



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

April 29, 2020 • Vol. 41 No. 4  
Sucker Moon  
Namebin Giizis



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



Photo by Holly Kibble

Tribal elders send a heartfelt “thank you” to Sault resident Joyce Cross made masks for homebound elders. Elder Service Driver Joe Harper proudly displays the masks before delivering them.



Photo by Carey Mills/Radiology

The Health Division recently received a state-of-the-art Abbott's Point-of-Care ID NOW Analyzer from Indian Health Service, capable of determining COVID-19 testing results in 15 minutes.

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## Casino developers' lawsuit against Gaming Authority “smokescreen” for inability to fulfill obligations

Developers lawsuit “smoke-screen” for inability to fulfill obligations

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Pursuant to the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act approved in the US Congress in 1997, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians exercised the mandatory trust provision of the act to acquire land in Ingham and Wayne Counties in Michigan. In March, after years of working with Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority to develop casino operations in Ingham and Wayne Counties in Michigan, the casino's development partners for these projects have filed suit against the Gaming Authority seeking over \$100 million. This suit comes mere days after the Gaming Authority won a significant victory against the U.S. Department of the Interior in its efforts to get the land declared eligible for gaming purposes.

The Gaming Authority will vigorously defend the developers' new lawsuit, as it strongly

believes that the developers have filed the lawsuit as a smoke-screen to mitigate their inability to fulfill their obligations under their agreements.

On behalf of the Sault Tribe and Kewadin Gaming Authority Board, Chairperson Aaron Payment responded, “This suit amounts to nothing more than an effort to tie us up in litigation so we cannot move forward in the casino development without them.”

For the last decade, the Gaming Authority has worked with these developers to get these mandatory trust projects moving forward. Throughout the entire project, it has been clear that it would not only take many years, but also a significant financial investment.

Payment said, “Similar to other highly successful enterprise developments like the Tohono O'odham Nation, I have always said this Mandatory Trust project is a marathon and not a sprint.” Further, it has been mutually agreed upon by all parties that

the Developers' only claim for repayment of their contributions to the effort would come out of the profits of the potential new casinos after they opened and made profits.

Payment said, “My boards and I are unified and are deeply disappointed that the developers have sued the Gaming Authority during the COVID-19 crisis after engaging in another round of negotiations towards resolution of the differences between us. While it is not in my boards' practice to comment on ongoing litigation, the unfounded allegations in the developers' lawsuit gave us little choice.”

The Gaming Authority believes this baseless lawsuit demonstrates that the developers are trying to win through litigation what they did not and could not accomplish through their contract negotiations. The lawsuit appears to be more of the same delay the Gaming Authority has experienced in pursuing reimbursement of

See *Lawsuit*,” Page 18

## Treaty rights activities, licensing continue during pandemic

BY ROBERT MARCHAND,  
CHIEF OF POLICE

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE), along with other tribal departments, programs and services, has implemented changes to the way we typically process treaty licenses for Sault Tribe members. STLE is closed to the public until further notice, but staff have been processing all applications received through the U.S. mail every day. STLE thanks our tribal members for their patience as we all work through this global pandemic together, with rules and guidance changing sometimes day to day. STLE would like to provide an update on additional ways members can obtain the various licenses Sault Tribe offers. Details regarding each specific license and the process to obtain are detailed below under each applicable heading.

### Commercial captains and helpers

Commercial captains and helpers have maintained the ability to call STLE and schedule an appointment to renew their 2020 licenses since the beginning of the building closure; OR, if you held a 2019 captain or helper card, you can exercise your commercial treaty fishing rights

under the emergency order put in place by Chairperson Payment. This emergency order was mailed to all 2019 commercial license holders several weeks ago. If you did not receive one, you can call STLE and we will mail, email or fax you a copy of the order. If you held a 2019 captain or helper license, and threw the card away at the end of 2019, please call us and we will mail, email or fax you a copy of your BIA application and license (we copy your licenses on to your BIA application for your file in our office). Please note: if you decide to call and schedule an appointment to come in to pick up your captain or helper license, please ensure that you have a face mask available for all who are scheduled as you will be required to wear one in the building. Please only bring those who are picking up their licenses.

### Subsistence or subsistence gillnet

You can process these licenses through the U.S. mail, as we have been; OR, if you are looking to obtain your licenses with a shorter turn around, please call STLE and we will work out a curbside pick-up in the front of the building. Once you receive the application packet through the U.S.

mail, you can also drop them off in the black box on the post in front of the judicial building and we will either call you when they are ready to be picked up or place them in the U.S. mail to be sent to you.

### Inland hunting, fishing and gathering licenses

STLE has been processing hundreds of these license applications every week. Applications are available online at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) — go to Membership Services at the top, select Natural Resources from the drop down list, and once you are on the Natural Resources page, at the bottom in red letters it states “For Applications, Click Here.” Print the 2020 application, fill it out completely, and, if you are NOT required to pay, you can email or fax your application to STLE. The fax number is (906) 632-0691, or email them to [lstewart1@saulttribe.net](mailto:lstewart1@saulttribe.net).

If you are required to pay the \$5 fee (ages 17-59), you can either return the application with payment via the U.S. mail or you can place the application and payment in an envelope and put that in the black box attached to the post in the front of the judicial building. If you are looking

See *“Treaty Licenses,”* page 3

# CARES Act provides \$8 billion for tribal governments

The *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act* signed into law by President Trump on Friday, March 27, provides critical relief for Indian Country to address the COVID-19 pandemic, including over \$500 million in direct appropriations to Indian Affairs and an unprecedented \$8 billion for tribes, according to a Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs release.

The \$8 billion will be allocated to tribal governments with eligible expenses through the Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the Department of the Interior and tribal governments. These consultations will help ensure the funds will be allocated effec-

tively to tribes most in need of critical aid.

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney said the CARES Act provides a critical infusion of supplemental funding for tribal communities. "Coupled with the nearly a half billion dollars in direct appropriations to Indian Affairs, the historic \$8 billion tribal set-aside will provide urgent financial assistance," she said.

"I was proud to work with Michigan's tribes to advance this much-needed support," said Senator Gary Peters. "This legislation provides health care, nutrition and education assistance to help Michigan's tribes mitigate this public health and economic crisis. I will continue to work with our tribes

to ensure this assistance is received in a timely manner."

Sault Tribe Board Chairperson Aaron Payment said, "Senators Peters and Stabenow are long time personal friends and stalwart supporters of Indian Country. Their work on the recently approved stimulus package will help Michigan citizens and tribes alike during the current worldwide pandemic. More pointedly, Gary and Debbie partnered with me as tribal chairperson to ensure the needs of Indian Country were met in the final legislation including \$8 billion in recovery relief for American Indian tribes."

According to the release, the CARES Act provides \$453 million for essential services to

help prepare for and respond to the pandemic, ensure continuation of government operations, and aid individuals. The legislation provides funding needed to support assistance to individuals facing loss of income, ensure law enforcement and detention center employees have necessary personal protective equipment, and implement required deep cleaning of facilities or quarantines as needed. The CARES Act also provides specific set-asides for health, housing and nutrition assistance programs that will be critical to supporting Indian Country

during this time.

The legislation also provides \$69 million for education-related needs, including salaries, equipment, online curriculum development and other costs. To supplement the funds directly appropriated to Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), the CARES Act also provides support through the Education Stabilization Fund. In consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the legislation directs the Secretary of Education to allocate \$153.75 million to Interior for programs operated or funded by BIE.

## Summer Youth Employment Program applications available through WIOA

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

This program is for Native American youth ages 14 to 21 that reside within the seven-coun-

ty service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties).

For applications contact Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or [bcadreau@saulttribe.net](mailto:bcadreau@saulttribe.net).

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.

## Chi miigwech to Pine trio for sugar bush help

Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department extends a heartfelt MIIGWECH to Dave, Mike and Becky Pine for their help with our Mary Murray Culture Camp sugar bush this spring. The Pines collected and boiled our sap, then bottled the finished syrup for us. Thanks to them, the camp's staff

members did not have to travel to and from the island, lessening additional risk to them from possible exposure to COVID-19. We are so grateful and humbled by these generous acts during this difficult time. The Pines truly embody what it means to be part of a community!

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# WE ALL NEED TO DO OUR PART.

How you can slow the spread of COVID-19.



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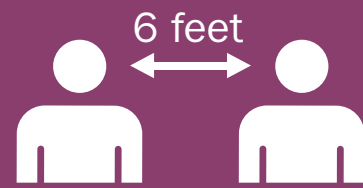
Cover your cough



Don't touch your face



Stay home



If you must go out, keep your distance from others

Protect those at the highest risk for getting severely ill: the elderly, those with chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes and COPD, and those with compromised immune systems.

Get the facts. [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](http://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus).



# Sault Tribe temporary closure extended to May 3

## TRIBAL TEAM MEMBERS' EMERGENCY PAY CONTINUES

On April 7, Sault Tribe's government extended its temporary closure of all governmental offices, with a planned reopen date of May 3. All government team members are considered on call with many working from home. The closure started March 23 with a plan to reopen April 13. Due to the ongoing climbing number of COVID-19 cases in Michigan, the tribe is extending the emergency closure until May 3 to protect tribal members, team members and their families from exposing themselves to COVID-19.

Tribal team members' emergency pay will continue with exception of seasonal team members and those who may be given temporary lay-off status. Team

members should contact their supervisors with any questions.

On April 1, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-33, declaring a state of disaster and requesting resolutions by legislature extending the state of emergency, which it did through the end of April. After closing schools on March 26, Whitmer suspended the school year on April 2, providing guidelines for remote learning.

During the week of April 7, with health experts projecting COVID-19 peaking that week (University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation), tribal leaders considered the Stay-at-Home closure to be crucial to the tribal community's health and safety.

As of April 22, the Upper Peninsula had 69 confirmed

COVID-19 cases, with 57 in the tribe's seven-county service area.

Sault Tribe began emergency planning for COVID-19 pandemic in early March, with leadership and Health understanding the possibility of COVID-19 spread into the US interior. This allowed the tribe to be ready for closures, health equipment and infrastructure, and membership needs for health, housing, necessities and other emergencies as they emerge.

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors has worked steadily to ensure tribal government and casino team members wages are covered during this period. At its March 24 meeting, the board of directors unanimously voted to access to the tribe's \$5.5 million in Contract Support Cost Settlement Funds to cover team member wages during the

COVID-19 State of Emergency.

All but essential services will stay at home to help limit the spread of the coronavirus. Tribal Health Centers, Law Enforcement and Detention Center, the Domestic Violence Shelter, USDA, ACFS essential team members, and any other needed essential services will remain in operation to provide members with needed services.

Tribal Elder Services have been handing out lunch to elders who drive up, and are delivering meals as usual. Commodity

Foods has been preparing food boxes based on members' previous preferences and loading them into members' trunks as they pull up. All health clinics are open with limited hours and appointment only status and taking the utmost precautions to keep team members safe.

Tribal Administration is actively following all federal announcements and adapting to new federal regulations with as much flexibility as possible.

Keep in touch at saulttribe.com and on Facebook/saulttribe.

## Treaty activities continue . . .

*From "Treaty Licenses," Page 1* to obtain your licenses with a shorter turn around, please call STLE and we will work out a curbside pick-up in the front of the building. Please note: if you are a new applicant, and were born after 1960, per Tribal Code, you are required to provide proof of hunter safety to obtain the hunting portion of these treaty licenses. This requirement has not changed.

BEAR and ELK applications: The application period is typically May 1-31 each year. Because May 31 falls on a Sunday, Sault Tribe will accept applications no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020. You can call STLE

and request applications be mailed to you; applications can be downloaded and printed from [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) —go to Membership Services at the top, select Natural Resources from the drop down list, and once you are on the Natural Resources page, at the bottom in red letters it states "For Applications, Click Here;" and applications are printed in this issue of the tribal newspaper on page 22\* so you can cut them out, fill them out in their entirety and return via U.S. Mail, or drop them in the black box on the post in front of the judicial building.

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement's main priority during this pandemic

has been ensuring the safety and health of its employees and the communities we serve. We appreciate members' patience as we all work through this global pandemic together.

As always, if you have any questions, please call STLE at (906) 635-6065 through May 3 - Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On May 4 and after, you can call our office Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. You can also leave a message at any time and your call will be returned the following business day.

Thank you, stay safe!  
\* See Page 22 of this issue for **BEAR and ELK applications!**

## 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 Sault Tribe WIOA office at the Big Bear Arena in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or call Brenda Cadreau at 635-4767 for more information.

## Tribal members: need assistance?

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](mailto: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](mailto:sberger@saulttribe.net)

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

## Ziigwan Manidokewin (Spring ceremony)

Aaniin/Hello, from all of us at the Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department. We know right now many things are uncertain with the current COVID-19 pandemic.

However, we encourage each of you to continue to learn and live our Anishinaabe biimaadiziiwin (traditional way of life).

It is time for spring ceremony here in Bahweting. Spring is the time that we celebrate and honor our loved ones and ancestors as

well as the renewing of the plant life and giving thanks for all of creation.

Due to safety concerns, we will not be gathering for the spring ceremony, but a member of our department will light a misho shkode (grandfather fire) on behalf of all of our communities and make special offerings for spring time and renewal.

So that you all may still participate from your own homes, we encourage each of you to put

out your own offerings of semaa/tobacco and food near a tree or other plant life anytime during the spring months of April and May. Some food suggestions you can use for offerings are berries, meat, rice and vegetables.

We express our gratitude with miigwech/thank you!

For more information, please contact the Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department by telephone by calling (906) 203-6382 or (906) 632-1347.

## Annual Baawting Anishinaabemowin Conference postponed until autumn

Boozhoo, after much thought and consideration, the Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department decided to postpone our 10th annual Baawting Anishinaabemowin Conference until the fall of 2020.

We will announce an official date at a later time.

Please continue to use our social media pages and our Livestream page for access to Anishinaabemowin lessons at this time.

Visit Facebook at [SaultTribeLanguageandCulture](https://www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageandCulture), Instagram at [saulttribelanguageculture](https://www.instagram.com/saulttribelanguageculture) or see us on Livestream at <https://livestream.com/saulttribelanguage>

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

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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](http://www.saulttribe.com).

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

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# NIHB launches COVID-19 resource website

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) launched its COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center website with tribally specific coronavirus-related developments, tools and information for tribes.

The website has COVID-19 community health and advocacy tools, fact sheets and information about congressional developments, federal agency and tribal response plans. Tribal leaders, tribal health workers and administrators, tribal community members and advocates for tribal health policy are encouraged to visit the site and use and share the resources with their respective communities and networks.

“The tribes told the National Indian Health Board that they needed more resource materials

on coronavirus and we listened. The NIHB COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center website is the place for tribes and tribal health authorities to gather resources to help educate and protect Native youth, elders and families,” said NIHB CEO Stacy A. Bohlen. “During this public health crisis, NIHB seeks to ensure that the tribes remain informed on COVID-19 and have the resources and assistance needed to respond to the pandemic. The website will help bring awareness of the disease to tribal members.”

The COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center website has six main areas of information: Updates and Communication from NIHB and federal agencies; Community Health Tools section has fact sheets on vulnerable

populations like elders and people with compromised immune systems; Advocacy Tools has legislative alerts, letters to Congress and summaries on the COVID-19 relief funding packages; Tribal Response Plans shares tribe-specific resources; Administration and Agency Responses has guidance and waivers from federal agencies; and a section on coming calls and webinars.

Visit the website at [www.nihb.org/COVID-19](http://www.nihb.org/COVID-19).

In early March, NIHB responded to the growing concern about the COVID-19 outbreak and developed a survey to assess tribal needs and resources. Through the survey results, NIHB learned that tribes are seeking information on emergency preparedness and best practices

for transmission prevention for community members and key risk groups.

The survey also showed that tribes are concerned about the shortage of personal protective equipment, hygiene products and staff shortages.

NIHB also partnered with its member organizations, like the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP), to share expertise and information from Native physicians.

AAIP members are contributing a blog every week for the resource center website that focuses on a series of topics related to COVID-19 through a Native physician's lens. Some blog topics include traditional health, coronavirus effects on Native youth and protections for

vulnerable populations like pregnant mothers and tribal citizens living with chronic illnesses, diabetes and cardiovascular ailments.

The COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center website is part of the NIHB's greater communication strategy to ensure tribes are informed and engaged as this pandemic continues.

In addition to the website, NIHB is hosting national calls and webinars for tribal leaders to provide input and to gain information from key federal agency officials.

“Be assured that NIHB board members and staff are working for tribes and tribal community members during the COVID-19 pandemic,” added Bohlen.

# BIA statement on CARES Act funding process

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Relief Fund for tribal governments provides payments to state, local and tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. Payments to tribal governments are to be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

“Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney is committed to supporting all American Indians and Alaska Natives, and to suggest she has personal motives or that she is attempting to divert funds away from American Indians is completely false. Her approach has always been focused on inclusiveness, transparency and partnerships. It is unfortunate that during a time all should be united, there are those who are seeking to divide the American Indian and Alaska Native community and are suggesting to ignore the mandate

of Congress and exclude eligible entities as defined by law. Since day one of the Trump administration and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Indian Affairs continues to work tirelessly with the tribes to assist their communities, provide critical resources to combat this virus and ensure all of their voices are heard. One example of Assistant Secretary Sweeney's commitment to inclusiveness and building partnerships is a call she held with Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association Inc. leaders on Monday, April 13, as a courtesy, to help the leaders from that region understand the CARES Act process, listen to their concerns and address any of their questions,” said a Department of the Interior spokesperson.

The Department of the Treasury is the lead federal agency, and they are required to consult with the Department of the Interior and Tribes. Treasury must follow the law and provisions that

were prescribed and passed by Congress and mandated to the Administration. The CARES Act, passed by an overwhelming bi-partisan majority, provides \$8 billion in financial assistance to tribal governments.

Treasury hosted in-depth tribal consultations as required by the CARES Act along with the Department of the Interior on April 2 and 9 with nearly 3,000 participants representing Indian Country and Alaska Native villages. Treasury and Indian Affairs accepted written comments through April 13, and 439 comments were received from this process.

The U.S. Department of Treasury is requesting data from tribal governments to assist in the funding determination. The web portal and additional information is located on <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares/state-and-local-governments>. Tribes are required to provide all information to receive a distribu-

tion. The window of opportunity to submit required information is short due to a compressed congressionally mandated timeframe. All information must be received by Treasury no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern, April 17, 2020.

Eligible tribal governments must provide payment information and required supporting documentation using the Eligible Units: Submission Required for Receipt of Coronavirus Relief Fund Payments” Web portal. To ensure payments are made within

the 30-day period specified by the CARES Act, governments must submit completed payment materials no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT on April 17, 2020. Eligible tribal governments that do not provide the required certification by that time may not receive any payment from the fund.

Qualified expenditure guidance and other relevant tribal information will be posted as it becomes available. More information can also be found on [www.bia.gov/covid-19/cares-act](http://www.bia.gov/covid-19/cares-act).

## Re-elect SORENSON Unit III Seat

### SINCE BEING ELECTED --

- Given away yearly \$1000 scholarships
- Wrote a unit report in every newspaper
- Held monthly unit meetings
- Held office hours by appointment
- Testified twice for Sault Tribe Head Start
- Presented the TAP at the Department of Justice Conference
- Was presented an eagle feather at the St. Ignace Native American Festival
- Was tasered by law enforcement for the junior police academy fundraiser
- Sponsored the Annual Kid's fishing day
- Sponsored the Annual EUP Special Olympics Mackinac Island Bike Ride
- Sponsored St. Ignace Sobriety Walks
- Sponsored Christmas Parties and Family Fun Days
- Secured funding for the Ojibwe Museum new longhouse
- Secured funding for the new fire station
- Secured funding for free public skating
- Worked with City of St. Ignace to pass a resolution honoring Indegenious People's Day
- Worked with local cultural teachers to bring teachings and crafts to our area
- Secured funding for local industrial arts program
- Secured after hours walk in clinic
- Secured free gym membership for members
- St. Ignace Elder Complex opened
- Elder meals provided 4 days a week

### DURING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS I WILL CONTINUE --

- On the path of paying of casino debt
- On the path of diversifying with new business opportunities
- Providing more housing opportunities
- To advocate for team members
- To advocate for job advancement
- To increase the 401k contribution
- To open downstate casino(s)
- To fight to improve our assets
- To purchase real estate
- To work on lack of transportation
- To work on online gaming
- To strengthen our cultural imprint
- To Stand Strong with voice heard
- To get the most for our members for the 2020 Consent Decree
- To advocate for Treaty Rights
- To seek membership input and concerns
- To provide better education opportunities
- Working with local school, governments and business to facilitate the trades

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# HUD grants tribes flexibility to help housing tenants, buyers during COVID-19 pandemic

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) granted public housing authorities, Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities waiver authorities and ultimate flexibilities so agency staff can focus on assisting their tenants and properties during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing provides housing assistance to approximately 3.5 million families across the country.

"During difficult times, it is reasonable to expect standard operations and various aspects of ordinary life to be hindered, altered, or upended all together,

but as history often has taught us, Americans – working as one – will prevail," said HUD Secretary Benjamin Carson. "Flexible solutions such as these waivers, which were granted to HUD through the coronavirus relief bill President Trump signed into law, will help housing authorities and tribes meet the unique needs of their residents and ensure all HUD-supported properties are fully operational as we continue working together to defeat this invisible enemy."

"Overseeing six states, we are aware that the public housing authorities and tribes within our region have a myriad of distinct needs," said Midwest Regional Administrator Joseph

Galvan. "These waivers will allow flexibility during this unprecedented national emergency so our assisted residents can continue to be properly served no matter where they live."

The waivers implemented through the Office of Public and Indian Housing's notice provide administrative relief and allow for alternative approaches to various aspects of public housing authority, tribal and tribally designated housing entity operations in a safe and secure manner.

As various parts of the country are experiencing this pandemic at different levels of severity, this notice grants public and tribal

housing authorities full discretion to use these waivers in a way that best supports their communities.

At the onset of this pandemic, HUD took immediate action to help HUD-assisted families in public and tribal housing. In addition to the waiver announced today, the department:

- Strongly encouraged public housing authorities, tribes and tribally designated housing entities to use available funding to keep families in their homes, provide rent flexibilities, and conduct operations remotely if possible.

- Postponed HUD's routine housing inspections at this time so residents and inspectors can minimize their exposure to

germs and follow the presidential guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19.

- Made available an additional \$200 million in grant funding for Native American families, which tribes can use to provide critical health services to assisted residents, reduce overcrowding to minimize infections and community spread, stand up facilities for quarantining or testing if needed, and much more.

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.

More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) and <http://espanol.hud.gov>.

## Housing Authority takes COVID-19 relief measures

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — In response to the widespread chaos following the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Sault Tribe Housing Director Joni Talentino announced on April 9 steps the agency is taking to help relieve members from homelessness or eviction.

Working in partnership with the Sault Tribe Anishnabek Community and Family Services (ACFS), the Housing Authority is able to extend the time members can be in temporary shelters

during the pandemic. Housing is adding \$500 for every \$500 ACFS applies to help homeless members with temporary shelter. This arrangement enables extensions of the Temporary Shelter Program from 14 days to 28 days for the folks who need the help. "This program is critical," said Talentino, "as evening temperatures still remain in the 30s in the area."

The Housing Authority also forgave April and May rent and home ownership program payments for folks living in the

homes overseen by agency. "To date, the Housing Authority has received very positive responses from individuals living in Sault Tribe Housing Authority housing units," Talentino said. She said the reduced payments during those months came as a response to the financial impact individuals faced because of the pandemic.

The Housing Authority also bolstered help for members to avoid evictions and foreclosures through measures taken with the Emergency Housing Assistance

Program, a rental and mortgage assistance program that helps members in the tribe's service area. In order to help as many people as possible, the Housing Authority Commission approved a program budget of \$250,000 and increased the standard service amount from \$750 to \$1,000. "As the pandemic progresses, the Housing Authority is seeing increased interest in the program," Talentino remarked.

With all that, the Housing Authority continues to provide critical services for members such

as the emergency program to replace furnaces and water heaters (up to \$6,500) for members living off of the reservation in the service area and own their own homes if they meet income eligibility requirements. In addition, emergency maintenance continues to be available every day, around the clock for those living in Housing Authority homes.

To learn more, the Housing Authority can be contacted at either (800) 794-4072 or (906) 495-1450 or by email at [housing@saulttribe.net](mailto:housing@saulttribe.net).

**Dear valued customers and Kewadin team members:**

Thank you for your messages of encouragement during our closure. Your kind words have not gone unnoticed. We want you to know that we miss you and we hope you are staying safe and healthy.

We are very much looking forward to visiting with you all soon. Until then, watch for updates at [kewadin.com](http://kewadin.com) and continue to contact us at [kewadinrelations@saulttribe.net](mailto:kewadinrelations@saulttribe.net).

Sincerely,  
Allen Kerridge  
Kewadin Casinos  
Interim CEO



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# Anishinaabemowin 2020

*"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."*

**Endaayin:** Where you live, or in English: At your house.

**Wiigwaam** is our word for house - in the form our earliest ancestors made or the one you live in today; rounded or rectangular.

After the "stay at home, stay safe" directives we've lived under because of "The Virus," we've gotten a lot more familiar with our homes! Label all the items on the right, as they appear in the house drawing below. The railing on the porch is a little fence: *mchikan-enhs*. One of the items on the list is missing in the drawing.



by Susan Askwith  
*Namebin Giizis ~ Sucker Moon*  
*Waawaaskwone Giizis ~ Flower Moon*  
 April, then May

This page is usually prepared weeks before it comes to you. Last month "visiting" was a good midwinter topic. How things have changed! By the time you got your March paper we were asked to stay home to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Thanks for having had the good sense to temporarily visit via phone and internet.

**Learning Strategy:** We learn things we encounter over and over. You *could* make a name tag with a scrap of paper or a sticky note for as many of the house items below as you have at your place. Have fun!

Pakwaan.....	Roof
Boodwaajigan.....	Chimney
Aasmaatik.....	Wall
Mchisak.....	Floor
Waasechigan.....	Window
Shkwaandem.....	Door
Kwaandwaagan.....	Stairway
Naamisak.....	Basement
Shpimsagong.....	Upstairs
Jiibaakwegamig.....	Kitchen
Nbwaachwegamig.....	Living Room
Zaakamoogamig.....	Bathroom
Nbegamig.....	Bedroom
Biitoosbak.....	Attic
Boodoowan.....	Fireplace
Biitookaaan.....	Porch (enclosed)
Desagaan.....	Porch (open) or Deck
Mchikan.....	Fence

## Talk To Me!

*Here are some sentences you can use as models for making your own. Substitute "the cat" for the name of someone (like "Michelle"). You can also change the room of course. Go for it!*

Aanii piish <i>gaazhik</i> yaat?	Where is the <i>cat</i> ?
Aanii piish <i>nimosh</i> yaat?	Where is the <i>dog</i> ?
Dibii'iidik.	I don't know.
Jiibaakwe-gamig-ong yaa.	S/he is in the kitchen.
Desagaan-ing yaa.	S/he is on the porch.
Besha waasechigan yaa.	S/he is <i>near</i> the window.

## Behind the Scenes in Anishinaabemowin

In this lesson the word "yaa" is used. It means someone (alive) is located somewhere. In the question sentences, yaa has a "t" at the end signaling a particular (third) person is "there."

The room names mostly end in "gamig" which indicates a structure - a room or building.

If you want to say "at the," "in the," or "to the," you would tack on an ending like "ong" or "ing." And those endings are general; you get to figure out for yourself if it means "in," "at" or "to." So *jiibaakwegamigong* literally means "cooking room in the" English: in the kitchen. Note "desagaan" uses "ing" (on the porch). Which ending to choose? You learn from listening.

Ha!  
Ha!  
Ha!



**How do you stay warm in a cold room?**  
 Go to the corner. It's always 90 degrees!  
*Room: aachkinigan (a general word)*  
*Corner: ziingaak*

## 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.

# Board resolutions passed, Feb. 4 to April 14

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians convened on Feb. 4, 2020, in Sault Ste. Marie with all present except for directors Matson and Morrow. The board passed the following resolutions.

2020-36 — *Establishment of FY 2020 Budget Sawyer Village — Harvey Properties* — Approved for other revenue funds of \$220,563.33.

37 — *Establishment of FY 2020 Budget ACFS Advocacy Resource Center* — DTE Foundation — Approved for other revenue funds of \$15,000 with no effect on tribal support.

38 — *ACFS — Tribal Governments FY 2020 Budget Modification* — Approved for an increase in federal DOJ funds of \$7,705.60 with no effect on tribal support.

39 — *Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation* — Authorized submission of an application to the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation for FY 2020.

40 — *Establishment of FY 2020 Budget Mitigation Action Funds* — Approved with other revenue funds of \$194,376 with no effect on tribal support.

41 — *Education — Early Head Start FY 2020 Budget Modification* — Approved for an increase in tribal support funding of \$46,670.60.

42 — *Establishment of FY 2020 Budget Manistique Optical* — Approved for federal Indian Health Service funds of \$92,665.06 and third party revenue of \$77,313.99 with no effect on tribal support.

43 — *Elimination of FY 2020 Budget Cancer Control Program* — Approved for removing other revenue funding of \$10,000 with no effect on tribal support.

44 — *Establishment of FY 2020 Budget Health Education — Community Health* — Approved for other revenue

funding of \$156,000 and federal Indian Health Service funds of \$344,325.91 with no effect on tribal support.

45 — *Indian Health Service: BEMAR Project Funding 2020* — Approved use of Indian Health Service Funds to address 2020 backlog of essential maintenance, alteration and repair (BEMAR) projects and related administrative functions.

46 — *Transportation Program 2020-23 Transportation Improvement Plan* — Authorized support and adoption of the 2020-23 transportation improvement plan for certain projects developed between the tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

47 — *Trust Land Lease(s) To the Tribal EDC and Lume Company* — Authorizes negotiation of a lease of tribal trust lands to the Lume Company.

The board convened another meeting in Sault Ste. Marie on Feb. 24 with all present except for Director McLeod.

Resolution 2020-48 — *Partial Waiver of Conviction* — granted for an individual convicted of two felony counts of delivering or manufacturing a controlled substance and one misdemeanor count of maintaining a drug house.

49 — *Governmental — GLRI Capacity FY 2020 Budget Modification* — Approved for a decrease in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative federal funds of \$8,159.08, no effect on tribal support.

50 — *Continuing Funding Authority For Health Division Fiscal Year 2020 October to September* — Continues funding for certain services at 2019 spending levels for one month in 2020.

51 — *Trust Land Lease Canceled — Lot 80 and 81, Kincheloe, Michigan* — Approved.

52 — *Trust Land Lease — Lot*

80 and 81, Kincheloe, Michigan — Approved.

53 — *Trust Land Lease Canceled — Lot 922, Kincheloe, Michigan* — Approved.

54 — *Trust Land Lease — Lot 922, Kincheloe, Michigan* — Approved.

55 — *Trust Land Lease Canceled — Lots 924 and 925, Kincheloe, Michigan* — Approved.

56 — *Trust Land Lease — Lot 924, Kinross, Michigan* — Approved.

57 — *Trust Land Lease — Lot 925, Kinross, Michigan* — Approved.

58 — *Trust Land Lease Cancellation — DD-091(15)* — Approved.

59 — *Trust Land Lease — Lots 616 and 617, Kinross, Michigan* — Approved.

60 — *Re-appointment of Lori Jump as an Appellate Judge (Community Member Position)* — Re-appointed to a four-year term beginning on Feb. 24, 2020.

61 — *Approving Contract Sonosky Chambers* — Approved for continuing a contract between Sault Tribe and Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson and Perry, LLP, for the 2020 calendar year for the purpose of providing federal lobbying to the tribe.

62 — *Transportation Program U.S. 2 Speed Limit Reduction and No Passing Zone* — Support for efforts of the U.S. 2 Intergovernmental Workgroup to advocate for a reduced speed limit from 65 mph to 55 mph and designation of a no passing zone along a 1.8 mile segment between the city limits and the Duck Inn Road on U.S. Highway 2 in Schoolcraft County, Mich.

63 — *Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Waiver of Tribal Court Jurisdiction In Re Greektown Holdings LLC* — Authorized and directs the tribe through its chairperson and attorneys to resolve

the Papas/Gatzaros objection to the settlement agreement by agreeing to the litigation cooperation provision on such terms as they may agree upon. Limited waiver of sovereignty and tribal court jurisdiction granted.

64 — *Continuation of Interim Position at Mental Health* — Approved continuation of interim status of Behavioral Health supervisor.

65 — *Dental Upgrades, Establishment of Dental Capital Expenditures 2020 Budget* — Approved for dental upgrades and renovation in the amount of \$2 million (with \$500,000 from Facilities fund balance, \$500,000 from Contract Support Settlement fund balance and \$1 million from third party revenues).

The board reconvened on March 4 with all present except for directors Matson and McKerchie.

Resolution 2020-66 — *Establishment of FY 2020 Budget GLRI Whitefish Recruitment Bottleneck Project* — Approved for BIA funding of \$27,009.79 with no effect on tribal support.

67 — *COPS TRGP 2018 Grant 2020 Budget Modification* — Approved for DOJ funding of \$42,686.61 with no effect on tribal support.

68 — *Trust Land Lease Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.* — Authorized for five parcels to two individuals.

69 — *Early Head Start Conversion 2020* — Supported plan submission to the Office of Head Start, American Indian and Alaska Natives Program branch for conversion of 12 Early Head Start home based slots to three center based slots at current funding level.

70 — *Community Housing Network Garfield Landing Project Authorization to Invest Eagle Lending Funds* — Authorized for up to \$50,000.

71 — *Approving Term Sheet*

*GAN-Jack Entertainment* — Authorized negotiation and entrance into a binding term sheet agreement subject to legal review.

The board convened on March 17 with all present except for Director Matson.

Resolution 2020-72 — *Declaration of State of Emergency* — State of emergency declared throughout the tribe's reservation lands. Administrations of tribal casinos, government, health services and law enforcement directed to coordinate and maximize tribal efforts that may be activated to resist the spread and injuries caused by the spread of COVID-19. The tribe's executive director, interim CEO of casinos and EDC executive director shall have authority to temporarily modify policies or procedures, order closures, cancel or schedule events, implement programs and take all other appropriate steps they deem essential for the protection of the public.

The executive director shall provide daily updates to the board.

The state of emergency shall be terminated when emergency conditions no longer exist and appropriate programs have been implemented to recover from any effects of the emergency conditions as determined by the executive director of the tribe. The termination of the state of emergency shall be reported for review to the board at the next meeting following the termination.

73 — *Amending Chapter 14: Rules of Parliamentary Procedures* — Tribal Code Chapter 14, Section 14.109 amended to include video conferencing with voting shall be permitted for the tribe's board of directors and committees during declared states of emergency unless prohibited by federal law.

The board reconvened on March 24 with all present.

See "Resolutions," Page 8

## Always Focusing on the Future.



Re-Elect  
Lana Causley-Smith  
Sault Tribe Unit 2  
Board Representative

Chi-Miigwech to all of Unit 2 for your help when I needed it by supporting me and signing my petitions for re-election. I am so grateful, I would like you to know that there will be not be a primary election in our unit; general election ballots will be mailed to your home in June 2020. I humbly ask for your continued trust and support for re-election.

I proudly serve and support every

- Elder Committee- (3)
- Youth activity program (2)
- Conservation/treaty rights
- Pow wow committees/  
Cultural Gatherings

Our unit is so very unique as our Unit 2 members are side by side serving and together we enhance our communities.

Lanacausley@outlook.com  
(906) 484-2954

Endorsed by committee to elect Lana Causley-Smith

# Tribe gets \$1.6 million COVID-19 housing needs

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Federal officials have awarded \$1.6 million to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to carry out affordable housing activities to protect the safety and health of tribal members amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Cash provided to the tribe is among \$4.5 million allocated to Michigan tribes and \$200 million nationwide.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson said, "When President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) into law, he wanted to ensure that American Indian tribes received the assistance they needed to combat the coronavirus."

Assistant Secretary for Public

and Indian Housing R. Hunter Kurtz said President Trump is working to ensure American Indian families get the resources they need during this unprecedented time.

Indian Housing Block Grants primarily benefit low-income American Indian families. The amount of each grant is based on local needs and housing units under management by the tribe. Funding is intended for activities and projects designed to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19, and maintain operations impacted by COVID-19.

In response to the Coronavirus, the Sault Tribe Housing Authority continues to work hard to provide housing relief to tribal members. The Emergency Housing Assistance

## TOTALS AWARDED TO MICHIGAN TRIBES:

**Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, \$1.6 million;**  
**Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, \$652,952;**  
**Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, \$595,908;**  
**Saginaw Chippewa Indians Tribe, \$484,754;**  
**Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa, \$389,890;**  
**Bay Mills Indian Community, \$240,727;**  
**Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, \$190,191;**  
**Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi \$130,894;**  
**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, \$91,607;**  
**Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, \$81,018;**  
**Hannahville Indian Community, \$61,249;**  
**Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, \$58,700.**

program is for membership within the tribe's service area and is designed to prevent eviction and foreclosure. The standard service was \$750 and has been increased to \$1000. The Sault Tribe Housing Authority Commission approved a \$250,000 budget for this program.

The Housing Authority is also announcing a new service for homeless prevention. In partnership with Sault Tribe's Anishnabek Community and Family Services, the Housing Authority is extending its temporary shelter program during the pandemic. ACFS contributes

\$500, and the Housing Authority matches it with another \$500 for homeless tribal members who will use the money for temporary shelter. The new service enables homeless members to extend the Temporary Shelter Program from 14 days to 28 days.

"These are challenging and uncertain times; housing administration continues to assess housing needs. This is just a start," Housing Director Joni Talentino said. "I assure you Housing is committed to actions that assist our membership to retain housing."

In addition, HUD announced it began allocating \$3.064 billion to help America's low-income families and is cutting the red tape so grantees can quickly help their communities.

# Resolutions passed from February 4 to April 14

From "Resolutions," Page 7

**Resolution 2020-74 — FY 2020 Institute of Museum and Library Services Basic Library Grant** — Authorized a grant application in support of the Ojibwe Learning Center and Library.

**75 — Preservation and Protection of the Anishinaabemowin Language** — Declared Anishinaabemowin as the official language of the tribe and its reservation lands along with support of all promotion and protection efforts to preserve the language.

**76 — WODA Group Escanaba Project Loan Authorization** — Approved the economic development director to invest up to \$100,000 in the WODA Group's proposed Escanaba Project using Project Developer Funds.

**77 — Authorization to Purchase Property Chippewa County** — Approved for the tribe's economic development director to negotiate and enter into an agreement for a parcel not to exceed a previously set price.

**78 — Authorization to Negotiate Sault Ste. Marie, MI, Property Acquisition** — Approved for the tribe's economic development director to negotiate the purchase of property using DeMawating Development funds.

**79 — Sawyer Village-Christmas Site FY 2020 Capital Expenditures Budget Modification** — Approved for an increase of \$100,000 from the fund balance of Sawyer Village.

**80 — DeMawating Development — Riverside Trailer Park FY 2020 Capital Expenditures Budget Modification** — Approved for an increase of \$50,000 with funding from the fund balance of DeMawating Development.

**81 — ACFS — USDA FY**

**2020 Budget Modification** — Approved for an increase of \$707,997 in federal funding and a decrease in tribal support of \$14,181.21.

**82 — ACFS — Child Care Development Fund FY 2020 Budget Modification** — Approved for an increase in tribal support of \$300,000.52.

**83 — 2020 Head Start and Early Head Start Grant** — Supported submission of grant application to the Office of Head Start, American Indian and Alaska Native Program branch.

**84 — 2020 Head Start and Early Head Start COLA and Quality Funding** — Supported submission of a grant application to the Office of Head Start, American Indian and Alaska Native Program.

**85 — ITC MI Tribal Foods Access Coalition (MTFAC) Mishkikiwan Miidjim "Food As Medicine" Acceptance of Grant and Establishment of 2020 Budget** — Accepted Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan award of \$22,000 and approved establishment of a budget of the funds with no effect on tribal support.

**86 — Appointing Workers Compensation Committee Members** — Named Melissa Fox-Evans to serve on the committee until the board determines otherwise.

**87 — FY 2020 Budget Document 002 — Health Division, and FY 2020 Budget Modifications for Third Party Revenue and Maintenance/Improvements/Capital Outlays** — Approved for Health Divisions totaling \$38,928,959 with no funding from tribal support, third party revenue for \$19,951,907 with no effect on tribal support and modification to maintenance/improvements/capital outlays for an increase in IHS revenue of \$619,213 with no effect on tribal support.

**88 — Continuing Funding Authority for Fiscal Year 2020 January to December** — Approved for certain cost centers at 2019 spending levels for up to 90 days.

**89 — Continuing Funding Authority for Fiscal Year 2021 April to March** — Approved for certain cost centers at 2020 spending levels for up to 90 days.

**90 — Resolution to Support Sault Tribe Programs, Services and Employees During State of Emergency** — Approved the balance of the \$5.5 million Contract Support Cost Settlement Funds

shall be made available for executive management to back fill for cost of wages incurred as needed during casino shut down and governmental move to essential operations during the state of emergency.

The board reconvened on April 14 with all present.

**91 — FY 2020 Budget Document 003** — Approved for \$62,571,323 of which \$18,953,707 comes from tribal support.

**92 — ACFS — Child Care Development Funds (2800 and 2801) FY 2020 Budget**

**Modifications** — Approved for a decrease in Indian Health Service funds of \$27,726.52 with no effect on tribal support and an increase in Health and Human Services funds of \$99,910.03 with no effect on tribal support.

**93 — Adopting Tribal Code Chapter 47: Commercial Marijuana Ordinance** — Adopted as a necessity for orderly operation of retail marijuana licensing.

See resolutions and voting records in their entirety online at the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' website, log on to [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

## Vote Michael McKerchie - Unit 1 Board of Directors - Moving Forward Together

I respectfully ask for your continued support. As your current Unit 1 Representative, I believe in respectful, responsible leadership and I will continue to work with the Tribal membership, community members, local, state, and federal agencies, and the Board of Directors to continue our Tribe's success. I will continue to represent your interest to the best of my ability. I have the experience and I can help our Tribe continue to flourish. I've been and continue to be involved and am dedicated to our tribe. I ask for your vote to continue moving our Tribe forward...

Miigwetch,  
Michael McKerchie

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### Full-Time Board Representation

- Child Welfare Committee
- Audit Committee
- JKL School Fiduciary Committee
- SSM City Liaison Committee
- LSSU Native American Advisory Committee
- Sault & Kinross Pow Wow Committee
- Tribal Action Plan Data Sub-Committee
- National ACF Tribal Advisory Committee
- Great Lakes Consent Decree 2020 Negotiation Team
- Prior JKL School Board Member
- Prior Election Committee Member
- Prior 23 Years working for Sault Tribe & Kewadin Casinos

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EXPERIENCED  
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# Michael McKerchie



# Chippewa County Face Mask Makers form on Facebook

**VOLUNTEERS COLLECT SUPPLIES, SOLICIT DONATIONS, SHARE PATTERNS AND TIPS, AND MAKE FACE MASKS FOR FRONT LINE STAFF**

BY **BRENDA AUSTIN**

What do an invasive species specialist, a dental biller and a youth services coordinator have in common? They are all members of the Chippewa County Michigan Face Mask Makers group that formed on Facebook in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The group's focus is to provide front line staff including police, fire, EMS, health care facilities and nursing homes/assisted living programs with homemade face masks they can use to extend the life of their current N95 masks or use as backup in case supplies run low. As of April 21, the group had 697 members and distributed over 5,500 masks in Chippewa County, has fully stocked War Memorial Hospital staff, and is now taking requests for those who are essential workers and need masks or businesses anticipating reopening.

Tiffany Escherich, a resident of Dafer, Mich., is an invasive species specialist for the Bay Mills Indian Community with a degree in fisheries and wildlife management from Lake Superior State University. Escherich created the Chippewa County group and acts as its coordinator. She has been working to solicit donations so the group can purchase bulk orders of supplies to make the masks. "Supplies to make the face masks have been sold out, and sell out quick when they do get some into the local

stores," she said.

Volunteers of all ages and walks of life have joined the effort, including residents of Barbeau, Cedarville, Hessel, Pickford, Rudyard, Dafer, Raco, Brimley, Bay Mills, Paradise and Sault Ste. Marie. Escherich said there are tribal members in Units I and II who are working hard to find needed supplies and get masks made and distributed. Escherich said, "So far we've been able to make masks from our personal craft stashes and have supplemented with donations. I was able to secure enough donations to place a bulk order of cord elastic that should cover our elastic needs. Appropriate elastic is very difficult to find, even online. But now some local places that will be receiving these masks have started ordering us supplies online to be shipped. War Memorial Hospital, for example, has a UV sterilization process, but it takes five hours. Other places can sterilize by simply washing the face masks. Sterilization processes will require these facilities to have multiple masks in stock per staff member. We are working hard to make sure our health system is supplied with enough of these masks for when or if the time comes that their hospital grade masks run out. We are making three different sizes, small (child), medium and large. Some are made with pockets to insert filters and some have an



**Tiffany Escherich's 5-year-old son Jase Escherich, a Sault Tribe member, modeling a kid size mask.**

interface sewn in as a filter.

The group doesn't have the time or resources to take orders for personal mask needs and are requesting people to reach out to friends and family if you need help making one for yourself. "Most places we set out to make masks for have received enough to be covered, and we've been able now to branch out to some retail and other essential workers who have not been supplied with PPEs by their employers and have asked for it," Escherich said.

The idea for the group, Escherich said, came from people sharing articles about hospitals asking the public to make masks downstate. "After speaking with a few friends in health care, it was determined we would have

a need and it's great we got on top of this early. There were others in the area already making masks before I made the group, but the group has helped us come together as a community to help share materials and skills. Some people sew, some cut fabric and others donate monetarily towards supplies. This effort is a marathon and not a sprint," she said.

She said a small group of Hessel and Bay Mills Sault Tribe members have been tag teaming on getting masks made for Freighter View Assisted Living and have been sharing supplies by dropping bags at each other's doorsteps and mailboxes. "I put a tote at the end of my driveway with surplus supplies like thread and precut fabric for people to pick up to use," Escherich said. Another small group of Sault Tribe members led by Brandy King has been working to fill a large order of masks for the Sault Tribe Health Center.

Ali Carrick is a dental biller at Bay Mills Health Center and lives in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Carrick, Sonja Killips, Nicole Cameron and Jenna Cameron are all working with a great group of girls to make masks for the Boys and Girls Club in Brimley and for Bay Mills tribal elders. They have donated some masks to the Bay Mills Health Center and Freighter View Assisted Living. Carrick said her and her mother, Patti Bunckek, are working to get some made for the Bay Mills

Police Department, Bay Mills Emergency Connection, Bay Mills Township Firehall, among others. She said that Darryl Cameron has been making masks for friends and family, but also volunteered to make them for Bay Mills Township Firehall. The Brimley Boys and Girls Club also begun making masks for first responders and essential workers.

"I work for the Bay Mills Health Center, and even though I'm currently working from home I want to do all I can to keep my friends and family on the front lines safe," Carrick said. "They can't do their jobs if they are sick, and in a small community like this every person out sick effects the wellness of the whole community. I'm very proud of everyone who is taking time to make masks for front-line workers or their friends and family. We might not know who all you are, but we are all essential to fighting together in our separate spaces!"

Lisa Burnside is a youth service coordinator for the Sault Tribe who lives in Hessel. She started making masks for family living in Texas and Florida, when she posted pictures of them on Facebook, a former student who is now a hospital worker in Indiana contacted her about making some. "Now I'm helping Tiffany with the Chippewa Country group," Burnside said, "and I'm also making masks

*See "Masks," page 27*



## Jen McLeod

### TRIBAL CHAIRWOMAN 2020

**Using hard earned wisdom, education, experience, and embracing our cultural values, I have helped guide many to a brighter future.**

***I want to do the same for our Tribe – with YOUR support!***

- **Qualified Leadership**  
*Tribal, National, State, Region*
- **Experienced Chairwoman**  
*Runs a "Tight Ship" – keeping meetings fair, orderly, on-point, and accomplishing agenda items.*
- **PUSH Focused**  
*Prosperity, Unity, Sovereignty, Honesty*
- **Tribal Elder**

***Together we can help raise our Tribe, and our people, to their fullest potential.***

Visit my website to learn more: [jmcleodsaulttribe.com](http://jmcleodsaulttribe.com)



***Please feel free to contact me!***

**Facebook: Jennifer McLeod**

**Phone: (906) 440-9151**



For Strong Local, Regional, Inter-Tribal & National Leadership ~ Please Vote

# PAYMENT

Sault Tribe Chairperson

Paid for by the Community to Elect Aaron Payment

*Ahmeen, Boozho, Sault Tribe Citizen & Voter:*

I appreciate your support & serving as your Tribal Chairperson. I love my job. The State of Our Sault Tribe Union is great. Our past debt is nearly paid off. Were it not for the Covid-19 Crisis and related expense to rightfully pay our casino and government team members during the shut down, we would have already paid off our debt. I am working hard to secure new funding from the federal government to offset our losses and expenses. I am very proud to have been one of a handful of National Level Tribal Leaders who were successful in securing \$8 billion out of the \$2 trillion appropriated by Congress.

As 1st Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians, I was directly involved in ensuring our voice was heard. I also participated directly as the Midwest Co-Chair for the Tribal Interior Budget Council, HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory, Acting President of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes and President of the United Tribes of Michigan. I anticipate our Sault Tribe share of these funds will be in the tens of millions.

There are some weighty issues facing Our Tribe and critically important agenda items that deserve our attention and commitment. Here are just a few but there are many more. Please check out my Facebook page 'Aaron Payment' for updates and details.

- \* Our Mandatory Trust Petition ~ Downstate Land;
- \* Downstate Gaming Expansion to Benefit All;
- \* Gaming Compact Negotiations with Michigan;
- \* Expand Our Economic Diversity Portfolio;
- \* Membership Driven Decision Making
- \* Perpetuating Our Way of Live, Culture & Traditions
- \* Healing & Re-Building Tribal & Inter-Tribal Unity
- \* Increased Elder Checks & Elder Services
- \* Services Expansion for All Members Everywhere;
- \* Health Care & Mail Order Prescriptions
- \* Expand Tribal Clinics in All 5 Election Units;
- \* Pay Tribal Employees During Covid19 Crisis;
- \* Secure Our Portion of the \$8 Billion Tribal Relief;
- \* Expand Services to Deal with Opiate Epidemic;
- \* Treaty Fishing Consent Decree Negotiations;
- \* Fulfillment of our Treaty & Trust Obligations;
- \* Fight Against National Threats to Our Sovereignty;
- \* Protect Sacred Sites & Our Natural Resources;
- \* Education & Vocational Scholarships (All Ages)
- \* Tribal Small Business Alliance Assistance
- \* Shut Down Line 5 to Protect Our Waters & Fish

I believe that now is not a time to change oars, but to paddle even faster to achieve the interests of our Tribe & to benefit All Tribal Members in Every Unit at our Members who live At Large. All Members Lives member matters to me.

I am humbly asking for your continued support and vote to re-elect me as your Tribal Chairperson.

*Chie McGurtich, Negee. ~ Aaron*

## ✓ DEDICATED ✓ EXPERIENCED ✓ EDUCATED

- Tribal Chairperson (3 terms)
- Vice Chair (2 terms)
- Unit 1 BOD Member (2 terms)
- NCAI 1st Vice President (2 terms)
- NCAI Secretary & Regional VP
- VP, Midwest Alliance of Tribes
- President, United Tribes of MI
- Chair, Inter-Tribal Council of MI
- Past ST Deputy Executive Director
- ST Federal Policy Administrator
- Former University Professor
- 100% of Career Serving Natives
- 30 Year Education Advocate
- Presidential Appt. ~ Indian Ed
- HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory
- National Substance Abuse Council
- 3 Master's & a Doctorate Degree
- Testified in Congress 25+ Times
- Nationally Known Treaty Advocate
- Created Top Access for Our Tribe
- Respected by Inter-Tribal Leaders
- Remembers Where He Came From
- Lives our Anishinabe Biimaadziwin
- Loves Serving All Indian People

## School House Rock: The Value of Payment's Political Capital



FY	Execute Fiscal Year Budget																							
FY 2020	Execute Fiscal Year Budget																							
FY 2021	Finalize budget proposals with OMB			Budget Release	Budget Resolution & Hearings			Write, pass 2 appropriations bills			Execute Fiscal Year Budget													
FY 2022	Planning within agency			Agencies received guidance from OMB			Agencies submit proposal			Finalize budget proposals with OMB			Budget Release			Budget Resolutions & Hearings			Write, Pass 12 Appropriations Bills					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
	CY 2019						CY 2020						CY 2021											



Let's always remember that the funds we receive from the federal government are as a result of the over 5 million acres of land tribes ceded through treaties which promised, "health, education and social welfare" forever. It is

not welfare or reparations. It is the law pursuant to the US Constitution. Every time Chairperson Payment testifies, he reminds the US Congress and the Presidential Administration of this.

Having said this, it takes a well educated, experienced and strong leader to carry this message. It also takes strategic positioning through National Native Organizations, service on National Native Advisories, and relationships

built with Members of Congress.



### 3 YEAR BUDGET CYCLE PROCESS

The three year process starts with spending limits which guides the presidential administration's drafting of the federal budget. This is called budget formulation. Chairperson serves on the Tribal Interi-

or Budget Council as Midwest Co-Chair. Chairperson Payment and other tribal leaders help shape the Department of Interior Budget request. He also serves on the Health and Human Services Secretary Tribal Advisory which aids in budget formulation.



Once the President's budget

is presented, the US House and Senate then pick it apart and usually



offer a greater amount. The President proposes, but Congress disposes. This is why relationship building with Congressmembers and Senators is critical.

While the Sault Tribe contrib-

utes virtually nothing to political campaigns, Chairperson Payment makes up for this through the hard earned personal relationships he has forged including personal friendship with both US Senators from MI ~ Debbie Stabenow and Peters.

Chairperson Payment has testified over 25 times in the US Congress including for the last three appropriations cycles for all of Indian Country which directly benefits the Sault Tribe

and our Members. He also saw the value and completed his doctorate in order to wield additional influence when Members of Congress address him as Dr. & Chairperson Payment.

Successful advocacy is non-partisan. Chairperson Payment has worked closely with all four Native American Members in Congress who are both republican and democrat. He has proven effective on both sides of the political isle to benefit our Tribe.



Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D)



Congressman Tom Cole (R)



Congresswoman Sharice Davids (D)

Primary Ballots Mailed: May 1<sup>st</sup>; Due by May 22<sup>nd</sup>

One Vote... Your Vote Will Make the Difference!

General Ballots Mailed: June 5<sup>th</sup>; Due by June 25<sup>th</sup>

# Governor Gretchen Whitmer calls for Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities

LANSING, Mich. – Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently signed Executive Order No. 2020-55 creating the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted communities of color throughout our state. While African Americans represent 13.6 percent of Michigan's population, they represent a staggering 40 percent of the deaths from COVID-19.

The task force will act in an advisory capacity to the governor and study the causes of racial disparities in the impact of COVID-19 and recommend actions to immediately address such disparities and the historical and systemic inequities that underlie them.

"COVID-19 has taken a disproportionate toll on Michigan's communities of color and I am confident this task force will help us identify the factors driving this disparity and to identify actions we can take to create a more equitable Michigan for everyone," Gov. Whitmer said. "Each of the task force members will provide a unique perspective and play a vital part in identifying these barriers and ensuring all Michiganders have equal access to critical resource when they need them most."

"We know that generations of racial disparities and inequality has a detrimental impact on the lives of people across the state," Lt. Governor

Gilchrist said. "The coronavirus pandemic has shown this inequity to be particularly damaging, especially in the Black community, where the health of our friends and family has been disproportionately impacted. That's why we are taking immediate action to assemble some of the greatest minds to tackle this racial injustice now and in the future."

The task force will investigate the causes of racial disparities in the impact of COVID-19, recommend actions to address those disparities, and suggest ways to:

- Increase transparency in reporting data regarding the racial and ethnic impact of COVID-19.
- Remove barriers to accessing physical and mental health care.
- Reduce the impact of medical bias in testing and treatment.
- Mitigate environmental and infrastructure factors contributing to increased exposure during pandemics resulting in mortality.
- Develop and improve systems for supporting long-term economic recovery and physical and mental health care following a pandemic.

The task force will also work with different groups of community action stakeholders. Given the complexities of developing and implementing actions to address racial disparities, a diversity of stakeholders will provide valuable insights about how best to engage with the community, local government, and health systems.

The task force will also identify avenues of funding for combatting racial disparities in the impact of COVID-19 and recommend changes in Michigan law relevant to combatting racial disparities in the impact of and response to pandemics.

The Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities will be chaired by Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist and include Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon or his designee, Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun and the following members appointed by the governor:

Brandi Nicole Basket, D.O., of Clinton Township, is the chief medical officer for Meridian Health Plan Michigan Market.

Matthew L. Boulton, M.D., of Ann Arbor, is the senior associate dean for Global Public Health and director of the Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training Program at the University of Michigan.

Renée Branch Canady, Ph.D., of Lansing, is the chief executive officer of the Michigan Public Health Institute.

Denise Brooks-Williams, of Detroit, is the senior vice president and chief executive officer of the Henry Ford Health System North Market.

Dessa Nicole Cosma, of Detroit, is the executive director of Detroit Disability Power.

Connie Dang, of Jenison,

is the director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and special assistant for Inclusive Community Outreach at Grand Valley State University.

Marijata Daniel-Echols, Ph.D., of Farmington Hills, is the program officer at W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Debra Furr-Holden, Ph.D., of Flint, is an epidemiologist, the associate dean for Public Health Integration at Michigan State University, and the director of the Flint Center for Health Equity Solutions.

Audrey E. Gregory, Ph.D., of Franklin, is the chief executive officer of the Detroit Medical Center.

Whitney Griffin, of Detroit, is the director of Marketing and Communications for the Downtown Detroit Partnership.

Bridget G. Hurd, of Southfield, is the senior director of Diversity and Inclusion at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Curtis L. Ivery, Ph.D., of Detroit, is the chancellor of Wayne County Community College District.

Solomon Kinloch Jr., of Oakland Township, is the senior pastor at Triumph Church in Detroit.

Jametta Y. Lilly, of Detroit, is the chief executive officer of the Detroit Parent Network.

Curtis Lipscomb, of Detroit, is the executive director of LGBT Detroit.

Mona Makki, of Dearborn,

is the director of the ACCESS Community Health and Research Center.

Alycia R. Meriweather, of Detroit, is the deputy superintendent of the Detroit Public Schools Community District.

Randolph Rasch, Ph.D., of East Lansing, is a professor and dean of the Michigan State University College of Nursing.

Celeste Sanchez Lloyd, of Grand Rapids, is the community program manager for Strong Beginnings at Spectrum Health and a fellow in the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Jamie Paul Stuck, of Scotts, is the Tribal Council chairman and member of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribal Council.

Maureen Taylor, of Detroit, is the state chair of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization.

LaChandra White, of Allen Park, is the director of the UAW Civil and Human Rights Department.

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., of Detroit, is the president of Wayne State University.

The task force will continue its work until 90 days after the termination of the declared states of emergency and disaster, or such other time as the Governor identifies.

These appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

## NCAI, NARF response on Census operations extension

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) applaud the decision by the U.S. Census Bureau to request statutory authority from Congress to extend 2020 Census operations by 120 days.

The U.S. Census Bureau requested that field data collection and self-response for the 2020 Census be extended until Oct. 31, 2020, due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which has already resulted in a suspension of all Census field operations. The bureau further requested apportionment counts be delivered to the president by April 30, 2021 and redistricting data be delivered to the states by July 31, 2021.

The U.S. Census Bureau's in-person field operations are critical to getting a complete count

of rural Indian Country and urban American Indians/Alaska Natives (AIANs). Although millions of Americans can respond to the census questionnaire through the Internet, by phone or by mail, those options are largely unavailable to AIANs. Most AIAN tribal areas and reservations are in geographically isolated areas that lack access to broadband and reliable cellular coverage. AIANs living on reservations or in rural areas typically lack street addresses, which prevents them from receiving census materials by mail. These barriers and others, such as language and illiteracy, are why the U.S. Census Bureau has designated many households in tribal areas to receive their 2020 Census questionnaire directly from bureau staff visiting their communities.

The impact of the U.S. Census Bureau's suspension of field

operations on Indian Country is profound. While the national response self-response rate is over 48 percent, the self-response rates in many tribal areas that depend on in-person enumeration are in the low single-digits

- Fort Apache Reservation (Arizona) - self-response rate of 1.7 percent;
- Crow Reservation (Montana) - self-response rate of 2.3 percent;
- Pine Ridge Reservation (South Dakota) - self-response rate of 2.9 percent;
- Acoma Pueblo (New Mexico) - self-response rate of 3.7 percent;
- Pala Reservation (California) - self-response rate of 4.4 percent; and
- Turtle Mountain Reservation (North Dakota) - self-response rate of 4.9 percent.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is having an unprecedented impact on efforts to get a complete count

in Indian Country," said Natalie Landreth, senior staff attorney at NARF. "Native Americans living on tribal lands had an undercount of at least 4.9 percent in 2010, the highest of any population group. If bureau staff and their national and tribal partners do not have sufficient time to complete the count of urban Natives and those living on reservations, entire tribal nations could virtually disappear. That will cost tribes and the state and local communities where they are located billions of dollars in lost federal funding, and deprive AIANs of their constitutional right to vote."

"Following safety guidelines in the wake of COVID-19 and having a full and accurate count in the 2020 Census should not be mutually exclusive. We call on Congress to ensure tribal nations are not forgotten nor left behind," said NCAI CEO Kevin Allis.

"The data collected from the 2020 Census will inform the formulas used to determine funding and political representation that will be crucial to tribal communities moving forward as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. For too long, Indian Country has been undercounted, underfunded and underrepresented. We hope this extension will allow enough time for field operations to resume and safely provide the in-person enumeration that is essential to a full and accurate count of AIANs in this country."

NCAI and NARF encourage members of Congress to work with the U.S. Census Bureau and provide the bureau with the legal authority to extend 2020 Census operations by 120 days. In a time of crisis, we must all unite to ensure all Americans, including AIANs, are counted.

## Local artists to be featured on billboards along U.S.-2 this summer

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

If you are taking a drive this summer along Michigan's U.S.-2 in the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) between St. Ignace and Manistique, be sure to check out billboards along the highway. Five billboards will be featuring the artwork of local artists, thanks to SaveArtSpace, a nonprofit organization filling billboards with art.

What started as a way to preserve neighborhood art culture

has turned into a nationwide project for two men from Brooklyn, N.Y., Travis Rix and Justin Aversano.

The friends began their project in 2015, and since then SaveArtSpace has featured the art of almost 170 artists on more than 200 billboards across the country.

Rix and Aversano noticed that murals in their N.Y. neighborhoods were being covered in advertising,

discouraging the local art community.

Rix has ties to Michigan, spending much of his life in the state and vacationing in the U.P. for several years.

SaveArtSpace chose Cedarville artist Katie Eberts as the curator for the art exhibit, and her art will be featured on one of the billboards. They have also partnered with the Erickson Center for the Arts in Curtis.

The nonprofit art project

chooses local curators who know and understand their local art-scene and can pick art to be displayed on the billboards that have meaning to their community.

The final decision about what art will be featured rests in the hands of Eberts, who said this is a great opportunity for emerging artists and those who consider themselves creative, but not necessarily artists.

There is no age limit and each artist can submit up to 10 images,

at a cost of \$10 each. The funds raised go to pay for the billboards and a reception for the artists at the Erickson Center for the Arts, currently scheduled for July 3. Submissions accepted through May 15, and chosen artwork will be exhibited on billboards starting June 22.

To submit an image, visit [www.saveartspace.org/us2](http://www.saveartspace.org/us2). The five artists who are selected will be announced the week of May 26.

# Elder Service Division dedicated to caring for elders

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe's Elder Services Division have dedicated team members who are going above and beyond making sure tribal elders in the tribe's seven-county service area are taken care of during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Elder Services staff are screened every morning by Mark Willis, R.N., and temperatures are taken every day. To keep staff current on latest developments, a staff meeting is held each morning that sometimes seems like war room planning, according to Elder Services Director Holly Kibble. Phone calls are made to other meal sites to plan and adapt services as news of the Coronavirus spreads. Masks and gloves are part of everyday attire, and no hugs from elders or staff are allowed.

Elder Services transportation driver, Joe Harper, added many new medication deliveries to his day to help keep elders at home. The St. Ignace, Hessel and Sault Ste. Marie meal sites have experienced an increase in both home-delivered meals and curbside pick-up meals. Newly hired cook, Glenda Guerra, didn't get a chance to meet many elders before the closing of the congregate dining room and the conversion to curbside pick-up,

## Feeding and caring for our communities

The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has disrupted life for many of us and our families. It is hard to know when life will go back to normal and what that might look like. In the meantime, local farmers are making sure our local food systems still thrive and continue to implement their high food safety standards and transparent production systems.

Buying locally can reduce the number of hands that come into contact with your food and many farmers are offering new options to help address social distancing encouragement, such as dropping food off at your door or providing a local pickup spot.

What resources are available for those in need of food in the Western Upper Peninsula region? A number of social service agencies, community organizations and grassroots efforts support community food access and community meal programs throughout the area.

A working list of community food resources in our area is available for download at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1awVN-MzaC\\_O4arb3bsxLNU4P-37JA2CSF8pU3AAUFxhk/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1awVN-MzaC_O4arb3bsxLNU4P-37JA2CSF8pU3AAUFxhk/edit).

To help parents of K-12 children during the COVID-19 pandemic, Amy Evans, a local Houghton parent, created a Google spreadsheet sharing local restaurants and schools with free lunches and more. It can be found at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-WZDw-FkAKEyECe3fG07EgZ-5J1vOKgtKJG93eyYW51x8/edit?fbclid=IwAR0ml-9cpxfgIO-Orex7O4jxAHFb10dupGmA4o-HZGhm-MPseLL5FOhuqNI-j8#gid=0>.



Jodi Thompson delivers food to an elder outside the Elder Services building.

but is happy to continue making good-tasting nutritious meals for them.

Kibble said Elder staff Heidi Aikens and Jodi Thompson take meals out to the elders waiting in their vehicles and sometimes come back into the building a little heartbroken as they take time to visit with the elders at a safe six-foot distance, but can't offer that hug they know is so desperately needed right now. In order to keep up with demand, frozen meals are cooked and stored on-site to make sure there is an adequate supply for elders

in quarantine.

Connie Cadotte and Lori Theisen in St. Ignace have been an anchor for elders in St. Ignace. Kibble said they are sometimes the only people elders see during the day, and many elders look forward to hearing them come to the door. Joann Fick and Midge Gugin lead the charge in the Hessel kitchen, handing out curbside pick-ups and making home deliveries to elders anxious to see them arrive.

In-home service aides Mary Sawyers, Lori Severance and



Heidi Atkins waves in front of a sign staff created that says, 'We miss you!'

Kristine Stoken, continue home visits with their elder clients, who they say have adapted to their new uniforms of gloves and masks they must now wear while helping them with the activities of daily living. Sawyers, Severance and Stoken are also checking on homebound elders each day, making sure they are safe and have everything they need.

These 12 critical staff join the fight against COVID-19 everyday by protecting, caring for and serving the tribes most vulnerable population, our

elders. Helping them in the fight, the Elder Service Division was successful in securing additional funding from Families First Coronavirus Response Act under the Title VI Native Americans Nutrition Services to help with additional expenses during this pandemic.

If you have questions about services for elders living in the tribe's seven-county service area, contact Elder Services, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., by calling 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356, or email Holly Kibble at [HKibble@saulttribe.net](mailto:HKibble@saulttribe.net).

## Big Bear staff help deliver frozen meals to quarantined elders



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Elder Service Division had help from Big Bear employees delivering frozen meals to quarantined elders. As elders are staying home, some have been quarantined or practicing self-quarantine upon returning from their out-of-state winter homes. Since April 3, Elder Services has delivered over 600 frozen meals to elders in the seven-county service area. "We can't thank Dalton Graham (left) and Bradley MacArthur (right) enough," Elder Division Director Holly Kibble said. "When they arrived on the scene last week wanting to help the elders, it was a great blessing."

Click on the tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet to find information on free meals for kids as well as other resources provided by area businesses. Additional information about meals can also be found on the Keweenaw Report's COVID-19 resource page at <http://www.keweenawreport.com/covid-19/>.

You can support elders in our community through support organized by Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly. To reduce loneliness among our elders during the COVID-19 outbreak, Little Brothers is organizing food and prescription pick-up and delivery service, as well as medical transportation, friendship mail, virtual activities, and telephone calls to keep spirits up. Email or call Carol Korpela to learn more (906) 482-6944 or [carol.korpela@littlebrothers.org](mailto:carol.korpela@littlebrothers.org).

As of March 18, 2020, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has waived requirements to visit an MDHHS office to receive state assistance benefits. People needing to apply for or receive benefits can go to the MDHHS website ([www.michigan.gov/MIBridges](http://www.michigan.gov/MIBridges)) to submit paperwork, report changes, apply for benefits, and complete the process for redetermining eligibility for assistance. This is a temporary policy change that includes waiving the requirement that those receiving or applying for cash assistance attend orientations at Michigan Works! Offices. If you're unable to use MI Bridges, call MDHHS offices to get assistance at (800) 642-3195, TTY (866) 501-5656.

Local producers can be found at <https://www.localdifference.org/find-food-farms/>.

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a dark blue polo shirt, is sitting at a desk in a classroom, focused on reading an open book. The background shows other students and classroom posters.

# YOUR CHILD deserves the BEST Education

Help Our  
Children  
Get The

**Best Education**  
And Complete  
The 2020  
Census.

*To make sure your school gets money for school lunches and education programs, you must complete the 2020 CENSUS this spring.*

*The **2020 CENSUS** is quick and **EASY** to fill out. Use it to count **EVERYONE** in your home. And by law, it is **100% CONFIDENTIAL***



**m.n.a.**  
Michigan Nonprofit Association

For more information go to  
[www.mivoicecounts.org](http://www.mivoicecounts.org)

# Paddleboarders enjoy icy seascape of St. Marys River, have campfire on spring ice floe



David Bryan on his paddleboard with a freighter behind him in the chilly water of the St. Marys River.

On April 3, with ice still floating down the St. Marys River and freighter traffic passing through the recently opened Soo Locks, two friends, David Bryan and Jordan Martin, spent the day paddleboarding and dodging ice floes. The men wore wetsuits that kept them warm. They began their adventure by launching from the Shallows area in the Sault, and paddled out to the mouth of Brimley Bay with Sand Island visible from where they were, before heading back up river towards the Sherman Park area, and then back to the Shallows to shuck their wetsuits and load up. Using a large flat rock they found near the Rock Cut on a much warmer trip that they carry with them to use as a platform for fires, they found the perfect piece of large floating river ice and disembarked for a hot lunch. The duo launched their paddleboards about noon and returned to land at 7 p.m.

*Photos by David Bryan, Jordan Martin and Brenda Austin*



David Bryan using a selfie stick to capture him and friend Jordan Martin among the ice.



David Bryan headed to shore after spending seven hours on the river.



David Bryan with their paddleboards taking a break on an ice floe in the St. Marys River.



David Bryan (left) and Jordan Martin just finishing their trip on the St. Marys River.



David Bryan (right) and Jordan Martin cooking lunch on an open fire on a large ice floe in the St. Marys River.



Jordan Martin coming in off the river after seven hours and calling it a day.

# Local volunteers, JKL School PAC, fund Feeding America West Michigan mobile food pantries

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Families in Sault Ste. Marie have been benefiting from the generosity of a local group of volunteers and the Feeding America West Michigan (FAWM) mobile food pantry. These local heroes are dedicated to making sure people have food on their tables at no cost to them during this time of layoffs and job loss, and with the higher than average food insecurity and poverty rates in Chippewa County.

FAWM was invited to do a presentation to the JKL Bahweting School Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) in 2017 about their food distribution program. Parent and JKL School social worker, Kristen Calery-Corbriere, was in attendance at that meeting and after the committee discussed it, the PAC decided to host one truck and see how it went. That occurred in April 2017. "It had such a profound impact on us that we decided we needed to keep hosting them. We were able to host a total of four mobile pantries in 2017," Corbriere said.

In 2018, the committee and volunteers hosted eight mobile pantries for the Sault area, distributing 113,566 pounds of food in Chippewa County, equaling 94,600 meals.

In 2019, volunteers hosted another eight mobile pantry distributions, totaling 104,357 pounds of food equal to 86,790 meals.

Corbriere said that, so far, in 2020, they have hosted three mobile pantry distributions. "The one held in January was an emergency distribution sponsored by

FAWM. I reached out to them during the power outages we were experiencing and they sent a truck up right away with over 17,750 pounds of food," she said. "The most recent two we held were back to back which generally we don't do. But after hearing about having to turn away 200 vehicles during a scheduled distribution at the end of March (over 26,000 pounds) FAWM was able to send a truck the following week due to the intense need. They sent up just over an additional 36,000 pounds of food!"

Volunteers are what make the mobile pantries so successful Corbriere said. "I am extremely lucky to work alongside the best volunteers in the universe. We have volunteers who have participated in almost every distribution we have had, and who bring friends and family members with them. We have volunteers reach out to help with set-up before going to get in line for distribution. We have volunteers of all ages, and they make every distribution such a positive experience for all involved."

"I am grateful I have a good working relationship with Feeding America West Michigan," she said. "Not only do they seek out grants and sponsors for the cost of the distributions, they are kind and understanding. They go above and beyond, in my opinion, to ensure our community has access to food."

Corbriere said the mobile food pantry is in need of donations so they can keep hosting it for area families. When a donation is made to their partner agency account, the

money raised stays in the local community. Food distributions have occurred in Sault Ste. Marie and Kincheloe, and Corbriere said there will be one hosted in Cedarville or DeTour this summer at the request of a donor. Interested individuals or agencies can sponsor a 10,000-pound mobile pantry for \$1,225, a 15,000-pound mobile pantry for \$1,500 and a 20,000-pound mobile pantry for \$1,800.

Barb Rogers, a teacher at JKL Bahweting School and a yoga instructor who operates a private yoga studio, volunteers at the mobile food pantries. Rogers donated \$500 and got local real-estate company Smith and Company to match her donation. "The money goes in to an account so Kristen can organize the purchase of future trucks," Rogers said. "We really need more donations; all community members are welcome and a large number of tribal households are helped."

According to the Feeding America West Michigan website, FAWM is one of seven Feeding America member food banks in Michigan. FAWM serves 40 of Michigan's 83 counties, with its service area spanning from the Indiana border north through the western half of the state and extending throughout the entire Upper Peninsula. In 2018, Feeding America West Michigan distributed 25.1 million pounds of food – equivalent to 21 million meals.

Feeding America West Michigan provides food for its partner agencies and distribution organizations that then directly serve their communities, often through the

food bank's Mobile Food Pantry program.

About one-third of the food FAWM distributes is fresh produce. The rest of the food is meat, dairy, baked goods, frozen and non-perishable goods. If you work in the food or agriculture industries and would like information about donating your surplus product, contact Mallory Weber at MalloryW@feedwm.org to learn more. For every dollar donated, the food bank can provide four meals for people in need.

FAWM mobile food pantries are generally hosted by churches, schools and community centers, and can feed between 100 and 300 households. The mobile pantries account for about 40 percent of the food distributed by the FAWM program annually, with their model being used by food banks across the country.

To see some informative statistics about food insecurity by county in Michigan, visit the FAWM website at: <https://www.feedwm.org/need/by-county/>.

To donate to the mobile food pantry hosted by JKL Bahweting School, go to <https://www.feedwm.org/donate/agency/> and then go to the box under agency name and account number. Donors will then enter "JKL Bahweting School Agency Code 09376."

Donors can also mail checks to Feeding America West Michigan, Attn: Donations Manager, 864 West River Center Drive, Comstock Park, MI 49321. Please include JKL Bahweting School Agency Code 09376 on your check.



Photo by Jim Lehooky

Eagle's eye view - Feeding America West Michigan mobile food pantry held on April 2. People stayed in their vehicles and food was loaded for them by volunteers.



Photo by Jim Lehooky

A volunteer from the Sault Wesleyan Church was directing traffic at the March 26 mobile food pantry in the Big Bear parking lot.



Photo by Jim Lehooky

Getting ready for the March 26 mobile food pantry



Photo by Jim Lehooky

Sault Tribe Police Officer TenEyck directing traffic.



FAWM staff and Sault Wesleyan Church volunteer loading food into a participant vehicle.



Photo by Jim Lehooky

Getting ready for the April 2 mobile food pantry.



Photo by Jim Lehooky

Getting ready for the April 2 mobile food pantry.



Volunteers at the March 26 distribution.

# Building a healthier community in Kinross Township

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe's Building a Healthy Community Coalition (BHCC), in conjunction with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District (EUPISD) and other community

organizations, are working to promote increased physical activity and healthy choices in Kinross Township.

Kinross, a small community with about 6,000 residents, is about 20 miles south of Sault

Ste. Marie. It has one recreation center that is closed on weekends. Sidewalks are almost non-existent, and it's not safe to walk on snow and ice-covered streets during winter months. Snowshoe and cross-country ski trails exist, but not in close proximity to homes and transportation can sometimes be a problem.

The EUPISD, with funding from Michigan Fitness Foundation's (MFF) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed) grant, is collaborating with community groups to help improve nutrition, health and physical activity in the area. SNAP-Ed is an education program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that teaches people eligible for SNAP how to live healthier lives.

Kathryn Hills, LifeSPAN nutrition facilitator for the EUPISD, said programming starts in the classroom with nutrition education for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Students learn about good nutrition, have hands-on experiences with fresh fruits and vegetables, read relevant books and participate in physical activity.

Hills says the SNAP-Ed programs are having a positive impact on the community.

Samantha Radecki, a Community Health educator for the Sault Tribe, said they are working to spread the word about programs and events, and increase participation through

better communication strategies. Radecki said they would like to see more parent participation along with their children.

BHCC is planning a Spring Wellness event on May 14 at the Kinross Recreation Center, that as of April 17 was still a go. Activities include a sports gear giveaway for youth, yoga instruction, a three-mile walk, healthy snacks, and nutrition and health information.

Radecki will be leading group yoga sessions during the event.

Encouraging residents to increase their physical activity, BHCC is working to establish a community walking club, where participants would walk a three-mile loop through a redeveloped residential area of the former Kincheloe Air Force Base. Radecki said the goal is to get neighbors talking while also social distancing, to promote outdoor activities that will better serve and connect the community. In addition to improving physical health, getting moving also helps to improve social, mental and emotional health, Radecki said.

Radecki said there is a strong core group of people in Kinross Township who attend meetings and events and are working to have a positive impact on the community. There is also a 5K currently being planned for this fall. She said she would like to see the Spring Wellness and 5K events become staples in the community that people can look

forward to, while encouraging people to invest in their own health and in their community.

COVID-19 restrictions have made it difficult for the Kinross Recreation Center to engage the community, although there are plans in place for May activities that as of April 20 have not been cancelled. Kinross Park and Recreation Director Denise "DeeDee" Frasure said, "The CoVid-19 plan to Stay Home-Stay Safe has definitely had an impact on the Kinross Recreation Center. We had to close our doors to the public. And while we do not necessarily rely on daily fees or receipts for our funding, it has impacted our ability to serve families. Most of the kids we serve have been coming to the rec center for most of their lives. We know them and their families, and have become very close to them. With school and workplaces closed, we are all missing the ability to participate in recreation, outdoor activities and of course, socialization. During the shut down, we have used this time to make repairs and do maintenance projects that would be difficult to do with a full complement of children. When we are allowed to reopen, people will find a freshened-up rec center with newly painted walls, remodeled bathrooms and new flooring. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone and can't wait to have the building filled with the sound of our kid's voices again!"

## February Employee of the Month - Milligan



**FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH — Congratulations to Terri Milligan, a secretary at the Hessel Community Health Center for over 20 years. She goes above and beyond on a daily basis. The Hessel site was without a full-time housekeeper for over a year and Milligan filled in and cleaned the restrooms, dusted and emptied garbage. She is a team player and the first to volunteer for special projects and committees. She also oversees all drills at the Hessel site as well as maintenance projects and traditional burials. Milligan is a one-of-a-kind gem of an employee and we are fortunate to have her on our team!**

## March Employee of the Month - Traver

**MARCH EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH — Congratulations to Jami Traver, STHC emergency preparedness coordinator. At the start of COVID-19 pandemic, Traver played a critical role in shaping of the Health Division's response. Traver quickly developed a COVID-19 emergency response plan and surge plan. She did that while maintaining her routine duties, dealing with weather emergencies and providing N-95 respirator fitness tests.**



# National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Join the Sault Tribe Language & Culture Department & the Advocacy Resource Center in 15 minutes of collective Prayer/thought/dancing/singing or whatever way you'd like to join us in honor of our women and girls. Participate from your own homes or wherever you may be at that time!

May 5, 2020  
10:00-10:15am  
3:00-3:15pm

Wear Red  
Take Picutes (where appropriate)  
#STMMIWG

For more information  
Call Language & Culture Department  
(906) 632-1347



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# Sault Tribe steadily gaining economic ground

These are tough times for free enterprise concerns, but Sault Tribe continues efforts to diversify its economic base.

Just over three years ago, the tribe's board of directors put more muscle into its economic development efforts by enlisting the help of folks with business expertise. Eventually, goals were set and progress began to take place.

Aided by the tribe's agreements with the federal and state governments and its own multi-million dollar structure, the team began to explore opportunities to expand the tribe's businesses and land base. The team is delivering on strategic objectives through three main avenues: real estate, commercial development and business development.

## Real Estate

The real estate arm handles all acquisitions and sales of property for the tribe as well as responsibility for property management for commercial purposes. The tribe has a developed expertise in property management with experienced teams in place to operate both commercial and residential efforts. Property management revenues are on the upswing and continued growth is expected.

DeMawating Development, based in the eastern portion of the service area, and Sawyer Village, based in the west are the businesses managing this effort. They collectively are responsible for over 400 residential properties, a 120-site manufactured home park, several commercial properties, and over 200 self-storage units at four independent locations.

Both businesses have experienced double digit growth over the last three years and accounted for over \$2.2 million dollars of revenue in 2019. It is our plan to double this number with strategic acquisitions over the next five years.

## Commercial Development

The commercial development arm is responsible for existing businesses outside of property management and the potential acquisition or start-ups of new enterprises. This includes the management of long-term assets like our MidJim Convenience Stores and Northern Hospitality. In the last couple of years Gitchi Enterprises, Sault Tribe Outdoor Advertising, Sault Tribe Business Solutions and White Pine Lodge have been added to the portfolio.

Gitchi Enterprises completed its first year of operation in 2019 with sales over \$1.1 million. Gitchi is a licensed manufactured home dealer, which has benefited from strong relationships and competitive bids to our own tribal housing department, DeMawating Development, among others. This is a brand new industry for us, and we expect it to continue to grow as we learn and get better. We have near \$1 million of work in progress or booked already in 2020.

Gitchi is also a licensed used car dealership. To some this may not make as much sense as the homes operation but both originated using the same competitive advantage afforded to us via our State of Michigan Tax Agreement. The fact that at least 50 percent of sales tax generated by 100 percent tribal-owned businesses on tribal lands is retained by our tribal

government had us looking at industries that had high taxable sales, cars and homes fit that bill.

White Pine Lodge is right next to our Kewadin Casino in Christmas, Mich. The area has had rapid increases in tourism over the last five years and our board felt we were driving a lot of that economy in Christmas and wanted to capitalize. We took over operations of White Pine Lodge in the peak of the tourism season and our team deserves credit for not only taking over, but actually increasing revenues over the previous year. The lodge boasts a remodeled convenience store with tribal discount on gas available as well as a very busy 48 unit motel.

Additionally, Sault Tribe Outdoor Advertising has constructed 14 billboards across our service area. Although not a high gross effort, they offer a very high rate of return. The tribe will look for additional opportunities as construction crews and sites become available.

Sault Tribe Business Solutions is a very new temporary employment service that only had two positions created prior to being temporarily shelved due to the COVID 19 outbreak.

The new commercial development businesses should account for \$5 million in revenue in 2020, pending the impact of our current pandemic.

## Business Development

The third area of delivery for the Sault Tribe EDC is the business development arm. This arm focuses on businesses owned by our tribal members by providing business consulting and support services. They also lend

their expertise to tribal business start-ups via consulting and resource awareness.

Sault Tribe Thrive is a grant effort under this arm doing outreach and creating a directory of businesses owned by Sault Tribe members to share and advocate for business growth. They are documenting assistance provided and exploring ways to attract business back to our lands.

Sault Tribe Thrive being located in the Tamarack Business Center, an EDC project making renovated professional spaces available for businesses owned by Sault Tribe members completed in January of 2019, has helped them connect with two of our better success stories — Tipping Point Solutions and JETA Corp. Tipping Point Solutions is owned by tribal member Rick Schmidt and is based out of Denver, Colo. Their new location is getting traction and they expect to be over 12 employees in the EUP area by the end of 2020.

JETA Corporation is owned by tribal member Linda Grow and is based out of Neenah, Wis. JETA expects to move into our new Crane Industrial suites this fall and expand her local employment to over eight employees. The Crane Industrial Suites is under construction and represents over a \$2.35 million dollar investment by the U.S. Economic Development Agency (\$2 million), Michigan Economic Development Corporation (\$250,000) and the Sault Tribe.

The business development arm has also been working closely with Sault Tribe Inc. Sault Tribe Inc. was ratified and put a board of directors in place in 2019. It is a Section 17 federal

corporation formed to foster government contracting. Sault Tribe Inc., with the assistance of Sault Tribe Thrive, has formed a new company, Chippewa Government Solutions (CGS) LLC. CGS recently obtained the necessary registrations to start doing business and has a private commitment for a contract large enough to take on its first employee commitment in the near future, as well as a joint submission for a more significant contract that they feel good about.

This effort in government contracting represents the potential for significant growth for the Sault Tribe. A recent grant award from MEDC provides the dollars necessary for Sault Tribe Inc. to get the appropriate infrastructure in place to support CGS through rapid growth and start looking for additional business opportunities to bring in under its umbrella.

In the end, Sault Tribe Thrive, a Minority Business Development Agency grant funded effort, under the guidance of the Business Development arm of the EDC, will be reporting significant job creation and retention, start-ups, capital formation, and sales growth in 2020.

All of the Economic Development efforts have been built with self-sustaining, boot-strapped efforts under the guidance of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors. There are no wheelbarrows of cash to throw at these efforts, we need to be strategic and patient to find opportunities that can survive the tough times in which we are conducting business.

## Walking on ...

### IRENE J. BAILEY

Irene Joyce Bailey, known best by her life-long nickname, "Mickey," 88, of Canadian Lakes, Mich., passed away peacefully with her family by her side at her home. She was born to Mack and Mary Alexander of Rexton, Mich., the fifth of eight children, which included her siblings Alice, Fred, Shirley, Mary Lou, Mickey, Betty, Peter and Pat.



Mickey went to school in Rexton through the 10th grade and finished school at LaSalle High School in St. Ignace, Mich., boarding with several families there during those years. While in high school, she worked part-time as a typist for the Brown Law Firm. After her schooling, she was employed by Michigan Bell as a telephone operator, leaving that position to marry Edgerton "Warren" Bailey at Goodfellow Air Force base in San Angelo, Texas, on Feb. 23, 1954. After leaving the service, they resided in the Lansing, Mich., area where Warren was employed with the Michigan Department of Transportation. They later moved to Canadian Lakes following retirement. Both she and her hus-

band loved the area in which they retired, watching birds, deer and wildlife outside their home along with enjoying regular visits to their cabin on Drummond Island, Mich.

Her passing is mourned by all who knew her, including her large extended family. Her pleasant and happy demeanor and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her loving family, including her husband, Warren; daughter, Kimberly Bailey; sons, Kevin Bailey and William "Bill" Bailey; beloved sister and best friend, Betty Smith of Rexton; and brother-in-law, Robbins "Bob" Bailey of Drummond Island.

Funeral services to be conducted at a later date with burial to take place at Epoufette Cemetery in Epoufette, Mich., near where she grew up.

The family is being served by both the Janowicz Funeral Home in Remus, Mich., and the R. Galer Funeral Home of Pickford, Mich.

### THOMAS J. CAPTAIN

Thomas (Cap) Joseph Captain, 58, of Rudyard, Mich., passed away peacefully on April 6, 2020, surrounded by his family. He was born on Sept. 29, 1961, in Sault Ste. Marie to Henry and Susan "Jean" Captain. He began working at a young age and will be

remembered for his selflessness and willingness to do odd jobs and lend a helping hand to anyone who asked. He spent the majority of his working life at the Mackinac Bridge where he took pride in his work as a painter, maintenance crew member and, later, crew supervisor.

Tom was a beloved husband, grandfather, coworker and friend to everyone. He loved spending time fixing things and teaching those skills to his three daughters and their significant others. He enjoyed spending time tinkering with vehicles in his garage, rooting for the Toronto Maple Leafs, camping, spending time with his family and being a "Papa" to his five grandchildren, whom he spoiled often.

Thomas is survived by his wife, Diane; his three daughters, Sheena (Dan) Sumner, Kylee (Tom) McKee and Summers (Eddie Langford) Captain; his five grandkids, Tommy Jr. and Kallee McKee, Alani and Elyse Sumner and Eddie Langford Jr.; his "niece" Karlie Aleshire; his siblings, Debbie (Jim) McCall, Rosie (Andy) Devlin, Mary (Albert) Heffernan, Lois Captain,



Edward (Sandy Smith) Captain, Frank (Sierra Sayles) Captain and their families.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Jean Captain; and his siblings, Edward Captain and Eileen Captain.

Tom leaves behind a wonderful legacy of love, helping others and true selflessness. He will be deeply missed by his family and the many people who consider him a friend.

Graveside service to be held later this year at Riverside Cemetery. Arrangements handled by C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

### DAVID J. CARSON

David James Carson was born on June 7, 1964 to Joseph A. and Darlene S. Carson in St. Ignace, Mich. He attended public school in Sundance, Wyo., and Hardin, Mont. He graduated in 1983 from Hardin High School where he played basketball and football. David was proud of his heritage and his country. He was enrolled in the Sault St. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.



He joined the United States Marine Corps in December 1983 and honorably served for two years. He later served in the California National Guard from September 1997 to February 1999. Like his father before him, he worked hard and was a man of many talents. He worked in the woods logging, he was a law enforcement officer, a ranch hand and he worked in construction. He was a devout Christian attending nondenominational services wherever he lived and frequently spread Christ's message to others. David was an avid outdoorsman who didn't like the grass to grow under his feet. Therefore, he never stayed in one place long and traveled from place to place visiting family. He loved the outdoors and spent most of his life there camping, hunting, fishing or working. Inheriting these gifts from his mother, Dave was an excellent artist and cook. Consequently, his beautiful glass etchings and drawings will outlive us all.

David was taken from us suddenly on April 4, 2020. Dave was loved and will be missed. David is survived by his two sons Jacob Carson (LA) and Adam Carson (CA), and siblings Carol Carson Hull (Scott) MI, Justine LaBlanc (Angela) AK, Philip L. Carson (Darlene) WA, Gary

See "Walking on," page 18



**From "Walking on," page 17**  
L. Carson (Denise) ID, Judy M. Cayton WY, Kathy J. White (Ron) SD, Joseph T. Carson MO, Kevin J. Carson (Diana) MT, and numerous Aunts, Uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his Father Joseph A. Carson, his Mother Darlene S. (Peters) Cayton, his brother Richard N. Carson, his great niece Angel L. Duvall, and his great nephew Brendon R. Carson.

David will be buried with military honors at Black Hills National Cemetery Sturgis, S.D., at a date yet to be determined. A traditional ceremony cannot take place at this time due to the current COVID-19 virus environment. David's family would like to thank you for all your thoughts, love and prayers.

#### **WILLIAM B. DEMMON**

William "Bill" Bernard Demmon, 70, of Princeton, Mich., passed away peacefully on March 31, 2020, at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans with family present. Bill was born on



Feb. 26, 1950, to Leonard and Theresa (Savard) Demmon in Alma, Mich. He grew up in St. Ignace and graduated in 1968 from LaSalle High School where he played football. Enlisting in the Navy, he served during the Vietnam War. In 1970, he married Shirley (Davis) Demmon and together they had two children. He worked most of his life as a crane-operating engineer. He was an elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Of Chippewa Indians. Bill had a knack for storytelling and was always good for a laugh. He loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter, fisherman, trapper and birdwatcher, especially liking the sandhill cranes, which migrated yearly to his property. He was a self-taught woodcarver; many of his amazing carvings are displayed in the homes of his family and friends. He enjoyed any day the weather allowed him to ride his Harley and took several trips, including a ride to Alaska. He was a great pool player.

Bill is survived by two children, Regina (Mike) Nelson and Allan (Melissa) Demmon; six siblings and their families, Beverly Haines, Janet (Bill) Luptowski, Alan (Alice) Demmon, Leonard (Kathy) Demmon, Ernie (Pam) Demmon and Kathy (Don) Arp; and three grandchildren, Sarah Nelson and Kadin and Sonya Demmon. He was preceded in death by his father, Leonard Demmon; his wife, Shirley Demmon; his mother, Theresa (Demmon) Downey; and his nephew, David Demmon.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held at a later date this summer.

The Canale-Gwinn Funeral Home assisted the family where memories may be shared at [canalefuneral.com](http://canalefuneral.com).

#### **LEO F. DONOVAN**

Leo Francis Donovan, 67, of Lakewood, Colo., passed away peacefully on March 14, 2020. He

was born on Sept. 13, 1952, in Chicago, Ill., the son of Leo Donovan Sr. and Rose (Stevenson) Donovan.

Shortly after his birth, the family moved to St. Ignace, Mich. Leo attended LaSalle High School where he was one of the top basketball players in the state. His recognitions included Detroit Free Press second team all-state, first team all-state UPI, two-time first team all-MHSC and two-time first team all-U.P. Leo was inducted into the LaSalle High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

After graduation he worked at the Kinross Correctional Institute for a brief time before enlisting in the Army. It is here where he met Jeanne Paquin, who was originally from Garnet, Mich. They were married on July 17, 1982, at St. Ignatius Loyola church in St. Ignace, Mich.

Leo and Jeanne spent their lives in Colorado, Leo worked as an electrician and iron worker throughout his lifetime. He loved the outdoors and had a passion for elk and mule deer hunting. His hunts would take him to different parts of Colorado and Wyoming.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanne; cousins, Pat and Steven Stevenson of Sparta, Wis.; and sister-in-law, Carolyn Orth of Gilbert, Ariz.

Leo was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother, David. As per Leo's wishes, no visitation or funeral took place.

#### **HERMAN J. MANITOWABI**

Herman Joseph "Joe" Manitowabi, 60, passed away unexpectedly on April 13, 2020, at his home in Kincheloe, Mich. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie on July 25, 1959, son to the late Bernard and Myra Manitowabi.

Joe was a registered member of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Indian Reserve in Ontario, Canada. Growing up in the Sault Ste. Marie area, Joe played hockey for many years, accruing many trophies, and played for South Side. He graduated from Sault Area High School with the Class of 1977. He participated in an apprenticeship program for Carpenter's Union. He lived and worked several years in Marquette, Mich. He moved back to the area, residing in Kincheloe, and worked on the International Bridge as a painter. He spent his remaining years self-employed doing odd jobs. Joe loved visiting and helping his family and friends. He will be greatly missed by all.

Joe is survived by his children, Joseph, John and Martin Manitowabi; step-son, Jason Hamilton; daughters, Shayla and Amber Manitowabi-Huebner, and twins, Kayla and Taryn Graham; siblings Mary Green, Bernard P. Manitowabi, Lorraine Bouley, Luanne Manitowabi, Louis Manitowabi, Virginia Manitowabi and Lisa Grunske; several nieces and nephews; and great nieces and nephews.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Kenneth Green, Raymond Manitowabi and Roger Manitowabi; and one sis-



ter, Roberta Manitowabi.

Cremation will take place at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home with memorial services to take place at a later date. A traditional sacred fire was lit at Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building where prayers were offered by immediate family only to send Joe on his journey.

Condolences may be left online at <http://www.csmulder.com>.

#### **LOUIS N. MACDONALD**

Louis Norman "Lou" MacDonald, age 83, of Barbeau, Mich., passed away on March 15, 2020, at War Memorial Hospital. He was born on July 4, 1936, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to the late Norman and Dorothy (Litzner) MacDonald.

Lou graduated from LaSalle High School in St. Ignace with the class of 1954. At that time, he was invited by the Detroit Tigers to come to spring training to try out for the team, but later that year he enlisted in the U.S. Army to serve his country and qualify for the GI Bill. He continued his education at Michigan Tech - Sault Branch and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering in June of 1961. In 1963, Lou married Marla Jean MacMaster at the St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Lou served his country in the United States Army as a heavy equipment repairman, but spent most of his time playing baseball with the U.S. Army European baseball league in France. He was a member of the American Legion Post 3 and the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He enjoyed baseball his entire life and continued to play right into the Raber Senior Softball League. Lou was so much a family man and enjoyed working around the house. He was an avid reader.

Lou worked for many years, and retired from the U.S. Federal Highway Administration retiring as a regional administrator, and member of the Senior Executive Service. He moved his family around the world in his career including opening an office on the Island of Guam, and the country of Kuwait as a U.S. representative to the Kuwaiti government advising on their highway system. He was also honored to serve 15 years as chairman of the board for the Chippewa County Road Commission.

Lou is survived by his wife, Marla MacDonald; and his children: Jeffery Charles MacDonald and Louis J. (Jill Lounds) MacDonald of Barbeau, Mich. He is also survived by his siblings, Gerald (Beverly) MacDonald of Virginia Beach, Va., Charles (Colleen) MacDonald of Sault Ste. Marie, and Dorothy (Gerald) Fantini of South Branch, Mich.

Lou was preceded in death by his father, Norman J. MacDonald; his mother, Dorothy M. MacDonald-Hillier; and a sister, Madeline Payment.

According to Lou's wishes, no public services is to be conducted. Cremation has taken place. Arrangements were handled by C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services and condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the Chippewa County Animal Control Shelter.

#### **LEONA E. MCCUAIG**

Leona Elizabeth McCuaig, 76, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on 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) Hoonstra 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 took place on Feb. 14, 2020, at 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.

## Casino developers' lawsuit against Gaming Authority "smokescreen" for inability to fulfill obligations

### **From Lawsuit," Page 1**

expenses from the developers. The Authority believes that the lawsuit is all the more unfounded, given the federal court's very favorable opinion that vindicated the mandatory land-to-trust submissions it made to the Department of the Interior.

In light of the developers' conduct in the past, the Gaming Authority has no choice but to defend this unfounded litigation as vigorously as possible, and to seek appropriate sanctions for the Developers' conduct in causing Kewadin to shoulder more litigation expenses.

On behalf of the Gaming Authority and Sault Tribe Board of Directors, Payment reiterated the continuing commitment to the local communities and Sault Tribe membership. "These projects began with the intent of expanding services for the tribal membership and providing revenue to the local units of government to support schools, law enforcement and payment in lieu of taxes. Despite the developers' lawsuit and any other baseless suits, we will continue our efforts to see our casino project to fruition."

Leona's family was assisted by C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

#### **JOSEPH M. MONGENE JR.**

Joseph "Little Joe" Malcolm Mongene Jr., 84, of Dafter, Mich., passed away due to a car accident on April 2, 2020, near his home. Joe was born on July 19, 1935, in Hessel, Mich., to Joseph and Anna (Brown) Mongene Sr.

He married Irene Avella Martineau on April 2, 1966, in Ruyard, Mich. They were celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary the day he passed.

Joe was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He worked in the logging industry, did maintenance work for Woodside Inc., and was an excellent mechanic. Joe loved going for country rides with the love of his life, Irene, and spending time with his family. He also loved the outdoors; hunting, gardening, working in his yard, playing horseshoes, working on classic cars and going to the casino. Joe knew Jesus as his Savior and prayed every day. He was known as the "Mayor of Cottage Park" and remained there the rest of his life.

Joe is survived by his wife, Irene A. Mongene; a son, Danny (Mariea) Mongene of Kinross, Mich.; two daughters, Tina (Dennis) Wurster of Kincheloe and Judy Mongene of Kincheloe; a step-daughter, Tammy (Paul) Kamprath of Grayling, Mich.; a brother, Fred Mongene of Raco, Mich.; and five grandchildren, Danielle Mongene, Melinda Mongene, Joe (Abby) Pine, Shyann Armstrong and Jolene Pine; four great-grandchildren, Tristan Ortiz, Jaymian Lay, Lorelei Tharp, Nessie Pine and two more great-grandchildren on the way. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents; five sisters, one brother and a step-daughter, Linda Croad.

A private family viewing was held. A graveside committal service will be held later this spring at the Kinross Lakeview Cemetery. The family is planning a celebration of life at a later date.

Arrangements handled by C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).



# Chairperson Candidate Profiles

*Editor's note: The chairperson candidate forum submissions for this year's tribal election were inadvertently left out of the April newspaper. To correct this error, the newspaper has inserted a special page 18A in this e-edition of the newspaper and posting the chairperson candidate profiles on the tribal website. A link to the website will also be posted on the tribe's Facebook page. These profiles are made stylistically similar to other profiles appearing in this issue and are also listed in alphabetical order. Win Awenen Nisitotung apologizes for this error.*

## Jennifer McLeod



I'm Jennifer McLeod — a proud member of our Tribe and I'm running for Chairwoman! In our way, Family is everything so I'd like to share a little bit about my background so that you can get to know me.

I was born and raised in the

city of Pontiac, Mich., by my parents Lawrence and Carleen McLeod. My great grandparents were from Sault Ste. Marie, and my grandmother was born there. She used to tell me stories of her wonderful life, and especially about spending summers swimming in the waters off Sugar Island (Where I now live!).

As a girl, I was fortunate to be taught to hunt and fish by my dad. At age 19, I operated the first Indian center in Oakland county. The remainder of the next 20 years, I raised two beautiful boys, served on the Advisory Council of the Southeastern Michigan Indian Association, worked as a sub-contractor for the Department of Defense on main battle tanks, and was a small

business owner of a graphics communications company.

In 1998, I moved to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and was asked to substitute teach at the Hannahville Indian School. It was there that I discovered a whole new passion – teaching. My students encouraged me to become a permanent teacher, and I received a full-time teaching job near our own tribal community, in Rudyard. After a year or two of commuting, and living out of a suitcase, I made Sault Ste. Marie my permanent home. My husband Dennis and I moved to Sugar Island about 10 years ago.

In 2012, I continued my life of service to tribal communities by running for a tribal board seat. I'm now

nearing the end of my second term, and some of my greatest accomplishments are chairing the committee that made MAJOR additions to our tribal school, being selected as a team leader for the Federal Bureau of Indian Education Rulemaking committee where I created a new subject for all BIE schools – “**Tribal Civics,**” and Chairing two other National level groups to expand and secure USDA food distribution and dental therapists for our people.

Over the last eight years as a board member, I saw the need for positive changes. I am determined to be part of that change by focusing on: **PROSPERITY, UNITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND HONESTY.** For more, please

visit my website at [www.jmcleodsaulttribe.com](http://www.jmcleodsaulttribe.com). **Be a part of POSITIVE CHANGE!**

It's an amazing feeling to come full circle to the place where so many of my ancestors lived. I've been living my best life after returning “home.” I wish more of my family were closer but am grateful to have many friends who are now family, and also for my son and grandchildren who are also living on Sugar Island.

If you would like to know more about Jen, please feel free to call or text. My phone number is (906) 440-9151. Or you could email me at [Jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com). Miigwech, bamapiiminwaa gwabmin. Thank you and I'll see you again soon!

## Dr. Aaron Payment



Ahneen, Boozho. My name is Aaron Payment. My Anishinabe name is Biiwaagajiig which means a place above our traditional homelands where the spirits can talk directly through. I love my job and I am

respectfully requesting your continued support and vote as Tribal Chairperson.

My family is from Sugar Island and Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie but I have family in all five election units and who live At Large. I have lived my entire life on or within 1/16th of a mile from the Sault reservation. I humbly live in the home I grew up in.

I am proud to serve as your Tribal Chairperson. While I am a high school dropout, I hold three master's degrees and a doctorate degree and over 30 years of tribal policy and executive administrative experience. I earned my credentials and experience to best serve as your elected Chairperson. My most important qualification is my

dedication in serving our Tribe and our people.

I serve in numerous leadership roles at the local, inter-tribal, regional and national levels to best represent our Tribe. These roles are not transferable. If I am not your Chairperson, the political capital I have worked so hard to earn for our Tribe is erased.

We have some major issues facing our Tribe. I believe I represent the strong, experienced leadership that is required. With the recent positive court ruling in our favor regarding our mandatory trust and gaming expansion, 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 our mandatory trust petition. I have expertly testified and will be called to testify again to protect our opportunities here.

A great deal is at stake. Our 44,000 Tribal citizens live throughout Michigan and all across the country. We receive no federal funds for the over 2/3 of our people who live outside of our service area. Our reservation base is artificially small due to broken treaties and failed US Indian Policy. The 1997 Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act was written by us to correct this and provide for our people no matter where they reside. Changing leadership direction at this critical juncture risks our economic future.

The Chairperson's attention should include not only local issues but issues at the inter-tribal and national levels.

Other critical issues facing our Tribe include:

- Treaty Fishing Consent Decree Negotiations;
- Gaming Compact Negotiations with Michigan;
- Fulfillment of our Treaty & Trust Obligations;
- Services Expansion for All Members Everywhere;
- Perpetuating our Way of Life & Tribal Unity; &
- Protecting against an imminent oil spill at the Straits of Mackinac.

I would love the honor of continuing to serve as your Tribal Chairperson. Please allow me to finish what we started.

# Tribal election primary candidates speak in forum

**BUD BIRON**



Aaniin,

My name is Bernard (Bud) Biron and I am running for the Sault Tribe Board of Directors. My Anishinaabe name is Ogimaa Jijjaak and I am makwa dodem. I have lived most of my life between Sault Ste. Marie and Sugar Island.

Let me tell you why I want to serve on the BOD. I believe our traditions should be part of leadership. I bring a culture perspective that teaches us the seven grandfathers – respect, love, truth, wisdom, humility, honesty, courage. I try every day to live according to these standards with my family and community. This is the gift our ancestor's way of life is based on.

We are limited to 500 words so these are some issues (not all) I would make a priority:

We need two-way communication with tribal members. Regularly scheduled monthly unit meetings would give members a chance to learn what the leadership is accomplishing and a chance to bring up concerns and talk one-on-one with their BOD members.

Provide the employees in our businesses with a living wage and training opportunities for advancement. Also, a system for reward/recognition for employees who go above and beyond in their jobs – driven by the employees themselves honoring their co-workers and managers.

Expand our business opportunities beyond just gaming. With the changing environment we should be investing in solar, wind energy (manufacturing and installment), recycling, manufacturing medical supplies, or farming to name a few. These would provide jobs for tribal members and alternative income for the tribe.

We have an obligation to our elders and youth to make a broader and sustainable effort to revitalize our culture and language. Multiple programs are making efforts, but I see a need to form a working group of elders and knowledgeable people to make an overall long-term plan to teach the next generations. There needs to be a commitment for funding to the plan. Without our culture and language alive, we cease to be a tribe.

Lastly, I want to tell you about my background and experience. I come from a large Sugar Island family and was taught by my elders to fish, hunt and gather to support the family. I have the honor of raising four great, talented young people. I worked in the tribal WCC as a young man and later worked as a welder. Back in the 1990s, I returned home and was active in the tribal Youth Sports/Drug Elimination Program as a volunteer and was

soon hired as a youth coordinator and helped develop and run the tribal cultural camp. I learned drumming and singing, ceremony and many important teachings that I have passed along to tribal people, young and old. I served on the tribal Cultural Committee, Housing Commission and tribal powwow committees. Even though I'm retired, I continue to travel to tribal communities sharing those Anishinaabe teachings gifted to me.

Miigwech for taking the time to read my article. I hope you find your way to vote for me.

**BETTY (KRULL) FREIHEIT**



Hello, my name is Betty Freiheit. I am running for the tribal board in Unit I to bring back that sense of tribal community that led to the federal recognition of our tribe and the services that came with it. When I was growing up with 10 brothers and sisters, we did not have indoor plumbing. What we did have was community in the Shunk and Marquette, West End, Algonquin, Sugar Island and other Indian neighborhoods. We took care of each other.

We must never forget where we came from in order to effectively advocate for our people. I am fighting for all of our workers, families, children, elders and grandchildren until all benefit from our membership. Tribal and gaming employment has brought amazing change to our tribe including providing jobs. As a former Kewadin team member, I recognize the value of our front-line workers who drive revenues. I voted to temporarily close our casinos to keep our workers safe but not without guaranteeing an income. If the time comes for layoffs, I will push for the board and chairperson sharing in any salary reductions.

I retired from the state of Michigan as a corrections officer. Again, I also worked for several years in our Kewadin Casinos. I have long fought to protect our tribal employees' rights and was the first lay advocate in tribal court. I proposed this free candidate profile space over 10 years ago to benefit the challengers. I have fought for your rights for over 25 years and improved tribal members' lives. I know I can be more effective in representing you at the board table. So far, I have introduced resolutions to set term limits and board pay. No one would second it but I don't give up. Why to I do this? Because it is the right thing to do.

Some of the issues members have asked me to push include: A real separation of powers; increased elder funds; protection of our treaty rights; improved education and job training; board and chair salary voted on by you; term limits; tribal code of ethics; tribal labor laws; improved employee's appeals process; sound economic

diversification; and employment policies apply to the board.

I have hit the ground running. I traveled to Washington, D.C., in February to attend the winter session of the National Congress of American Indians. I have to tell you, that Aaron has got our bases covered as the first VP of NCAI. I already stepped up and volunteered to testify on reauthorizing the Violence Against Women's Act to protect Native women from non-native abusers and to secure more funds for our youngest victims of crime.

I promise to work hard for you at all levels if you once again grant me this honor by voting for me. We just got started. Please vote for me so we can build even greater momentum in bringing back community and improving all tribal members' lives.

With respect,  
Betty Freiheit,  
Unit I board candidate

**SAMUEL GARDNER, JR.**



Aanii, Boozhoo,  
Gizhii Aanakwad Ndizhnkaaz,  
Bahweting Maampii Ndoonjbaa,  
Mukwaa Ndoodem.

Hello everyone,  
My name is Samuel Gardner Jr., and I am a Sault Ste. Marie local, born and raised, who grew up on Sugar Island playing on dirt roads and back in the woods. My parents are Sam and Tina Gardner, and my grandparents are Fred "Moon" Gardner and June Gardner, and Roger and Bernadette Azevedo. Our local culture has been a way of life for me. I grew up in these woods learning how to make dream catchers, black ash baskets, maple syrup and many other things. Every summer you could guarantee that you would see me at our annual summer powwows dancing in the circle or running around in the woods with the other kids.

Since graduating from high school, I have reached out and expanded my horizons. I served six years with our local National Guard unit, the 1437th MRBC, as a bridge crew member. I attended LSSU and graduated with a degree in social work with a lot of different studies in fields like psychology, business and fine arts. I spent several years working with local youth as a coach's director for a summer youth recreational soccer league. I am a volunteer firefighter, which has got me a lot of opportunities to learn and expand. My most recent venture has been getting certified in ice rescue.

However, of all these experiences, my greatest has been being a father. I am the father to four beautiful daughters and one very independent little boy. They keep me busy and always looking out for their interest and future. As a parent, I became more involved in community events and school

functions; so much, in fact, that I have found myself in Washington, D.C., advocating for tribal families with representatives on Capital Hill.

I have had the experience of working all over within our tribal organizations. In those times I have worked with the Accounting Department as a student worker doing data entry, I have worked in Entertainment preparing for concerts and events and a bartender right up until I joined the service. I spent a little over a year with the Cultural Division working at our very own Mary Murray Culture Camp transporting and working with youth. The last three years I have been working with children and families in our Early Childhood Education Program.

I like to keep busy and have many hobbies. I like random facts, puzzles and brainteasers. I am an avid reader; I don't like to put a good book down. Learning new things has always been a hobby in itself, and I like the challenge of being able to keep up with our ever-changing world and make myself a little more well rounded as a person.

**AUSTIN LOWES**



Aaniin,

According to Albert Einstein, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. As with many things in life, this applies to the Sault Tribe. Every election, voters demand reform, but little is accomplished in the way that our tribe is governed. I aim to change this.

I'm the grandson of John "Muggo" Nolan, Shirley Nolan, Wayne Lowes and Nancy Lowes. My parents are Tammy Nolan and Richard Lowes. I grew up on trust land in Sault Ste. Marie, but I also spent several years living in Montana. This gives me a unique perspective regarding the needs of tribal members both in and out of the service area. I am also a proud father of two young daughters: Emilia and Eden.

I am qualified to be a board member due to my experience serving our people. I have a bachelor's degree in political science from Lake Superior State University. After graduating, I served in AmeriCorps, where I worked with at-risk youth. I then worked as a social worker on three different reservations. This included the Sault Tribe Reservation, the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana and the Bay Mills Indian Community. While in Montana, I was awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance. I value these positions because they gave me the honor to work directly with tribal families to learn how to better serve them.

I currently work as a caseworker for developmentally disabled adults at Hiawatha Behavioral Health. I also recently graduated from Michigan State University

with a master's degree in social work. While a student in this program, I was awarded fellowships from the National Congress of American Indians and the National Association of Social Workers for my commitment towards tribal issues.

My goal is to serve the will of the people. I firmly believe that tribal members should have more say in their government. I believe that voters should decide the board of directors' salary, which is currently \$67,500 per year. This amounts to \$270,000 for every four-year election cycle. I also believe in term-limits and the abolishment of the board of directors' pension, which is more lucrative than the 401K plan with the 1 percent contribution that is currently offered to tribal employees. I would also be a strong advocate for tribal youth, elders and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I pledge to introduce resolutions within my first 100 days in office to address these campaign promises. I'd also like to point out that no candidate can single handedly change the tribe. Instead, it will take a coalition of leaders committed to serving the will of the people. With half the BOD up for reelection in two short months, this is entirely possible. Aim for change!

Miigwech,  
Austin Lowes

**DIEDRIE "DJ" MALLOY**



My name is Diedrie "DJ" Malloy.

You may remember me from serving you as a membership liaison from 2004 to 2008 and your Unit I representative from 2010-2014. I am once again running for an open Unit I seat in our tribal government.

I did not make this decision alone or in haste. I've thought long and hard about this, and had a serious discussion with my family as I take public service to our people very seriously.

I have been approached by tribal citizens to run for this seat, and return as an independent thinker and voice to the tribal board armed with governmental and business experience. I am well versed in tribal services and the programs that are essential to our citizens. If elected, I will be able to hit the ground running to further the agenda of our people. **PROVEN LEADERSHIP, EXPERIENCE AND DEDICATION – NO TRAINING REQUIRED.**

I have no family working in any of our tribal entities, nor on the board itself. My loyalty lies with the citizens and employees of Sault Tribe. Rather than the title of "director," I prefer "representative of the people." When the citizens place their vote of confidence in you, you have a responsibility to

See "Candidates," Page 20

# Primary candidates in Units I and II speak

be their voice in all matters, and to ensure their rights and well-being is at the forefront of all decisions. This means swimming upstream at times. It means planning for generations. It means responsible decisions steeped in thought and input from your tribe. It means being passionate about what we stand for. I am that representative.

I bring your voice and my passion with 40 years of business and tribal and township government experience to the board table. I have stood firm in the belief this government belongs to our people. And, I believe in leading by example.

From 2010-2014, I kept my promises. I cut my wages by 10 percent, with those funds staying in the tribal system and continuing to help our tribe. I also donated another 25 percent of my wages to tribal citizens who were in need. I pushed for and obtained live taping of board meetings and allowing any member with Internet access to watch at home. I stood fast for employee's rights and fought hard for their fair treatment. At the board table, I presented legislation and advocated for: right of recall and removal, right of initiative, constitutional reforms, the right for our citizens to have standing in tribal court, employee rights and fair wages, a reduction in board wages and the corporate charter for economic expansion outside the confines of the tribal boardroom. In addition, I have always taken action for our treaty rights, and environmental protection of our lands and waters (our rights must not be diminished).

I stand on my merits and past performance. I have the time, tenacity, experience and proven ability to work with people and achieve goals.

I am humbly and respectfully asking for your support, and your vote.

To contact me, email DJMalloy4Unit1@gmail.com.

## Isaac McKechnie



Aaniin, given the economic impact that the global pandemic is having on our tribal communities, we need strong leadership to prosper! We need a leader with a good heart and true passion to advance our communities. We need a leader who we can trust. A leader who sees the Sault Tribe as one family and will work to serve everyone, regardless of geography. With your support, I can bring a unique mixture of skills, ideas and energy to lift up our community and work to solve our many challenges.

Our tribe has a large number of issues that need critical attention and must be addressed with a rational, long-term approach. Transparency of government, living wages, business diversification, economic development,

enhancement of health care, elder support, education: Pre-K through college, fishing and hunting rights, substance abuse, environmental conservation, technical training programs, liability claims, treaty rights and more. To meet these challenges, we need to work together to create a strategic plan to ensure our tribe is prosperous and our culture is transferred to the next generation. To accomplish this, we need to engage members who can contribute their talents through effective committees and task forces while empowering tribal employees to contribute their best. Among our community, we have the talent, intellect and passion to make this happen. I have witnessed what passionate people can do when they set their minds to it by serving on volunteer committees including Child Welfare, Enrollment, Election and Health.

While I was the president of the JKL Bahweting Anishinaabe School Board for more than a decade, I worked with parents, educators, staff and the community to transform a failing school into one of the best schools in Michigan - possibly in Indian Country. Some of the collective accomplishments include: a long term compensation package for educators, a self-contained special education program, acquired land to develop the Marquette Avenue parking lot and the area that now houses the bus garage and track, adopted the Everyday Math and CMP3 Math programs, collaborated to develop strategies for exiting the Focus School Designation, collaborated with tribal leadership and the fiduciary to build a new gymnasium and for facility maintenance, supported Reading Recovery and LLI reading training for K-2 staff, worked vigorously with the Northern Michigan University authorizer to support all areas of the school, volunteered for many extra-curricular JKL activities such as the annual back-to-school barbeque and ice cream social, and my proudest accomplishment — raised academic achievement in all areas.

The key to moving our tribe forward is having leadership that will be inclusive, communicate and engage its members to create a community we can all benefit from and be proud of. I am pledging to be that leader. I am committed to devoting all my energy into transforming our tribe into one of prosperity that is member driven. I appreciate your support. Feel free to call me anytime to discuss how we can make this happen together.

Isaac McKechnie  
(906) 440-6661/iamckechnie@yahoo.com

## Michael McKerchie



My name is Michael McKerchie and after serving a term as your representative on

the board of directors, I am once again asking for your support. In the last four years I have learned a lot being on council. I have had the honor of serving on many committees, including local planning committees such as the Sault powwow to a national tribal advisory committee to the Administration for Children and Families (under the federal government) and others. Serving on these committees keeps me involved, informed and gives me the proper tools to help serve our people.

I grew up on the rez surrounded by our culture and work to pass this on to my children. I'm grateful to see how far our tribe has come and humbly work to see it continue to grow. Prior to serving on the board, I worked for casino and tribal operations under several administrations. During that time, I graduated from LSSU, volunteered for various committees and raised my family here.

Growing up, I watched my parents, Russ and Bonnie McKerchie, work hard for the tribe in various positions, helping it grow and succeed. My dad still works for Housing, and my mom, although gone, helped grow our tribe's gaming enterprises, among other things. I was lucky to have two parents show me the importance of staying involved and working to help our people. I'm the proud grandson of Earl and Adeline (Aikens) McKerchie and Ken and Helen (Gurnoe) McCoy. I come from big families as many of us do.

I ask for your continued support and your vote because I will continue to work hard to represent you. I believe in respectful, responsible leadership even when it means making hard choices. No empty promises or just saying things you want to hear. I have and will continue to work with community members, the tribal membership and the board to move our tribe to a future our children and elders will be proud of.

In the last four years, we have worked on improving our current operations and diversifying the tribe's resources with new enterprises. Our tribe must also continue investing back into our biggest resource—our team members. Bringing back longevity benefits, re-implementing team members' retirement plans and automatic COLA raises is the start. Creating the framework to develop even more opportunities with Sault Tribe Thrive, Sault Tribe Business Alliance, etc., will ensure continued growth. With these new resources, our tribe will be able to assist additional members, provide more jobs and expand our services.

No one person can accomplish this alone — it requires working together to get the job done. We need to continue to move forward. This is done with mutual respect and wanting our tribe to succeed. I promise to continue this and have demonstrated that I can work with anyone who is trying to improve our tribe and our way of life. Experience matters during challenging and difficult times and I respectfully ask for your vote and continued support. Miigwetch.

## UNIT II CANDIDATES

### Lana Causley



As I'm writing this profile, I want to reflect on some of things I have cherished working for the people and representing our families. I was a young woman when I started my role as your Unit II representative. I remember the thoughts and aspirations I wanted to achieve for us, and it came with many lessons to learn and hills to climb. It's an immense sacred position that I respect and wholeheartedly honor holding for you.

In my tenure you have watched me refine my positions, educate myself, steer through the political mud and represented every area in our unit and the tribe as a whole. This is done with help and hard work, remembering my roots, honoring, promoting and protecting our traditional ways with support and guidance of our families. Difficult decisions have been made and I have humbly learned every lesson. We have helped steer our tribe in many difficult areas, with elders, fellow leaders, our team members and advice from the Unit II people (and my family) to keep a powerful vision (self-sufficiency), set priorities and remain responsible and steady for the people.

Those that know me absolutely know my battles are chosen wisely, some public but always professional. In this position, most of our unit helped me in one way or another, whether you reside inside the service area, down below or in another state, as all the people in our unit hold strong family ties to our lands, this I've learned.

I respect the tribe's people and thoroughly understand our needs, our struggles, our history and our sovereignty. I will continue to always promote our ways, learning from every decision we've made.

It's a unique time as we are in the midst of our addressing the 2020 treaty negotiations, planning for our future recovery faculty, embarking on online gaming and sports betting, creating new businesses with our Sault Business Alliance and many economic opportunities in the works. Just in this last term we went forward with a new car dealership, storage businesses, advertisement billboards, additional commercial rentals, purchase of hotel and convenience store, manufactured home dealership, business solutions temp service and all our existing properties -- all successful and profitable. We have seen much growth. In these times, with our temporary casino and enterprise closures, it will be imperative to have experienced, educated and cautious input.

There are many more aspirations for our unit and tribe, with the learning and changing throughout my tenure you can trust that

I remain strongly committed to our future success and steady for growth and advancement for our elders and youth, tribal government, development, fishermen and workforce. I am your leader in Unit II, I have worked hard to protect us and hopefully I have gained your trust. I understand the sacred trust you have placed on me and nothing will waive me from leading our people into a self sufficient, prideful future, while always remembering our hard path and our history as Anishinaabe.

Baamaapii, Chi Miigwech, Neegee

### Kimberly Lee



My name is Kimberly Lee. I am the proud daughter of David (Goose) Windsor and Sandra Lee, and granddaughter of the late Forrest and Barbara Lee (Currie), and Ernest and Verna Windsor (Kerr). I have three amazing boys, ages 13, 17 and 20. I graduated from The Salon Professional Academy with a managing cosmetology license. My work experience includes employment of seven years at Creative Headlines Inc. as well as SeaGate Commercial Interiors. I have experience in business management, accounting, budget analysis, balancing budgets and running a successful, revenue-generating business. I proudly co-own and operate Blue Water Salon in Cedarville, Mich. I believe my administrative skills and high level of work ethic will serve as an asset on our tribe's board of directors.

I support ...

— Memberships right to vote on board of directors salary, term limits and other important issues of the Sault Tribe

— Increased elders fund and available resources and programs

— Revitalizing our Youth Education and Activities programs (YEA)

— Working with public officials and districts to integrate and celebrate our culture within our communities and school systems

— Increasing wages, job training and career advancement opportunities in our establishments

— Fair labor and job opportunities for all tribal members with no room for nepotism or cronyism

— Diversified economical investments that increase revenue and strengthen our ability to achieve true self sustainability

— Increasing trade employment and internship opportunities for our youth

— Protect our treaty rights and natural resources

— Work to develop Sault Tribe Emergency Crisis Response Plan

I will serve with integrity, transparency and accountability.

Candidates from units III and IV share their thoughts on the next page.

See "Candidates," Page 17

# Primary candidates in Units III and IV speak

## Unit III

### James Everson



Hello tribal members. My name is James (Jim) Everson. I am an elder of the Sault Tribe and am running to represent Unit III on the tribal board of directors.

I was born and raised in St. Ignace, Mich., and come from a big family of eight siblings. My parents were business people and lived in St. Ignace their entire lives.

I have been married to my wife, Kyle, for 41 years. Together, we have two children.

My oldest son, Nathan, is a Doctor of Pharmacy specializing in infectious disease. My youngest son, Evan, is an environmental scientist. Both reside in Roanoke, Va.

I am in a position in my career that allows me the opportunity to be a full time board member for you.

My commitment to you:

1. To work hard to preserve our treaty rights that are being challenged constantly.
2. To see that our elders and elders' programs are taken care of and enhanced.
3. To seek additional federal funding for more low income housing for all that need it.
4. To seek funding for trade schools so our people have an opportunity at better paying jobs including manufacturing.
5. To fight hard for our health care and make sure it is improved on.
6. To work to ensure fair wages and full-time benefits for Tribal employees. They deserve better.
7. To not be intimidated and make the right choices for you.
8. To use my business experience.

My goals:

I want to see that every tribal member who needs housing is able to get it and make the process of acquiring housing easier. I will make the tough deci-

sions for you that you can trust.

I want to be part of our conservation, housing and economics programs. I want our hunting and fishing rights preserved.

I will work hard to make sure the federal government does not stop funding our tribe!

I want to see inter-tribal trade; such as electricians, plumbers, floor covering installers and other retail business within our tribe so that we have better paying job opportunities.

Tribal values:

I believe that decisions need to be made with an eye to the seventh generation and promise to plan ahead and look forward to see how future generations will be affected by my decisions made as your Unit III representative on the tribal board of director.

Seven Grandfathers teachings:

I follow the seven grandfathers teachings in my everyday life and business decisions.

This is who I am.

I want to listen to you and be your voice on the board.

I have 42 years business experience.

I have common sense.

I am an avid hunter and fisherman.

I am a retired firefighter.

I am past DDA and Harbor Authority board member.

I will bring much needed business experience to the board.

I would be humbled and honored to be your board of directors representative. Thank you in advance for your support and vote.

jde49781@gmail.com

906-630-9228

### Bridgett Sorenson



I was born and raised in St. Ignace. My parents are Jim and Loncie Sorenson. I have one brother, Jimmy, and two sons, Kody and Konnor Rickley.

The first five years of my working career were at the

Astor Street Café on Mackinac Island. When I started college in Petoskey, I continued to work at a local hotel and grocery store. I became the manager of the grocery store when I received my associate degree in business management. I then had my first son and went back to school at LSSU to get my bachelor's degree in business administration.

After graduation, I began an internship with the tribe in the Economic Development Division working with the Midjims, Northern Hospitality and Chippewa Service and Supply. That fall in 2002, I accepted a job in St. Ignace at the Human Resource Department as an employment representative for three years before accepting an administrative assistant position for the general manager of the St. Ignace Casino. I loved working with the hundreds of casino team members and helping them in any way I could. I also took on doing many banquets, meetings and weddings which was another highlight of my job.

In 2012, I wanted to be able to advocate for the team members at a higher level so I ran for the board of directors. I can say that my education and 10 years working experience in all areas of the tribe allowed me to hit the ground running. Team members and tribal members from all units feel comfortable talking to me as I am considered one of them.

I have also for many years volunteered with the Sault Head Start Policy Council, Sault Tribe Head Start Parent Committee, served on the St. Ignace Hockey Board for the past 14 years with the past four years as president. I was involved in the Relay for Life for several years, started the first Pink in the Rink game in St. Ignace with proceeds benefiting the Relay for Life and also the Hospice of the EUP. I also started a veterans' camo hockey game with proceeds benefiting our local veterans office. I worked with the Red Cross for several years on local blood drives.

I am a member of the St. Ignatius Catholic Church as well as a member of the Women of the Moose. I serve on the MAHA District 7 Hockey Council, the St. Ignace Recreation Board, the Sault Tribe Head Start Advisory Board, the Sault Tribe Housing Commission and a member of

the Chipper Huskey Scholarship Committee.

I manage events for the St. Ignace Events Committee and Visitors' Bureau, which benefits our local community as well as the casino. I also attend many local government meetings in the area.

I work for you!

## UNIT IV

### Darcy Morrow



I would like to take this time to say "Thank You" to the members of Unit IV for your continued support during this election cycle. I am unopposed this election, so I would like to update you on some of our successes and goals in Unit OV.

Accomplishments:

Have pushed to increase our land base in Unit IV with property purchases:

— 16 plus acres purchased adjacent to our existing reservation in Escanaba for future expansions.

— 12 acres with 150 self-storage units purchased in Harvey, Mich. This property also houses three commercial rental properties, ex. Harvey Ace Hardware.

— Purchased property and dock in Fairport on Lake Michigan for fishing access. Will continue to advocate for more land purchases to continue to expand our land base.

I amended the resolution to separate our hotel tax dollars equally for all five units into enhancement dollars to use for culture and education.

— This helped us bring back the free wrist bands at the UP-State Fair on Native American day.

— We can offer teachings in many different areas around Unit IV with these funds; it helps us pay the teachers, purchase supplies and tools, pay for room rental, and purchase food and drinks for the participants.

Have advocated for the expansion of culture and education in Unit IV. Teachings are now offered through the Culture Division:

— Weekly language classes are held in Escanaba and Manistique.

— Monthly teachings and cultural classes are now being offered also.

— I have worked with our Traditional Medicine Program to offer teachings around the Unit IV area.

Have advocated to expand health services in Escanaba — I am excited to announce the board just approved a budget that included expansion of full-time walk-in services for members in the Escanaba area! More info will be sent out after contracts are signed.

Have worked to increase exercise programs in Unit IV area: Escanaba — Northern Light's YMCA and Sullivan's Health and Fitness; Negaunee — YMCA of Marquette County; Manistique — high school pool and Little Bear West Ice Arena.

Our 2020 Consent Decree has been a full-time job to ensure all fishers are treated equal. No back door deals and no payouts! Our way is to look out for everyone and that is what I am here to do! I want our fishers to be able to fish wherever they want to in our 1836 waters! And I will continue to advocate that our tribe regulates our members, not the state of Michigan in our 1836 waters!

Goals:

— Continue to push for a community center to be built in Escanaba on the reservation to house elder meal program and hold events.

— Continue working toward gaining ownership of five acres of federal forest property with five buildings on US-2 in Manistique across from the boardwalk on Lake Michigan.

— Continue supporting diversification with Economic Development Department.

Remember, politicians make promises! Ask them direct questions — where have they been involved with the tribal community and how they plan to accomplish their campaign promises!

Thank you again,

Darcy Morrow  
(906) 298-1888



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Lobby Restrictions in effect.

### 2020 Sault Tribe Bear Application

The 2020 bear application period will run from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. All applications must be received by Sault Tribe Law Enforcement before **5:00 pm on June 1, 2020**. Applications received **after** 5:00 pm on June 1, 2020 will **NOT** be accepted. A lottery will be conducted at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Please be sure to indicate which Bear Management Unit you are applying for (see map below). Tribal members **MUST** possess a Inland Hunting Harvest license and **be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear and elk**. Applications for youth 9 and under **will not** be accepted.

First name  Middle name  Last name   
 Address  City  State  Zip code   
 File number( red# on Tribal card)  STS number ( red # on Harvest card)  Phone number   
 Date of birth  Sex  E-mail address

Please select **ONE** of the following Bear Management Units (BMU). Please note that all Sault Tribe bear permits are only valid within the 1836 Ceded Territory for the BMU listed on the permit. See map on for generalized boundaries of each BMU.

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Upper Peninsula                   | Lower Peninsula                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drummond | <input type="checkbox"/> Baldwin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baraga   | <input type="checkbox"/> Gladwin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gwinn    | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Oak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newberry |                                  |



**There is a \$4 application fee. Each bear application must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$4. Checks can be made out to 'Sault Tribe.' Elders (60 and older) and youth (10-16) are not required to pay application fees.**

Please send all applications to:  
**Sault Tribe Law Enforcement**  
**Bear Application**  
**P.O. Box 925**  
**Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

For questions, please contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement at 906-635-6065.

### 2020 Sault Tribe Elk Application

The 2020 Elk application period will run from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. All applications must be received by Sault Tribe Law Enforcement before **5:00 pm on June 1, 2020**. Applications received after 5:00 pm on June 1, 2020 will **NOT** be accepted. A lottery will be conducted at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Tribal members **MUST** possess a Inland Hunting Harvest license and **be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear and elk**. Applications for youth 9 and under **will not** be accepted.

First Name  Middle Name  Last Name   
 Address  City  State  Zip code   
 File number (red #on Tribal ID)  Phone number   
 STS number ( red # on harvest card)  Date of Birth  Sex  E-mail address

**There is a \$4 application fee for each application. Each elk application must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$4. Checks can be made out to 'Sault Tribe.' Elders (60 and older) and youth (10-16) are not required to pay application fees.**

Please send all applications to:

**Sault Tribe Law Enforcement**  
**Elk Applications**  
**P.O. Box 925**  
**Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

For questions, please contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement at 906-635-6065.

# UNPRECEDENTED TIMES REQUIRE STRONG LEADERSHIP



Dr. Aaron A. Payment,  
Tribal Chairperson

*Representing All  
Members Everywhere*

*Ahneen, Boozho,*

A lot has happened in the last few months including:

- **Winning our mandatory trust circuit court lawsuit;**
- **Winning the final stage of the Greektown Debtor lawsuit;**
- **Paying off nearly all of our Greektown debt;**
- **Our downstate developers filed a frivolous lawsuit against us;**

- **I sign a development agreement with a marijuana producer; and**
- **The Covid-19 Crisis impacted our services, loss of gaming revenues and the projected payroll and operational expense estimated at > \$15 million.**

Please see my Facebook Page (see below) for more detailed updates.

## DESPERATLY NEEDED NEW REVENUES

Our Tribe has stabilized a great deal in the last several years with paying off our Greektown Debt. Our Tribe was unfairly and discriminatorily held to a standard the other two casinos were not. We are at the end of the debt which will avail revenues for program and services expansion but also new developments in both gaming and non-gaming enterprises like the marijuana industry.

The work I do at the Na-

tional level with fighting to get the US government to honor our treaty and trust responsibility brings over \$40 million annually that rivals our gaming net revenues of \$17 million. With...

- **Reoccurring 3rd Party Health revenues (\$12 million annually);**
- **Annual Inland Consent Decree appropriations \$455,000;**
- **Contract Support Cost Settlement Funds (\$5.5 million);**
- **2020 Consent Decree Litigation support funds (\$478,000); and with**
- **Consistent increases in our Annual Funding Agreements supplied with Federal dollars...**

...the net multi-year impact is also over \$50 million new funds since I have served as Chair.

## PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The Covid-19 pandemic has threatened our Tribe, our People and our Team Members. The projected expense to rightfully carry all workers is expected to exceed our annual net revenues. I pushed hard to close our casinos to save lives.

I am working harder than ever to recover our losses. I played a direct role in securing an unprecedented \$8 billion for Indian Country through my role as 1st VP for the National Congress of American Indians. I participated in at least ten key consultation sessions with the Departments of Interior and Treasury, HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration Tribal Advisory, with the National Indian Health Board and directly with the White House.

**OVER \$4,552,501  
& COUNTING!**

Over the last four weeks, I have been directly responsible for securing a new \$2,496,013 in BIA Self-Governance and CDC funds with another \$1.5 million in Housing received and helped author a \$500,000 grant from the SAMSHA for which I serve as a National Tribal Advisory Board Member. This is a total of \$4,552,501 so far! I expect our total share of relief funds will be tens of millions.

I am proud that I have led our Tribe to the point that

*Chi McGwitch, Negee!*

we receive direct solicitation from the White House, Congress, and US Department of Interior for our input. We will weather this storm and hopefully celebrate during our annual Home Coming powwow.

Call: **800-793-0660**

Cell: **906-440-5937**

Email: **aaronpayment@yahoo.com**

Facebook **'Aaron Payment'**

# Updates on tribal services, events, and more



DENISE CHASE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

## USDA food program:

The USDA tribal food distribution program has implemented temporary food distribution changes during the coronavirus epidemic and state of emergency closure.

If you are currently getting USDA food commodities at any of the distribution sites, according to Juanita Bye, ACFS director, you will receive the same food items or order that you had placed prior to the pandemic.

Any new food applicants that

have just been approved to get USDA food will be able to select their initial first order.

The USDA department is following temporary steps in order to keep you, the food recipients, and staff safe. As soon as the safe distancing order and state of emergency is lifted, the food program will go back to their normal procedures.

If you have any questions, or need to apply for the USDA program, call 635-6076 or (888) 448-8732.

## Unit IV area updates:

I'm happy to announce that at a recent board meeting, the board of directors approved the health budget, which also had funding included to allow for a walk-in clinic and services to be negotiated in the Escanaba area.

The Health Division will keep us posted, and once established it will be announced publicly to the membership.

## Four elder homes – Escanaba housing site:

At this time because of the pandemic and state of emergency/stay at home order, work has been halted on the project and no work can be completed until

the stay at home order is lifted. Will update you as soon as we hear more information. The contractor has assured housing staff that they will work quickly to finish the homes and driveways as soon as work can resume.

No update yet by the Health Division on the contract for the exercise facility usage in Manistique.

## Manistique Gathering of the Clans Powwow:

At this time, we are holding off on scheduling a date for our powwow until the state of emergency is lifted. Once it's safe to schedule a date we will post and announce in the local and tribal paper and website.

## Cultural teachings:

We have had to recently cancel our scheduled hand drum making class and teachings for April in the Escanaba and Gwinn areas. These teachings will be rescheduled after the state of emergency is lifted and it is safe to hold these community events.

Director Morrow and I will be working to organize more cultural teachings throughout the until IV areas after everything gets back to normal and we can

start holding community gatherings again.

Please read the update in this paper from the law enforcement office regarding the exercising of your treaty rights on the inland and Great Lakes.

I continue to attend the weekly 2020 treaty fishing right negotiation meetings. At times I have a conflict with another tribal meeting that is held on the same day and time. When that occurs Director Morrow is in attendance and will give me an update, so our fishers and membership are represented.

Remember, social distancing is crucial to stop the coronavirus spread. It will make some people feel isolated; especially our elders who live alone and who do not have family living close by. Please reach out to them in your community or neighborhood and see if they need anything dropped off to them, or just a phone call to make their day go by faster and help take their mind off this difficult time.

I would like to say a huge thank you to ALL our team members who are working during the coronavirus outbreak,

whether it is from home or at your clinic or office site. We appreciate all the incredible work you do. Thank you to all the Health Division workers in the medical, dental and pharmacy departments for keeping the Health Division services running smoothly and taking care of the membership needs.

The tribe appreciates each and every team member throughout our organization, tribal wide and I thank you ALL!

We continue to receive daily and weekly updates from our executive director, CFO, interim CEO and EDC director on any changes to their state of emergency plan and recommendations to ensure the safety of tribal members, team members and community.

Please remember to stay safe and healthy everyone as we maneuver through this coronavirus crisis.

If you need to reach me, please contact me at (906) 203-2471 or dchase@saulttribe.net

Thank you,  
Denise Chase, Unit IV board representative

# Language and Culture Department continues to serve

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Language and Culture Department continues to serve the community despite the pandemic.

"It's challenging for us to put forward meaningful cultural and language programing while meeting CDC guidelines for self-distancing, but team members have risen to the challenge," Language and Culture Department Director

Colleen Medicine said.

The Language and Culture Department is putting forward meaningful content via its social media pages. The department recently announced on Facebook it would be conducting a class on how to make dream catchers. Within 20 hours, the announcement had 9,000 views. There have also been Anishinaabemowin language

lessons posted over the past few weeks regarding maple syrup, Easter stories and one on staying healthy through the pandemic.

Content from the tribe's Traditional Medicine Program has also been posted to social media pages. Traditional practitioner Joe Syrette made a video presentation about sema/tobacco teachings while traditional practitioner Gerard Sagassige posted a video

on sage teachings.

The department is also creating Anishinaabe language lessons and working with the Sault Tribe Elders Program to have them included in meals.

Traditional services are being tweaked. Instead of performing the spring ceremony, the department is putting forward information via the Sault Tribe website and its social media pages

explaining how members can perform the ceremony at home.

Departmental social media pages and the livestream page for archived language lessons can be viewed at:

Facebook: @SaultTribeLanguageandCulture  
Instagram: @saulttribelanguageculture  
Livestream: @https://livestream.com/saulttribelanguage

# Unite and support each other during pandemic



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

As I write this, we are in the midst of a pandemic like we have never experienced before. This is not the time for anyone to prey on

insecurities or take advantage of anyone's concerns and fears. Now, as in the past, we must unite and support each other during challenging and unsure times. Every member of the board continues to work with management to plan and change plans as needed. Management has been empowered to make changes if needed, and we meet weekly and communicate often to discuss major decisions. Our committees continue to meet as needed. Our directors work hard to communicate with our team and tribal members. Please remember we have many team members and things change rapidly.

We will get through this, things will re-open. Dates may change (Kewadin Casinos open date has already changed three times prior

to press-time), things will be different. Social distancing will continue even after our state opens, things will be done gradually and as safely as we can. I cannot express enough how fast things change, just because we have a date listed does not mean that is what will occur. We have multiple plans, and our executive team continues to meet daily to address alternative plans. I ask team members to continue exercising patience and to contact your supervisors regarding work, reopening, etc.

I want to thank our essential staff for their continued devotion to our community. I believe as a community, we helped and continue to help flatten the curve of COVID-19. Many of our services as a sovereign government need

to continue during this pandemic. We have health services, family services, schooling, courts and police services, among others that continue to meet the needs of our many communities. Our health services have increased our ability to address this pandemic and our access to testing. They have demonstrated staying strong and continue to provide services - thank you. I also want to thank the community for mask-making, providing food distribution, education ideas, and ideas for dealing with isolation. I've been amazed by our community.

Our tribe has many departments and they are adapting to continue to provide our members with information and services. Our youth activities, culture and traditional healing

departments have offered some online activities and I look forward to more teachings. Please use our website and social media outlets to see what's available and all the changes, and be sure to check it often. As individuals we need to know our rights and practice them responsibly. Be considerate of those around us. Call family members, not just to check-in but to make sure we stay connected. Do your part to help our community get through this, even if means to stay home. Stay safe, stay healthy and practice social distancing till we get through this. We will get through this — we are a resilient people. If anyone wants to discuss these concerns or issues that face our tribe, contact me at (906) 440-7768.

Chi miigwech.

# Tribal ancestors gave us strength to face future



**JENNIFER MCLEOD,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, Anishnaabek! We are living in historic times, challenging and frightening times. We are

living under unprecedented orders to shut down businesses, to stay in our homes and many other changes to our daily lives, all so that we may fight an enemy that we cannot see — the coronavirus. There is much I want to say to you, but am limited because of the election. I am allowed but 500 words in this article. But I want to tell you that we will move through this TOGETHER. When the virus is defeated and we can start to put our lives back together, it won't be easy BUT WE CAN DO IT, each and everyone of us CAN DO IT, but we need each other.

Our ancestors gave us the strength to face whatever may come. We must now, as in the

past, stand united and build a bright, safe and secure future. A future so bright that it will ensure our way of life for the next seven generations. Unity and victory are synonymous and in unity there is strength. "We can move mountains when we're united, and enjoy life — without unity, we are victims. Stay united." **WE WILL NOT BE VICTIMS. We will be VICTORIOUS.**

Our tribal nation has joined other tribal nations throughout Indian Country, fighting for resources so that we can win this war. We have been successful in being awarded BILLIONS of dollars from the federal government, only to be stalled by the national Treasury because it doesn't know

how to deal with Indian nations. The Treasury doesn't know what to do. But the answer is simple: **WRITE THE CHECKS.** Other federal departments have a successful history of paying tribes, the Treasury should simply follow their lead. It is my hope and prayer that by the time you read this article, the checks are "in the mail." Until then, we will do what we must to ensure the safety of everyone.

Below you will find a picture of tribal health centers in Michigan. Services vary, but there are services available for ALL members of federally recognized tribes. See which one is closest to you, and reach out. Also, I have provided a list of Indian

organizations that may be helpful with other non-health related needs. Reach out to them if you need assistance. We are all in this together. We must be united in heart and mind as one world, one people. Remember, fear is contagious, but so is HOPE. Feel free to contact me if I can be of any help to you, no matter where you live.

Hold fast, stay strong, be safe and well.

Shawindekaa (Many blessings),

Anishnaabe gageget (Anishaabe for always),

Jen  
(906) 440-9151

Email at jennifer.  
mcleod.2012@gmail.com

# Escanaba budgeted for walk-in health clinic



**DARCY MORROW,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

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

all the material available about it. If you need to go out, please use social distancing; keep six feet apart. And remember to wear a facemask and rubber gloves if you need to go out to the stores. Elders, please protect yourselves and stay home. Please check on the elders in your community, reach out and see if you can deliver them any items they may need.

The executive director, Health Division and casino CEO have been keeping the board aware with daily updates of steps they are taking to combat the virus and keep team members along with all our communities safe. At this time, our five casinos are closed with a tentative open date. Most of our governmental workers are either working a few hours in the

office with scheduled appointment times for members or working from home. Our essential workers and our health staff continue to be on the front lines and available for members medical needs. I want to take this time to thank each one of you working for our people! We are blessed to have the staff we have that are willing to be on the front lines ensuring our members needs are taken care of!

Some exciting news for Unit IV — the board approved the health budget two weeks ago that included an expansion to Escanaba health services for a walk-in clinic contract. As soon as the health division gets a contract in place for services, they will get the information out to the membership.

Unfortunately, due to the coro-

navirus, we have had to cancel our next two hand drum teachings scheduled for April 18 and 19 in Gwinn, Mich., at the Sands Township building and April 25 and 26 in Escanaba at the Chamber of Commerce building. We will reschedule these teachings when we have the ok to resume social gathering activities.

I have received calls and questions from tribal members about the governor's order to not allow motorboats for fishing. The governor's order does not affect our treaty rights. If you want to go out and exercise your treaty right by fishing using your inland harvest card on the inland lakes and your tribal card on the Great Lakes, you can go out and enjoy your treaty rights. If you want to go out to gather and

harvest with your inland card you can do that also; please remember to practice social distancing. Please see the update provided in this paper by law enforcement on your treaty rights. If you have any questions, give law enforcement a call (906) 635-6065.

I continue to keep an eye on our fishing treaty rights by attending our weekly Sault Tribe 2020 meetings and monthly 2020 meetings with all five 1836 tribes, the state and feds.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (906) 298-1888.

Thank you,  
Darcy Morrow  
Unit IV representative  
dmorrow@saulttribe.net

# Board working hard to navigate COVID-19 crisis



**KEITH MASSAWAY,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

What a different world we live in today than yesterday!

This pandemic has affected everyone. This event will change the way we think now and forever about so many things. As we look back in history, we have to look at 1918 and the pandemic of the Spanish Flu. That pandemic infected an estimated one third of the entire world's population and killed an estimated 675,000 people in the USA. The only action the public could take was seek quarantine and isolate themselves from

others.

After the first wave hit in the spring of 1918 things leveled off and then in November, World War I ended. The public turned out in jubilation and parades. The soldiers brought a new wave of the pandemic back from Europe.

The second wave was devastating. This second wave accounted for most of the infections and deaths in the USA. The spring of 1919 brought on the last lethal wave of the Spanish flu. By the summer, the worst was over with some cases

and smaller outbreaks around the world.

With that as our history, we hopefully will not repeat those events in the same way. So I implore everyone to use common sense. We cannot stay in our homes indefinitely. We cannot stay away from work, stores and small gatherings all together. When we start to reenter society again, take care to control your surroundings the best you can. Wear masks, sanitize often and visit the compromised citizens in a responsible manner. The Spanish flu came and went

and so will COVID-19. We will return to a new normal. It may take more time but we will.

The tribal board and chairman are working hard to navigate this difficult crisis. We are working with all the executives of our tribe to ensure all members and team members are taken care of to the best of our ability. Stay safe, be brave and take care. Thank you all for the emails and calls.

Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace, MI 49781, kmassaway@msn.com, (906) 643-6981



# Working together to sustain tribe, community



**KIMBERLE GRAVELLE**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello, I hope everyone is staying safe and heeding all the precautions during the COVID-19 crisis.

At this point, the casino will remain closed until April 30 and governmental offices until May 3, 2020. Tribal employees will continue to be paid during this time. The dates can change based on discussions and recommendations from the CDC. We continue to meet every Tuesday for discussions, updates and strategies. This allows putting in place plans with the health and well being of our team members as a number one priority. I would like to thank our essential team members who come to work to help sustain the tribe through this crisis.

I would like to thank the individuals who call and get the facts about the decisions the board of directors is making for our tribal members and businesses. Since the COVID-19 crisis I've spent

a lot of time on the phone with tribal members from all over the United States. Most of the concerns are the negative messages that are being put out on social media. The Facebook posts are from individuals who have not made any contact with the decision makers to see what plan of action has been put into place.

Another concern is the release of inter-office memos that are being posted on social media without supervisor approval. This is unacceptable. If this type of behavior was done during any of my past employment the consequences would have been termination. If team members have an issue with decisions made by their supervisor they should follow the chain of command to work through any concerns they

may have.

In order for us to get through this unchartered territory we need to work together and not drag each other down.

Another issue is the information being put out to the public that the board of directors only works two days a month. A board member told us we don't need to attend any other meetings or sit on any committees other than the two we are required to attend each month. As board representatives, we travel at local, state and national levels to represent the tribe, spend hours on the phone, personally assist members with issues; attend meetings, sit on various committees, along with any other matters that might arise. I know some think we only

attend workshop meetings once a week but this is a 24/7 job and a lot of what board members do does not get advertised to the public. If you choose to only attend workshops and the two meetings a month that's on you. I think the members expect more and they know who does more without asking for praise or acknowledgement.

As always, please keep the men and women in the armed forces in your prayers and thoughts for a safe return to their families.

If you have any questions or comments you can contact me at (906) 203-6083 or at [KKGravelle@saulttribe.net](mailto:KKGravelle@saulttribe.net).

Thank You,  
Kim Gravelle

## COVID-19 impacts dynamic and changing daily



**CATHERINE HOLLOWELL,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

What a difference six weeks can make. Looking back through my board schedule from the beginning of March, we were actively engaged in all the activities related to tribal governance and operations of our tribe. Some items routine, like budgetary

review; legal, programming and oversight. Others items more urgent, requiring policy and development with critical deadlines, as well as standing committees, conference meetings and community events. In other words — normal. Then COVID-19 changed everything.

It came on my radar in early January, while visiting family in California. The subject came up in conversation, probably because my daughter-in-law is a registered nurse in San Francisco and there was already buzz in the medical community. Still, it was so far away. It wasn't much more than a headline while browsing the news. In the blink of an eye, the first cases were confirmed out west (now I was paying attention). And, what seems like overnight, there were outbreaks across the United States including Michigan—and our rural northern communities are at risk.

The first two cases of the virus in Michigan were confirmed on March 10. Today, as of April 20, there are 32,000 confirmed cases and 2,468 mortalities in the state.

Sault Tribe has been in overdrive ever since. We declared a state of emergency on March 17. I cannot say enough in admiration and appreciation for our executive staff, division directors, program managers, support and administrative staff, and our essential workforce on the front lines. The impacts are dynamic and changing daily and our employees across the board have stepped up to the tremendous challenges we are facing on a daily basis. I know there are many sleepless nights and works going on into the wee hours of the morning. I am grateful to each and every team member of Sault Tribe.

Almost everyone knows someone near and dear who has

been impacted by this pandemic. Loved ones have been lost; families who are coping with the illness. It's hard to grasp the scale of economic destruction this virus has brought down on us all. We are all watching this play out in real time. But I want to assure you that Sault Tribe is in the business of keeping our members, our employees and our communities safe and healthy. That is our priority. And even as we struggle with the adverse impact, we are unanimously committed to the health and safety of our people. That is our priority. That is our mission. Protect our people. One way or the other, we will get through this. But the safety of our people will not be sacrificed for any other concern. We are unified about that.

We've worked hard to adapt in order to protect our employees while still providing services to our members. Please, if you have

any questions or concerns or need information, visit our website, [saulttribe.com](http://saulttribe.com). There you will find valuable information across all areas of our tribal services, as well as point of contact information. Or you can call me at (906) 430-5551. Leave a message. I will call you back as soon as possible. You can also reach me by e-mail at [chollowell@saulttribe.net](mailto:chollowell@saulttribe.net).

Until there is a testing and tracing strategy in place, we are very vulnerable here in rural areas. Testing supplies, reagents and supply chains are a huge problem everywhere. Until that is resolved, please, please take social distancing seriously so we can avoid community spread. A big shout out to all the community helpers who keep checking in on our elders and homebound, and keeping us connected with virtual hugs, humor and love. Stay safe and stay strong.

## Updating Unit I members on legislation, resolutions



**BETTY FREIHEIT,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello tribal members, as I write my unit report, we are all still tethered to our homes here in Michigan, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This coronavirus hit the world like a tsunami and made a catastrophic event like the world has never seen. It's scary! Watching the tragedies on the news is just incomprehensible to me!

Our tribal board of directors' meetings have been conducted by video, because of the coronavirus.

All of the Kewadin Casinos are closed, at least until May 1, or until our governor decides to

re-open Michigan!

I need to express my gratefulness to everyone, for your cooperation and perseverance, during this difficult time with our tribe's enterprises and governmental side being shut down. The essential employees of our tribe are doing a phenomenal job! I believe they should all be compensated!

Several tribal employees have asked me why "board members, don't have to punch a time clock like they do." I believe we should be accountable for our time!

The only time a record is kept is during the beginning of board meetings when the board's secretary takes a roll call. That information can be found on, "Voting Matrix & Approved Resolutions" on the tribe's website.

I will explain how to go there, where you may check on the attendance of any directors going back years, how the directors voting on resolutions and who sponsored the resolutions.

1. Go to Sault Tribe's website [saulttribe.com](http://saulttribe.com)
2. Go to the box on the left, where it says "Board of Directors"
3. Under the menu, go to "Downloads"
4. Go to the right where is

says, "Board Meeting Votes and Approved Resolutions."

I found all the old resolutions and votes interesting. These records don't lie! You can go back and learn all about Greentown, who supported it, how much money was wasted and so on.

I am working on a couple res-

olutions; a certain board member brought up the Election Code and stated to me that my resolutions may be considered campaigning.

I know this is part of my job, to legislate directly for the members and make life better and fair. Legislation is one of the most important instruments of government. The web they weaved!

I'm going to do my job, submit my resolutions per the tribal Constitution and not worry about their sneaky tribal Election Codes!

I hope this article finds you in good health and stay safe!

Betty F. Freiheit  
906-379-8745  
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## April is Child Abuse and Prevention Month

### FROM ACFS

April is nationally recognized as Child Abuse and Prevention Month. With the current social distancing protocols and with school and sports activities cancelled, it leaves children vulnerable. They become isolated from friends, teachers, coaches and other people who would notice and report the suspicion of abuse or neglect. It is more important than ever to notice the signs of child abuse and neglect, and to be a part of the solution.

Child abuse and neglect often takes place in the home at the hands of a person the child knows well and could include a parent, grandparent, babysitter, live together partner or friend of the family. There are four major types of child maltreatment and many times they occur concurrently. Each state and tribe is responsible for establishing its own definitions of child abuse and neglect that meet federal minimum standards. Most include the following:

- Neglect, failure to provide a basic needs.
- Physical abuse, injury as a result of hitting, kicking, shaking, burning or otherwise harming a child.

- Sexual abuse. This may include indecent exposure, fondling, rape or commercial exploitation.

- Emotional abuse, any pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development of sense of self-worth, including constant criticism, threats and rejection.

How can I help?

- Share information on child abuse and neglect
- Check on your family and friends often
- Talk to your kids about body safety
- Talk to your kids about online safety
- Report any suspicion of abuse or neglect

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about family support programs or requesting services offered through ACFS please call 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093.

To report a case of suspected abuse or neglect of a child, please contact the Michigan Department of Human Services Child Protective Services 24 hour intake hotline at (855) 444-3911, or Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (800) 726-0093. All calls are confidential and reporting sources are protected by law.

# COVID-19 impacting tribal operations, casinos



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

I wish we were in a better position as I write this report. There is just so much uncertainty in the world right now. I

had hoped that this was going to be contained by now as well as everyone else, I am sure.

The good news is the board of directors, the chair and our executive staff have continued to meet weekly and we are updated daily by the executive staff. We are looking at all possibilities and weighing all options to make the best decisions for our team members, members and customers. Not one person has taken any of this lightly. We have been fortunate enough to be able to pay our staff through the end of April, unlike other businesses and organizations.

I know some team members have advocated for layoffs, especially tipped positions. Unemployment in itself has many issues with people not

being able to talk to someone, get through on the phone or online. At least team members had comfort in knowing they were getting paid on schedule.

As we move forward, we will need to do things differently because this virus is not going away anytime soon; the vaccination will take awhile as well. We had set the casino opening date to be May 1 but that doesn't mean we are not going to evaluate the situation at the time. When we do open, we will be taking many necessary precautions. It is hard to write about things because changes could happen daily.

We will begin opening the casinos with a skeleton crew with no table games, no restaurant and only one bar open per

property. Slot machines will be spaced far enough apart with some shut down to accommodate the social distancing. Security or other personnel will be taking customers temperatures and have masks and gloves available.

Casino staff were all contacted individually to ask if they would like to take a voluntary leave without pay so that they could sign up for unemployment. Anyone wanting to stay on will continue to be paid and may need to work in other areas than what they were hired for, such as housekeeping. Team members were notified that there are no guarantees of returning to work because we cannot predict what the economy will look like in the coming months. Anyone with questions should go through

their chain of command.

We are working on getting any grants we can to get the tribe through this as unscathed as possible. We are maintaining many essential services with minimal staff with some working from home as well. Each division is still answering phones and emails and helping members with programs that are available.

Housing has suspended rent and lease-to-purchase payments for the month of April and May. Housing has also provided more funding to ACFs for families needing assistance that live off the reservation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [bridgett91@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgett91@yahoo.com) or (906) 984-2052. Prayers for you all!

## Taking steps to protect staff, members, clients



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

As I wrote this report, it was with a very heavy heart. I know all of our tribe is feeling this, everywhere. Our communities

and entire tribal nation have been under fear and stress over the world's pandemic. During this time, we have had to weigh out essential employees remaining in the service workforce to assist and service our members. This has been difficult and immense pressure for our team members and their families.

Our goal is to remain open for meals, medical appointments, assistance programs and support for our communities in any safe way we can. It's taken a toll on people who work for us, so please be patient and understand things may be a little slower with changes happening daily. We have taken many steps to provide protection as we learn from CDC guidelines and the approach we had to take.

We have also created an emergency preparedness plan and all our staff has worked very hard on this — the appreciation to all those involved is beyond words. Thank any team members you see, please!

As all know, our casino properties and enterprises are all closed; this is devastating to our tribe and financial well-being. I never thought I would see the day that we would face a concern of this magnitude (casinos closing) or not have the means to support our members with our ongoing revenue. To be completely honest and upfront on what we face, we are estimating millions of dollars in lost revenue and expenses to maintain payments, expenses to pay our team members for

just a 2-month period (this is a priority of the entire board; we will not just abandon our people who have been dedicated to our properties and government structure).

I'm writing this as it's important for our members to understand the impact that will need to be addressed in the coming months. This June 2020 we were slated to pay off an almost 20-year loan payment of about \$157 million. I am so relieved that we have this out of the way and I remained diligent to make this a priority, because moving forward, we will need to look at many different options and solutions to recover and build from here. I have to be confident in our administration, chair and leaders that we

can get there with relief funds, stimulus packages and internal income to build upon for solutions. I'm committed, I understand and will be part of the recovery steps we need to take. I will not tolerate any (politics) nonsense or settle for anything less than making our tribe safe and whole once this has passed, and it will! Indian people have had to endure and recover from much worse and, as always, we will.

Please contact me for concerns and any ideas as well — it's going to take all of us. Please take care and stay safe.

Baamaapii.

Lana Causley-Smith  
Unit II representative  
(906) 484-2954, (906) 322-3818, [lcausley@saulttribe.net](mailto:lcausley@saulttribe.net)

## Board taking unified approach to COVID-19



**DJ HOFFMAN  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

The past several weeks have been extremely challenging for the tribe, our employees and the membership as a whole. Our tribe, our nation and our entire world has been tragically impacted by the coronavirus.

The tribal board of directors has taken a unified approach to ensure our employees and members receive their necessary services while employees continue to receive paychecks. We are dedicated to ensuring we continue to meet these commitments until we can bring our employees back into a safe and productive environment.

There are some who have sought to capitalize on this pandemic with political aspira-

tions by knocking the manner in which the board has acted, or by diminishing the performances of our tribe's existing economic operations (including casinos). The following should be noted in those regards:

(1) The tribal board has authorized its executives to implement emergency plans to ensure the safety and security of our assets (including our employees and membership).

(2) The tribe's professional medical staff have been instrumental in ensuring services continue and our people remain safe.

(3) All of our employees continue to receive pay during these trying times. Recently, casino employees were offered (upon request) the option to take leave without pay to qualify for the enhanced federal compensation.

(4) Some have taken this opportunity to diminish the tribe's business diversification and operations. This could not be further from the truth. Our smaller non-gaming businesses have all been profitable and, along with our casino and tribal reserves, have enabled our tribe to continue to pay our employees during this state of emergency.

(5) The tribal board has

not set the date of the casino re-openings. We have empowered casino executives to put together plans in accordance with the latest state closure and accompanied by recommendations of professional and medical staff.

In regards to the communication provided to casino employees, the following is the most recent:

Kewadin Casinos has been taking all necessary steps to protect one of its greatest assets — its team members. We will continue to invest in our team members by ensuring they are paid during this unexpected closure, and we are evaluating daily the possibility of when we can re-open.

Many team members have inquired about the possibility of a leave without pay to qualify them for the enhanced unemployment assistance currently offered by the state and federal governments.

Kewadin values its team members and wants to ensure that they receive that maximum benefits and opportunities for their respective families during this state of emergency.

Team members may request a leave without pay to qualify for the enhanced unemployment

opportunities. Any request will be considered on a voluntary basis. The leave will be effective on April 20, 2020, with team members being called back as needed.

Under the leave, Kewadin Casinos will pay your benefits (for those currently enrolled in our health insurance program) during this time.

Better days are ahead for our casinos and our team members and we thank you for your resilience and your patience during these trying times.

While there are some who would cast stones at the optimistic re-opening date, I assure you that this plan and date are fluid dependent upon what is occurring within our tribe, state, and nation. I understand that negativity often rears its head as there is an election occurring within the tribe. The will of the people will ultimately decide the future representation of our tribe.

I am hopeful that after this storm has passed that our tribe will be able to move forward in a positive and progressive manner setting aside the petty differences for a common goal.

**PRIORITIES**

As a board member, it is my goal to move our tribe forward.

It is not my goal to get involved in petty squabbles because of personal likes and dislikes. The common theme should always be to approach each topic, each vote, based on the betterment of the tribe as a whole.

I prefer documentation and research to assertion and opinion. I am not always right, however, I believe we as board members have a responsibility to do more than just show up.

I will also continue to work with members of the board to ensure that we become innovative in our approach to economic diversification, membership services, and stepping out of the non progressive box that we appear to be confined to.

I want to conclude this report by thanking each and every one of our employees (from the front line to Health and beyond).

I would like to ask all of you to remain vigilant in adhering to the medical recommendations to ensure all our safety.

Sincerely,

DJ Hoffman  
Cell: (906) 203-0510,  
Tribal email: [djhoffman@saulttribe.net](mailto:djhoffman@saulttribe.net)  
Personal email:  
[djwhoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:djwhoffman@hotmail.com)

# Local group makes and donates face masks to front line and essential workers, businesses

From "Masks," page 9 for other individuals, hospitals, janitorial staff and essential workers. I'm truly amazed at the number of people who have reached out asking for masks, as well as the amount of people who are encouraging and supporting one another through these difficult times. I truly feel blessed to be able to have the ability to help in my small way, and hope that together we can all provide enough masks statewide that will help to slow the spread of the coronavirus. I am also working to finish a set of masks for the tribal board of directors, as well as a set for a hospital worker in St. Ignace."

Escherich said that other mask making groups have reached out to her from Mackinac County

and across the river in Ontario, Canada, to discuss supply shortages, trials and errors with patterns and tips and techniques for streamlining some of the processes. "This is 100 percent not possible without all the people who dusted off their swinging machines and decided to give the pattern a shot, even if they had no idea how to sew!" she said.

If you would like to donate materials or lend a helping hand, contact Escherich at [tmielens@gmail.com](mailto:tmielens@gmail.com), or look for the group on Facebook.



Lisa Burnside is a youth service coordinator for Sault Tribe. She started making masks for family living in Texas and Florida, when she posted pictures of them on Facebook a former student who is now a hospital worker in Indiana contacted her about making some. "Now I'm helping Tiffany with the Chippewa Country group," Burnside said. (above and right)



# Cars! SUVs! Trucks!



Escherich keeps a tub at the end of her driveway with materials needed to make the masks for anyone in the group who needs more supplies, or that has some odds and ends to donate to the group.



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Carolyn Dale makes and donates ear savers for the face masks.

Sonja Killips  
Sara Collins, mother Linda, John Garcia, SpringSage Medicine & I are cutting and sewing from Bay Mills to Hesse!



One of the recent posts on the groups Facebook page.





# *Miigwetch - Thank You*

To all essential  
service workers for your  
dedication during this  
unprecedented  
time.

With our most  
sincere appreciation,  
Kewadin Casinos

