



Win Awenen Nisitotung

March 25, 2020 • Vol. 41 No. 3
Sugar Making Moon
Ziisbaakdoke Giizis



Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Sault Tribe declares state of emergency

Tribe's five Kewadin casinos temporarily closes March 23; government buildings closing to the public

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors and Gaming Authority each declared a state of emergency at special meetings on March 17, due to the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The state of emergency is declared throughout all reservation lands across the tribe's seven-county service area.

Under the board of director's resolution, the tribe's executive director, casino CEO and EDC director are authorized to modify policies and procedures, order closures, cancel events, implement programs and other steps necessary to protect the public.

The tribe's casino administration, tribal government, health division and law enforcement will coordinate to maximize efforts to resist the spread of COVID-19.

Kewadin Casinos announced March 17 it is temporarily closing all five Kewadin casinos March 18-22 with an opening scheduled for April 6. (See saulttribe.com for details.)

Some Sault Tribe government buildings will be closed to the public. Offices closing to the public begin on a tiered schedule March 19 through March 23, with plans to re-open April 6. Staff will be working at their job sites or remotely from home, depending on their duties.

Information for tribal members on how to make appointments for specific emergency or membership services will be posted on the tribe's website at saulttribe.com, shared with its official Facebook page and at each tribal site throughout

the service area. A separate list of tribal programs accepting appointment only visits will be posted. Please watch saulttribe.com for further information and updates.

The state of emergency will stay in place until the situation

no longer requires it.

"The tribe's state of emergency will end when emergency conditions no longer exist and we have programs in place to recover from its effects," tribal Executive Director Christine McPherson said.

Tribal members! For up-to-date information on membership services and other tribal matters, see www.saulttribe.com for announcements and a list of program updates and cancellations.

Tribe makes recommendations to slow COVID-19

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Following the March 10 announcement of Michigan's first positive COVID-19 cases, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is providing recommendations to help prevent the spread of the virus in the tribal community.

"The number of new COVID-19 cases in the United States is growing rapidly, but we do have a very good chance of altering the course of the pandemic among Sault Tribe members," Sault Tribe Health Director Leo Chugunov said. "Our main goal is to minimize the negative impact of COVID-19, which can be accomplished by taking community mitigation strategies. New COVID-19 cases are declining every day in China and South Korea due to practicing these kinds of measures."

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors urges all tribal members

to take the recommendations seriously and to share them with their friends, families and coworkers, and to use their best judgment about what steps are most appropriate to keep themselves and their community safe and slow the spread of the disease.

These "community mitigation strategies" provide essential protections to individuals at risk of severe illness and to health care and other critical work forces. To slow the spread of COVID-19 in our tribal community, the following practices are recommended: Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Clean your cell phone (use a microfiber cloth with a cleaning solution containing isopropyl alcohol).

Do not practice handshakes until the end of pandemic. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. Cover your mouth and nose with

a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing. Avoid contact with people who are sick.

If you have a fever, cough or shortness of breath and need to be seen by a health provider, please call your provider to notify them about your upcoming visit. If available, wear a mask to protect others from infection. (Please note that use of a mask is not recommended for a healthy person.) If your condition does not require a visit to the Health Center, please stay at home but contact your provider about your illness. Until further notice, avoid non-essential air travel, cruises and mass gatherings. This is especially critical for elders as the most vulnerable group.

If your employer offers a work-

from-home option, it is recommended as an effective measure to limit the spread of COVID-19. Remember to get your seasonal influenza vaccine. Limit non-essential visits to hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

In addition, the Traditional Medicine Program advises using the following traditional medicines as preventative measures for the coronavirus by boosting your immune system: Echinacea, boneset, rosehips, elderberry and cedar. Traditional healers can provide detailed guidance on the optimal use of these traditional medicines. To make an appointment with a traditional healer at your health clinic, call:

Sault Ste. Marie Health Center at 632-0236 or 632-5268

Manistique Health Center at 341-8469

Munising Tribal Health Center at 387-4721

St. Ignace Health Center at 643-8689

Newberry Health Center at 293-8181

Hessel Health Center at 484-2727

For updates on COVID-19, use reliable sources of information as: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov/coronavirus; Michigan Department of Health and Human Services: michigan.gov/coronavirus; or the World Health Organization: who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019. State of Michigan Hotline to Answer COVID-19 is available seven days a week, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., (888) 535-6136.

Sault Tribe prevails over the Interior in trust land suit

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has prevailed in its suit challenging the Department of the Interior's decision to deny the tribe's trust land application for land it purchased in Michigan's lower peninsula.

In a March 5 decision, District Judge Trevor N. McFadden of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia found that the Department of the Interior misinterpreted Section 108 of the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act (MILCSA) of 1997. Section 108 of the MILCSA detailed Sault Tribe's plan for its portion of the funds. It included language that land purchased with the interest of the Land Claims Fund "shall be held in trust by the Secretary

for the benefit of the tribe."

In 2012, Sault Tribe purchased acreage in the lower peninsula for gaming development and subsequently applied for land in trust status under the MILCSA. However, the Interior refused to take the land into trust because of other language in Section 108 that the land's purpose was for "for consolidation or enhancement of tribal lands."

In 2018, the tribe filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against the Secretary of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Interior. Three commercial casinos, the



Judge Trevor N. McFadden

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe filed as intervenors.

In his ruling, Judge McFadden wrote the Interior was mistaken it had authority to make its decision, siding with the tribe's claim that "its board had exclusive authority to decide that a distribution of fund income was for one of these purposes, and thus the Secretary had no authority to conclude otherwise."

Judge McFadden wrote in his opinion, "The court agrees with Sault on the merits. The Department overstepped its authority when it denied Sault's request to take land into trust because it believed the tribe did not acquire the land for a proper purpose. Congress gave the department no role in policing Sault's land acquisitions."

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www.mivoicerecounts.org

Sault Tribe committee vacancies - apply now!

Committees listed below have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Joanne Carr or Linda Grossett, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783. Call (906) 635-6050 for any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - six vacancies - three males (4-year term), three female (4-year term)

Child Welfare Committee - two vacancies (4-year term)

Election Committee - four vacancies (4-year term)

Higher Education Committee - two vacancies (4-year term)

Health Board - five vacancies

(4-year term)

Housing Commission - one vacancy - Unit 5 (4-year term)

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

Elder Advisory Committee

Unit I - Sault (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

Unit II - Hessel (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit III - St. Ignace (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

Unit IV - Escanaba (4 year term) one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

Unit V - Munising (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

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

Elder Subcommittee

Unit I - Sault (4-year terms), one regular seat vacancy, two alternate seat vacancies

Unit II - Hessel (4-year terms), two regular seat vacancies, two alternate vacancies

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

Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), one regular seat vacancy and two alternate seat vacancies

Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies

Unit V - Munising (4-year term), one regular seat vacancy, two alternate seat vacancies

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

VA invites women to continue making history

IRON MOUNTAIN, Mich. — This Women’s History Month, the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center invites women veterans to continue making history with the department.

“For the Department of Veterans Affairs, Women’s History Month means more than just celebrating our women veterans – it means making sure they’re proud of the role we play in the remaining chapters of their story,” said VA Chief of Staff Pam Powers. “We will continue to build on the legacy that America’s women veterans have carved out by listening to them, respecting them, and serving them with the dignity this country owes them.”

Women comprise about 10 percent of the veterans VA serves nationwide and that number is set to increase, as women are about 20 percent of our military forces. For decades, VA’s principal patient base was men. But today’s VA facilities provide comprehensive primary care for women, as well as gynecology, maternity, specialty care and mental health services.

In the last fiscal year, 41 percent of all women veterans were enrolled in VA, and we expect that number to keep climbing as customer service and patient experiences for women veterans continue to improve. Since VA started tracking outpatient satisfaction in 2017, we’ve seen women’s trust in VA climb

higher and higher. In 2019, 83.8 percent of female veterans trusted the care they got at VA, and initial data in 2020 is on pace to see that trust score rise to nearly 85 percent.

The Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center offers a host of services geared toward women veterans, including comprehensive gender-specific primary and specialty care, mental health services, disease prevention and screening, maternity care coordination, and urgent care services. Enhanced maternity care is typically provided through arrangements made by the VA with local non-VA health providers. VA also provides maternity education and tools, childbirth preparation, breastfeeding support and lactation classes, breast pumps and other supplies and care to the newborn for the first seven days after birth. “By having trained, gender-specific providers at the medical center and each of our community clinics we can offer our women veterans comprehensive care in a single visit,” said Barbara Robinson, RN, Women Veterans Program manager at the Iron Mountain based VA medical center.

To provide more timely and comprehensive health care services to women veterans, the medical center has a separate Women’s Wellness Clinic, which offers a private waiting area for women and their children while

waiting for appointments.

The medical center would like to thank the generations of women veterans who have shaped our military and served our country. VA encourages women veterans not currently using VA health care services to enroll and use the benefits they have earned. Call the Women Veterans call center for information at (855) VA-Women (855-829-6636) or visit women-shealth.va.gov.

Youth employment program opened

The Sault Tribe Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Department is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

This program is for Native American youth aged 14 to 21 who reside in Sault Tribe’s seven-county service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties). Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office on the second floor of the Big Bear, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767.

Applicants will be required to complete and pass pre-employment drug testing and a criminal background investigation if applicable.

Deadline to apply is May 15, 2020.

Contacts for Sault Tribe Education Division

Cody Jodoin, Executive Assistant, cjodoin@saulttribe.net

Brenda Cadreau, WIOA Program Manager, bcadreau@saulttribe.net

Kaylynn Cairns, YEA Manager kcairns2@saulttribe.net

Loriann Fabry, Higher Education Specialist, lfabry@saulttribe.net (906) 635-6050

Tanya Pages, Adult and Alternative Education Coordinator, (906) 495-7305, (906) 632-6098, tpages@eup-schools.org

Jill Lawson, Youth Services Coordinator, (906) 253-1321, jlawson@saulttribe.net

Sue St. Onge, Youth Services Coordinator
YEA St. Ignace
LaSalle Middle School
(906) 643-7262, sstonge@saulttribe.net

Dawn Griffin, Youth Services Coordinator
YEA Rudyard/ Kinross
Rudyard Schools
(906) 478-3471, ext. 6216, dgriffin@saulttribe.net

Janet Krueger, Youth Services Coordinator
YEA Manistique
(906) 341-3362, jkrueger@saulttribe.net

Lisa Burnside, Youth Services Coordinator
YEA Newberry/ Engadine/ Pickford/ Cedarville/ Hessel/ DeTour Village/ Drummond
(906) 484-2298, lburnside@saulttribe.net

Kelly Constantino, Youth Services Coordinator
YEA Escanaba/ Gladstone/ Rapid River/ Gwinn/ Negaunee/ Ishpeming
(906) 789-0972, kconstantino@saulttribe.net

Cindy Reimer, Youth Services Coordinator
YEA Marquette/ Munising
Mather Middle School
(906) 387-2251, creimer@saulttribe.net

Anne Suggitt, Early Childhood Programs Manager
(906) 635-7722, asuggitt@saulttribe.net

Dawn Fegan, Childcare Supervisor, (906) 632-5258, dfegan@saulttribe.net

Training opportunities available for eligible applicants

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

The program may be able to provide tuition assistance for skills training if it leads to an industry-recognized certification or under OJT, the program may reimburse an employer 50 percent

of your wage for a specified training period.

Candidates must meet certain eligibility requirements and be a resident of the seven-county service area.

Visit the WIOA office, Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or call Brenda Cadreau at 635-4767 for more information.

Tribal members: need assistance?

Three membership liaisons work with the chairperson’s office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. The liaisons respond to membership issues and follow up to ensure they are resolved. Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact the liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or contacting them individually at:

Unit I — Sheila Berger, Office of the Chairperson, Sault

Ste. Marie, (906) 635-6050, (800) 793-0660, sberger@saulttribe.net

Units II and III — Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, (906) 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net

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

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

March 25, 2020
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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
Rick Smith.....Staff Writer
Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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2020 Sault Tribe Inland Application

Please fill out the following application indicating all harvest tags that you would like in addition to your 2020 Harvest card. The Harvest card authorizes you to participate in activities pursuant to Chapters 21 and 23 of the Tribal Code only. Great Lakes activities require separate permits pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Tribal Code.

In 2020, the cost for each member will be \$5. You must pay with a check or a money order (DO NOT SEND CASH) payable to Sault Tribe. A \$36 NSF charge will be applied to all checks returned by a financial institution. Credit and debit cards can be used but ONLY in person at the Law Enforcement office. If you have questions, please contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (906-635-6065). Youth (16 and under) and Elders (60 and over) are not required to pay fees. **New** applicants must provide a copy of their Tribal card and if born after 1960, proof of hunter safety. **All members who held a 2019 harvest license MUST complete a harvest report whether you had any activity at all or a license will NOT be issued.**

First name Middle Last

Physical Address City State Zip County

Mailing Address if different from physical

File Number (Red# on Tribal ID) STS # (Red #on harvest card) Date of birth Sex

Phone Email address

Hunting harvest card (please select which tags you are applying for)
Includes Inland fishing, general gathering, small game, waterfowl, migratory birds and general furbearer.

Application Harvest Tags	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spring Turkey
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall Turkey
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pine Marten, Bobcat, River Otter, and Fisher Harvest Tags (Trapping)

Non-hunting harvest card
Includes Inland fishing and general gathering.

Bear and Elk Applications will be available on the Sault Tribe website and the newspaper in April 2020

Walleye and steelhead permits for the specially regulated seasons will be available by contacting the Natural Resource Department, 906-632-6132 or see website for details (www.saulttribe.com).

For all other permits pursuant to chapter 21 and 23 of the Tribal Code, you must contact the Conservation Department @ 906-635-6065 (i.e. State Firewood and State Maple Sap).

Please mail completed applications to:

**P.O. Box 925
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**



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"Dr. Aaron Payment is a nationally respected champion for Native American Women and issues that matter most to us. Whether it pertains to the Indian Child Welfare Act, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, or any other issue of important to Tribal Nations, I know I can count on Dr. Payment's Leadership".

~ President Fawn Sharp, Quinault Nation & National Congress of American Indians

Mandatory Trust Gaming Expansion Pathway to Victory!

With the recent positive court ruling regarding our mandatory trust and gaming expansion in our favor, the burden is on the Department of Interior to disprove we acquired the land with interest from the fund which is at the heart of the mandatory and jurisdictional aspect of our petition. Given we 100% purchased the land with interest from the fund and submitted a certified audit, we have shown conclusively the land is eligible land and shall be held as Indian Lands are held.

A great deal is at stake. Over 30,000 of our Sault Tribe citizens live through out every county in Michigan. We receive no federal funds for over 2/3 of our people. Our reservation base is artificially small due to broken treaties and failed US Indian Policy designed to exterminate our race. Our populations of Sault Tribe Members rivals other tribes in what they consider their home territories. Reservation boundaries today are artificial and inconsistent with our traditional tribal values. Still we respect other tribal territories but only wish to provide for our tribal citizens wherever they reside. The 1997 Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act was written by us to provide for our people no matter where they reside.



Still, with the consent of our Board, I have played a direct leadership role here. This is precisely why the Chairperson's attention should include not only local issues but issues at the inter-tribal, regional and national level. I am NOT going to apologize for being adept at this part of my job as your Chairperson.

We have some weighty issues at hand like:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| * Our Mandatory Trust Petition; | * Treaty Fishing Consent Decree Negotiations; | * Services Expansion for All Members Everywhere; |
| * Downstate Gaming Expansion; | * National threats to our Sovereignty; | * Protecting Sacred sites and our Natural Resources; |
| * Gaming Compact Negotiations; | * Fulfillment of our Treaty and Trust Obligations; | * Protecting against an imminent oil spill at the straits. |

I contend that now is not a time to change oars, but to keep our paddles in the water and paddle even faster to achieve the interests of our Sault Tribe Nation to benefit all of our people!

~ Please pray for unity of purpose and continued success for our Sault Tribe Nation. Chi McGwitch, Negee.

Tipping Point Solutions expanding Sault operations

BY RICK SMITH

Tipping Point Solutions, Inc., an award-winning high-tech instructional media company based in Denver, Colo., owned by Sault Tribe member Rick Schmidt, recently announced an expansion of its Sault Ste. Marie operations.

The company develops interactive training programs and instructional videos, among its clients are the federal government and the U.S. Department of Defense. It is one of several businesses owned by Sault Tribe members that formed the Sault Tribe Business Alliance last year. Tipping Point Solutions also opened a branch office suite and studio in downtown Sault Ste. Marie early last year at the tribe's Tamarack Business Center.

The expansion has support from the Michigan Strategic Fund and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). It is expected to bring an infusion of \$157,000 through private investment and 10 to 12 new high-paying tech jobs to the area. Tipping Point Solutions will provide the training and skills development for the new employees along with conducting mentoring and training for other organizations.

According to the MEDC, Tipping Point Solutions was recently awarded two major military contracts, prompting the need to hire more employees and expand the Sault operations through leasing more space, investing in new equipment and improving the existing facilities. Anyone interested in tracking employment opportunities with

the company as they open may do so at www.tp-solutions.com/careers.

Sault Tribe has offered help with recruiting new employees. The Michigan Strategic Fund awarded support for the expansion with a performance-based \$75,000 Michigan Micro Business Development Program grant. The City of Sault Ste. Marie is onboard as a Michigan Main Street community through the MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities program.

"Tipping Point Solutions' decision to establish a production facility in Sault Ste. Marie was based on our strong belief that sourcing and developing talent in northern Michigan will provide quality career opportunities for residents in the area while also supporting the company's anticipated growth in the coming years," Schmidt, who is also CEO, said in an MEDC announcement. "Based on our experience operating in areas of the country such as Colorado, Virginia and Arizona, we believe our presence in northern Michigan has the ability to create measurable professional and economic impact on the local workforce and the surrounding community. We are greatly appreciative to Sault Tribe and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for their ongoing support and interest in our success in the Sault."

Also cited in the announcement, Sault Tribe Economic Development Director Joel Schultz said, "The Tipping Point Solutions' presence in Michigan and CEO Rick Schmidt's commit-



Photo by Rick Smith

Speakers at the March 12 press conference at the Tamarack Business Center where the Tipping Point Solutions expansion was announced, from left, Jeff Mason, CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation; Rick Schmidt, president and CEO of Tipping Point Solutions, and Joel Schultz, executive director of the Sault Tribe Economic Development Corporation.

ment to growth represent exactly the type of collaboration that is needed to impact our rural communities. Mr. Schmidt's desire to impact Sault Tribe, his time and capital investments, the MEDC and the State of Michigan's recognition of an effort being done right and subsequent support, and the Sault Tribe EDC's outreach, investment and local facilitation represent a mutual investment in the region's success. "I personally want to thank Mr. Schmidt and the MEDC for their commitment,

the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors for their vision and the community of Sault Ste. Marie and Chippewa County for opening their arms."

At a press conference conducted at the Tamarack Business Center on March 12, Schmidt noted the center is likely to soon see more good developments with not only his company, but with other businesses involved with the center as well. "I think 2020 is going to be a monumental year," he said, "I'm excited about

being on the ground floor at this time."

MEDC CEO Jeff Mason remarked, "Tipping Point Solutions' expansion in Sault Ste. Marie will help catalyze long-term job growth for area residents and demonstrates the company's strong commitment to the community." He added the MEDC was pleased to collaborate with the tribe and other partners to continue economic growth in the area.

Applicants sought for tribal veteran service officer

Successful applicant would be a U.S. military veteran, Sault Tribe member, training through American Legion.

The American Legion Department of Michigan and the Sault Tribe have partnered together to create a tribal veteran service officer's position to serve the Native American Veteran community in Upper Peninsula Michigan.

The American Legion provides the knowledge, training, resources and infrastructure needed to assist veterans filing claims with the U.S. Veterans Administration. The Sault Tribe is providing funding and office locations.

"Native Americans have the highest record of military service per capita, about 25 percent," said Gary Easterling, American Legion Department of Michigan Veteran Service Office Director. "But, some of the lowest usage of veteran benefits."

The American Legion is currently accepting applications for a part-time Tribal Veteran Service Officer. The applicant must be an honorably discharged veteran and a member of the Sault Tribe. The TVSO will provide community outreach, file claims to the Veteran's Administration for the

veteran or family member and serve as a liaison to various state and federal veteran programs. This position will cover the Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace and Hessel areas.

If you are a honorably discharged veteran and Sault Tribe member with a desire to help fellow veterans, travel and be a part of The American Legion Veteran Service Officer Team send your resume to Gary Easterling, VSO Director, The American Legion, 477 Michigan Ave., Room 1210, Detroit, MI 48226, or email geasterling@michiganlegion.org.

The American Legion seeks to start providing this service by April 1, 2020.

Federal court approves \$1 million Greektown settlement

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan approved a \$1 million settlement agreement on March 5 between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in conjunction with the Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority and Buchwald Capital Advisors LLC in its capacity as litigation trustee and distribution trustee for the Greektown Litigation Trust.

As trustee, Buchwald Capital Advisors LLC brought suit against the tribe and gaming authority nearly 10 years ago seeking to recover \$177 million in transfers related to the refinancing of Greektown Casino debt and payment by Greektown of monies to Ted Gatzaros and Jim Papas for their ownership interests in the casino. The tribe defended the lawsuit on several grounds, including sovereign immunity, according to tribal attorney, Courtney Kachur.

Sault Tribe received successful rulings upholding its sovereign immunity in the United States Bankruptcy Court, United States District Court and United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. But when the trustee requested the U.S. Supreme Court review the sovereign immunity victories,

the tribe agreed to a \$1 million settlement as an economical alternative to the cost, time and expense of a U.S. Supreme Court appeal, according to Kachur.

Settling the lawsuit totally and finally terminates the tribe's relationship with the Greektown Casino.



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Ziisbaakdoke Giizis Sugar Making Moon

by Susan Askwith

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“Go often to the house of your friend, for weeds choke the unused path.”
R.W. Emerson — Keep practicing your favorite Anishinaabemowin words or phrases for the same reason!

Nbwaachaadidaa! Let’s visit each other!

As part of mid-winter teachings, we’re reminded of the goodness that comes from visiting our friends, neighbors and relatives. Our old ones knew visiting face to face when possible can bind us together, smooth over rough spots in relationships, and help us work together more efficiently for our common goals. We learn new things and laugh a lot. We come away feeling good. This remains true today although visiting friends has been declining for the past 30 years, and visiting family has declined over the last 20 years. Time for a change?

This visiting can mean calling on someone at home - and we do that most often when congratulations or condolences of some sort are called for. But it still counts to visit with friends as you meet them in stores, gas stations, coffee shops, parking lots and health centers.



I followed the trail (*miikaanhs*) and found that
_____ visited with _____
_____ visited with _____
_____ visited with _____
_____ visited with _____

*Although you’ll find our house a mess,
come in, sit down and converse.
It doesn’t always look like this.
Some days it’s even worse.*

This is a good time to look again at how to say words. The guide is below. Say each letter’s sound, one at a time. Go nice and slow. You’ll get it!

Tidbits! When visiting, most of us would have short conversations indeed if we only used Anishinaabemowin. Here are some short phrases that can be useful in everyday life - to spice up your conversations. We suggest you pick out only a few and repeat them often before adding more to your vocabulary. No stress; have fun!

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Nahaaw dash; Mii wi. | OK then; that’s it. |
| Aambe! | Come on/ Let’s go |
| Beh! | There! |
| Bekaa | Wait a minute |
| Wewiip! | Hurry up! |
| Manjiidik | I don’t know |
| Nishkekisha! | Look at that! |
| Shkenaa menaa | Take it easy |
| Gesinaa giisaach | That’s too bad |
| Gaawiin jidaa | I’m sorry |
| | (didn’t mean it) |
| Kiiwanaadiz na?! | Are you crazy?! |
| Nishaa gda kid | You’re <u>kidding</u> |
| N’debwe gwa! | I’m serious |
| N’debsinii | I’m full |
| Gaa’ii nii nii | Not me!!! |
| Naagidowendizan | Take care of yourself |
| G’chi miigwech | Thanks very much |

Pronunciation guide; How to sound really good:

Let’s just stick with these basics: Letters sound like they do in reading English, except for these ones.

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| a | sounds like U in cup | i | sounds like I in fit |
| aa | sounds like A in fall | ii | sounds like EE in feed |
| o | sounds like OO in book | e | sounds like E in fed |
| oo | sounds like O in grow | g | sounds only like g in go |
- nh has no sound at all; it is only a SIGN that the vowel in front of it is said in a nasal way.**

English has a lot of strange spellings. Our system of writing is easier. We pronounce all the letters shown, even if we say some of them pretty fast and some are pretty quiet.

UTM reviews Minnesota tribal-state relations training model for improved collaboration

BY RICK SMITH

A gathering of members and representatives of the United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) in Lansing, Mich., on Feb. 20 featured presentations on a new and highly acclaimed tribal-state relations training program in Minnesota. The program is part of an overall movement by the Minnesota government to foster understanding and collaboration between state agencies and

Filmmaker coming to Sault Tribe



Cressandra Thibodeaux

Cressandra Thibodeaux is an award-winning filmmaker and Sault Tribe member, whose grandparents were from Sugar Island. "My grandmother was our family's oral historian," Thibodeaux said, "her maiden name was Adelaide Leask, and she was born on Sugar Island on Aug. 21, 1905." Her grandmother instilled in Thibodeaux the importance of preserving history. Thibodeaux is making a documentary and would like to film and interview tribal members this summer, from June 21 – July 7. Her goal is to highlight seven tribal members of all ages, and interweave their stories into a documentary, which will then be submitted to the Sundance Film Festival, among others. Anyone who is highlighted in the film will be invited to a private rough-cut screening in Sault Ste. Marie on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 – the venue TBA.

If you are interested in participating in the documentary called "Sault Tribe Documentary," you can email or text Thibodeaux at cressandra@mac.com.

Cressandra Thibodeaux is the Executive Director of 14 Pews, www.14pews.com, and can also be contacted by calling 310-880-3907. You can also visit: www.cressandra.org, www.bechdel-films.com, or https://vimeo.com/cressandra.

tribal governments in the state. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued an executive order in early 2019 instituting measures to that end, including the mandate for the tribal-state relations training.

The executive order calls for state agencies to recognize and respect the unique legal relationships between the state and the state's tribes through measures and procedures agencies must follow. The tribal-state relations training function as a key component in the new measures.

"The state has instituted tribal-state relations training, which will be the foundation and basis of all other tribal relations training sources," the executive order reads. "All agencies must direct certain staff to complete training to foster a collaborative relationship between the State of Minnesota and Minnesota tribal nations. In addition to all commissioners, deputy commissioners and assistant commissioners, all

agency employees whose work is likely to impact Minnesota tribal nations will attend tribal-state relations training. Tribal liaisons will actively support and participate in the tribal-state relations training."

In 2019, according to the State of Minnesota, 15 tribal leaders and 25 tribal liaisons participated in 8,635 hours of training delivered to 785 people in 27 state agencies at two-day training sessions hosted by seven tribes. It takes about 60 people to deliver a training session.

"Since its inception, the training's fundamental goal has been to educate key state agency staff about American Indian tribal governments, histories, cultures and traditions so that the state and tribal governments can work more effectively by collaborating to resolve shared policy challenges and objectives," said Linda Aitken, training manager for the State of Minnesota. "The

most important aspect of the tribal-state relations training is that all 11 tribal nations in Minnesota collectively tell their individual story and implement the training, which creates meaningful relationships and leads to institutional change."

Aitken went on to say the training program was first conceived in 2011 after liaisons from tribes and the state realized too much time was spent on training state staff on tribal issues. She added, "Initial development of the training was led by an all Native American group consisting of Minnesota state agency tribal liaisons, tribal nations, Indian educators and Indian issues experts. The initial training session was launched in October, 2013, with content specifically designed for leaders of state agencies and currently includes agency leadership and staff."

Along with potential long-term benefits, the training sessions also

carried short-term, financial benefits for participating tribes. Over a 10-month period, the state visited a tribe each month to conduct training sessions on tribal lands with each tribe for up to 100 staff members from state agencies. Tribes were provided with up to \$35,000 to set up the training sessions.

According to the State of Minnesota, the sessions were well received by both state employees and tribal officials who participated in the trainings.

The presentation encouraged UTM leaders what might be possible to develop with the State of Michigan to enhance relationships between their tribes and the state.

Aitken also pointed out that at the heart of the training, the 11 tribes in Minnesota themselves hold the key to social, political, cultural and economic prosperity and self-governance is crucial to building and strengthening American Indian nations.



Jen McLeod



TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON - 2020

Prosperity • Unity • Sovereignty • Honesty

I invite Tribal members to join me in bringing CHANGE to the Chair of our Tribe. With the WISDOM of an EXPERIENCED Elder Woman, I will lead our Tribe with confidence and strength on to the path of PROSPERITY, UNITY, SOVEREIGNTY and HONESTY for our Tribal Nation. Let us move forward TOGETHER...It is your moment to CHOOSE. PUSH for Change!

PROSPERITY

It is time to move forward BOLDLY and create prosperity for our Tribe. Being a Tribe is about the PEOPLE, not the Politics. This means protecting our fishermen's livelihoods and ensuring that anyone working for our Tribe full-time can support their families. It includes guiding/mentoring Tribal entrepreneurs toward independence, expanding education programs to include the Trades, diversifying Tribally owned businesses. It means **doing what it takes to ensure that our Tribe, OUR PEOPLE are successful and flourishing.** We must do this boldly and without fear. FEAR is contagious... But so is HOPE!

UNITY

We must return to our Old Ways, in a New Time. Historically, our people gathered yearly in Bahweting (Sault Ste Marie), we can do this old tradition in our modern times by having an Annual Homecoming/gathering. It includes pow wows, ceremonies, feasting and the opportunity to learn about our culture as well as learn how Our Tribe is doing! It puts the people in direct contact with their elected leaders, and represen-

tatives of every department of the Tribe. Financial reports are given and explained on every facet of the Tribes departments and enterprises. But it isn't just this one event that develops Unity. It's the combination of this, the many events already held in many places in our Territory, and the utilization of technology that **strengthens our connection to each other no matter where we live ... and that's Unity.**

SOVEREIGNTY

Our Tribe is a Sovereign Nation. We receive millions in Federal dollars as payment for the lands we once held. But those dollars come with restrictions... income guidelines, geographic boundaries etc., creating an inequality among our people, leaving many to suffer. **We may not be able to change the Federal grant restrictions, but what we CAN CHANGE is our dependency on those grants.** The way to do that is to make a deliberate "focus shift" in the Board Room to one of financial independence. Casinos gave us that at one time, but the world has changed, and we need to change. **We can:** create high paying, high technology jobs, medi-

cal labs for testing HEMP and other Cannabis related plants.; Produce alternative, earth friendly products that reduce dependency on plastics that build up in landfills; develop Vocational Education; Dental Therapy; collaborative projects with Tribal Nations in Canada; Food production; and much more. **Until we have enough of OUR OWN MONEY to run our Tribe, and help ALL of our people, we can not slow down.** The next seven generations, and the seven after that are counting on us.

HONESTY

We must be open and honest in all matters. We have learned many lessons from the past where the lack of honestly created mistrust, and even fear. But it is time to be UNITED in the pursuit of Truth and Reason, rather than continue to break apart from conjecture and suspicion. **Without HONESTY, there can be no TRUST.** This means vastly improved and OPEN communications; PROPER live-streaming and recording of meetings/workshops; Annual reports to our members. This pursuit can only be achieved through a commitment to TRANSPARENCY.

VOTE - Jen McLeod Chairperson in 2020!

<https://www.jmcleodsaulttribe.com/>

Bauman takes coordinator post at Sault clinic

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Svetlana Baumann, RN, has been hired as the clinical applications coordinator (CAC) by the Sault Tribe Health Center in Sault Ste. Marie. She started Feb. 2, 2020.

Baumann provides strategic and tactical planning, development and coordination of the health center's information systems.

She was born and raised in Russia, and attended Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics, and Informatics, where in 1988 she earned her master's degree in informatics. After graduating she worked for 10 years as a programmer in a computer center. In 2001 she moved from Moscow to Sault



Svetlana Bauman

Ste. Marie with her American-born husband David Baumann, a professor of Electrical

Engineering at Lake Superior State University (LSSU), and their oldest son.

Since moving to the U.S., they have had three more boys. Their oldest son was born in Russia in 1999 and is 20, and they also have 17-, 16- and 15-year-olds, who were born at War Memorial Hospital (WMH). Three of the boys are hockey players, so the Baumann's are often on the road traveling for games. During the summer months Baumann likes gardening and has a big Russian style garden, or dacha, where she grows everything from flowers and vegetables to fruit trees.

She attended nursing school at LSSU in 2007, and worked as a night shift nurse at WMH in the Med-Surg Department from 2012

through early 2020, when she accepted her current position with the Sault Tribe. She also worked as an RN application specialist at WMH, where she was part of the team that built and implemented a new hospital information system and, until recently, she was doing an optimization and maintenance of that system.

There are many words that could be used to describe what Baumann does, with a few of those being: implementation, development, maintenance, procedures, standards, utilization, security, user access, patches and fixes, training, customization, support, troubleshooting, repairs, and coordinating with health center teams.

Baumann will be receiving

training soon through the IHS Clinical Application Coordinator Preparation and Training Series and IHS RPMS/EHR Site Manager Training.

She is on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for server application and configuration problems, and carries a cell phone and computer to link in from remote locations.

She said she was excited to meet Sault Tribe Health Division Director Leo Chugunov, who is also from Russia.

Baumann has a great appreciation for her Russian culture and homeland, but said she is very happy to have this wonderful opportunity to work in a new cultural environment and learn Native American customs and traditions.

Pilcher maintaining Sault ceremonial building

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Jordan Pilcher was hired recently by the Sault Tribe as a maintenance technician for the Niigaanagiiizhik Ceremonial Building, located across from the powwow grounds in Sault Ste. Marie.

In addition to building and grounds upkeep, he will be scheduling for events and funerals.

Pilcher grew up in Newberry and moved to Sault Ste. Marie when he was 18, after graduating from Newberry High School, to get to know his extended family better. Since moving to the Sault he said he has been learning more about tribal culture from friends and family and now also from his

new position within the Culture Department.

Pilcher worked for a few years at Kewadin Casino in the Sault as a gaming dealer, and he also worked in casino maintenance and at Walmart.

He said, "I really like working with people in the tribal community and enjoy working with the Culture Department. I enjoy working with my hands, but also like working within our tribal culture in an environment where I can learn more about it."

He likes to lend a helping hand when he can, and said he has learned a great deal of patience from a friend who is a single mother of young children, includ-



Jordon Pilcher

ing a one-year-old. "She has a baby and a few older children, and I'm learning what it's like

to be a parent by helping her out occasionally. I have always had a lot of respect for single parent families, but even more so now that I have seen what she goes through," he said. "She has helped me learn more patience, which transfers over into my job and life."

Pilcher has three older brothers, Mike, Tom and Joe.

The next time you attend an event at the tribe's ceremonial building, be sure to notice the pride Pilcher takes in his new role by providing the best service he can to keep the building ready for whatever your needs are. To schedule an event, call (906) 632-0239.

According to the official position summary, the maintenance technician, under the direction of the director of Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department, is responsible for ensuring the Niigaanagiiizhik Ceremonial Building is maintained for the safe use by the tribal community. The position is responsible for performing routine and daily janitorial duties, house-keeping, grounds keeping, repair and maintenance as needed for the Niigaanagiiizhik Ceremonial Building and nearby structures.

The work includes maintaining driveways, walkways, roofs, doorways, handicap ramps, and snow removal, among others.

Re-Elect

BETTY

IRRECHIEVABLE

SAULT TRIBE UNIT 1

MARCHING STEADY WITH BETTY!

"I will fight for you, like I always have." -Betty Freiheit



March is (Indigenous) National Nutrition Month!

FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Tribal Food Sovereignty Collaborative’s mission is to connect, promote and build sustainable community food systems across the tribe’s service area.

They do this by providing education, events and resources rooted in Anishinaabe culture and modern sustainability practices.

In honor of March as National Nutrition Month, health educator Josie Fegan, who facilitates the collaborative, shares its approach to nutrition, food sovereignty and connecting community members back to the land.

Q: What are nutritional foods?

A: Nutritional food does not only satisfies our hunger — it also feeds our mind, body and spirit. Nutritional food is often close to the land, ethically grown and harvested and enjoyed when seasonally available.

Q: What foods can be grown here in the U.P.?

A: We can grow potatoes, squash, beans, corn and many other vegetables. We can also harvest many wild foods in our area, including venison, fish,

wild rice, mushrooms, edible flowers, tree nuts and berries, including raspberries, blueberries, strawberries and thimbleberries.

Q: What are the differences between indigenous and traditional foods?

A: Indigenous foods are native to these woodlands and to the Anishinaabe, existing prior to European contact.

Traditional foods and recipes, which are commonly seen at potlucks, powwows and traditional and ceremonial gatherings, include indigenous foods and ingredients from postcolonial contact.

Q: What are some common misconceptions about foods like fry bread?

A: Fry bread is a controversial topic in Indian Country. Many consider it a traditional food because it has been around for so long. However, many others are strongly against it and view fry bread as a representation of oppression and colonialism.

Q: Tell us more about the nutritional content of indigenous foods like manoomin (wild rice) and venison.

A: Manoomin, a grass that grows naturally in our freshwater, contains high levels of fiber and protein and it’s also a great source of vitamin B, iron manganese, calcium and riboflavin. Venison, another staple in our traditional diet, is higher in protein and lower in fat and calories than grocery store beef. Also, many indigenous foods are often rich in omega 3 fatty acids because traditionally, they are grown and cultivated with fewer pesticides and additives.

A: How can you learn more?

Connect with us on social media! “Like” the Tribal Food Sovereignty Collaborative’s Facebook page and the Sault Tribe Healthy Living Facebook page. One can also speak directly with a Sault Tribe Health educator, registered dietitian, the tribe’s Culture and Language Department and the Traditional Medicine Department. Our elders are another great source of wisdom.

Indigenous recipe: Sweetened wild rice flour bannock bread

Although today’s more recog-

nizable variations of bannock bread were introduced by Scots to North America, indigenous peoples have made variations of the bread for generations using locally sourced and harvested ingredients.

This sweetened bannock bread recipe incorporates some indigenous ingredients including wild rice flour (which is more nutrient-rich than all-purpose flour), maple syrup and maple sugar.

Historically, the bread was able to keep for long periods of time without spoiling while also providing our people with carbohydrates that weren’t always easy to come by in the winter or in certain geographic regions.

From *Mino Wiisinidaa! (Let’s Eat Good!)* by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 30 Minutes
Serving size: 3-by-3 inch square
Recipe yields: 23 servings
Storage: In pantry: 4-5 days; in freezer: up to 3 months; no need to refrigerate
Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups wild rice flour
- 4 cups unbleached all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cornmeal
- 2 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 1/4 cup sunflower seed oil
- 2 1/2 cups lukewarm water, plus more as needed
- 2 Tbsp maple sugar

- Directions:
1. Preheat oven to 375F and lightly oil a baking sheet.
 2. In a large bowl, combine flours, cornmeal, baking powder and salt. Mix to fully incorporate.
 3. Create a well in the flour mixture and gradually add syrup, oil and water while gently stirring dough with a wooden spoon until fully incorporated.
 4. Pat dough into oiled baking sheet and spread evenly into the corners.
 5. Sprinkle maple sugar on top of the dough before baking.
 6. Bake until thoroughly cooked and lightly browned on top, about 30 min.
 7. Cool slightly before serving.

SCCU temporarily suspends branch access

As of March 19, Soo Co-op Credit Union temporarily adjusted branch access at all branch locations. Drive-Thru Windows and ATMs will be the primary means of conducting transactions. Lobbies will be available by appointment only for member needs that are not able to be completed through the Drive-Thru window.

In addition to Drive-Thru and ATM service, there are a number of ways that our members can continue to do business with Soo Co-op Credit Union during this temporary lobby closure. Online and mobile banking are easy secure ways to check your balance, pay loans, transfer funds, pay bills and even deposit checks via Mobile Check

Deposit. For general questions, our Call Center is available at (906) 632-5300 Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Our Member Service Representatives will assist members to find solutions and answers. We have loan staff available to take applications, process loans and answer loan questions at (906) 632-5373. Our Mortgage Loan Offices are able to assist members with applications and Mortgage assistance at (906) 632-5370.

Soo Co-op Credit Union offers emergency relief for members who are experiencing financial hardship during these difficult times. Our debt management experts will review the members situation to help find options that

work best for them in order to help with expenses associated with unexpected hardship. The National Credit Union Administration is reminding credit union members of the safety of their deposits in federally insured credit unions. The NCUA also reminds individuals to remain vigilant against COVID-19-related scams. The Credit Union wants to thank the community for their patience as we work in partnership to follow the recommendations of health and government officials. As the situation changes, we will continue to keep the community updated and informed through our website www.soocoop.com and Facebook.

Tribal Tax Office Information

Phone: (906) 632-6281
Fax: (906) 632- 6587
Email: cblocher@saulttribe.net

Address: 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Beginning Monday, March 23 through Friday, April 3, please follow the instructions below for tax-related inquiries:

Questions regarding State income taxes, registration in tax agreement area, or change of address, contact Tax Office with contact information listed above.

Exemption Certificates for personal use vehicles, recreational watercraft, snowmobiles and off-road vehicles –

If purchasing from dealer,

please have the dealer fax or e-mail information to the numbers listed above. If purchasing through private party sales, use same contact information listed above. Once exemption is completed, the Tax office can send the document back to you via fax, e-mail, or US mail. Please provide where you would like the document sent. If requested, the Tax Office can directly fax the document to the Secretary of State. Exemption Certificate for construction materials – Contact the Tax Office with contact information listed above. Please provide the name and address of vendor and their fax number.

Sault Tribe Thrive advice: “Economic development depends on you and your business plan!”

FROM SAULT TRIBE THRIVE

Ever wonder what separates a good idea from a good business idea? It’s your business plan, or often a lack of this vital business component. At Sault Tribe Thrive, we are approached by budding entrepreneurs every day, it’s what we’re here for! Many conversations start out like this, “I have an idea for a business. Can you help me?” We love to connect and support our tribal members’ startups.

The range in age, location and experience is as diverse as it comes, but our response is usually the same. Do you have a business plan? It can sound like an intimidating task, but it doesn’t have to be. Creating a plan for your ideal business is really about answering a few basic questions related to your idea.

So how do we move your idea from vision to reality? The first basic component of any good plan simply asks who? Who is going to operate your business? Will it be you or do you need to seek expert

knowledge from another source? It sounds like an easy question, but it’s meant to gauge your capabilities as someone knowledgeable in the industry your business will enter.

Now that you have an idea of who will run your business, the next question asks what? What is the reason your business exists? For most businesses the answer comes from one of two options or a combination of both. What problem will your business create a solution for? Or do you simply intend to sell a good feeling? Either option is appropriate, but together can provide a solid foundation from which to grow.

We’re getting a greater sense of what purpose your business idea serves. The next question and perhaps the most important, asks whom? Who is your business’ ideal representation of a customer? What are the characteristics of your business’ target customer? There exist a varietal slew of “right” answers, but it is really up to you the busi-

ness owner and what your market tolerates.

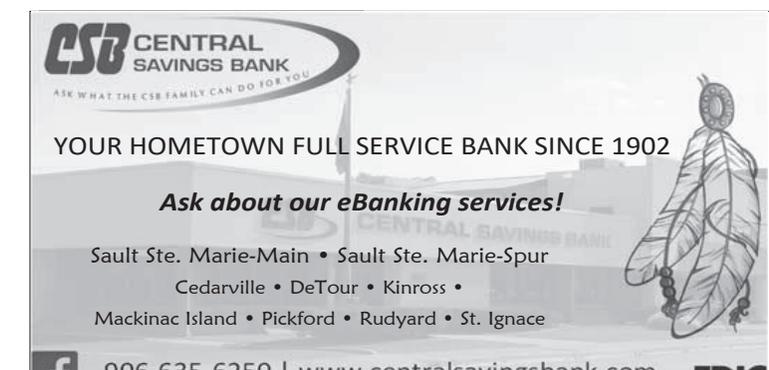
Another important consideration is where? Where will your business operate? Many times this is pre-determined by the previous question, where will your business find its target customers? Many businesses exist solely online, but for others, their physical location plays heavily into the business model. Traffic comes in many forms whether it be virtual, foot or through some other channel — but traffic is what will deliver your business’s products and/or services to the customer.

Answering these final two questions is somewhat more difficult than the previous four because some work is required. What is the cost to get your product or service to your business’ target customer? What is the price your business intends to ask of customers? Many times our first response to a prospective business owner is to connect them with a template designed to capture these details.

Sault Tribe Thrive: Justin

Emery, business support coordinator, jemery@saulttribe.net, (906) 635-6050, ext. 26121; or David

Lockhart, director of business development, dlockhart3@saulttribe.net, 635-6050, ext. 26303.



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Something isn't right: When dating turns violent

Warning: This column includes graphic content that some readers may find distressing.

By ERICCA "CC" HOVIE

How we met — It was sophomore year of high school when I first noticed him and I knew he was different. He was smart, athletic and earnest. He wasn't traditionally handsome but he was taller and bigger than me and it felt like he would keep me safe. We met through friends and started hanging out a lot right away. He knew all my friends but didn't seem to have many of his own. His parents were separated and going through a nasty divorce and his older brother seemed wild — smoking, skipping school and going to parties. He was quiet and respectful to my parents and liked to joke around with my little sister. This boy seemed like he needed me and my friends and "normal" family.

Something isn't right — A short time later, I was seeing less and less of my friends and family and more and more of only him. Since he was my first serious boyfriend, I thought this was normal. He always came up with a reason he needed to see me if I tried to make plans or do something else that didn't include him. I supported him at all his sporting events. And quickly, by playing the dutiful girlfriend role, I never had time to do anything of my own. Whenever other boys tried to talk to me, he would tap me on the shoulder to get my attention and say he needed to talk to me. Once we were alone, he would get really jealous and tell me things like they only wanted one thing and I was his and shouldn't be talking to anyone else. He didn't like the way I dressed. He told me all the time that my shirts were too low cut or too short. He told me to change my clothes or he wouldn't go out with me in public. If I wore something he didn't like when we were at school, he would ignore me.

Dating violence — At some point, his jealousy got to be too much and we had a fight. It was the first time it got physical. He pushed me onto his bed, pinned my hands down and sat on top of me. I was helpless and scared. He made me agree I was wrong and he was right and I would change. I thought that was a one-time thing. I was wrong. We dated and had explosive fights for about 18 months. Each time, it turned violent. I thought it was my fault because I was yelling and got in his face. I never told anyone. If anyone noticed bruises on my arms from where he grabbed me or on my legs where I had fallen after he shoved me, I would just tell them I was clumsy and bruise easily.

So many people told us we were such a cute couple. Girls were jealous I had a boyfriend who wrote me notes, brought me flowers and gave me little gifts. They didn't understand these were grand gestures after our fights. I didn't think anyone would believe me if I told them how bad it really was because on the outside it looked like a perfect relationship.

During one fight on my front porch, he grabbed the necklaces around my neck and twisted them around his hand, I felt the metal biting into my skin and thought, surely, they would break soon but they didn't and very quickly, he was strangling me and I couldn't

breathe. I felt my eyes water and bulge. I think he realized what he was doing in broad daylight on a residential street and let go but not before leaving a thick line of red, broken blood vessels and bruises along my neck. That July I wore mock turtlenecks and hoodies to cover it up. My mom asked me if I wasn't hot in those bulky tops and I know I gave her an excuse about it being my favorite shirt and just walked away. I thought she would ban me from seeing him once she knew. It seemed easier to cover up what I didn't understand.

I eventually realized this wasn't a traditional relationship but I didn't know there were any resources out there to help me with this sort of thing. I didn't think anyone would believe me because no one had actually witnessed him hitting me — they just saw us as a cute couple. I was also intimidated because his mother worked for law enforcement. I didn't want to get in trouble or get him in trouble. I thought what was happening was my fault because I couldn't be the person he wanted me to be and if I just tried harder or loved him enough, then we wouldn't fight and he wouldn't get physical. I felt ashamed. I didn't know that I could talk to my favorite aunt, my guidance counselor, my friends or even the police.

Stalking — When I finally decided to break up with him for good, I was scared of what he would do. In the weeks, months and years following, he stalked me. I didn't know what he was

doing was a crime. I certainly didn't know of anyone else who had experienced what was happening to me. He would drive by my house and where I hung out with my friends and new boyfriend constantly. He would tell my new boyfriend terrible things about me to try to break us up. He would call my house and hang up. He would leave me love notes and presents on my car and in my locker. At night, he would throw pebbles at my bedroom window to try to get me to come out and talk to him. He would come to my work and watch me. My mom thought it was cute that he was trying to win me back. When I asked him to leave me alone, he ignored me. When I told him to leave me alone, he ignored me. When I begged him to leave me alone, he ignored me. When I had an attorney write him a strongly worded letter, he finally stopped.

My self-esteem suffered for years after and I didn't respect myself or my body. I did things and allowed things to happen to me that I was not proud of. Since he was my first serious relationship I didn't know how to be in a healthy boyfriend-girlfriend relationship. I didn't know that my spirit was broken.

Finding myself and healing — Somehow, over time and with patience and understanding from others, I was able to heal. I've healed from this experience through learning more about how dating violence works and realizing it wasn't me at all, it was something inside him. Dating violence



Ericca Hovie

is about control. It is a pattern of abusive behaviors over a course of time used to exert power and control over a dating partner. Part of how I healed was by doing all the things I wasn't able to do when I was dating him because of his control over me. I started hanging out with friends, getting involved in school activities and playing sports.

Many years later, the Creator gave me the courage to tell my story to my mom. I told her about the fights, the jealousy and the stalking. I told her how toxic and abusive he had been to me. I told her I was scared when I was younger that no one would believe me. She was shocked but silent. I don't think she knew what to say or perhaps she was reflecting on how she should have had a conversation about dating violence with me. I think she was also probably very sad that this happened to me.

Experiencing dating violence

Photo courtesy StrongHearts Native Helpline

at a young age has shaped me in ways I may never fully understand. I've told this story many times and will tell it again and again if it helps someone know they are not alone. I believe you. StrongHearts Native Helpline (1-844-7NATIVE) believes you. Help is out there.

Ericca "CC" Hovie is Anishinaabe and the communications manager for the StrongHearts Native Helpline, the first national crisis line for Native Americans experiencing domestic violence and dating violence.

If you are being hurt in your relationship, call the StrongHearts Native Helpline (1-844-7NATIVE), available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CST, seven days a week. It's free, safe and confidential. Callers reaching out after hours may connect with the National Domestic Violence Hotline by selecting option 1. For more information: www.strongheartshelpline.org.

VOTE

Michael McKerchie, Unit 1 Board of Directors Moving Forward Together

Four years ago I was honored and humbled to become your Unit 1 Representative on the Board of Directors. I work hard for our Tribe and respectfully ask for your continued support in the upcoming election. We have accomplished many great things like improving our current operations and expanding our economic development while strengthening our Sovereignty and preserving our way of life for the Seven Generations.



Proudly Serving on:

- Child Welfare Committee
- Audit Committee
- JKL School Fiduciary Committee
- SSM City Liaison Committee
- LSSU Native American Advisory Committee
- Sault & Kinross Powwow Committee
- Tribal Action Plan Data Sub-Committee
- National ACF Tribal Advisory Committee
- Great Lakes Consent Decree 2020 Negotiation Team

Respectful Responsible Leadership

Economic Development

- Supported the purchase and creation of multiple tribal businesses including a hotel purchased, storage, and auto sales
- Voted to expanded our DeMawating Sales & Holdings (added more home rentals, Riverside Park, etc.)
- Additionally, a multi-million Industrial Warehouse is being built to

invite more business opportunity

- Providing the infrastructure to expand not only tribal owned business (Sault Tribe Inc. & LLC) but also expand tribal member owned business a (businesses occupying the Tamarack Center are expanding).

Improve Current Operations

- Have continuously supported management's investments into our facilities, staff wage reviews while

we continue to work on the wage grid

- Voted to re-implement the longevity plan to recognize valued team members
- Supported making COLA raises permanent and automatic
- Have met with team members and listened to their concerns while supporting the chain of command and preserving policies

This is only part of what makes our tribe great. As your Board Member I promise to continue to serve with integrity and represent you the best I can. I'm dedicated, involved, and want to see our tribe move forward together.

I encourage members to CONTACT ME WITH questions:

(906) 630-1954

VOTEMCKERCHIE@GMAIL.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/VOTEMCKERCHIE

Winners of 2020 Morrison Shoshiimaan Tournament

From left, JKL Bahweting Culture and Language Instructor Chris Gordon, Ph.D., fifth graders Daniel Malloy, Parker Rath, Carter Yiir and honoree Bill Morrison after the 2020 JKL Bahweting School Bill Morrison Shoshiimaan Tournament on March 3. Malloy placed first, Rath took second and Yiir came in third. The lads display their winning shoshiimaan entries in this year's annual competition and their awards. The tournament is conducted every year at the school after students study the historical, cultural and technical aspects of the shoshiimaan (snow snake) during six weeks of tutelage under Culture and Language Instructor Ms. Dorothy Campbell. This year, 69 students were involved. The tournament is named after Morrison, who started the annual tournament at the school.



A snowsnake from last year's tournament made by a student.

Foster home to be named in honor of Arfstrom and Faunt

SAULT STE. MARIE – The Chippewa County Family Project board of directors unanimously supported the move to name its new teen foster home in honor of Bob Arfstrom and Sharyn Faunt. The Robert R. Arfstrom, Sharyn L. Faunt Foster Home is slated to open to area teens this summer.

The 5,000 square foot home on 3-Mile Road will house up to six male and six female residents and house parents. The CCFP is currently in the process of staffing the home.

Arfstrom and Faunt have supported the CCFP since it first established in 2016. They made significant financial contributions to the home and promoted the project to other donor groups.

“We are awed and humbled by this unexpected honor,” Arfstrom and Faunt wrote in a prepared statement. “We wholly believe in this project, and we pray that it will be a blessing in the hearts of the teens it serves.”

Newberry elders meet



Photo by Elder Services Director Holly Kibble

A regular part of the Newberry elder's meetings are George Tessier IV (pictured) and Clifford Shigwadja who meet the elders at Zellar's Village Inn to share important cultural teachings. This session focused on traditional funerals. The Newberry elder's meet on the third Friday of every month at 10:30 a.m. For more information call Elder Services at (906) 635-4971.

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Ferry crew, volunteers honored for saving life

17-YEAR-OLD WITH AUTISM SAVED FROM ICY WATERS OF ST. MARYS RIVER - "ALL WE COULD SEE WAS HER RED CHUKE"

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

A 17-year-old autistic girl who attends Sault Area High School and is a resident of Sugar Island, almost lost her life in the middle of the icy St. Marys River on Jan. 21. Thankfully, fate intervened and she was successfully rescued, treated at War Memorial Hospital and released later that same day.

It all started when something happening at the high school caused a few buses to park in a different location that day at a different school. Because she didn't find her bus in its normal spot, she assumed she had missed it and began the long walk to the Sugar Island ferry and home.

The teen's cousin, Dave "Sonny" Menard, was one of the volunteers instrumental in her rescue and said he was told she cut across a field by the Aune Osborn Park and boat launch and decided she wanted to go out and see the edge of the ice on the river. So she slid down the hill by the boat launch and instead of stopping where she had intended, slid over the ice and into the river. Unable to get out of the water, she decided she would swim home from there. However, it wasn't long before she realized her legs were no longer working.

As this was happening upriver of the Sugar Island ferry, the ferry was getting ready to pull out into the river with a full load of vehicles on board. Dave Menard, who works as the director of the Sault Tribe Youth Facility in St. Ignace, was parked in lane 1 on the ferry, nearest to where his cousin would soon be seen in the river. He was on the phone with his friend Fred Newton, fire safety supervisor with the MDOC, who was also on the ferry in lane 4. Friends Bob

LaPointe, a Sugar Island resident, and Ben Repa, a Coast Guard chief petty officer, were also onboard. Although the friends have different backgrounds, they are all trained to handle stressful situations.

About the same time, Menard's girlfriend, Michelle McKechnie, noticed something unusual in the river. As Menard told his friend on the phone he would be right back, he looked and saw a red hat floating in the water. About that same time, ferry deckhand Phil Roy approached Menard's car talking to ferry Captain Dale Rosenbun on his radio about a man overboard. Menard picked his phone back up and told Newton to get over there, that a body had been spotted in the water.

After that things happened quickly. Captain Rosenbun turned the ferry around and positioned it to match the speed of the current and stay near the victim. Deckhand Phil Roy and Menard ran for the ladder attached to the side of the ferry and manhandled it over top of parked vehicles to the ramp, which was being lowered into the water. The ladder was hooked to the ramp and also tied off on a Ford F-150 truck for safety. Someone else during this time placed a 911 call, so there would be an ambulance waiting on the mainland. As Bobby LaPointe made his way out to the end of the ferry ramp using the ladder for stability, Menard was holding onto him and realized when they were about 20 feet from the victim that it was his cousin under the red hat. They were able to toss her a life ring that she managed to put an arm through, but were having a hard time getting



Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie recently honored the ferry crew and volunteers who saved a young girl's life. Capt. Patrick Nelson presented the Coast Guard Certificate of Merit to Sonny Menard, who assisted the crew in the rescue.

her to grab onto a pole with a loop on its end they were extending out to her.

Menard said, "She was reaching for it but was very slow from the cold. Because of my professional training, my verbal commands to her immediately went up in volume. I called her by her name, and as soon as I did she looked up and her eyes were huge. She locked eyes with me and I told her to grab onto the pole and hold on really tight. I

was really loud. And she did." Two days later, when his young cousin and her mom went to Menard's home to thank him, her mother told Menard that her daughter had said there were a lot of people, commotion and voices. She said she recognized Sonny's voice and looked up and there he was, and he reached down and grabbed her and pulled her out of the river. "It was like no big deal at all to hear her tell it," he said. Menard said, "She was float-

ing. When we saw her she was almost in the middle of the river with a red chuke sticking up, and that was all you could see. She wasn't struggling or flailing. She was floating perpendicular, just like you would with a lifejacket on. She had a backpack on and was clutching it. It was pretty buoyant, but we didn't know what it was at the time. I found out later that she had on a puffer coat and between that and that backpack it was buoyant enough to keep her upright and floating like she had a life vest on. She was saying 'Help, help, help,' but didn't seem very distressed. I had already decided I was going in after her if she lost consciousness or went under. I know you aren't supposed to, but I figured if I did it quick enough I could grab her and grab the ladder."

After being pulled on board by a human chain, she was rushed into Linda Smith's warm van. Ben Rappa and Fred Newton took some of her wet clothing off and wrapped a blanket around her and jumped into the back of the van with her and were doing their best to help warm her up. Back on the mainland side an ambulance was waiting. Menard said later that afternoon at the hospital, she was still upset because she had lost one of her gloves.



The ferry crew and volunteers who saved Mikala's life were recently honored by Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie. Left to right: Capt. Nelson, Fred Newton, Sonny Menard, and Bob LaPointe.



Two sides of the same coin Menard was given during the ceremony.

Anishinaabek solidarity shown during peaceful week of demonstration on International Bridge

By Rick Smith

A peaceful four-day symbolic blockade of the main entrance to the southbound lane of the International Bridge between the twin cities of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Ont., concluded with a 2.5-hour shutdown of both lanes on Feb. 27. An alternate route to the bridge's southbound lane was set during the blockade and both lanes were shutdown to facilitate a First Nations' walk and water ceremony at the border on the deck of the bridge.

American Indians from both sides of the border took part in the walk and water ceremony in bitter cold and stinging winds in a weeklong show of solidarity with the hereditary chiefs and protectors of the land, water and

rights of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation of British Columbia. An elderly Anishinaabe woman also conducted a ceremonial fast ceremony as part of the display of support concluding the faceted demonstration.

According to Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., Anishinaabe activist Candace Day Neveau, who organized the functions and is also named Wabanong Nimpkii Kwe or, in English, Eastern Thunder Woman, the entire affair was sponsored by First Nation elders and was not affiliated with any particular organization.

The First Nations' actions at the bridge were part of many recent mass demonstrations, occupations and other functions in the past month in a movement

spanning all across southern Canada, parts of the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand showing solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs and others engaged in resistance against construction of a multibillion-dollar liquefied natural gas pipeline across their lands.

On the International Bridge, the alternate route around the blockade opened to allow traffic flow on to the bridge's southbound lane while permitting the function of the blockade to

call attention to the situation involving the Wet'suwet'en First Nation. In the spirit of goodwill, collaboration and reconciliation, according to a press release from the Michigan Department of Transportation, the International Bridge Authority closed both lanes of the bridge for 2.5 hours to accommodate the water cer-

emony. Traffic resumed normal routing some time after the ceremony.

Neveau said the exercise not only demonstrated support for the people of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation, but was a way to let people know all indigenous land titles should be honored. "We want our land back," she said.



The blockade across the south bound lane of the International Bridge.



Photos and screenshot by Rick Smith. Encampment used by Anishinaabe activists supporting the blockade of the south bound lane on the International Bridge in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.



The flag of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians flies over the procession while walking to the border for the water ceremony. Neveau said about 100 people participated.



Anishinaabe activist Candace Day Neveau coordinated the blockade, walk, water ceremony and fast in the show of support for the Wet'suwet'en First Nation.

Darcy Marrow shares Unit IV drum making

On March 7 and 8, Sault Tribe member Bud Biron taught workshop participants how to make traditional hand drums at the Manistique Tribal Center.



Introducing the 2020 US Census and why its important

BY HAYG OSHAGAN

What is the Census? The U.S. Constitution requires that the federal government count every person living in the U.S. The U.S. Census has been conducted every 10 years since 1790.

Why is the Census important? Every year, the federal government gives money it has collected from taxes back to the states. How much money a state gets depends on how many people live in that state. And the count of how many people live in a state is determined every 10 years by the Census. So if a state has a low Census count, it will get less money from the federal government, every year, for the 10 years after the Census count. Recently, Michigan has gotten about \$30 billion a year based on the 2010 Census. In addition to federal funds, how many representatives a state has in the U.S. Congress also depends on a state's population, which is determined by the Census. Because of a low Census count, Michigan lost a Congressional seat in 2010, going from 15 Congressmen and Congresswomen in the U.S. House of Representatives, to the current 14.

What is the money used for? The \$30 billion Michigan gets every year is used by the state, used by counties, used by Native American tribes, and used by



Hayg Oshagan

cities for programs that serve our communities. This is money that funds our kids' education (student loans, Pell grants, school lunches and breakfasts, Headstart, school funding), helps with health care (Medicare, Medicaid, Urgent Care, children's health insurance/MI Child), is used for food assistance (Supplemental Nutrition, Bridge Cards, Meals on Wheels), housing loans, road construction, transit, and any program that helps our communities grow and prosper.

What happens if the count is low? Michigan, and every county and city in Michigan, gets a lot less money for all the programs the Census pays for. As an example, for Detroit, every person not counted would cost the city



\$5,500 every year for 10 years. If 3 percent of Detroiters don't get counted (about 20,000 people), Detroit would lose \$1 billion over the next 10 years.

Who should be counted? Everyone. The Census counts everyone who is living in America. It doesn't matter if you are a citizen or not a citizen, if you have a Green Card, or a visitor visa, or an expired visa, a student with an F1 visa or an employee with an H-1b visa, if you live in the U.S., you count for the Census. The only people not counted are those who are here as tourists, and are planning to return to their home country. Everyone else counts. Make sure to count everyone in your household, including children and newborns. And if you sublet to anyone, you need to count them too.

What is a household? For the Census, a household is an address. The Census does not have names, it only has addresses. There are about 140 million addresses in the U.S., and the Census is sent to each of those addresses. People who live in groups with a single address (jails, hospitals, nursing homes, school dormitories, etc.) are also counted.

Is the Census confidential? The United States has a law specifically for the Census, to make sure it is 100 percent confidential. The Census Act, Title 13, of the United States Code, has the strictest confidentiality laws on the federal books. The information collected by the Census CANNOT be shared with ANY other agency. It cannot be given to ICE, to the FBI, to Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the IRS, local police, the sheriff, social service agencies, insurance companies, businesses or anyone — for any reason. And over the last 50-plus years, this law has never been broken, not even once.

How many questions are on the Census? The Census is nine questions. That's it. And there is no question about your citizenship or visa status. The Census only cares to know if you live in the U.S.

What comes in the mail? In

the past, the Census was a paper questionnaire. This year, most people will get a card in the mail with a unique ID that you use to fill out the Census online. Where the Internet is slow, people will get the paper version to fill out and send back. People can also call in and complete the Census on the phone. The Census is mailed on March 12. If you don't respond, you will get reminders on March 16, March 23, April 8, and April 20.

Will someone knock on my door? If you don't send the Census back by the end of April, Census workers will come to your door. They have badges and identification from the Census Bureau, and they will ask you to complete the Census. It is much better to fill it out on your own, and not wait for the Census workers to come by. We get a much better count that way. We only have one chance to get counted. There is a lot of funding tied to the U.S. Census that helps everyone in our communities, from our children to the elderly. Make sure to fill it out when you get it. The 10 minutes we spend filling out the Census now will affect our communities for the next 10 years.

Hayg Oshagan is the director of New Michigan Media and Wayne State University professor of communications.

It's your turn to help the federal government to help us

Here's an important tip about answering question number nine on the 2020 U.S. Census form.

The question asks about one's race. However, the federal government wants respondents to be as specific as possible. It's an important question because it guides the federal government

on exactly who receives funding and attention for a wide variety of matters.

Folks filling out the forms can mark boxes indicating whether their ancestries might be white, black, American Indian or an assortment of Asian backgrounds. But wait! There's more! It isn't enough,

for example, to simply mark a box to indicate a white ancestry, the feds want you to spell out your specific lineage as well — German? Irish? English? Italian? Lebanese? Egyptian? And so on.

This is where it gets a touch tricky with American Indians. We of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe

of Chippewa Indians would mark boxes indicating either white, black or solely American Indian as may apply, but how to indicate the American Indian ancestry? Would one write "Ojibwe," "Chippewa" or "Anishinaabe?" Nope! We need to be as specific as possible, so we write "Sault Tribe" in the

space provided. Question nine on the 2020 U.S. Census — write it right, help the federal government to help your tribe, your family, your friends and yourself. Anyone who would like to explore the 2020 U.S. Census questionnaire may do so at www.census.gov.

Indian organizations join for 2020 Census initiative

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), National Urban Indian Family Coalition (NUIFC) and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) have partnered to create a historic coalition to ensure the American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) population is accurately counted in the upcoming 2020 Census.

This partnership is formulated out of the grave necessity to ensure a complete and accurate count in Indian Country. The AI/AN demographic made up the largest racial undercount in the 2010 Census at nearly five percent, with estimates even higher in many Alaska Native villages. The AI/AN population has several features that make them one of the hardest to count populations including a high percentage of young children, geographic isolation, language barriers, unequal educational opportunities, poverty, high rates of homelessness and housing instability, and non-traditional mailing addresses that exclude them from Census mailings. The Census has committed efforts and resources to online programming and employment. This is a major problem

"This partnership is formulated out of the grave necessity to ensure a complete and accurate count in Indian Country."

for many Indian communities, due to the pronounced digital divide in Indian Country created by a lack of broadband access. This places completion of the 2020 Census online beyond the reach of many Native people.

The consequences of the 2010 undercount manifested itself in the form of unjust policies based on flawed data, a shortfall of resources and a lack of representation in the decision-making process. Another undercount in this year's Census will be devastating for Native people, which is why these three national organizations are standing together to guarantee that Indian Country is counted accurately in all 50 states both on and off the reservation.

The strength of this partnership comes from its historic reach. Both the NCAI and NARF have built generational trust with the tribal governments and officials around the country while the NUIFC has created a network of 42 urban Indian centers across different major metropolitan cities. This partnership

creates an infrastructure that will connect urban and non-urban Indians together and unify our people to make sure we are accurately counted in the 2020 Census.

"This partnership is historic and represents the first time that both our reservation and urban based Native community tribes and organizations will be resourced to do this critically important work," said Janeen Comenote (Quinault), executive director of the NUIFC.

"NCAI is proud to partner with two of the largest Native-focused organizations in the U.S. to combine and leverage resources, reach and relationships so that we can combat another undercount," stated CEO Kevin Allis. "This partnership with NUIFC and NARF demonstrates strength in Indian Country and we are hopeful that our strategic and concerted efforts will result in an accurate count of Native people."

Added John Echohawk, executive director of NARF, "A complete count of all Native peoples is paramount to protect-

ing their civil rights for the next decade. An accurate Census count is essential to securing fair representation and critical resources for tribes and Native communities. We stand united with our partners at NCAI and NUIFC in working together to ensure Native people and Indian Country count in 2020."

As Census 2020 unfolds, this coalition will provide infor-

mational materials, technical assistance, resources to Indian reservation and urban communities and a coordinated digital message to enhance the AI/AN Census efforts.

For more information on these efforts, please visit the NCAI's website, www.indiancountrycounts.org, or the NUIFC's website, www.nuifc.org/census.



Elect James Everson

Unit 3 Tribal Board of Directors

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

jde49781@gmail.com Paid for and endorsed by James Everson.

Apply for the 2020 Nick Gerrish scholarships

Soo Co-op Credit Union offers educational scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year. Three \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded and one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a Bay Mills Community College student.

Eligibility — Applicants must meet ALL of the following criteria:

— Students must be members in good standing of Soo Co-op

Credit Union. Note: You must be a primary member or a dependent of a member for at least two years.

— Students must be enrolled or will be enrolled as a full time student, in an accredited college, university or trade school.

— Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75.

— Students must attend college, university or trade school during the school year listed on

the scholarship application.

— Applicants must submit an essay on the following topic: *“My Goals, My Dreams, and How I Plan to Achieve Them.”* Essays are to be limited to 300 words.

— Students who have previously received a Nick Gerrish Scholarship may re-apply.

Applications must be post-marked or submitted by June 1, 2020 and filled out completely.

Each award will be paid directly to the college, university or trade school and credited in the recipient’s name. (One half of the scholarship will be distributed per semester).

Failure to maintain your status at school (including termination from school, dropping out of school or transferring to another college, university or trade school) will result in the cancelation of the award and any

remaining funds will be returned to the credit union. In some cases, the funds will be redistributed to an alternate applicant.

Questions? Please contact the Member Education Department at (906) 632-5314.

All applications become the property of Soo Co-Op Credit Union upon receipt and will be destroyed following the applicant review and selection process.

March is National Parenting Awareness Month

FROM ANISHNAABEK COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES

The goal of National Parenting Awareness Month is to make society aware of the role that parents play in their children’s lives. Its purpose is to bring attention to the importance of the parenting

role.

Parenting is hard. It is easy to get caught up in the everyday hustle and bustle of life, but sometimes we need to focus on the bigger picture: are we fulfilling our duties as parents? Children have needs that are con-

stantly changing. The National Parenting Awareness Campaign aims to help parents work through those changes and reminds them that their role in the lives of their children is vital.

Making a commitment to continue to learn about great

parenting practices and developmental stages for your children is the best way to sharpen your skills. There is no manual when it comes to raising a child, so having the proper resources is essential. For more parenting information please visit parents.com or

parenttoolkit.com. Here you can find resources on all stages of development and parenting.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent and making a difference in the life of a child please contact ACFS at 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093.

Smith named to Bay College dean’s list

Sault Tribe member Darin “Turk” Smith of Iron Mountain was named to the at Bay College Dean’s List for attainment of scholarly excellence during the fall 2019 semester, having earned a 4.0 GPA. He is in his final semester working on his Associate of Applied Science in business.

This was an honor he never expected, said his wife, Selina Smith, and his family is very proud of him. He is the son of Mary McPherson and Dan Smith and father to Morgan, Caleb, Shelby, Mitchell, Marissa and Danny. He is also the grandfather of four.

Smith was born at the Kincheloe Air Force Base, where his father was stationed. His mom was from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and his dad was from Oklahoma. He grew up in Pasadena, Texas; Kenosha, Wis.; Manitowoc, Wis., and Sault Ste. Marie. He attended Pasadena High School and Sault Area High School.

Smith travels to Escanaba several days a week for school. He chose Bay College-West Campus to obtain a degree in business.



Darin Smith and son Danny.

According to his student profile, Smith would love to enter into a restaurant partnership because he enjoys the responsibility of cooking and managing kitchens. Cajun food and home-style cooking are his specialties. He prides himself on cooking wholesome and delicious food.

Smith feels at home at Bay because he likes small cities and loves being outdoors, according to his profile. He is happiest when he is by water, especially the Great Lakes.

Davis makes dean’s list

Nicholas Davis is a 2018 graduate of Mackinac Island Public School and made the dean’s list for the 2019 fall semester at Central Michigan University’s College of Business Administration.

This was Davis’ second time on the dean’s list. In order to make the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and take at least 12 credit hours during the semester.

Davis had 15 credit hours in the fall semester and received three A grades and two A- grades. His family is extremely proud of him.



Storytelling in Manistique — From left, Pam Demmon, Betty Majestic, Jeanne Knoph, John Kleis, Gail Sulander and Paul Blondeau.

Vote SORENSON Unit III



Bridgett Sorenson,
Unit III Director

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- **Treaty Right Protection**
- **Outspoken with Boots on the Ground**

Walking on . . .

JOSEPH A. ALLARD

Joseph Augustine Allard, 66, passed away on Feb. 27, 2020, at his home in Lupton surrounded by his loving family. He lived in Ogemaw County most of his life. He was born on Sept. 20, 1953, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Cyril and Isabelle (Mastaw) Allard.



Joe served in the United States Army during Vietnam. He married Vickie Foust in West Branch on Nov. 7, 1981. He has a degree in applied sciences and worked as an auto mechanic. Joe was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He loved watching sports and loved spending time with his grandkids.

Joe is survived by his wife, Vickie Allard of Lupton; children, Brentt Foust of Beaverton, Nikki (Ben) Caudill of South Lyon, Matthew (Katie) Allard of Sault Ste. Marie, Shane (Ashley) Allard of Sault Ste. Marie and Seth (Victoria) Allard of Southfield; grandchildren, Shayna, Melany, Brie, Bailey, Paul, Preston, Lexie, Kailyn, Nevaeh, Rhyann, Liam, Gideon and Aizlyn; siblings, Michael, Joy, Mary, Rose, Gregory, Jackie, Kateri, Cyril John; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Sister and Thomas.

Visitation was at Steurnol and McLaren Funeral Home in Rose City on March 1, services were conducted at Holy Family Catholic Church on March 2 with Father Emmanuel Finbarr officiating. Burial will be at Holy Family Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to Perkins School for the Blind.

Online condolences can be shared at www.steuernolmclaren.com.

FREDERICK M. BENSON

Frederick Michael Benson, 68, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on March 9, 2020, in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born on July 30, 1951, in Sault Ste. Marie.



Fred fought cancer for the past two years. He has now joined our mother, Helen (Sis); father, Carl; and brother, Bense and his wife, Deloris. They are all in the hands of our Lord.

Fred was never married. The only family he had was his loving and devoted sister Phyllis (Myrna) who cared for him always and then until the end. Also part of his family were his brothers, Courtney and wife Donna, Andrew and Margaret; his twin brother, Franklin and Peggy, along with his many nephews and nieces.

Fred loved to paint, draw, and fish. His favorite thing most was to watch movies and go to the

theatre. He was a quiet man with a beautiful kind soul who never asked much of anything.

Fred was a member of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

The family would like to give a special thanks to the Sault Tribe Health Services along with D. J. Hoffman Director Unit I, Hospice House of the EUP, Father Sebastian who came to visit him, and the many people who cared for him.

Visitation and services were on March 19 at St. Mary's ProCathedral with Father Sebastian Kavumkal officiating. The graveside committal service takes place in the spring at Riverside Cemetery.

Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com

JOSEPH D. HARPER

Joseph Dennis Harper, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on March 7, 2020, at the age of 83 after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Joe peacefully died at home with his oldest son by his side.



Joseph was born on May 8, 1936, in Woodbury, N.J., to Suzanna and Joseph Harper. He was a soldier, husband, father, grandfather, uncle and a man who will be remembered for his independent spirit, strength, loyalty and wit. He will also be remembered for his Archie Bunker personality!

As a young man, Joe joined the Air Force and was stationed in Kincheloe, Mich., where he met the love of his life, Donelda Bood Harper. They were married for over 58 years.

Joe worked as a dredging engineer for Local 25 International Operating Engineers for many years. When Joe retired, he loved spending time with his family and friends. He enjoyed gardening, berry picking and canning jams and tomatoes. He would plan all winter long what he was going to plant in his garden the following spring. He was a meticulous gardener with a real green thumb. The family always looked forward to his fantastic fruits and vegetables every year.

He is survived by his sons, Joseph Harper Jr. and Lawrence (Lyn) Harper; daughters, Donelda (Jerry) Lehman and Vicki Neal-Captain; sister, Patricia (Fred) Jarvis; and daughter-in-law, Gail Kott. He was a loving grandfather to Danielle (Todd) Theel, Joe (Kaitlin) Harper, Jared Harper, Jana Johnson, Caleb Captain, Cecilia (Kourtney) Atkinson, Angela (Michael) Daly, Melissa (Rachie) Lardy, Joe Harper, Justin (Jamey) Lardy, Larisa (TJ) Harig, Christa (Eden) Harper, Tyler Nelson, Misty Harper, Jack Corp and several great grandchildren. Joe is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Joseph was preceded in death

by his wife, Donelda; his parents, Joseph and Suzanna Harper; sons, Donald Harper and Ronald Harper; daughter-in-law, Kim Harper; sisters, Susan Breslin and Francis Smith; brothers-in-law, Lawrence Bood, James Smith and Thomas Breslin; nephew, Keith Smith; and beloved dog, Manville (Manny).

Cremation has taken and a memorial will be held this summer per Joe's request.

Arrangements in care of R. Galer Funeral Home.

Donations may be left to Joe's favorite foundation, St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

PATRICK J. HASCALL

Patrick Joseph (Crimins) Hascall, 86, of Brimley, Mich., passed away on Jan. 9, 2020, at War Memorial Hospital, he was born on April 1, 1933, in Sault Ste. Marie.



He served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War, working in the motor pool. In addition to various other awards, Pat received two purple hearts for his service. He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, VFW post 9023 and the DAV.

On March 28, 1959, Pat married Nancy Taylor in Brimley, Mich. For many years, Pat worked as a dredge man for various companies and the Corp of Engineers. He was involved with many aspects of his community, including his role as fire chief and ambulance crew member, as well as township supervisor for Bay Mills Township. He and his wife opened the Iroquois Grocery Store and ran it for many years afterwards. In his spare time, Pat enjoyed fishing and playing cribbage with his friends and family. He had a big heart, loved to help others and enjoyed hiding his Tootsie Rolls from Nancy.

Pat is survived by his wife, Nancy Hascall; three children, Brendann (Lanny) Hissong of Brimley, Bryan (Carolyn) Hascall of Brimley and Shawn (Andrea Kirkpatrick) Hascall of Brimley; 10 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren; a brother, Brother John Hascall of Sault Ste. Marie; and two sisters, Wanda Donnay of Brimley and Crystal (Lee) Kelly of Shellborn, Ontario.

Pat was preceded in death by a son, Shannon R.W. Hascall; his parents, Clinton and Viola Hascall; three sisters: Sharon, Clintia and Marsha; and three brothers, Michael, Clinton and Clayton.

Mass took place on Jan. 16, 2020, at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church with Brother John Hascall as celebrant. Burial will be at Mission Hill Cemetery in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the Hospice of the EUP.

LILA M. BELONGA HERALD

Lila Mary "Jody" Belonga Herald, "Jody", age 70, of Rochester Hills, Mich., passed away on March 4, 2020, at

William Beaumont Hospital in Troy, Mich., with family by her side. Funeral services took place on March 7, 2020, at Neely-Turowski Funeral Home in Canton, Mich., with interment at Circle Hill Cemetery in the Township of Whitewater, Mich.



Jody was born on Feb. 6, 1950, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She enjoyed family get togethers, whether she was preparing one of her wonderful holiday meals or enjoying one of her grandkid's birthday dinners. She was also an avid sports fan. She loved watching a variety of games on TV, but especially her Lions play football and her Tigers play baseball. She knew more player stats than most her age. In earlier years, she would enjoy going to the casinos with her husband, Rick, before he passed away in 2001. Trivia and crosswords were also favorite pastimes. Jody had a wonderful laugh and wit about her that will forever be missed.

A longtime resident of Rochester Hills, she was preceded in death by her parents, James Luke Belonga and Virginia Boulley Belonga; her husband, Richard James Herald, one brother, Jim Belonga and one sister, Olive Pickard.

She is survived by her three sisters, Shelly (Jim) Wilson, Gerry (John) Mantila, Maria (Rodney Challender) Belonga; two brothers, Steve Belonga and Gene Belonga. She is also survived by daughter, Josette (Phillip) French, a son, Dwane Mallory and daughter, Sherri Walls; as well as six grandchildren, Shayla French, Trevor French, Gavin French, Courtney Mallory, Jesse Rhom, Mason Walls; and two great-grandchildren Aiden Terbrack and Rosalie Rhom.

SALLY A. HUFFMAN

My name is Sally Ann (Gugin) Huffman. I was born in St. Ignace, Mich., on April 13, 1951, to Harold and Elizabeth (Miller) Gugin. I have 15 siblings when you count steps and halves.



As a child, I remember mom telling dad that we moved like gypsies, but we eventually landed in Hessel, Mich., and I love that place with all my heart! In November 1971, I married Robert J. Huffman and we raised four children, Linda (David) Roe, Robert (Lavonne) Huffman Jr., Christina (Brian) LaTour and April (Jason) Gould. Our kids gave me seven grandkids, David (Britney) Roe, Kaleb (Tiffany) Roe, Tucker (Jolene) Gould, Barbara (Brandon) Gould, Harlie (Nick) Closs, Cheyenne (Teri) Cassibo and Brooke Cassibo. I also have great grandkids, Kennedy Roe, Nora Massaway,

Arie Luke and Ayla Luke, and two more on the way! Baby boy Gould will arrive in June and baby Maahs (I'm still sure it's another girl!) will arrive in August!

I'm leaving behind a brother, George (Donna) Gugin in Ohio and a sister Betty (Jim) Huffman here in Hessel, along with many nieces and nephews. Speaking of nephews, make sure Rooster gets my cribbage board. On Feb. 18, 2020, I was reunited with my parents, my sisters Donna, Mag and Alice, and my brothers Vern and Cookie. I will miss you all. Share my stories, play some cribbage, drink some coffee. Remember me laughing and loving you.

My children will be having a private family Celebration of Life.

R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford, Mich., is serving the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.

VICTORIA A. JOHNDROW

Vickye Johndrow, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., walked on Feb. 22, 2020, after suffering a short illness. She was born on Aug. 6, 1948, and she was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She was well known for her ability to write, her sense of humor and the love for her family. She liked to cook, bake, read Louis L'Amour books and paint. Vickye graduated from Loretto Catholic High School in 1967 and Lake Superior State University in 1987, where she earned a degree in Human Services.



Vickye was born to Alfred and Helen (Bailey) Johndrow and is survived by two sisters, Salena "Sally" Nolan and Mary Weinman of Sault Ste. Marie; one brother, Tom (Clara) Johndrow of Brimley, Mich.; her two children, Selina (Darin) Smith of Iron Mountain, Mich., and Clay (Stacy) Folsom of East Lansing, Mich.; as well as the ultimate joys of her life — grandsons, Mitchell (Rachel Allsbury) McLean and Noah Folsom; and great-granddaughter, Madilynn Rae McLean. Many nieces and nephews survive her, but her nephew Marty Nolan held a very special place in her heart. Her sisters and brother were her best friends.

Vickye was preceded in death by her parents; sister Amanda (Johndrow) Eubanks and brother John Johndrow. A Catholic/Native American service took place at the Medilodge nursing facility on March 14.

Vickye had a unique sense of humor and will be missed by many. She was known for helping anyone in need and she loved her pets almost as much as her children. She worked for Kewadin Casinos as an administrative assistant for almost 20 years. She left an indelible mark on the hearts of many who knew her.

See, "Walking on," page 18

Walking on . . .

From, "Walking on," page 17
FRANK W. KING

Frank William King, 65, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away peacefully with his family by his side, on March 5, 2020, at War Memorial Hospital. He was born on Dec. 9, 1954, in Sault Ste. Marie, to William (Bill) and Mary (Rucker) King. Frank worked as a pipefitter with Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 23 out of Rockford, Ill.

Frank loved to work. He was a jack-of-all-trades: a mechanic, engineer, welder, electrician and a carpenter. After he retired, he opened his own mechanic shop K&S Repair where he spent numerous hours fixing vehicles for the ones he loved most, his friends and family. Frank was fluent in sarcasm, had the gift of gab with a notorious sense of humor. What Frank loved the most was his family, especially his wife of 45 years of marriage, Jackie, his high school sweet heart.

Frank is survived by his wife, Jackie (Leach) King, whom he married on July 5, 1975, in Antigo, Wis.; children. Steve (Jess) King, Jaime King, Frank King, Jill (Mike) Lawson and Joseph King all of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; grandchildren, Raleigh, Archie, Anna, Jack, Brenden, Connor, Hazel, Aiden, Brooklynne, Neil, Sawyer and Jameson; siblings, John King of St. Clair Shores, Mich., AnnMarie (Robert) Amell of St. Johns, and Ruth (Nyle) Clow of Sault Ste. Marie.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Joseph, and parents, William and Mary King.

Visitation and services took place on March 9, 2020, at the Niigaanagiiizhik Ceremonial Building. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.



EVA R. KOCH

Eva Rita Koch of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on March 2, 2020, at War Memorial Hospital. Her health finally gave way after a long struggle with dementia. She was born in Flint, Mich., on March 27, 1936, the daughter of Delbert and Ovenia Provost.

Eve was a very kind, extremely loving, good-hearted person, who only saw the good in people. She was always compassionate. Eve was a nurse for 50 years of her life, where her specialty was delivering babies. A professional student, she went back to school in her mid-30s to become a chiropractor, but she loved delivering babies too much to leave it.

She leaves behind the love of her life, James F. Horne, whom she met in her teen years, and after 40 years of separate lives, reunited to get married and enjoy their love for the rest of their lives. Also surviving her are sons, Dan and John Gierok; daughter, Susie Koch; sister, Debby Moore; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and stepchildren, Deana, Jim Jr. and Timothy.

Eve was preceded in death by her parents, Sam and Pop; brother, John Provost; daughter, Debra Arntz; sons, Robert Gierok and William Gierok; grandchildren, Darik Gierok, Jim Arntz and Jacob Gierok; and stepdaughter, Karen.

A memorial service takes place for Eve later this spring in Flint, Mich. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

GRACE A. MACARTHUR

Grace Ann (LaPlaut)

MacArthur went to be with the Lord and her beloved Edward on March 2, 2020. Grace was born on Feb. 1, 1937, to the late Wilvy and Grace LaPlaut in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Grace was a member of St.



Isaac Jogues Catholic Church and St. Joseph's Catholic Church. She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Grace started her working years with the Soo Creamery and later joined Sault Area Public Schools. She retired from the school system in the mid-1990s as the executive secretary for Sault Area High School. Grace loved to crochet, travel and loved to watch *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy*. Above all else, she loved and cherished the time she spent with her children and grandchildren. She loved to cook and bake for her family and was very proud of both her Native American and Italian heritage.

Grace is survived by sons Dale (Patricia Jones) MacArthur and Alan (Carolyn) MacArthur; a daughter, Karen MacArthur; sisters Myrna (John) Wilson, Wilma (Frank) McVarish; a brother, Brian (Patricia) LaPlaut; grandchildren Cheri Joan McClellan, Charles "CJ" MacArthur, Brandi MacArthur, Kariann (Jordan) Paoli, Travis (Lacey Ryan) MacArthur, Alexis (Anthony Laaksonen) MacArthur, Bradley MacArthur and several great-grandchildren; also survived by a daughter-in-law, Lynn MacArthur.

Grace is predeceased by her husband, Edward; sons, James (Jimmy) and Charles (Chip); her parents, Wilvy and Grace Ann LaPlaut; brothers, Bernard (Bun) LaPlaut, Lorne and Wanda LaPlaut, Eugene (Donna) LaPlaut and Myrna and John Wilson.

Visitation took place on March 5 at Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home and services were conducted on March 6 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with Father Michael Chenier as celebrant and Deacon Bill Piche assisting.

Donations to Hospice of the EUP or Hearthside Assisted Living would be appreciated. Burial will be in Oaklawn Chapel Gardens.

Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

BONNIE J. SHIMON

Bonnie Jean Snyder (Coady) Shimon, 77, of Port Charlotte, Fla., formerly of Portland, Ore., passed away on Nov. 26, 2019. She was born on Feb. 25, 1942, to Vern and Marion (Peterson) Snyder in St. Ignace, Mich., and was raised in Marquette, Mich.



Bonnie graduated from Graveraet High School in 1960. She was an elder member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Bonnie was an avid tennis player, loved to golf and read books. She enjoyed traveling and with her outgoing and infectious personality, she met many lifelong friends. Bonnie was a great shopper and bargain hunter and was known to be the life of the party. Her grandchildren, Lane and Erin, were the light of her life and she loved spending time with them.

She is survived by her loving husband, Thomas J. Shimon, whom she married in April 2004; her daughter, Dana Ray (Mark) Bentley of Camas, Wash.; grandchildren, Lane and Erin Bentley of Camas; and many close friends.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her parents; her son, Derek Coady; and her siblings, Ronald Snyder, Julie Murry and Scott Gipp.

There are no services taking place for Bonnie at this time. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute; <https://moffitt.org/give>.

LEONA ELIZABETH MCCUAIG

Leona Elizabeth McCuaig, 76, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away Feb. 9, 2020, at her home.

Leona was born on March 19, 1943, in Dafter, Mich., to the late Friidolph and Pearl (Aslin) Lipponen. She graduated from Brimley High School with the class of 1961. She just celebrated 54 years of marriage to Richard

B. McCuaig, whom she married on Feb. 5, 1966. Leona worked at the Fun Card Club at Bay Mills Casino and later at Kewadin Casino before becoming a secretary for the Intertribal Council of Michigan, from which she retired in 2009. Leona enjoyed cooking, knitting, and crocheting. She also enjoyed gardening and spending time in the yard, as well as fishing and boating. Leona was a member of the Catholic Women's League for a period of time while living in Canada.

Leona is survived by her husband, Richard McCuaig, and three daughters, Vicki (Jean-Paul) Schuurhuis of Marquette, Mich., and Belinda (Kevin) Watkins and Lisa (Mark Currie) McCuaig, both of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. She was nanny to Jenna McCuaig, Adriana Schuurhuis, Paige Schuurhuis, Katie Watkins and Nicole Watkins. Leona is also survived by a brother, Roland Lipponen; three sisters, Marlene Graham, Cheri (Lyle) Hoornstra and Kathy Cramer; three sisters-in-law, Valerie (Gary) Walters, Laurie (Richard) Leveille and Merry-Lee (Mike) Larocke; brother-in-law, Ron (Sandy) McCuaig; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Leona was preceded in death by her parents, and siblings, George Lipponen, Robert Lipponen, Roger Lipponen, Richard Collins, Juanita Hill and Patricia King.

A memorial Mass of Resurrection was held at Feb. 14, 2020, St. Joseph Catholic Church with Father Mark McQuesten as celebrant. Interment will be at Pine Grove Cemetery later this spring. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Hospice of the Straights or Road to Recovery.

Leona's family was assisted by C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Condolences may be left online at www.csmulder.com.



An Old Car, in memory of George "Chippy" Houghton

BY DAVE HOUGHTON

In memory of George "Chippy" Houghton, who passed away on Feb. 14, 06

An old car rusted through and through brings a man down the highway, the visitor walks slowly as he knocks upon my lonesome door, he brings with him all the memories of a time that was a happy day, making me wish for a miracle that I could just have a little more.

He holds in his hand a key that will unlock the memory of two little boys living a long ago childhood, where all there was, was time to just play. Once again I am back in time playing with homemade cardboard toys

with tears rolling down my eyes leaving me without any words to say. I struggle now as an older man who misses this man so very much.

On this day (Feb. 14, 2006) 14 years ago when in my heart played an unhappy song, I longed to hear the car in the yard knowing that it is his touch that brings me back to a time where I felt a happy spirit to belong. Sadness you bring me down to my knees as if a little child in diapers, overtake my heart where I can't contain this hurtful sorrow. I look around in this empty room feeling my own soul lying bare, wishing that somehow in some

way yesterday could again become tomorrow.

Oh, hold me in your arms as the uncontrolled sobbing starts to begin, give me comfort in this sadness that wraps so tightly around my heart, cause some kind of happiness inside my soul to start within as I find this feeling of grief does not want to so easily depart. Whisper to me the words that this sorrowful man needs to hear, bring down the road that memory that comes from so very far, now in this moment cause my eyes to see so inwardly very clear coming down that road my brother, Chip, driving an old car.

Employee of the Month



Congratulations to Cheryl LaPlaut, Clinic Manager in St. Ignace, for being chosen as the January Employee of the Month. Cheryl does an excellent job managing the St. Ignace clinic, she is always up to date on all of the necessary items that are needed to keep the clinic running smoothly.

SAULT TRIBE PROUD: FIGHTING FOR OUR TRIBE



Elected tribal leaders with US Senator Gary Peters at United Tribes of Michigan for which Chairperson Payment serves as President. L to R - Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Pres. Chris Swartz, Saginaw Chippewa Tribe Chief Tim Davis, Little Traverse Chairwoman Regina Gasco-Bently, Little River Ogema Larry Romanelli, Chairperson Payment, and Huron Band Chair Jamie Stuck.

Dr. Aaron A. Payment,
Tribal Chairperson
Representing All Members Everywhere

Ahneen, Boozho,

First, while I do the following work, it is not at the expense of missing our Tribal Board meetings. My attendance record is 99.75% as I have only missed one meeting (the day my mom died in 2005). My main job is being present at our Board meetings, Conservation Meetings, Chippewa Ottawa Resource Meetings, Executive Council Meetings, and 100% of all 2020 Consent Decree Negotiation Meetings. I always show up.

Given space limitations, the following is what I have been up to since my last Tribal Chairperson report to you:

US Health and Human Services Secretary Tribal Advisory Council [2/6 & 7] - I have served on STAC for five years advising on IHS, Head Start, Indian Child Welfare, and the Affordable care Act issues. The ACA has brought over nearly \$50 million new \$ to our Tribe.

Met with Acting IHS Director on Dental Therapy [2/6] - I advocated for funding to develop a new training program to bring greater dental care and shorter wait times across the UP and expand services to Emmet,

Cheboygan counties and eventually Detroit.

NCAI Executive Winter Session ~ Presided twice [2/10-2/12] - I serve as 1st VP on the most influential National Non-Partisan Native Advocacy group. I presided over two days of meetings with legislators including the US Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Hosted Congressional Campaign Event for Native Candidate [2/10] - I hosted this event for Idaho Congressional Candidate Rudy Soto who is a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe.

Testified in the US House on Recovery Hospital [2/11]

- My testimony appeared last month.

Testified on Office of Victims of Crime Funding Formula [2/12] - I've played a key role in securing \$150 million annual funds for tribes so I am fighting to make sure the distribution is equitable.

By Invitation, I testified again in the US House on Advance Appropriations [2/12].

Attended National Advisory Council on Indian Education Meeting [2/13 & 14].

Met with MI Sen. McBroom on lowering the speed limit on US2 in front of our Manistique Health Center [2/19].

Participated in Tribal-State Liaison Forum [2/19].

Hosted the United Tribes of MI Legislative Reception in Lansing as President [2/19].

Chaired the United Tribes of MI Meeting as President [2/20].

Met with MI AG & Gov. Reps on Marijuana economic opportunities for our Tribe [2/21].

Attended 2020 Consent Decree Negotiations as our Tribe's Lead Negotiator [2/25-27].

Attended Tribal Interior Budget Committee Meeting as Midwest Co-Chair [3/9-12].

Attended Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes Meeting as Vice President and Acting President [3/17-19].

Our Consent Decree negotiations is a once in a generation responsibility. This duty transcends this term of office into August. Our treaty rights are at stake. We need strong leadership to get it right. I am grateful we have a strong Board team who support my leadership as Lead Negotiator. I work hard to represent you and I show up. I will continue to do my best.

Chi McGwitch, Negee!

Call: **800-793-0660** Cell: **906-440-5937** Email: **aaronpayment@yahoo.com** Facebook '**Aaron Payment**'

In a continued effort to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, Kewadin Casinos is temporarily closed until April 6.

We will spend the time deep-cleaning our casinos and preparing to reopen.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Updates can be found at kewadin.com.



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Tribe now moving forward on Internet gaming



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

There have been some very good things happening to our tribe lately. We are trying to settle the Greentown lawsuit for

a nominal amount compared to the original \$177 million; we should know the results of that soon. We are moving forward on Internet gaming. Our \$70 million debt from 2008 will finally be paid off in June of this year. We have won the first step in our land into trust for our downstate casino, there will be a few more hurdles but this is a great first victory.

Many times the membership discusses things we should be involved in and because business ventures are proprietary we can't discuss until they have been voted on or contracts signed. We never want to give our competitors prior notice.

The fact that we have yet to pass some of our budgets upsets me. The Health Division's cal-

endar year is from October to September. In my opinion, we can't possibly add in everything everyone wants this year. Our projections for long-term sustainability are not good. We have to be able to continue the same level of services and adding more does not guarantee we can sustain them.

The negotiating team has been meeting quite often with the state, feds and other tribes trying to find common ground. The team also meets internally on Monday and Tuesday mornings with the board. Many of the fishermen have also been attending the meetings.

Many of our community events have been canceled with the threat of coronavirus now reaching the state of Michigan.

It is a scary time in our country and some tough decisions are going to have to be made. We can all only hope we make the best decisions with the information we are provided and our people will be safe.

The board had discussed the virus at the March 3 meeting. The Health Division had prepared a document for the membership to try and avoid contracting the virus. All areas and enterprises have been doing more cleaning and more often, hand-sanitizing stations have been ordered and notices to the team members have been relayed for symptoms to look for.

The executive director met with all divisions to discuss and plan for the potential emergency situation. I asked for the special

meeting so we could vote on any policy changes that needed to happen in the members and team member's best interest. Unfortunately, our rules say we must give a five-day notice for board action. I do agree with that except in an emergency situation or a potential crisis it should be changed to a 24 hours' notice.

Please take all necessary precautions for yourself and your family. Please keep our children, elders and members with a low immunity in your prayers as well as all off our health staff in the tribe and across this great country.

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

Tribe working on new Manistique fitness place



**DENISE CHASE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

In February, tribal members who were accessing the Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital Fitness Center for exercise opportunities received a letter informing them the fitness center would close on March 1, 2020. Fitness center members were informed there would be no plans to include the fitness center in the new Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital building expansion project. The new expansion space on US 2 will be utilized by patients for physical, speech and occupational therapies.

Director Morrow and myself have been receiving a huge number of calls regarding the fitness center closure.

As soon as we were informed about the closure of the center, Director Morrow brought it to the attention of Rural Health Manager Marlene Glaesman and Sault Tribe Health Director Dr. Leo Chugunov. Director Morrow and I were contacted by the owner of a new fitness center opening on March 9 in Manistique.

Some of the fitness center contracts are funded through the IHS Diabetes Grant, and an internal Health Division person oversees these fitness agreements and exercise opportunities.

A recent report we received was that a proposed fitness financial agreement was prepared and received by the tribe's Legal Department and health director, and was sent to the fitness facility owner for his review.

I ask you to please have patience, and we would hope to have an answer for you on this

new fitness opportunity by the end of the month.

If the financial agreement is acceptable and signed by both parties, then the tribe can move forward and will advertise the new fitness opportunity in the local and tribal paper and on the tribe's website.

I would like to remind you of the following wellness and recreation opportunities for Sault Tribe members' use. Any tribal members visiting the area can assess the fitness opportunity with your tribal card.

Escanaba:

Sullivan's Health and Fitness, 1401 N. 26 St., Suite 118, (906) 217-2011. Free for Sault Tribe members, their spouses and children residing in the Escanaba area. Call the number above for an appointment to register. Large open group exercise area with exercise machines, workout equipment, free weights and bench stations. Open 24 hours. Call for an appointment to become a member, bring your tribal ID.

Northern Lights YMCA, 2001 North Lincoln Rd., (906) 789-0005. Free to Sault Tribe members. Fitness center, pool, hot tub, sauna and gym. Sault Tribe members receive discounted member rate for all programs at the YMCA. Winter hours: Monday-Friday 5 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday from 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; and Sunday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Present tribal card to desk attendant. Age restrictions may apply.

Marquette:

NMU Physical Education and Instructional Facility (PIEF), 1401 Presque Isle Ave., (906) 227-2519. Free to Sault Tribe members. Present tribal ID to desk attendant.

Manistique:

High School pool, 100 Cedar St. Free to Sault Tribe members. Open swim hours: Monday and Wednesday through April 10 6-8 p.m. Present tribal card to pool attendant on first visit.

Little Bear West Ice Arena, 180 N. Maple, (906) 341-3863. Free open skate and skate rentals for tribal members. For public skating schedule call 341-3863. Bring tribal ID.

Negaunee

YMCA of Marquette County, 350 Iron Street, (906) 475-9666. Free to Sault Tribe members, cardio and strength training equipment, sauna, locker rooms, rock wall, free drop-in fitness classes such as yoga, Pilates, Strong Bodies, etc. On-site tot watch for parents with children 6 weeks to 7 years for YMCA member rates. Hours are Monday-Friday from 5 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Bring your tribal ID and register on first visit.

I'm receiving a number of calls about funding for youth to attend various camps, class trips and payment for driver's education classes for the summer. Following is the information for the Youth Development Fund (YDF) program. Please contact YEA manager Kaylynn Cairns at (906) 635-6050 for more information, or for an application to apply.

The Youth Development Fund serves the 7-county tribal service area and provides income-based funding (income guidelines based on 300 percent of the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines) for tribal youth for a variety of activities, including: Sports fees for registration, equipment and shoes; music, dance and theatre lessons; instrument purchase and rental; language lessons; camps (sports, band, art, academic) and related travel fees; education, cultural and class trips; testing fees; driver's education; senior pictures; school supplies and book deposits (school clothes excluded); and regalia and youth drum.

Applicant qualifications: Must be a tribal youth age 0 through grade 12, living within the seven-county service area, which includes Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette and Schoolcraft. Applicants may receive funding up to \$150 once per academic year (Aug. 1-July 31). Qualifying categories for funding are based on tribal strategic directions of medicine wheel: academic/intellectual, physical, emotional and cultural/spiritual.

Applicant requirements: Along with a completed YDF application, Sault Tribe members must submit the following:

Current copy of tribal membership card; copy of invoice, registration, brochure/literature with organization's name and costs or receipt of payment (check will be made payable to the organization, unless receipt of payment is provided). And proof of household income (recent check stub, tax forms, W-2, etc.). Submit applications for funding to Kaylynn Cairns, YEA manager, Big Bear Arena, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Applications may also be submitted via email at kcairns2@saulttribe.net. Applications are available to www.bigbeararena.com, under Youth Programs.

Director Morrow and I attended the United Tribes of Michigan meetings on Feb. 19 and 20 in Lansing, Mich.

As you are aware, the tribe recently passed a resolution in support of reducing the speed limit on a 1.8-mile stretch of Highway U.S. 2, from 65 back down to a safer speed of 55 (as the community had concerns at that speed), and to include a no passing zone on that same stretch of road. We have been collaborating and formed a work group with Manistique Township Board, Schoolcraft County Road Commission, Manistique City Police and Michigan State Police, to work towards the goal of speed reduction and no passing zone. Our tribal Health and Human Services facility, tribal Housing Department, and Kewadin Casino are all located within this zone.

This section of the corridor includes 105 residential and 23 commercial access points, along with three intersections to major township roads. In 2019 there were 35,984 visitors to our tribal Health and Human Service facility, and over 153,476 customers who accessed Kewadin Casino.

While in Lansing attending United Tribes, a delegation of tribal representatives, including Director Morrow, Chairperson Payment, Sault Tribe Transportation Director Wendy Hoffman and tribal lobbyist Ron Khoury and I met with Senator Ed McBroom and his staff at his office about assisting with the speed reduction issue.

While at United Tribes, Director Morrow, Chairperson Payment, Wendy Hoffman and myself were able to meet with Tribal Liaison Amy Mastoff, of the Michigan Department of Transportation, and explained to her the road safety issues and proposed solutions.

The tribe is prepared to have a comprehensive road safety audit completed. As I mentioned before, other townships have passed resolutions supporting lowering of speed limits, and no passing zones. They are Doyle, Thompson, Manistique and the city of Manistique. We will keep you posted as we move forward.

Coronavirus:

The board of directors will be holding a special meeting on March 17 at 10 a.m. regarding emergency response to the coronavirus. The tribe's Executive Director, CFO, Elder Division Director, Health Director, Communications Department and Interim Casino CEO have been working diligently on policy changes; amendments; communication plan; protection of workforce and members; and patients and patrons.

At the March 17 meeting the tribal board by resolution declared a state of emergency throughout our reservation lands of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

During the state of emergency the tribe's Executive Director, Interim CEO of our casinos, and Executive Director of the EDC, shall have the authority to temporarily modify policies or procedures, order closures, cancel or schedule events, implement programs, and take all other appropriate steps they deem essential and necessary to the protection of the public.

The state of emergency shall be terminated when emergency conditions no longer exist, and will be determined by the tribe's Executive Director. The Executive Director shall make daily reports to the board of directors.

If you need to reach me, please call (906) 203-2471.

Thank you,

Denise Chase, Unit IV board representative

Virus causing stress in our tribal communities



CHARLES MATSON SR.
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Ahnee, winter is winding down and we're all looking forward to spring. Winter does not seem to want to give up very easily and I am sure we are in for another storm or two before it is over.

We have all heard about the coronavirus and the stresses it is causing in our communities. It is my hope that all of us are taking precautions to minimize the impact that it is having on our everyday lives. We need to keep a close eye on our most vulnerable people to make sure they are being looked out for.

The Seven Grandfathers

teachings we held in Unit V were a huge success. These classes are very important part of preserving and enhancing our traditional teachings for our people. If these classes can help to bring traditional awakening to even one individual tribal member, I feel it has been well worth it. There has been nothing but positive feedback from members and that should lift all our spirits. I want to say megweech to all the people who help to make sure these classes are successful. We look forward to holding more classes in Unit V and hope you have an

opportunity to attend.

We are gearing up to bring sports betting to our gaming establishments. It is my belief that this is going to help bring much needed revenue into our casinos. Not only will we profit from the wagers themselves, but it will also bring new customers into our casinos. It should also raise profits in our food and beverage sales, for these new patrons will need food and drinks. Hopefully our hotel stays will increase as we see more people visiting for the sporting events.

We are getting ready for a

huge tourist season coming up and hope the virus will be under control so as not to affect the season. With the investments we have made in our area, we should see a positive impact on our bottom line.

I hope everyone gets through this healthy and safe. Make sure and checkup on each other, especially our elders, to make sure they are doing well.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at (906) 450-5094 or email at CMatson@saulttribe.net.

Respectfully,
Charles J. Matson Sr.

Check on elders and those needing assistance



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

With the coronavirus closures affecting our area, I urge

everyone to exercise patience and understanding during this pandemic. Remember to look out for each other, I realize there is a lot of uncertainty, but we mustn't succumb to fear and hoarding. Take this time to check on our elders and those that might need assistance.

The board of directors has been in constant contact and will be meeting regularly to address this ever-changing event. Decisions on when and what to close and for how long are happening now and will get revisited as needed. These are difficult decisions as there are consequences either way. Peoples' livelihood and ability to provide

for their families are at stake.

I think we have to be very careful with protecting our team members while ensuring how long we can sustain wages. The ability to meet our large workforce, insurance and continue with essential services must be taken into consideration. We must take every step to ensure the safety of our team members while also noting that regardless of what closes and what remains open, we will have team members working during this crisis. A huge thank you to our health officials, law enforcement officers, those who continue to help make meals for our elders and children, government employees

making sure we continue to have much needed services, and to the front-liners at our stores and economic businesses that remain open for us to get gas and other essentials. Chi miigwetch.

I want to be clear — opening or closing our businesses will never be about generating profit over the safety of our team members — it is and remains to be about having the ability to provide jobs, security and a healthy community for our people. Our tribe has recognized the value of social distancing in helping curb the spread of this infection. I have been proud of our management team in making the necessary changes and

adapting to this evolving emergency. I appreciate all the members for contacting me and sharing your concerns. The board of directors and the chairperson are listening; we are united in trying to navigate these difficult decisions together.

I ask everyone to take this time to practice common sense and be safe. Follow the safety protocols and socially distance yourself as best you can. Don't hoard and remember those who may need assistance during this time. I urge anyone who wants to discuss these concerns or issues that face our tribe to contact me at (906) 440-7768. Chi miigwetch.

It's sugar bush time! Tree tapping has started!



JENNIFER MCLEOD,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, Anishnaabek! It's SUGAR BUSH time! Tapping trees, boiling sap and being together as Anishnaabe people.

Many of our people live in areas where there are no sugar bushes. It can be difficult to feel connected to our culture and learn the ways of our people. I used this story in my classroom. It can be found online at <http://www.native-languages.org/ojibwestory.htm>. Note that in some communities, Nanabozo is known as Manabozho. I edited for brevity.

A long time ago, when the world was new, Gitchee Manitou made things so that life was easy for the people. There was plenty of game, the weather was always good and maple trees were filled with thick sweet syrup. Whenever anyone wanted to get maple syrup from the trees, all they had to do was break off a twig and collect it as it dripped out.

One day, Manabozho thought, "I think I'll go see my friends, the Anishinabe." He went to their village, but it was empty. Manbozho looked for the people. They were not fishing, hunting or gathering berries. He found them in the maple trees just lying on their backs letting maple syrup drip into their mouths.

"This will NOT do! My people are all going to be fat and lazy if they keep on living this way." Manabozho went to the river with a big birch bark basket. He brought lots of water and poured it in the top of the maple trees. What came out was thin, watery and just barely sweet to the taste.

"From now on, only this watery sap will drip from the maple trees. When people want

syrup they will have to gather many buckets full of sap, gather wood, make fires and heat stones to drop into the buckets. They will have to boil it for a long time to make even a little syrup. Then my people will appreciate this gift Gitchee Manitou made available to them. Also, this sap will drip only at a certain time of the year. Then it will not keep people from hunting, fishing and gathering," Manabozho said.

And that is how it is to this day.

My students would tell me why it's important to work hard and what happens when life is "too easy." The kids understood. We have many hard workers in our tribe who understand, too. To all who have worked to help

me (and the board of directors) understand, who answered questions, prepared numerous budgets, spent sleepless nights and long days trying to find solutions, I say "Chi-miigwetch." I do not take your efforts for granted. We could not do our work at the board without you and our tribal members sharing thoughts and ideas.

With this being an election year, I hope that we do not lose focus. We still have much work to do to perpetuate our way of life and ensure the welfare and prosperity of our people.

Anishnaabe Gagige (Anishnaabe for always),
Jen
(906) 440-9151
jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com

Some suggestions from tribal Health Division



DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

This last month has been surrounded around the coronavirus by watching the news and reading

all the material available about it. Here are suggestions from our Health Division: How to protect yourself from getting coronavirus?

- 1.) Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- 2.) Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- 3.) Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing and sneezing.
- 4.) Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- 5.) Stay home if you are sick and contact your health care provider about your illness.
- 6.) If requested, participate in community mitigation activities (this is especially important for small kids, elders and patients with compromised immune systems).

Elders, please protect yourselves and stay home. Please check on the elders in your community, reach out and see if you can deliver items they may need. The Executive Director, Health Director and Casino CEO have been keeping the board aware of steps they have taken to combat the virus. The board called a special meeting for March 17 to discuss what next steps we will take as this virus continues through Michigan.

Last weekend, we had a full class at our hand drum teaching in Manistique. It was a great weekend with lots of laughs and a lot of new friendships created. We would like to thank Bud Biron for his teachings, our community really appreciates it! We would like to thank everyone for attending, you

all made it a great time. I would also like to thank Director Chase for helping me with the food for our weekend event.

The March 21 teaching on name, colors and clans in Escanaba has been canceled, we will reschedule in May or June. The March 28 Caring for Our Elders Powwow in Escanaba has been canceled and will be rescheduled.

Hand drum classes are scheduled for April 18-19 in Gwinn, Mich., at Sands Township hall and April 25-26 in Escanaba - Chamber of Commerce building. Please call or text Darcy Morrow (906) 298-1888 or Denise Chase (906) 203-2471 to sign up for these teachings.

I have been contacted by many members about being able to use

the new exercise company due to Schoolcraft Memorial closing their exercise program. Since noticed of the closure Director Chase and I have been working with our Health Division to get a contract in place with this company. At this time, the contract has been sent to the company and we are waiting for them to sign and return to the tribe. The Health Division will put an add in the paper for the membership to know when it's available to use.

I continue to keep an eye on our fishing treaty rights by attending weekly internal Sault Tribe 2020 fishing meetings and monthly 2020 consent decree meetings.

If you have any questions, contact me at (906) 298-1888, or dmorrow@saulttribe.net

Judge sides with tribe in trust land decision



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

During this struggling time in our world, I want to take time to report a major hurdle with which we have been successful in our tribe. We have worked very hard for the outcome below, and this is a release we are finally able to make. We have decisions and plans to make moving forward

and I'm confident we remain diligent and responsible in our actions, we can continue planning for our lands.

"In a March 5 decision, District Judge Trevor N. McFadden of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia found that the Department of the Interior misinterpreted Section 108 of the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act (MILCSA) of 1997. Section 108 of MILCSA detailed Sault Tribe's plan for its portion of the funds. It included language that land purchased with the interest of the Land Claims Fund "shall be held in trust by the Secretary for the benefit of the tribe."

In 2012, Sault Tribe purchased acreage in the lower peninsula for gaming development and subsequently applied for land in trust status under MILCSA. However, the Interior

refused to take the land into trust because of other language in Section 108 that the land's purpose was for "for consolidation or enhancement of tribal lands."

In 2018, the tribe filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against the Secretary of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Interior. Three commercial casinos, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe filed as intervenors.

In his ruling, Judge McFadden wrote the Interior was mistaken it had authority to make its decision, siding with the tribe's claim that "its board had exclusive authority to decide that a distribution of fund income was for one of these purposes, and thus the Secretary had no authority to conclude otherwise."

Judge McFadden wrote in his opinion, "The Court agrees with Sault on the merits. The department overstepped its authority when it denied Sault's request to take land into trust because it believed the tribe did not acquire the land for a proper purpose. Congress gave the department no role in policing Sault's land acquisitions."

We have had extremely hard and stressful decisions to be made with the coronavirus and the threats to our people's health and well being. Our priority is a balance with the continued service to the members and the protection of all our people's health in and out of the workforce. Our entire tribe has stepped up and things are changing daily. Please see our official website for updates on all services and health messages. I would simply ask that you offer sema for our people's

health. It's a very scary and struggling time. I'm committed to getting us through this while remaining calm and responsible in our actions. I have not and will not stop working, I am out there like the rest of our workforce (but I am quarantined from my grandchildren and parents and will limit my exposure to our vulnerable elderly for now), please know that so many are working hard to keep our tribe running and steady, if you have specific needs due to this health crisis, please let me know. We have many changes coming to get through this, please take care of yourself and family and stay home if you are elderly or compromised. Contact me at lcausley@saulttribe.net or (906) 484-2954, 322-3818.

Baamaapii.
Lana Causley-Smith
Unit II Representative

Considering safety of team members and community



**KIMBERLE GRAVELLE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello, I would like to say how grateful we are to team members

who have been understanding during the coronavirus outbreak and those who have called to get updates. There has been a lot of false information spread to the community. This is disappointing to those who have been working diligently to come up with solutions to help get through this stressful time.

First and foremost, we need to consider the safety of our team members and the community at large. It is not an easy decision to shut down member services. There is a downside to each decision we make. Just one example is the closing of our daycare services. This leaves

working families with nowhere to take their children. There are no easy solutions to take the pressure off working families.

As of this writing, the decision has been made to shut down the five Sault Tribe casino's until April 5, 2020. Together we can get through this, so please take care of yourself, your family and check on your neighbors. We will be made stronger by this current challenge, it is the way of our people.

On a more positive note Tipping Points Solutions, Inc. is expanding in Sault Ste. Marie by adding nine new, high-paying IT jobs. They plan to provide intensive training and skills development to the new employees. Individuals interested in careers with

Tipping Point Solutions should visit <https://tp-solutions.com/careers/>.

I'd like to remind everyone that we have three recovery houses in Kinross, Mich., available to individuals who have been in a treatment program and need a place they can continue to recover and live a healthy lifestyle. Assistance will be provided for attending meetings, doctor appointments, job interviews, cultural events, school, budgeting, etc. Miigwech to everyone involved in this project. For more information, please call (906) 632-5200 and follow the prompts for the Behavioral Health Department.

Also, a friendly reminder if you move from your residence to a new address without notifying the Tribal Tax Office and the

tribe's Enrollment Department, you may lose important benefits, i.e., possible tax exemptions, tribal election ballots, elder's dividends, important notices sent by mail and newspaper delivery. You can contact our administration office at (906) 635-6050 and they will direct you to the correct department.

As always, please keep the men and women in the armed forces in your prayers and thoughts for a safe return to their families. I would also like to thank all the team members for the hard work they do every day for our tribe.

Please feel free to call me at (906) 203-6083 and leave a message or e-mail me at KKGravelle@saulttribe.net.

Thank you,
Kim Gravelle

Board pay and term limits being discussed



**BETTY FREIHEIT,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello tribal members, I want you to know that since I'm a candidate for the upcoming tribal election, I'm limited to 500 words in my unit report. I also want to include an explanation pertaining to my two resolutions and the board's actions.

During the Feb, 18 tribal board of directors' regular meeting, I submitted two resolutions pertaining to the "board's pay and term limits." As a result of these resolutions, the tribal attorney told the board that one of my resolutions didn't have "teeth," because it was not

drafted properly. I was good with their legal opinion this time. For future reference, I have since made the decision to have the Sault Tribes Legal Department draft all my resolutions to ensure that they do in fact, have teeth!

When it came to the support of the "term limits" resolution, the only support this resolution got was from directors Matson and Hollowell. I saw where Director Matson had to withstand the wrath of both directors of Unit IV because of his independent decision.

Regardless, I believe the board of directors who are unwilling in respect to support these issues, are skating on extremely thin ice! The membership wants their say and these issues will not go away!

Just one last thing on the Feb. 18 board meeting, I now know what it's like to be in a stream being attacked by a school of "red bellied piranhas!"

I'm sorry this unit report is short, I am in recovery from surgery and also working on tribal issues pertaining to the coronavirus.

Please be safe and feel free to contact me.

Working diligently for the safety of membership and employees



**DJ HOFFMAN
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

"We have a choice to be leaders or politicians. A true leader will face the problem and deal with it. A politician will try to please everyone and never fix the problem." — DM

As many of you are aware our tribal nation (as well as the United States) is facing a biological threat impacting our

communities, businesses and overall economy. There are many individuals sharing this information on Facebook, some for the benefit of informing others, as well as some intent on politicizing the matter for the tribal election. I want to assure you that all of your elected officials are working diligently to ensure our membership and employees are safe. While we may not always agree, we are united in ensuring this occurs.

The tribe is looking at options, recommended by our executives, regarding our governmental, enterprise and casino operations. In the next few days, many changes will occur to our overall operations to limit the spread of the coronavirus. This will include different hours of operation, including but not limited to closing during certain periods of time. As a tribe, we are working to ensure that our membership receives services and our

employees receive a steady paycheck to provide for their respective families.

In uncertain times, the best in people shines brightest. There are individuals in our communities (both tribal and non-tribal), who have jumped in on the front line to volunteer to ensure children, elders and families receive food to sustain themselves. These are the individuals who clearly illustrate what true leadership is all about. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is clearly working for the betterment of others.

In closing, please read this paper, as well as the tribe's website regarding changes to our operations as well as preventative measures during these troubling times. In addition, please make sure your elders have essential items such as food and medicine, and that your families are safe during these trying times.

An introduction to the Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program — don't be too shy to try!

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program is located inside the Sault Tribe Health Center in Sault Ste. Marie, and was the first traditional medicine program in the country integrated into a tribal health delivery system. Traditional medicine practitioners (healers) work in a holistic way alongside tribal medical providers, combining the benefits of both traditional and western medicine.

Services are provided to all members of federally recognized tribes, tribal households and families, and all members of the tribal community. Tribal members and community members can schedule appointments to be seen at the following locations: Grand Island Chippewa Community Center in Munising, Mich., (906) 387-4721; Hessel Community Health Center, Hessel, Mich., 484-2727; Manistique Tribal Community Center, Manistique, Mich., 341-8469; Newberry Community Health Center, Newberry, Mich., 293-8181; Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Center, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., 632-5200; and the Sault Tribal Health & Human Services Center in Saint Ignace, Mich., 643-8689. Traditional medicine services will also eventually be offered in Escanaba and Marquette.

Traditional Healers Joe Syrette and Gerard Sagassige, along with traditional medicine staff Laura Downwind-Collins, Traditional Medicine supervisor; Annie Thibert, traditional practitioner assistant I; and Lori Gambardella, traditional practitioner assistant II; offer tribal members holistic Ojibwe traditional medicine services that help meet spiritual, mental, physical and emotional needs, while respecting the cultural and traditional beliefs of their clients.

Some of the services the Traditional Medicine Program offer includes: Traditional medicine procedures and ceremonial functions providing consultation, diagnosis, and treatment; treatment with traditional medicines including plants, herbs, and/or specific ceremonies; healing sweat lodges; seasonal fasting and ceremonies; cultural services such as giving of an Anishinaabe name, clan, and color identification; referral to tribal clinics, substance abuse and mental health providers as well as other traditional practitioners and to healing ceremonies; re-establishing rare plants and medicines on tribal and private properties; and volunteer programs where community members can assist in the planting, gathering and processing of traditional medicines; among many others.

Joe Syrette started working for the Sault Tribe as a Nenaandawi'iwed, or traditional healer, in 2019. He is Anishinaabe Ojibwe from Rankin Reserve Batchewana First Nation, located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. Syrette has been practicing traditional healing work for the past five years, but has lived his life learning Anishinaabe cer-

emonies. He has a wife and two daughters.

Syrette said that growing up as a traditional shkaabewis, or helper, he learned to balance his spiritual and personal life and spent much of his young and adolescent years learning how to live in duality between the modern world, and the traditional Anishinaabe world through fasting and attending ceremonies.

Traditional healer Gerard Sagassige is from Curve Lake First Nation, with family connections to Serpent River First Nation, both in Ontario, Canada. He has been assisting with healing work for over 20 years, and as a midewiwin lodge member he has worked with many teachers

throughout his travels. Sagassige carries many teachings from many elders and spiritual leaders throughout the Anishinaabe Nation.

The program gathers and processes much of the traditional medicines they use. There are also plans in place for the program to grow medicines for future gathering.

If it is your first time visiting a healer for a ceremony, make sure that you bring tobacco.

Each healing ceremony is different based on the patient's need.

There are people who may be intimidated or nervous about seeing a traditional healer because it's a new experience for them, but the healers and their helpers



Traditional healers Joe Syrette and Gerard Sagassige

are there to help, and will do whatever they can to make you comfortable. They also work in conjunction with your medical

provider if requested.

Visit the Sault Tribe Health Department's webpage at <https://www.saulttribehealth.com/>.

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KEWADIN CASINOS ENTERTAINMENT

MARCH

Big John's MMA
Northern Comclark III
Saturday | 13th | 10 p.m. | start at \$25
Sault DreamMakers Theater

POSTPONED

APRIL

Little Texas
Saturday | 13th | 8 p.m. | Start at \$20
St. Ignace Kewadin Event Center

POSTPONED

Candlebox wsg The Lows
Saturday | 13th | 8 p.m. | Start at \$30
Sault DreamMakers Theater

POSTPONED

MAY

Remembering Hee Haw
featuring Kornfield Friends &
Special Guest Tim Sheppard
Friday | 8th | 8 p.m. | Start at \$25
Sault DreamMakers Theater

POSTPONED

Grand Funk Railroad
Friday | 22nd | 8 p.m. | start at \$35
St. Ignace Kewadin Event Center

JUNE

Rapids Sessions with
Tripp 'N Dixie & The Lows
Saturday | 13th | 10 p.m. | FREE
Sault Rapids Lounge

Big & Rich wsg Neal McCoy
Saturday | 27th | 10 p.m. | Start at \$40
S. Ignace Outside Summer Series

Big & Rich

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
NEAL MCCOY

JUNE 27
SHOW STARTS AT 8 P.M.

OUTDOOR EVENT

Kewadin
ST. IGNACE
CASINO