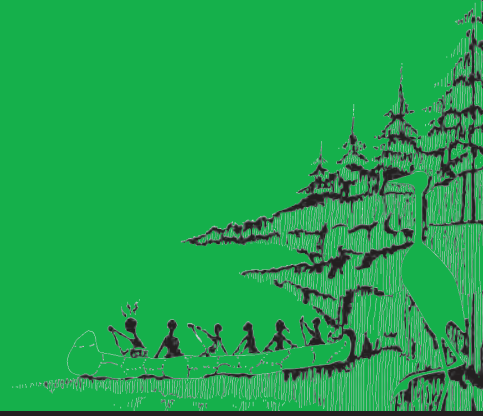




Win Awenen Nisitotung

June 18, 2025
Strawberry Moon • Ode'imin Giizis
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Sault Tribe announces spring 2% expenditures

BY SCOTT BRAND

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Chippewa Indians has announced its 2% Spring 2025 expenditure. Under the current agreement with the state of Michigan for gaming revenue sharing, the tribe is required to disburse 2% of its slot revenue to local units of government throughout the seven-county service area. Short-term funding is designed to meet specific needs as requested by the local units of government, while long-term disbursements are designed to reflect recurring commitments.

The tribe committed \$382,707 in long-term funding during the latest disbursement and an additional \$65,341.41 in each of the five units. The recipients and the amount received were as follows:

In Unit I, the Dafter Township Fire Department received \$12,782.47 towards the purchase of a \$53,535 firefighting brush truck to replace an aging one on the fleet with that exact amount also reflected in monies allotted for Soo Township and Kinross Township Fire services.

Kinross Township also received \$12,000 for the Kinross Recreation Center for the Powerhouse Kids' Club and Kids' Fishing Day in addition to long-term funding for the Law Enforcement set at \$13,500.

The Sault Area Public High School received \$15,000 for library renovations and new furniture.

In other Long-term funding, \$14,000 was allocated to Chippewa County for general government services, \$3,000 for the Probate Courts Foster Care Program, \$34,025 for Lake Superior State University's Gem of the North, \$25,000 to the Sault Area Schools Title VII Advocate and another \$12,000 in PILT funding.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie took in \$148,729 for general government services, making it the largest recipient of 2% funds during the spring distribution.

In Unit II, DeTour Village received \$6,520.48 towards a project designed to improve drainage along Cunningham Street leading to the local boat launch.

Hendricks Township received \$6,520.47 towards the purchase of two underground water tanks for fire suppression purposes.

Hudson Township received \$6,192 towards the purchase of SCB air bottles for the fire department.

Luce County received \$1,549 for winter maintenance at the airport and \$4,997 towards a little league playground for the parks and recreation department.

Pickford Schools received two requests. The first earmarked \$6,520.47 for the Panther Legacy Fieldhouse, while the second delivered \$5,500 to the Industrial Arts Program to replace old and outdated equipment.

Mackinac County received \$2,500 for media upgrade efforts at the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway.

Trout Lake Township was awarded monies for two separate projects as \$7,047.99 will go towards education and collaboration enhancement and another \$5,000 was earmarked for seasonal tractor rental to maintain 68 miles of ORV trails in the area.

In Long-Term funding Clark Township received \$2,000 for general government services, \$10,000 was allocated to Rudyard Area Schools for the swimming pool and in Newton Township \$7,000 was allocated for the Scott's Point Walkway project.

In Unit III, the City of St. Ignace received funding for a long list of projects including: \$2,264 for police firearm training equipment, \$3,616.84 towards a water main saw, \$13,000 earmarked for the Downtown Development Authority's Splashpad replacement, \$2,832.28 towards a sewer pipe locator, \$5,000 for mail processing equipment at City Hall, \$2,500 for a fire department computer upgrade, \$7,000 for a skate sharpening machine and other new equipment at Little Bear East, \$13,141.29 for various programs and facility improvements at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture,, \$3,000 to explore library renovations to meet current and future needs and \$1,300 for a new laptop for the city marina.

The LaSalle High School Robotics team received \$3,000 for the purchase of equipment to help make them more competitive while the High School Varsity Softball Team received an equal amount for similar purposes.

St. Ignace Township was awarded \$5,693 for the purchase of a new voting tabulator.

In long-term funding, \$7,000 went to the Mackinac County Animal shelter for spay/neuter expenses as well as food and litter, \$11,250 to the Mackinac County Sheriff Department for lodging and law enforcement, \$8,900 to the St. Ignace Schools for a student advocate, \$7,000 to St. Ignace Township for general government services and the City of St. Ignace received an additional \$10,000 with \$6,500 earmarked for road improvements and \$3,500 for lodging and law enforcement.

In Unit IV, Big Bay de Noc School received \$19,557.41 towards the Building a Healthy Peninsula Project for the construction of four pickleball courts to expand on services designed to promote community health.

The City of Escanaba was awarded \$2,778 for the purchase of car fire blankets designed to snuff electrical fires associated with the use of lithium batteries.

Escanaba Area Schools received \$4,000 in funding for the Title VI Indian Education Program earmarked for the Reaching Our Potential with Tradition Project promoting cultural lessons and community feasts among other activities.

Fairbanks Township received \$4,611.80 for the purchase of two automated defibrillators with plans calling for one to be installed at the Fairport Fishery and the second at the township hall.

Garden Township Volunteer Fire Department was awarded \$13,400 for a thermal imaging drone to enhance search and rescue capabilities.

Gladstone Area Schools received \$9,000 for Indian Education Cultural Enhancement through the Title VI Indian Education Program and an additional \$2,000 to promote the outdoor music outdoor program.

The Nahma Township Volunteer Fire Department's request for a side-by-side enclosure was approved in the amount of \$10,000. The machine will be utilized for emergency response including firefighting, search and rescue operations, and accidents occurring in the backwoods and trails.

In long-term funding, the Delta County Sheriff Department received \$8,000 for lodging and law enforcement, Bay de Noc Community College received \$8,000 for the Delta County YMCA, the City of Escanaba took in \$4,000 for law enforcement, \$2,000 was awarded to Manistique Township for general government services, \$2,500 for the City of Manistique for lodging and law enforcement, and \$6,400 to the Schoolcraft Sheriff Department for lodging and law enforcement.

In Unit V, the City of Marquette was awarded \$14,000 in short-term funding with \$10,000 earmarked towards a Cultural Trail Interpretive Storymaker Public Art Project commissioning 13 original art works by Anishinaabe artists to be installed along the path between the Carp River and Presque Isle and an additional \$4,000 for the David and Thu Brule YMCA of Marquette to promote recreational opportunities.

The City of Munising received \$5,000 for the Fir Street Climb Trail adding to the existing 35-plus mile, non-motorized, Munising Bay Trail Network in Alger County.

The Chocolay Township Police Department received \$15,178.22 to focus on pedestrian and bike safety patrols along its trail network during the busy season.

Munising Public Schools were the recipients of two awards in the latest round of 2% funding. The Spring 2025 disbursement included \$17,869.19 to the William G. Mather Title VI Native Education fund for a long list of activities, while another \$13,300 will go towards the purchase of music instruments for the middle and high school bands.

In the long-term funding category, \$6,400 was awarded to the Alger County Sheriff Department for lodging and law enforcement, \$1,500 to Au Train Township for general government services, \$4,000 to the City of Marquette for lodging and law enforcement, \$16,000 to the City of Munising for general government services plus another \$9,000 towards its recreational program, and \$1,500 to Munising Township for general government services.

Tribe welcomes interns



Photo by Brenda Austin

Summer interns start — (L-R) Education Director Stephanie Sprecker, Student Interns Delaney Cushman, Kenedy Hagan, David Daley, and Claire Leighton, Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes, Student Interns Hayden Prpich, Aimee Spring, Emilie Bigelow, and Executive Assistant Breanna Sliger. Intern Eva Collins is missing from photo.

www.saulttribe.com

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2LT Riley appointed commanding officer

On the evening of June 4, 2025, 2nd Lieutenant (2LT) Betty Riley of the CJCR Formation of the Royal Canadian Army

Reserve located in Blind River, Ontario, Canada, a Sault Tribe member, was sworn in as the incoming Commanding Officer

of both the 2407 Royal Canadian Army Artillery Cadet Corps and the 696 Royal Canadian Golden Wing Air Cadet Squadron.

This is a three-year appointment. During the swearing in ceremony, a presentation of the Sault Tribe flag was made to the

Blind River Legion President as the local sponsoring body, as well as medicine bags and the gift of a drumstick to the unit.



Above: 2LT Betty Riley, incoming commanding officer, with her change of command document. Below: During the swearing in ceremony, a presentation of the Sault Tribe flag was made to the Blind River Legion President as the local sponsoring body.



2LT Betty Riley, incoming commanding officer, Major Annetta Golder, area elemental advisor Algoma-Thunder Bay RCSU (Central)/ CJCR, vice chief of the Defense staff/ Canadian Armed Forces, 2LT David Bow, outgoing commanding officer, signing paperwork for the change of command.



Ziisbaakwad Minising Jiingtamok

SUGAR ISLAND POWWOW

JULY 18TH-20TH, 2025

NO VENDOR FEES
First come, first serve

RUSTIC CAMPING AVAILABLE
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Follow signs from the ferry

FRIDAY JULY 18TH

Sunrise Ceremony
Spiritual Gathering 12pm

SATURDAY JULY 19TH

1pm Grand Entry
5pm Feast
7pm Grand Entry

SUNDAY JULY 20TH

1pm Grand Entry

EMCEES
Shannon Martin
Josh Homminga

ARENA DIRECTOR
Bud Biron

HEAD VETERAN
Les Ailing

HEAD DANCERS
Jeremy Burnside
Melissa Causley

JR HEAD DANCERS
George Solomon
Poppy Solomon

HOST DRUM
Bahweting Singers

CO-HOST DRUM
Teal Lake Singers

FOR MORE INFO:

Follow "Sugar Island Traditional Powwow" on Facebook

SITRADITIONALPOWWOW@GMAIL.COM

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

A circular illustration featuring a white swan with its wings spread, a large turtle, and a person in a canoe. The background includes a rainbow and trees.

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

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 6th - Grand Entry at 12 p.m.

Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie Hotel Information
Call 1-800-539-2348

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

1st Place - \$10,000

2nd Place - \$8,000

3rd Place - \$6,000

4th Place - \$4,000

5th Place - \$2,000

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 — Two vacancies:

males (one 4-year term, one term expires July 2028)

Child Welfare Committee — One vacancy (4-year term); one vacancy, term expires November 2026; one vacancy, term expires January 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, term expires August 2026

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

Elder Subcommittees

Unit I — Sault: One regular vacancy, term expires September 2027

Unit II — Naubinway: Two

regular vacancies, one term expires October 2026 and one May 2027

Unit III — St. Ignace: One regular vacancy, term expires April 2027; one alternate vacancy, term expires March 2028

Unit IV — Escanaba: One regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV — Manistique: One regular vacancy, term expires November 2026

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

Unit V — Marquette: Two alternate vacancies, one term expires December 2027 and one 4-year term

Food Sovereignty Committee — Five vacancies (4-year terms); one vacancy, term expires February 2027

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.

Free Tai Chi for arthritis offered

Michigan State University Extension and University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center are offering a free online program of Tai Chi for Arthritis Part II July 10 through Sept. 11. Registration is free.

The program consists of 10 60-minute sessions.

Contact Anita Carter, carte356@msu.edu.

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.

June 18, 2025

Strawberry Moon

Ode’imin Giizis

Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor

Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary

Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer

Scott Brand.....Staff Writer

Win Awenen Nisitotung welcomes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising: \$8.50/column inch.

Submission and Subscriptions: Win Awenen Nisitotung

Attn: Communications Dept.

531 Ashmun St.,

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Telephone: (906) 632-6398

Fax: (906) 632-6556

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

Membership liaisons help answer your questions

Membership liaisons work to assist with membership issues and concerns. Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or individually at the contacts below. Although liaisons are located at sites across the seven-county service area, they serve all tribal members.

Michelle Moore

Available for in-person meetings at Sault Tribe Administration.

Phone: (906) 635-6050, Ext. 26359

Cell: (906) 259-3862

mmoore@saulttribe.net

Clarence Hudak

Lambert Center, St. Ignace, MI

(906) 643-2124

chudak@saulttribe.net

Mary Jenerou

Manistique Tribal Center,

(906) 341-8469

Munising Tribal Center, (906) 450-7011

mjenerou@saulttribe.net

Free rain barrels!

The Sault Tribe Natural Resource Division’s Environmental Program is launching its kooksak enji maawnjigadeg nbiish (barrel where the water is gathered) project. All Sault Tribe members are eligible to receive a free rain barrel just by signing up!

Rain barrels are a method of harvesting rainwater by connecting to a downspout and storing water for later use. Each rain barrel is fixed with a spigot to attach a hose or fill a watering can. You can install a rain barrel on your property and use the water on your lawn and landscaping. The practice of harvesting rainwater and using it to water your lawn, landscaping, and houseplants helps to reduce stormwater runoff that transports litter, motor oil, and other pollutants into local waterbodies. Rainwater is also free of additives common in tap water such as fluoride, salts, and inorganic ions that can accumulate in soil and potentially harm plant roots and microorganisms. It is also low in hard metals and slightly acidic, making it great for plants and your water bill!

To sign up for a free rain barrel, email Molly at the Sault Tribe Environmental Program: [mengelman@saulttribe.net](mailto:mengel-man@saulttribe.net), or call (906) 632-5575 ext. 73061.

Kewadin Casinos welcomes Derek O'Dell

Derek O'Dell has recently been hired by the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians to serve as director of security for all five of its casinos — Christmas, Hessel, Manistique, St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie — throughout the region.

“We want to standardize the response across the five locations,” said O'Dell, who will oversee approximately 70 people in his new role, “review and update our operating procedures.”

Future goals, he added, also include enhanced training for



staff, equipment upgrades where needed and new uniforms that will be standardized for all five locations.

The role will also include some travel to the individual sites for face-to-face meetings with staff and O'Dell was already looking forward to attending his first concert as director to get a feel for the security challenges posed by these events.

O'Dell left his post as the Sex Offender Registry and Notification Act (SORNA) coordinator, where he spent two years with the Sault Tribe, to take this new position.

He had previously served 25 years with Sault Ste. Marie City Police Department. The first 18 years were spent on the road patrolling before serving the last seven years in the sergeant's capacity.

Derek and wife, Jenni have two children, a daughter, Madison working to complete her post graduate work in college and 13-year-old son, Brayden, a student with the Sault Area Public Schools.

Make a difference in the life of a child, become a foster or adoptive home provider

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) is seeking caring individuals who can provide a safe and nurturing home for children who have been removed from their families due to abuse or neglect.

Foster care helps provide children with the physical, emotional, educational, and cultural support they need. It offers a substitute family life experience in a licensed or approved household.

Whenever possible, ACFS works to place children with relatives — whether licensed or unlicensed.

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 service area, helping ensure that children remain connected to their culture, no matter where they are placed.

Children may need foster care for a short time or an extended period. The primary goal is always to reunite children with their parents. Foster families are a vital part of the child's treatment plan and work closely with ACFS staff under a team-based approach. Together, they sup-

port the child and their family in efforts toward reunification.

When reunification is not possible, children are prepared for permanent placement, often with relatives or adoptive Native American families. In some cases, foster families may have the opportunity to adopt children in their care. For older youth, when adoption is not an option, the goal becomes preparing them for independent living.

You do not need to be married, own a home, or quit your job to become a foster parent. If you're working or continuing your education, you may qualify for day-care assistance. ACFS will work

with you to determine what kind of placement is the best fit for your household.

For more information, contact

ACFS at (906) 632-5250, toll-free at (800) 726-0093, or by email at acfs-fosterhomes@SaultTribe.net.

Tribe's Early Childhood Education programs accepting applications

The Sault Tribe Early Childhood Education Programs are now accepting applications for 2025-2026 school year. For more information or an application, call (906) 635-7722 or email ece@sault-tribe.net.

Early Head Start — Children 0-3 years old
Head Start — Must be 3 years old by Dec. 1, 2025
Child Care — Children 0-5 years old
*Priority given to families needing full-time care
*Priority given to members of federally recognized tribes

SATURDAYS IN JULY
Excluding Hessel July 12

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WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER
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Draws start at 5 p.m.

Win up to \$400
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See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. Must earn 50 base points to qualify for promotion.
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COASTS OF CASH
All Sites | Saturdays in June
Win Your Share of Over \$66,000 CASH and Credits

FRI-YAY
All Sites | Fridays in July
Win Your Share of Over \$23,000 Credits and Prizes

CAN-AM DAYS
All Sites | July 1 & July 4
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YOOPER SLOT TOURNAMENT
Christmas & Hessel - Mondays & Tuesdays | Manistique - Wednesdays & Thursdays
March 31 - September 4
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

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

DETROIT TIGERS TICKET GIVEAWAY
Sault Ste. Marie | Rapids Lounge | June 17, June 24, July 8, July 21
Chance to Win Future Detroit Tigers Tickets with Every Beer Purchased During Games

GOLF & PLAY
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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Check out our Happy Hour Specials. Visit our Facebook Page for more information
Point requirements for all promotions. See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details.

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Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Officer Brittney Bellville hired in February

BY SCOTT BRAND

Officer Brittney Bellville became the newest member of Sault Tribe Law Enforcement when she was hired in February.

The 2020 Manistique High School graduate earned her Associate’s Degree from Bay College in Escanaba before transferring to Lake Superior State University where she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Fish and Wildlife and her

Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice.

She brought some law enforcement experience to her new position having worked for the Chippewa County Sheriff’s Office in a part-time capacity in 2023 and full-time from July to October in 2024.

Her experience is not limited to just the road having served special assignments during her career on the trails

with snowmobile and off-road vehicle patrols, depending on the season, and in the boat on marine patrols throughout the St. Mary’s River system.

Bellville played high school volleyball for the Manistique Emeralds and also participated in track and field and cross country while in school.

Her current hobbies include walking her dog and hitting the gym.



May board briefs - walleye enhancement program

Approximately 100,000 walleye fingerlings will be stocked in Brimley Bay this year as the Sault Tribe Board of Directors approved a deal with the Bay Mills Indian Community for a 2025 Back Bay Walleye Enhancement Program.

The Sault Tribe will receive \$36,000 in compensation under the agreement.

In other action from the May 20 meeting the board approved

numerous resolutions including:

- Established a fiscal year 2025 budget for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) with federal U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) revenue monies of \$19,835 to serve approximately 25 households.

- Authorized the Tribal Chairman to submit lease proposals to HHS, Indian Health Services for the Sault Tribe

Health Center, Manistique Community Center, Munising Health Center, Newberry Health Center and the Gladstone Health and Fitness Center.

- Approved a contract with MetalQuest for the Health Division for \$66,500 plus additional monthly fees.

- Granted partial waivers for misdemeanor conviction clearing James Allard for employment in a gaming operation.

- Approved a security assessment and testing contract to World Wide Technology up to \$125,805 with an additional \$7,500 earmarked for consultant travel and incidentals.

- Approved the Broadband Electronics, Software and Services Agreement (BESSA) with Core Telecom Systems for \$390,457.11 from Cost Center 13071. This activity is fully grant-funded by the USDA Rural Utility Service ReConnect Grant with the same funding mechanism paying for the Broadband Outside Plant Materials Agreement with Millennium for a little under \$4.1

million with another \$87,051 for a BESSA agreement with that organization.

- Amended a loan agreement to close the JLLJ settlement negotiations adding \$7 million to the loan and increasing the timeline from seven to nine years.

The Sault Tribe remains in possession of the Sibley Parcel.

- Finally, the board approved personnel modifications and budgetary adjustments for Tanglewood Golf Course to meet operational needs, modified signature requirements and authorized the transfer of two commercial fishing licenses.

June board briefs - budgets pass and housing shortfall

The passage of the Fiscal year 2025 budget and numerous expenditures to address the housing shortfall highlighted the June 3 meeting of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors in St. Ignace.

The board approved the budget totaling \$69,984,228 with \$21,132,443 coming from Tribal Support. A \$643,500 modification was made to the Government Capital Expenditure budget with \$153,500 coming from Tribal Support.

The board approved the deforestation of tribal land on the Savard Property in St. Ignace. This will cover approximately 23 acres clearing the way for infrastructure — water, sewer, electricity, gas and roadways in preparation for new housing development.

The board agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Renovare Development, among others, to become a minority interest party in the Munising Marketplace Project. The new development will bring in 32 workforce housing units and 6,500 square-feet of community focused commercial and retail space. No tribal funds were committed to this project.

The board approved a contract with Kaysner Construction up to \$1.316 million for membrane roof replacement on 42 homes in Sawyer Village in Gwinn, Mich. It further approved up to \$877,457 for a contract with Timber Ridge Construction to replace the siding, windows and exterior doors on those same 42 homes.

The board approved an updated list of roads, parking lots and other properties for submission to Bureau of Indian Affairs as the tribe seeks to update its long-range transportation plan.

The Transportation Department also received the green light for a contract with

Kauffman and Associates, Inc. of up to \$150,000 for regional branding and design services.

An existing Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contract with Coleman Engineering was extended for three months while the board waits for the official bidding process to be completed for a new contract.

The board approved a list of up to six individuals to fill in for the prosecutor role as the current prosecutor is on leave.

Finally, the board waived sovereign immunity and consent as it entered into an agreement with N1Discovery as part of the ongoing process to improve online security.



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Local and National Tribal News
SaultTribeGuardian.com

Anishinaabemowin 2025

“If you’re not making mistakes, you’re not doing anything. If you’re afraid to fail, you will never do the things you are capable of doing.” John Wooden

Waa zhi kidying ‘Boozhoo’ Jiingtamog.

How we greet friends at the pow-wow.
(*Pwaaganigaawin* - our original word for pow-wow)
Aaniin niijii ! Hello my friend!
Aaniish naa? How’s it going?
N’mino-zhi-yaa. It’s all good.
Aapiji g’minaagwas! You’re looking great!
Miigwech. Mii go genii. Thanks. So do you.
Aapiji gwa n’maamiikwiya. I’m so excited!
Niibinaa bimaadizijig e-yaawag maampii nangwa. There are lots of people here today.
Aambiish namadabiwag kina g’ngodoode? Where are your family sitting?
Namadabiwag odi enji-kajigaak. They’re sitting over there in the shade.



Baamase-daa enji-jiingtamok.

Let’s walk around the pow-wow grounds.
Nooj-gegoo tenoon maampii. All kinds of things are here.
Oonh, nishike! Gnaajiwana maanda *tibninjiibzowin!* Oh, look! This *ring* is beautiful!
(You can substitute the following for ‘*ring*’)
* **zigaakwagan** (barrette) * **jiiskinikebizon** (bracelet)
* **mijigoodenh** (skirt or dress) * **wiikwaan** (head piece)
* **jiingtamok babagwayan** (pow-wow shirt)
* **naabishebzowin-an** (earrings)
(None of these items are considered alive so we use the ‘*gnaajiwana maanda*’ to say ‘This __ is beautiful.’)

We consider some items that don’t SEEM alive, to be *alive in spirit*. Notice how that changes the way to say “This _ is beautiful.”

Oonh, nishik e! Gnaajiwana maaba *naabkawaagan.* Oh, look! This *necklace* is beautiful.
(You can substitute the following for “*necklace*”)
* **mooshwen** (shawl) * **miigwaans** (feather)
* **es** (shell or clam) * **miziniiniins** (figurine)



Odemin Giizis Strawberry Moon

by Susan Askwith



Mijim-daawegamigoonsing...

At the food stand.
G’bakade na mshi? Are you hungry yet?
Enh, miinwaa kina gegoo minomaate! Yes, and everything smells good!
Wenesh waa yaaman? What will you have?
N’wii yaan zaasgookwaan-bkwezhigan. I want to have fry bread.
G’wii yaan na Anishinaabe taco? Do you want to have an Indian taco?
Kaa. N’wii yaan eshagiboodek bizhiki wiyaas. No. I want to have a hamburger.
Wemitigoozhii piniik dash? What about french fries?
Nahaaw. Aanind wemitigoozhii piniik iidik. Okay. Some french fries I guess.
G’wii minikwe na mindaamanaaboo? Do you want to have corn soup?
Gegeti gwa. Aapiji minaagmi aawan. Of course. It tastes really good.
Miinwaa n’wii minikwe menwaagamig maage bookde’minaaboo. And I want soda pop or lemonade.

G’kendaan na waa zhi zhigaayin?

Do you know how to dance?
Wi *g’chitwaa biingi* zhigaawin.

That is the *Grand Entry* dance.
(You can substitute the following for the dance names, in the sentence above.)

G’chi Anishinaabe	Men’s traditional
G’chi Anishinaabekwe	Women’s traditional
Memengwaan	Women’s fancy shawl
Bineshimok	Men’s fancy
Aandek	Crow hop
Niizhoo	Two step
Zhimogonish Minaajaa	Veterans’ honor

(Though “**Niimi**” says *S/he is dancing*. Another word, “**Zhigaawin**,” says *S/he is using particular moves like these dances do*.)



Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)

What did the braids say when they were feeling overwhelmed? “We need to weave our problems behind and move forward.” **Kaadenganan** - braids
What does a man do standing up, a woman do sitting down and a dog do by raising one leg? Shake hands! **Naaniibwik!** - Stand up! **Namadabik!** - Sit down! **Zagininjiizh!** - Shake hands!
What’s the best thing to put into an Indian Taco? Your teeth! **Wiibidan** - teeth
What do native kids say when they finally get Wi-Fi? “We’ve gone from smoke signals to signal bars!”

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!

What are sacred items and bundles among the Anishinaabe?

SACRED ITEMS

When we carry sacred items, we carry them with the recognition that everything in Creation has spirit, including the animals and plants, the rocks, the water, the moon and the stars. Even one feather of a bird has spirit. When we carry a feather in our bundle and use it for our personal prayers and in ceremony, we are calling on the spirit of that bird for help and guidance.

PIPE

A pipe can be a Grandmother or a Grandfather. Usually when women carry it, it is referred to as a Grandmother; when men carry it, it is called a Grandfather.

The pipe itself represents the woman and man, the bowl representing the woman, the stem, the man. The pipe was given to Native people as a way of communicating with the Creator, a direct link is formed. When the pipe is smoked or touched, people are putting their thoughts and prayers into it.

DRUM

The drum is the heartbeat of our people; it's the heartbeat of life. We live the first nine months of our lives within our mothers and we listen to the heartbeat; it sets the pattern of existence.

DRUMSTICK

There are various types of drumsticks. Some people refer to the drumstick as being part of the Thunderbirds. Other teachings say the drumstick is the arm of the Great Spirit who gives us a heartbeat.

RATTLE

It is said that before the Creator made everyone, the universe was in the darkness and the only sound was the sound that a shaker makes, the shaking of

seeds in a gourd.

The spirits are drawn in when many people use their shakers as they sing a song.

EAGLE FEATHER

The eagle feather is one of the ones who is closest to the Creator because he can fly so high and he spoke for the people.

In the old ways, if you did something remarkable for your people you had the right to an eagle feather. If a warrior proved himself in battle, facing an enemy, he received a feather.

Today the greatest enemy Native people face is alcohol and drugs. If you are in battle with one of these, you are in a battle for your life. When you overcome alcohol or drugs, you have won that battle and you become a warrior.

You earn an eagle feather and you have to live by it. It is a high honor to receive an eagle feather.

SACRED BUNDLES

Many First Nations people who follow their traditional teachings will have sacred items to help and guide them.

A sacred bundle can consist of one or many sacred items. It can be the little tobacco pouch that someone wears around their neck or it can be the items that the spirits have given to a person to carry for the people.

Personal Bundles

You may have a personal bundle that you have built with items you have gathered and that you take care of. This bundle is sacred to you. It contains items that help you in your personal development; it contains items that have given you a teaching and that you use in ceremonies. Maybe your parents or grandparents or an Elder gave you something to help

you on your path. All the contents of your bundle relate to you.

Your personal bundle may include medicines, your drum, a bowl, a rock, your colors, a feather, a staff, a rattle and your pipe. You may also carry a clan marker, something that represents your clan, such as a bear claw if you are of the Bear Clan. Tobacco is always first in your bundle. These items remind us of the beauty of Creation.

Bundles for the People

The bundles for the people are used for healing and ceremonies. It is said that these bundles contain things that the Nations need to survive. The Healers who carry the medicine bundles say they do not own these bundles. They say that our people's understanding is that we do not own anything, not even your physical body, which is given back to the earth when we die. They carry these items as gifts for the people. The Healers who take care of these bundles have been chosen by the spirits to carry on the teachings, the work and the responsibilities that come with these bundles.

Respecting and Honoring Sacred Items and Bundles

Some people display their sacred items in a special room or altar. Others keep them in the bundle until they are ready to use in ceremony. Some leave their feathers out as these may have been given to them to create calmness in the home.

People feast their sacred items four times a year with the seasons or twice a year in the spring and fall. Some people feast them every time they do a ceremony.

Referrals to Healers, Elders and Medicine People

As our awareness and knowl-

edge of our traditions and culture increases, so does our honor and respect for these ways. This has not always been the case in our communities.

There are always those who present themselves as Healers, Elders or Medicine People who have not earned that title and may use the teachings and medicines in the wrong way. It is important for everyone, especially young people, to be aware of this and to exercise caution when they seek healing, teachings or advice. It is advisable to consult with people whom you trust to get referrals to respected and recognized Traditional Healers, Elders and Medicine People.

To obtain a referral to a Healer, Elder or Medicine Person

in your area, or to make an appointment in the seven-county service area, call Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine at 906-632-5200, option 9.

Special acknowledgement is given to the following Healers and Elders who contributed their knowledge and understanding of the traditions and culture in the preparation of the brochures from which this article was taken: Jake Aguonia, Garnett Councillor, Harlan Downwind, Roger Jones, Rose Logan, Mary Louie, Dorothy Sam, Nelson (SugarBear) Shognosh, Geraldine Standup and Ella Waukey.

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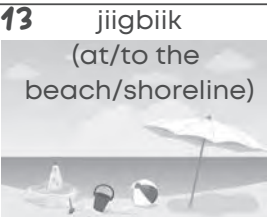
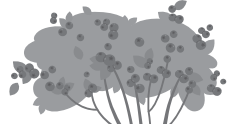
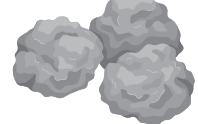
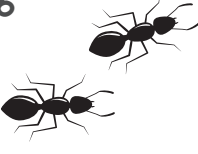
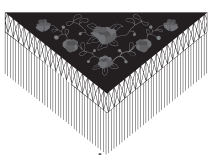
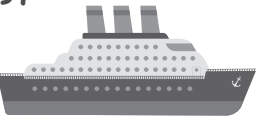
GERARD SAGASSIGE

2025 JULY CLINIC HOURS

<u>July 1,7,8,21,22,28,29</u> Sault Ste. Marie Health Center (906)632-0236	<u>Wednesday, July 2nd</u> St. Ignace Health Center (906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135
<u>Wednesday, July 9th</u> Manistique Health Center (906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043	
<u>Wednesday, July 23rd</u> Munising Health Center (906)387-4721 or (800)236-4705	<u>Wednesday, July 30th</u> Hessel Community Center (906)484-2727

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

MIIN GIIZIS (BLUEBERRY MOON) - JULY 2025

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAD	NTAM GIIZHIGAD	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAD	NSWO GIIZHIGAD	NIIWO GIIZHIGAD	NAANO GIIZHIGAD	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAD
		1  Bigiza. (S/he is swimming.)	2  memengwaan (butterfly)	3  eshkdamoonh (watermelon)	4  jiingtamok (powwow)	5  oboodashkwaanishiinh (dragonflies)
6  waasnoode (Northern lights)	7  Gojing wiisinidaa. (Let's eat outside.)	8  Googii. (S/he dives.)	9  endzhi- waabnda'ding (county fair)	10  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis. (It is a full moon.)	11  niibin (summer)	12  Chi-noodin. (It is very windy.)
13  jiigbiik (at/to the beach/shoreline)	14  Nchiiwat. (It is stormy weather.)	15  bashkwaanaajjiinh (bat)	16  naanooshkeshiinh (hummingbird)	17  Miinkedaa! (Let's pick blueberries!)	18  zhoonyaa (money)	19  miinkaa (lots of blueberries)
20  Bmaawnidwak. (They have a parade.)	21  Niimidaa! (Let's dance!)	22  Giizhaate giizhigad (It is a hot day.)	23  dewe'gan (drum)	24  zaasagokwaan bkwezhigan (fry bread)	25  waawaatesi (firefly/lightning bug)	26  enagoonhsag (ants)
27  wiingaashk (sweetgrass)	28  mkomii maagan (ice cream)	29  ookaanak (farm animals)	30  mooshwen (shawl)	31  Chi jiimaan (big boat/ship)		

Munising tribal graduates celebrated with catered dinner and traditional gifts

Cindy Reimer, Sault Tribe Youth Education Activities Services Coordinator for Unit 5, and Via Oulette-Ballas, Title VI Coordinator for Munising Public



Elizabeth Wing, president of the Munising Tribal Youth Council, talked about her involvement with the youth council and the Youth Education and Activities Program.

Schools, teamed up with the Teal Lake Drum to celebrate five tribal graduates. Students and their families were invited to the Munising Tribal Center for a catered dinner and dessert.



Munising graduates Connor Masters, Brooklynn Joyner, Natalie Holmes-Niven, Elizabeth Wing, and Bailey Corcoran.

In addition to dinner, students were also gifted with smudge boxes, sacred medicines, cords, and honor songs.



Teal Lake Drum and Singers

Triplets graduate with honors from Grayslake North

SUBMITTED BY GRANDMA MARIAN SCHRADER

Class of 2025 — Lucinda Schrader and Ryan Schmeling are proud to announce the graduation of their

triplets. Lucinda and the children are Sault Tribe members. Trevor, Pari and Larkin graduated from Grayslake North, Grayslake, Ill., with high honors on May 30,

2025.

They went from the NICU to being college bound. Congratulations!



Trevor Schmeling



Pari Schmeling



Larkin Schmeling

Mongene earns PhD in experimental psychology



Noelle Mongene, formerly of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., has earned her Doctor of Philosophy in experimental psychology from Oakland University. She is now beginning her career as a regulatory compliance specialist in the Research Office at Oakland University. Noelle is the daughter of Jerry and Glenda King.

JKL students thank tribe for support



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

JKL Middle School students (L-R back) Aidan Templeton, Tristan Harrer, Tristan Maumberg, Finnley Shreve (L-R front) Meeah Griffin, and Lauren Mortinsen recently visited the Sault Tribe Administration office in downtown Sault Ste. Marie to deliver a poster created by students and signed by teachers and staff thanking Sault Tribe and the JKL Fiduciary Committee for supporting the school with funding for things like school supplies and snacks, trips to places like Washington, D.C., NMU, and Camp Daggett, as well as fun activities like rafting.

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and Conservation

BY ROBERT MARCHAND, CHIEF OF POLICE

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) issues treaty hunting and fishing licenses to Sault Tribe members to be utilized within the boundaries of the 1836 Treaty area. If members have any questions regarding these licenses, the criteria for obtaining them, or the regulations governing their use, please contact our office at (906) 635-6065.

Inland Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering

The Bear and Elk application period ended June 2, 2025, at 5 p.m. Any applications received after this date and time will be returned to sender. The annual bear and elk application period is May 1 to May 31 (unless the 31st falls on a weekend; then, it will be the next business day at 5 p.m., which happened this year). However we started accepting applications as soon as they were placed in the tribal newspaper and on the website at the end of April. The Natural Resources Division has advised that the lottery drawing is scheduled to be held June 16, 2025. Please feel free to contact



Sault Tribe Law Enforcement any time after June 16 to find out if you were drawn for a bear tag.

If you are drawn for a bear tag, you are required to obtain your hunting harvest license before you are issued the bear permit. If you are drawn for an Elk tag, you will be contacted directly by the Natural Resource Division as there will be a required orientation for the elk tag winners that will be coordinated by the Natural Resources Division.

Spring turkey season ends on June 15, 2025.

If you have never held an Inland Harvest license with Sault Tribe, you are required to provide a copy of your tribal card along with

proof of hunter safety if you want to engage in treaty hunting rights. STLE offers a Youth Mentoring program that allows members under the age of 10 to participate. Please note that youth mentoring can only be utilized for a period of two years; also keep in mind that once the youth turn 10, they are no longer eligible for this program and will be required to provide proof of hunter safety. STLE recommends that they begin participation at 8 years of age so there is no lapse in licensing. Please contact our office for more information as there are other requirements to participate.

Chapter 21 of tribal code regulates Inland licenses. Please remember that if you are using this license for fishing purposes, you are only authorized to fish inland lakes and streams within the boundaries of the 1836 Treaty Area. There are some exceptions on specific bodies of water that you can read about in the tribal code. All tribal codes may be found online at saulttribe.com, select Government at the top, select Tribal Code from the drop-down list and choose Chapter 21 for inland rules and regulations.

Great Lakes Fishing – Subsistence/Netting and Commercial

All 2024 subsistence and commercial licenses expired Dec. 31, 2024. If you have not yet renewed either license for 2025, please make sure you are not engaging in any of the authorized activities for each license.

Commercial licenses – captains and helpers – require an appointment be made with STLE in order to renew each year. It is important that helpers and captains call to schedule their OWN appointments. STLE has to obtain specific personal information each year that only the member themselves can provide. Per the new CORA code, Captains are now required to report every second and fourth Wednesday of each month and no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time regardless of where they are commercial fishing. The report needs to be submitted online with the new CORA website, corafish.org. The dates in which you are required to report are available on the new CORA reporting system. The new CORA code is available at www.saulttribe.com (Government-Tribal

Code).

If you hold a subsistence license or subsistence netting license, please remember that you are required to turn in a monthly catch report by the 10th of each month, regardless of effort or no harvest. Please remember that these licenses are only valid on the Great Lakes within the boundaries of Sault Tribe’s 1836 Treaty Area. Chapter 20 of the tribal code and the CORA code regulate both subsistence licenses.

As a reminder, you are authorized to recreationally fish in the Great Lakes within the boundaries of our 1836 Treaty Area with just your non-expired membership card and following state of Michigan rules and regulations for the activity.

It is the members responsibility to educate themselves on the various rules governing our treaty rights; however, STLE is here to help members wade through the sometimes-complex rules. If you cannot find the information you are looking for in Tribal Code or CORA Code, please contact our office at (906) 635-6065 and ask to speak with a conservation officer.

How to control mosquitoes around your home

Spring has finally sprung in northern Michigan, and with it comes the joyous promise of sunny days on the water, outside barbecues, nature walks, and the relentless harassment of mosquitoes at every corner. While one of these is not like the other, all are certainly promises. Mosquito bites are expected from Michigan summers, but we’re not completely helpless in the fight against them. Everyone can do their part to reduce mosquito breeding around their homes to help control the mosquito population.

Mosquitoes have been tormenting humans and other animals for over 200 million years, and they exist on every continent except Antarctica. There are over 3,500 different species of mosquitoes, and Michigan is home to around 65 of them. One of the most common mosquitoes in Michigan is Aedes vexans, also known as the floodwa-

ter mosquito. This mosquito gets its name from its tendency to lay its eggs on dry-ground that is prone to flooding.

Aedes vexans is not the only mosquito reliant on water – in fact, the general mosquito life cycle depends on water. Many adult mosquitoes lay their eggs on the surface of still water, forming a small, floating “egg raft.” Once submerged, the eggs will hatch as larvae (also known as “wigglers”) that live and feed in the water until they enter the pupa stage, from which the new adult will emerge.

Knowing basic mosquito biology can help with implementing control strategies. There are two main ways to target mosquitoes: as terrestrial adults, or as aquatic eggs and larvae. The following describes key strategies for at-home mosquito abatement.

Remove standing water

There are a myriad of places

around a home where water can pool and support mosquito eggs and larvae. Things like buckets, planters, tires, pools, birdbaths, and tarps are just one rainfall away from being the next mosquito breeding hotspot.

— Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or dispose of any items that collect and hold water around your home.

— Storage containers should be tightly covered to prevent mosquito access. For containers without lids, wire mesh with holes 1 millimeter or less should be used.

— Fill large tree holes with expanding foam used for home insulation projects. This foam is light weight, seals the hole, keeps it from collecting water, and is flexible enough to move with the tree. Do not fill a tree hole that does not collect water – these are important homes for birds and small mammals.

Repair cracks or gaps in your septic tank

You may not think of your septic tank as a nice place to hang out, but mosquitoes will beg to differ. One broken or improperly sealed septic tank can produce thousands of mosquitoes each day. Mosquitoes are on the look-out for septic tanks that are open or unsealed, broken with cracks or spaces between the blocks, and missing ventilation pipe screen covers. Contact a licensed septic tank installer to seal the tank, repair cracks or gaps in exterior walls, cover the vents or plumbing pipe openings, or fill abandoned or unused septic tanks with dirt or gravel.

Apply insecticides

“Insecticide” can be an intimidating word, but mosquito insecticides are great tools for mosquito abatement and safe for the environment when administered properly.

Larvicides are used in water where mosquitoes lay their eggs. Larvicides come in many forms, including dunks, tablets, bits, pellets, granules, and liquids. You can use larvicides in any water around your home that is not used for drinking and cannot be covered, dumped or removed.

Adulticides can be used outdoors where mosquitoes rest in moist, shady areas such as under plants, in dense brush or tall grasses, under the eaves of buildings, and under decks and porches. Mosquito control professionals can also be hired to apply adulticides.

Always apply insecticide according to the product label. For information on insecticides, visit the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) online or through a toll-free number 1-800-858-7378.

For more information on mosquitoes and at-home mosquito abatement, visit CDC.gov.

Help prevent the spread of aquatic non-local beings

BY AMY SCHNEIDER, SAULT TRIBE NATURAL RESOURCES FISHERIES BIOLOGIST

A growing concern for environmental and outdoor enthusiasts alike is the presence of non-local beings, plants and animals that have spread outside their native habitat. The Sault Tribe has a rich history and relationship with the Great Lakes, St. Marys River, surrounding water bodies and the local beings that call them home, making aquatic non-local beings a point of interest for Gidayaangwaami’idimin Ezhi-inawendiyang (The Sault Tribe Natural Resources Division).

A hallmark of non-local beings is that they have negative impacts on all native beings in the region. For example, European frog-bit is a non-local plant that can create a dense mat over the surface of

lakes, bays, and ponds that shades out native plants and makes recreational activities like swimming or boating challenging. Non-local sea lamprey feed on Atikameg (lake whitefish), Namegos (lake trout), and other native species that are important to tribal fishers and the health of the environment. Additionally, non-local zebra and quagga mussels consume algae and phytoplankton at extremely high rates, both of which are important food sources that local fish depend on. These mussels can cause financial damages and safety concerns by clogging pipes.

A lot of aquatic non-local beings have been transported by inadvertently by humans, hitching a ride on boats, trucks, trailers, fishing gear, or even shoes! Many people wonder what they can do

to help stop the spread of aquatic non-local beings, and one answer is to take the time to carefully clean their personal gear after enjoying outdoor activities.

The Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!™ campaign has laid out three easy-to-remember steps that anyone can use to slow the spread of non-local beings: Clean Drain Dry TM.

• CLEAN: After boating, biking, off-roading, fishing, hiking, or swimming, users should clean off any visible aquatic animal and vegetation from surfaces such as boats, trailers, tires, boots, and any other equipment used.

• DRAIN: Following that, draining watercraft bilges, motors, and any other water that may have collected in the equipment will make certain that

See “Spread,” page 15

Turn your weekends into Adventures!

Recreational Loans from Soo Co-op Credit Union.

**Sault Ste. Marie - Brimley - Bay Mills
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www.soocoop.com

NCUA Insured

Bear safety tips for the Hiawatha National Forest

FROM THE USFS

For enhanced public safety, you can take precautions to minimize negative interactions with bears. Though black bears are located throughout the Hiawatha National Forest, they are most frequently sighted on Grand Island.

“In the last couple of years, we’ve seen significant bear activity near areas where people have left food and garbage out,” Brina Hinch, Area Manager for

Grand Island National Recreation Area, said. “When bears become habituated to the presence of people, the level of risk increases for both parties. Last year, three bears were relocated from Grand Island. We hope that our visitors will exercise a high level of personal preparedness, so humans and bears stay safe.”

Follow these guidelines to help prevent an unwanted encounter:

— Prepare for camping prior to arrival by packing trash bags

and bear resistant canisters.

— Watch for bear sign (scat, tracks) at or near day use areas and campsites.

— Never intentionally feed a bear.

— Keep eating areas clean.

Minimize food odors and waste. Keep cooking, eating, and cleaning activities downwind of your tent or picnic area. Wash utensils shortly after eating to minimize odors. Do not leave food laying out. Do not leave lunchboxes or

coolers unattended.

— Do not keep scented items in tents. All campsites on Grand Island have either bear-proof lockers and/or bear poles to safely store food and items such as sunscreen and lip balm.

— Don’t sleep in clothes that have cooking odors or liquids on them.

— Store trash as you would food. Do not burn or bury it.

— Use caution to avoid surprising bears. Be extra aware

when approaching blind curves, dense vegetation, or noisy streams where a bear may not see, hear, or smell you approaching. Simple precautions such as speaking in a louder voice than normal or whistling can allow a bear to hear you approaching. Do not carry bear spray unless you know how to properly use it.

Day users should also be mindful of their personal belongings, especially during stops at recreation sites.

Dirt to Glass 2025: From intention to impact – advancing the future of Michigan wine

BY PAOLO SABBATINI, JENNIFER BERKEY, AMANDA DANIELSON, KATE EDWARDS AND VERONICA DRAGOVICH, MSUE

The 2025 Dirt to Glass conference marks a pivotal moment in the evolution of Michigan’s wine industry. Centered on the theme “From Intention to Impact,” this fourth annual meeting convenes viticulturists, winemakers, growers, researchers, policymakers and industry stakeholders to reflect on the state of the industry and accelerate its advancement through collective insight and action.

Since its inception in 2021, Dirt to Glass has grown from an industry-driven initiative into a model of integrated innovation, where research, practice and policy converge to shape Michigan’s grape and wine identity. This year’s reimagined format strengthens the conference’s core mission. A full day of discussion and knowledge exchange is followed by a second day of immersive, on-site vineyard sessions. This structure is designed not simply to inform but to activate, moving from theory to application, and from conversation to collaboration.

Day 1 – From roots to results: Dirt to Glass 2025 plants the future of Michigan wine

The opening session, led by Amanda Danielson of Intentional Agriculture and Paolo Sabbatini, PhD, of Michigan State University, will synthesize contributions from industry stakeholders gathered over the past three editions of the conference. Through a reflective analysis, the session will articulate a vision that sets a purposeful tone for the day, acknowledging the progress achieved while critically addressing the challenges that remain. The charge for Dirt to Glass received from the stakeholders is clear: for Michigan to fulfill its potential, the industry must move from asking what is possible to deciding what is necessary, aligning around shared priorities and strategic decisions.

This tone of focused intentionality continues with the morning keynote from Katie Nelson, chief winemaker for Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. Drawing from her extensive experience in Washington State, Nelson outlines the realities of scaling a premium wine business in a competitive national market, where long-term sustainability and grower relationships must be treated as non-negotiable. Her perspective bridges inspiration with practicality, emphasizing that excellence is indeed scalable, but only when trust, quality and strategic clarity

are embedded at every level.

Following her address, Nelson joins Bryan Ulbrich of Left Foot Charley for a discussion on the real-world dynamics that define success or failure in the wine business. Their conversation, grounded in decades of experience, will discuss the impact of daily decisions that build trust across the value chain; from grower-winery negotiations to distributor partnerships and brand-consumer communication.

The conference continues into a blind tasting session led by Tim Godfrey of Lake Michigan College. Without knowledge of grape variety, origin or price point, participants are invited to assess five wines purely on sensory characteristics. Free from expectation and comparison, the wines will reveal the strength of the region’s evolving identity and how the industry can tell that story more effectively, both within and beyond state borders.

In the afternoon, the conference shifts its focus toward resilient viticulture. Sabbatini will present emerging research on vineyard design, highlighting the strategic potential of new generations of PIWI grape varieties, fungus-resistant hybrids that offer adaptability to disease pressure and climate stress without compromising wine quality. The presentation will stress decisions in vineyard establishment that will define not only short-term production, but also long-term competitiveness and sustainability. This theme is expanded by Bruno Basso, PhD, of Michigan State University, internationally recognized agroecosystem scientist and founder of The Soil Inventory Project. Basso will address compelling connections between soil carbon capture, data-driven land management and vineyard profitability, dismantling the misconception that sustainability is a cost center rather than a strategic asset. His presentation integrates cutting-edge research performed in Michigan vineyards with real-world application, demonstrating how healthy soils and precise input management can lead to both environmental resilience and economic return.

As the day progresses, attention turns to the market-facing realities of Michigan wine. A panel led by Paul Hannah of Meijer explores the economic landscape in which Michigan wines must compete, where authenticity, transparency and perceived value increasingly dictate consumer behavior. Insights from retailers and distributors reinforce that premium positioning requires more than quality alone; it

demands alignment between product, pricing, narrative and strategic intent.

The day’s most pivotal moment of the conference emerges from the grower community itself. In a panel moderated by Lee Lutes of Black Star Farms, vineyard owners and winemakers from different regions will discuss about the complexity and unpredictability of farming high-quality fruit in Michigan.

From changing disease pressures to workforce challenges and market fluctuations, their experiences will deliver high-level insights in the realities of soil, weather and risk.

To close Day 1 of the conference, Danielson and Sabbatini will lead a real-time survey with an interactive session to invite attendees to synthesize the day’s learning and articulate actionable takeaways. In this way, participants will help shape a shared roadmap, transforming insight into strategy and conversation into coordinated next steps for Dirt to Glass 2026.

The intention of Day 1 is designed to flow directly into the second day of the conference, where ideas move into practice, and the impact of research and collaboration is observed in Michigan vineyards.

Day 2 – From concept to canopy: Walking the future row by row

Day 2 of Dirt to Glass transitions from the conference hall to the vineyard rows where theory is tested and translated into action. This mobile series of vineyard visits across the Old Mission and Leelanau peninsulas serves as a living laboratory for future-ready viticulture. Rather than a passive tour, the day functions as an applied masterclass in strategic vineyard management, each stop connecting directly to the themes explored in Day 1.

The tour begins at Lyon’s Merlot Vineyard, where John Lyon, Christie Apple (Crop Scout Christie) and Beau Shacklet (TRICKLEEZ Precision Drip Irrigation Systems) guide participants through the decision-making process behind site selection, soil texture analysis, irrigation layout and microclimate adaptation. This visit reinforces the foundational importance of design in shaping vineyard performance and longevity.

From there, the group arrives at Chateau Chantal, where the spotlight turns to PIWI grape varieties. Building on Sabbatini’s earlier presentation, this session, led by Eric Amberg of Amber Grape Vines, Edson Pontes, PhD, of Wayne State University, Derrick Vogel

of Folklor Wine and Cider and Karen Chou of Michigan State University, will demonstrate the practical outcomes of deploying disease-resistant cultivars in Michigan’s conditions. Spray protocol comparisons, vine growth assessments and tasting evaluations provide clear, field-based evidence of PIWIs’ potential to reduce inputs while maintaining wine character.

Next, at Le Tre Sirene, the focus shifts to soil health and regenerative practices. Basso, along with Megan Barlow of Wilbur Ellis and Dennis Phillips of Michigan State University, guide attendees through cover crop trials and root-zone ecology assessments. The team illustrates how nutrient cycling and microbial diversity contribute not only to vine vitality but also to greater environmental and financial sustainability, bringing full-circle the soil science introduced in Day 1. At that site, a new generation of drones will also be demonstrated, equipped not only with high-resolution cameras and sensors for vineyard evaluation, but also with precision spray application tools. These advanced UAVs represent a significant step forward in integrating remote sensing with targeted vineyard management practices.

At Rove Estate, participants engage with biodiversity and undervine management. Presenters Wes Mateuciak of Mari Vineyards, Creighton Gallagher of Rowe Estate and Dave Bos of Bos wine showcase ecological design strategies, including ground cover integra-

tion and habitat restoration, that support vine health while reducing reliance on chemical weed control.

The group then moves to Isidor’s Choice, where Jacopo Miolo of Simonit & Sirch and Lee Lutes of Black Star Farms demonstrate the tangible effects of vine spacing, trellis systems and pruning architecture on airflow, sun exposure, disease management and operational efficiency. Through comparative plantings, participants observe how these decisions influence both vineyard labor requirements and final wine expression.

The final vineyard stop, Moreno Vineyard, offers a longer-term perspective on soil stewardship and vine age. Charlie Edson, PhD, Craig Cunningham and Theo Medendorp of Morgan Composting share how composting, organic matter restoration and microbial life sustain mature vines and contribute to wine depth and structure.

A shared lunch at Rove Estate provides space for conversation, reflection and synthesis.

Join growers, winemakers, scientists and industry leaders for two days of conversation, cutting-edge research and practical collaboration Aug. 21-22 in Traverse City. Find the detailed program for Day 1 and Day 2 of the conference and register at Dirt to Glass.

This conference is possible through the leadership, collaboration and dedication of a diverse planning committee that brings together expertise from all sectors of Michigan’s wine industry.

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Shedawin Haven hosts grand opening

BY SCOTT BRAND

On May 28, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians celebrated the grand opening of Shedawin Haven, located at 2318 Shunk Road. It is a dedicated safe place for tribal and community members to commit to their recovery journey through standard and traditional practices as well as educational and support group services.

“It’s going to be a busy building,” predicted TAP Coordinator Patrick McCoy as he provided a tour of the new facility named after Charlie and Harriet Shedawin. “They started the substance abuse recovery program for the Sault Tribe.”

The “plug in the jug” crew also consisted of Clarence “Bouncer” Cadreau and John “Muggo” Nolan, elders who embraced sobriety and successfully encouraged young tribal members to follow in their footsteps.

“These were our role models,” said McCoy, speaking to those in attendance about the four large photographs adorning the walls of Shedawin Haven. “They helped guide us into recovery. People respected them then and they still do now.”

“It is truly an honor to stand here today as we open the doors to hope and recovery,” said Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes ahead of the ribbon-cutting ceremony. He added the building not only honors Harriet and Charlie Shedawin, but all those who move into recovery. “Their legacy lives on in this space.”

Unit I Director Aaron Payment recalled a long-ago conversation with Charlie Shedawin that still resonates with him today, urging tribal members to return to their traditional ways and 100 percent

abstain from drugs and alcohol.

“I got sober 33 years ago to support my sister’s sobriety,” said Payment. “She told me, ‘it’s hard to be sober when you don’t have any family members to be sober with.’”

McCoy said the new facility will help provide that support network serving as a gathering place for Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Wellbriety and other activities including some traditional healing, drumming, youth education and the Elders Recovery Council. The dates and times of upcoming meetings will be posted as the individual programs begin to coalesce.

Renovation on the structure began in 2024 with Sault Tribe Construction handling the bulk of the work on Shedawin Haven, with Sault Tribe Health Division CEO James Benko recognizing the efforts a young tribal member — Isis Zaliyah — in bringing

some of the finishing touches to the interior of the building.

“It’s been three weeks of sanding and painting,” said Zaliyah, who specializes in Native American Paintings, during a March interview. “At this point I’ve gotten paint on pretty much everything I own.”

Zaliyah did, however, manage to find a paint-free outfit for the grand opening after continuing to toil, estimating it took nearly 15 weeks in the building to restore the old Shedwin sign and complete the woodland design border that decorates the main gathering place inside the facility.

“She put hours and hours into this job,” noted McCoy.

Despite her young age of 19, Zaliyah has produced numerous paintings and even had one of her

works exhibited at the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., following a nationwide competition of all artists between the ages of 14 and 31.

“My dad’s a tattoo artist and my mom sews,” she said of her inspiration for creativity. “And I had some teachers who definitely helped.”

She also identified Art Teacher Katrina Cymbalist and Wood Shop Teacher Mr. Warner for their contributions to her development in this medium.



Above, Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes cuts the ribbon officially opening Shedawin Haven. Below, Bud Biron performs a welcome song.



Above and below, guests claiming informational pamphlets, gifts and refreshments before visiting with one another at the event.



Above, Isis Zaliyah poses with her paint and brushes. Below, TAP Coordinator Pat McCoy makes a presentation.



Zaliyah painting the border.



L-R: Community members Jessica Perry, Maria Perry, and Julie Perry attending the grand opening.

Photos by
Jennifer Dale-Burton
and Scott Brand

1950s themed sock hop brings joy to Sault Tribe elders - celebrating community and connection

BY CHELSEA AIKENS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, SAULT TRIBE ELDER SERVICES

Friday, May 16, from 5-7 p.m., a 1950's prom was held for elders at Elder Services. The idea for the 1950s Sault Tribe Elders Sock Hop/Prom has been in my heart since I first joined Elder Services nearly two years ago. From the beginning, my goal was to create

meaningful, joy-filled moments for our elders—people who have shaped our community with their wisdom, strength, and stories. While our holiday-themed bingo events were a hit, I felt we could do something even more special—something that would let our elders step back in time, celebrate life, and feel cherished outside of regular business hours. That dream

sparked the idea for an elders prom, starting with a lively 1950s theme and growing through different decades in the future. With the support of our Division Director Katie Peabody, who immediately embraced the vision, the planning began. What started with monthly meetings soon turned into weekly sessions as excitement grew. We poured our

hearts into every detail—from music to décor to the homemade milkshakes and snow cones served by my daughters, Natalie and Iris. My dad and stepmom, Paul (a Unit 3 Sault Tribe Elder) and Julia Davenport, generously volunteered as our DJs and kept the dance floor alive. We were thrilled when over 20 elders and staff danced the night away, laughing and enjoying

every moment. Myah McKerchie from Gaming also volunteered her time, and our heartfelt congratulations go to Aimee Penrose and Tom Cook, our prom queen and king. This event was more than a party—it was a celebration of community, connection, and the joy our elders so deeply deserve. I'm beyond grateful to everyone who made this night unforgettable.



Natalie Aikens and Mary Sawyers slinging milkshakes and snowcones with help from Phil Nertoli (not shown).



Dianne Compo & Tim Lalonde



From left, Phillip Nertoli, Mary Sawyers, Allison Rader, Chelsea Aikens, Katie Peabody, Kayla Brown, and Tonya Robbins. Below left, Brenda and Tom Cook.



Iris Aikens (left) serving punch to Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes and his daughters Eden and Emilia Lowes.



Danny and Jean Cadotte with Tonya Robbins, RN.



DJ's Paul and Julia Davenport.

Photos by Chelsea Aikens & Brenda Austin



Chelsea Aikens, Joseph Harper, and Allison Rader.



Joseph Harper and Darin Smith.



Prom Queen and King, Aimee Penrose and Tom Cook.



Carol Lawrence feeling the good vibes in her poodle skirt.

JKL Bahweting School summer powwow



Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton

The school gymnasium was packed for this event as family, friends and other community members all convened to celebrate the annual summer powwow with students on May 30, 2025.

More than 1,200 attend Manistique powwow



Dancers honor military veterans in attendance with a handshaking ceremony.

This group of Manistique YEA dancers pose together before heading out into the circle.



Rita Bouley with Autumn Pavlat.

Color coordinated regalia.

Cathy DeVoy with granddaughter.

Waiting for the Master of Ceremonies to determine the spot dance winner.



A young hoop dancer performs.

Trio of well-dressed dancers waiting in the wings.

Elder groups from both Escanaba, above and Manistique, below, turned out to man booths at June 7, 2025, event.



Left, the silent auction table housed a variety of goodies that drew interest and bidding wars throughout the day. Right, a solemn moment during the day's celebration.

Photos by
Kim Hampton
and
Jennifer
Dale-Burton

Simple food safety tips for grilling outside

BY TARA HOVIS, MSUE

Whether you grill outside all year long or just in warm weather, MSU Extension has simple tips to make your food safe.

As the weather turns warmer, people everywhere head outside to grill. Take these precautions to make sure that no one will be getting sick from the food you prepare and serve.

Always wash your hands with warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds before, during, and after handling food. This includes switching between tasks, like prepping raw meat and ready-to-eat foods.

Use separate utensils, cutting boards and serving dishes for raw and cooked foods. Never serve any food on the same dish



that held raw meat, poultry, or fish. Thoroughly wash each item with warm, soapy water

before re-using. Keep clean cookware and utensils handy to serve cooked food to avoid

spreading bacteria from raw meats, poultry or seafood.

Marinate food in the refrigerator, not on the countertop or outdoors. If you plan to use some of the marinade to brush on during grilling for sauce on the cooked food, be sure to set some aside before mixing the marinade with raw meat, poultry, or seafood.

It is safe to partially cook the meat in the microwave or stove only if it goes directly to the grill to finish cooking. Think of it as all one cooking process and cook the meat thoroughly all at once. If you must cook ahead, you can also cook the meat completely and then cool it fast for reheating on the grill later.

Use a food thermometer to

make sure meats reach safe internal temperatures:

- Chicken or turkey, 165
- Ground beef patties, 160
- Steaks, 145 to 160
- Pork chops, 145

To keep your grilled foods hot (above 140 degrees°F) and to avoid overcooking, move the product to the side of the grill rack, just away from the heat.

Never leave perishable food out of the refrigerator for more than 2 hours.

When outdoor temperatures reach 90 degrees Fahrenheit, food should not be left out for more than one hour.

Don't take any chances with your family and friends health: keep cold foods cold, and hot foods hot. And when in doubt, throw it out.

Emergency Commodity Assistance Program

COREY CLARK, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

The Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) is a government program administered by the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). It provides funds to farmers to offset income loss in 2024 due to increased input costs and reduced crop prices.

To qualify for ECAP, you must be actively farming and be responsible for input expenses for a covered crop. You also need

to have reported your 2024 crop acreage to FSA for crops planted as well as prevented planting.

Eligible crops include corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, rice and many kinds of legumes and oil seeds.

Your payment is based on how many acres you planted, not how much you harvested. Each crop has a fixed payment per acre.

You can find these payment amounts on the USDA's ECAP website at farmers.gov. If you planted the crop, you can get the

full payment per acre. If you had prevented planting, you can get half the payment.

At first, farmers will receive 85% of the total payment amount. If there are funds remaining after the application period ends, farmers may get some or all of their remaining payment amount. You can use USDA's ECAP online calculator to estimate your payment.

Payment limits for ECAP depend on how much of your income came from farming in

2020, 2021 and 2022. If less than 75% of your total income in those years came from farming, you can get up to \$125,000. If 75% or more of your income came from farming, you can get up to \$250,000. To receive the higher payment limit of \$250,000, you must include Form CCC-943 with your application. This form must be certified by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Enrolled Agent (EA) or attorney.

Applications are being accept-

ed until August 15, 2025. Most farmers received a pre-filled ECAP application in the mail in March. If you didn't get one, contact your local FSA office. You can apply online through login.gov, in person at your local FSA office, by mail or by email.

All other required forms (except the CCC-943) are typically filed from other programs.

For questions or help with your application, contact your local FSA office or visit USDA's ECAP webpage.



Crop farm harvesting corn. Image by Loren King, Pixabay

Help prevent the spread of aquatic non-local beings

From "Prevent," page 9
any potential leftover plants and animals will be removed from the gear.

• DRY: Lastly, leaving all equipment to dry (five days is suggested) will help kill any aquatic species missed while cleaning and draining. Wiping the equipment down with a towel can be a good substitute for folks who plan to use their gear sooner.

Following the Clean Drain DryTM procedure is an effective way for anybody to stop the spread of aquatic non-local beings. This is especially important when transporting personal gear between multiple different water bodies. For anglers, disposing of any unused bait in the trash

is another step that can also help eliminate the spread of aquatic species. Live bait or pets should never be released into any water-body; unfortunately for the native plants and animals, non-local goldfish are found in all five of the Great Lakes!

By continuing to be mindful of the potential for transporting aquatic beings, you can make a difference in slowing the spread of non-local beings. For more information regarding aquatic non-local beings and what can be done about them, please go to <https://stopaquaticchitchik-ers.org/> or reach out to Sault Tribe Fisheries Biologist Amy Schneider at aschneider@saulttribe.net.

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Scholarships are funded through the Tribal Education Department (TED) Grant awarded to Sault Tribe by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

Walking on...

DANIEL “DANNY” LEE LEEK

Daniel “Danny” Lee Leek, 61, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away May 19, 2025. He was born Jan. 17, 1964, in Amarillo, Texas, to Tommy Lee and Doris Lorene (Foster) Leek.



Danny lived a life defined by hard work, love for family, and a free spirit. He grew up on the road but spent most of his youth in Amarillo, Texas where he graduated from Ulysses High School. He worked in construction, concrete, and drywall for 18 years before moving to Sault Ste. Marie where he began a new chapter as a machinist at Precision Edge.

A true hippie at heart, Danny had a deep love for live rock concerts and the open road. He was a passionate NASCAR fan, especially of Jeff Gordon, and a dedicated follower of the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Longhorn football. Whether it was a backyard bonfire with his kids and grandkids, refinishing something old and bringing it back to life, or just enjoying the moment, Dan had a carefree and generous spirit that left a mark on everyone he met.

Danny is survived by his sons, Ted (Amy Pulmer) Krogh, Francis (Vickie) Gardner, and George (Amy Plont) Krogh, all of Sault Ste. Marie; sister, Reletta Clemiski; nephew, Dallas Leek; niece, Amanda Maravilla; and his many beloved grandchildren; Tyler Krogh, Tedd Krogh, Travis Krogh, Takota Krogh, Thomas Krogh, Jennifer Goetz, Trenton Goetz, Siera Krogh, Owen Kravis, Travis Kravis, Able Kravis, Tyler (Sheila) Robinson, Nicole Kravis, Ronnie Krogh, Brendon Krogh, Jenn Gardner, Jonathon Gardner, Delynn Avery, Jessica Gardner, Brian McLeod, Gary Kravis; great-grandchildren Arora Kraus, Zander Kravis, Israel Kravis, Judah Kravis, Haylie Robinson, Landon Robinson, Carter Robinson, and Leland Robinson; nieces and nephews, Dallas Leek, Amanda Marvavilla, Maliah, Analiah, and Rayliah; and close friends from the Dondee crew, Reesa Thompson and Roy Suggitt.

Danny was preceded in death by his parents, Tommy and Doris; significant other, Sandra Gardner; brother, Stanley Leek; and sister, Cindy Hill.

Visitation was held on Friday, May 23, 2025, at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., with a traditional ceremony following.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Ball Hospice House for all of their hard work and care while helping Danny.

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

EDWARD KAPLAN

Edward Kaplan, 72, passed away at his home on May 25,

2025. Edward was born Aug. 6, 1952, to David and Beatrice Kaplan in Cheboygan, Mich. He graduated from Ashtabula Harbor High School in 1971 and later obtained a degree from Northern Michigan University in pipe and combination welding. Edward joined the U.S. Coast Guard in 1972 and was deployed to Thule, Greenland, serving on the USCGC Southwind and touring the Arctic Circle. He was honorably discharged in 1976.



During his service, he met his wife, Pamela, and they were married in 1975 in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Ed was then employed by Upper Peninsula Power Company as a Maintenance Generational Specialist. He worked at the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette, Mich., later at the Escanaba City Power Plant, and also at the Victoria Dam in Rockland. He retired in 2012.

Ed and his wife resided in Greenland, Mich., where they raised their two sons. He was a member of the IBEW, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and the American Legion Post in Rockland, Mich.. Ed loved living in the Upper Peninsula and enjoyed outdoor activities like hunting and fishing. In his later years, he enjoyed ATV riding with friends.

He is survived by his wife, Pamela (Hallesy); his two children, Gregory and Michael; his brothers, Gary Kaplan (Debra Blair) and David Kaplan (Kathy); his sister, Beth Ann Vierra (Victor); his sister-in-law, Jolyn Kaplan; and his brother- and sister-in-law, Barbara and Michael Wirt. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, David Kaplan; his mother, Beatrice Kaplan; and his two brothers, Greg Kaplan and Terry Kaplan.

Eds family would like to extend their gratitude to the Northwest Cancer Center in Ashland Wisc., and KBIC Health System in Baraga, Mich. for their wonderful care.

There are currently no formal services scheduled, per Ed’s request.

BARBARA LYNN KUBONT

Barbara Lynn Kubont, 73, passed away May 16, 2025, at Abridge Care Cottage in Chilton, Wisc. She was born Feb. 9, 1952



to Robert (Bob) and Ardiith (Mary) Amyotte. She graduated from Sault Ste. Marie High School and later from Lake Superior State University. On June 6, 1980, Barb married the love of her life, Michael Kubont, and together they began their life in Escanaba, Mich.

Barb had a successful career as an Operator at Michigan Bell,

where she worked in Operator Services, Information, and the Marine Band/Channel, handling Ship-to-Shore calls. On Nov. 10, 1975, Barb received the distress call from the Edmund Fitzgerald before contact was lost; her next call came from the Arthur M. Anderson relaying the Fitzgerald’s final distress message. Barb remained on the line with the Arthur M. Anderson for hours, well past the end of her shift—a call that deeply impacted her the rest of her life.

Barb retired from Michigan Bell/AT&T at the age of 51. Barb had a talent for creating beautiful handmade cards, which were cherished by friends, family, and the VA community. An avid Packer fan, she also enjoyed camping, bike riding, gardening, cooking, and participating in church activities.

Barb was actively involved with the VA, Community Action Escanaba, and her church, Central United Methodist Church, dedicating her time and energy to causes close to her heart.

Barb was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Mike, on Nov. 6, 2008, as well as her parents, Robert and Ardiith Amyotte, and her uncle, Bernard Parr. She is survived by her brother, Robert Amyotte, and his wife Sharon; her aunts and uncle, Sandra Parr, Pauline Sauro, and Thomas Lawrence; along with many cherished cousins.

Special thanks to the dedicated caregivers at Abridge Care Cottage—Hailey, Lisa, Molly, Erica, Chyann, and Sandy for the thoughtful care and special haircuts that brought Barb so much joy and Jennifer for the wonderful meals (Barb loved a good meal). Deep appreciation to Patrick, NP, for your compassion and for earning Barb’s trust; and heartfelt thanks also to the Heartland Hospice team—Chaplain Timothy, Anne, Beth and Kayla—for your support, kindness, and care during Barb’s final days.

No services will be held and cremation has taken place. Barb will be laid to rest on Neebish Island, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

LORETTA MARY (SPARKS) MCCORMICK

Loretta Mary (Sparks) McCormick, 89, of Brimley, Mich., died at Freightier View Assisted Living surrounded by her family on May 21, 2025. She was born Dec. 14, 1935, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Edward and Viola May (Gooderman) Sparks.



Loretta grew up in the Sault Ste. Marie Area, where she had attended Lorretto Catholic High School. Loretta met the love of her life, Robert “Bob” McCormick as she walked out of the Soo Theater one night. Her late husband, Bob stated many times “I knew at that moment, she was the girl I was going to marry. The beautiful girl in the red coat.” They were married for

seventy-one years and together they raised a family of three. Camping and outdoor activities kept them together, while building a life of loving the outdoors for all the family. Loretta had a lot of pride and joy for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Loretta was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Brimley, Mich.

Loretta spent her later years at home surrounded by nature. She loved to sit on her balcony, watching the Waiski River that flows into Lake Superior, in Brimley, Michigan, this was enhanced by the wildlife that lived all around her home.

Loretta is survived by her daughter, Joan McCormick of Traverse City, Mich.; grand-children, Thomas (Tracey) Fosmore, Jason Clingaman, Robert McCormick III, Cory (Maria) McCormick; great-grandchildren, Carter Fosmore, Autumn Fosmore, Jakob Fosmore, Jozlynn McCormick, Bentley McCormick, Ada McCormick, Myles McCormick; and sister, Lorraine Brown.

Loretta was preceded in death by the love of her life, Bob McCormick; parents, Edward and Viola May; brothers, Edward and Viola May; brothers, Edward “Bud” Sparks, John Sparks, Bill Sparks, Donald Sparks; and sister, Shirley Brosco.

Visitation was held Thursday, May 29, 2025, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Brimley, Mich.

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

CHRISTINE ETHEL (HUTTE) MORAN

Christine Ethel (Hutte) Moran, 78, died May 19, 2025, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Mich. She was born May 28, 1946, to George and Betty (Krull) Hutte.



Christine was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

She is survived by her children, Lisa Moran, Thomas Moran Jr., Bonnie (Albert) Lehre, Michael Moran, and Dawn Moran; grandchildren, Robert (Justine) Povey, Adam (Alyssa) Povey, Alan (Amanda) Lehre, Amanda Lehre, Andrew Lehre, Aaron Lehre, Karen Ann Moran and Jacklyn Goodnoe; 21 great-grandchildren; siblings, Rodney (Renee) Hutte, David (Diane) Hutte and Jack (Carol) Hutte; and brother-in-law, Joe Mahoney.

Christine was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Moran Sr.; daughter, Laura Lee Moran; granddaughters, Jessica McKechnie, Laura Christine Moran; sister, Cheryl Mahoney; stepfather, Basil Willis; and daughter-in-law, Becky Moran.

Family Life Funeral Homes Sault Ste Marie assisted the

family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

MARK DEAN PILCHER

Mark Dean Pilcher, 64, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died at his home on June 3, 2025.

He was born on March 9, 1961, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Jimmy Lee and Marjorie Anne (McClellan) Pilcher.



Mark lived in various places throughout his life, including Alaska and Grand Rapids, Mich., but he always remained closely connected to his roots in Sault Ste. Marie. A hardworking and dedicated man, Mark owned and operated his own commercial painting business, Pilcher Painting, where he took great pride in his craft. He was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Mark was a simple man with a deep love for life, nature, and the people around him. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, and camping. Music was also close to his heart—he loved playing guitar and sharing that joy with family and friends.

Mark is survived by his son, Adam (Chrissy Griffin) Tobias of Sault Ste. Marie; stepdaughter, Christine Burnett of Sault Ste. Marie; siblings, John T. (Patty) Pilcher of Raleigh, N.C., Renee A. (Lynn) Pilcher of Sault Ste. Marie, Kimberly A. Pilcher of Sault Ste. Marie, Julia A. (Larry) Pilcher of Sault Ste. Marie, Heather A. (Trevor) Boissoneau of Garden River, Ont.; grandchildren, Brooklyn Tobias, Charlie and Jake Badgers; father, Jimmy Lee Pilcher;

Mark was preceded in death by his mother, Marjorie A. Pilcher; and brother, David J. Pilcher.

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

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

JASON “BIRDMAN” EDWARD GOULD

My name is Jason “Birdman” Edward Gould, and I was born on Jan. 26, 1978, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Kenneth and Barbara (Carins) Mongene. I died at the age of 47 on May 12, 2025.

Shortly after I was born, my mom met Ron Menard who became my dad from then on. I grew up between Sault Ste. Marie and Hessel, Mich. I ended up with four half-brothers, Todd, Pete, Kenny, Dwayne; and two half-sisters, Crystal and Heather.

In 1996, I met the love of my life, April Huffman. We were married on April 6, 2005,

See “Walking On” Page 1

New elder duplex coming to Hessel south of casino

BY SCOTT BRAND

With a June 4 groundbreaking ceremony in the rearview mirror, work is slated to begin on a duplex in Hessel to build two elder units at that location just south of the Kewadin Hessel Casino off of Three Mile Road.

“It’s a wonderful step forward,” said Sault Tribal Board Unit II Director Kimberly Lee. “We know there is a housing shortage everywhere, especially housing that is fit for our elders.”

This marks the second event so far this year meant to address the problem.

On April 21, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in Newberry for an Elder Quadplex

and work has already progressed to the point that the foundation is visible to passers-by traveling along the M-28 corridor as they approach Newberry.

Additional projects are also in the pipeline with a July 11 groundbreaking scheduled in Wetmore to bring tiny houses and an investment upwards of \$7 million for the Savard Property in St. Ignace to provide needed utility improvements roads and infrastructure in anticipation of future development at that site.

Funding for these projects is being provided through the federal government under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).



Photo by Scott Brand

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in Hessel on June 4, 2025 where, from left to right, Housing Authority Executive Assistant Katie Spence, Sault Tribe Housing Authority (STHA) Procurement Contract Administrator Ryan Madigan, STHA ARPA Purchasing Agent II Olivia Fuller, Sidock Engineer Jeff Murdock, Nomad Construction’s Mark Jacques, Sault Tribal Board of Director Kimberly Lee, Bonacci Construction’s Joe Bonacci, and STHA Operations Manager Veronica Beaumont wielded shovels under the watchful eye of STHA Construction Manager Tony McKerchie.

Jessica Rickert, DDS, receives MDA Public Relations Award for advocacy for Native American dental care

JESSICA RICKERT, DDS

The MDA Public Relations Award was given to Jessica Rickert, DDS by Dr. Todd Christy, DDS, MDA president, who presented the MDA Public Relations Award with this introduction:

Dr. Jessica Rickert is a name that is well-known not just to Michigan dentists, but whose outstanding reputation extends across our nation. She first gained fame as the United States’ first female American Indian dentist, but in recent years has grown in prominence as a tireless advocate for improved dental care and for encouraging dental careers among American Indian populations.

Following a lengthy career as a practicing dentist, Dr. Rickert now keeps busy as a keynote speaker, panelist, presenter, and interviewee at conferences, educational institutions, and media events, always promoting the need for more American Indian dentists and for improved dental care. She is the author of dental columns published by fourteen tribes and American Indian Centers and is



a frequent author whose articles have appeared in numerous publications. In her role as an adviser to Interlochen Public Radio, she has helped develop Anishinaabe radio programming, featuring Great Lakes American Indian news.

She also has served on the Board of Directors of the Society of American Indian Dentists.

As the Anishinaabe Dental Outreach specialist, she has reached out to the Grand Traverse Band youth by presenting dentistry

as a noble career and providing dental supplies at health fairs, member events, and gatherings.

Her awards include the ADA’s Access Award, the University of Michigan’s Ida Gray Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award, the American Dental Education Association Gies Award for Innovation and Community Involvement, among others.

Notably, she has also been inducted into the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame.

Dr. Rickert’s April 24, 2025, acceptance speech follows:

Prior to 1492, what did the people living in Michigan call themselves? The Anishinaabe. How many Anishinaabe tribes are in Michigan? How many Anishinaabe community colleges? How many Anishinaabe charter schools?

As the Anishinaabe dental outreach specialist, I am connected to the twelve Anishinaabe tribes, the urban Indian centers, the three

community colleges & the three charter schools.

The monthly dental columns I write are published in these Anishinaabe newspapers. The language the Anishnaabe spoke on this very spot next to this very river for hundreds of years is Anishinaabemowin.

“Zhaazhoomingwenwok Anishinaabe gewe binojijnhak” What did I say to you? “The Anishinaabe children have beautiful smiles.”

Elder Munising job posting

The Sault Tribe Elder Employment Program is seeking applicants for Community Health Program Clerk for Munising Tribal Health Center. The position is \$14.50 per hour, 14 hours per week.

The Community Health Program Clerk assists the front desk and medical records staff with reception and operations duties — answers phones,

schedules patients, files and sorts medical records documents, sends faxes and emails, scans medical records documents. Assists processing patient requests and medical documentation flow, archiving of all hard copy medical records and all other clerical or direct service duties as needed by other departments.

Must be a Sault Tribe mem-

ber age 60 or over and reside within the seven-county service area.

REPLY TO: WIOA / Senior Employment Program
Attention: Brenda Cadreau
2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-4767, bcadreau@saulttribe.net

Walking on continued...

From “Walking On” Page 16 and so began the adventures.

We raised two children, Tucker James Gould and Barbara Lynn Ann Gould. We worked, fished, camped, traveled, and worked on vehicles together. We did everything together. I’m going to miss that. People always said that I didn’t say much, but I had a big presence. I hope you feel that presence for all of your days.

I’ve enjoyed CB radio’s, traveling, and seeing the sights. We have been everywhere! New York, New Jersey, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and Las Vegas. We even saw the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore.

Our kids gave us two grandkids, Jackson Gould-Pine and Natalie Ann Maahs.

I am survived by my wife of twenty years, April Gould; son, Tucker; daughter, Barbara; grandson, Jackson; granddaughter, Natalie; brothers; sisters; nieces; nephews; and brothers and sisters-in-law.

I was preceded in death by my parents, Kenneth and Barbara.

I lived and loved and cherished you all, but I’ve got to get

going, the fishing is great here! Until we meet again. Baamaapii.

A celebration of life will be held June 28, 2025, at 12 noon at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building, 11 Ice Circle, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Family Life Funeral Homes Pickford assisted the family with arrangements.

IN MEMORY - DAVID ALLEN KRUCZYNSKI

We remember our brother, David Allen “Standing Feather” Kruczynski, who walked on 10 years ago on June 30, 2015. David was born on June 23, 1962, in Detroit to Casimir and Mary Kruczynski. He was proud of his Native American heritage and gave of his time and talents to the culture camps in the early 2000s that helped bring the youth from neighboring tribes together to learn from the elders. David made and donated the large cop-



per dream catcher that hangs in the Museum of Ojibwa Culture, as well as provided assistance to the museum on other projects. He was an avid hunter, loved to host family gatherings, and had a great sense of humor.

“Gaa wiin daa-aangoshkigaazo ahaw enaabiyaan gaa-inaabid.” You cannot destroy one who has dreamed a dream like mine. For David Standing Feather, based on a poem by Kathy Lynn: Where stories of the Native nations are only sighs of the winds, proud spirits roam their once precious land. Walking through the valleys of Mother Earth, in silent moccasins. Gathered in a circle, the prayer feather in their hands. Passing it to one another in reverence, asking the Great Spirit to watch over them. Now the only thing left is the whisper of the wind. As they go through eternity wearing silent moccasins. Medicine men made herbs to heal. They chanted ancient rituals. Teachers like David Standing Feather helped to pass on the crafts and customs of our Native ways. Warriors guarded and protected the tribe’s way, and way



IN MEMORY - CHRISTINE MCDONALD - On July 9 it has been 30 years since you went to Heaven. Such a long time ago, us kids were so young. Us four kids miss you with all our hearts always. This picture is the last picture of all of us together. You will always be remembered as a loving soul, you loved us with all of your heart. We miss you Momma, always.

Love, your kids...John, Chas, Anthony and Brenda

of life. These were special men, older and wise. They were, and are, revered by all the tribe. They were, and are, mentioned in stories and legends told from father to son, mother to daughter, so that they would be passed on. They are told to this very day, as the children of yesterday and today remember them in play. When the world is silent, and the wind is soft, if you stop what you are doing, and listen,

you will hear and, perhaps, see the ghosts of the medicine men, of the teachers, of the warriors, of the first people as they walk with silent moccasins.

With a tear on my cheek, I say with a humble and heavy heart, Bamaa Pii, David Niibawiwin Miigwan. Until later, David Standing Feather, my brother. Rest in peace. Joseph Miskwa Mukwa, Joseph Red Bear.

It’s not too late to start a vegetable garden

By MARY WILSON, REBECCA KRANS AND LINDA WHITLOCK, MSU EXTENSION

Thinking about planting your own vegetable garden may bring to mind images of bountiful fresh and healthy produce. Advance planning will be the key to your successful garden. Considering which vegetables you like, how much space you have for them and how you’ll meet each crop’s growing requirements before planting will help ensure you reap the full rewards at harvest.

When to plant?

Last frost date. Before planting your garden, determine the chances for a killing frost in your area by checking the frost-free chart at https://www.canr.msu.edu/home_gardening/uploads/files/4-25+Frost+free+date+table+REBECCA.pdf. This chart lists probable dates for the first and last frost of the year throughout Michigan, and helps you determine when you can first plant without minimal risk of a killing frost. Many people plant after the 50 percent probability date. If you plant before this date, there is a greater chance transplants will freeze or seeds rot and will need to be replaced.

Cool-season and warm-season vegetables. Cool-season vegetables such as lettuce, peas and spinach will thrive early in the season. Tomatoes, peppers and melons will perform best when air and soil temperatures are much warmer. Warm-season crops are more sensitive to late-season frosts, and may show signs of stunted growth if set out too early.

Soil temperature requirements.

Some seeds, such as certain extra-sweet corn cultivars, will not germinate well unless the soil temperature at planting depth exceeds 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Beets, carrots and radishes will germinate at a minimum of 40 F. Planting seeds before reaching this soil temperature will result in little to no seed sprouting. See a condensed table of soil temperatures required for seed germination at <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/files/164220.pdf>.

Smart choices – seeds or transplants?

Vegetables can be grown from seeds or small starter plants called transplants. Seeds provide a wider selection of vegetables than what you can usually find as transplants, but will take more planning and time to establish.



Photo by Rebecca Finneran

Swiss chard inter-planted with garlic that will be harvested much later, makes smart use of space.

You may have to start some seeds like tomatoes and peppers indoors so they reach maturity by the end of the growing season. Seed packets often contain a lot of the necessary information to help you be a successful smart gardener.

Each seed type has something to offer depending on your needs, interests and values.

Hybrid seeds are created by crossing two different parent varieties from the same species. They combine the best traits of these varieties to produce greater disease resistance, yield and uniformity. F-1 means the first generation offspring. These seeds are not genetically modified, but are created using traditional plant breeding techniques.

Open-pollinated seeds have more genetic diversity and often more variation than hybrids. Pollination occurs by insects, birds, wind, humans or other natural mechanisms.

Heirloom seeds are open-pollinated varieties that have been handed down for generations in a particular region or area, hand-selected by gardeners for a special trait.

Selecting transplants. Purchase transplants from a reputable source. Many retailers

provide disease-resistant cultivars for various vegetables such as late blight-resistant tomatoes. Thoroughly inspect plants for signs of insects by checking under leaves and around stem tips. Avoid plants with leaves that are browning, spotted or wilting. A taller plant doesn’t mean a healthier or sturdier plant. If

plants do not receive adequate light while developing, they often stretch toward the light and are weakened.

Smart planting techniques for transplants and seeds

Hardening off — Before placing transplants in your garden, “harden them off” to acclimate them from growing in a controlled greenhouse environment to your garden’s growing conditions. Start by placing transplants outside in a shaded and protected area for a few hours a day and keep them thoroughly watered. Over seven to 10 days, gradually increase the time the seedlings spend in the sun. They will soon become accustomed to outdoor conditions. When your transplants are ready to be planted, thoroughly water them in their containers and make sure the garden soil is well-watered.

Remove flowers — Transplants benefit from having their flowers removed at planting. This ensures the plant’s energy goes toward root development, which will be essential with transplanting. Sacrificing those initial flowers increases flowering (and fruiting) throughout the season.

Mulching — Apply a 1- to 3-inch layer of organic mulch around the plant’s base and not against the stem. Mulch will help maintain an even soil temperature, conserve water and help reduce competition from weeds. If transplants are tall, provide staking as necessary.

Succession planting —

Planting seeds on multiple dates throughout the growing season (according to packet recommendations) can provide opportunities for continual harvesting of plants such as lettuce, radish, or herbs like cilantro and parsley. This can be done in rows or simply in smaller plots.

Maximize your space — Use every growing layer or tier within your garden. Root crops grow deep into the soil while tomatoes mature above ground. Lettuce is shallowly rooted and will grow as living mulch atop root crops such as beets and carrots. Plant carrots around developing tomato transplants or lettuce around developing root crops such as onions or radish. You can also increase your garden’s yield by growing vining crops such as tomatoes, melons, pole beans and cucumbers on trellises or any vertical structure. Harvesting is also easier, as there’s no stooping or hunching over!

Invite pollinators and other beneficial insects — Smart gardeners intersperse flowering herbs, annual flowers and native perennials among the vegetable garden. These plants add diversity to your garden, provide valuable food and shelter for native pollinators and beneficial insects that provide natural pest protection in your garden.

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



Choose transplants from a reputable source. (rawpixels.com)

RENDEZVOUS AT THE STRAITS
POWWOW
AND INDIGENOUS ART SHOW

AUGUST 22-24, 2025

BLESSING OF THE GROUNDSFRIDAY 1PM

GRAND ENTRYSATURDAY & SUNDAY 12PM

TRADITIONAL DANCING
NATIVE FLUTE MUSIC
HOOP DANCING
FOOD-ART-CRAFTS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
JOE MEDICINE
PRESENTING
STURGEON BAY SINGERS
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LITTLE BEAR EAST & MUSEUM OF OJIBWA CULTURE
MARQUETTE STREET & OJIBWA TRAIL • ST. IGNACE, MICHIGAN

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT RON DANIELS
906-430-7735 • historictotemvillage@gmail.com
Or St. Ignace Visitors Bureau • stignace.com • 906-643-6950 or 800-338-6660

Search Facebook for Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow

Camping will not be permitted onsite, however you are welcome to camp at local campgrounds. Straits State Park can be reached at 906-643-8620.

Treaty hunting, fishing, and food sovereignty related



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

National Advocacy Update

On May 20, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to testify before the House Committee on Natural Resources in support of the Fostering Opportunities to Restore Ecosystems through Sound Tribal Stewardship Act (FORESTS Act). This important legislation would strengthen co-management of our national forests by integrating Indigenous knowledge with Western science. It also gives tribes more authority

to conduct prescribed burns and participate in timber sales, which are important tools for forest management.

For the Sault Tribe, co-management isn't just a policy—it's our way of life. A 2012 tribal survey found that our members harvest roughly 1 million meals each year within the 1836 ceded territory. Effective co-stewardship is therefore also a food sovereignty issue.

On May 29, I also provided input during a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) consultation on workforce efficiency and emergency permitting. I attended this consultation via Zoom, which I do, when possible, to reduce my travel costs for the tribe.

JLLJ Lawsuit Update

Last month, I shared that the tribe defaulted on its settlement with the JLLJ developers due to a missed payment. The original agreement—stemming

from failed efforts to establish a downstate casino—required the tribe to pay up to \$35 million, including \$30 million in guaranteed payments. \$25 million was

paid in 2023, with the remaining \$10 million split between a structured payment schedule and potential proceeds from a legal malpractice

claim.

Unfortunately, staff missed the May 1 deadline, triggering a default and forcing renegotiation. The board was presented with two options: pay \$10 million in cash, or pay \$7 million and transfer the tribe's property in New Boston—originally intended for the downstate casino. The board chose to pay \$10 million.

Let me be clear: The Sault Tribe will not have a downstate casino at its New Boston property. For a tribe to start a new casino, the land where it will be located must be taken into trust by the BIA. The BIA has never

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



placed a single acre of downstate land into trust for an Upper Peninsula Tribe. After the BIA denied our request to put the New Boston land into trust, the tribe pursued every option available. In 2024, the Washington, D.C. Court of Appeals ruled against the Sault Tribe. In April of this year, the Supreme Court declined to hear our case. There are no remaining legal avenues. The land will not be placed into gaming trust, and there will be no casino.

The JLLJ developers sued the tribe because they invested millions of dollars into a downstate casino that never came to fruition. The tribe accepted millions from them, signed contracts, and waived sovereign immunity. When we couldn't deliver a downstate casino, which would have provided them with a percentage of the revenue, they won in court.

Since the board decided against including the New Boston property in the amended settlement, the tribe must decide what to do with the property. Purchased in 2012, the property has cost the tribe over \$40 million when factoring in the purchase price, the JLLJ settlements, the settlement amendment, property taxes, maintenance, and management. After 13 years of owning the property, there is no plan for what to do with it since the courts ruled that it cannot be a casino.

If a board member claims there's still a way to get the land into trust, they should clearly explain how. As of now, it is not legally possible. Meanwhile, the tribe's budget remains unbalanced, and our fund balance continues to shrink. With looming federal cuts, the tribe may have to make difficult decisions. It's time to ask: What are our real priorities? Are we a tribe that preserves

vital services and jobs, or are we one that clings to pipedreams like downstate casinos? When you add up the Greentown bankruptcy and the JLLJ fiasco, this has cost our tribe so much already.

Shedawin Haven opens

On May 28, I had the privilege of attending the ribbon cutting for Shedawin Haven, a new space for NA, AA, and Wellbriety meetings in our community. As we know, Native communities face disproportionately high rates of substance abuse due to historical trauma, systemic inequality, and other factors. This center honors the legacy of Harriet and Charlie Shedawin, respected leaders in the recovery community. Their story is one of hope, strength, and healing. This facility is a reminder that recovery is possible and no one walks that path alone.

Senator Slotkin's visit

On May 20, the Sault Tribe welcomed U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin to Sault Ste. Marie for her first visit. She met with representatives from our tribe, Bay Mills Indian Community, city and county officials, LSSU, schools, utilities, and other community partners. We focused on the serious impacts of recent and proposed federal funding cuts. This marked my second meeting with the Senator this year—the first was during my visit to Capitol Hill in March.

It is vital for tribal leaders to consistently remind elected officials of the federal government's trust and treaty obligations to tribes. The vast majority of programs in Indian Country are federally funded. When funding is cut, services are eliminated, and the consequences are deeply felt, which lead to pain and hardship in our communities.

This is why we make trips to
See "Chair's report," page 24

A chance to rebuild our tribe



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

As many of the membership is aware, our organization had four key employees resign over last month's incident that resulted in a re-settlement. I wish I had better answers for the membership on how or why the missed payment occurred resulting in a default judgment against our tribe costing us millions of dollars, but what I can say is that the board worked together and held several workshops to discuss the costly mistake.

At the end of the day, there was no good reason why this

occurred and we should have expected our executive level team members to work together to make sure things like this don't happen. It's unfortunate that concerns weren't brought up in our weekly workshops that could have prevented this, especially at a time when our organization is having to adapt to the changes with the federal government and funding challenges. Accepting those resignations was a difficult decision with many years of institutional knowledge now gone, but it also allows our tribe to move forward.

My hopes and expectations are that we use this opportunity to re-boot our tribe and how the board interacts with its executives. We have a chance to rebuild and not micro-manage. We must protect all team members, including executives, and insulate them from board involvement. Optimistically, we take this chance and remember that no one board member or group of board members have any authority, or power to direct staff. Our tribal nation is governed by laws and everyone must follow those laws.

With that being said, we must continue to work on our consti-

titutional amendments. The first priority was designated as separation of powers and I believe this still be of the utmost importance. Having watched executive privilege being abused at the national level, I now believe our tribe would be better served with a two-branch government. There will be upcoming workshops to discuss the separation of powers and I look forward to resuming those discussions.

Our tribe faces many real problems and we will need to all work together to solve funding issues, prioritizing services, and trying to keep our spending reasonable and restrained until we get through these changes. I remain hopeful and am grateful for the many team members that continue to help move our tribe forward. I hope to see many members at our upcoming Homecoming Pow Wow in the Sault in July. 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.

Soon taking bids on Unit 3 housing project tree removal



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Aanii Boozhoo,
My entire life while growing up downstate I lived in

two worlds, one from my Czechoslovakian/Polish father and one from my native Ojibwe mother. We lived in the inner city of Flint, Mich., and was raised amongst all ethnicities and it was the best upbringing a child could have asked for, I would not change a thing. It taught me to respect others beliefs, religions and their family circle. We were all brought up to respect the law and to do what was right for all mankind.

Later in life, during my working years, some of my coworkers who were people of color descent, would claim affirmative action to bypass more qualified individuals, which I never thought was fair. This practice

has somewhat gone by the wayside and the hiring and promotional process seems to work fine. Our Native hiring process, for which I'm in favor because we are our own sovereign nation, seems to work well, unless more qualified individuals are passed up by employees who continually leave employment and then come back when they can't make it in the non-Native work environment.

This also goes along with claiming sovereign immunity when things don't go your way. I was brought up there is the right way and the wrong way, and Native or not, this is what we should go by — do the job you were hired to do and abide by the

rules and contracts and no one should have a problem.

We had the big shake up in some of our key staff for not making a sizeable payment that was overlooked. With all the people involved and the wages they were paid, this was inexcusable. Two of the individuals that were let go I did not vote for, as I felt they were not at fault, but some of us were out voted on this issue. I'm sure all these individuals will get gainful employment elsewhere and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

We will soon be taking bids for the removal of trees on our Unit 3 housing project, so the ground can be leveled and our streets and infrastructure can

then be excavated. The process is moving along as fast as possible while coordinating with all the government entities involved.

I attended the Manistique powwow and it was a great turnout, a lot of vendors, dancers, drums and great traditional food. A big shout out to all involved in making this happen.

The annual clean up of the Wequayoc Cemetery was a good turnout and is always a great way to show respect and to honor our relatives who have walked on.

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

Tiny home project now underway in Unit V



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,
Summer is slowly and steadily creeping up on us. While it's a slower start than most of us would like, at least it isn't snowing any longer. May you all have a wonderful summer filled with fond memories. Whether it be a solo adventure, or moments shared with friends and family, get out and enjoy the immense beauty of the outdoors. There is no better way to enjoy that beauty than hitting the powwow trail, and boy is it ever packed full this year. Whatever you do, enjoy it, do it for you, and live in the moment.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

As of June 6, there are 5,084 adult applications entered into the tracking system. A total of 171 adult applications have been denied and 2,921 new members have been enrolled, including children. The total membership in the tribe is currently 52,240. We appreciate all of your patience during this process.

HOUSING UPDATE: MUNISING

Our tiny home project on the existing reservation is now under way. This will bring six tiny homes to the Munising area that will help house elders or folks looking for a smaller place to help bridge the gap into the workforce while staying in the area. The groundbreaking for this project will be at 11 a.m. on July 11. Feel free to join us if you are able.

While we know the tiny homes will barely touch on the needs of our communities, it's a start, and a pilot project to see if this would be a successful model within our tribe. Additionally, our EDC is trying to tackle housing from a different lens. We are taking another look at the old clinic in Wetmore and discussing converting it into a multi-family home, either a duplex or fourplex. This would enhance our rental portfolio, and create even more options for rentals and housing in the greater Munising area.

Beyond that, we are continuing to work with investors on future housing and commercial projects. These EDC projects are a solid way for our tribe to enhance our assets and expand our rental portfolio for our people and into the greater market. Knowing that we have a housing shortage of over 2,600 units across our seven counties and that we are only building 5.5 livable units on average per year through Housing, this is our best opportunity to both increase revenues and expand housing at the same time.

TAXES

I'd like to send out a reminder to everyone living within

the tax agreement areas to make sure that you register with our Tax Department. Information regarding our tax agreement area can be found at <https://saulttribe.com/government/tribal-tax-agreement>. You can also contact Latisha Willette at (906) 632-6281 or lwillette2@saulttribe.net.

Recently, a few items came up that I wasn't fully aware of and it was very good information. First, if you are living in the tax agreement area and your child is starting to work or drive, you must get them registered with the Tax Office under your address for them to access the tax exemption benefits for both employment and gas. Second, for Elders collecting retirement, there is a separate form that you have to fill out available only through the tax office. Please reach out to Latisha to maximize your benefits. Third, if you are registered in the tax agreement area, please make sure you are submitting your 4013 MI Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit form when you submit your taxes. Finally, if you are planning a big purchase such as a car, boat, or even construction materials, please reach out to the Tax Office so that you can process the tax waiver for those purchases. Again, these are all benefits for people living within and registered in our tax agreement areas.

SPRING 2025 2%

Unfortunately, our spring 2% monies are down slightly from the upward trend we've been having. This is a multifaceted issue that we hope will correct in due time. Our two biggest contributors to the reduction in revenues were the ransomware attack that took the entire tribe down for over a month, and the recent threat of tariffs. As we began to rebound from our ransomware, the threat of tariffs and changing political landscape hit us while we were already down.

As I mentioned in the past, a good chunk of our clientele is from Canada. The Canadians took the behaviors of the President both for the proposal of the 51st state, and then the tariffs, as a threat to their community and are very unhappy with the US as a whole right now. Our casino execs monitor our foot traffic and who is using the machines and we took a huge hit with our Canadian players not wanting to come across the bridge any longer. I am sure that as time passes and tensions fade away, we will restore consumer confidence from across the bridge. Our Kewadin team is doing an amazing job navigating all of these obstacles and we are optimistic that we will see our fall 2% begin to increase again.

This year we had \$212,821.48 in total requests for Unit 5 2% funding and we had \$65,347.41 to give away. Spring 2025 2% awards are as follows:

Munising Public Schools Title VI Programming, \$17,869.19 (fully funded)



Munising Public Schools Music Instrument Purchases, \$13,000 (fully funded)

City of Marquette YMCA, \$4,000 (fully funded)

City of Marquette Cultural Trail Art and Signage, \$10,000 (partially funded)

City of Munising Fir Street Climb Trail, \$5,000 (partially funded)

Charter Township of Chocoday Pedestrian and Bike Safety, \$15,187.22 (partially funded)

HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) and Advocacy Update

Through the work of the STAC and other advocacy groups, we were able to maintain some small wins as the President introduced his recent budget. We did see a small increase in IHS funding; however, it came at the cost of advanced appropriations, which the tribes have fought decades for. Currently, the funding bill is with the Senate, so nothing is final. If you want to help your tribe and all tribal peoples, please contact your U.S. Senators and demand that advanced appropriations for IHS. Beyond that, IHS funding should be mandatory.

We still haven't seen how the cuts will affect CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services), but we do know cuts are coming. Tribal leaders across the country continue to advocate at the highest levels to protect every penny that we can that is allocated for tribes. There will be changes that will hurt our people, though. So far, we were able to keep the waiver for work requirements for enrolled CMS tribal members. Again, another very small win, and we need to keep pushing before this bill is sent back from the Senate to the House. Again, please contact your U.S. Senators and demand the protection of all CMS services and funding.

NIIWIN NOODIN

I wanted to send out a huge shoutout to the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Committee and the entire Manistique community for the amazing job they did last weekend. Also, chi miigwech for inviting the Teal Lake Singers with open hearts. What an amazing day we had out there. The weather was perfect with a touch of Canadian smudge in the air (wildfires). Kids were running around playing. Tons of laughter, stories, and distant families meet-

ing for the first time. This is why we do what we do. What an amazing start to the powwow season. Thank you all so much for your hospitality and the amazing experience. This was the warmest and most welcoming powwow that I've ever taken part in. Chi miigwech for the memories Niiwin Noodin!

GRAND ISLAND POW WOW

Our next powwow planning meeting will be held on July 9 at 5 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community room. We have most of the details set and our initial flyer has been created. If anyone is interested in helping with the planning or volunteering the day of the event, feel free to show up, or call or email me. 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 Pow Wow will be held on Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025, with grand entries at noon and 6 p.m. Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers and committee members.

From "Chair's report," page 23

Washington, D.C., and it's also why we welcome leaders when they visit our homelands—to advocate for the resources our communities need to survive and thrive. A sincere thank you to Senator Slotkin for spending over three hours with us, which is a generous commitment. We ended the visit with a great meal at the Lockview Restaurant, which proudly serves fish supplied by Sault Tribe commercial fishermen.

Timber Conference

Earlier this month, with the encouragement of our Natural Resources Department, I attended the annual Intertribal Timber Conference, hosted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe. This was the first conference I've attended in three years, and it was a great opportunity to learn more about treaty rights and tribal co-stewardship, which are issues I care deeply about.

In an effort to save the tribe money, I chose to stay at an Airbnb instead of a hotel. Director McRorie, who also

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE

We are still patiently awaiting the selection of the Unit 5 Cultural Coordinator to move forward with our next classes and workshops. We have begun planning several activities, but the logistics and registrations will be going out as soon as we get somebody on board. Thank you all for being patient. We will get this back up and running as soon as we are able.

ELDERS

The next Munising Elder meeting and meal will be held on Thursday, July 3, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community Room. If you are an Elder ages 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, July 11, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Marquette. If you are an Elder ages 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. We are a few months out from moving on over to our new community center. Once opened, we will be sure to reach out to everyone and notify them of the location change.

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to discuss something with me, please use my contact information below.

You can also reach out to Unit 4/5 Liaison Mary Jenerou at MJenerou@saulttribe.net or (906) 450-7011 or (906) 341-8469.

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

attended the conference, stayed in the same rental so we could avoid the cost of additional lodging. My fiancée joined me on the trip as well, which is something she occasionally does so we can spend time together while I travel. Just as a reminder, team members are allowed to bring their family on work trips as long as all personal expenses are paid out of pocket. Since this doesn't create additional cost for the tribe, it's something we support to create a more family-friendly work environment.

Unfortunately, while we were asleep, someone broke into our rental and remained inside for 11 minutes. Several items were stolen, but we're grateful that no one was hurt and the situation didn't turn violent. I want to extend my sincere thanks to law enforcement for their quick response and for arresting the suspect, who is now charged with felony burglary. Stay safe out there. It's a wild world.

Austin Lowes
Tribal Chairman
(906) 635-6050

Director Lee provides Unit 2 structure updates



**KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Aanii,
I want to take a moment to sincerely apologize for the oversight in not including my unit report in last month's tribal newspaper. This has happened before, and I completely understand the frustration and disappointment it has caused for both you and for me as your elected representative. Your trust is incredibly important to me, and I acknowledge that every missed update limits the transparency that we strive to uphold.
We work diligently to provide these reports to keep you informed about our efforts, and

I recognize how disheartening it feels when that communication falters. I've spoken with team members about this oversight, and I am hopeful that we can implement a more reliable process moving forward to ensure it doesn't happen again. With that in mind, here are some key highlights from recent months.
As many of you may already know, the Honoring The Waters Pow Wow, initially scheduled for June 14 in Newberry, has been postponed. This was not an easy decision, and I want to share the reasoning and next steps with you all.
After careful discussions with the powwow committee and our key tribal departments, we realized that safety must come first, especially in light of the ongoing elder quadplex construction project. We are currently collaborating to establish a new date when we can safely gather on the grounds, and I assure you that as soon as we have more information, it will be shared with everyone.
I also want to acknowledge the challenges we've faced over the last few months. Many of you are aware of the JLLJ dispute, which has understandably been a significant point of discussion. A critical oversight led to a substan-

tial payment of \$250,000 being missed, ultimately resulting in an additional \$5 million financial obligation for our tribe. This was a deeply unfortunate mistake that has wider implications for our economic future. We have sent a check for the total amount owed of \$10 million and accountability has been taken.
I have also observed a trend of increasing individualistic attitudes during board meetings, which complicates our discussions and decision-making. I genuinely believe we need to foster a more collaborative environment. By encouraging open dialogue and mutual respect, we can navigate our conversations more effectively, ultimately benefiting all our community members.
Unit 2 Structure Updates
I am truly excited to share that construction for the Newberry housing quadplex has officially begun. During my recent visit to the site, I was filled with hope as I saw the substantial progress that is being made. The foundation has been laid, and I am optimistic about what this project will bring to our community.
Designed with our elders in mind, the quadplex features modern living spaces that prioritize safety and comfort, providing a

welcoming environment for those who will call it home. This initiative is a testament to our commitment to fostering hope and progress within our community.
Following the Newberry project, we're thrilled to have broken ground on June 4 for the Hessel duplex. This momentum is incredibly encouraging as we move forward together. Our aim is to maintain the quality and efficiency we've established in Newberry as we expand our Unit 2 projects.
I am also delighted to report that the Hessel multi-purpose building has officially broken ground as of May 5 and is making wonderful progress. This facility represents a significant milestone for Unit 2 and our entire community, designed to promote both mental and physical well-being and serve as a vital hub for our culture and traditions.
This project owes much to the dedication of Director Lana Causley and Former Director Catherine Hollowell, who tirelessly collaborated to secure funding and articulate a shared vision. Their efforts have been instrumental in laying the foundation for this essential initiative. As Director Causley and I continue to champion this project,

we're committed to ensuring the building includes features that will enhance our youth programs and community engagement, creating an inviting space for everyone. I am confident that this facility will be a tremendous asset to our community, promoting connection, health, and collaboration. A heartfelt *chi miigwech* to everyone who has been part of bringing this vision to life.
Lastly, I would like to reflect on the beautiful spring feast held on April 27. It was a remarkable and heartwarming event, filled with an abundance of food and a strong turnout from our community. This gathering fostered healing and unity, reminding us all of the power of connection. I want to express a special *chi miigwech* to Midge, Dorothy, Jeff, and our Unit 2 drum, Mukkwa Giizhik, for their contributions.
Thank you again for your trust and strength. Together, we are stronger, and I look forward to seeing more of you in the coming months, especially with the warm weather and powwow season just around the corner.
Kimberly Lee
Board of Directors
klee@saulttribe.net
(906) 379-8965

Comprehensive treatment center still needed



**KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Summer is finally here, and I hope everyone is enjoying time with family, community, and culture. I want to thank all of our Sault unit members who continue to stay involved, informed, and committed to building a stronger future for our people. Your voices matter and play a vital role in how we grow and move forward together.
This time of year is always special as we recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our tribal youth. Whether they are graduating from high school, college, technical training programs, or entering careers in the trades, every milestone achieved by our young people is a win for our whole community. I am incredibly proud of their success and the bright paths they are walking. Congratulations to each graduate and their families for the hard work and support it took to reach this point.
Expanding Recovery, Treatment and Wellness Services
I remain focused on the health

and wellbeing of our members — especially when it comes to addressing addiction and behavioral health challenges. Too many of our families have felt the devastating impact of substance abuse. Healing from that trauma takes more than individual strength — it requires a tribal community that wraps around our people and supports them at every step.
I am proud to share that Shedawin Haven has officially opened. This culturally grounded, sober living home offers a safe and welcoming environment for our members in early recovery. It honors the legacy of Charlie and Harriet Shedawin, who were known for their strength, service, and compassion. Shedawin Haven offers wraparound services such as peer support, transportation, and access to outpatient care — exactly the kind of holistic, community-based healing space our members deserve.
As we celebrate this important milestone, I'm still committed to pushing forward the comprehensive treatment center our tribe committed to years ago. This center would offer detox services, long-term recovery care, and culturally rooted behavioral health programs right here in our homelands. We must follow through on this promise — not only to treat, but to truly heal.
There is still a dire need for a tribal treatment center. So many of our members have experienced loss, pain, and trauma — whether from addiction, grief, incarceration, or cycles of abuse. It is not enough to send our members away for treatment and hope they come back healed. We need to build a place that is rooted in our values and accessible to our

members when they need it most.
I will continue to advocate for a treatment and healing center here, so that no member is left without support or forced to leave their family behind to seek help. It's time we turn our vision into action.
Creating opportunities for all members
In addition to health and recovery, I will continue to advocate for greater educational, employment, and economic opportunities for our membership. That means growing our presence in the trades, supporting small business development, and ensuring our own members are prioritized in tribal hiring. Whether you're a young adult just starting out or a parent re-entering the workforce, you deserve access to tools and pathways that lead to success.
Our tribe has many valuable programs — but we must do better at making sure they are visible, accessible, and inclusive of everyone. If you're looking for guidance on scholarships, career paths, or tribal employment, please don't hesitate to reach out.
A note on accountability
I also want to acknowledge the recent issue involving a missed legal settlement payment. While unfortunate, it's important that we take ownership, correct course, and ensure systems are in place to prevent such issues in the future. Our membership deserves timely communication and responsible financial management, and I will continue to support efforts that reinforce both.
It's time we take real steps to strengthen accountability and transparency in our tribal government by ensuring proper checks and balances are built into our

system. All members — whether employees, leaders, or citizens — deserve to be protected by our laws, policies, and Constitution. That includes holding the tribal board to the same standards we expect of everyone else. Right now, there is no clear path for members to raise concerns when those standards are not followed.
By empowering the Tribal Court through updates to the Tribal Code and pursuing constitutional amendments, we can ensure that members have standing to bring forward valid concerns, and that those concerns are reviewed by an independent and impartial court.
This effort would create a true system of checks and balances — one where the board cannot simply reverse its own policies without justification or act without accountability. Codifying judicial review and member standing into both Tribal Code and the Constitution would prevent future boards from undoing laws they find inconvenient and ensure lasting protections for our people. Giving members a fair path to seek review in Tribal Court is not about creating division—it is about transparency, trust, and honoring our responsibility to uphold the rights of all tribal citizens under the law.
A personal note
I want to take this moment to let the membership know that I take my position as an elected representative very seriously. I am honored to have been granted this opportunity. While some may think that I am quiet as I do not blast people or issues on social media, I assure you that I am very vocal at tribal workshops and meeting sessions.
In closing, without going into

details, my family has been going through some trying times recently and I would ask that you please send out some good thoughts for all of us.
Miigwech,
Kim Gravelle,
Unit 1, Board of Director
kgravelle@saulttribe.net
(906) 259-3742



Moving ?



When you move, let us know where you are headed! That way you won't miss one issue of your tribal paper. Call (906) 632-6398 or email slucas@saulttribe.net.

Unit IV directors report on current and future business



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aniin kina waya.
The month of June is upon us and with it, warm weather. Ensure you are watching your liquid intake while outdoors. Heat exhaustion can creep up on a person quickly so stay hydrated and if you start to experience dizziness, headache, or nausea, get yourself somewhere cool and hydrate. This is also a reminder to enjoy the warm weather.



LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Saturday, June 7, was the third annual Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow and we would both like to yell a chi miigwech to everyone who helped organize this event, who may have helped out during the event and those who attended. The powwow was a great success with no complications, an estimated 1,200 participants and a feast attended by many community members. We are both

ecstatic to state that we have participants from Manistique all the way to individuals from Poland who attended. The powwow was their first Native American experience and we had great reviews from them. We also want to give a shout out to our financial donors in the community, including, but not limited to, The Grind, The 40 Bar & Grill, Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital, the family of Helen Krummich, Kewadin Casino, Star Motel, Michigan Made, and many more. Another successful year in the books.
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. Everything needed from moving a shed to clearing some space is either scheduled or in progress. Miigwech to all involved in this great adventure.
Reminders:
Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow
SAVE THE DATE for the 2026 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow will

be coming in the next couple of months so keep your eye open for that.
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 July 9, 2025, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.
The next meeting in Escanaba will be held July 9, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center, 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba, Mich. 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.
We both want to give our sincerest thanks for trusting us to represent Unit 4 members and Sault Tribe. We are always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. We encourage members to participate in Maamawi Craft Nights, office hours, community input sessions, Ketchup with Kim, and all other activities and events occurring throughout Indian Country.
Our contact information is:
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.

FY2025 government budget shortfall and financial outlook



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

At the June 3 Board of Directors meeting, the Sault

Tribe Board voted to approve the tribe’s FY2025 “C” Budgets, which fund many of our core governmental services and programs.
While the budget passed by majority vote, I, along with board member Kim Hampton, voted “no” on the proposed budget due to serious concerns about the projected financial shortfall and long-term sustainability.
Current Budget Outlook
The tribe is facing an estimated shortfall of \$14 to \$17 million for the FY2025 governmental operations. To cover this gap, the board approved the use of our fund balance reserves to

backfill the shortfall.
While this will keep essential services running in the short term, it is not a sustainable path forward. Based on current spending trends and revenue projections, I am forecasting that our fund balance may only support operations for approximately 2.5 more years unless we begin implementing cost-saving measures immediately.
Why this matters
The fund balance exists to protect our tribe during emergencies and unforeseen events. Using it to cover recurring operational gaps is risky and could leave us financially vulnerable in the near future. Without

adjustments, we may face difficult decisions regarding services, staffing, or programs in the coming years.
Next Steps
I believe it is critical that we:
— Freeze all non-essential travel
— Freeze all non-essential hiring
— Prioritize a cost-savings plan across the various departments
— Re-evaluate spending tied to non-essential services or duplicative contracts
— Increase transparency and accountability in our budgeting process
— Explore new revenue

opportunities and business efficiencies
Our tribe has always been resilient and resourceful, and I am confident we can meet this challenge — but it will require shared responsibility and informed decision-making.
As always, I welcome your input, and I remain committed to ensuring long-term financial health and the continued delivery of critical services for all members.
Miigwech,
Isaac McKechnie
Sault Tribe Board of Directors
imckechnie@saulttribe.net
(906) 440-6661

JKL School 2025 Commencement: Next Step JKL High School



With Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) and candidate for New Mexico Governor at NCAI Midyear Conference.

I was honored to be the JKL Bahweting Anishinaabe Eighth Grade Commencement Speaker on June 4. It was especially gratifying as my niece Ella graduated 8th grade.
I opened by asking the nearly 60 eighth graders to recognize who came before them and never forget where they come from. I acknowledged the triumphant efforts of our founders as a tribe and early staff and leadership like Bernard Bouschor, George Nolan, Ike McKechnie, Pie and Barb Pine, and, of course, our school’s namesake, Joseph K. Lumsden, for their efforts to put in place what future generations would benefit from. I also recognize Nancy Hatch, the grand daughter of our first Tribal Chair Fred Hatch for improving our school she worked as superintendent

to move from one of the worst Michigan charters to winning the Michigan Governor’s Gold Apple Award and winning a national Bureau of Indian Affairs - Blue Ribbon Award school. Of course, our gratitude is extended to all the staff from the nurses to the maintenance staff, teachers, administrator, office staff, teacher aides and volunteers for their hard work to make our school a stand out success.
I spoke of attending our school’s predecessor — Finlayson school — and asked for a show of hands of who also attended. About a dozen hands went up. This is significant to me as these alumni can see what we did not quite have in place for us. During the desegregation movement in the 1970s, Native students were bussed from all across town to Finlayson (not all), some passed Jefferson to go to Finlayson. About 20% were non-Native from the 8th Avenue low-income housing projects even though they were just a block from Lincoln. The quality of education was very poor (maybe not for all) but I know when I went to middle school, I did not know how to do simple division nor understood the parts of speech, nor could I write a complete sentence. I just never learned this at Finlayson.

I failed everything from seventh grade to ninth grade and dropped out at 15 years old.
I also got to share that when our tribe decided to determine if we needed our own school, I was working as a policy advisor armed with a graduate degree and several courses in research and statistics. I was asked by then Ed Director John Hatch to do the original needs assessment, which showed that our community wanted its own school (80% in support), which included our own high school. It’s unfortunate that negative forces have prevented us from taking the next step to establish a high school, but I thanked Dr. Carolyn Dale and the army of committee members including school and community members who are working to finally make this a reality.
For years the BIA (now BIE) claimed our original application did not include a high school. I reminded everyone that my cousin Bonnie Brady wrote the application and that she had a copy to share with me in 2009 (while I was out of office) such that I was able to successfully convince the BIE to agree to fund a high school. This took work and did not just happen. You can imagine my frustration when certain negative forces refused since

2012 to today to move forward.
I apologized to the graduating eighth grade that we did not have a ninth grade for them to matriculate to next year, but perhaps they could return to JKL in their sophomore year. The room erupted in applause. Clearly, our community has been waiting for this. The survey Dr. Dale did of interest for a JKL high school was just a strong today as it was in 1992. No more excuses and let’s beat back the negative forces that have prevented it so far.
Finally, my niece Ella graduated from eighth grade, as uncle I just can’t resist embarrassing my nieces and nephews when I get the chance. While I explained that I would not sing her baby song I used to sing to Ella Boatwright, I did tell one story about when she was a baby. It got a good chuckle from her classmates.
I am so proud of our JKL eighth grade graduating class. It gives me hope for our future to know they will change the world armed with the preparation our tribe gave them.
BUDGET NEXT STEPS
The President’s budget proposal 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.
US House of Representatives
www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative
US Senators (2)
www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm?lang=en
Tribal members, please take care and love yourself, your family and your tribe!
Chi miigwech, ~ Aaron
Phone: (906) 440-8946
aapayment@saulttribe.net
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-resources/budget/the-presidents-fy-2026-discretionary-budget-request/>

Wequayoc Cemetery clean up a good turn out



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

On Saturday, May 17, we had our annual cleanup at the Wequayoc Cemetery. We had a good turn out with every cemetery committee member present and many others. We had a nice potluck and posted the new veteran plaque in the case. Our Elder Veteran Dell Powers posted the flags on our veteran graves. On Veteran's Day, we also take the flags off and burn them and place wreaths on the graves. Anyone interested in burying a family member at the Wequayoc Cemetery needs to contact the sexton, Russ Rickley, at (906) 440-5696.

May 17-18, we had a bead workshop with Lisa Kennedy and Adam Avery of Niishode_ TwoHearts. The group had a great time and we hope to be able to work more with them in the future.

There was a special meeting called on Tuesday, May 13, with agenda items of the Sibley Property and Key Employees. The board voted to keep the Sibley property from the LLLJ settlement and instead pay \$10 million to end the judgment. The board had initially voted to give them the Sibley property and \$7 million.

Unfortunately, at that same meeting, four of our executives resigned as well. The casino CFO, the government CFO, the government CEO and the general counsel. Two of them had served our tribe for many years and had a lot of institutional knowledge. Thank you to all four executives for your service to our people. There have been some interim appointments for these positions until they are filled.

On Tuesday, May 27, there was a special Gaming Authority meeting to approve a waiver of sovereign immunity to Gundlach Champion for the renovations to the Sault restaurant space for the Black Rock restaurant. This project seems to be taking forever; I believe it has been almost two years since we originally met with them.

During the May 27 workshop, the Cultural Committee wanted to discuss the Sault powwow and how they could get all their needs taken care of. I understand the staff's sense of responsibility in taking on this project and that it is the homeland powwow, but the powwows in the units don't get this level of help and commitment, other than \$10,000. The Sault, I believe,

gets \$80,000 and it seems most of that is given away for competition. I am not picking on anyone or trying to cause problems because I know that they take a lot of hard work and months of preparation. Other areas have people in their communities that help and it seems like the Sault falls on the shoulders of staff.

We also had a workshop with Human Resources to review some much-needed policy changes. With us having several HR departments now, we need to also recognize that. Hopefully, these are added to a board meeting agenda soon.

We had our annual meeting in St. Ignace, on Tuesday, June 3. We voted to approve the schedule C budgets, which are our biggest budget of nearly \$70 million, of which about \$21 million is tribal support. The budget is not balanced and we have concerns but we cannot continue to operate on a continuing resolution. We passed it and will continue to work on cost savings and prepare for 2026 and the possible funding concerns moving forward with federal funding changes or eliminations of programs.

There was a resolution to have the BIA forester take bids on cutting down the trees at the Savard property in St. Ignace. This is the site we are working on infrastructure for future housing development.

The EDC is fixing up the houses in Sawyer Village that have sat for decades by putting on new roofs, siding, windows and exterior doors to 42 homes. These will be much needed rentals in the UP.

We updated inventory and approved the Transportation Plan. This will allow for federal funding to improve roads, sidewalks, parking lots, etc., in the seven-county service area. The Transportation Department also had a resolution to accept bids for branding and graphic design services. This was also the only tribal bidder to get signs in our areas for streets, trails, etc., in our language.

At the workshop earlier that day, we met with the Conservation Committee chair and attorney about recommendations for the seven commercial fishing licenses that are currently in limbo for people either not paying to keep their licenses or not assigning it at death. There are five small boat licenses and two big boat licenses.

I have some mixed opinions on this as I think on one hand we are fine with just keeping those licenses so that we don't put anymore pressure on our harvests. Whitefish are hard to come by and there is only so many trout that markets will buy.

I suggested starting with a lottery for one small boat license but maybe charge a fee with that money being put into the fishermen's fund which is currently very low. There have been many fishermen who had to purchase their license and just giving one away will cause problems.

I also understand that we

need our people to carry on our traditions and way of life so we do need some young people to get into the fishery. I also don't want to see someone win the license in a lottery and hardly fish it and then sell it a few years down the road; I would rather the license come back to the tribe to be given to someone else. These fishing issues have been a concern for many years and these are the reasons why past board didn't do anything with the available licenses.

The Election Committee Vice Chair and tribal attorney also met with the board to discuss things, and I asked why it was in closed session and was told because of finances, which I don't agree with. I will not be giving updates on that conversation.

My board concern at the meeting is when the board or chair are absent from a meeting that we know of the reason. Many times, we vote to excuse one or a group and we are not given a reason why they are not there. I know one board member was gone due to medical, but was later told that one board and the chair went to a timber conference but the board member was on Zoom and the chair was not. I just think the membership has a right to know. I am not picking on any individual; the board executive should be able to state where a person

is, such as NCAI, sick, vacation, a specific conference, etc.

We will be holding a membership meeting in Lansing on Monday, July 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the former Radisson Hotel and earlier in the day meet on our legislative issues and hopefully with some representatives. On the 15th, we will hold our board meeting there as well. I know members downstate like to attend, but I would rather just have a membership meeting and spend one day there instead of the expenses with the current plan. We also send out postcards to people in the area but do not send them in the service area.

I have had many complaints on the yards of many of our housing units. We have also been dealing with residents destroying units and trashing the homes. I do not understand it — it is so hard to get a place to live in all of our areas and there are others who would like to occupy the unit. Please start to take pride in your house and yard and teach your children to respect the neighborhood. Each reservation has a scheduled clean up day as well. Nobody should have to deal with rats and other critters when we have garbage totes. Housing will be taking steps to ensure our units are being taken care of for the future of other members that will reside in the units.

Reminder that if you live in the tax agreement area and your child is working, you need to call the tax office and fill out the tax agreement area postcard to register them in the area so they will be tax exempt from state taxes. If you are purchasing a vehicle, contact the tax office prior to not have to pay the sales tax. You must live in the seven-county service area tax agreement area to qualify. If you are not sure either look at the map at saulttribe.com or call the tax office, (906) 635-6050.

I want to end with my discontent with the chair always making snide comments to those of us that work outside of our role as board members. He also worked when he was a board member. The chair does not need to sit at the administration building 32 hours a week. The authority of the chair is really chairing meetings/workshops and signing things. He claims that is how he knows much more about things happening than we do. All executives should be sending all their updates and communications to Lona Steward, the board executive, to pass on to us all as a body. All this does is breed distrust and pit people against each other.

Any questions or concerns, I can be reached at bridgett91@yahoo.com, bsorenson@sault-tribe.com, or (906) 430-0536.

Kitchi Miniss Jiingtamok

BAY FURNACE CAMPGROUND

AUG. 9, 2025

ARENA STAFF

MC: Josh Homminga
Arena Director: Dan Garceau
Head Veteran: Phil Martin
Head Female: Katy Matson
Head Male: Jeremy Burnside
Head Junior Female & Male: TBD
Firekeeper: TBD
Host Drum: Teal Lake Singers
Co-Host Drum: TBD
Youth Drum: TBD
Invited Drums: TBD

Grand Entry at 12 & 6 p.m.

Feast at 4 p.m.

Vendors! Contact Amanda

at 906-450-1439 or
amandashellnut@gmail.com

Everyone is Welcome!
No Alcohol, Politics or Dogs.

 in Partnership with the Sault Tribe YEA



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FRIDAY, JUNE 20

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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.

Kewadin
HESSEL
CASINO

31ST
ANNIVERSARY

JULY 12

Win Your Share of up to
\$5,000 CASH & Credits

Punch-a-Bunch Draws start at noon

Money Machine Draws start at 7 p.m.

Grand Prize Draws start at 10:30 p.m.

Win up to \$200 Kewadin Credits or \$1,000 CASH

Hors d'oeuvres, cake, champagne and karaoke starting at 8 p.m.

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

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