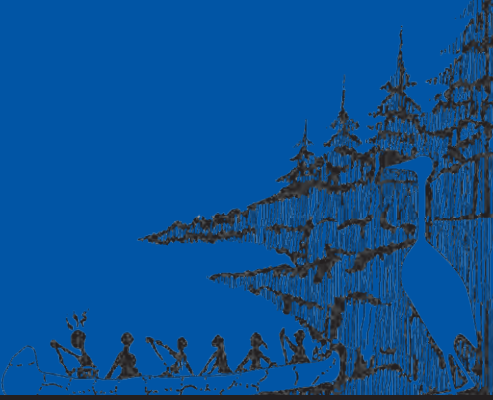




Win Awenen Nisitotung

July 23, 2025
Blueberry Moon • Miin Giizis
Vol. 46 • No. 7



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

St. Ignace museum receives 2% funding

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

The City of St. Ignace's Museum of Ojibwa Culture, located at 396 N. State Street, St. Ignace, Mich., received \$13,141 for various projects in the latest round of funding.

"The tribe helps us immensely," said Museum Director Thomas Wyers, rattling off a long list of programs that benefit from this financial assistance. "Our Native American Festival kicks off our season and then we'll have Heritage Days in August."

Other annual events include Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Day held in May and the upcoming Orange Shirt Day (No Child Left Behind) Walk in October.

On Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the summer, the Longhouse serves as a gathering spot for historical and cultural talks, along with a question and answer session conducted by Tom's wife, Francie.

On Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7 p.m., the Longhouse hosts the tribe's Wellbriety Program, which helps individuals reconnect to their traditional beliefs and values.

On Friday nights, an elder, usually Richard Lewis of Sault Ste. Marie, holds a storytelling

session in the Longhouse from 6 to 8 p.m.

"The Museum of Ojibwa Culture is one of the most beautiful well kept locations for visitors and locals to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of the area," wrote Wyers in applying for the latest round of 2% funding. "We are very thankful to the Sault Tribe for their continued support and they are one of the main reasons why our museum is such a success."

The St. Ignace Visitor's Bureau, Wyers added, also plays an important role in helping to fund this operation.

The museum is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from May 15 through the month of October.



Orange Shirt Day is just one of many events that take place at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture which benefits from 2% funding.

Fir Street Climb Trail recipient of 2% funding

The Fir Street Climb Trail was a recent recipient of 2% funding under the Sault Tribe's agreement with the state of Michigan requiring the tribe to share a portion of its slot revenue to local units of government throughout the seven-county service area.

"The Sault Tribe has been an ongoing supporter of our efforts," said Munising Bay Trail Network (MBTN) President Rhonda Lassila, adding the collaboration has been instrumental in the development over the years. "We have constructed 42 miles since 2013."

The latest contribution, in the form of \$5,000 for the officially named FIRst Ascent Trail, allowed for the construction of .75 miles of switchbacks improving access to the existing trail system. The trail is designed for those on bikes to ride up the hill, while those on foot, ski or snowshoe have the option of using the trail to climb and descend.



Chris Swarr and Reinhard Eisenmann prepare to tackle the new trail on their mountain bikes. The pair were visiting from West Virginia.

"We have over 50 miles of trail we maintain now," said Lassila, estimating that roughly half the users are local folks and

the other half coming from out of town to ride and hike.

The MBTN boasts more than 70 dues-paying members with



MBTN President Rhonda Lassila said the Sault Tribe has played an important role in helping to build the trail network.

more than a dozen dedicated volunteers that help to build and maintain the existing trail network.

The FIRst Ascent Trail officially opened to the public on July 7 and has already seen a considerable amount off traffic.

www.saulttribe.com

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SIGN UP TODAY!

Some people like nothing better than the feel of a newspaper or a book in their hands as they read. But, others of the digital age like to use their computers, tablets and phones for everything — reading their news, books, and looking at photos. Now, tribal members can have their preference.

Tribal members receiving print copies of *Win Awenen Nisitotung* can switch to a digital edition subscription and receive it much earlier than they would in their USPS mailbox. Those signing up for the digital edition will receive an email with a link to the full PDF newspaper the same day it is printed, and two days earlier



than it is mailed at the post office. Plus, they will be helping the tribe save postage and the world save paper.

Tribal members can sign up for the digital edition by emailing slucas@saulttribe.net. If you are receiving a copy of the print newspaper, please provide your mailing name and address and let us know you would like to switch. Subscriptions will be cross-checked so that subscribers

will receive a print copy or a digital copy, but not both.

Members may also use the form on page 3 of this newspaper, or online at <https://www.saulttribe.com/newsroom/sault-tribe-newspaper> under Subscriptions.

It will be the subscribers' responsibility to keep their emails up to date. Simply send us an email with your old email address and your new email address and your subscription will be moved to your new email.

The e-newspaper is available publicly at saulttribe.com, but it's up for surfers to come across the new issue each month.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Sherrie Lucas at (906) 632-6398.

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Tribal interns Kayak the historic St. Marys River



Photos by Aimee Spring

Tribal interns, Education Director Stephanie Sprecker and Education Assistant Breanna Sliger all participated in the three-hour tour, guided by Jim Tucker and Jack Ware from Bird's Eye Adventures.



From left to right: Guide Jim Tucker, Breanna Sliger, and Community Health Intern Kenedy Hagan rounding the corner to paddle across the upbound channel of the Soo Locks.



The interns taking a break under the museum ship Valley Camp. The group's journey took them across the upbound channels of the Soo Locks, through the Canadian Canal and Lock, and down the lower St. Marys River.

Groundbreaking held in Wetmore for tiny homes

BY SCOTT BRAND

Groundbreaking for a Tiny Home project in Wetmore, Mich., was held July 11, marking the third major project to begin in 2025 to address the housing shortfall throughout the seven-county service area. "People are struggling to find housing up here," said Unit V Director Tyler LaPlaunt. "We're hoping this will help to meet some of the demand." Six tiny homes will be built on Atik Ameg Drive. Two of the homes will be two bedrooms, measuring 12 feet 6 inches by 42 feet 6 inches, while the remaining

four homes will be single bedroom units measuring 12 feet 6 inches by 35 feet 10 inches. "These will be our first tiny homes," said LaPlaunt. If all goes according to plan, the homes should be ready for people to move in by September. The Newberry Elder Quadplex Project, which began on April 21, is getting closer to completion, while the Hessel project that began on June 4 continues to make progress as well. Funding for all three projects is coming from the federal government under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).



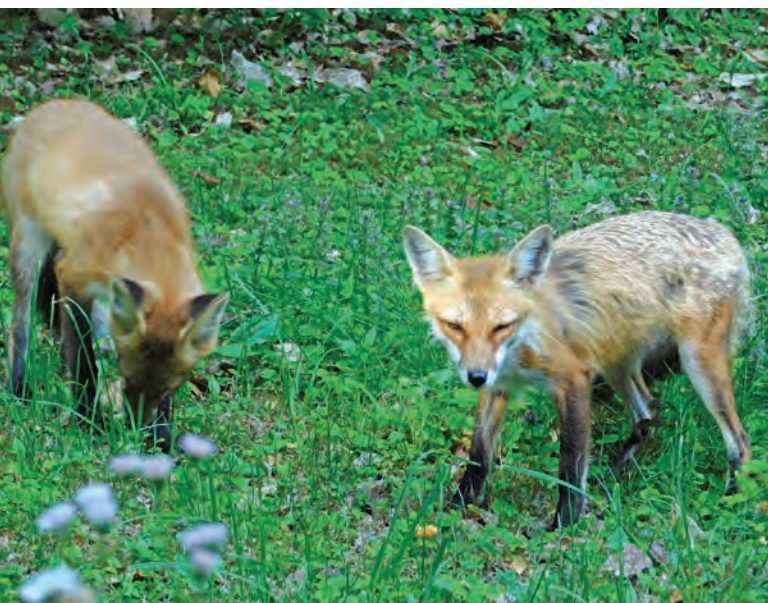
Left, an interior view of a tiny home. Above, Mike Szlag, Unit V Director Tyler LaPlaunt, Jeffrey Mudroch, Veronica Beaumont, Katie Spence, Olivia Fuller, Ryan Madigan and Tom Lucky at the groundbreaking.

Scrounging for scraps



Photos by Scott Brand

The Hiawatha National Forest is home to a wide range of critters including the red fox which has the largest geographic range of any living carnivore. Their diets, according to scientists, are limited by only what they can find and catch. This duo seemingly prove that hypothesis consuming meat scraps, cheap hot dogs, rib bones and even hot and spicy pork rinds with abandon.





Indigenous Breastfeeding WORKSHOP

Celebrate breast/chest feeding, our first traditional food, in this interactive workshop. This workshop is free and open to anyone who would benefit from education on all aspects of breast/chest feeding.

We will be learning the basics of breast/chest feeding, answering questions and learning from each other. By removing barriers and uplifting traditional first foods for young Indigenous families, we take a crucial step toward creating a vibrant Indigenous food system and reconnecting families to cultural and spiritual aspects of birth.

**THURSDAY**

**August 14, 2025**

**10 am to 2pm**

**Niigaanagiizhik Cultural Center**

REGISTER NOW

**906-632-5210**



Traditional snacks and teas will be provided.

Speaker

Rosa Gardiner

A long-standing community member with 20+ years of lactation consultant experience with breastfeeding families. Rosa has achieved the certification of an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant as well as being a registered nurse.

With Special Guest

Lori Gambardella

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Supervisor

Brought to you by the Sault Tribe Health Education's Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country Project and Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine. Made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

Membership liaisons Q&A

Where to get a Sault Tribe flag

Q: I recently saw a home with a Sault Tribe flag flying outside, are they available to members?

A: You can purchase the flags in various sizes at the Sault Tribe casino gift shops. You can also email the Casino Gift Shop Manager at gnelson1@saulttribe.net and they can assist with a flag order.

Can my spouse help me fish?

Q: I have my Sault Tribe Harvest Card and my non-tribal spouse and I just purchased a new fishing boat. Can he be with me and pilot the boat when I’m exercising my treaty rights to fish on the inland lakes?

A: The answer is “yes” but he may not use a spear or set the hook on a fish and hand you the pole. Also, just to avoid any problems with a state conservation officer, he should have in his possession a valid state of Michigan fishing license while he is with you even if he is not fishing.

Can I sell the firewood I harvest?

Q: The ice storm we had back in March left acres of downed trees on the state lands in the northern Lower Peninsula. Can I harvest some of wood from those trees and sell it as firewood with my Inland Harvest Card?

A: Unfortunately, the answer is “no.” Members may not sell harvested firewood from state of Michigan land. Members can obtain a firewood harvest permit from the Law Enforcement Department (906) 635-6065 for gathering up to five cords from downed trees, in designated areas, for their own personal use. Members are allowed one permit, per household, annually.

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 (906) 643-2124

chudak@saulttribe.net

Mary Jenerou

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

mjenerou@saulttribe.net

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

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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State and Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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☐ change of address

☐ digital subscription
 OR
☐ print subscription

AGE: ____

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

July 23, 2025
Blueberry Moon
Miin Giizis

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Tribe’s board holds meetings June 17, July 1 and 15

June 17 meeting
The Sault Tribe Board of Directors approved more than two dozen resolutions during a lengthy meeting on June 17, including:

- Approved the Fiscal Year 2025 budget for State Small Business Credit Initiative with Federal Department of Treasury Revenue monies of \$144,093.15.
- Approved the Health Division Budget for fiscal year 2025 at 2024 spending levels through Aug. 31.
- Approved Fiscal Year Budget 2026 totaling \$18,773,079 with \$60,909 coming from tribal support.
- Appointed John Causley Jr. and Tim Derwin to the Michigan Indian Elders Association with Dell Powers named as an alternate.
- Appointed Richard Corbiere Jr. to serve as Reserve Community Member Appellate Judge for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Court of Appeals for a four-year term.
- Reappointed Elisabeth Dietz as Elder Judge for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Court of Appeals for another four-year term.
- Authorized and approved the Court Clerk and Deputy Clerk positions budgeting pay increases to ensure the posts can be filled with qualified individuals.
- Appointed Mark Johnson and Leroy Frazier to the Corporate Board of Directors of Sault Tribe Incorporated with

both terms expiring in June 2028.

- Approved a contract with OTIS Elevator Company to modernize the existing elevator and install a second one at the Sault Tribe Health Division building for \$379,400.
- Awarded the electrical work contract for Sawyer Village in Gwinn to Mandel Electrical Inc. with \$96,542 out of LATCF funding and \$37,7567 from the account balance for this project as efforts continue to restore 42 homes in that area.
- A plumbing contract of up to \$521,000 was awarded to Nicolet Shores Plumbing Inc. from the Sawyer Village account balance was approved for those same 42 homes.
- Sikora Sheet Metal Inc. was awarded a contract of up to \$139,797 to replace the furnaces in the Sawyer Village homes.
- Cancelled a residential land lease with Diane Van Valkenburgh before approving similar leases with Brenda Brownlee, Cassandra Franklin, Wendie Mae and William Harten, and Jace Jenerou.
- Approved renaming “The Guest House,” located at 2049 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie to its Ojibwe counterpart being “Nbwaachwegamigong” meaning “the visitors’ house.”
- Approved renaming the Seven Seas building, located at 351 Portage Street in Sault Ste. Marie, with its Ojibwe counterpart “Onigaming” meaning “portage place.”

- Authorized a contract with outside counsel to commence legal action against any individual or entity who benefitted from violations of the May 10, 2022, agreement to recover all funds expended under the contract including restitution, compensatory damages, legal fees and any other losses incurred by the tribe.
- Authorized a letter of support on behalf of Lake Superior Academy School in its effort to curtail a bitcoin mining operation creating excessive noise near the schoolgrounds.
- Named Joshua Elliott interim senior attorney.

July 1 meeting
The Sault Tribe Board of Directors met July 1, at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center passing a number of resolutions including:

- Approved a new lease for JKL School.
- Approved a partial waiver of conviction for a tribal member on a misdemeanor trespassing offense for gaming license purposes.
- Authorized a lease modification to Larry Harris for property in the Cedar Grove Estates in Kincheloe.
- Authorized an amendment to simplifying the tribally funded Higher Education scholarship criteria to streamline the process and further approved moving the Pamela Cable Gershon and Joseph K. Lumsden scholarships to the Golf Scholarship Fund.
- Approved Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) as the lead agency to receive and administer the Native Employment Works Program through fiscal year 2028.
- Authorized ACFS to reapply for Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and administer the program through fiscal year 2028.
- Authorized ACFS to reapply and administer the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) through fiscal year 2028.
- Authorized ACFS to reapply and administer the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) through fiscal year 2028.
- Approved a request for technical assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a feasibility assessment for the removal, whole or in part, of the Munuscong Bay Dike to support ecological restoration and hydrological connectivity.
- Approved the submission of Sault Tribe comments related to the proposed State Forest Management Plan.
- Amended Chapter 11, Section 11.106 under Article III of the Sault Tribe’s Constitution, providing a path to tribal membership through collateral ancestors when a direct ancestor is not listed on the historic rolls. Chapter 11, Section 11.110 was also amended allowing any member who had voluntarily relinquished their membership the opportunity to reapply for enrollment after three years.
- Approved multiple fishing license changes for captains as the Conservation Committee recommended.

July 15 meeting
The Sault Tribe Board of Directors took a significant step forward as it considers changing its Constitution during the July 15 meeting down in Lansing.

The framework for the amendment will come from the Constitutional Convention Committee’s report issued more than a dozen years ago. In that document, the committee developed a blueprint for a three-branch separation of powers and a two-branch separation of powers, but neither version was ever presented to the membership for approval. After much discussion and a flurry of amendments it appears as though that document may finally go before voters.

But there are a lot of steps to come before that day.

The Board requested the legal department to weigh the pros and cons of the two-branch and three-branch systems and will also survey tribal members on their preference before moving forward. A 120-day deadline was also established to prevent the document from once again languishing in obscurity.

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors also took these actions:

- Approved the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Document for the Health Division totaling \$65,859,937.
- Updated the tribe’s purchases

See “Board,” page 5

Saturdays in August — Excludes Hessel August 9

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BOAT SHOW BUCKS

Hessel | August 9

Win Your Share of \$4,000 CASH

KEWADIN ADVANCEMENT SLOT TOURNAMENT

Sault Ste. Marie | Mondays

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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

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Plans available for review and public comment

Low Income Energy Assistance Program Plan now available for review

The Sault Tribe's Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Plan is available for your review.

The LIHEAP program is designed to assist in alleviating

the burden of high energy costs to eligible Sault Tribe households in the Sault Tribe's seven-county service area. How we administer this program is partly determined by your input.

The plan will be available from July 15 to Aug. 15, 2025, for comment at www.saulttribe.com or at the following tribal locations:

ACFS— Sault, 2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

ACFS— St. Ignace, 1140 N. State Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781

ACFS— Manistique, 5698 W. Highway US 2, Manistique, MI 49854

Email comments are encouraged to mmiller1@saulttribe.net. Public Comment will be heard Monday, Aug. 18, 2025, from 3 to 5 p.m. at 2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

If you have any questions,

please contact Megan Miller, Direct Services Program Director at (800) 726-0093.

CSBG Plan Public Comment July 15-Aug. 15

The Sault Tribe's Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Plan is available for your review.

The Community Service Block Grant provides emergency assistance to eligible tribal households in the Sault Tribe's seven-county service area facing immediate and urgent needs where they are not able to resolve on their own. How we administer this program is partly

determined by your input.

The plan will be available from July 15 to Aug. 15, 2025, at the following tribal locations:

ACFS— Sault, 2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

ACFS— St. Ignace, 1140 N. State Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781

ACFS— Manistique, 5698 W. Highway US 2, Manistique, MI 49854

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If you have questions, please contact Megan Miller, Direct Services Program Director at (800) 726-0093.

Elders celebrate July birthdays



Happy birthday to Elder Cook Phillip Bertoli Jr. and Anne Hill



Happy birthday to Emory Schwiderson.

June and July board meetings

From "Board," page 4

-ing policy.

- Reappointed Dr. Madan Saluja to the Audit Committee for a four-year term, expiring in July of 2029.

- Authorized Sawyer Village to enter into a 10-year note from the Housing Authority in the amount of \$1.5 million at an annual interest rate of 5% to fund renovations on 42 homes.

- Appointed Director

Bridgett Sorenson to the Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee with Chairman Austin Lowes as an alternate and Housing Director Mariea Mongene as technical advisor.

- Secured access to the Savard property under an agreement with Mackinac County.

- Approved the expenditure of up to \$80,000 to Automated Comfort Controls for a freezer/fridge replacement at the Sault

Tribe Elderly Building.

- Approved a contract with Ryno Renovation of up to \$230,000 to replace the roof and gable siding at the Sault Tribe Elderly Building that complements the decor of the newly-renovated Kewadin Casino.

- Approved two additional contracts including M & D General Contracting for just north of \$2 million for work at Sawyer Village.

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Anishinaabemowin 2025

“The moment one gives close attention to anything, even a blade of grass, it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself.”

— Henry Miller

“All things are bound together. All things connect.”

— Chief Seattle

Anishinaabek recognize there is more to life than physical existence. We speak of this Great Mystery as **G’chi-manidoo** - Great spirit, Creator. More commonly here we say **Gzhe-manidoo** - Kind spirit. Gzhe-manidoo infused *everything and everyone* with manidoo-like essence to some degree or another. Among these are the **Manidoonhsak** - Little spirits and today we’ll look at some of them —the insects. Like all of Gzhe-manidoo’s creatures, manidoonhsak have a role to

Memengwaanhyik - butterflies
Nimkii dikmanak - moths
Waawaatesik - fireflies
Aamook - bees
Zhimaagini-wesiinhak - wasps
(literally: little soldier animals)
Adults carry pollen (**majiigchigan**) among flowers. Aamook and zhimaagini-wesiinhak sting to fight potential predators. Wasps are hugely valuable in keeping insect populations in balance. Some caterpillars -**moosek** can sting. Those of the waawaatesik eat garden pests like snails and slugs.



*Why do some insects want a sip of **g’miskwiim** - your blood?*

Because your blood has proteins and other nutrients that are crucial for egg development. Only the females need it.

Why do we begrudge them a small drop of our blood?

To keep our blood from clotting, they inject a small amount of spit with anesthetic in it to keep us from noticing what’s happening. Our own immune system responds by causing itching and inflammation. No fun.

Zigimek Mosquitos
Mizisaakok - horseflies
Mizisaakoonhsak - deerflies
Mooshenhsak - black & sand flies
These guys are on a mission to get blood. Zigimek quickly stab a blood vessel with a needley mouth part and suck too get the goods, then leave you itchy. The others have biting mouth parts that cut a tiny hole to make you bleed a little, so you end up hurting a little as well as itchy.

About plurals: All of the manidoonhsak here are given in plural form. So they all end in one of these: ak, wag, ok, ik, yik or just k. Take those off to speak of just one manidoonhs.

Ezigaakok - wood ticks
Koojiishak - lice
These like to attach to skin - yours as well as other animals - to take a leasurely drink of nutritious blood. It’s not that much really, but they creep us out. Koojiishak don’t bring disease but ezigaakok might. **Aapiji gwa mji-manidoonhsak aawiwag**. They really are, well, bad!



Makade enigoonhsak (black ants) aerate and fertilize the soil, spread seeds, and control the population of other insects like aphids. They eat almost anything. They don’t sting but they can bite, causing itching.

Oojiik (house flies) eat **kina dnawa** all kinds of food, but it has to be in liquid form. **Zkwaadaanaawaan miijim**. They spit on solid food. **Mii dash wiikboodoonaawaan**. Then they suck it up.

Miin Giizis Blueberry Moon

by Susan Askwith



play in the flow of **gshki’ewiziwin** — energy — on **Shkaka-makwe** — Mother Earth. We don’t pay much attention to most manidoonhsak but some of the ones we notice most, we call **Mji-manidoonhsak** - mischevious, naughty or maybe even bad ones (for us). But they are just doing the work assigned to them by Creator. This is true for **bmaadizijig** — humans — as well. Each of us creatures, we are valuable: **G’piitendaagozimi**.

Pakinenhyik - grasshoppers
Jiigaawesiwag - crickets
Pakinenhyik eat plants and don’t bite unless threatened. The ‘bite’ is really more of a pinch. Jiigaawesiwag eat **kina dnawa** food. They’re active at night. They can bite but rarely do. Like pakinenhyik it’s just a minor irritation. No problem: **Kaa go**



Gaawiin n’bishigenmaa-siig manidoonhsak

I don’t like insects...

misawaa manidoonhsak aawiwag.

even if they are little spirits.

Nendowenjigejig!

They are predators!

N’da nendowamjigaazad!

I am the prey!

Enji-miigaading aawan.

This is a battle.

Aabidek gwa n’naakwii!

I have to defend myself!

Gzhe-manidoo wii nisdotam.

Creator will understand.

Aabidek n’ga nsaagwaa.

I will have to kill it.

giishpin bezhik booniid giji-niin.

if one lands on me.

maage giishpin bezhik biindiged endaayaanh

or if one comes in my house.

Aashiish-maajii! Wa zigime gii n’namig bijiinak.

Dang! That mosquito bit me just now.

Zhaashi n’zhiibii.

I’m already itchy.

Gego gziibiibidoon-ke!

Don’t scratch it!

Oh, enh. Gaawiin wi zhiwebasinoon.

Oh, *right*. That’s not happening...

Ginige gaawiin aamoo gii g’bdakawsii’ig.

At least a bee didn’t sting you.

G’zhiibii eta. Gaawiin g’wiisgine-sii.

You are only itchy. You aren’t feeling sharp pain.

Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)

What do **memengwaanhsak** study in school? *Motheletics.*

How do **aamook** brush their hair? *With a honeycomb.*

Why did the **oojii** never land on the computer?

He was afraid of the world-wide-web.

What do you call an **oojii** without wings? *A walk.*

Why was the **enigoonhs** so confused?

All his uncles were enigoonhsak.

What kind of **oojii** has a frog in its throat? *Mizisaak.*

Where does a sick **zhimaagini-wesiinh** go? *To a waspital!*

What happens if you eat **moosek**?

You get memengwaanhsak in your tummy!



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!

GERARD SAGASSIGE

2025 AUGUST CLINIC HOURS

August 11,12,18,19,25,26
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906)632-0236

Wednesday, August 13th
St. Ignace Health Center
(906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135

Wednesday, August 20th
Escanaba Community Center
(906)632-0236

Wednesday, August 27th
Manistique Health Center
(906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

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

Save the Date!

Hessel Powwow
August 16-17
at the Hessel Powwow
Grounds, beside Hessel
Kewadin Casino

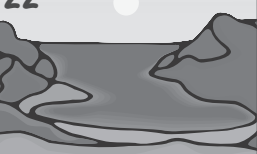
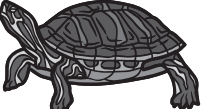
Spiritual Gathering Aug. 15,
starts at 2 p.m. in the lodge
at the powwow grounds

Spiritual Advisor TBA
Head Veteran – Nick VanAlstine
Arena Director – Les Ailing
Emcee – Josh Homminga
Host Drum – Mukwa Giizhik
Firekeeper – Jeff Causley
Head Male Dancer – Jeremy Burnside
Head Female Dancer – Sarah Archer
Head Youth Male – William Ruthruff
Head Youth Female – Sophie Huffman

Drum Split for Drums

Vendors contact: Jackie Minton (906) 440-1870
Contact Kim Lee (906) 379-8965
Jackie Minton (906) 440-1870

MANOOMINIKE GIIZIS - RICING MOON - AUGUST 2025

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

Celebrating National Breastfeeding Month

BY LYNDEE ZEIGLER, SAULT TRIBE COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATOR

Breastfeeding and traditional first foods are central to tribal sovereignty and indigenous food sovereignty. Breast milk is considered the “first food” and a sacred practice, as it is a vital part of self-sustainability, cultural preservation, community connection, healthy development, and creating a sense of identity and belonging. Breast milk symboliz-

es life, nourishment, and connection to the land and ancestors. Unfortunately, colonization and assimilation have disrupted these traditional practices, leading to decreased breastfeeding rates and reliance on non-traditional foods. However, Native communities are actively working to restore these practices and address the health disparities that have resulted from these disruptions. And National Breastfeeding Month is a great time to showcase

the vital role of breastfeeding in the health and well-being of both babies and mothers. Among breastfeeding’s many benefits, breast milk contains optimal nutrition and provides an immune system boost to babies. It also lowers long-term disease risk for both mothers and babies. For the baby, breast milk transfers important antibodies from the mom that help the baby’s immune system to build up from birth; breast-fed babies tend to have

fewer childhood illnesses and infections, including a decrease in obesity, diabetes and asthma. Breast milk has the natural complement of vitamins and nutrients that a baby needs to thrive. For the mom, breastfeeding allows the uterus to go back to normal size quicker and with less blood loss after delivery. Some women lose a lot more of the weight they gained during pregnancy if they breast feed. The long-term health benefits for

a mom also include a decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancers. There are benefits in emotional well-being for both a mom and baby, as skin-to-skin contact boosts bonding and there are natural endorphins (oxytocin) that get released during breastfeeding. Because of those and many other reasons, we encourage all moms to breastfeed, if possible. Information sourced through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

BY CIARA SAINT, SAULT TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PREVENTION SPECIALIST

July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to reflect on the mental health challenges that affect communities of color, including Native people. For the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, this month is an opportunity to break the silence around mental health, honor our resilience, and support culturally grounded healing.

A legacy that still impacts our wellness

Native communities across the country carry the weight of historical trauma. From forced relocation and boarding schools to continued discrimination and under-resourced healthcare sys-

tems, the history of colonization continues to affect our emotional and mental health today, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This trauma shows up in our communities through high rates of depression, anxiety, substance use, and suicide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide remains a leading cause of death for Native youth, with rates nearly three times the national average. **Facing barriers to care** Many Sault Tribe members and others in rural Native communities face serious obstacles to accessing mental health care. These include limited funding for the Indian Health Service (IHS), geographic isolation, transporta-

tion challenges, and a shortage of providers trained in culturally competent care. Stigma surrounding mental health continues to be another major barrier. When services are available, they often don’t reflect our traditional values, making it harder for our people to feel safe or understood. This disconnect can prevent many from seeking the help they need. **Our traditional ways are healing** Despite the challenges, our culture is a source of strength. Traditional healing practices such as talking circles, sweat lodges, ceremonies, and language revitalization are deeply connected to our emotional and spiritual wellness. These cultural practices are not only meaningful—they are

practical tools for healing. More Native-led programs are now combining these traditional methods with modern therapeutic approaches to offer more complete care for our people. Tribal behavioral health teams—including those within the Sault Tribe Health Division—are working to provide care that honors our identity and history. **What we can do during this awareness month** National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month gives us a platform to elevate Native voices, promote healing, and act: — Encourage open conversations about mental wellness in our families and communities. — Support local and tribal mental health services.

— Ensure our youth know it’s okay to ask for help. — Push for more funding and culturally informed care through IHS and tribal programs. — Reclaim and integrate our traditional teachings into every level of health care. **Healing is a community responsibility** By honoring our ancestors, supporting our youth, and reclaiming our ways, we can build a future where every tribal member can access compassionate, culturally grounded care. If you or someone you know needs support, contact the Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Program at (906) 635-6075, or call or text “988” and press “4” for Native-specific crisis support.

IHS facilities are available across the United States

Members of federally recognized tribes are eligible for services provided by the Indian Health Service (IHS). The IHS is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The IHS provides a comprehensive health service delivery system for approximately 2.8 million of the nation’s estimated 3.7 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. This interactive map can be used to find an Indian Health

Service, Tribal or Urban Indian Health Program facility: www.ihs.gov. **Tribal Health Centers in Michigan** American Indian Health and Family Services - Detroit: www.aihfs.org/ Bay Mills Indian Community: www.baymillshealthcenter.com/ Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians: www.gtbindians.org/healthclinic.asp

Hannahville Indian Community: www.hannahville.net/services/hannahville-department-of-health-and-human-services-business-office/ Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Health Center: www.kbic-nsn.gov Lac Vieux Desert: <https://lvd-healthcenter.com> Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Health Center: <https://lrboi-nsn.gov/membership-services/health-services>

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Ottawa Indians: <https://ltb-bodawa-nsn.gov/departments/health-services/health-clinic/> Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi: <https://gunlaketribe-nsn.gov/departments/health-human-services/tribal-health-center/> Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Health Center: www.nhbpi.org/health-and-human-services/ Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

Health Center: www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/departments/health-services/ Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Health Center: www.sagch-hip.org/nimkee **Tribal and IHS facilities across the U.S.** Urban Indian Health Program profiles: www.uihi.org/urban-indian-health/urban-indian-health-organization-profiles/ IHS locations across the country: www.ihs.gov/locations/

MSU Extension offering free virtual seated Tai Chi class

GRAYLING, Mich. — Michigan State University Extension is offering a free, fully seated Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention program. The program is offered virtually every Tuesday July 29 to Nov. 18, 2025, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. (Note: There will be no class on Oct. 21.) This evidence-based program

is designed to help participants improve strength, balance, posture, and overall well-being. This program will be fully seated. Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention helps people with or without arthritis to improve balance, both mentally and physically, which helps significantly reduce the rate of falls experienced by older adults. Studies

have shown that Tai Chi can reduce falls by nearly 70%. The program focuses on confidence building, which is linked closely to the reduced rate of falling. Other benefits include: — Increases strength — Increases balance and posture — Prevents falls — Improves mind, body, an

spirit — Reduces stress and increases relaxation Led by a certified instructor, each weekly session includes gentle warm-ups and cool-downs, breathing techniques, and one or two new tai chi movements that progressively build toward a full seated routine.

All exercises are adapted for safety and accessibility, making the program ideal for individuals with limited mobility or those who are more comfortable remaining seated. The program is completely free. Registration is required: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/stc/> For questions, please contact Jamie at greerjam@msu.edu.

Health benefits of fluoridation in community water supplies

By Dr. Jessica A. Rickert, DDS, Anishinaabe Dental Outreach

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood in the United States. This is an infectious disease caused by bacterial plaque on the tooth surface metabolizing sugars and producing acid, which dissolves the surface of the tooth. If unchecked, this process continues through the tooth and into the nerve. Fluoride is found in all natural water supplies. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral called calcium fluoride ions, and is found in rocks that leaches into water. The natural level of fluo-

ride in the water varies depending on the type of rocks the water is in contact with. The fluoride ions added during municipal fluoridation are identical to the naturally occurring calcium fluoride ions. All vegetation contains some fluoride, which is absorbed from soil and water. Some plants concentrate fluoride ions; an example is that all tea leaves contain fluoride. Ocean water contains fluoride at around 1 part per million. In 1901 Dr. Frederick McKay, a dentist in Colorado Springs, Colorado, noted these citizens’ tooth enamel was unusually

resistant to decay. Then, in the early 20th century, scientists linked higher levels of naturally occurring fluoride in Colorado water supplies to low levels of tooth decay. In 1945, Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community in the world to add fluoride to tap water. When subsequent studies showed a significantly lower rate of cavities in schoolchildren, water fluoridation began in other towns and cities. In North America, fluoride concentrations in groundwater are generally very low, with the exception of some parts of the

southwestern United States where the Ogallala Aquifer results in elevated natural levels of fluoride in the groundwater. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently recommends all public drinking water contain 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water, to protect against tooth decay. This very low level of fluoride in water is equal to about 3 drops of water in a 55-gallon barrel. For more than 75 years, public water systems across the country have adjusted the existing and naturally occurring fluoride levels

in drinking water to the recommended optimum concentration for five key reasons: Studies show that fluoride in community water systems prevents at least 25 percent of tooth decay in children and adults. If bottled water is your main source of drinking water, you could be missing the cavity-fighting benefits of fluoride. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) strongly recommends community water fluoridation as a safe, effective, and equitable way to reduce tooth decay for children and adults.

Sault Tribe Fisheries releases nearly 110,000 whitefish



This five acre body of water, known as “The New Pond” produced more than 50,000 whitefish off of 15 Mile Road in its second year of operation. Planted on May 12, the fish grew to approximately 3 1/2-inches before the plug was pulled in mid-July.



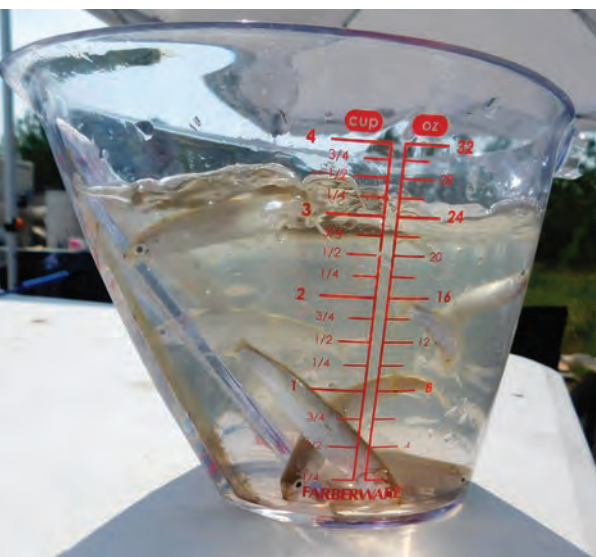
Buckets and nets at the ready as the pond was drained sending the young fish into a minnow trap where they were easily netted.



While the ponds are designed to be a good home for the young whitefish, they also prove attractive to other wildlife including pollywogs, waterfowl and this snapping turtle.



Matt Allard and Rich Reining of the Sault Tribe Fisheries Department collect the young whitefish. They were subsequently released at multiple locations in 2025 with the bulk of them transported to the Pine River near Rudyard. Additional releases were done in the St. Marys River, DeTour and Nunn's Creek.



The young whitefish appeared healthy from both ponds



Noah Blackie, Rusty Aikens and Matt Allard take inventory estimating nearly 60,000 whitefish were reared at Odenaang Pond in 2025.



The collection basin insured that virtually all of the fish were removed.



On the larger Odenaang Pond, the fisheries crew of Matt Allard, D.J. Smith and Noah Blackie head out to check the nets.



Above and below, the fyke nets, which were set at multiple locations in the pond were retrieved with the collected fish dumped into a large holding tank aboard the boat.



Rusty Aikens empties a bucket into one of the specialized holding tanks aboard a hatchery truck.

43rd Annual Baaweting Homecoming Powwow held July 4-6 on Sault Tribe reservation



Lisa Switzer, Bonita Hoops, Elle Hoops, Mason Smeui and in the back is Todd Hoops. Elle and Mason were visiting the Sault from South Dakota over the July 4th weekend.



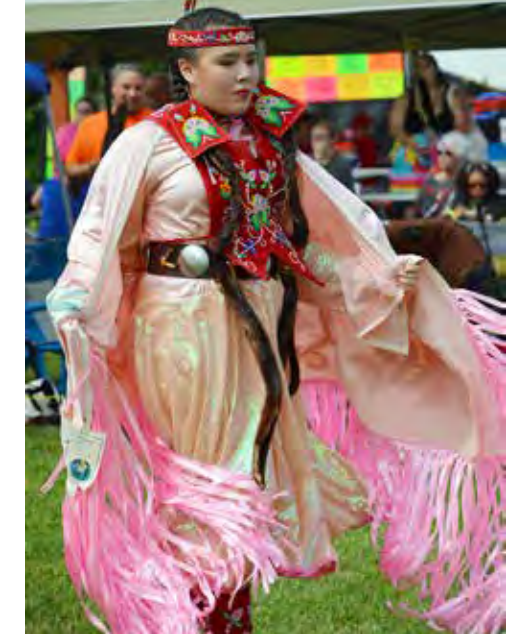
Greg and Hoon Seon Allen, visiting the area from Ann Arbor, Mich.



Womens and mens dancers participating in the competition portion of the powwow Saturday afternoon on the tribe's powwow grounds near Big Bear Arena in Sault Ste. Marie.



Jadamarie Hall-Pine selling raffle tickets.



Photos by Brenda Austin



BALANCE & FLEXIBILITY Workshop

Please join Sault Tribe Health Education for a 1-Day Workshop, centered on flexibility and balance. The workshop will include education and exercises designed to improve stability, fluidity, and range of motion - while decreasing fall risk. This class is for Tribal and Community Members aged 50+, and will be facilitated by Community Health Educator, Lyndee Zeigler.

Registration is limited to 12 participants, please register by August 22, 2025.

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 5, 2025
10:30AM TO 2:30PM
MANISTIQUE TRIBAL
FITNESS CENTER
5696W US-2
MANISTIQUE, MI 49854

TO REGISTER:

906-632-5210

This class is brought to you by: Sault Tribe Health Education's Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country Project with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Bike safety presentation at Big Bear Arena

BY SCOTT BRAND

The Big Bear Arena’s Youth Summer Recreation Program (YSRP) had some special visitors on July 2 when Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and Sault Ste. Marie City Police collaborated to bring a special bike safety presentation to the grounds.

“Most of them brought their own bikes,” said Big Bear Events Manager Shelby Smith, “And, we have some scooters for the others.”

A member of the Sault Police Department, who also works bike patrols during the warmer months, gave a presentation accompanied by his police bike. After learning important safety tips, the participants, ranging in age from 5 to 11 years old, were invited to run the bicycle obstacle course in the far side of the Big Bear parking lot.

As this was going on, another group of children were washing a pair of Sault Tribe Law Enforcement vehicles. But instead of employing the traditional rags, buckets and hoses the officers arrived on the scene with battery of squirt guns and bottled bubbles providing an extra layer of fun to the experience.

The YSRP has more than 100 registered participants and will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday until Aug. 15. Smith said the program focuses on recreation, healthy living and nutrition with activities ranging from shooting hoops to ice skating with even the occasional field trip off of the Big Bear grounds.

The program is open to all age appropriate members of the community, Smith added, with tribal members paying a reduced fee to participate.



The Big Bear Arena’s Youth Summer Recreation Program (YSRP) was wet and wild on July 2 when Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and Sault Ste. Marie City Police converged on the scene to deliver a bike safety presentation and the necessary equipment for an old-fashioned water fight.

Jason Marshall, Ph.D., receives Kennedy Memorial Award for teaching achievement

BY CASEY HOAG

Since 1970, the Creighton Students Union has awarded the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement to a professor who exemplifies excellence in teaching, inspires students and represents the university’s highest standards.

Jason Marshall, Ph.D., assistant professor of management in the Heider College of Business and member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, was named 2025 recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement during Creighton’s undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 17.

Students from all nine colleges and schools nominate professors they consider exemplary educators who demonstrate high competence in their fields and present subject matter in interesting and effective ways. Nominees must also inspire, serve and take interest in students as individuals.

Marshall was recognized for offering individualized guidance tailored to students’ personal academic and career aspirations, checking in on students’ mental well-being, providing coach and encouraging community involvement.

His research primarily focuses on examining leadership phenomena using cutting-edge research methods. His dedication to advancing knowledge through ongoing education and research reflects his devotion to his students. His work has been published in top-tier journals, including the Academy of Management Annals and Organizational Research Methods, and he has presented at numerous conferences, including the Academy of Management and Southern Management Association.

The award was presented by Creighton Students Union President Emily Meister, Class of 2026.

Reprinted with permission. Casey Hoag is the Senior Director of External Communications University Communications & Marketing at Creighton University.



Jason Marshall, Ph.D., assistant professor of management in the Heider College of Business (center), was named 2025 recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement.

Gupta sisters graduate

The Gupta Sisters, members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, celebrated their graduations this past spring. On May 19, Meghanlata graduated from Yale Law School in New Haven, Conn. Madeline graduated from Yale College also on May 19, at the 324th commencement ceremony, in New Haven. Their little sister, Mariel, graduated from the 8th grade at St. Francis of Assisi School, in Ann Arbor, on May 30. They are the daughters of Toni Gupta, granddaughters of Theresa (White) Johnson, nieces of Michelle (Johnson) Nippa, and great nieces of Ardith (White) Pope.



From left, Madeline, Mariel, and Meghanlata Gupta.

Foster families visit zoo

On June 30, foster families from across Chippewa, Mackinac, and Luce counties enjoyed a fun-filled day at the GarLyn Zoo in Naubinway, Mich., made possible by the EUP Foster Family Enrichment Fund. A total of 55 people attended the event, including foster parents, children, and caregivers.

The EUP Foster Family Enrichment Fund was established in late 2022 to provide meaningful enrichment opportunities for children in foster care throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula. It is managed through the Chippewa County Community Foundation.

To learn more or make a donation, please visit chippewacounty-communityfoundation.org/donate.

An advisory committee made up of licensing workers from DHHS, Bay Mills, and Anishnaabek Community and Family Services, along with a Regional Resource Team Member from Great Lakes Recovery Centers collaborates year-round to plan enrichment opportunities for local foster families.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) is facing a shortage of foster homes. ACFS prioritizes placing children in tribal foster homes to help maintain their connection to Native American culture and traditions. The agency also oversees tribal cases nationwide.

ACFS is urgently seeking foster families both within and beyond its service area.

If you are interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent, contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (906) 632-5250, toll-free at (800) 726-0093, or email acfs-fosterhomes@sault-tribe.net.

Walking on...

JOHN MICHAEL CAUSLEY

John Michael Causley, 75, of Hessel, Mich., died on June 30, 2025, at his home. He was born on Nov. 29, 1949, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to John and Lorraine (Perry) Causley.

John grew up in Hessel and remained deeply rooted in his community throughout his life. A proud member and leader of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, he served in numerous roles including past tribal board member, chairman of the Hessel Elder Committee (a special thank you to Perry, Betty and Mig), Appellate Reserve Elder Judge, and chairman of the Powwow Committee. John was a survivor of the Holy Childhood Boarding School in Harbor Springs and he was a profound advocate to ensure healing with all the survivors and their families. His legacy of keeping his culture and tradition alive will remain with each person he touched.

One of his proudest endeavors to his family was helping establish the first Native American Golf Invitational over 40 years ago alongside his father, brother, and cousins—an event that continues to thrive today.

After attending business school in Lansing, John returned home and co-founded Westside Painting in the 1980s with his family. Painting wasn't just a job to him; it was a passion. He took pride in every project, always striving to do his best work.

John had a deep love for the outdoors. Whether he was hunting, fishing, or golfing, he found peace and joy in nature. Golfing, in particular, held a special place in his heart. Above all, John was a devoted family man who valued time with his loved ones. He was a member of Our Lady of Snows Catholic Church in Hessel.

Diagnosed in his late teens with Ankylosing Spondylitis, John faced many physical challenges but never let them define or limit him. His strength, determination, and spirit were an inspiration to all who knew him.

John is survived by his wife, Patricia Causley; children, John R. (Kristi) Causley, Lana (Steve) Causley-Smith, Theresa Causley, Lucinda (Richard) McFarland, Crystal Causley, Miranda Causley, Shalenia Causley, Michael Causley and Melissa (Dennis) LaPire; mothers of his children, Janice Jonas and Anna Corwin; siblings, Dalinda Causley, Jeff (Connie Benoit) Causley and Debra Causley; grandchildren, Sierra Krogh, Shannon Causley, Taylor Causley, Madison Causley, Nathaniel Causley, Jayce Causley, Ronald Paquin, Erica Emerson, Brittany Mallory, Morgan Marshall, Collin Marshall, Skylar Causley, Cassidy Reed, Bryson Causley, Tavis Causley, Axel Causley, Shawn Brewer, Cassandra LaPire, Isabella LaPire, Adrianna Causley, and Declan Causley; many great-grandchildren; and a lifelong friend who was more like a brother, Calvin Burnside.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John and Lorraine; brothers, James Causley, Jerry Causley, Daryll Causley, and Donald Causley; and many aunts and uncles.

A traditional ceremony was held on July 2 at the Anaamianag Nopaming Tribal Center in Hessel. A funeral mass was held at Our Lady of the Snows in Hessel followed by a luncheon at the Hessel Tribal Center.

Family Life Funeral Homes of Pickford, Mich., assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylife fh.com.

MICHAEL “MIKE” JOHN TAZELAAR

Michael “Mike” John Tazelaar, age 61, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died June 19, 2025, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born Feb. 11, 1964, in Mariemont, Ohio, to Paul and Barbara (Dietz) Steinkohl.

Michael grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and was a proud member of the 82nd Airborne. He was a car hauler truck driver for many years. Mike was happiest when surrounded by his family and friends. He never met a stranger—his generous spirit and kind heart left a lasting impression on everyone he met. Always willing to lend a hand, he loved helping others and bringing joy to those around him. Mike had a knack for fixing just about anything. Over the years, he worked as a plumber, carpenter, and semi-truck mechanic. He especially enjoyed restoring old cars, riding his motorcycle, and casting a line to fish whenever he had the chance.

Michael was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. His family and friends will miss him and his bigger-than-life personality.

He is survived by his wife, Alicia Tazelaar, of Sault Ste. Marie.; mother, Barbara Dietz of Sault Ste. Marie; children, Nicole (Denzel Hampton) Steinkohl of Kennesaw, Ga., Michael Tazelaar Jr., and Miles Tazelaar of Mahwah, of New Jersey; stepson, Takoda Hauri of Sault Ste. Marie; stepdaughters; grandchildren, Joshua Sanchez of Las Vegas, Nev., Silverio Sanchez of Kennesaw, Ga., Isabella Hampton, of Kennesaw, Ga.; siblings, Paul (Charity Zimmerman) Steinkohl, Sherrie (Allen) Lucas, Roger (Heidi) Steinkohl, Anthony Rogers, Barbara (Kyle Slater) Rogers, Jay (Cara) Tazelaar, and Paul Rogers, all of Sault Ste. Marie, and Michel Steinkohl of N.C.; aunts and uncles, Hon. Elisabeth (Harvey Bell) Dietz of Sault Ste. Marie, Leah (Tom) VanAman of Ohio, Howard Steinkohl of New Jersey, Richard Steinkohl of New York; special nephews, Michael McLeod and Allie Rogers; his many nieces, nephews, great-nephews, great-nieces, cousins, dear friends from New Jersey; and the many friends he met trucking across the

country.

Michael was preceded in death by his son, Michael Steinkohl Jr.; father, Paul Steinkohl; sister, Dawn Steinkohl; grandparents, Orval and Delphine Dietz; and aunts and uncles, Elvin “Sonny” (Margaret) Dietz, Elizabeth (Alford) Clark, Mary (Forrest) Poole, Orval Dietz, Rita (Bill) Dale, William Dietz and Anita Steinkohl.

A Memorial Service was held at Family Life Funeral Home at 4951 S. M-129, Sault Ste. Marie on, Friday, June 27, 2025, . Friends gathered at the funeral home before the time of the service.

The family would like to thank the Ball Hospice House and McLaren Hospice for their care of Michael.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ball Hospice House, 308 West 12th Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

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

CHRISTINA SUE (PARISH) BERNIER

Christina Sue (Parish) Bernier, 61, died May 5, 2025, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was born on Dec. 13, 1963, in Chicago, Ill., daughter of Clifford Parish.

Christina was raised in Bay Mills, Mich., and graduated from Brimley High School. She went on to earn her cosmetology certificate and later attended Bay Mills College.

Christina was a devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church of Sault Ste. Marie and a proud member of the Bay Mills Indian Community. She was known for her strong faith, deep connection to her culture, and her dedication to preserving and honoring tribal traditions.

Christina loved spending time with her family and had a special place in her heart for her granddaughters. She found great joy in spending time outdoors. She loved gardening, mowing the lawn, and caring for her apple, mountain ash, and lilac trees and many flowering plants. She cherished the beauty of nature, often watching birds and other wildlife, and taking peaceful walks along the beach. She took great joy in cooking and baking for her family, especially known for her famous pumpkin pie, crafting, collecting and restoring antiques, painting, and decorating. She loved her pets; Henry and Bella, Bear and Raven – she loved black cats.

Christina is survived by her husband, Steve Bernier; son, Paul (Tabitha) Bernier of Sault Ste. Marie; and grandchildren, Piper Bernier and Claudia Bernier.

Christina was preceded in death by her father, Clifford “Skip” Parish; and grandson, Peter Bernier.

Family Life Funeral Homes Sault Ste Marie assisted the

family with arrangements.

Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylife fh.com.

CHRISTY MARIE (LEASK) GREEN

Christy Marie (Leask) Green, 48, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died peacefully in her sleep at her home with her beloved dog Raven by her side on June 23, 2025. She was born June 30, 1976, in Frankfort, Mich., to Debra Leask.

Christy grew up in Frankfort and was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She had a deep passion for creating Native American art, especially crafting dream catchers and jewelry. She also cherished spending time on the beautiful beaches of northern Michigan.

Christy is survived by her children, Jordan (McCary) Warren, Rachel “Winnogene” McCary, Kyle Nelson, Kaidyn Green and Brayden Green; and grandchildren, Eliaana Johnson, Aaleahya Johnson, Dominic Johnson, Jayce Gonyon, Adelyn Johnson and Charlotte Johnson.

She was proceeded in death by her mother, Debra (Leask) Bart; son-in-law, Christopher Johnson, sister, Cassandra Barth; and grandparents, Paul Leask and Frances Leask.

No services will be held at this time.

Family Life Funeral Homes Pickford assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylife fh.com.

ELEANOR LOUISE FITZPATRICK

Eleanor Louise Fitzpatrick, 100, of St. Ignace, Mich., died July 3, 2025, at Evergreen Living Center. She was born Dec. 29, 1924, in St. Ignace, to Otho and Mary (Dennis) Coveyou.

After graduating from LaSalle High School in 1942, Eleanor proudly served her country in the United States Navy during World War II, receiving an honorable discharge in 1946. Upon returning home, she met James E. Fitzpatrick on a blind date, and they were married on May 8, 1948. Together, they raised nine children.

Eleanor worked for Michigan Bell as a telephone operator and later at the Grand Hotel switchboard, retiring in the late 1970's. Her life was filled with service to her community and church. She was an active member of St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, where she was involved in the St. Anne's Altar Society, served as a Religious Education Instructor, Sunday Mass Lector, and worked for five years at the Rectory.

Eleanor was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She was also a member of the American Legion.

Eleanor approached life with energy and joy. She was an avid bridge player and golfer, she enjoyed making maple syrup, and creating with her hands through sewing and knitting. Whether painting a landscape, skiing through fresh snow, or picking berries in the summer sun, she found happiness in the moment.

She loved to ride her bike, garden, or she could be found curled up with a good book. She shared countless adventures with friends, traveling from Michigan to Alabama, California, and Washington, always embracing new experiences.

Eleanor is survived by her children, Barbara (Ken) Brown of St. Ignace, James Fitzpatrick of St. Ignace, Patricia (Robert) Frazier of Marquette, Mich., Ann (Steve) Fox of China, Mich., Helen (Jerry) Thibault of St. Ignace, William (Gale) Fitzpatrick of St. Ignace, Thomas (Kerry) Fitzpatrick of St. Ignace, and Kathryn (Jeff) Cryerman of St. Ignace; twenty-six grandchildren; forty-four great grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents, Otho and Mary; husband, James; daughter, Mary Theresa Fitzpatrick; grandchildren, Josh Brown and Paul Fitzpatrick; daughter-in-law, Shelly Cope-Fitzpatrick; and great grandson, Tucker Shepard; siblings, Francis (Donna) Coveyou, Norbert (Peggy) Coveyou, Prosper Coveyou, and Mary Katherine Whalen.

A memorial gathering was held on July 19, 2025, at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St Ignace, Mich., followed by a memorial mass.

Eleanor's final resting place will be at St. Ignatius Cemetery in St. Ignace.

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

GERALDINE “JERRIE” MARY TEEPLE

With deep sadness we announce the passing of Geraldine “Jerrie” Teeple on June 22, 2025. She was a devoted mother, loving nana, and cherished friend.

Jerrie was the beloved mother of Helen Bur (Gary Florida) and Jeffrey Teeple, and a proud and adoring nana to Kevin Bur and Colleen Bur.

She was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Archibald “Archie” McPherson and Genevieve (LaLonde) McPherson on Aug. 25, 1941. Due to her father's service in the U.S. Army, the family lived in many places—including France and Japan—but the Sault always remained home in her heart.

In 1965, Jerrie and her husband, Bob, settled in Dearborn, Mich., where they built a life filled with love and family.

See “Walking on” Page 14



Walking on continued...

From “Walking on” Page 13
They were blessed with 40 beautiful years together until Bob’s passing. Jerrie shined as a mother and aunt, but she truly lit up as a nana.

Professionally, she spent 35 years as an office manager and assistant controller. Her unmatched dedication and work ethic earned her the deep respect of her colleagues.

Jerrie was preceded in death by her parents, her loving husband Robert “Bob” Teeple, and her brother Isaac “Ike” McPherson. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, nephews, and many cousins.

To know Jerrie was to be gifted a lifetime of love. In life, she gave of herself completely—with generosity, laughter, and unwavering devotion. In death, she leaves us with priceless memories and a legacy of unconditional love.

A celebration of her life will be held later this year with family and close friends.

PAUL JOSEPH LaFRENIER

Paul Joseph LaFrenier, “Miiskogiizig, Red Day”, 54, died May 31, 2025, at his home in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He was born Sept. 22, 1970, in Lansing, Mich., to Louis and Beverly (Smith) LaFrenier.

Paul worked at the Hessel Ridge Golf course and for Chii Chuck in June of 1994.

Paul is survived by his son, Kadon Kusmick; sister, Corrina (Dennis Smart) LaFrenier; niece, Krishell Harmon; great-nieces, Mia Harmon and Princess Simmons; nephew, Colby Harmon; great-nephew, Jalen Matelski; friend, Becky Baugh; step-children, Johnathon and Heather Baugh; great-nephew, Stephen; cousins, Kimberly Releaven, Tony Hamel, “Chito” Hamel, Chris Albert, Victoria Ruthruff, Brenda Rounds, Cheryl Wirbel, Joe Rounds, Jason Smith, Shawna Quinn, Fred Smith, Kayla Smith, Dan St. Onge, Eric Handcock, and Renee Hamel; and friends, Nicole and Earl Rice.

Paul was preceded in death by his partner, Catherine McDonald; parents, Louis and Beverly LaFrenier; brother, Steven Causley; aunt, Becky Smith; nephews, Darian “Bushy” Causley and Mikey Causley; and his pet, Pebbles.

A celebration of life was held June 13, 2025, at the Hessel Tribal Building, in Hessel, Mich.

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

RONALD LEE MUNRO

Ronald Lee Munro, 56, of Kincheloe, Mich., died on July 1, 2025. He was born March 28, 1969, in Saginaw, Mich., to Ronald Munro and Kathleen (George) Egert.

Ronald grew up in Saginaw and graduated from Arthur Hill High School with the Class of 1987. During his school years, he served as the state treasurer of the Vocational Industrial Club of America, a role that reflected

his leadership and dedication from an early age.

He proudly served his country in the United States Navy aboard the USS

Detroit from 1987 to 1988.

A proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Ronald dedicated himself to preserving and strengthening his heritage.

He served on both the Cultural Committee and the Constitution Committee, helping to shape and protect the tribe’s future.

His passion for service extended far beyond his heritage: he was an instructor for the American Red Cross, the Commander of Disabled American Veterans Post 52, a member of the JKL Bahweting School Board, and a Tri-County Firefighter.

He also taught as a HAM Radio Instructor with the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), sharing his knowledge with others and promoting emergency preparedness.

Ronald had a love of the outdoors. He found joy in photography, camping, fishing, woodworking, and building staffs. He rarely missed a Powwow, where he found community and celebration. Whether exploring on his side-by-side or connecting with fellow amateur radio enthusiasts, Ron embraced life with curiosity and kindness.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Julie; children, Alex Munro, Melesa (Brice) Hinton, Kim (Albert) Clark, and Michael (Pamela) Corleone; grandchildren, Ashton Munro, Carter Munro, Landon Munro, Ava Kinney, Scarlet Kinney, Lily Kinney, Jaxon Bean, Sebastian Hinton, Abigail Jenks, Amy Clark, Albert Clark, Nimkii Ailing, Audrey Ailing, and Dante Corelone; parents, Ronald Munro and Kathleen (George) Egert; siblings, Ann (Doug) Savage, Khristopher (Laura) Alvarez, and Kelly (Denis) Flores; mother-in-law, Suzanne Netzer; brothers-in-law, John Ralston, Eli Ralston, James Ralston, and Jeff Ralston; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles.

Ronald was preceded in death by his grandparents, Walt (Lillian) Hoerz and Archie (Thelma) Munro; and sister-in-law, Jacey Fortune.

A memorial gathering will be held July 25, at Soo Christian Fellowship, 2920 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., from 11 a.m. – 12 noon with the memorial service to immediately follow at noon.

Please come dressed as Ron would want you to be comfortable in your jeans, t-shirt and shorts.

Ronald’s final resting place will be at Maplewood Cemetery in Garnet, Mich., with the burial being held on July 26, at 4 p.m.

Family Life Funeral Homes,



Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

SHIRLEY ANN (HUBBLE) SAFFER

Shirley Ann (Hubble) Saffer, 76, of Manistique, Mich., passed away on April 23, 2025. She was born on Feb. 8, 1949, in Manistique to Shannon and Justine (Prout)Hubble.

Shirley married her high school sweetheart on Feb. 10, 1968. Together they lived in Newport News, Va., Manistique and the metro Detroit area before retiring back to their hometown of Manistique.

Shirley enjoyed working as a bookkeeper at several local businesses. In her spare time, you could find her tending her flower garden. Shirley was especially proud to be a part of the International Order of Job’s Daughters and had fond memories as a member of the drill team. She received the Grand Triangle of Honor as a council member for her mentorship and guidance of young women of the order.

Shirley was a kindhearted woman who loved nothing more than a house full of family and friends to entertain and cook for. She excelled at late night conversation and listening with her whole being.

Shirley was a loving soul who genuinely cared about everyone she met and was a mom to all who entered her home.

Shirley is survived by her husband, Roger of 57 years; son, Norman J. (Kimberly) Saffer; daughter, Jackie L. (Keith) Woodburn; granddaughters, Shaelyn and Shelbey Saffer and Reilly Woodburn; and grandson, Blake Woodburn. Further, siblings include James (Penny) Hubble and Sandra Bellefeuil, as well as many treasured nieces and nephews. She was proceeded in death by her parents, Shannon and Justine Hubble; her “brother” Gary Walker and his wife Ginger.

If you would like to make a donation in Shirley’s memory, please consider Michigan Veteran Homes D.J. Jacobetti Charitable Support Fund in Marquette, Mich. or Manistique’s Project Petunia. Donations for Project Petunia may be dropped off at Debbie’s Tax Service in Manistique.

JONI RENEE TALENTINO

Joni Renee Talentino, 56, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died June 28, 2025. She was born June 3, 1969, in Coldwater, Mich., to Glenn and Doreen (Roy) Nelson.

She brought unforgettable happiness and pride to them and to all who knew her.

Joni made her life in Sault Ste. Marie, where she was a passionate leader and advocate in her



role as a housing director. She poured her heart and soul into helping others, dedicating herself fully to serving her community and uplifting those in need. Her work touched countless lives and left a lasting impact.

Joni was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and her heritage remained a deeply meaningful part of her identity.

Joni loved being out on the water boating, tending to her garden, and enjoying the outdoors. More than anything, she cherished her role as a mother, grandmother, and “Gigi.” Her family was her greatest joy and accomplishment, and she loved them with all her heart.

Joni is survived by her daughter, Mikaila Talentino of Rochester Hills, Mich.; son, Zack (Kristen) Talentino of Hudson, Wisc.; parents, Glenn and Doreen Nelson of Sault Ste. Marie; brother, Marc (Monica) Nelson of Marquette, Mich.; her cherished grandchildren, Braelynn (13), Brekken (8), and Blaise (5); many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins; and her beloved grand-dog, Ovi.

Her warmth, spirit, and deep compassion will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A private service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Joni’s name to the Epilepsy Foundation at epilepsyfoundationmn.org as her grandson was recently diagnosed.

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

DARLENE THERESA GUGIN

Darlene Theresa Gugin, 46, of Mackinac Island, Mich., passed away peacefully in her home on Tuesday, July 1, 2025. She was born Nov. 29, 1978, in Petoskey, Mich., to Stanley and Sandra Gugin.

Darlene was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. From a young age, she loved horseback riding and developed a deep connection to the outdoors.

Whether she was picking blueberries, snowshoeing, ice fishing, snowmobiling, spending time at the beach, or simply taking a walk with family and friends, she was always in motion, finding joy in nature and the people around her.

Darlene is survived by her two daughters, Samantha Gugin and Kasandra Gugin; two sons, Trevor Gugin and Jonathon Gugin; granddaughter, Kaylee Gugin; four grandsons, Kaiden Gugin, Leroy Gugin, Landyn Gugin and Lynx Gugin; father, Stanley Gugin; brothers, Stanley Gugin, Terry Gugin and Jake Gallagher; her bud bud, Erica Lipnitz; and of course her bar crowd.

Darlene was preceded in death by her mother, Sandra Gugin; and her brother, Joseph Gugin.

Darlene’s celebration of life will



be held Sunday, July 27, at 1 p.m. at Darlene’s home, 281 Bertrand Street in St. Ignace.

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

WARREN STEWART MCRORIE

Warren Stewart McRorie, 87, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died on July 11, 2025, in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born June 19, 1938, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Lawrence and Lois (Brown) McRorie.

Warren was a lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie, where he attended Sault Area Schools. He met the love of his life, Norma, while working as a cook at the Ojibway Hotel. After proudly serving his country after being drafted into the United States Army, Warren returned home and married Norma on April 25, 1964.

Warren’s working life reflected his dedication and versatility. He returned to cooking after the Army, then moved into maintenance before beginning a long and fulfilling chapter driving oil trucks for Barr Oil and working on furnaces. In his later years, he found great joy working at Superior Sanitation, a job he truly loved until illness led him to retire.

Warren was an active man who enjoyed being outdoors, he was often seen working on projects with his kids and grandkids, mowing the lawn - his or the neighbors’ - snowmobiling, or boating. He had a generous spirit, always ready to lend a hand to those he cared about. Known for his big heart and a touch of stubbornness, Warren’s presence was both steady and dependable.

Warren was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the American Legion Post #3, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Sault Ste. Marie.

Warren is survived by his wife, Norma; children, Warren W. McRorie Jr., Laurie S. (Henry Behling) McRorie-Mansfield, and Linda L. (Ken) LaFaver all of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Myrisa (Andy Behnke) McRorie, Jessica (Neil Krull) McCrory, Justin McCrory, and Brynn E. Mansfield; great-grandchildren, Gannin Behnke and Brielle Behnke; siblings, Charles McRorie of Michigan, Julia (Dennis) Day of Indiana, Mary Lou McRorie of Michigan, Edith Burr of Michigan, Randy (Heather) McRorie of Michigan, Edward McRorie of Michigan, Raymond (Debbie) McRorie of Texas, Glen (Julia) McRorie of Michigan, Frank (Mary) McRorie of Texas, Bonnie (Scott) Strelecki of Michigan, Peggy (Robert “Bob”) McKechnie of Michigan, Carol Farrish of Michigan, Lois Maxwell of Colorado, and Linda Westbrook of Colorado; sisters-in-law; Diane Wotton, Karen Louise Gregg, and Pat McRorie; many nieces and nephews; and best friend, Robert Alban.

Warren was preceded in death
See “Walking On” Page 19



Interns participate in traditional cultural activity

BY AIMEE SPRING, SAULT TRIBE COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

The 2025 Summer Internship Program interns participated in a cultural activity and language lesson on June 27. During the five-hour session, each of the eight interns got to make their own dream catcher and choker while learning some Anishinaabemowin basics through the teachings of Language Instructor Yvette Pitawanakwat.

Pitawanakwat, a member of the Wiikwemkoong First Nation on Manitoulin Island, Ontario, has worked for the Sault Tribe since 2022. Her main role is the language instructor for a children’s after-school program at Big Bear Arena. She was asked by Education Director Stephanie Sprecker to do a craft activity with the interns, so she thought of making dream catchers and chokers and teaching the language verbally.

“Rather than have everyone just sit there looking at a paper of Anishinaabemowin, I felt it would be more beneficial have them engaged in an activity while they listen to me share the language,” Pitawanakwat said. “Our traditional way of learning was by doing and not lecture.”

The group started their lesson with learning how to introduce themselves in Anishinaabemowin — how to say their name, where they are from, and what clan they



Photos by Aimee Spring

Interns working on making chokers with language instructor Yvette Pitawanakwat.

belong to. Using the language was encouraged during the first activity making dream catchers, where words associated with the materials – string (biikinak-waanens), red willow (miskwaa-biimizh), feathers (miigwanag), beads (manidoominensag) – were taught as the group worked.

After a lunch break, the group reconvened to make beaded chokers and learn their various uses throughout the years. Pitawanakwat also took this time to teach the history and basic structure of the language. Also provided to each intern was a beginner-level booklet of Anishinaabemowin for them to take home, along with their finished crafts.

In the final 30 minutes, the group had an open discussion about the language and their

views on it. Pitawanakwat noted the struggles the language has faced in the modern day, particularly the lasting impact the boarding schools had on the language, the lack of fluent-speaking elders and the difficulties in motivating children to speak the language outside of the classroom.

Education intern Emilie Bigelow sympathized with Pitawanakwat’s struggles. “It’s important to teach the younger ones.”

Bigelow added that language is the foundation of an entire tribe and why it is important for it to be learned by all. “Without language you don’t have culture, and without culture there is no language.”

The group also discussed the language and its ties to sovereignty. All of the interns agreed that



Natural Resources intern Claire Leighton making a dream catcher.

the language is extremely important in maintaining tribal sovereignty, especially in the eyes of outside forces. Natural Resources Intern Claire Leighton recalled recent events in Canada, in which some officials claimed that a tribe could no longer maintain their sovereignty if they did not have a certain number of fluent speakers. Leighton raised the question, “If you don’t have language, do

you even have sovereignty?” The other interns and Pitawanakwat all expressed their fear of this potential reality.

Thankfully, this group proves to be hopeful in keeping our language alive. When asked if they were interested in becoming fluent speakers, the interns expressed interest, with some saying it was a life goal of theirs to become fluent in the language.

Protecting your children from the danger of online predators

FROM ARC

With children spending more time at home (sometimes alone) for the summer, it may mean they are getting more screen time than usual. Gone are the days when children played outside until the streetlights came on. It seems nowadays children are less likely to play outside and more apt to be found crashed out on a couch or bed with a phone or tablet in hand. If not glued to a phone, perhaps stuck to a video game for hours on end. Children, although intelligent and able to navigate most electronic devices with ease, are still quite naive and vulnerable to the dangers that lurk behind the screens. As parents, grandparents, guardians, babysitters, and daycare providers, we can all play a role in helping our children stay safe while they are online.

Communication is key. It begins with regular communication with our children. Not just an occasional reminder in passing to “be careful” on the internet, but regular discussions about the potential danger that awaits them in cyberspace. We need to have in-depth conversations about the specific reasons why we need our children to be careful. There are numerous concerns that parents have about their children being connected online daily, whether it’s social media or online gaming. Cyber-bullying, Internet predators, sexting, texting and driving, sextortion, revenge porn, too much screen time, and the list goes on. Life is no longer as simple as we remember it to be.

Here are some helpful guidelines to follow for practicing “online safety.” Setting and following family rules that indicate the length of time and behavior on social media and online gaming sites. Explaining the dangers of sharing personal photos.

Reminding children and teens that their pictures can fall into the wrong hands, and the difficulty of retrieving or deleting the image is nearly impossible.

1.) Teach children and teens never to reveal personal information such as their address, phone number, or share their location online. Don’t chat with strangers and avoid “friending” anyone they do not know. Never respond to a threatening email, message, post, or text. Use only a screen name and do not share passwords with anyone (except parents, guardians, caregivers).

2.) Never agree to meet up or get together in person with anyone you have met online without obtaining parental approval or supervision.

3.) Encourage your child to show you or come to you when they encounter any communication or conversation that is scary, threatening, or hurtful. By having conversations about this subject often, children and teens may feel more comfortable coming to you when they have an issue.

4.) It is also essential to teach our children to be kind when online with others. The same rules apply online as it should in person. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

5.) Children should ask permission before downloading an app or using a new device.

6.) Using devices close to bedtime should be avoided so the child’s brain can rest and get a healthy amount of sleep.

It is important to be candid and honest with children about internet safety. Many victims of predatory online behavior were not properly educated regarding the concept of “catfishing,” making them vulnerable to those concealing nefarious intentions behind a screen.

S.M.A.R.T. is a helpful acronym for children and teens to stay safe online.

S- Safe: Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information

M-Meet: Meeting someone you have only met online can be dangerous. Only do so with parents’ permission.

A-Accepting emails, instant messages, or opening files, pictures, or text from people you don’t know or trust can lead to problems, as they may contain viruses or malicious messages.

R-Reliable: Information you find on the internet may not be accurate, or someone online may be lying about who they are. Make sure to verify information before believing it.

T-Tell: Tell your parent, guardian, or caregiver, or a trusted adult, if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

See “Predators,” page 19



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Fax: 517-292-0259
nicholas.kibble@lpl.com
www.sinceritywealthsolutions.com



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Message from the Chairman: Advocating for our tribe



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

NATIONAL ADVOCACY

I continue to advocate for the Sault Tribe to the best of my ability. This year alone, I have traveled to Washington, D.C., several times to testify before Congress on tribal issues. I have also participated in formal consultations whenever possible, covering topics related to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Department of Education, and the Indian Health Service (IHS). Additionally, I frequently provide interviews to news outlets about how Indian Country has been impacted by the current administration.

With the recent passage of the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” the Sault Tribe will be affected by federal funding cuts. Our tribe has federal and state policy experts under contract who are carefully reviewing the bill, which is nearly 1,000 pages long, to determine the specific impacts.

LANSING MEETING

The tribe held a community meeting in Lansing on July 14 followed by a board meeting at the same location the next day. The tribe is required to hold one meeting per year in each of its five units. Last year’s downstate meeting was held in Novi, just outside Detroit. While there is a financial cost to hosting downstate meetings, I continue to support having at least one annually. The majority of our membership lives outside our seven-county service area, and many downstate metro areas have more tribal members than some of the units in our service area. Both meetings were well attended and offered a valuable opportunity for downstate members to engage directly with tribal leadership.

Community service update: Supporting our tribe through action



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Over the past few weeks, I’ve taken the opportunity to volunteer my personal time, equipment and resources to help move forward

POWWOW SEASON

Our powwow season is in full swing. We recently held our Homecoming Powwow in Sault Ste. Marie, which was well attended. The tribe has invested significantly in our powwow grounds and will continue these improvements next summer at the Sugar Island location. Although we hoped to complete these upgrades this year, unexpected delays pushed the timeline back. By next year, the site will have a new well, an electrical system, and other enhancements. I want to thank every volunteer, committee member, and team member who helped make this year’s powwows a success.

FEEDING AMERICA

I continue to coordinate the Feeding America distribution at the Big Bear in Sault Ste. Marie, distributing thousands of pounds of food each month. These events bring people together in the spirit of community service. Past volunteers have included Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, who is running for Governor in 2026, and Olympic gold medalist and honorary Sault Tribe member Billy Mills.

Most recently, Mayor Don Gerrie and City Commissioners Scott Marble and Jodi Bosbous-Rath volunteered at a distribution on our reservation. The Sault Tribe’s relationship with the City of Sault Ste. Marie has never been stronger, and we will continue to build on this positive and respectful partnership.

MIDWEST ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN TRIBES (MAST) MEETING

On July 22, I will attend the MAST meeting hosted by the Prairie Island Indian Community. MAST is a coalition of Midwest Tribes that meets quarterly to address shared concerns and develop unified advocacy strategies. The Sault Tribe has been a longstanding member and remains committed to working with organizations like MAST to protect our sovereignty and support our people.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

As chairman, part of my role is to serve as the spokesperson for the Sault Tribe. This includes participating in various speaking engagements. I recently wel-

comed attendees to the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board meeting—an especially meaningful event given the disproportionate rates of domestic violence affecting Native communities.

I also welcomed veterans to our property during the American Legion’s annual conference. Native Americans serve in the U.S. military at higher rates than any other group, and it was an honor to recognize their service.

Most recently, I spoke at the Carbide Dock ribbon cutting to highlight the tribal perspective. Reopening this dock restores subsistence fishing (snagging) opportunities for our members. This location—commonly referred to as the “powerhouse”—was a priority for me. I thank Director Robert McRorie for attending city meetings with me to make this possible, and I deeply appreciate Mayor Gerrie, the City Commission, and the city manager for their strong partnership with the tribe on this initiative.

JKL SCHOOL

The Sault Tribe continues to have a strong relationship with JKL School. At a recent fiduciary meeting, the tribe approved \$2/hour raises for all para-professionals. We also renewed our commitment to fund a food truck for JKL and Malcolm teachers at the end of each marking period—our way of showing appreciation for their hard work. This initiative is funded through ISEP, which we receive from the Bureau of Indian Education for operating the school.

Several renovations are underway at JKL, including updates to bathrooms, the cafeteria, and the kitchen. Covered walkways are also being constructed between buildings. These projects are funded through previously obligated ARPA funds.

I hope the entire board will support JKL moving forward. Schools exist to educate our children and should be off-limits to political conflict—especially tribal politics, which can be particularly divisive. At a recent meeting, some board members voted against renewing JKL’s lease and opposed the food truck, despite a clear explanation from our interim CFO that the ISEP account

contains millions of dollars and can easily afford to feed the staff. I will continue doing everything I can to keep politics out of JKL and do what’s best for our students.

ELDER GARDEN

On June 19, I joined a group of volunteers to plant a garden for our Unit 1 Elders. This project was led by Isaac McKechnie, who raised funds and organized volunteers. The garden is located on 16th Ave. East near the Big Bear and is a “you-pick” garden for Unit 1 elders. When harvest time comes, elders are welcome to stop by and pick what they need. Produce will also be delivered to Unit 1 Elder meetings.

The garden includes nine 125-foot-long rows planted with sweet corn, yellow and red potatoes, red onions, purple and green cabbage, Brussels sprouts, bell peppers, jalapeños, summer and winter squash, and more.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this project a success: Robert McRorie, Isaac McKechnie, Aaron Payment, Elaine Clement, Tara Maudrie, and Ron McKerchie. A special thanks to Ken Eagle and John Thorne for tilling the garden with the JKL tractor, which has turned out to be a great investment for JKL and

our tribe. I also appreciate the JKL students who recently helped with weeding!

UNIT REPORT NEGATIVITY

For years, tribal members have expressed frustration over the negativity in unit reports. These reports are meant to update members on tribal matters, especially within their unit. Instead, some use our newspaper for political infighting and to smear other board members.

I urge those engaging in this behavior to reconsider. Try following my schedule for just one month: CORA meetings, Conservation Committee meetings, MAST meetings, United Tribes of Michigan meetings, JKL Fiduciary meetings, Gaming Commission meetings, consultations with state and federal governments, state and federal testimony, openings and welcoming speeches, and more. My point is that there is more than enough real work to do.

Our members are tired of the drama. If any board members use this month’s unit report for negativity, I encourage readers to reach out to them directly and ask them to knock it off.

Austin Lowes
(906) 635-6050



several projects that support our elders, sacred spaces and community programs. These projects reflect my commitment to strengthening our tribe — not just through words, but through meaningful action.

Here’s a summary of the work completed:

Sugar Island powwow grounds – site prep for new storage sheds

This was the largest of the recent efforts. Using my own dump truck and bulldozer, I completed the site preparation for the planned storage sheds.

— Hauled in six loads of sand, six loads of gravel, and one load of topsoil

— Graded and leveled the site for safe construction access

— Cleared surrounding brush

and debris to open up usable space

Will Walk Cemetery – Sacred Site Preservation

I hauled and delivered two loads of topsoil to the Sugar Island Will Walk Cemetery to support efforts for grave preservation and restoration. This will help maintain the integrity and appearance of these sacred grounds.

Elder Support Projects

I’m especially proud to have contributed to several efforts directly supporting our Elders:

1. St. Ignace Elders – Garden Bed Delivery

— Coordinated the pickup and delivery of 9 raised garden beds from Newberry to the St. Ignace

See “McKechnie,” Page 17

Remembering our past: Fighting for our future



With Michelle Beaudin (Lac Courte Oreilles Band) at our NCAI Executive Committee Member Swearing In.

**AARON A. PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

I am happy to report that I was recently elected to once again serve on the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Committee, which puts me right back at the table to help positively impact federal Indian policy, defend our tribal sovereignty and safeguard our treaty and trust obligation funding. Recall I previously served as NCAI first vice president, where I played a key role in establishing Cares Act, Rescue Act, and Jobs and Infrastructure formula funding to tribes that yielded over \$450 million for our tribe alone and over \$48 billion for all tribes.

The funding I helped secure was more than 20 years worth of gaming and enterprise net revenues. These funds are what paid our payroll for nearly a year, balanced our budgets, and even allowed for casino renovations as well as building new housing and tribal and fitness centers in Manistique, Gladstone, Escanaba, Marquette, Newberry, Hessel, the Sault, St. Ignace, and everywhere in between. I’m working closely with Chairman Lowes to assist with this kind of work and answer the call to duty whenever he asks.

Tribal Elderhood

As I write this, I am just days away from hitting “elderhood.” On July 15, I turn 60 years old. I am mindful that my mom lived to 60 and my father was just 62, so I don’t take anything for granted at this point. I have been struggling with health issues since early 2022 that have resurfaced. While my symptoms are serious and I will need surgery, I have a positive attitude. Your prayers and well wishes are appreciated.

As I join the other two elders on our tribal board, I’m reminded of my early days on the board when I was 30 years old and the average age on the Board was 65. I was looked down upon as a young upstart. Never mind the fact that I had at that point been a high school dropout, homeless at 16, worked as a migrant

worker and traversed the country from the Sault to Florida then Colorado. My education as a new board member included a bachelor’s, master’s in Public Administration, and having held three director level positions at three different universities. Nonetheless, I was simply not respected by the then-board as I upset the flagrant nepotism and corruption.

Record Setting

When I was first elected in 1996, I earned 70% of the vote in Unit 1. Despite the opposition at the board level, I had the highest vote count of any board member at that point. With my re-election in 2000, I earned 122% more votes than my first time, which put me just a few hundred votes from the chairperson vote total while drawing from just one of five units. In 2004, I was reluctant until the groundswell of voters insisted so I agreed to run.

Recall, I faced the salacious mailers paid for with tribal funds to the tune of over \$100,000 based on the number of first-class mailers sent from my opponent. Despite the hate and bad medicine thrown at me, we prevailed and I was elected as your chairperson.

Will of the people

I have always gained strength in knowing no matter what my haters think or do, I have always had the support of the people. This fuels me. I admit I did not have the strength to endure the board vote to censure me in 2022 (recall at the beginning of my illness) that led to my resignation. Please realize that the results of the censure investigation did not result in any civil or criminal charges in any jurisdiction. Despite the rumors that I was ineligible to run for office (or that I somehow agreed to never run again) this was proven false when I ran for a Unit 1 board seat last year, I was officially cleared to run and was re-elected.

It’s important to note, that a board vote to prohibit me from running from office would violate my tribal constitutional right



Sault Tribe Youth Council Members from all five Units and YEA staff. Our youth make us proud in their representation. Great job Youth Council!

and itself would be a removable offense. I have never and would never agree to such a violation. There is no statute of limitation in Sault Tribe law, so while some wish to dredge up this ugly chapter, understand, it could very well highlight removable offenses for the board to have voted to violate the constitutional rights to run.

The January 2022 vote to conduct a censure investigation (which was voted on without any evidence) included the identical allegations cited in a removal petition circulating at the same time. The investigation cost an estimated \$100,000 and resulted in a big fat nothing. After my resignation on May 10, 2022, I chose to not do or say anything that would disparage our tribe. Yes, it was hurtful to resign as your chair and not fulfill what a record number of voters elected me to do just two years earlier.

Disparagement in unit reports

Despite select board members openly disparaging me in their unit report in June 2022 (less than one month after I left office), and on social media, I did not respond in kind. I did however, report this disparagement with the tribal general legal counsel and documented it through email and confirmatory response emails. My name was also dragged through the mud in at least a dozen social media posts by a seated board member accusing me of paying for and running the five challenger’s campaigns who beat the incumbents shortly after I left office. While I may have done some “in-kind” ad layouts or gave some advice to can-

didates, I did not contribute any amount of campaign funds. The tribe’s legal counsel was aware of this public disparagement of my character and acknowledge it in writing.

Our people give me strength

I do take solace in the fact that tribal voters watched the whole ordeal closely and voted to replace all six incumbents. This suggests that any effort to undermine the voters of the tribe was and will be met with similar consequences from the voters. I knew then that when the opportunity arose to return to office at some level, I’d run and let the voters decide and they did. No



Presenting at UNITY Conference this past June.

one should be allowed to undo the will of the people.

Tribal Unity

Focusing forward, I attended the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) conference in June of this year. Our tribe was well represented with 10 tribal youth from across all five units, our YEA coordinator, and a chap-erone. I am so proud of how well our youth represented our tribe. For several years now, I have been doing work surrounding the

MMIP movement. I have testified and co-hosted department of secure a 3% set aside for tribal victims services out Justice consultations, helped of the National Victims Fund, successfully pushed for MMIP Tribal Community Response pilot funding — our tribe was selected to be one of the first six pilots in the nation. I successfully advocated for Michigan AG Nessel to launch a tribal MMIP initiative in her office, and current on missing children to push out safety, prevention, and rescue and recovery efforts once Indian youth area unfortunately abducted.

At UNITY, I conducted four workshops covering over 200 youth on tips for online safety and avoiding predators, and collaborated with youth to conceive of a tribal buddy system, to “see something, say something,” and to improve response times to report missing tribal youth. Young people are more likely the first realize when someone is missing and to report it. Every minute counts when a child is abducted. I also did two additional tribal leader workshops panels and presented at the general assembly on the last day in front of more than 1,000 Native youth. I explained that they can be anything they choose. Finally, I recognized Tribal Board Representative Rob McRorie, who is a former Sault Tribe Youth Council chair and UNITY delegate.

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

Chi Miigwech ~ Aaron
Phone: (906) 440-8946
aapayment@saulttribe.net

Together, we can make a lasting impact

From “McKechnie,” Page 16 Elder Complex.

— Worked with local partners to ensure Elders had the materials they needed to grow fresh produce at home.

2. Hessel Elders – Fruit Tree Planting

— Helped coordinate the planting of 9 fruit trees at the

Hessel Elder housing site.

— These trees will provide shade, beauty, and food for years to come.

3. Unit 1 Elder Community Garden – Soil Prep and Planting

— Organized soil preparation, tilling, and plastic placement

— Helped coordinate the planting of sweet corn, potatoes,

onions, cabbage, peppers, squash, tomatoes, cabbage, and more

— Ensured water access was connected and drip lines were in place

Why this matters

None of these projects are massive on their own — but together, they represent what we can do when we invest in each

other and our shared spaces. It’s not about credit. It’s about showing our elders respect, preserving our sacred sites, and making sure our community programs succeed.

Miigwech to all those who joined in or supported these efforts. I’m grateful to be in a position to help, and I’ll continue

to do so wherever I can.

If you’re ever interested in volunteering, lending equipment, or helping organize future efforts — feel free to reach out.

Together, we can make a lasting impact.

Miigwech, Isaac McKechnie
imckechnie@saulttribe.net (906) 440-6661.

Tribe breaks ground on tiny home pilot project



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,
I hope you are all enjoying your summer. It's been a rainy one and the wildfire smog from Canada has impacted the air quality for many of us, but I hope you've still managed to find enjoyment with friends and family, or however you choose to enjoy your free time. A reminder if ever you need one, make sure to take care of yourself and do what YOU enjoy. Too often we get caught up in the hustle and bustle and forget to check in with ourselves. Whether it's time out in nature or some solo time with your own thoughts, make sure you support the balance of your own four directions and enjoy what this beautiful planet has to offer.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

As of June 27, there are 5,121 adult applications entered into the tracking system. A total of 179 adult applications have been denied and 2,994 new members have been enrolled, including children. The total membership in the Tribe is currently 52,305. We appreciate all of your patience during this process.

HOUSING UPDATE: MUNISING

The groundbreaking of the

tiny project has officially happened. Contractors are underway with creating the infrastructure for six new tiny homes to be located on the Wetmore reservation near the YEA building. The tiny homes are being built by a company downstate and will soon be ready to be shipped up and settled on permanent foundations. The timeline is a lot quicker than I expected and if everything goes as planned, these units should start being opened for use by the end of October. These units will be a mix of 1 and 2 bedroom tiny homes.

Again, this is a pilot project for tiny homes in Sault Tribe housing. I am hoping this project is successful and that the project will be able to assist those in need, elders, and first time home buyers unable to find a place to live and get on their feet with the security of housing and a roof over their heads.

After recently talking to some folks in the Housing Division, it also came to my attention that the reservation in Wetmore is only half developed. That's right, we own the lot of property behind and to the side of the YEA building. That being said, we are moving forward with engineering plans to scope out the rest of that lot and create a much longer term solution to the housing crisis we are facing. While the tiny homes are a quick solution to some of our most immediate needs, we are hoping to vastly diversify our housing portfolio to get more people in Tribal housing and eventually offer the opportunity to bring our relatives back home to our communities. The demand for housing is great, and we need to do everything we can to continue to address these needs.

GRAND ISLAND POW WOW

Our Pow Wow planning meet-

ings are complete, and we look forward to seeing everyone at the Kitchi Miniss Jingtamok in partnership with YEA's 2025 Annual Youth Empowerment Powwow on Aug. 9 at the Bay Furnace campground in Christmas, Mich. Bay Furnace can be found across the highway from the Christmas Kewadin and White Pine Lodge. We have an amazing lineup of Arena Staff that will be partnering with the YEA youth throughout the day to bring an amazing Traditional Powwow together. Grand Entry will be at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. with the feast happening at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome!!! I hope to see you all there.

I'd like to thank the Powwow Committee for working so diligently to bring this all together. It's our first powwow back in Munising since the pandemic, and we have an actual budget to work with thanks to our board's support of increasing culture and powwow funding. It's been a bit of a learning experience, and we should be thankful to have such amazing community organizers in the Munising area. It's going to be a fantastic day.

For any last minute vendors, please contact Amanda at (906) 450-1439 or amandashellnut@gmail.com.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Another month and still patiently waiting for our Cultural Coordinator to be hired. In the meantime, we are beginning to compile a list of teachings we are moving forward with. Here is what is happening: A new Big Drum in Marquette with the Teal Lake Singers, a net weaving workshop, ribbon skirt and shirt workshops, beading workshops, moccasin building workshops, Indigenous archaeology teaching, harvesting, and potentially pro-

cessing. If you or someone you know is a knowledge holder of any kind and are willing to share with our community or help us with a recorded teaching, please reach out to me and let me know. We have so much on the horizon and are really looking to teach new teachers for future generations.

MARQUETTE HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTERS

The Marquette Community Center is almost ready to go. The parking lot just got paved, and once we receive the final occupancy letter from the County, we will be good to go. As soon as a process is in place for space use for birthdays, cultural activities, and community gatherings, we will be sure to notify the membership of how to go about "renting" out the facility. Ultimately, it will be free of charge, but there is talk of a deposit to hold people accountable to proper usage so that we can maintain this beautiful new space. Everyone is so excited and it's almost ready for full use.

We will be proposing to name the Community Center "Gidinawendimin," which means "We are all related." This strengthens our philosophy that working together as a community, we are happier, healthier, and stronger. We recently had a beautiful mural designed by Anne Daugherty to brighten up the space, and it's absolutely perfect. I cannot wait to see this space come to life once we get Elders and youth engaged alike. *(See photo below. Pictured are Sault Tribe members (L-R) Elder Rosemary Larson, Anne Daugherty and Larissa Beun.)*

The Marquette Health Center is being renovated rapidly and the goal for phase 1 of construction, which will be Primary Care, is still the end of October.

We hope to be fully operational before the first snowfall, but you never know with the winter weather up here. Let's pray to the construction manidoog that there are no more delays and everything goes as planned. This will be a major expansion for the Health Division and something that is long overdue for the Unit 4 and 5 citizens who call Marquette County home.

ELDERS

The next Munising Elder meeting and meal will be held on Thursday, Aug. 7, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community Room. If you are an elder age 60-plus and living in Unit 5, you are welcome to show up and attend. New faces are always welcomed.

The next Marquette Elder meeting and meal will be held on Thursday, Aug. 7, 6 – 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Marquette. If you are an elder age 60-plus residing in Units 4 or 5 in the Marquette County area, you are welcome to show up and attend. New faces are always welcomed. 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



Biindigen
Welcome

Our businesses should be making the tribe revenue



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Hello All,
Hope all is well and you're finally enjoying some good weather and outdoor fun. Its been

busy in Unit 3 with happenings in St. Ignace, Mackinaw City, Mackinac Island and the surrounding area. Fireworks every Saturday, the car show, several parades, presentations at the Ojibwe Museum and the groundbreaking for the Father Marquette Memorial at Straits State Park.

Our Shores Casino is finally having giveaways through Northern Rewards, and the upcoming outdoor concert is always a huge draw. I've been inquiring for some time now as to why we have not been doing this as our other competitors have monthly draws. I'm glad to see this happening as well are the customers who frequent our facilities.

I can't go into much detail but this tribe over the years has

lost millions of dollars with bad investments, legal opinions and contracts. It's time to stop this practice and run our business as they should be running, which is to make revenue for all members and our future generations. These are businesses, no matter how you look at it and they were put in place to make money, and if not, shut them all down and survive off of all the money we use to keep them operational. I firmly believe each business should have a yearly budget and the manager of that business needs to stay within that budget. Let them run it as they see fit for the area and demographics and they should turn a profit. The way it is set up now everything seems to be based off the Sault area and it isn't working the best. These managers

and other executives are wasting valuable time coming to weekly workshops and meetings, when they could be showing up quarterly to give a board report, or on an as needed basis. It's time to change our mentality and forget the old saying, "That's how we have always done it."

Let's all take a moment and respect the members that have passed on last month and treat each other with more compassion and humility.

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

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College students should consider the tribal intern program



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

At the June 17 meeting, this year’s tribal interns were in attendance. Each of them introduced themselves and where they were from, where they were placed and where they were attending college. This is a great program to introduce college members to our tribe.

I was an intern in 2002 and it was a great experience, not only working in your field but also getting to know more about the tribe. We toured the other communities, divisions, and volunteered on other tribal events. I encourage students to consider this when your time comes, especially those that may not have the opportunity to be raised in the seven-county service area.

One of the agenda items was recruitment and retention of tribal court clerks. Apparently there has been an issue filling this important position for the court for quite some time. The crazy part is we just conducted and paid millions to Blue Stone including a compensation study and I am not sure what market they looked at for comparisons. It very unfortunate that we

are running into these issues already.

Some of our elevators are going to be replaced, such as the Sault Health Center and Sault casino as well as the escalator. These have been in poor shape for awhile and I am glad they will be replaced.

There were a few resolutions on the agenda to renovate 42 homes in Gwinn under the EDC. The tribe has owned these for several decades and never really had the money to repair them. There are housing shortages in all units, so, hopefully, these units will help with that area.

There was a resolution for a recovery of funds and enforcement of contract agreement on the agenda. This resolution included using outside special counsel and authorized litigation of the May 10, 2022, agreement if repayment was not made in 30 days.

At the July 1 meeting, we amended the scholarship criteria so it would be streamlined for the evaluators and be a quicker process so hopefully students get their funding sooner.

There were some changes to the membership code, such as reducing the size of the Enrollment Committee to five, allowing membership if a person could be tied to the Durant Roll by a collateral ancestor, and a couple dealt with loss of membership. One being if you chose to relinquish membership, you were never allowed back into the tribe and now there is just a 3-year waiting period if you changed your mind and wanted to come back and be a member. The other change is if you fail to document ancestry, then your membership will not

be renewed and will be removed from the tribal roll.

There was also a lease renewal for the JKL school. One of my concerns was that the tribe used ARPA funds to buy a tractor for the school and they are not charging them for the use of the equipment. The school is a contractor of the tribe. We do not purchase tools or equipment for other contractors, so why are we doing it for the school.

I had asked that a resolution be added to the agenda because my HUD appointment expires at the end of the year and I need to re-apply. Austin said he would ask without objection earlier in the day and then he became upset with me and did a roll call vote to add it to the agenda and low and behold some were missing when the meeting started and then one voted to not add it. I was also told the chair said if it did pass he would not sign it. These are the types of games that get played. If the board majority votes on it, then he has no say in the matter and some want the chair position to have veto power? Needless to say, I added it to the July 15 meeting agenda.

There was a vote to hire a key employee for the CIO position, which I did not support.

Walking On continued

From “Walking on” Page 14
death by his parents, Lawrence and Lois; twin brother, Lawrence McRorie; sister, Sharon (McRorie) Payment; brothers, Roger McRorie, Warren McRorie, and Kenneth Westbrook; step-mother, Josephine Shinos; brothers-in-law, Norman Gregg, Harold Gregg, Donald Gregg, Steve Burr, Al Farrish; sisters-in-law; Beulah Colby, Nancy Gregg, Dorothy Gregg, Polly Payment, and Betty McRorie; mother and father-in-law; Orville and Violet Gregg; and daughter-in-law, Jeanie (Hartwig) Place.

A memorial gathering was held July 18, 2025, from at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie.

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

SHARON ELIZABETH PAYMENT

Sharon Elizabeth Payment (McRorie, Brown) passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Sunday, March 30, 2025, at Orchard Grove Nursing Center in Romeo, Mich., at age 89. She was born in Sault Ste Marie on July 20, 1935.

She was a beloved mother, wife, sister, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend to so many.

Sharon is preceded in death by her beloved James Payment, brother Lawrence McRorie, son Raymond McRorie, son Paul McRorie, son Nathan (Toddy) Payment. She is survived by her children and step-children:



We have qualified Sault Tribe members that lived in the Sault that you wouldn’t have to wait for them to move here, if they even do. Obviously, I hope the person hired is successful and can alleviate every IT concern people have.

Unfortunately, campaigning has already begun with people adding things to the agenda for pats on the back, not always the person up for election either, sometimes to get others re-elected. I just wish we could put the tribe first and not try to play hero, or, on the other hand, destroy things because we don’t like some people.

There have been discussions of changing organization charts and titles of positions and who people report to. Sometimes I do not think some know that they report to the board and not the chair. The chair was removed from any CEO duties in 2008, I believe, when the membership voted to separate those duties. I have heard staff say, the chair has my back, well, only when the vote ends in a tie does he have a vote.

I would like to voice my frustration with people who choose to falsify or maybe create false illusions of illness when they are being scrutinized or feet held to the fire. It is truly

Carl McRorie (Colleen), David McRorie, Ed Payment (Myrle), Sam Payment (Deb), Krista Payment, Sandy St. Onge, Andrea Payment (Rich), Pierre Payment. She will be greatly missed by her siblings: Warren McRorie (Norma), Julie Day (Dennis), Charles (Chuck) McRorie, Mary-Lou McRorie, Edith Kay-Burr, and many extended siblings and family. She will be greatly missed by her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In her long lifetime, she worked as a bartender, accountant, and homemaker, as well as cared after many grandchildren.

She enjoyed hobbies such as baking, crocheting, making baskets, picking Indian sweet grass, and reading.

Sharon was loving, caring, strong, honest, hard-working and independent. She was a caretaker and a homemaker. She achieved a certificate in cosmetology and was an accountant for Jacobson’s for many years. She retired from Jacobson’s to return to the Sault.

It is Sharon’s request for no funeral services. A celebration of life will be held July 19, at the VFW in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., at 2 p.m.

DANNY “DANO” MARSHALL WILSON

Danny “Dano” Marshall Wilson, 73, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died June 22, 2025. Danny was born August 22, 1951, in Rock Island, Ill., to Marshall and Julie (Tolliver) Wilson.

Danny graduated with the Lorreto Catholic Central High School Class of 1969. Danny proudly served in the United States Marine Corps from 1970 to



shameful since many of our family and friends suffer from the real-life diagnoses. When people trump up sympathy on social media and you see a pattern of the same ailments and the climate at the time.

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the families of Darlene Gugin, Joni Talentino, John Causley and Eleanor Fitzpatrick on their recent passing. There have been so many losses in our communities lately. I apologize if I have missed others as well.

A reminder that the St. Ignace Powwow, Rendezvous at the Straits, will take place on Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Little Bear Arena at 275 Marquette Street with the fire being held at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture longhouse.

The Unit 3 elder picnic will be held on Thursday, Aug. 28 at the Elder Complex at 11:30 a.m.

A shout out to the Cultural Department and volunteers for all the work they put into the Sault powwow.

Any questions or concerns, please contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536. Text or emails are returned quicker due to meetings and multitasking.

1972, attaining the rank of Lance Corporal. He concluded his career as a salesman at Gordon Food Service, where he worked until his retirement.

Danny volunteered at the American Legion and was always ready to cook for anyone that asked. He was also a proud member of the VFW, Moose Lodge 717, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and served as a Foreign American Legion Officer and I-500 Snowmobile Race Director.

Danny loved hunting, fishing and many sports-especially hockey, softball, bowling, and horse-shoes. Of all the sports he enjoyed playing and watching, hockey was his favorite. Whether it’s watching many of the local teams or housing players for the local teams, hockey was a lifetime interest. Danny loved camping with family and friends, in the summer you could always find him at the lake. Anywhere he went, he was the life of the party.

Danny is survived by his daughter; Danielle Wilson; sons, Travis (Rebecca) Wilson and Cory (Jennifer) Wilson; grandchildren, Avery Wilson, Makayla McPherson, Brandon Wharton, Jaelynn Wharton, Briana Wilson, and Rylan Wilson; brother, Bob (Denise) Tolliver; sister, Lisa (Bill) Jones; numerous brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; and many friends that he loved dearly.

Danny was preceded in death by his biological father, Marshall Wilson; mother, Julie (Tolliver) Cryderman, the much-loved man that raised him, Newt Cryderman; and brothers, Darrell Cryderman and Dale Wilson.

A memorial gathering was held Sunday, June 29.

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

Protecting your children from the danger of online predators

From “Predators,” page 15
(See more at <https://www.childnet.com/resources/be-smart-online/>).

If you suspect your child is involved in a concerning online situation, there are specific red flags to watch for that may indicate it’s time to have a conversation. Be mindful of your child’s behaviors. If they are eager to be online, spend too much time online, stay up late to be online, receive gifts from unknown sources, close their computer or phone when you approach, or their moods begin to change, it may be a sign of concern. They may show signs of depression, anxiety, or a decline in their self-esteem or appearance. Do not hesitate to ask them to show you their phone, tablet, or computer. A thorough check of their device may be necessary. If you are unsure what to look for, it may be necessary to ask someone with more experience to review the device for you. (See more at <https://guardiangroup.org/online-safety-tips-for-parents-caregivers/>)

Fortunately, several apps are available for parents to use to help monitor their children’s or teenagers’ device usage. Most cost just a few dollars per month, and some are free but with limited access. Look for such apps

in your device’s app store to help monitor your child’s emails, texts, social media sites, and what content is being searched or shared.

The apps also help limit screen time and filter websites to eliminate risky content. Apps such as Aura, Bark, Net Nanny, Panda, ESET, M-Spy, Norton, and Gabb are among the highly rated apps parents are using. However, we cannot solely rely on these apps to do the work for us. We must stay involved, maintain open communication, monitor our devices, and remain connected with our children.

Children need real “face time” and honest in-person communication. Be mindful of your own screen time and make sure to set aside time for your family to spend together, away from the internet. Make special memories together and enjoy each other’s company.

Visit the Advocacy Resource Center’s website at www.saulttribe.com for more information. Follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC for a list of potentially dangerous apps for children and teens. The Advocacy Resource Center offers advocacy services to those in need and can be reached at (906) 632-1808.



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