOS from a level of "emerging concern" to one that now considers them as "Hazardous Substances". Of these two substances, PFOS has long been considered to be one of the most prevalent PFAS substances found to persist within the environment (and within fish) and has been studied widely in relation to its impact upon human health.

Who is responsible for protecting the fishery and monitoring contaminants in the Great Lakes?

When considering the health and protection of smelt or Great lakes fish in general, there are many federal and state agencies that are charged with natural resources management within the Great Lakes basin. In addition, there are several inter-tribal natural resource agencies in the Great Lakes Region that are charged with the co-managing and protection of resources that are found within Treaty Ceded territories that can often include Great Lakes waters.

One of these tribal agencies is the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA), which serves as the inter-tribal natural resource managing and regulatory body representing five of Michigan's federally recognized tribes that

hold court affirmed treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather upon the 1836 Treaty Ceded lands and waters of Michigan. CORA's five member tribes are: Bay Mills Indian Community, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The lands and waters of Michigan that are managed by CORA for the protection and conservation of natural resources are known as the 1836 Treaty Ceded Territories. More specifically, the 1836 Treaty Ceded waters are located within the U.S waters of northwest Lake Huron, the eastern portion of Lake Superior and within portions of the State of Michigan waters that include the northern and eastern waters of Lake Michigan.

One of CORA's primary roles is to manage and carry out the provisions set forth within the Great Lakes Fishing Decree in which CORA's five member tribes, the state of Michigan and the U.S. Department of Interior have agreed to the co-management and protection of resources within the 1836 fishery. The collective efforts of the parties to the Decree help to ensure that necessary actions and decisions are made for the conservation and protection of the natural resources which includes actions that maintain the health of the 1836 fishery. One such protective action taken by CORA is to facilitate and maintain a contaminants monitoring program. CORA's program is not only used to assess and monitor for the presence of contaminants, but also serves to inform the public as to contaminants found in fish such as PFOS, which recently and erroneously, has been reported by the state of Michigan and other government agencies to be

of serious public health concern for those who may choose to consume smelt harvested from Lake Superior.

CORA had recognized early on that contaminants in the Great Lakes fish populations need to be monitored and have been engaged in such monitoring since the early 1990's. More recently both PFAS and particularly PFOS, have been on the forefront of an effort by the environmental and health protection community to establish regulation for their use, deposition and remediation of contaminated sites throughout the Great Lakes basin and beyond. As such, beginning in 2021, CORA included monitoring for PFOS in its fish contaminant monitoring program and will continue to do so in future testing cycles.

What were the concerns being reported in regards to PFOS levels in smelt?

During early 2021, CORA had become aware that both the states of Wisconsin and later Michigan, were reporting unusually high concentrations of PFOS being found in Lake Superior smelt and that by consuming these smelt would pose a risk to humans. This prompted both states to issue strict meal limitation/ guidance for those choosing to consume Lake Superior smelt.

Following the announcement of these heightened restrictions, CORA recognized that these reports being made about smelt were not in alignment with expectations for what levels of PFOS were being found in testing performed by other agencies nor did they appear to align with PFOS being found in other species from the lakes. It was also apparent that the state level guidance being released unfairly targeted smelt from Lake Superior, which by weight is the source of almost all smelt harvested for subsistence and commercial sale by CORA fishers.

What actions were considered to address findings of elevated PFOS in smelt?

By the spring of 2023, and in response to the ongoing recommendations on restricting smelt consumption, CORA sought to have the Michigan Dept of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) consider using other testing results or to further consider regionalizing their consumption guidance to better align with other independent results that had showed lower findings of PFOS in Lake Superiors smelt. In response, MDHHS countered that current data did not warrant a regionalizing of smelt guidance at that time.

As of early 2024, with the one meal per month restrictions still being advised by MDHHS, several agencies including the EPA, EGLE and others, had already converged on this issue of the anomaly in high PFOS findings for smelt being reported by state agencies. In April 2024, the MDHHS made an announcement that they would be presenting the results of their finding as to the cause of the previously reported high levels of PFOS in the smelt population (MDHHS Tribal listening session-April, 2024).

What was identified as the driver for the unusually high PFOS levels being reported in smelt?

In their findings, MDHHS reported that the testing methods they had used were in fact not accurate due to their testing method not being able to differentiate the molecular similarity of bile acids found in smelt from that of what is known as "branched PFOS." The inability to recognize this similarity during testing procedures led to the result of a false positive when quantifying total PFOS in smelt.

It was further indicated by the MDHHS that additional testing

See "Smelt," page 18

Most environmental emergencies are preventable

BY CARRIE GREGG, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST - BROWNFIELD

Oil spills and hazardous chemical releases pose a serious threat to the environment, public health, and the cultural traditions of Native communities across the Great Lakes region. For the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, these incidents strike at the heart of their connection to land and water — resources considered sacred and central to Anishinaabe life.

Environmental emergencies such as oil spills are not only dangerous, they are preventable. The National Response Center (NRC) is overseen by the U.S. Coast Guard and serves as the national communications center

for environmental emergencies. Once a report is filed, the NRC immediately notifies local, tribal, state, and federal response teams.

The NRC also maintains a national database of spill incidents, which helps track environmental hazards and improve safety strategies for the future.

The federal NRC serves as the single point of contact for reporting oil and chemical spills anywhere in the United States. Community members who witness a spill are encouraged to call the NRC at (800) 424-8802 or visit www.nrc.uscg.mil.

Reports should include key details such as the type of substance, estimated amount, exact location, and any nearby bodies

of water or wildlife that may be affected.

For the Sault Tribe, environmental protection is a cultural duty rooted in traditional Anishinaabe values. The belief that *nibi bimaadiziwin* (water is life) guides much of the tribe's stewardship of the natural world.

Oil spills can have significant impacts beyond environmental degradation. They threaten traditional fishing areas, contaminate wild rice beds, and disrupt ecosystems that many Indigenous cultural practices rely on.

For the Sault Tribe, these damages directly affect food sovereignty, cultural preservation, and the intergenerational transmission of ecological knowledge. Timely

reporting of spills is critical to preventing long-term harm and supporting efforts to protect and restore culturally important natural resources.

Spill response also connects to broader restoration efforts through *Gidayaangwaami'idimin Ezhi-inawendiyang* (Sault Tribe Natural Resource Division) Environmental Brownfields Program. This initiative identifies and rehabilitates contaminated lands across tribal territories, transforming polluted sites into safe, usable spaces for housing, gardens, or cultural projects.

Properties once damaged by oil, chemicals, or waste can be assessed and cleaned up under this program, often with the sup-

port of federal grants and tribal partnerships. Many Brownfield sites originate from spills or contamination events that were not immediately reported or addressed. When the community actively reports environmental hazards, it enables quicker identification and assessment of potentially contaminated areas. Early intervention helps prevent further environmental damage and initiates the cleanup and revitalization process, making it possible to restore the land for safe and beneficial use.

Our ancestors taught us to respect the water, the land, and all living things. When we report a spill, we uphold that promise.

Recent findings prove testing errors to blame for reports of elevated PFOS levels in Lake Superior's smelt

From "Smelt," page 17

of smelt had taken place, and had employed a new testing method that was able to account for the interference of the bile acid. The new results were found to have indicated that PFOS levels in Lake Superior smelt are actually much lower than was previously being reported and were now being found at similar levels to that of PFOS levels found in many other Great Lakes Fish.

How did CORA respond to these new findings showing inaccurate PFOS testing was to blame?

By the time the new findings were being released by MDHHS, CORA had already been preparing to mount a challenge to the previously high levels of PFOS

being reported in smelt. As part of this effort, CORA had already collected Lake Superior smelt samples during the spring of 2023 and was preparing to have these samples tested at a lab contracted by CORA. These samples were eventually tested by a lab that was utilizing testing methods that were able to separate the contributions of smelt bile acid from the quantification of total PFOS.

The results of CORA's analysis was able to confirm that PFOS in Lake Superior smelt harvested from the 1836 Treaty Waters (Sampled in 2023) was very low at <3-parts per billion (ppb), and when applying these levels to current MDHHS screening values for fish, there are no restrictions recommend-

ed for consuming smelt due to PFOS....

Since April 2024, has the MDHHS taken steps to publish updated Eat Safe Fish Guides to reflect these new findings?

The short answer is no.

Although as part of their April 2024 announcement of findings, the MDHHS has acknowledged that the laboratory methods they had relied upon to determine total PFOS in smelt were inadequate and led to the erroneous findings and reports of high levels of PFOS residing in Lake Superior's smelt, the current iteration of on-line Eat Safe Fish guides published by MDHHS does not yet contain these findings (MDHHS-

Eat Safe Fish Guides website-April, 2025). Similarly, the

meals per day recommendations for smelt that are found within these same ESF guides published by MDHHS, have also not yet been updated to align with the actual level (low levels) of PFOS that were confirmed by their recent findings and were since corroborated by other agencies, as is the case with CORA's findings cited above.

What does CORA plan to do in the future to ensure that more accurate and timely information on contaminants in fish from the 1836 waters can be provided to the public?

In response to the concerns of state agencies having not yet updated relevant changes to their guidance nor the related meals per day recommendations to the public, such as was the case

with PFOS in smelt as referred to above, the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority has opted to explore future independent publication of news releases and other media designed to further inform the public as to the most current data regarding consumption of Great Lakes fish.

Similar publications or news releases will not only be intended to provide timely and accurate data on contaminants in fish from the 1836 Waters, but will also be used to further educate the public on the risks vs. health benefits derived from consuming Great Lakes fish.

For additional information on CORA's fish contaminants monitoring program you may email your questions to: mlan-gendorf@chippewaottawa.org.

69th Annual Tackle Party donation

FROM ELDERS SERVICES

The Unit II Newberry Elder Sub-Committee recently made a donation to the 69th Annual Tackle Party, which was held on April 19. A longstanding tradition started by the Tahquamenon Sports Club, this annual party exposes local youth to the great outdoors, and outfits them with the equipment to enjoy it even

more. When the club disbanded in 2024, the Luce County Communities that Care Coalition stepped in to continue this event. Volunteers, and generous donations from local businesses and groups like the Elders, allow for each child 14 and under who attends to leave with a gift related to fishing or the outdoors.

Unit II Newberry Elder Sub-

Committee Chairperson Kathy Egert has been proud to support this cause for a number of years. "I like it because it's for all the kids in the community," Egert said.

Elders and Sub-Committee members Bob and Charles Derusha are avid sportsmen and have been involved with this project for years.



L-R: Unit II elders Bob Derusha, Kathy Egert, and Charles Derusha, who support the Tahquamenon area annual "tackle party" for local youth 14 and under.

Honoring Indigenous identity and culture: Hunting and trapping survey

Sault Tribe Community Health, In collaboration with Sault Tribe Natural Resources Division, *Ezhi-inawendiyang*, is conducting "Honoring Indigenous Identity and Culture: Hunting & Trapping Survey."

Your voice matters — please take a few minutes to tell us what matters to you.

Help us provide meaningful programs rooted in Indigenous tradition. Your input on hunting and trapping can guide future community efforts.

Link to the survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/U4rjQwpXev>

Congratulations



Zhawenjigewin

sent from the

SaultTribeGuardian.com



MMIW: Speak the names of your lost loved ones

From “MMIR,” page 1

red dress in your yard. You can hang one or several; it is a powerful message and a great way to show your support. Seeing the visual representation of a life lost or stolen can make a vast difference. You can educate yourself on the warning signs of human trafficking and domestic and sexual violence. You can support survivors by donating to a local shelter and assisting with transportation, food, clothing, or whatever needs are lacking. Most importantly, we need to protect one another. We must watch out for one another, protect our neighbors, and ensure our people arrive home safely. Ask that your loved ones call, text, or share their location with you so that you know they arrived safely. If you witness a violent situation, making a phone call to the police or authorities can save a life. You can call anonymously. Once more, educate our youth. Talk to teens about dating violence. Let teens know what behaviors are unhealthy and let them know that help is available.

The Advocacy Resource Center currently maintains a database for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Sault Tribe members. To date, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has 35 reported missing and murdered relatives. Of those, 22 are reported as murdered, and 13 have been reported missing. Currently, 10 of the reported 22 murders were victims of intimate partner violence. Of the 13 once reported missing, four of those Sault Tribe members are currently still missing.

The families of the current missing Sault Tribe members have requested that ARC continue to share their loved ones’ stories and information to seek tips or new information about their family member’s disappearance. If you have any information about the following people, please call the phone numbers provided.

YVONNE RENEE (JONES) SCOTT (then 31 years old) disappeared from Wyoming, Mich., on Jan. 3, 2004. Yvonne was last seen at approximately 11 p.m. in the 2900 block of Clyde Park Avenue southwest in Wyoming, Mich. That day, she had called the police to report that two people had robbed her. Officers went to the scene and took an incident report. Yvonne left afterwards and began walking eastbound on 28th Street. She has never been heard from again.

Authorities identified a suspect after Yvonne’s disappearance and searched his vehicle and home, but turned up no evidence. No one has been charged in connection with her case. Investigators believe her disappearance may be connected to a series of murders in the local area; all of the victims were prostitutes.

Yvonne would be 52 years old today. Yvonne’s immediate family has since passed away. They tried desperately to find their daughter/sister until their passing. Yvonne also had a husband and two young sons who wished to know where their wife and mother went. ARC’s Community Educator, Jess Gillotte-King, a relative of Yvonne Scott, continues to advocate for Yvonne and actively shares her story. Yvonne’s parents were Sharon and Norm Jones of Grand Rapids, Mich. If you have any information about Yvonne, please get in touch with the Kent County Sheriff’s Department at (616) 632-6125. Visit www.charleyproject.org/case/yvonne-renee-scott for more information.

CHRISTINE MARIE HONSON, a Sault Tribe member, was last seen in Grand Rapids, Mich., in September 1974. At the time of her disappearance, she was 32 years old. She had lived in Petoskey, Mich., with her husband and three children. Her marriage was troubled. She occa-

sionally left home for a few days at a time but always reappeared.

In September 1974, Christine disappeared from her home in Petoskey. Her husband found some suitcases in their backyard and assumed she had left him and possibly hitched a ride out of the area. A week later, Christine’s husband drove to the home of one of her relatives in Grand Rapids and left the suitcases there. Once he returned to Petoskey, he filed a missing persons report. Christine’s sisters in Grand Rapids reported seeing her in the summer of 1974. She had a close relationship with her sisters, and their families frequently visited each other. In the fall of that year, Christine called her sister and her sister-in-law, saying she would visit them. Christine did not visit, however, and her family never heard from her again.

There has been no activity on Christine Honson’s Social Security number since the summer of 1974, and she never renewed her driver’s license. She had a good relationship with her children, and her loved ones would not think she would have abandoned them. Christine Honson may have used the following aliases: Barbara Jean Compo, Christine Marie Compo, and/or Christine Marie Harrington. Christine would be 82 years old today. If you have any information about Christine Honson, please contact the Kent County Sheriff’s Department at (616) 632-6100. Visit www.charleyproject.org/case/christine-marie-honson for more information.

STEPHEN J. HOUGHTON, a Sault Tribe member, was reported missing by his mother on Aug. 18, 2023. Stephen was last seen on Feb. 20, 2022, by New York State Police at Glens Falls National Park in Moirah, NY. Stephen Houghton’s vehicle was abandoned on Johnson

Pond Road in North Hudson, NY. Stephen is 6-foot, 2-inches, and weighs 225 pounds. He would be 36 years old today. He has black hair and blue eyes. If you have any information about Stephen, please get in touch with the New York State Police at (518) 314-7516. Visit www.NamUs.nij.ojp.gov/missing-person-namus-mp140356 for more information.

JOANNE LYNN (SOMES) VOGT, a missing Sault Tribe member, was last seen in Boise, Idaho, in 1990. Joanne and her husband were known to have been tenting in the area. Joanne made a brief phone call to her young daughter on June 22, 1990, and has not been heard from since. Joanne is a brunette, though she colors her hair blonde. She is 5-foot, 3-inches, and weighs 115 pounds. Joanne had a lazy left eye and pierced ears. Joanne had resided in Nevada and may have gone to California with her then-husband, Ron Vogt. Joanne has two children, Larry and Pamela. Joanne was married three times. Joanne may go by Joanne Forster, Joanne Bryer, Jo Somes, or Joanne Vogt. Joanne would be 75 years old today. Her family misses her dearly and would like any information about their loved one, should anyone have

any. Please contact the Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808 if you have any information about Joanne Vogt. ARC will contact the proper authorities with Joanne’s information.

If you would like to report a missing or murdered Sault Tribe member, please contact the Advocacy Resource Center’s Community Educator, Jess Gillotte-King, with the following information:

- First/middle/last name
- Date of birth
- Date of death
- Murdered/when/where
- Perpetrator name, if known
- If MISSING:
 - First/middle/last name
 - Nickname/alias
 - Date last seen/went missing
 - Place last seen
 - Physical description
 - Distinctive physical features
 - Vehicle information
- Information provided does not have to be current. The Advocacy Resource Center is seeking information for ALL missing or murdered tribal members, including the seven-county service areas and tribal members across the world. If you need support or advocacy, please contact the ARC at (906) 632-1808. You can also visit www.arcsaulttribe.com for more information.

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St Ignace, North Bay, Moran Township, Cedarville,
Mackinac Island, Naubinway, Newberry

www.fnbsi.com



Election Commission schedules membership meetings:

Unit	City	Date	Time	Location	Zoom
1	Sault	6/18/25	1:00 p.m.	Sault Casino, 2186 Shunk Road, Sault, MI	Y
1	Kinross/Kincheloe	6/25/25	6:00 p.m.	Kinross Recreation Center, 43 Wood Lake, Kincheloe, MI	N
2	Hessel	7/21/25	1:00 p.m.	Hessel Tribal Center, 3355 N. 3 Mile, Hessel, MI	Y
2	Newberry	7/16/25	1:00 p.m.	Newberry Community Center, 4935 Zee Ba Tik Lane, Newberry, MI	N
3	St. Ignace	7/9/25	4:00 p.m.	Kewadin Shores Casino, 3015 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI	Y
4	Manistique	7/30/25	1:00 p.m.	Manistique Tribal Center, 5698W US-2, Manistique, MI	Y
4	Escanaba	6/11/25	1:00 p.m.	Escanaba Tribal Center, 3721 Spruce St., Escanaba, MI	N
5	Munising	6/6/25	1:00 p.m.	Munising Tribal Center, 622 W. Superior St, Munising, MI	Y
5	Marquette	6/5/25	4:00 p.m.	Holiday Inn Express, 2472 US 41 West, Marquette, MI	N

The Sault Tribe Election Commission has set a schedule to travel throughout the Sault Tribe’s service area to gather input from tribal members regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 10: Election Ordinance. Above is the schedule of sessions including dates, times, locations, and whether Zoom capability is an option (not all locations are Zoom-capable).

Walking on...

BERNIE GOKEY

Bernie Gokey, 82, of Bliss Township, passed peacefully surrounded by family April 25, 2025, in the respectful and loving care of Munson Hospice House in Traverse City, Mich.



Bernie was born Aug. 31, 1942, to Peter and Esther Gokey and was raised in Bliss. He lived in northern Michigan the entirety of his life albeit his time of service in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Antietam. Bernie was a 55-year member of the Operating Engineers Local 324 and a tribal elder with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and farming and was lovingly referred to as ‘Mr. Wizard’ for his amazing ability to fix, build and restore anything and everything.

Bernie is survived by his wife Peggy (Bonter) Gokey; daughter Kim (Bill) Melching, son Mike (Lynne) Gokey, daughter Julie (Gokey) Quandt; grandchildren George (Lexi) Whitley, Dylan (Brittany) Wernholm, Hunter (Kacie) Wernholm and Jared Quandt; brothers Robert (Marie) Gokey, Gary (Elaine) Gokey, Linda Gokey (partner of deceased brother Peter), Richard Gokey, Mickey Gokey, and Todd Gokey; brother-in-law Toady (Sharon) Bonter; many great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

The family will be holding a private gathering in June with a date yet to be determined.

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses at Munson Medical Center and Munson Hospice House for the unsurpassed level of personalized and dignified care given to our father.

Those wishing to honor Bernie’s memory please make a donation in his name to Munson Hospice House of Traverse City, Mich.

DONNA M. BOOK

Donna M. Book passed away, Saturday, May 10, 2025, surrounded by her family at her home in Otsego, Mich.



She was born June 3, 1939, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., the daughter of Harold and Mabel (Schwiderson) Allan. For many years Donna worked as an office manager at Harding’s Market until her retirement.

Donna had many hobbies including bowling, reading, crocheting, knitting, doing puzzles, going to garage sales and playing cards with her girlfriends every Friday.

She was a skilled seamstress and during COVID made over 2,000 face masks. Donna was a member of the Good Sam Mobile Mid Mittens Club Chapter 38 and Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe.

On June 30, 1956, in Galesburg, she married Eugene “Gene” Book who passed away in 2013.

Surviving are her children, Eugenia (Roger) Jackson-Kling,

Christopher (Kim) Book and Annette Bayne; grandchildren, Amy (Erik) Burkhead, Matthew (Jamie) Jackson, Michelle Payne, Nicole Kling and Nathan Kling; great-grandchildren, Alexis, Kora, and Ivy Burkhead, Nolan and Nora Jackson, Zachariah and Journey McQuitty, Jackson Bryan and Alexis Schmitt; sister, Marion Klepper; sister-in-law, Deanna Elliott along with several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and sister, Shirley Thomas.

Friends visited with Donna’s family starting at 10 a.m., Thursday, May 15, 2025, at the Winkel Funeral Home in Otsego, Mich., until the time of the funeral service at 11 a.m. Pastor Stephen Burrow officiated. Burial followed at Mountain Home Cemetery in Otsego.

Contributions in memory of Donna may be directed to Christian Neighbors. Messages of condolence may be posted at www.WinkelFuneralHome.com.

EUDENE MARIE (PAQUIN) MCDOWELL

Eudene Marie (Paquin) McDowell, 91, of St. Ignace, Mich., died on March 31, 2025, at the Evergreen Living Center.

She was born April 8, 1933, in St. Ignace, to Thomas and Electa (Becker) Paquin.

Eudene grew up in St. Ignace where she was the oldest of 12 children and learned the value of hard work on the family farm. She began working at a young age as a prep cook, a role that would shape her career and life’s work. She married Sterling “Bud” Sorenson and together they began their family. She spent 50 years working at the Galley Restaurant, where she retired as a beloved cook. Throughout her years at the Galley, Eudene formed lasting friendships with her coworkers, who affectionately called themselves the “Galley Girls.” They continued to meet regularly for lunch, cherishing the camaraderie and memories of their time together.

Eudene was a dedicated member of St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and was also actively involved in the Moose Lodge, where she made many dear friends over the years. Her faith and her community were a constant source of strength and joy in her life.

Eudene was passionate about nature. Outside of her work and family life, she loved wildflowers, watching birds, and spending time outdoors picking morel mushrooms and strawberries. Camping was one of her favorite pastimes, as was listening to country music, which always seemed to make her dance—especially in her wheelchair, where she boogied with joy.

As a cook, Eudene was legendary. She didn’t need a recipe; her meals, especially her mac and cheese, salmon patties, stewed



tomatoes, baked beans and chop suey, were always in high demand. Her generosity extended to always feeding others, whether it was a family gathering or someone in need. She had a heart of gold and was known for her kindness, her infectious smile, and her ability to make everyone feel like family. Eudene found great joy in spending time at the casino and was a regular at bingo, where she could be found five days a week, always surrounded by friends.

Eudene is survived by her daughter, Lisa (Jeff) Gamble; son, Dennis Sorenson; daughter, Karen (Wayne) Steiner; daughter-in-law, Leone Sorenson; grandchildren, Kylie (Nolan) Miklusicak, Denny (Melissa) Sorenson, Tommy (Missy) Steiner, Bridgett Sorenson, Jimmy Sorenson, Shelly (Tom) Sabourin, Katti (Chad) Gouza, Misti Gamble, Jeffrey (Mikaela) Gamble; fourteen great-grandchildren; brother, Melvin Paquin; sisters, Marybeth Braley and Patricia Taylor; and sister-in-law, Bobbie Paquin.

Eudene was preceded in death by her daughter, Sharon Sorenson; sons, James Sorenson and Steven Sorenson; her late husbands; Clayton McDowell, Sterling Sorenson and Leonard Trudo; parents, Thomas and Electa; siblings, Gary Paquin, Conrad (Vola) Paquin, Raymond Paquin, Thomas Paquin, Theresa (LaVern) Alexander, Mary Lou (Dick) Hanson, Shelby (Ken) Dickson and Paula (Vern) McCrory.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Eudene’s final resting place will be St. Ignatius Cemetery in St. Ignace Township, Mich.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in memory of Eudene to the Evergreen Living Center Activities Funds, 1140 N. State St. Building B Saint Ignace, MI 49781.

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

GARY “GRIFF” DOUGLAS KEMPF

Gary “Griff” Douglas Kempf, 72, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died April 24, 2025. He was born June 28, 1952, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Herman and Arbutus (Biron) Kempf.



To know Uncle Gary was knowing greatness, strength, tough love, and stubbornness. Though it was rare, if ever, to hear “I love you” you could feel the love and care he had for you through his gestures and humor. His greatest joys in life were cooking large meals, working on vehicles with his nephew, Mason, and watching movies, especially Robin Hood: Men in Tights with his niece Jade, and westerns. Most of all, he enjoyed BS-ing with his friends and family, especially Pat, Struckey, and his brothers, Joe and Robert. When the house was full, his heart was

full. He enjoyed life to the fullest and would drop everything for those he loved. The love he had for those around him was beyond any words, making sure everyone was always taken care of.

His biggest goal was making sure his nieces, nephews, brothers, and other family members were prepared for life’s challenges. Whether it was picking them up from school, filling their bellies, or staying at the house with them so they were never alone. If it were up to him, he’d live forever surrounded by his friends and family, with a two-liter of Diet Coke, a pack of Marlboro Red shorts, and an 80-inch TV in the living room.

His life made the ultimate impact on anyone who knew him, and life will never be the same without him. Though we all wish his life could have been longer, we are comforted knowing he will be greeted in the afterlife by his brother Herm who will no doubt be waiting with a cigarette and Miller High Life in hand.

The loss of Uncle Gary will leave a hole in all of our hearts, but we know he wouldn’t want anyone to be sad or put their life on pause. He would want a large, home-cooked meal to be enjoyed by his closest family and friends at the house where his heart and soul was and will remain.

A traditional fire has been lit and will be in the Waazhiim (behind Niigaanagizhik).

Per Gary’s wishes, no additional services will be held. A luncheon will be scheduled at a later date.

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

GORDON WILLIAM PETERSEN

Gordon William Petersen was born in Detroit, Mich., to the late Genevieve and Harry Petersen on April 11, 1938. He passed away peacefully on April 23, 2025.

He lived in Redford, Mich., and was the beloved husband of Judy and father of Raymond, Edward, John, Jodi and Todd. He was “Grandpa Pete” to 10 and “Great Grandpa Pete” to six.

Those who knew him are encouraged to honor his memory in their own way. In keeping with his wishes, there will be no funeral or memorial service. May he rest in peace.

PAUL THOMAS LAMYOTTE

Paul Thomas Lamyotte, 75, of Menominee, Mich., died Thursday, May 8, 2025, at the Aurora Medical Center – Bay Area in Marinette, Wisc., from PTSD complications. He was born Feb. 27, 1950 in Green Bay, Wisc. to the late Walter and Dorothy Jean (Beauchamp) Martin. As an infant, Paul was adopted by the late Williard and Wyleta (Williams) Lamyotte, and grew up in St. Ignace, Mich., where he graduated from LaSalle High School in 1968. Paul also attended Bay College in Escanaba, Mich.



Paul was a Vietnam veteran who served with the U.S. Marine Corps from 1969 to 1971, and was awarded several medals. He married Kathleen McNeely in St. Ignace, Mich., in 1980. She preceded him in death on Feb. 18, 2020.

Paul had an adventurous work life that included sailing on the Great Lakes, and employment as an iron worker throughout the United States. Paul will be remembered for his friendliness, fearlessness, and dry sense of humor.

Paul enjoyed hunting, trapping, and fishing throughout his life. He had a passion for gardening and was skilled in Native American beadwork, basketry, and jewelry, which he sold at powwows. He liked feeding and watching the many birds, squirrels, and deer near his home in the woods.

In addition to his parents and wife, Paul was predeceased in 2020 by his best friend Billy Demmon.

Paul is survived by his son David (Aniya) Lamyotte and David’s three children, Chelsea Neuschwander, Amaya Lamyotte, Coral Thorton, and four great-grandchildren: Charlie, Cayson, Tristan, and Paisley. Paul is also survived by his sister Diane Lamyotte and his brother-in-law Alan Kawano. In addition,

Paul is survived by his nephew Michael McNeely, Jr. (Emily) and their children; three sisters-in-law and two brothers-in-law and their families, and many great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins.

In accordance with Paul’s wishes, no formal funeral service will be held. A celebration of life will take place this summer in St. Ignace, Mich. Anderson Diehm Funeral Home is assisting the Lamyotte family with arrangements.

BONNIE LYNN LAPONSIE

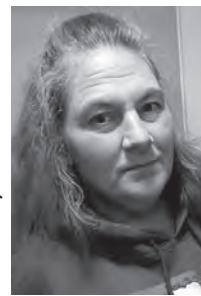
Bonnie Lynn LaPonsie, 57, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died April 10, 2025. She was born in Sault Ste. Marie, on Sept. 26, 1967, to Carl and Alice (Rabineau) Gugin.

Bonnie grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and attended Sault Area High School. It was during that time that she met the love of her life, John, while out with mutual friends. They married and started a beautiful family together. Six children later, Bonnie proudly embraced life as a devoted wife and mother.

Bonnie was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She embraced her heritage and community with deep pride and a strong sense of belonging.

She was someone who found joy in many things. Bonnie loved being outdoors — gardening, camping, and spending time by the lake brought her peace. She was also a creative spirit who enjoyed crafting, and she

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Walking on continued...

From “Walking on,” page 20
even had fun playing games and exploring on her tablet. Whatever she was doing, she brought her warm energy and love along with her.

Bonnie is survived by her husband John; daughters, Lisa LaPonsie and Allison LaPonsie of Dafter, and Renee LaPonsie of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; sons, John LaPonsie II of Dafter, Mich., Timothy LaPonsie, and Kyle LaPonsie of Kinross, mother-in-law, Joanne LaPonsie of Dafter, grandchildren, Teanna, Isabella, Jazzlynn, Rylnn, Kegan, John LaPonsie III, James, Jazmine, Kevin, Dwayne, Octavian, Zachary, Taylor, Brydon, Devon and Grayton; great-grandchild, Lilia; sister, Terry Rabineau; and brother, Karl Rabineau.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Alice Gugin; brother, Tommy Gugin; father-in-law, Andy LaPonsie; great-grandson, Braxton; and Theo LaPonsie.

A visitation was held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., with a traditional ceremony that evening.

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

MICHAEL ANTHONY LAVAKE

Michael Anthony LaVake, 66, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died on April 9, 2025. He was born Dec. 12, 1958, in St. Ignace, Mich., to Charles and Josephine (Visnaw) LaVake.



Michael had a passion for life that was evident in everything he did. He loved to bowl, ride his bike, and play bocce with friends. His love for sweets was unmatched, especially when it came to candy, and he enjoyed indulging in his favorite treats. Above all, Michael cherished his time with his girlfriend Kathy, who brought joy and love to his life.

Michael's warm heart and zest for life will be remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He will be dearly missed, but his spirit will live on in the memories he created with those who loved him.

Michael is survived by his girlfriend, Kathy; and brother, Earl (Cynthia) LaVake.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Josephine.

Per Michael's wishes, no services will be held.

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

ROBERT NYGAARD

Robert Nygaard, 71, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away Thursday, April 17, 2025 at MyMichigan Medical Center

in Sault Ste. Marie following a lengthy illness.

Robert was born Sept. 5, 1953, and became the foster child of Grant and Ruth Nygaard, of Escanaba, Mich., when he was three days old. They adopted Robert when he was three years old.

He graduated from Escanaba Area High School in 1971, Bay College (where he was editor of the Bay Beacon) and Central Michigan University, graduating in 1975, majoring in journalism. In 1976 he married the former Carol Lundquist of Wells at St. Anthony of Padua Church. Their romance was sparked by their mutual love of music, especially the Beatles.

Following graduation, he worked at the Gladstone bureau for the Daily Press for one year. Following the Daily Press he found his passion working for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. For 30 years his positions included tribal resource developer, legislative analyst and grant writer. His work led to the tribe's health center, elementary school, *Win Awenen Nisitotung* newspaper and elderly services. He also testified before Congress regarding tribal funding, the National Census and adoptive services for tribal members. He discovered his birth family after moving to Sault Ste. Marie.

The Nygaards always enjoyed traveling. Robert and his son, Sam, particularly enjoyed their trip to Alaska. Bob and Carol also enjoyed meeting the Beach Boys in Hawaii when they attended a Beach Boys concert.

Survivors include: his wife of 48 years, Carol, Escanaba, Mich.; son, Sam, Escanaba, Mich.; sisters-in law Pam (Rick) Kercheval, Green Bay, Wisc., Patricia (Rick) Rudden, Wells, and Judy (Paul) Lynch, Wells; brother-in-law, Bob (Mary) Lundquist, Niagara, Wisc.; brother, Floyd LaBranche, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; good friends Steve and Sue Seymour, Escanaba, Mich.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his adoptive parents, Grant and Ruth Nygaard, Escanaba, Mich.; in-laws Stanley and Jean Lundquist, Wells; brothers Gerald LaBranche, Sonny LaBranche and Donny LaBranche, all of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; and sisters Grace Causley, Louise Fournier and Donna Collins, all of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Robert enjoyed playing cards, trivia, fishing, cooking, and being a fan of the Detroit Lions and Detroit Tigers. He was a strong Democrat. He and Carol also attended an inauguration ball for President William Clinton's second term. He was a longtime member of the Elks.

The family would like to thank the staff at Medilodge of Sault Ste. Marie.

A memorial service will be planned for summer.



PATRICIA "PATTI" ANN MASSON

Patricia "Patti" Ann Masson, 82, passed away in Sault Hospice House on March 8, 2025. She was born July 2, 1943, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to James and Claracie Willis.

Pat was married to John Masson, the love of her life for 30 years. She had two daughters, Vicki Valentine (Bill) of Indiana and Leesa McCready (Alex) of Neebish Island, Mich.

Patti was a very talented artist and taught many the art of painting.

Patti is survived by her husband, John, and her daughters, Vicki and Leesa. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Christopher (Tonya) Valentine and Candis Valentine. Her great grandchildren were her pride and joy. They are Lucia, Rocko and Serena Valentine and Matthew Keck. Her brother, Ed Malonen (Marilyn) of Waterford, Wisc., and sister Sandra Jarvis (Anthony) of Sault, Mich., and step children Rob and Sherry Masson of British Columbia also survive her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Claracie Willis, sister Sherry Andress and brother Jim Willis.

A celebration of life was held on April 5, 2025, at the Sault Tribe Cultural Center. O'Sullivan Funeral Home in Sault, Ont., assisted the family with arrangements. Her final resting place will be at St. Luke's Cathedral in Sault, Ont.

MICHAEL ANTHONY ROBERTSON

Michael Anthony Robertson, 63, of Menominee, Mich., passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, May 10, 2025, in Menominee.

He was born Sept. 17, 1961 in Redwood City, Calif., to the late Wesley and Gina (Valenzuela) Robertson. Michael was a gifted athlete at a younger age focusing on baseball. He moved to the area from San Jose, Calif., over 30 years ago to be by his children.

Michael enjoyed cooking, spicy foods, watching sports, taking car rides, and listening to funk music such as James Brown and Earth, Wind, and Fire.

Michael is survived by his two sons Anthony (Tasha) Robertson and Zachary Robertson; one daughter Mirandah Black; grandchildren Jamaica, Paradise, Romeo, Alora, Khalya, and Naomi; one sister Lynn Robertson; and many other family and friends.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents and significant other Joy VanHecke.

In keeping with Michael's wishes, no formal services will be held. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Cadieu



Funeral Home is assisting the Robertson family with arrangements.

BERNARD EUGENE ROY

Bernard Eugene Roy, 94, died April 30, 2025, at MyMichigan Medical Center Sault where he received excellent care from all the staff. He was born Nov. 23, 1930, at home on Sugar Island, Mich., to Norbert and Marie (LaCoy) Roy.

Bernard grew up on Sugar Island helping with the family farm. He joined the United States Navy where he received his high school diploma. While serving in the Navy he earned the Navy Unit Commendation Award serving in WWII and Korean War. In civilian life he worked as a millwright at a scrap Magnimet Steel Recycling Plant crushing metal for recycling.

Bernard was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He enjoyed cutting grass and donated hours in the summers mowing grass at Maple Ridge Cemetery. His hobby was finding rocks large and small, having quite a rare collection of beautiful rocks. He was a proud family man who loved his grandchildren. He wanted to pass on his work ethic and love of the island. He was always willing to help others out.

Bernard is survived by daughters, Bonnie (Ron) McKerchie, Kellie Parker; sons, Michael Roy, Robin Roy; grandchildren, Eric Sr. (Kami), Robbie Roy, Phillip (Stephanie), Matt, Kathleen, Bernie; great-grandchildren, Eric McKerchie Jr., Tyler McKerchie, Addison Roy, Chloe Roy, Hailey Roy, Kole Roy, Alec Roy and Geoffrey Roy; great-great grandchildren, Mallorie McKerchie and Morgan McKerchie; sisters, Doreen Brunet (Tom) and Georgine McKenzie; and niece Nicole (Wesley) Gregg.

Bernard was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie Roy; parents, Norbert Sr. and Marie Roy; grandsons, Ron McKerchie Jr. and David Roy; sisters, Harriette and Mildred; and brothers, Norbert Roy Jr. and Alfred Roy.

A celebration of life was held Sunday, May 11, 2025, at the Sugar Island Community Center, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

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

RAYMOND GEORGE STAFFORD

In loving memory of Raymond George Stafford, born April 25, 1937 in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., who went to his heavenly home on April 12, 2025.

Ray will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Terry Stafford; his children: Loretta Hayes, Lisa (David) Simon, Raymond (Susan) Stafford and Bill Stafford; Terry's children: Joe (Alisha) McLain, Patrick McLain and Katie (friend Jamie) Kaminski; his father-in-

law Nicholas Urso; the mother of his children Sharon Stafford; Sister Irene Thiele, 17 loving grand-children and

17 great-grandchildren as well as many other relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents Thomas William and Ethel Mae (McGowan) Stafford.

A true patriot, Ray felt the call to serve his country during the Vietnam War. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and proudly served for 30 years; retiring as a Chief Petty Officer. He enjoyed sharing his experiences and showing off his numerous medals and honors he earned during his career.

Friends and family were most important to him, and he treasured the time he spent with everyone. As member of the Sault Tribe of the Chippewa Indians, he enjoyed researching genealogy. He also loved day trips to the casino and talking all things military.

Visitation for Ray was held on Friday April 18, 2025. at Reyers North Valley Chapel where a funeral service with military honors will followed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial donations to Mid-Michigan Honor Flight.

Richard Lee Wachter

Richard Lee Wachter, 92, died April 18, 2025, at Independence Village in Petoskey, Mich.

He was born Jan. 12, 1933, in Newberry, Mich., to Ellaree (Davenport) and William Wachter, Jr.

Richard grew up in Naubinway and graduated from Engadine Consolidated Schools. He attended Northern Michigan University before being drafted into the United States Army as a Medic. After he returned from service, he resumed his studies at Northern Michigan University, receiving his bachelors of science in biology and his teaching certificate. Later he earned his master's degree from Northern Michigan University in public administration.

On Aug. 18, 1956, he married the love of his life, Betty Vallier. Together they shared 69 wonderful years of marriage.

Richard began his career at Cheboygan Area High School as a teacher from 1958-1962. Then he taught at Ishpeming High School, where he served as biology teacher from 1962-1965, Athletic Director from 1965-1972, and later as High School Principal from 1972-1979. He and Betty later moved back to Cheboygan, where Richard continued as Principal of Cheboygan High School from 1979 until his retirement in 1988. He was a proud member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. And was also a member of the Michigan Association of

See “Walking on,” page 20



Recent highlights and important developments



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

As we move further into the spring season, I want to take a moment to share recent highlights and important developments within the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. These past few weeks have been filled with meaningful events, advocacy, and ongoing work on behalf of our tribal nation. I'm proud to keep you informed on our progress.

LSSU Commencement Speech

On May 3, I had the honor of delivering the commencement address at Lake Superior State University, which is where I earned my undergraduate degree. Returning to Lake State to celebrate the achievements of this year's graduating class was a deeply personal and proud moment. As a graduate myself, it was powerful to reflect on the journeys of our students—many of whom are Sault Tribe members—who work hard to better their lives through education. Our relationship with LSSU continues to grow stronger, and we remain committed to supporting our students and foster-

ing partnerships that benefit the entire tribal community.

Appointment to the Michigan Community Service Commission

I am humbled to have been appointed by Governor Gretchen

Whitmer to serve on the Michigan Community Service Commission. I attended my first quarterly meeting on April 22. This commission plays a vital role in mobilizing volunteers and service programs—especially AmeriCorps—to address critical community needs. It supports and connects volunteers with meaningful opportunities, and provides training and resources to organizations and individuals alike. Having served in AmeriCorps, I am proud to be on this commission, and I will continue to serve to the best of my abilities.

30th Annual Michigan Political Leadership Program Dinner

I recently attended the 30th Annual Dinner for the Michigan Political Leadership Program (MPLP), a bipartisan initiative that trains emerging leaders across Michigan in public policy and civic engagement. The event drew many key state legislators, including 11 MPLP alumni currently serving in the Michigan legislature. This gathering provided a great opportunity to advocate for our tribe and build important relationships. I want to express my gratitude to Mike McKerchie, Aaron Payment, and Robert

McRorie for joining me in representing the Sault Tribe.

Team Member Recognition Luncheon

It was my honor to participate in our annual Sault Tribe Team Member Recognition Luncheon on

April 29, which is an event dedicated to acknowledging the incredible work of our employees. I have long said that our tribe is run not by the chairman or the board, but by the dedicated individuals working on the front lines every day. Having previously worked as a groundskeeper, porter, and server for the tribe, I understand firsthand the value of our employees' dedication and service. Thank you to all of our team members—you are the heart and soul of the Sault Tribe.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Day

May 5 marked Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Day—a solemn and significant time for Native communities across the country. I was moved to see the many events organized by our tribe and others throughout Michigan. This issue is deeply personal to me. In 2008, my aunt lost her life to violence. The MMIP crisis touches too many Native families, and we must continue advocating for justice, visibility, and systemic change to end this epidemic.

JLLJ Settlement Issue

As many of you are aware, in 2023, the tribe settled a lawsuit with downstate casino developers. The agreement included a \$25 million payment at the time of settlement, followed by \$5 million in scheduled payments. Unfortunately, the first scheduled payment was missed, causing the tribe to default and owe the full remaining balance,



Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes and his beautiful family at the LSSU Commencement May 3.

which our legal team successfully negotiated to a lesser amount. There is no excuse for this oversight, and accountability will be upheld. The tribe issued a communication about this issue on May 8. Once all the facts are known and the board takes action, I will share more details.

Feeding America Distribution and Honoring Billy Mills

On May 8, we hosted our latest Feeding America food distribution at the Big Bear in Sault Ste. Marie. While we distributed 9,500 pounds of food—a decrease due to federal funding cuts—the event was still a success thanks to our incredible volunteers. Last month,

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson volunteered, and this month we were honored by the presence of Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills. Mr. Mills has long worked with Native communities and has inspired many through his story and advocacy. In recognition of his decades of service, the board voted to grant Mr. Mills honorary membership in the Sault Tribe. I had the privilege of presenting him with a framed resolution and a beautiful black ash basket to mark the occasion.

Miigwech for staying informed and engaged. As always, it's an honor to serve as your chairman.

Austin Lowes
Sault Tribe Chairman
(906) 635-6050



Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills visited the Sault Tribe on May 8 to talk about his new book with JKL School students. He also went to the Feeding American distribution at Big Bear Arena to help out, where Lowes presented a framed resolution of his honorary Sault Tribe membership for his decades-long relationship and service with the tribe.



Lowes delivered the commencement address at this year's LSSU Commencement on May 3.

Unit 3 director reviews a myriad of tribal business



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

At the board meeting in Manistique, April 15, the majority voted to keep the Tanglewood Golf Course open. I supported this as we had already passed a budget for the business, they had already had established an opening day and events and leagues were already established for the season. It is a shame that some board has already blasted the course on social media, which essentially can destroy a business.

The board never voted on shutting down the Christmas Midjim gas station, but wanted us to vote on this. I do not support that action, either. I did state at this meeting that we should be saying, “Come back to us with a plan to turn a profit,” not, “Let’s just shut things down.”

On April 17, my coworker, myself and my mom went to the St. Ignace Tribal Head Start as part of their Easter party. I was the Easter Bunny; my co-worker was Tommy the Moose and my

mom read an Easter book to the kids. We gave them all a book from the Moose Lodge. The same three adults went to the Straits Living Center on Good Friday with cookies for them. We had fun with the kids and elders.

On April 24, I attended a Zoom TAP (Tribal Action Plan) training. We started the TAP in 2012-2013 and sometime in the beginning Cheri Goetz, Jeff Holt and myself had gone out to New Mexico to present the tribe’s plan. Since then, there has been quite a bit of turn over and new life is going to try to be ignited. The current TAP coordinator is Pat McCoy. With so much happening in our communities with suicide, drug and alcohol, etc., we need outreach and action.

I was recently appointed to the Brownfield Committee for Mackinac County. They are working on developing a housing project in St. Ignace and are seeking a developer on recently purchased property. Since the tribe is also working on a project around the corner, we thought we could possibly save money on resources. On April 30, Housing, myself, our engineer, city and county met to see if we could work together. It doesn’t seem likely at this point since the properties do not connect. The Sault Tribe project located behind the Mackinac County Airport is projected to cost \$7.3 million for the infrastructure. The bidding for the work should be going out sometime soon. We have until Sept. 30, 2026, to complete this project.

On April 29, we had our annual team member appreciation luncheon at the Soo Casino. People who have been with the tribe for at least 5 years and those in 5-year increments are invited to the lunch and, depending on the years of service, is what you receive. There was a good turnout and big thanks to the committee that works hard to make this event happen. Thank you to all the team members that work so hard every day for our members! I appreciate you!

On May 5, I organized an MMIP event at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture. We gave out t-shirts, did poster making, red hand face painting had some songs from Mukkwa Giiziik and walked through downtown St. Ignace and returned to the Museum with food provided by JR’s Grill. We had a really good turnout and the ARC staff also stopped by after the event they held in Manistique earlier that day. Sue St. Onge led the walk with the staff and some of the boarding school survivors followed with flags as well. Chi Miigwich to all who participated! The event was sponsored by the Unit 3 cultural and education enhancement fund.

At the May 6 workshop, an agenda item that has been contentious is the hotel tax dollars that all units use for cultural and education enhancement funding. Some claim it is our slush fund and are used for political purposes. This fund has really helped many of the units outside of the Soo that don’t get the attention

they need. We have held many cultural workshops, purchased items for the cemetery, community building, and helped YEA students attend conferences. There are also assassinations of some members’ characters in the cultural community that is outrageous.

The May 6 board meeting was rather quick with no member concerns and no real controversial resolutions. Prior to the meeting beginning we were told we would have a pressing issue to deal with, so before adjourning the meeting we agreed to continue the meeting at 7 p.m. on May 7 and a special Gaming Authority meeting was called for 6 p.m. on May 7. Gaming Authority meetings only need 24-hour notices as opposed to tribal board meetings need five days.

On May 7, the board had many closed session discussions and then voted in the Gaming Authority meeting unanimously to a motion and support that said nothing. Then in the tribal board meeting there was a vote of 7-4 to give up the Sibley property in New Boston. I was one of the “no” votes. The property was purchased with money from the Land’s Claim funds. There was no appraisal on the property and we are a land-poor tribe. Not to mention this was part of our lawsuit to have a downstate casino.

I am just so frustrated with the way things have been going the last three years. It seems so much has changed in the way we used to do things, that are not for the better.

I would like to **CONGRAT-**

ULATE all the 2025 high school graduates and college graduates. You should be very proud of your accomplishments and career path. Hopefully, some will return to work for our tribe. I have selected Jayden Plotkowski and Gwendalyn Kellan for my 2025 scholarship recipients. Congratulations, Jayden and Gwendalyn!!

Kewadin Shores has a new general manager, Dave Kucharczyk, who has worked for the Soo casino for many years as the slot director. We look forward to working with you, Dave.

A reminder that the Native American Festival will be held at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture in St. Ignace on Saturday, May 24. Unfortunately, I will be out of town but if you are around, you should attend!

In the current environment, one has to think of all the angles, agendas and scenarios of why things are happening. It is hard to trust people because some try to stand up and get pulled right back down. I could not work like that. I am very sad that we all live and work in these environments. When board members do not have the same opinions of others, we are shamed, talked down to and cut off. I am so sick of the arrogance and know-it-all attitudes. I am sure it will get a little worse with the election a year away. Please pray for our tribe.

Any questions or concerns please contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com, or call or message me at (906) 430-0536.

Hampton, Barbeau report on Unit IV issues, events



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aniin and welcome to May and warm weather, finally. Graduation season is upon us and we want to say Congratulations to all of our graduates, high school, college, and vocational schools. This is but a stepping stone in your journey through life. You should be proud of all you have accomplished up to this point.

The open house for the Manistique Fitness Center was an amazing success. Chi miigwech to all who helped with the open house and make it such a success. We hope our members have been using the center. Keep your eye out for specialized classes, such as chair yoga, in the future.

May 3 was the annual Indian Point Cemetery Clean Up, which was also a great success. These events are not possible without the help from the community. Miigwech to everyone who helped. We are sure our ancestors



**LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

are proud.

Plans for a community garden in Escanaba are moving forward thanks to a group of individuals who have offered to volunteer their time with this adventure.

Since our last report, we have been collaborating on developing some sort of a process for our newly acquired cemetery, Indian Point Cemetery. Additionally, we have been working on a way to combat the homelessness our members are experiencing within our unit and beyond.

REMINDERS

Niiwin Noodin Powwow

As we begin to dig deep into planning, we are in search of volunteers to help with planning as well as the day of the powwow. Examples of volunteer opportunities are helping in kitchen with refilling food containers, pointing individuals in the right direction for information etc. Feel free to attend a powwow meeting to

express interest or just observe.

Powwow planning meetings are as follows:

May 19, 2025

May 28, 2025

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 June 11, 2025, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held June 11, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center, 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba, MI. If you plan to attend please RSVP at (906) 635-4971 at least a week prior.

Looking Forward

— Some additional adventures being worked on are as follows: obtaining additional permission to land for traditional ceremonies, building accessible lodges throughout Unit 4, growing the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow volunteer crew, expanding the Unit 4 elder subcommittee groups and their outings, and more. Updates to these and additional projects will be provided as able.

— The 3rd Annual Niiwin Noodin Powwow is Saturday,

June 7th with a Talking Circle the evening prior at 6 p.m.

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

activities and events occurring throughout Indian Country.

Our contact information is below:

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

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

Walking on continued...

From “Walking on,” page 21

Secondary School Principals, active in the Ishpeming Kiwanis, Ishpeming Booster Club, and the Cheboygan Dad’s Club.

Richard was a member of St. Stephen Church in Naubinway, St. Mary/St. Charles Parish in Cheboygan, and St. Francis Xavier in Petoskey. Richard was also a member of Cross in Woods in Indian River and greatly enjoyed volunteering as a greeter.

Richard found joy in many things, including gardening, boating, fishing, singing, cooking, and spending time at deer camp in the Upper Peninsula. His greatest joy came from being with his family and friends. He deeply loved his children and grandchildren and cherished every moment with them.

He is survived by his wife Betty of Petoskey; children Brian (Linda Anderson) Wachter of Cheboygan, Brenda (Dr. Mark) Kulbieda of Petoskey, and Beth (Bill) Albrecht of Carp Lake; grandchildren Brennon Wachter,

Ellaree Wachter, Alicia (Kris) Konicki, Ashley (Tyler) Reeve, Faith Kulbieda, and Jackson Kulbieda; great-grandchildren Harlan Reeve, KJ Konicki and Lucy Konicki; brother Geno (Sandra) Wachter of Marquette; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Richard is preceded in death by his siblings, Donald (Lois) Wachter, Cy (Gen) Wachter, Winnie (Bob) Wertz, and Gary Wachter.

A memorial mass was held at St. Francis Xavier on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 2 p.m.

Richard will be laid to rest at the Garfield Township Cemetery in Naubinway at a later date.

The Wachter family extends heartfelt thanks to the staff at Independence Village for the compassionate care provided to both Betty and Richard.

Memorial contributions may be made to the or St. Stephen Catholic Mission Church (stgregorysmiissions.com) or Knights of Columbus (kofc.org)

Shedawin Haven redone to support recovery



KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I
Hello,
In April, we held our employ-

ee recognition banquet to recognize our team members. Our team members years of hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed. I would personally like to thank them for their dedication and teamwork.

Update on the Shedawin Building, which has housed our Wellbriety meetings for many years. They have moved to a new location just down the road from where it's currently located and has been renamed as the "Shedawin Haven" and will be reopening soon. It was created to be a recovery support for people dealing with addiction and to help those who want to maintain their



Charlie Shedawin
sobriety when coming from a treatment center or from a Sober Living Program.

Charlie and Harriette Shedawin were our tribal community's first recovery advocates



Harriet Shedawin
who used cultural components along with the 12-step process of Alcoholic's Anonymous (AA) to destigmatize alcoholism and drug addiction.

Our new building is designed

to support all recovery groups. It will also facilitate the 12-step program on Zoom meetings along with a recovery podcast, which will be housed in the facility.

For more information, you can contact Tribal Action Plan Coordinator Patrick McCoy at (906) 630-3075.

Remember to keep the men and women in our armed forces in your prayers and thoughts for a safe return to their families.

If you have any questions or comments please call me at (906) 259-3742 or e-mail me at kkggravelle@saulttribe.net.

Thank you,
Kim Gravelle

Lots of projects coming to fruition in Unit 2



LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II
Great news for our unit for this report.

slated to be completed by early 2026 but they are moving quite fast and that's a good sign. We are very excited that this project is on the move and going to be completed.

We had planned and held a great first powwow meeting with the community in Newberry. I would like to thank everyone who showed up and had input and volunteered their thoughts and added help. It was a great group with many new ideas to move forward with. The plan is to hold the powwow during a warmer time of year — June 14, 2025. Yes, we will still have construction going on by the site but the contractor has assured us that they will assist on making the area proper for our gathering. At the end of the day, the community and us as representatives prioritize the homes and the powwow so we will make do with what we have to get around it this year. We want very nice things so we have to work toward that with what we have. Good things are happening and I can't wait to see everyone in June. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Director Lee or myself and you can always call our Language and Culture Department as well. They will be helping us again this year and they do an amazing job helping host our gatherings.

There is also great news for the community/recreation center — this has also had a ground

breaking and it's been a very long time planning. This will be located in Hessel where we have the land and also house our Youth Education and Activities (YEA) program. This program services our entire unit and is mobile in that work, having programming in Pickford, Rudyard, Newberry, Cedarville, Engadine and all the surrounding areas. We would like to grow this and plan for programming for all our unit out of this center. The youth coordinators are always willing to go into our unit — and hold programming for youth — they have increased the numbers in each area. Please look for flyers on our programs or call our Education Department if this is something you would want your youth to participate in. The women that work for our programs are always willing to assist and transportation can be discussed if that's an issue. I'm looking forward to the project starting and the health and wellness for our members will be priority as well.

The tribe had a rough month with politics and I try to refrain from adding here but the recent fiasco with the golf courses we own caused a lot of bad press for our properties and human people that work hard for each business. I apologize to all that this was negatively affected. Although the businesses have struggled in the past — and have been marketing into the ground by our own

leaders — there are plans to keep them operating for the season.

I've seen very inflated numbers being thrown out as losses of the businesses and some stated simply aren't true. We are our own worst enemy when it comes to politicizing to hurt some units or people. Moving forward, we have plans for each business not only for the focus to be profitable but also as community assets in both Unit 1 and Unit 2. I hope that we have successful years as so many people who work there, work hard for that!

In closing, if any members want to look at the financials of these businesses for true facts or any other businesses within the tribe, you have every right to do that. You can call Lona Stewart (906) 635-6050 and schedule a time with our CFO to go over the information. This is a right to you in our Constitution. There is simply no service or benefit to us as a tribal business to post these numbers for ANY of our properties for the entire world to see. This is our members business and should not be dragged into the sick politics that some make it.

I simply think the courses are always a target to deflect the many other questions that should be asked. I also plan to ask that our CFO recommend how we can offer information to members so you can access easier and truth in numbers is the storyline instead of dishonest statements made to

hurt business, people and units. I could go on and on about this item but some leaders simply cannot help themselves when it comes to division and callous motives and I will leave it at that and remind you that you as a member can always look at our books for information you would like to see.

Finally, YEA and the Native American literature class held the first annual powwow inside Rudyard school this past month. This was one of the best gatherings not only for inclusion and education of our historical culture but a healing for so many that described the event. I want to thank everyone who was involved and also tell you all that the entire school was in attendance and the pictures will tell the story of the amazing event. A bridge was created with many in the school system and again the education of our ways. This was truly "good stuff" for our youth and an entire school.

In closing, we have waited a long time for these projects that we are moving on with and our unit — we deserve it. Thank you for all your patience and support with suggestions and help to get there. If you would like to meet or discuss anything, please reach out to me (906) 322-3818 or lcausley@saulttribe.net.

Baamaapii,
Lana Causley-Smith, Unit 2 Representative

Lots of blame to go around on missed payment



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I
At a time when we need to be pivoting and trying to come together to secure funding sources and fight the federal government to honor treaty obligations, our tribe is in a position to have

to settle a previously settled lawsuit. That may sound confusing and you will certainly get several opinions on how this happened, but the fact of the matter is that our tribe missed a scheduled million-dollar payment (with no grace period) on an already settled judgment.

Without blaming how or why we had to settle, last year the board ultimately agreed to settle the \$60 million lawsuit and we didn't make our payment. Not because we didn't have the money, we do. Not because we were hoping for some appeal, there was none (we agreed on this settlement). Somehow, we just didn't make the payment. There will be a lot of speculation on why; there will be a lot of finger pointing and blame. Truth is that there is a lot of blame to

go around. As a board we should have demanded schedules and been more aware of any upcoming concerns on the payment. We have officers on this board, we have executives that meet with us weekly, and yet we didn't know that this was an issue until after the tribe was served a subpoena.

The subpoena was not for just the missed payment. You see, when you miss a payment on a settlement, the default judgment is for the full amount. I believe the original amount was around \$39 million, and once in default the original is now due. What the board did last week and will re-affirm this week is try to settle with a new settlement on the default judgment. With uncertainty by the federal government honoring its treaty obligation and gaming now down due to lack

of Canadian tourism, and our organization still recovering from the recent cyber-attack, every penny counts. Every dollar we spend now will directly affect our ability to navigate these troubling times.

The current tribal work environment with micro-managing, board interference, and board members having favorite executives, has directly contributed to this situation. The board will need to come together and take a real look at how our organization runs and how the board itself operates with our executives. Instead of holding executives accountable, power struggles and games are often played to maintain control and that prevents any change and our ability to move forward. So long as the board has favorites and allows games to be

played, our tribe will continue to suffer losses.

We need accountability, we need to hold executives and ourselves accountable to prevent any such occurrences from happening again. We need our executives to answer for their decisions and be held accountable. We need to do better for our members.

As I'm writing the unit report, we will be holding meetings and workshops to get to the bottom of this disastrous mistake and will have more to share in the upcoming days and weeks. As always, look for more information and get both sides of the story and I urge members to continue to get involved and continue to hold the board accountable.

Please reach out to me to discuss issues. I can be reached at (906) 440-7768. Chi Miigwech.

Unit V director reports on tribal, unit business



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,
It looks like spring has finally arrived... Although the weather has been hit or miss, it's refreshing to get outdoors in fresh air and sunshine. I hope all of you have plenty of opportunities to explore the great outdoors this Summer. Having one of those extended U.P. winters makes it easier to appreciate the short time we all have to do all the fun in the sun activities. Wherever you are, be safe, and enjoy what the Creator gifted us. Being a part of nature is who we are as Native people, and it's also great for mental, physical, and spiritual health.

Enrollment Update

As of April 17, there are 4,978 adult applications entered into the tracking system. A total of 165 adult applications have been denied and 2,692 new members have been enrolled, including children. We appreciate all of your patience during this process.

IHS National Budget Formulation and HHS STAC

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the IHS National Budget Formulation on behalf of the HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) to represent the Bemidji Area, with tribal representatives from across the country. We spent two days going over the budget for IHS, as well as discussion with each HHS division director about the impact that their budgets and agencies have on Indian Country. It was an extremely busy two days of consultation with some heavy subjects relating to Indian health and how detrimental even the smallest cuts could be to our already underfunded communities.

To put this in context and highlight some of the areas I was able to address during my time in D.C., the Bemidji Area, which is the IHS region the Sault Tribe is located in, is only at 39% level of need funded through IHS. That means that the other 61% of all IHS services from tribe to tribe across our region needs to be made up with either third party revenue, or other funding from economic development, gaming enterprises, or other grants and funding through other areas of HHS or federal, state, and non-profit funding.

How does relying on the U.S. government help our Sovereignty? Good question. It's

not that we are reliant on the federal government, it's about upholding our treaties and the federal governments treaty and trust obligations. Our ancestors paid for our treaty rights with their blood and the land. Those treaties are binding contracts affirmed within the US Constitution Article VI Paragraph 3 as "Supreme law of the land." The agreement was healthcare, education, and welfare in perpetuity. Not at 39%. Not with a blood quantum. That agreement was a forever agreement.

It is our job as tribal leaders to work with the federal government and provide constant reminders of that promise and agreement, supported by the US Constitution, until they pay their dues back to all of the tribes they made an agreement to at 100%. Until that day, yes, absolutely, we will continue to build our economy up and invest in our people. The goal is and always will be to become self-sufficient. At no point, however, should we ignore the promise that was made to us based on the sacrifices of our ancestors. I will fight for our treaty rights as long as I hold office and will continue to advocate in Indian Country beyond that time.

Upon conclusion of the IHS National Budget Formulation, I was also in attendance for an additional day for the HHS STAC meeting, again, representing the Bemidji Area. Unfortunately, the Secretary was double booked and unable to attend, we did get the opportunity to meet with the new Administrator of CMS, Dr. Oz.

While only a few weeks on the job from his appointment, Dr. Oz was able to thoroughly define some of the issues and health disparities that Indian Country is all too familiar with. Usually, we have to educate new Directors in some capacity about the issues we are dealing with and have been dealing with for generations. This was actually quite refreshing, instead of educating on health disparities, I was able to jump right in to our relationship with CMS.

As I explained earlier, the Bemidji Area is only at 39% level of need funding under IHS. A huge portion of third party revenue that goes to supplement our healthcare delivery comes from CMS. Most tribes in this area collect upwards of 40-45% of their budget on average from CMS, some tribes as high as 60%.

In my explanation to Dr. Oz, I reiterated this point with data and facts and let him know that of all CMS payments across the country, only .21% goes to Indian Country. Yes, that's less than a quarter of 1%. This is extremely important to note because even a .01% cut could be devastating to Indian Country and the more people in power we educate about this, the more likely we are to gain support as the budgets roll out and the slashing begins.



CMS Administrator Dr. Oz and Tyler LaPlaut at HHS STAC (L-R).

Dr. Oz was extremely receptive, and as an MD he wanted to follow up on the numbers and help us protect what we have in his limited capacity.

I remain hopefully optimistic with HHS under this administration and will continue to fight and advocate as hard as I can at the highest level to protect our most sacred treaty right, the health of our people.

UPDATE: Flag at NMU

After several years and advocacy, the Sault Tribe flag is now flying high at all NMU graduations and will be placed on permanent display in the Superior Dome. While it may seem like a small simple step, it's anything but. Our flag flying on prominent display recognizes that we are here and a part of this community and have a right to recognition as a sovereign.

I want to thank Secretary Kimberly Hampton for attending the flag ceremony on my behalf while I was stuck in D.C. I didn't want anything to hold up our tribe's step forward and am truly grateful for her last-minute substitution.

Powwow

Our next powwow planning meeting will be held on June 4 at 5 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community room. If anyone is interested in helping with the planning or volunteering, feel free to show up. I'll also be making a Zoom call available for Unit 5 members interested in assisting but unable to attend. Please reach out if you need a link to join.

The Bay Furnace Park Powwow will be held on Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025. Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers. This is really coming together nicely.

Cultural activities update

The Sugarcane showing was a huge success at the Thomas Theater in Marquette. We had over 80 people register and attend the showing. The crowd was a mix of tribal and non-tribal people alike and helps send an important message about what the Native American Boarding School experience was like, and many of the issues our families and communities are still facing in the aftermath. If you missed this showing, it is available for viewing on Netflix as a documentary.

We are still in search of a cultural coordinator for Unit 5. The job is posted and we are hoping we get some solid candidates to help fill in. Until the role is filled, we have delayed implementation of several workshops. Hopefully, we can get back at some of these events



LaPlaut poses with Teal Lake Singers from Sault Tribe.



LaPlaut with KBIC CEO and NMU Trustee Brigitte LaPointe in front of our respective flags.

quickly.

In the interim, if anyone is interested in putting on a workshop or taking the lead to help get some of these classes going, please feel free to reach out to me and we will work together to get this going again.

A reminder that the Marquette Culture Night is still happening at 204 Cherry Creek Road from 5:30 to 8 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Dinner is always provided and everyone is welcome. We primarily hold drum group practice, but it has turned into something much larger. The next three cultural nights are May 22, June 12 and June 26. As I've mentioned in the past, I'd love to support similar activities in the Munising area if someone is willing to step up and take the lead on that. At least until we get a Unit 5 Cultural Coordinator in place.

NOTE: We may have to cancel some culture nights due to construction on the parking lot and entryways. Please watch Facebook for future announcements.

Elders

The next Munising Elder

meeting and meal will be held on Thursday, June 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community Room. If you are an Elder age 60-plus and living in Unit 5, you are welcome to show up and attend. New faces are always welcomed.

The next Marquette Elder meeting and meal will be held on Thursday, June 5 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Marquette. If you are an Elder age 60-plus residing in Units 4 or 5 in the Marquette County area, you are welcome to show up and attend. New faces are always welcomed.

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

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

Trump budget threatens treaty, trust obligation



AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

First, I'd like to thank Billy Mills for his recent visit to our community. It has been over 34 years since his first visit in 1991 when he challenged our tribe to create a running club, which was called Chi Nodin. Thanks to the Unit 1 board members for sponsoring his visit and the tribal board for making Billy an honorary Sault Tribe member as a chi miigwech for all Billy has done for our tribe.

Billy read to our JKL students from his new book about his Olympic victory winning the 10,000 meter gold medal in the 1964 Olympics. Please "Google" to order one of Billy's books. In addition to speaking to our students, he also dropped in to visit the JKL Running Club and inspire them, then attended our Feeding America event (which Chairman Lowes coordinates) at the Big Bear Arena to thank our volunteers.

As we have done at many years before, we celebrated with a whitefish dinner at the Lockview Restaurant on Portage in the Soo. A special thank you to Amy Goetz (top right, pictured with Billy and Amy's son, Mitch) for allowing a large reservation on opening night. The Lockview Restaurant is Sault Tribe member owned and buy their fish from tribal fishers. Please check them out.

DOWNSTATE CASINO FINAL

We recently received notice that the US Supreme Court rejected our request to overturn Trump's Department of the Interior's denial of our mandatory land in trust requests down state. This project was approved by the board in 2010 while I was not in office. Recall that I petitioned for a referendum to let the members approve. Surprisingly, members actually voted to approve.

Hindsight is 20/20 but as a private citizen in 2010 from the outside looking in, I argued the business development deal was exploitive to the tribe. Former Director DJ Hoffman denies it, but developer Jerry Campbell admitted DJ was a paid consultant to get the board votes to do this deal. Tribal Legal witnessed this admission from Campbell.

Also while out of office, former board member Denny McKelvie also shared his serious concerns about developer Campbell and Hoffman's pecuniary relationship as a consultant. But, the board approved it anyway while neither Denny nor I were in office. Backdoor dealing and personal enrichment is corrupt. We need to enact a tribal ethics code that prohibits this from ever



happening again.

It's time to turn the page and move past this project. Recently, the board announced through a press release that...

Unfortunately, staff failed to make the required May 1 payment, which resulted in a default causing the tribe to quickly work toward an amended settlement.

While I agree staff should be held accountable for this multi-million mistake, I believe this was allowed to happen under our current dysfunctional form of government with our top executives reporting to the tribal board of directors. This fiasco is proof that having executives report to the board is ineffective as it is impossible to report to 13 different bosses.

COME TOGETHER

Switching gears, the President's FY26 budget proposal was released on May 2. I have included a link at the end of my Unit report. The President's proposed budget shows drastic cuts to Indian Country budgets. This is a dynamic process so we have the opportunity affirmatively impact the outcome if we work as a Sault Tribe Response Team and coordinate our efforts along with National Native organizations like NCAI, NIHB, NIEA and regional Native organizations.

Much of my understanding of the federal appropriations process has been as a Member of the Tribal Interior Budget Council and as an officer for the National Congress of American Indians (including as 1st VP) where for three legislative cycles, I testified on our Indian Country budget to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The process begins with the President and OMB drafting a proposed budget. Given previous legislative parameters, the OMB sets budget ceilings for what can be asked of both the Administration and the Legislature. The President and the Congress are supposed to balance each other out in drafting a federal budget.

In the past, we have been able to rely on Congress (House and Senate) to mitigate and/or supplement the budget request based on their understanding of the needs of their constituents. Congressman Tom Cole (a Republican and Chickasaw Nation citizen) is Chair of the House Appropriations Committee so there is hope but not without our active participation in the process.

NCAI and other National and Regional Native Organizations have been successful in past years in advocating for Tribes during this process. However, my fear is that with billionaires like Elon Musk threatening to "primary out of office" any members of Congress who disagree with the President's draft budgets, that we may not be able to rely on



Congress to balance out the historic termination era level cuts to Indian country. We have to fight to make sure Congress does not support these draconian and retributive cuts to Indian Country.

There are some major reg flags that suggest we are entering an Indian Termination Era in terms of abolishing the treaty and trust obligation via historic appropriations cuts. While the Indian Health Service budget is basically level funded (no increases), it appears as though IHS advance appropriation is eliminated consistent with the OMB HHS Pass Back document leaked a few weeks ago. Head Start is not cut as previously proposed. The net impact overall includes a major net loss for Indian country funding.

What follows, are details of proposed cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Interior, in addition to trends across other agencies.

TRUMP CUTS TO INDIAN COUNTRY

- 26.2% cuts to HHS budget which includes equity funding to impact the worst of the worst outcomes in Indian Country (see Broken Promises Report);
- \$1.7 M cuts from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA);
- The proposed budget cuts the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

entirely;

- Slashes Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) by \$1 billion including mental health and substance use preventative like Tribal Opiate Response funding;
- Cuts the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services but claims that the \$674 million cut will not affect Medicaid or Medicare recipients;
- \$770 million cut from Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program;
- 30.5% overall funding reduction for the Department of Interior;
- Nearly \$1 billion in cuts to BIA;
- \$617 million cuts in BIA programs supporting Tribal Self-Governance and Tribal Communities;
- \$107 million cut from the BIA Public Safety and Justice law enforcement program;
- \$187 million cut from the Bureau of Indian Education Construction account;
- Eliminates Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) discretionary awards;
- NAHASDA competitive grants Eliminated;
- Cuts Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

BUDGET NEXT STEPS

The President's budget pro-

posal has been reported to the Congress. It first goes to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. Both legislative chambers will draft their own budgets. My hope is they will once again, ignore the President's efforts at retribution. Budget hearings will be held. This is where we need to work as a team to secure support from our respective elected officials to shield Indian Country from these cuts.

Once you know the impact based on your budget cost centers, share this information with your elected member of Congress and implore them to not support any cuts to Indian Country. I urge you to contact members of the House and two U.S. Senators to demand they protect our budgets from these cuts. Here is some searchable information for you to make contact.

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

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

www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-resources/budget/the-presidents-fy-2026-discretionary-budget-request

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

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

Fierce competition in gaming market



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III
Boozhoo,

This whole mess with the downstate casino and the LJLJL developers is still popping up due to numerous employees not doing their job. These employees are paid handsomely to do a job for the tribe and its members, and they failed. Whatever way certain

board members or anybody for that matter wants to spin this, these employees failed, simple as that and they need to be let go. I'm not going into the details of the latest settlement as its outlined in the tribal press release. By the time this makes the paper, I'm hoping this situation is all taken care of and rest assured I will not be covering anything up. In my 35 years working downstate in the public safety sector, government and the courts, I've never seen things like I've seen in this tribe, this behavior needs to stop immediately and all involved held accountable.

On a better note, our Shores casino has a new general manager, a new roof, new HVAC units that are being installed and new sliding front doors. These upgrades will enhance the overall experience for our guest as well as our employees. Again, I'm pushing for more promotions

and giveaways at all our sites to keep us in the gaming market. It's fierce competition in the gaming industry and we need to step it up in all areas. Should be going out soon, the first big event in the area "Jeep the Yoop" went off as planned, with the parade the drone shows and the jeep crawl at the casino grandstand area, and thanks to all the organizers and helpers of this event.

Our housing project is still a go and all the details are being worked out between the different governments and bids for the beginning of the projects should be going out soon. Looking forward to seeing some real progress with shovels in the ground by summer time.

Respectfully,
Shawn Borowicz
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Past critical decisions continue to haunt our tribe



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

On Jan. 20, 2020, the Michigan Gaming Control Board granted authorization for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to launch online sports betting and iGaming. Following this approval, the Tribe entered into an agreement with WYNNBET, which later transferred its interest to Caesars Entertainment.

While this arrangement positioned the Tribe for early entry into the rapidly expanding iGaming market, the long-term strategic

value and financial return of the agreement remains uncertain. The decision to license our market access rather than retain greater control over platform development and brand ownership may have significantly limited the economic benefit to our tribal government and membership.

National iGaming Landscape (2024 Performance)

Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania have emerged as the revenue triad of U.S. iGaming, combining regulatory maturity, infrastructure, and high player demand. Each state exceeded \$2 billion in gross gaming revenue in 2024.

Tax Revenue Generated from iGaming (2024)

See Table 1 Strategic Considerations for the Tribe

— Lost Market Share: While Michigan tribes helped shape the iGaming launch in 2021, our current role through Caesars’ use of our license may not generate the full revenue potential compared to a self-operated or co-branded platform.

— Limited Visibility and Control: As major operators invest heavily in technology, content creation, and brand loyalty, the Tribe may be seen more as a passive licensor rather than a strategic market participant.

— Need for Reassessment: With iGaming now contributing hundreds of millions in tax revenue to state governments, it is vital we examine whether our current structure aligns with long-term economic sovereignty and maximized tribal returns.

Recommendations

1. Initiate a Financial Audit: Review all payments, licensing terms, and royalty structures tied to our iGaming agreement(s).
2. Benchmark Other Tribal Models: Assess how tribes in other jurisdictions have approached online gaming — both as partners and independent operators.
3. Evaluate Renegotiation Opportunities: Explore options for increasing tribal equity, marketing control, or profit-sharing in future renewals or restructured deals.
4. Prepare for Future Market

Shifts: Consider next-generation gaming markets (e.g., social gaming, esports betting, interstate poker compacts).

As you can see by the financial information, we receive considerably less revenues than the other tribes and casinos receive.

As of January 2025:

See Table 2

Conclusion

The iGaming market rep-

resents a generational opportunity. Other jurisdictions have captured significant tax revenue and economic growth through well-positioned strategies. It is time to reassess our existing agreements to ensure they deliver on the promise of long-term prosperity for our tribe.

Isaac McKechnie
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Table 1

State	Tax Revenue	Key Driver
Pennsylvania	\$997 million	High tax rate on online slot revenue
Michigan	\$650.9 million	Graduated tax structure (up to 28% for large operators)
New Jersey	\$428.7 million	Mature market; lower effective rate (17.5%)
Connecticut	\$85.5 million	Leading mid-size iGaming state
West Virginia	\$39.3 million	Modest market scale
Delaware	\$27.9 million	Early adopter, but limited growth
Rhode Island	\$16.7 million	Recent entrant with small market footprint

Table 2

Licensee	Online Brand	Revenue	Promos	Taxes
MGM Grand Detroit	BetMGM	\$66,409,157	\$3,984,549	\$17,579,198
MotorCity	FanDuel	\$62,894,320	\$3,773,659	\$16,612,793
Bay Mills	DraftKings	\$42,224,225	\$2,533,454	\$10,433,416
Little River Band of Ottawa	BetRivers	\$16,148,900	\$968,934	\$3,570,390
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa	Caesars	\$16,106,024	\$966,361	\$3,559,106
Keweenaw Bay	Golden Nugget	\$11,569,211	\$694,153	\$2,387,515
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Fanatics	\$7,787,406	\$467,244	\$1,530,435
Greektown	Hollywood	\$6,258,359	\$375,502	\$1,287,764
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi	Four Winds	\$3,806,967	\$228,418	\$715,710
Saginaw Chippewa	Eagle	\$3,384,118	\$338,412	\$609,141
Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi	betParx	\$3,183,233	\$190,994	\$598,448
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa	PokerStars	\$2,775,537	\$166,532	\$521,801
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa	Horseshoe	\$2,685,771	\$161,146	\$504,925
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi	FireKeepers	\$2,283,279	\$136,997	\$429,256
Hannahville	SI	\$634,247	\$38,055	\$119,238
Total		\$248,150,753	\$15,024,410	\$60,459,138

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Cake, Hors d'oeuvres & Champagne at 8 p.m.*

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Must earn 50 base points to qualify for promotion. *While supplies last



31ST

*Anniversary
Weekend*

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

**WIN YOUR SHARE OF
\$6,200 CASH & CREDITS**

Hors d'oeuvres and cupcakes served at 7 p.m.*

**Hot Seat Draws
2:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.**

**\$1,550 CASH
Grand Prize Draws
10:15 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.**



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

FRIDAY, JUNE 20



31ST
Anniversary

**WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER
\$8,700 CASH, CREDITS & PRIZES**

**Hot Seat and CASH Draws • 4 p.m. - 10:45 p.m.
Win Up to \$100 Credits or \$1,000 CASH**

GRAND PRIZE 11 P.M.

**Summertime Package
Blackstone Griddle,
Zero Gravity Chairs and Yeti Cooler**

Hors D'oeuvres and Cake*

**TARNISHED
Live Music in Team Spirits Bar**

Must have 50 base points to qualify. See Northern Rewards Club to Register and for more details. *While supplies last.