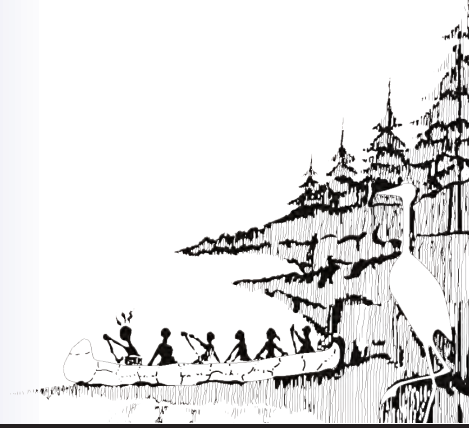




Win Awenen Nisitotung

July 19, 2023
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Dale named JKL School PSA superintendent

Carolyn Dale Ph.D. was recently hired to be the new Superintendent of JKL School, effective July 1, 2023.

Dale, a tribal member, was born and raised in the Sault. She became interested, and invested, in education when her eldest son started school. A working mother, Dale attended Bay Mills Community College and then Lake Superior State University to earn a Bachelor's of Science in Education, with minors in History (including Native History) and English.

Presented with a number of job opportunities after com-

pleting her degree, Dale chose JKL Bahweting School in 2000 because she wanted to serve and give back to the tribal community that supported her at BMCC and LSSU.

At JKL, Dale taught third and fourth grades, as well as middle school Language Arts and Social Studies, and with the encouragement of then Principal Nick Oshelski, pursued and completed a Masters degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Michigan University. She then served as Curriculum Director, Middle School Principal, Director of State and Federal

Programs, and Special Education Coordinator throughout her tenure at JKL. During this time, Dale obtained an Education Specialist degree in Educational Administration from NMU.

While working dedicated hours at JKL, in 2018, Dale received her doctorate (PhD) in Educational Administration from Eastern Michigan University, with a dissertation that focused on student motivation.

In 2021, Dale was hired as Principal at JKL, responsible for all instruction and daily operation of the school. With the retirement of Superintendent Theresa

Kallstrom, the JKL School Board chose Dale, whose commitment to JKL she has demonstrated tireless dedication, and whose knowledge of current education and best practices promise a creative and successful future for JKL.

Her overall goals, according to Dale, are aligned to the school's mission statement and include a continuation and increase the school's focus on Anishinabe culture and Anishinaabemowin language instruction, maintain rigorous learning standards, talent development of individual students, and whole child education and development.



Carolyn Dale, Ph.D.

ICWA ruling a win for Native families and tribal sovereignty; state legislators pass GAP funding

The United States Supreme Court issued a 7-2 ruling June 15 upholding key provisions in the Indian Child Welfare Act that seeks to keep Native American children with their extended family or in a family from another tribe in cases of foster care and adoption. The decision was praised by Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Chairman Austin Lowes as an important ruling that upholds tribal sovereignty.

"Fifty years ago, forced family separation was a disturbing reality for far too many Native Americans, so today is a major victory for tribal sovereignty," Chairman Lowes said. "This decision could have undone protections families have enjoyed for decades that state courts place children in accordance with preferences that keep Native children connected to their Tribe when they

are going to foster or adoptive homes. We are thankful that the court respected our status as sovereign nations and our right to keep children with their extended families and maintain their cultural connections."

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was passed in 1978 to help keep Native American children connected to tribal families and culture by giving preference to those families or Native institutions when they are placed in foster care or adoption situations. Lowes stated that the law has helped keep children in their communities, which has reduced trauma by ensuring they could maintain contacts with family members and other relatives while in foster care.

"Today's U.S. Supreme Court decision could have undone years of federal law and had significant impacts to tribal sovereignty across the nation, so

everyone in Indian Country is breathing a sigh of relief today" Jocelyn Fabry, Chief Judge of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court, said.

The ICWA case came at a time when the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians had been urging Michigan's state legislature to update state law to ensure that families involved in tribal court systems the ability to access state Guardianship Assistance Program funding.

Senate Bills 137 and 138 were introduced earlier this year by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) and Sen. John Damoose (R-Harbor Springs). The bills would make Michigan families eligible for the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) regardless of the court that orders a child's guardianship. Children with guardianship orders from tribal courts are not currently eligible for the pro-

gram, nor are children who have guardianship orders from other states.

Michigan lawmakers passed the GAP legislation June 22 that gives children involved in tribal court systems and their guardians access to the same support system as those whose cases are in state courts. Senate Bills 137 and 138 passed the State House with immediate effect, which means the bills will become law as soon as they are signed by Gov. Whitmer.

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Chairman Austin Lowes thanked the legislature for recognizing the inequalities of the current law and for the legislature's quick work.

"The passage of this legislation will have an immediate positive impact on native children and families across the state. There are families that

have been waiting for these bills to pass so they can have access to the same resources as non-native families in Michigan," said Chairman Lowes. "On behalf of all Sault Tribe members, I would like to thank the legislature for listening to our stories and for ensuring that all families have access to this important resource."

The Guardianship Assistance Program provides financial support for families who provide permanent guardianship for children when adoption or family re-unification are not appropriate options.

The amount of assistance is pegged to foster care rates. Guardianship, as a permanent option that often takes place within the child's extended family, usually provides a more secure placement that keeps children better connected to their communities.

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Over the past month, a new Manistique powwow, a Tribal Grand Assembly including keynote speaker Angeline Bouley, the Sault Powwow, walleye stocking, a Mackinac Straits Health System facility groundbreaking, a St. Ignace Head Start graduation, and the Billy Mills race, among other events, took place, and are pictured within the pages of this issue. Above is this year's Billy Mills Tot Trot race hosted by JKL Anishnabe PSA. See race photos on page 25, or do a search for "Photos from Sault Tribe News archives," on Facebook.

Sault Tribe partners with Mackinac Straits Health System project

ST. IGNACE — With \$10 million in state funding secured all of the involved parties took a proverbial victory lap on July 6 in a ground breaking celebration for the Mackinac Straits Health System Medical Office Building Project.

“Today is a good day,” said Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes addressing the crowd. “It is what true partnership should look like across the state and across the country.”

Lowes expressed his appreciation to Sault Tribe Health Director Dr. Leo Chugunov and Sault Tribe Executive Director Christine McPherson for their work in helping to bring this project to fruition.

“Native Americans are disproportionately affected by a lot of health ailments. That includes diabetes and cancer,” Lowes told Upnorthlive.com. “So when this new facility is up, it will help better meet the needs of our mem-

bership.”

Mackinac Straits Health System currently has a payroll of \$16 million and employs approximately 350 people according to former Michigan Department of Community Health Director James Haveman underscoring the importance of the expansion not only to health and welfare of Mackinac County residents, but the financial impact as well. As Mackinac Straits Health System has continued to add services in St. Ignace over the last dozen or so years, the construction of the new medical office building, tentatively scheduled for completion in 2024 will provide room to expand services.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Senator John Dampo, a Democrat and Republican, respectively, both pointed to this project as an example of the importance of working in a bi-partisan fashion to get things done for the community.



(From left to right) Sault Tribe Unit I Director Michael McKerchie, Mackinac Straits Health System Chief Executive Officer Karen Cheeseman, Mackinac Island Mayor Margaret Doud, Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes, Sault Tribe Executive Director Christine McPherson, Sault Tribe Unit III Directors Bridgett Sorenson and Shawn Borowicz and Sault Tribe Health Director Dr. Leo Chugunov take their turns manning shovels for the ceremonial ground-breaking.



Governor Gretchen Whitmer



The new facility will add 20,000 square feet to the Mackinac Straits Health System footprint.



Above, Tony Grondin, Carson Fierek, Laura Montero and Russel Rickley (L-R) represented the Sault Tribe with traditional ceremonies. Below, Fierek smudges participants, including Gov. Whitmer, before the ground-breaking ceremony.



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Mobile mammography unit returns to Hannahville and Keweenaw Bay

In partnership with Betty Ford Breast Care Services, the Hannahville Indian Community Health Center and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Health Center will once again be hosting mobile mammography events this September.

Hannahville will be hosting a mobile mammography event on Wednesday, Sept. 20, through Friday, Sept. 22, 2023. The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Health Center will be hosting a mobile mammography event on Monday, Sept. 18 — Tuesday, Sept. 19.

This is the fourth year that the Betty Ford Breast Care Services have supported Upper Peninsula tribal communities with this important program.

No-cost breast cancer

screening is available to any woman who would like to have their screening completed, and includes women of all races in Delta and Menominee counties, local tribal community members, tribal employees, and casino employees.

Mammograms are completed in just 10 -15 minutes. Making an appointment will ensure that this screening is done at no cost and at a convenient time.

Past participants of this screening event have said, “The staff is so nice, it didn’t hurt, and it was the quickest mammogram I’ve ever had.” And, many others have said, “If it weren’t for this event, I wouldn’t have completed my mammogram this year.”

If you are a woman age 40 or older, and due or overdue for your annual mammogram,

please contact the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Health Center for a Sept. 18-19 appointment by calling Amanda Wiggins at (906) 353-4511 to make your appointment for Monday, Sept. 18, or Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Transportation is available for those being screened at this event. For an appointment, call Kelly Hansen at the Hannahville Indian Community Health Center at (906) 723-2570 or Emily Ferroni at (231) 268-1307 to make an appointment for Wednesday Sept. 20, Thursday, Sept. 21 or Friday, Sept. 22.

Please be sure to leave your name and phone number if you are asked to leave a voice message.

Mammograms are available for insured, uninsured, and

underinsured women.

If you are uninsured, underinsured, or can’t afford your insurance or Medicare Part A deductible, please call Emily Ferroni, at (231) 268-1307 to enroll in the Michigan Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Program (BC3NP).

The BC3NP program can arrange and pay for program-eligible women to receive breast cancer screenings at this event, follow-up care for an abnormal test result, and treatment should the individual be diagnosed with breast cancer.

Those looking for more information on getting their mammogram with the mobile unit in Hannahville Sept. 20-22 should reach out to Kelly Hansen at (906) 723-2570 or email kelly.hansen@hichealth.org.

Senior Employment Positions available in Escanaba, Marquette

Two Senior Employment jobs are available. If interested in either position, reply to the Elder Employment Program, Attn: Brenda Cadreau, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call (906) 635-4767. Applicants must be a Sault Tribe member age 60 or over and reside within the seven county service area. The jobs are 14 hours per week at \$13.072 per hour.

A part-time Youth Elder Worker is needed for the Escanaba YEA Program to assist YEA staff with ensuring youth are in a safe environment and providing cultural enrichment support in activities with our youth. Youth, parents, team members, community agencies and the general public.

A Community Health Program Clerk is needed for the Marquette Tribal Community Health Center. The Community Health Program Clerk will be responsible for providing clerical support and program resource, consultation and coordination services to the Community Health Program and staff located at the center.

WIOA funding for on-the-job training

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.

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

Elder Scholarship Program offers \$500

Applications are being solicited for four one-time \$500 scholarships from the Sault Tribe elders for qualified freshmen enrolled in public colleges, universities or trade schools.

All applicants must be registered Sault Tribe members with the following qualifications:

- Graduated from an accredited high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50. Or successfully completed and passed all five General

Education Development (GED) equivalency tests with a minimum score of 40 and an average score of 45 and must possess a GED certificate.

- Accepted or enrolled in any two- or four-year public college, university or trade school in any field as a full-time student.

Applicants must submit letters of application that include:

- Cover page that includes name, address, telephone number, email address, proof of tribal enrollment

and academic major or course of study to be pursued.

- Transcript from the applicant’s high school verifying the cumulative grade point average. Or, proof of achieving GED requirements stated above.

- Letter from the college, university or trade school, showing acceptance for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Essay of 300-500 words describing how you feel a college education will benefit you and

your career objectives and why this scholarship will help you achieve your goal.

Deadline for applications is June 30, at 5 p.m. All requirements must be received by the Elder Service Division, ATTN Elder Scholarship, 2076 Shunk Rd, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Questions? Contact Holly Kibble, Elder Service Division Director, at (906) 635-4971.

Sault Tribal committee vacancies announced

The following Sault Tribe Committees have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Lona Stewart at 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or call (906) 635-6050 with questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Ten vacancies - five males (4-year term), five females

(4-year term)
Child Welfare Committee - Four vacancies (4-year term)
Election Committee - Five vacancies (4-year term)
Health Board - Two vacancies (4-year term)
Housing/Utility Authority - One vacancy (4-year term)
Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - Unit I - Three vacancies Unit II - Two vacancies

Unit III - Two vacancies
Elder Advisory Committee
 Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit II - Hessel - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit II - Naubinway - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit III - St. Ignace - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit V - Munising - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit V - Marquette - One alternate

vacancy (4-year term)
Elder Subcommittees
 Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit II - Hessel - One regular vacancy, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit IV - Escanaba - Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)
 Unit V - Munising - One regular, two alternate vacancies (4-years)

Tribal members: need assistance?

Three membership liaisons work with the chairperson’s office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. The liaisons respond to membership issues and follow up to ensure they are resolved. Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact the liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing them at membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or contacting them individually at: Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, Mich., (906) 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net. Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net. Michelle Moore at (906) 635-6050, mmoore@saulttribe.net.

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University BP at 301 W. Fair Ave., Marquette

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Carnes BP, 2300 Ludington St., Escanaba
Kinross BP Local Express, 4440 Tone Rd., Kincheloe
Cedar Pantry, 159 W M-134, Cedarville

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

July 19, 2023
 Blueberry Moon
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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
 Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary
 Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
 Scott Brand.....Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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Lona Stewart accepts position as tribal board administrator

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Long-time Sault Tribe team member Lona Stewart has accepted the position of board administrator for the Sault Tribe Board of Directors office. Stewart will be scheduling, coordinating and attending all board workshops and meetings and developing agendas for both. She will be sending out approved resolutions to the appropriate departments and people within the tribe, as well as ensuring that all approved actions of the board of directors are archived. She said she is also responsible for coordinating travel arrangements for the board and ensuring several specific committees receive travel reimbursements.

"I will be attending conservation committee meetings beginning in July. I am also the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Public Information Officer, so all FOIA requests would be processed through my office. Two weeks in and I have been asking myself how Joanne did it all and did it so well!" she said. "Joanne was one of my mentors as I grew up in the tribe and she seriously did her job well, making it look so easy and effortless."

Stewart began working for Sault Tribe board member and Vice-Chairman George Nolan as a student worker through Bay Mills Community College in July 1992. By May 1993, Nolan hired her as his secretary and she went on to become his administrative assistant. In November 2000, she



Lona Stewart

applied for and was hired as the chairman's executive assistant and she stayed in that position until April 2010. Then, in September 2010, she was hired as the office manager at Sault Tribe Law Enforcement, where she stayed until June 2023, when she accepted her current position as the board administrator.

Stewart said that it was during her time with Nolan that they developed and implemented membership participation forms for board meetings. "One of the greatest lessons George ever taught me is that there are always three sides to every situation — my side, your side, and somewhere in the middle is the truth," she said. "When I was hired as the chairman's executive assistant, Bernard Bouschor was chairman. One of the many things Bernard taught me was to speak quietly so people would listen closely — I have not yet mastered the art of speaking quietly! Bernard and

George both taught me many other things as well — how to give someone an answer that they may not want to hear, how to seek out other resources if the tribe did not have anything to help a member in need and how to juggle many responsibilities while making sure things got done."

She said that Bouschor and Nolan both wore many hats in the tribe back then. She became the main point of contact for members calling and coming in to see the chairman and attended all the board meetings, workshops, community meetings, employee meetings, and government-to-government meetings, among others. She also completed follow up reports for each meeting she attended.

Leaving her position at Law Enforcement to accept her current position was bittersweet for Stewart. "From the day I started at Law Enforcement, I was quick to realize that we have an amazing group of individuals who work there. It was hard to leave because they became my family, and still are. In that position, I supervised the front office staff, covering for vacation and sick days by issuing treaty licenses and greeting visitors to the department, I developed and managed budgets for the department, coordinated all the travel, wrote for and managed grant awards and processed payroll for the department and the Sault Tribe Youth Facility, among many other duties," she said.

Stewart said she loves working for the tribe. "I have always said that this is my greatest member-

ship benefit; I can work for my tribe, provide assistance where needed, and support my family."

She earned her associates degree in tribal administration and management in 1997 from Bay Mills Community College. "I have never really stopped attending college, I probably have enough credits for a doctorate degree!" she said. "I have gone back and forth over the years between BMCC and Lake

Superior State University. I am two classes away from my second associate degree in social sciences and I will be starting classes this fall to complete my Bachelor degree in business administration — both at BMCC."

Stewart is a single parent to a son and daughter and grandmother to their nine children. "My family is very important to me, and my faith in God is what makes me want to serve others."

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Whitmer announces new state Veteran Home

LANSING, Mich. — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recently announced that the Marquette Veterans Home is fully funded to serve 100 veterans after securing state and federal funding. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program provided \$63.4 million in fiscal year 2023 funding for the construction of a new state veteran home to replace the D.J. Jacobetti home in Marquette, Mich.

“Michiganders who served our nation in uniform deserve access to safe, affordable housing and I am proud that we have secured funding to build a new veterans’ home in the U.P.,” Whitmer said. “This new facility will offer quality long-term care for veterans in the U.P. and ensure they get access to the resources they need to thrive. I am grateful to the VA and state legislators on both sides of the aisle for their efforts to get this done. Let’s

keep working together to support our veterans.”

State Representative Jenn Hill (D-Marquette) said, “This news means we can continue providing for our veterans well into the future, and that’s something we can all be grateful for. I’m eager to see the new facility take shape as an important fixture of the Marquette community.”

The total investment for this project is \$97.6 million (\$63.4 million federal; \$34.2

million state). The state of Michigan included \$34.2 million in funding for the project in their fiscal year 2022-2023 budget. The new home in Marquette will be similar in design to Michigan Veteran Homes at Chesterfield Township and Michigan Veteran Homes at Grand Rapids, incorporating award-winning best practices of home-like, long-term care design and construction.

The new home will serve more than 100 veteran members

who will live in three unique neighborhood buildings that provide each veteran member with their own bedroom and bathroom and common gathering and kitchen spaces.

These neighborhoods will connect to a community center with clinical and therapeutic services and amenities like a barbershop and salon and café bistro. Members will have access to a large great room for meetings, outdoor courtyards and green spaces.

Immunization Awareness and World Cancer Month

BY JESSICA A. RICKERT, DDS, ANISHINAABE DENTAL OUTREACH

August is National Immunization Awareness Month and highlights the importance of getting recommended vaccines.

August is also World Cancer Support Month and it is important to note that well-child recommended vaccines can protect against oral (mouth) cancers.

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the United States. HPV can cause cancer at varying times in life; these cancers are in genital and oral locations in the body.

There were about 43 million HPV infections in 2018 in the U.S., many among people in their late teens and early 20s. Often, there are no signs or symptoms. Sometimes, these infections can cause visible health problems, including warts. These may be present in the genital area, but also in the back of the throat. This can include the base of the tongue and tonsils.

Mouth and throat cancer (oropharyngeal cancer) can also develop at any time in life after HPV infection.

There are vaccines that can help stop these diseases from happening. Talk to your doctor to ensure you

and your family are protected. Talk to your dentist about any concerns you may have.

An initial HPV vaccination is recommended for boys and girls around age 11 or 12 (but can start at age 9). This is commonly a two-dose series.

A catch-up HPV vaccination is recommended for all persons through age 26 if they are not already vaccinated. This is commonly a three-dose series.

Cancer can take years, even decades, to develop after a person has HPV. There is no way to know who will develop cancer or other health problems from HPV. People

with weakened immune systems may be less able to fight off HPV. HPV is thought to cause 70% of oropharyngeal cancers in the U.S. Tobacco and alcohol use increase the risk of developing mouth cancer.

Rates of oropharyngeal cancer have increased dramatically, driven by HPV infection – 54,000 new cases of oral cavity and oropharynx cancers were diagnosed in the United States in 2022. It is estimated that 11,580 deaths (8,140 men and 3,440 women) from oral and oropharyngeal cancer will occur in the United States in 2023.

Most people have no symptoms

of oropharyngeal cancer.

Sometimes, symptoms may include a long-lasting sore throat, earaches, hoarseness, swollen lymph nodes, pain when swallowing, and unexplained weight loss.

If you have any symptoms that worry you, be sure to see your doctor or dentist right away.

The HPV vaccination can prevent HPV oral cancers. Finding these cancers early greatly increases the survival rate.

Screening for oropharyngeal cancer is done at every dental exam visit. So, be sure to see the dentist twice a year, as recommended by the American Dental Association.

Sault Tribe helps to bring indoor plumbing to the Clark Township Snows Heritage Park: Only public rest area between I-75 and DeTour Village

BY SCOTT BRAND

Partnering with a host of other agencies, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has helped to improve the Clark Township Snows Heritage Park.

“We needed to have a dedicated bathroom building,” said Snows Heritage Park Manager Noel Weaver.

The facility has seen a host of recent improvements and with the increased usage it was time to move away from the Porta-A-Johns. Weaver said that in addition to the Sault Tribe, funding came in from

the Les Cheneaux Lions Club, the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation, the Les Cheneaux Beautification Committee and Mackinac County. Clark Township provided in-kind services including the electric and plumbing work.

“This is the only public restroom between I-75 and DeTour,” said Weaver.

The Snows Heritage Parks hosts two fields for baseball and softball, tennis and pickleball courts, cornhole, horseshoe pits, a playground and a mile-long story book walking trail.

“We will also be holding a flea market on the first Saturday of every month throughout the summer,” added Weaver expressing the belief this will bring new visitors to the park.

The new bathroom facility, which was officially opened to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 24, features a two-stall unit complete with lighting, running water, changing tables and a drinking fountain. The 18 x 12 foot building was delivered by truck in the fall of 2022 and placed at its permanent location with a crane.



Snows Heritage Park personnel welcomed Clark Township officials, the Les Cheneaux Lions Club, Les Cheneaux Community Foundation and Les Cheneaux Beautification Committee for a special ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new bathroom complex. Funding from the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians helped to make this project possible.



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Anishinaabemowin 2023

To learn a new language is to have one more window from which to look at the world. Anishinaabemowin's window has good glass.



Miin Giizis
Blueberry Moon

by Susan Askwith

What a gift it is to have clean, fresh water! Our bodies require water as do the activities of our lives. We respond with respectful choices and thanks.

Nibiish n'minikwe. I am drinking water.

Though n'minikwe isn't at the beginning, it still says, "I am drinking."

N'gziyaabide'o. I am brushing my teeth.

N'jiibaakwe. I am cooking.

N'gziibiiginaagane. I am washing dishes.

N'gziibiigizhe. I am taking a shower.

N'bzhisgonaan miiziiwaagan. I am flushing the toilet.

N'gziibiiginige. I am washing clothes.

N'ziigwepijige gitigaaning. I am watering the garden.

N'bagiz. I am swimming.

N'bimshkaa. I am boating.

N'giigoonhke. I am fishing.



The N' says "I am."
Change it to N'gii to speak of the past. (I cooked.)
Change it to N'wii to say "I want to" or "I intend to."

The N' says "I am."
Change to G' to say "You are." Then use G'gii for past action (You cooked).
Change it to G'wii for "You want to" do the action.



HOW MUCH WATER AM I USING? Make your guess & check below.

___ 1. Washing one load of clothes in a washing machine

___ 2. Washing dishes from one meal by hand

___ 3. Washing one load of dishes in a dishwasher

___ 4. Cooking one meal

___ 5. Drinking water per person per day

___ 6. Taking a bath

___ 7. Taking a shower with a standard showerhead

___ 8. Washing hands

___ 9. Brushing teeth with water running

___ 10. Brushing teeth without water running

___ 11. Flushing the toilet

___ 12. Washing a car

___ 13. Watering a yard

A) 2 gallons

B) 5-10 gallons

C) 35-50 gallons

D) 10 gallons

E) 5-6 gallons per minute

F) 1 gallon

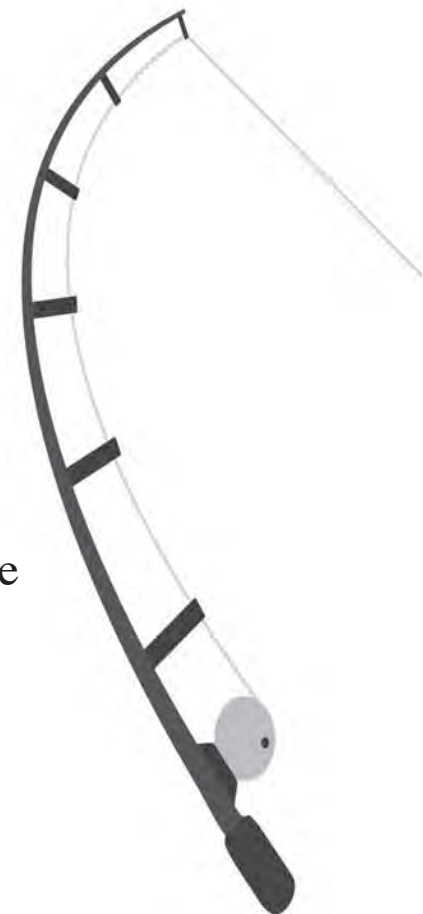
G) 2-4 gallons

H) 6 gallons

I) 36-45 gallons

J) 100 gallons

K) 60 gallons



This activity was created by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and is used here with permission and appreciation.

I) C) 2) D) 3) K) 4) D) 5) F) 6) I) 7) E) 8) A) 9) G) 10) F) 11) H) 12) J) 13) B)

Pronunciation?? You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words in this lesson pronounced at this FaceBook link:

www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture

The words in the calendar on the page facing this one are there too. Or you can use the guide at right!

Making our Sounds Most letters sound like in English. Here are the exceptions.

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

ii sounds like the e in *be*

i sounds like the i in *dip*

oo sounds like the o in *go*

o sounds like the oo's in *book*

e sounds like the e in *Ed*

g sounds only like it does in *go*

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: if n has an H or S after it, the n has NO SOUND of its own. It's a sign to say the vowels just before it in a nasal way - as if you had a stuffed up nose from a cold.

August Traditional Healer Clinic Hours

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program is holding August clinic hours for the following dates and locations.

Any questions, or to book an appointment, please call the Traditional Medicine Program at (906) 632-0236 or (906) 632-5268.

Gerard Sagassige
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center—Aug. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29
(906) 632-0236, Lori Gambardella

St. Ignace Health Center—Aug. 2
(906) 643-8689 or (877) 256-0135

Manistique Health Center—Aug. 9
(906) 341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

Munising Health Center—Aug. 23
(906) 387-4721 or (800) 236-4705

George Goggeye
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center—2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31
(906) 632-0236, Lori Gambardella



Photo submitted by Ed Furton

Hanging out at the Native American Festival May 27 in St. Ignace were Sara Lynn, Nathan Wright, Tiffany Grove, Edward Furton and Michelle Collins (L-R). At left, Tiffany Grove dancing.



MSKOMINIKE GIIZIS - RASPBERRY PICKING MOON - AUGUST 2023

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
		1  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	2 ngaasmoon- gamig (tent)	3 jiigbiik (at the beach)	4 negweki (sand)	5 Bagiza. (S/he is swimming.)
6 maanwang (fruit)	7 mskomin (raspberry)	8 miin (blueberry)	9 wiigwaasmin (cherry)	10 N'da abwez. (I am sweating.)	11 shkode (fire)	12 makade miskomin or datgaagmin (blackberry)
13 jiimaan (canoe/boat)	14 Zhebwe. (S/he is rowing.)	15 Googii. (S/he is diving.)	16 Damina. (S/he is playing.)	17 Biimskowebshkige. (S/he is riding a bike.)	18 Zaam-aate. (It is too hot.)	19 Gwojiiing wiisini. (S/he is having a picnic.)
20 Boodwe (S/he is making a fire.)	21 Ngaasmoon- gamigwe. (S/he is camping.)	22 Giigoonhke. (S/he is fishing.)	23 ziibiing (at the river)	24 zaag'iganing (at the lake)	25 wiikwedong (at the bay)	26 noopiming (in the woods)
27 ginebig (snake)	28 makinaak (snapping turtle)	29 miskwaadesi (painted turtle)	30 mishiikenh (turtle)	31 niibin (summer)		

Sault Tribe fish hatchery provides major boost to walleye population in Michigan rivers and lakes

BY SCOTT BRAND

With the draining of the ponds in mid-June, the Sault Tribe Fish Hatchery produced hundreds of thousands of young walleyes destined for waters across the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Michigan.

“They are good, healthy fish,” said Hatchery Manager Rusty Aikens using his wealth of experience in the field to analyze this year’s crop before they were shipped out.

The Sault Tribe has been helping to increase the local walleye population since the late 1980s, originally on various other properties, before locking into the Shunk Road location in 1999. The biggest pond extends 25 acres and is responsible for the bulk of the fish raised this year. Aikens explained that the ponds are dry most of the year, but fill up in the spring from melting snow and run-off until the walleye reach the proper size.

A big drain, picture your bathtub on a larger, muddier scale, is used to empty the pond with virtually all of the young walleyes passing through the tube where they can be easily netted as the excess water escapes over the spillway and flows downstream. This takes place just yards away from the hatchery where the eggs were fertilized from walleyes traditionally taken from either Munuscong Bay or Potagannissing Bay as they come in to spawn after ice out.

The Sault Tribe Hatchery specializes in the St. Mary’s River strain of walleye, while another facility to the west is dedicated to the Bay de Noc strain, making up the bulk of walleye released in the Upper Peninsula. There are additional facilities below the Mackinac Bridge planting other strains in the central and southern Lower Peninsula.

While walleyes are fully capable of successfully spawning

without assistance the hatchery efforts prove far more efficient. With each female carrying hundreds of thousands of eggs there are lots of chances for success, but it is a little like hitting the lottery. The milt has to reach the eggs in rapidly flowing river current, the eggs must settle in the right kind of substrate and there is always the danger of silt getting over them or the water receding too early.

“That first year is pretty tough on them,” Aikens said. “Everything bigger than them wants to eat them.”

The ponds provide a big head start for the young fish. With fertilizer to spur plankton growth, the small fish have plenty to eat in the relative safety of the ponds. When the Boat2School students visited in late May the walleyes were measuring 21-25 millimeters (.83 to 1 inch), but they had nearly doubled in size in less than two weeks coming in at 40-45

millimeters (1.5 to 1.75 inches) by the time they were ready for stocking.

“We give them the best start we can,” said Aikens.

The stocking took place from June 13 through June 17 with 300,000 fish bound for St. Martin’s Bay, and 150,000 destined for the Cheboygan area. The St. Mary’s River System received hundreds of thousands of walleyes with stocking sites near Sault Ste. Marie, the Charlotte River, Raber Bay, Potagannissing Bay and Lake George. The Lake Michigan waters near Epoufette were also slated to get approximately 75,000 fish.

For inland waters, Bodi Lake, Little Harbor Lake, Pike Lake, Culhane Lake and Muskellunge Lake were all identified as Upper Peninsula lakes tapped for the 2023 stocking season with an additional 50,000 headed for Black Lake in Cheboygan County.

“There is very little mortality at stocking sites,” Aikens said, adding he is optimistic that roughly 10 percent of the released fish will reach adult size.

The Sault Tribe Fish Hatchery has another 5-acre pond that is utilized in this program at the Shunk Property and a second has been made, but wasn’t ready for 2023.

“We want the vegetation to stabilize the banks,” explained Aikens. “Next year we will increase by another 5 acres, which should be another 200,000 to 250,000 more fish for 2024.”

The Sault Tribe has a yearly average of 1.1 million walleyes raised since the construction of the pond in 2012.

And if you have any use for tadpoles or pollywogs, Aikens would like to hear from you, as the walleye ponds also produce an annual bumper crop of fat and happy future frogs.



Photos by Scott Brand

In the calm before the storm, nets and buckets sit idly waiting for the small walleyes to arrive. The large drain essentially herded the small fish down into a holding tank where they were dipped into buckets before being loaded onto the trucks destined for various locations throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Michigan.



Left: The Shunk Road pond had ample nutrients producing lots of healthy young walleye fry for release along with numerous pollywogs. Above: Josh Lumsden, preparing to enter Lake Superior State University’s Fish and Wildlife Program, gets some hands-on experience at the facility.

Tribal fisheries collaborate with Fairchild family to stock walleye in St. Mary's River

BY SCOTT BRAND AND BRENDA AUSTIN

For more than two decades, the Fairchild family on Drummond Island has been responsible for improved walleye fishing in the lower St. Mary's River system.

Sault Tribe Fisheries Enhancement Coordinator Rusty Aikens said, "The Fairchilds just completed stocking about 123,975 walleye fingerlings into Potagannissing Bay on the St. Mary's River. Over the years their stocking efforts have made a large contribution to the walleye stocks in the Drummond Island vicinity. Survival of stocked fish is hard to measure and is often assessed by the contribution to the adult population. Fish returning to spawn in the Potagannissing River are used for both egg collection and assessment of the stocking programs success. About 70% of the fish utilized for brood stock over the last 10 years have been stocked fish (Sault Tribe data)."

"We started the pond in 1999," said the 81-year-old patriarch as Mike and his wife Sandy watched their grandchildren carry on the family tradition. "We planted our first fish in 2000."

The 4-acre pond, uniquely located on a creek that happens to empty into the Potagannissing River, which flows into Potagannissing Bay, has made a significant difference for area

anglers.

"The fish stocks were so low in Potagannissing Bay that you could go out and fish all day and not get anything at all," recalled Mike. "The walleye population had crashed. We had seen it where there were thousands of walleye and then we saw it get down to only seeing one here and there since the introduction of the zebra mussels and other invasive species. We have come a long way in the last 24 years."

Mike cited research that backs up his assertion. Biologists determined in a recent study that of the 49 young-of-the-year walleye captured in Potagannissing Bay, 47 of them were carrying the OTC code, a special marker designed to gauge the success of releasing fish that revealed they had been released from his Drummond Island pond.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians fisheries program has been a key partner over the last two decades.

"It wouldn't have happened without the cooperation of the Sault Tribe," Mike said, noting that the hatchery supplies the fry and the first critical dose of fertilizer for the pond. They also chime in with advice.

"It's them helping me," he said.

Mike and company provided additional nutrients in the form of soybean and alfalfa meal to the

pond stimulating rapid growth in the walleye fry. By the time they were released the fish were up to 48 millimeters in length and fully capable of swimming downstream to their new home in the bay.

Fairchild said, "The tribe's fisheries program stocks them when they are about 3 mm long and this spring there were about 300,000 stocked in the pond on May 12."

The pond, which holds an estimated 4 million gallons of water each spring, typically produces 180,000 to 200,000 releasable fry each spring. Mike said the 2022 season, however, proved to fall far short of that goal due to the stickleback. The small fish, believed to have been introduced to the pond from eggs carried perhaps by birds or turtles, had a major impact on last year's fry resulting in roughly 10 percent, or approximately 20,000, available for release.

There were no signs of sticklebacks this year.

The proximity of the Fairchild pond to the bay and the reduced handling — the fry are only briefly handled at the pond's outlet to get a rough estimate of how many are being released — greatly improves the survival rate. Mike indicated he has seen research that up to 10 percent of the fry can perish using traditional stocking techniques when the young fish are netted, loaded into trucks

and transported to other locations for release at designated stocking sites. The fish from his pond essentially ride the waters they grew up in downstream to their new homes maximizing survival rates.

During the June 21 and 22 draining of the pond, Mike and Sandy were assisted by four of their grandsons, Ty, Trey, Trevor and Teague Norris, who delivered the necessary balance and muscle-power helping the small fish to make their way out of the pond. Mike said his other four grandchildren, Gus and Mike Fairchild and James and Lilly Plowman, have played pivotal roles in earlier stocking efforts over the years.

Matt Allard of the Sault Tribe Fisheries Department said that Mike and Sandy were instrumental in this year's stocking program. Not only did they provide plowed access to Potagannissing Bay in the spring, but Mike provided almost daily updates on ice conditions on the bay. Acting on that information, fisheries personnel were able to collect 35 pairs of walleyes at the peak time resulting in more than 5 million eggs available for fertilization to stock not only the Fairchild pond, but the Shunk Road facility as well. Those walleyes were safely returned to the water after their eggs and milt were harvested to stock the St. Mary's River,

Lake Huron, Lake Michigan and numerous inland lakes.

Aikens said, "Mike and his family are not compensated in any way for their efforts, in fact he has spent a great deal of time, money and resources of his own to make this stocking effort happen. When asked why he does it, Mike said he wanted to have a positive impact on the area, leaving it better than how he found it. The economic impact that Fairchild's efforts has had for the Island is measured in the millions."

Mike said, "We give back to our community and everyone is going out and catching their limit of walleye. You couldn't do that when I was a kid. It's been a profitable setup — in over 20 years we have stocked over 3.5 million walleyes back into the bay. A long time ago a research study was done with the USDA and at that time they said the economic return on each one of these little guys was \$8 to the community. What the tribal fisheries are doing and what we are doing here is a tremendous boon to the tourist industry."

The stocking effort is a collaboration between the MDNR, Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the sportsman club of Drummond Island and the Fairchilds.



Photos by Brenda Austin

Mike and Sandy Fairchild (center), surrounded by their family, hold a sign made for their pond by the daughter of Sault Tribe Fisheries Hatchery Assistant Matt Allard (Rhyann Allard, 15).



Patriarch Mike Fairchild takes a break in the shade.



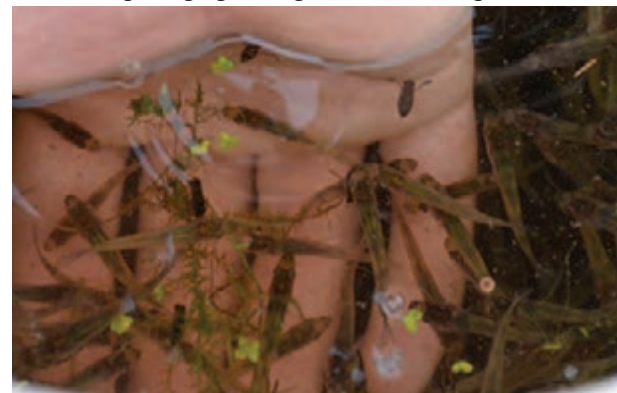
Trey Norris, Rusty Aikens and Matt Allard (L-R) clean algae out of the ponds collection area, where the fish are netted, placed into a 5-gallon bucket and weighed, before being released into the seasonal stream.



Mike and Sandy's grandson, Teague Norris, releasing fingerlings into the stream where they swim out to Potagannissing Bay on the St. Mary's River.



Above: Seasonal stream where fingerlings are released. Below: Fingerlings get weighed before being released.



Canadian wildfires having impact on U.P. air quality, 7.8 million hectares burn in June

BY SCOTT BRAND

Where there's smoke, there's fire.

That old adage may sum up 2023 for The Great Lakes Region as more than 7.8 million hectares of forest had burned before the end of June according to data from the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc.'s (CIFFC) website. To put that in historical perspective, the previous record for our neighbor to the north was recorded in 1995 when a little more than 7.1 million hectares was ravaged by fire.

While the hectare may be an unfamiliar measurement to most on our side of the border, a quick Internet check of The Calculator Site reveals this is a sizable chunk of land. One hectare equals 2.471 acres and it takes a mere 259 hectares to make up one square mile. By best estimates, more than 3.2 million acres have burned so far this year.

And with all that fire, U.S. residents have taken notice.

The occasional haze observed in the early spring has morphed into heavy, acrid fog at various times. The Michigan Department of Environment,

Great Lakes, and Energy declared multiple Action Days for fine particles observing pollutants within the affected areas were expected to be in the unhealthy for sensitive groups to unhealthy range.

More than 7.8 million hectares of forest burned before the end of June according to data from the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc.'s website. The previous record was set in 1995 when more than 7.1 million hectares was burned.

Those warnings included the recommendation that sensitive groups such as people with lung disease (including asthma), heart disease, children and older adults should limit prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.

The recommendations went on to add that those living in the affected areas should reduce or eliminate activities that contribute to air pollution such as outdoor burning and the use of residential wood burning devices as well as reducing vehicle trips and vehicle idling as much as possible. Folks have been further advised to keep their

windows closed at night to prevent smoke from getting indoors and if possible, run central air conditioning with MERV-13 or higher rated filter.

"It's fairly unusual for us," observed Meteorologist Matt Gillen of the National Weather Station in Gaylord on the heels of the warning adding that this is typically an issue seen more often in western states during a drought. "The Great Lakes area, historically we don't have to deal with this."

The CIFFC had identified nearly 3,000 fires before the end of June so it would be hard, if not impossible, to determine which fire was bringing smoke into Michigan. Gillen did indicate that air quality seemed to be most impacted when the winds were coming down from the north.

The good news, according to Gillen, is that local forests seemingly have had adequate rainfall.

"The U.P. isn't in any sort of drought at all," said Gillen and heavy rains in northern Lower Michigan during the latter part of June seemed to help those areas catch up with their annual rainfall totals.



A screenshot of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Ontario Forest Fire Info Map during the height of the fires in June.

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Navajo Nation water rights intact after SCOTUS ruling

WINDOW ROCK, NAVAJO NATION — June's Supreme Court decision in Arizona et al. v. Navajo Nation did not give the relief the Nation sought, which was a modest request for the United States to assess the Nation's water needs and develop a plan to meet them. The decision does not take away from or touch upon any of the Nation's existing water rights. In fact, the decision made key points that give the Nation additional options moving forward to secure a future claim to water from the Colorado River to support future generations of Navajo communities, agriculture and livestock.

"The Supreme Court's ruling does not say that we have lost any water rights; our water rights remain intact. In this case, we simply asked the United States as trustee to help the Navajo Nation quantify how much water the Navajo people have a right to, and they turned us away," Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said. "Water is sacred to the Navajo people, and it is needed in all areas of development. For the Navajo Nation to develop and prosper, and meet the needs of our growing population, we need to know how much water we have access to."

The 5-4 decision held that the Navajo's 1849 and 1868 Treaties do not require the United States to take "affirmative steps" to secure water for the Nation. However, the decision made an important acknowledgement — it agreed that the government holds water rights in trust for the Navajo Nation,

which is critical to future water claims.

"We want to tell the Navajo people that our claim to rights of the Colorado River were not lost in the ruling. It is important that we stay positive as leadership even though we are put back in a familiar position as Navajo people have been urging this reconciliation for years. If anything, this ruling motivates us to get back in the fight for our homelands and claims to water," Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley said.

Though the Court's decision may seem devastating to the Nation's water rights, it actually gave the Nation options to pursue by upholding Winters v. United States, the bedrock of federal Indian water law. The majority's opinion left open the possibility that the Nation can intervene in future water-rights litigation that "affect their claimed interests" — an avenue the Nation is currently exploring.

"Now more than ever we will redouble our efforts to firm the Nation's rights to water so that our Arizona lands will see water flowing to even the most remote of Navajo homes. We will explore all our options, including additional litigation and legislation, but settlement is our primary pathway forward in this quest. We will continue to drive the pace of those discussions so we are able to secure the water needed for the vibrant Navajo Nation permanent homeland and future that our ancestors envisioned and negotiated to preserve in our treaties,"

Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch said.

Under the Winters Doctrine, the Nation has rights to all the water necessary to meet both the past and future needs of its Reservation, with certain caveats.



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St. Ignace Head Start kids celebrate end of school year



Photos submitted by St. Ignace Head Start

Left: St. Ignace Head Start kids. Above: Kinsley, Zoey, and Elizabeth offering tobacco to the Mukkwa Gizzik drummer with their teacher Miss Terri.



Congratulations to the Mukkwa Giizhik drummers for drumming for the St. Ignace Head Start program for the past 15 years.

Elders celebrate birthdays at Sault Tribe Elder Center



Emory Schwiderson (June 20), and Phillip Nertoli Jr. (July 17) celebrated their birthdays recently during lunch at the Sault Tribe Elder Center.

TRIBAL MEMBER REGISTRATION IN THE TAX AGREEMENT AREA

TRIBAL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

(Including the Issuance of Certificates of Exemptions)

INITIAL REGISTRATION AND OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Under the Tax Agreement between the Tribe and the State, tribal members who live within the "Agreement Area" are able to claim exemption from certain state taxes. In order to take advantage of these benefits, the member must be registered with the Tribal Tax Office and must prove that they do live in the "Agreement Area."

The registration process begins with the member filling out an "Address Verification Card" and providing their name, address, and other personal information. The member must also provide a copy of their MI driver's license, MI State ID card, or voter's registration card. All of these forms of State identification MUST have the member's current address and that address must be located in the Tax Agreement Area. Members must also include a utility bill in their name and their current address as an additional proof of residency in the Tax Agreement Area.

The Tribal Tax Office cannot register a member with the MI Department of Treasury unless these documents are included with the "Address Verification Card."

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTIONS

Tribal Code 43.1103 states that Resident Tribal Members shall notify the Tribal Tax Office in writing prior to moving their principal place of residence.

If the Tribal Tax Office receives a request for a Certificate of Exemption and the address for the member on the request is not the same as the address that the Tribal Tax Office and MI Department of Treasury have on record, then no Certificate of Exemption can be issued.

We will usually attempt to contact the member to ask them to update their address by filling out the "Address Verification Card" and providing the required documents, but it is the member's responsibility to provide this information. A Certificate of Exemption cannot be issued unless the member has filed the correct information proving that they live within the Agreement Area.

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

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



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

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



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

Guilmette and team take first place in robotics competition



Anthony J. Guilmette (center), a seventh-grade student at Sault Middle School, and his team (left) took home two first place trophies for the 2023 Square One Underwater IVD robotics competition at LSU recently. Guilmette is the captain of his team, which originated from his Sault Middle School's STEM class taught by John Twichel. His team won first place for overall performance, with their times beating all other teams, and the also took first place in underwater IVD craftmanship (right).

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Merchberger graduates magna cum laude

SUBMITTED BY MAGGIE MERCHBERGER

Sault Tribe member Victoria Merchberger graduated magna cum laude from Johnson and Wales University in Providence, R.I., with a Bachelor's in hospitality management on May 6, 2023.

She graduated from Sault Area High School in 2017. She earned an associates degree from Northwestern Michigan College in 2019 in applied sciences from the Great Lakes Culinary Institute in Culinary Arts. She also earned an associates degree in business administration from Bay Mills Community College in 2021.

Merchberger worked at the Torch Lake Yacht and Country Club 2018-2022 as a sous chef and executive chef. She is currently completing her internship at Forest Lake Country Club in



Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and will reside in Lafayette, Ind., in the fall.

Her parents are Roger and Maggie Merchberger of Sault Ste. Marie.

Five generations gather



Five generations of Sault Tribe members spanning 80 years: in back (L-R) are Jean Omans and Roberta Taylor, middle, Krissy Giffin and Maggie White, front, Rylee Perez. Jean is the mother of Roberta, who is the mother of Krissy, who is the mother of Maggie, who is the mother of Rylee. Joan was born in 1936 and Rylee was born in 2016. Everyone in the photo is a firstborn woman.

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Alexander earns PhD and accepts job with tribe

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Manager Karen Alexander PhD LMSW CAADC recently graduated with her PhD in evaluation from Western Michigan University.

She started her doctoral journey in 2011. “Going to school, working, and raising children and grandchildren takes a lot of time,” she said.

Alexander said the title of her dissertation is *Exploring the Use of Cultural Values in the Evaluation of Programs with Native American Tribes*. “It’s important to me that programs and evaluation methods are appropriate to the needs of tribal communities, and this has not always been the case. In my research, I used cultural methods (talking circles and storytelling) to study tribal values because values are at the core of who we are as Native people,” she said. “I believe that evaluation methods can best serve us if they are based on our values and include important aspects of our culture such as interconnectedness and spirituality. I hope my doctoral research will help others to better understand how to work with



Photo by Aaron Payment

L to R: Kathleen Witkowski (Karen’s best friend), Emmalee Alexander (daughter), Karen Alexander, Maddison Langston (granddaughter), Joselynn Payment (daughter), and Nicole Bowman, her friend and dissertation committee member.

Native tribes in a good way, and that it will help people to have a greater understanding of who we are.”

She also earned a Master’s of Social Work from Grand Valley State University, and a Bachelor’s in psychology from Lake Superior State University.

Alexander said she chose those particular fields of study to help others heal from addiction and trauma. “As a person in recov-

ery, I first became an addictions counselor, then after attaining my MSW, I worked as a clinical social worker,” she said. “Early in my career, when working for my tribe in prevention, I could see that the types of programs offered as evidenced-based programs and the mainstream evaluation methods used at the time were not a good fit for Native people. We needed programs and evaluation methods that were made by

Natives for Natives. That’s when I became interested in achieving my PhD in evaluation, so I could help to make changes in the way that evaluation is conducted with Native American tribes.”

Alexander said that working as the Behavioral Health Manager for the tribe feels like a good fit for her. “I am grateful for where I am today in my career. Sault Tribe Behavioral Health offers an array of services for tribal members.”

Some of the services provided are screening; intake and assessment; therapy; psychiatric evaluation and follow-up care; crisis intervention/urgent care; behavioral health outpatient therapy; compulsive gambling counseling; alcohol/drug education and awareness; Matrix Group; and the Employee Assistance Program.

There are also grant programs to help with recovery housing, transportation, prevention, and helping families with young children.

She said that working for the tribe is important to her because she wants to give back what she has been given. “In 1992, I came to (then called) American Indian Substance Abuse and I was

helped with getting into residential treatment. I spent six months in treatment that year, relapsed, and got sober again in 1993. If it wasn’t for our tribal programs, 12-Step groups, and our Native culture, I would not be sober today. I am grateful for all of the people who were there to support me, then and now.”

Culture is important to Alexander, who said that when she got sober she started to learn more about Anishinaabe culture, which included getting her name and going to ceremonies like the sweat lodge and fasting. “I learned who I am, and this gave me a solid foundation to support my recovery. My life is good because I’m sober and anything that I’ve done, you can do too,” she said. “Thirty years ago, I could not imagine a life without using drugs and alcohol. I am so grateful that I don’t have to ever live that way again. I only have to stay sober for one day, and those days add up.”

Alexander has shared her personal digital recovery story at <https://youtu.be/Ix7X7HIDRz4>. Sault Tribe Behavioral Health can be contacted by calling (906) 635-6075, or (800) 726-9105.

Palamara graduates; will compete in figure skating

With the great beautifully rhythmic drums at a powwow, it is with thunderous joy that we congratulate tribal member Mary Grace Palamara as she graduates, with honors, from Traverse City Central High School.

Mary will continue her education path at Western Michigan University, where she will not only work towards a teaching degree, but she will also be com-

peting on both the Collegiate Synchronized figure skating team on the Intercollegiate individual level.

Mary was part of the Northern Lights synchro team in Traverse City for seven years and will continue with Western’s team.

Mary started skating as a kindergartener. Her love and commitment to the sport has taken her to state and national levels,

and she will tell you, “Skating has given me the independence that most other sports cannot offer, and it has taught me discipline and the value/power of goal setting. It is really amazing what you can achieve once you have set a goal on paper!”

Although her grandparents, elders Bruce and Onalee Cable, have walked on, their spirit continues to encourage her.



Left: Mary Palamara graduated with honors from Traverse City Central High School. Right: Mary with her parents, Doctors Jennifer and Joe Palamara.

“Hands Free” law in effect June 30

Driver inattention is the leading factor in most crashes and near-crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Virginia Tech Transportation Institute.

Starting June 30, Michigan’s new distracted driving law makes it illegal to hold and use

a mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle in Michigan.

The bill amends Michigan law to make it illegal to “use a mobile electronic device to do any task, including, but not limited to” the following:

- Send or receive a tele-

phone call

- Send, receive, or read a text message

- View, record, or transmit a video

- Access, read, or post to a social networking site

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/DistractedDriving.

Honeymooners catch mahimahi in Panama



Marde and Naomi Hersh of Rustic, Colo., celebrated their honeymoon the last week of June in Panama off the Pacific coast. The fish (above) is called a dorado, but is also called a mahimahi. They went deep sea fishing and caught tuna, rooster fish, snapper, and the dorado.



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Meyer, Unkovic & Scott welcomes Amy Storms Sable

Amy E. Storms Sable has joined the Meyer, Unkovic & Scott firm as a partner in the Corporate & Business Law Practice Group.

Prior to joining the firm, Sable was a co-founder of Sable and Sable LLC, a successful boutique law firm that counseled clients in a wide variety of commercial real estate and business law matters for over seven years. Before that, Storms worked as an in-house attorney for Development Dimensions International Inc.

Sable brings a wealth of legal experience and knowledge to the firm. That experience, combined with a client-focused approach where understanding the nuances of each client's business and



goals is paramount, results in successful outcomes from both a legal and business perspective.

A seasoned professional with nearly 30 years of experience,

Sable counsels clients across multiple practice areas. While primarily focused on providing legal advice to small and mid-sized privately held businesses in all areas of corporate law, commercial business transactions, contract law and employment law, Sable also provides legal advice with respect to oil and gas matters and acts as special counsel to municipal clients with respect to ordinance drafting and enactment.

Meyer, Unkovic & Scott Managing Partner Chris Smith said, "Amy's background as a business owner, as an associate at an Am Law 100 firm, as in-house counsel to a global corporation and as borough council president in Franklin Park for many

years, has uniquely qualified her to represent clients facing a broad range of legal issues. Her expertise complements Meyer, Unkovic & Scott's practice areas and we know that our clients will benefit greatly from her knowledge."

Sable has been accorded the Team Heroz Award from Development Dimensions International Inc., the Ronald D. Ecker Memorial Award in Client Counseling from University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the Minerva and Emil Novak Prize in Government and Law from Lafayette College.

Sable received her J.D. in 1994 from the University of

Pittsburgh School of Law and her B.A. in Government and Law from Lafayette College in 1991. She is the youngest daughter of Sault Tribe member Mildred (Madigan) Storms and Wendell Storms.

Sable resides in Pine Township, Allegheny County, Pa., with her husband, their two children, her nonagenarian father and a miniature dachshund. She is an avid gardener, baker of the world's best chocolate chip cookies (as voted by her children) and enjoys hiking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire or spending the day at Jones Beach on Long Island when her schedule allows.

April team member of the month, Nicole McKechnie



Sault Tribe Health Division Team Member of the Month for April, PRC Coordinator Nicole McKechnie.

Sault mayor proclaims July 1, 2023, Angeline Boulley Day

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Mayor Don Gerrie (right) proclaimed July 1, 2023, as Angeline Boulley Day.

The proclamation honored Boulley's ties to the Sault Ste. Marie area, her dedication to Native American education, and the success of her debut novel *Fire Keeper's Daughter* and sophomore novel *Warrior Girl Unearthed*.

A special proclamation ceremony took place at Rotary Park.

Boulley has dedicated her career to serving tribal nations in the field of Indian education. She has served as director of the Office of Indian Education for the United States Department of Education.

She is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and has family ties in the Sault and on Sugar Island dating back generations.

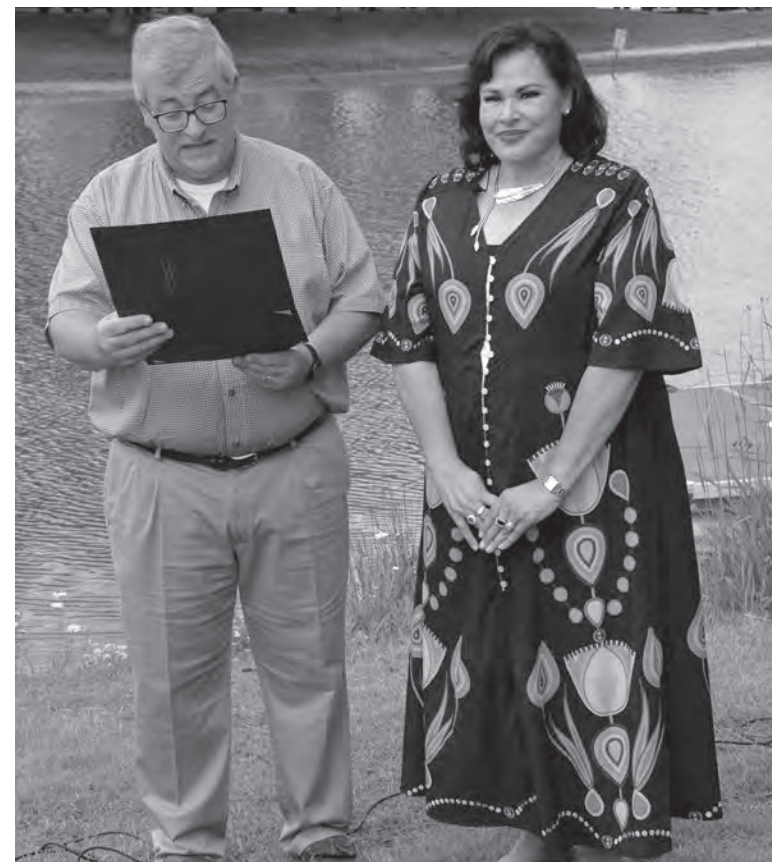


Photo by Brenda Austin

We need you to hope again.

It's time to participate.

It's time to pay attention.

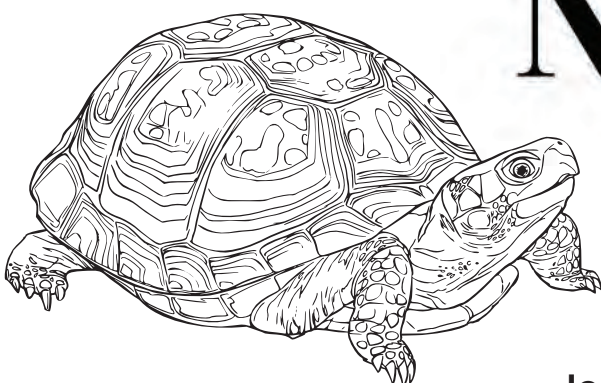
It's time to protect mother earth, our culture, our people.

It's up to us to fix how this tribe is being run.

It's time to be Anishinaabe.

Rise up & let's Skoden! Or in other words,

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41st Baaweting Summer Powwow held in Sault



Dancing into the arena during the afternoon grand entry on Saturday, July 1, 2023.

Photos by Brenda Austin



Women's traditional dancers at the end of the dance competition.



Cousins Bréa Bingaman, Natalie McLeod, Alex and Corwin Herber.



Young dancer competes.



Dana Awonohopay (far right), with Erick Awonohopay, 3, and family.



Mya Mandawoub, from Canada's Saugeen First Nation, 11, and her grandmother, Germaine Elliott, from Serpent River First Nation.



Jerri Eshkibok visits a vendor's table.



L-R: Gayle McKerchie, Jack McKerchie, Ed Payment and Myrl Payment.



Abe and Linda Schmalz, with Jackson Schmalz, 3, and his father, Karl Schmalz.



Maryann Bruce and Sonja Ballew man the Hessel elders table.



Head dancer Nick VanAlstine leading the Saturday afternoon grand entry.

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Thursday August 3rd 4:30-8 p.m.
Food Service 4:30-7 p.m.
Presque Isle Pavilion

All Sault Tribal members and families welcome.
Please bring a dish to pass and your lawn chair.

Bison burgers and hotdogs will be provided along
with drinks.
(No Alcohol permitted)

The South Beach ice cream truck will be
available for treats at a cost.

Teal Lake Singers Drum Group at 6 p.m.

Tribe holds Grand Assembly as part of 50th anniversary celebrations prior to hosting powwow



Staff bearers: Nick VanAlstine - POW-MIA, Les Ailing - Sugar Island, Billy Perry - Gitchimins, Austin Lowes, Marty Reinhardt - tribal education and Steve Knauf - Waashigana.



Indigenous games led by Dr. Dan inspired lots of activity with events such as Ojibwe stickball, the Inuit Stick Pull, and chunky wheel providing entertainment.



Indigenous games.



Indigenous games.



Indigenous games.



The Sault Tribe Fisheries Department was fully staffed with Katelyn Schultz, Kali Aplet, D.J. Smith, Amanda Stoneman and Kate Bentgen available to answer questions.



Peggy Maleport, Jessica Gilotte-King and Grey Shea of the ACFS Advocacy Resource Center in front of the beautiful quilt drawing attention to their display.



Tribal Transportation Department's Loriann Fabry and Wendy Hoffman welcomed visitors to their booth.



Dove Woodrick visited the Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Booth.



Lori Gambardella and Katrina Wade provided tobacco and white pine while supplies lasted for traditional medicine.



Sault Tribe Health Services had a mobile unit at the Grand Assembly - Shown here are Tom Sauro, Cassandra McRuther, Jodi Houglund, Christy Hill, Julian Salo, Julie Trestral and Kylie Coffee.



Stephanie Hughson and Court Morse attended Friday morning.



Aleyah Pierce, 11, (front left) and Allie Peterson, 6, (front right) with Manistique YEA Student Worker Ryker Goudreau. Pierce and Peterson are two of four young ladies that come from Manistique to dance and support the Manistique drum and the nine young drummers who also attended.

Photos by Scott Brand & Brenda Austin



Jasper Anderson, 10, and her sister Harper Andersen, 11, are the other half of the young ladies from Manistique there with the YEA group.



Gail Sulander and Greg Gierke transported the youth drummers and dancers in the Manistique YEA program to the Grand Assembly. L-R: Brayden Pierce, 9, Brennan Hoholik, 10, Oakley Schnurer, 6, Ruckus Gilbert, 8, Kayden Siewert, 12, and Chase Chartier, 8.



Taking a rain break inside the cultural building were Mayah Lovin, 8, and her grandmother, Sue Tobias.



Sault Tribe Law Enforcement also had a booth and one of their boats at the event. L-R: Emergency Dispatch/Permit Coordinator Rachel Lafaver, School Resource Officer Marisa Gonyeau, Patrol Officer Harrison Thorne, Sgt. Detective James McLeod III, and Chief of Police Bob Marchand.

Angeline Bouley addresses attendees at Grand Assembly as keynote speaker

By Scott Brand

Entertaining the crowd at the 50th Anniversary Grand Assembly on June 29, Keynote Speaker Angeline Bouley's message was that dreams can come true, but maybe not in the way you expect.

"I ran for the tribal board, for so long that had been my dream," she recalled.

"I thought if you had the best funding, the best ideas and worked the hardest you would get elected," she said drawing laughs as she summed up her experience. "That's not how tribal elections work."

So, Bouley shifted her focus and began writing her first book and completed what she described as the "world's worst first draft." "I can live with failure easier than I can live with never having tried," said Bouley, who plowed ahead with new drafts and re-writes for about a decade. "It kept getting better and better."

The final draft, as it turned, not only met with Bouley's approval, but a publisher's as well and the Firekeeper's Daughter was headed to print.

Fast-forward a bit and that same book was a #1 New York Times bestseller, was named Time Magazine's YA Book of All Time and has been optioned by the Obama's production company to be adapted into a Netflix series.

"I hope they will do some of the filming here," said Bouley explaining that she can make suggestions to the producers, but has lost control. This also seemed to be her go-to answer for anyone in the crowd hoping to be part of the cast.

With the Firekeeper's Daughter centered around a Native American teen who was good at chemistry and knew her traditional medicines, Bouley said she set out to tell the story in a way that brings honor and respect.

"People all over the world are reading about our community," said Bouley, adding that more



than 20 foreign deals are bringing the Anishinabe language to a variety of cultures.

"It's been an unending roller coaster ride I've been so happy to be on ever since," said Bouley triggering more laughs adding, "So I just want to say thank you for not electing me."



Angeline Bouley is gifted a strawberry basket by Chairman Austin Lowes.

Manistique holds first Niiwin Noodin powwow June 9-10



Mother & daughter, Cindy Thomas and Shelly Butzin (L-R).



YEA crafting for kids.



Traditional women's dance.



The color guard at grand entry.



Opening dance during grand entry.



Chloe Kannan and Lorelie Kachur (L-R) from the Soo.



Shawl dancers at grand entry.



Little ones entering the dance arena.



At right, a copper jingle dress.

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SAULT TRIBE thrive

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

This business directory is intended to foster an empowered economy between Sault Tribe citizen-owned business, Sault Tribe enterprises, tribal businesses, and the global economy.

Sault Tribe Thrive's Business Directory is open to all Native/Indigenous entrepreneurs, artists, nonprofits, tribal governments, tribal colleges, and tribal enterprises throughout the Sault Tribe

service area and at large. Sault Tribe Thrive is proud to offer free basic business listings for all Sault Tribe citizen-owned businesses and Sault Tribe divisions, sub-divisions, and enterprises.

Sault Tribe Thrive reserves the right to review applications, request additional information before listing, and to refuse applications if they cannot be verified.

To be listed in the directory as a Native-owned business, you will be required to complete an intake form and provide the tribal file number from your tribal identification card. The intake form can be found by selecting "More Info" at www.saulttribe-thrive.com/business-development-2/.

Sault Tribe Thrive is an MBDA AIANNH Project estab-

lished in 2019, funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency, with administrative support from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Sault Tribe Thrive provides business support to Sault Tribe citizen-owned businesses through outreach, advocacy, and business consultation initiatives.

To view the online business

directory, go to: www.saulttribe-thrive.com/business-directory/.

Connect with us in person at the Tamarack Business Center in Downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Find us online at Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, or by email at info@saulttribethrive.com, or phone (906) 635-6050, ext. 26121.

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demawatingdevelopment.com
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Environmental

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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-4470
ashmuncreek@sbcglobal.net
ashmuncreek.com
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bloomcosault.com
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creativememories.com/user/JanetHess
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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
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facebook.com/CrookedMusicStore
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tolmstead@saulttribe.net
gitchiauto.com
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thelockviewrestaurant.net
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kyle-mcgahey-g7ez.squarespace.com
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melaniecookhearingaids.com
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(906) 635-4782
jmacdonald@saulttribe.net
saulttribe.com/enterprises/midjim
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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-5755
mikemike1962@hotmail.com
mikes-garage-sault-ste-marie.edan.io
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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(828) 989-1395
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nationalpaintingcontractors.business.site
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facebook.com/Pennzoilssm
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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
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facebook.com/PrescriptionOxygen
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regal-homecare-906-live.com
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royelectriccompany.com/homeUtilities

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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
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(313) 244-9793
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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

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ron@saultprinting.com
saultprinting.com
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Sault Tribe Incorporated
Joel Schultz
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 203-5343
joel.schultz@saulttribeinc.com
saulttribeinc.com
Public Sector

Soo Welding
Charles Fabry
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-8241
soowelding@outlook.com
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David Menard
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 440-7644
sugarislandshores@yahoo.com
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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 630-6939
jennroy209@gmail.com
superiorcustomblinds.com
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(906) 632-7721
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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
michael.diangelo@trucorusa.com
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gjackson@upautosales.com
upautosales.com
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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-1026
eitrem@sbcglobal.net
upcarpetmart.business.site
Retail

Wholistic Energy Healing
Shelly Kucharczyk
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 440-2224
s.kucharczyk@yahoo.com
facebook.com/wholisticwellness-solutions
Healthcare

Willis Pest Control
Willard Willis
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 322 7445
batman_will@hotmail.com
willispestcontrol.com

Environmental
Woody's One Stop
Nick Lourcias
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-7361
nlourcias@hotmail.com
Retail

Y & R Complete Outdoor
Services
Ron Baird
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 203-7388
yolandanolanbaird@gmail.com
Environmental

Cedarville 49719
Hakola Porta John Service and
Rental
Tony Hakola
Cedarville, MI 49719
(906) 430-8058
tonyhakola@hotmail.com
Hakolaportajohn.com
Environmental

The Ice Cream Shoppe
Jill Mcleod
Cedarville, MI 49719
(906) 484-5525
jmcleod@eupschools.org
facebook.com/The-Ice-Cream-
Shoppe-175540842574683
Food & Beverage

Curtis 49820
Above The Bridge Outdoors
Morgan Gelinas
Curtis, MI 49820
(906) 287-0903
abovethebridgeoutdoors@gmail.com
abovethebridgeoutdoors.com
Other

DeTour Village 49725
Barbeaux Fisheries
Paul Barbeaux
DeTour Village, MI 49725
(906) 297-5969
barbeauxfish@gmail.com
Farming/Fishing

Timberdoodle
Janelle Gross Dudeck
DeTour, MI 49725
(906) 297-1011
timberdoodle.mercantile@gmail.com
facebook.com/shoptimberdoodle
Retail

Germfask 49836
Superior Satellite Solutions
Gary Talarico
Germfask, MI 49836
(906) 450-7675
chieffishfinder1@att.net
Telecommunications

Mattson's U.P. Feeds
Casey Mattson
(906) 586-9969
7476 County Line Rd
Germfask, MI 49836

Gould City 49838
Peninsula Shores Gallery
Eirnella O Neil
Gould City, MI 49838
(906) 477-6303
eirnella.oneil@gmail.com
Arts/Culture

Hessel 49745
Burnside Creations
Lisa Burnside
Hessel, MI 49745
(906) 430-7323
burnsidecreations1@gmail.com
Retail

McMillian 49853
Thermal Kernels
Cathy Baker
McMillian, MI 49853
(231) 675 1060

lovethermalkernels@gmail.com
facebook.com/cornybusiness
Personal Care Services

Naubinway 49762
Kings Fish Market
Sally Schultz
Naubinway, MI 49762
(906) 477-6311
benschultz3134@gmail.com
Farming/Fishing

Moofinfries
Laura Flatt
Naubinway, MI 49762
(906) 630-6932
moofinfries@gmail.com
facebook.com/moofinfries
Food & Beverage

Newberry 49868
Gitche Gumee Handcrafted
Jewelry
Gina Harman
Newberry, MI 49868
(906)293-3625
ginavgc@gmail.com
lakesuperiorpendants.com/index.
php?page=Home
Arts/Culture

Northern Wings
David Goudreau
Newberry, MI 49868-8170
(906) 477-6176 EXT 101
dave@northernwings.com
northernwings.com
Aerospace & Defense

Superior Web
Gina Harman
Newberry, MI 49868
(906) 293-3625
ginavgc@gmail.com
superiorweb.net
Media/Entertainment

Rudyard 49780
Hakola Logging
Tate Hakola
Rudyard, MI 49780
(906) 440-0842
hakolaj@michigan.gov
Environmental

Hucks Pub
Tate Hakola
Rudyard, MI 49780
(906) 442-1042
hakolaj@michigan.gov
hucks-pub-grill.business.site
Food & Beverage

Surface Tech Applicators
Nathan Cremeans
Rudyard, MI 49780
(906) 203-9397
nscremeans@gmail.com
surface-tech-applicators.com
Construction

The Brickyard Bar and Grill
Tate Hakola
Rudyard, MI 49780
(906) 442-1099
hakolaj@michigan.gov
facebook.com/pages/category/Bar/The-Brickyard-Bar-Grill-1017733485083023
Food & Beverage

Moran 49760
Native Steel Welding & Fab
Trystan Ferris
Moran, MI 49760
(906) 430-7816
nativesteelwelding@gmail.com
Manufacturing

T & K King Fisheries
Theron King
Moran, MI 49760
(906) 643-1068
kingsfishmarket@gmail.com
facebook.com/kingsfishmarketan-drestaurant
Farming/Fishing

St. Ignace 49781
Bay Pharmacy
Douglas Goudreau
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-7725
bayrxsi@gmail.com
mygnp.com/pharmacies/bay-phar-macy-st-ignace-mi-49781
Healthcare

Belonga's Plumbing and Heating
Steven Paquin
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-9595
spaquinbph18@gmail.com
Utilities

Cottage UP
Thomas Clark
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 298-2298
cottageup@outlook.com
www.cottageup.org
Retail

Eversons Furnishings
Jimmy Everson
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-7751
info@eversonsfurniture.com
eversonsfurniture.com
Retail

Horn's Odds & Ends
Irene Horn
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 984-2189
mhorn517@gmail.com
facebook.com/hornsoddsnends
Retail

Jose's Cantina
Allecia Gallo
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 984-2212
galloscantina906@gmail.com
joses-cantina.business.site
Food & Beverage

M&M Fisheries
Lynn Rickley
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(734) 516-6536
lynnrickley63@gmail.com
Farming/Fishing

Manleys Famous Smoked Fish
Don Wright
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-8930
dwright@clmcaa.com
facebook.com/Manleysfishmarket
Farming/Fishing

Mark & Sons Plumbing and
Heating
Lewis Mullins
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-9597
markandsonsph@gmail.com
Utilities

Massey Fish Company
Jamie Massey Sr.
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 984-2148
masseysfish@gmail.com
masseyfish.com
Farming/Fishing

Molly's Nest
Robin Pavia
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 298-1633
gardensbymollysnest@yahoo.com
Farming/Fishing

Ron's Birchbark Studio
Ron Paquin
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(231) 420-3518
mollyronpaquin@gmail.com
Arts/Culture

Ruddles Native Painting
Carol Ruddle
Mackinac Island, MI 49781
(906) 430-1728

nativepaintingmack@gmail.com
Arts/Culture

St. Ignace in Bloom
Alex Belonga
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(616) 644-4214
greenhouse@stignaceinbloom.com
stignaceinbloom.com
Retail

Weddings By Judy in Northern
Michigan
Judy St. Louis-Scott
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-7064
stlouis92@yahoo.com
facebook.com/weddingsbyjudyin-northernmichigan
Hospitality

Zodiac Party Store/Taste of the
Upper Peninsula
Keith Massaway
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-8643
kmassaway@msn.com
facebook.com/zodiacpartystore
Retail

Escanaba 49829-49837
Benoit's Glass and Lock
Rick Benoit
Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 786-5281
benoitglass@gmail.com
facebook.com/pages/Benoits-Glass-Lock/126579080731438
Construction

Dress up and Tuxedo
Jody Bugay
Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 789-9796
jody@dressup906.com
dressup906.com
Retail

Feathers Upholstery
Emily McGeary
Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 446-3406
mcmilly451@gmail.com
Apparel

Ojibwe Hazardous Abatement
Rob Arndt
Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 786-3001
robarndt95@gmail.com
ojibwehazardous.com
Environmental

Pink Giraffe Beauty Products
Maddi Lynch
Escanaba, MI 49837
(906) 280-6994
pinkgiraffebeautyproducts@gmail.com
pinkgiraffeproducts.com
Retail

Rock Road Masonry &
Construction
Brandon Deno
Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 789-7892
scs@chartermi.net
Construction

UpCycled Hippie
Jessica Shields
Escanaba, MI
(906) 553-8430
jessicaloushields@gmail.com
facebook.com/upcycledhippiee
Retail

Garden 49835
Eagle HVAC Services
Bryan Goudreau
Garden, MI 49835
(906) 450-0408
groundsourcehtg@gmail.com
eaglehvacservices.com
Construction

See "Directory," page 21

From “Directory,” page 20
Pederson Lawn & Landscape
Heather Pederson
Garden, MI 49835
(906) 644-2150
dr.pederson@hotmail.com
Environmental

Gwinn 49841
Sawyer Village
Joy Page
Gwinn, MI 49841
(906) 346-3919
sawyervillage@saulttribe.net
sawyervillage.com
Real Estate

Sore Arm’s Fishing Charters
Aaron Hendrickson
Gwinn, MI 49841
(906) 360-6035
sorearmscharters@gmail.com
sorearmscharters.com
Recreation

Manistique 49854-49660
Creative Change Associates
Alan Barr
Manistique, MI 49854
(906) 286-1922
alanb@creativechange.org
creativechange.org
Consulting

Gus’ Gourmet Nuts
Dustin Denkins
Manistique, MI 49854
(906) 644-2548
dustin@denkins.net
dustindenkins.com
Food & Beverage

Peterson Building & Contracting
Kenneth Peterson
Manistique, MI 49854
(989) 329-2139
herbstsg@gmail.com
Construction

Seriously SEO
Dustin Denkins
Manistique, MI 49854
(906) 644-2548
dustin@denkins.net
seriouslyseo.com
Business Services

Shampine Hardwood Floors
Andrew Shampine
Manistique, MI 49660
(231)510-1493
facebook.com/shampine.hardwoodfloors
Construction

The Bostique
Cindy King
Manistique, MI 49854
(906) 286-4374
bostiquemstq@gmail.com
shopbostique.com
Retail

Negaunee 49866
TickledPinkAntiques
Carole Prisk
Negaunee, MI 49866
(906) 475-4810
caroleprisk@yahoo.com
facebook.com/Tickled-Pink-Antiques-183263778383419
Retail

Rapid River 49878
Wicked Walleye Tackle
Melinda Kolbus
Rapid River, MI 49878
(906) 286-1886
wickedwalleyet@yahoo.com
wickedwalleyetackle.com
Retail

Christmas 49862
White Pine Lodge
Jaime MacDonald
Christmas, MI 49862
(906) 387-1111
info@whitepinelodgeonline.com

whitepinelodgeonline.com
Hospitality

Marquette 49855
Blondeau Construction
Matt Blondeau
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 362-6288
mattblondeau@gmail.com
blondeauconstruction.com
Construction

Blondeau Properties
Matthew Blondeau
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 362-6288
mattblondeau@gmail.com
Real Estate

Dance of the Sun Day Spa
Dawn Cremeans
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 249-9084
hello@danceofthesun.com
danceofthesun.com
Hospitality

McCabes Quality Flooring
William/Bill McCabe
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 228-8821
mccabesflooring@aol.com
mccabesflooring.com
Construction

Sacred Tattoo Studio
Danielle Pemble
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 273-0800
sacredtattoostudio.com
Personal Care Services

TriMedia Environmental and
Engineering Services
Robert Lehto
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 228-5125
hello@trimediaee.com
trimediaee.com
Environmental

Munising 49862
Iversons Outdoors
Jim Baker
Munising, MI 49862
(906) 452-6370
orders@iversonssnowshoes.com
iversonssnowshoes.com
Retail

Matsons Fisheries
Katy Matson
Munising, MI 49862
(906) 202-0025
matsonfish@yahoo.com
Farming/Fishing

Wetmore 49895
Midway General Store
Erica Kemeny
Wetmore, MI 49895
(919) 621-8998
kemenyerica@gmail.com
Retail

Trout Creek 49967
Calderwood Enterprises
Fred Sliger
Trout Creek, MI 49967
(906) 852-3232
fredsliger@jamadots.com
calderwoodenterprises.com
Manufacturing

Boyne Falls 49713
Mountainside Apartments
Marijo Beckman
Boyne Falls, MI 49713
(231) 330-1992
mjobeckman1@gmail.com
mountainsidegrille-boyne.com
Real Estate

Mountainside Grille
Marijo Beckman
Boyne Falls, MI 49713
(231) 330-1992
mountainsidegrille@hotmail.com

mountainsidegrille-boyne.com
Food & Beverage

Buckley 49620
The Buckley General Store
Carl Brasseur
Buckley, MI 49620
(231) 342-4245
Retail

Farwell 48622
Carrow Super Market
Eddie Carrow
Farwell, MI 48622
(989) 588-2965
carrowsmkt@hotmail.com
carrowsmarket.com
Retail

Gaylord 49735
Snowbelt Brewing Company
Angielena Muellenberg
Gaylord, MI 49735
(989) 448-7077
drinklocal@snowbeltbrewery.com
snowbelt.beer
Food & Beverage

Interlochen 49683
Bay Area Demolition
Kris Wood
Interlochen, MI 49683
(231) 709-5895
bayareademopros@gmail.com
northernmichigandemolition.com
Construction

Levering 49755
Marshalls Income Tax Service
Stan Marshall
Levering, MI 49755
(231) 537-4822
stantmarshall@gmail.com
Financial Services

Ludington 49431
Ludington Outdoor Services
Caleb Bowman
Ludington, MI 49431
(231) 690-1002
calebbowman1982@gmail.com
Environmental

Mesick 49668
Mesick Market
Carl Brasseur
Mesick, MI 49668
(231) 342-4245
Retail

Petoskey 49770
Herbal Lodge
Nathan Wright
Petoskey, MI 49770
(231) 622-9063
native14u@yahoo.com
herballodge.com
Retail

Mackinaw Trail Winery & Brewery
Laurie Stabile
Petoskey, MI 49770
(231) 487-1910
stabilelaurie@gmail.com
mackinawtrailwinery.com
Food & Beverage

Muscotts Painting
James Muscott
Petoskey, MI 49770
(231) 342-7055
jamesmuscott@hotmail.com
muscottspainting.com
Construction

Traverse City 49686
Allegra Printing
Roger Leask
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 632-4448
roger@allegratc.com
allegramarketingprint.com/locations/traverse-city-mi
Marketing/Advertising

Tustin 49688
Windy Hills Bison Farms

Carl Brasseur
Tustin, MI 49688
(231) 342-4245, (231) 388-3556
Farming/Fishing

Cedar Springs 49319
Natures Cure
Joel Halloran
Cedar Springs, MI 49319
(616) 970-8016
sales@naturescurekratom.com
naturescurestore.com
Personal Care Services

Detroit 48227
Eagle Specialties
Taryn Sulkes
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 638-6640 Ext 1
taryn@es-us.com
es-us.com
Construction

Durand 48429
East Michigan Native Plants,
LLC
Angela Nelson
Durand, MI 48429
(810) 333-7501
info@eastmichnatives.com
eastmichnatives.com
Farming/Fishing

East Lansing 48823-48826
Above The Roots
Melanie Spencley
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 803-5105
atootsmi@gmail.com
abovetherootsmi.com
Retail

Good Fruit Video
Justin Caine
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 708-3809
justin@goodfruitvideo.com
goodfruitvideo.com/about
Media/Entertainment

Irwin Group
Mitch Irwin
East Lansing, MI 48826
(517) 896 6875
irwinmitch@gmail.com
Real Estate

Galesburg 49053
Great Lakes Flooring Specialists
Julie Roberts
Galesburg, MI 49053
(269) 207-2340
julie@greatlakesflooring.net
Construction

Grand Rapids 49525
Coonen Law
Rose Coonen
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 951-1531
rcoonen@coonen-law.com
coonen-law.com
Business Services

Holt 48842
Moore Trosper Construction
Ted Moore
Holt, MI 48842
(517) 694-6310
tmoore@mooretrosper.com
mooretrosper.com
Construction

Ogitchidaa
Ann Dailey
Holt, MI 48842
(906) 322-2716
ann@companyk.us
Security

Ithaca 48847
The Pink Cactus
Laura Cook
Ithaca, MI 48847
(989) 264-2050
lannecook@gmail.com
Retail

Jenisen 49428
MI Playground
Nick Behling
Jenisen, MI 49428
(616) 201-8731
nick@enjoymiplayground.com
enjoymiplayground.com
Media/Entertainment

Kalamazoo 49009
American Dream Builders
Gary Valier
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 365-1969
garyadbslm@hotmail.com
Construction

Tinger Investments, LLC
Alex Ermatinger
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 303-1339
tingerguideservice@gmail.com
tingerguideservice.com
Recreation

Walsh Service Solutions
Lawrence (Rich) Walsh
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(866) 977-3835
rich@walsh-ss.com
walshservicesolutions.com
Environmental

Lansing 48911-48821
517 Coffee Company
Jaime Ladronka
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 574-5573
the517coffeeco@gmail.com
517coffeecompany.com
Food & Beverage

Great Lakes Drone Service
Kyle McPhee
Lansing, MI 48821
(517) 819-5542
greatlakesdroneservice@gmail.com
greatlakesdroneservice.com
Media/Entertainment

Livonia 48154
Greene Environmental Services
Mike Greene
Livonia, MI 48154
(734) 272-8434
mgreene@greeneenvironmentalservices.com
greeneenvironmentalservices.com
Environmental

Macomb 48044
Say It With Swag
Cassandra Pasque
Macomb, MI 48044
(248) 953-1933
sayitwithswagllc@gmail.com
sayitwithswag.net
Retail

Milford 48380
Masta Performance
Daniel Masta
Milford, MI 48380
(248) 685-8710
mastaperformance@gmail.com
mastaperformance.com
Manufacturing

Pontiac 48340
Fast & Secure Towing & Recovery
Ronald McClusky Jr.
Pontiac, MI 48340
(248) 993-3632
ronaldalcar@gmail.com
Transportation

Swartz Creek 48473
Premier Learning
Colleen Grace Ford
Swartz Creek, MI 48473
(810) 732-6493
cgkford@comcast.net
Education

Williamston 48895
See “Directory,” page 22

Walking on...

PEGGY JOYCE LALONDE

Peggy Joyce LaLonde, 86, of Caro, Mich. passed away on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at Tuscola County Medical Care Community with her family by her side. Peggy was born June 14, 1936 in Saginaw, Mich., the daughter of the late Arthur and Josephine (Lancour) Bell. She graduated from Saginaw High School and went on to obtain a bachelors in English from Saginaw Valley State University. Peggy was a teacher, worked with community theaters, was the first Adult Education recruiter in Caro, and helped with the summer literacy program of Tuscola County. She had a passion for the advocacy and protection of human rights. Peggy belonged to the Light House Baptist Church, was a TOPS member, and a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She loved to sing and dance, and always stopped to smell the lilacs. Above all else, Peggy's children and grandchildren were the lights of her life.



Peggy leaves to cherish her memory her children, Derek (Yvette) LaLonde of Gresham, Ore., Denise (Tim) Hutchinson of Caro, Deanna LaLonde of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Dominick LaLonde of the Sault, and Darcy (Tim) Heyd of Traverse City, Mich.; daughter-in-law, Carol Sullivan LaLonde; grandchildren,

Mandy McNutt, Jason LaLonde, Jeff LaLonde, Rick Ackerman, Tim Ackerman, Daniel Mettler, Alex LaLonde, Jessica LaLonde, Dominick J. LaLonde, Misty LaLonde, Cassie Weber, Danielle LaLonde, Zion LaLonde, Josephine LaLonde, Red Arrow LaLonde, Sumer Rain LaLonde, Gabriel Heyd, and Elijah Heyd; 20 great grandchildren; siblings, Joe (Glenda) Bell, Edward (Wanda) Bell and Nancy Bell Leach; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Peggy was preceded in death, by her son, Darin Arthur LaLonde; granddaughter, Karen Willow Schaub; a sister, Shirley Bell Koentitzer and her treasured baset hound, Olivia.

A private interment took place at Eastlawn Memorial Gardens on June 12 followed by a Celebration of Life at the Light House Baptist Church in Caro. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider memorial contributions to Cass River Pet Friendz.

JUDY MAE CAYTON

Judy Mae Cayton, 66, of Gillette, Wyo. passed away at her home and went to Heaven on June 30, 2023. She is missed beyond measure.

Judy was born on Jan. 3, 1957, in St. Ignace, Mich. to Darlene and Joseph Carson. She was one of



ten children. She moved around a lot as a child and spent time living in Michigan, Colorado, Nebraska, Gillette and Sundance, Wyo. She was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and was teaching her granddaughter the native culture and language.

In 1974 Judy married Dan Duvall. She became a young mother at age 17 and still completed her GED. They bought a home in Sundance, which she surrounded with beautiful flowers and lilac bushes. They had three children Christopher, Wesley, and Stacy.

She was an extremely hard worker. She worked at the Sundance Times for over a decade. She loved this job. She was a talented typist, at one point typing so fast the computers froze! After divorcing when their youngest was one year old, she tirelessly took on the role of single mother, at one time working three jobs to support her children. Judy was brilliantly creative. Her specialty was helping her kids with school projects. She had the best ideas and could make something out of basically nothing. She carried this skill into the kitchen, being a fantastic cook. She never used a measuring cup or followed recipes, but instead cooked delicious meals from memory and measured by instinct.

She spent most of her time sitting in the sunshine. Every Saturday was movie night with her daughter. She loved the smell of lilacs, the sound of birds in springtime, and enjoying a good

cup of coffee with family and friends. Vanilla ice cream cones after every doctor appointment was a must. Her family was her entire life. She gave selflessly, always putting the needs of others before her own.

Another great joy in her life has been her nine grandchildren. To many of them she was seen as not only grandma, but a second mother as well. She liked to make them peanut butter cookies, just because, which made them smile after a rough day at school. She loved seeing them in sports and plays and was a great shopping buddy.

Survivors include her children Chris Duvall of Sundance, Wes and Stacy Duvall of Gillette, grandchildren Trey (Makenzie) Duvall of Upton, Wyo., Jason Duvall Nashville, Tenn., Chance and Zach Duvall (Ashlynn) of Sundance, Ella Turgeon of Sarasota, Fla., Kylin (Charla) Whitcher, Ashlie Whitcher, and Jaicee Whitcher of Gillette, great granddaughter Halsey Duvall of Upton, siblings Carol Carson-Hull (Scott) of Gwinn, Mich., Philip Carson (Darlene) of Spokane, Wash., Gary Carson (Denise) of Lewiston, Idaho, Kathy White (Ron) of Sturgis, S.D., Joseph Carson, of Sturgis, Kevin Carson (Dianna), of Corum, Mont., sister-in-law, Angela La Blanc and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents Joseph Carson, Darlene Cayton, and stepfather Warren Cayton, brothers Richard Carson, Terry Carson (Justine La Blanc), and David Carson, daugh-

ter-in-law Sonya Duvall, former husband Jon Cayton and step-daughter Shyla Cayton, granddaughter Angel Duvall, Nephew Charlie Wood, great niece Kassidae Carson, great nephew Brendan Carson, and former sister-in-law Wanda Blakeman.

Judy always said, "We don't say goodbye, because goodbye means forever. We say I'll see you later."

We'll see you later. Until then we'll be missing you.

A funeral service was July 10, at Fidler-Roberts and Isburg Funeral Home in Sundance.

Interment followed in Mount Moriah Cemetery in Sundance.

Arrangements are under the care of Fidler-Roberts & Isburg Funeral Chapel of Sundance.

GERALD DEE PETERS

Provided by Geraldine as told by Gerald

Gerald (known to many as Sarge or Dee) was born in Masonville, Mich. to Harvey George Peters and Annie Justine Wachter Peters Browning on Dec. 1, 1928.

He left this world on May 14, 2023.

He married Dorothea Ruth Eisenbach of Gould City, Mich. on July 16, 1949. He graduated from Gould City High in 1947. After graduation he joined the Air Force where he served for 20 years.

He was predeceased by his parents, Harvey, Annie and stepdad Jim Browning, all his siblings and spouses along with his grandparents and aunts and

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Sault Tribe Thrive business directory continued

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Dream Catchers Consulting
Bill Pemble
Williamston, MI 48895
(517) 243-2877
pemblew@gmail.com
dreamcatchers.tech
Consulting

OUT OF STATE

Alabama
Revenue Return Specialists
Craig King
Guntersville, AL 35976
(706) 218-2250
craig@revenuereturnspecialists.com
RevenueReturnSpecialists.com
Business Services

Arizona
AZ Fresh Start Cleaning
Richard Oran III
Yuma, AZ 85565
(928) 304-6632
azfreshstartcleaning@gmail.com
facebook.com/profile.php?id=100033470683369
Janitorial Services

California
Native American Church of Turtle Island
David Gaskin
Redding, CA 96001
52 (984) 114-2145
davidgaskin4@gmail.com
nacturtleisland.org
Not For Profit

Colorado
REO Consulting, LLC

Barbara Pemble, MS, SHRM-CP
Denver, CO 80206
(303) 808-1146
bpemble@reoconsulting.org
reoconsulting.org
Consulting

Synchronized Networking Solutions
Robert (Bob) Gonczy
Penrose, CO 81240
(719) 371-2315
rgonczy@syncns.com
syncns.com
InformationTechnology

Tadpole Press
Amber Byers
Lafayette, CO 80026
(303) 668-8812
amber@tadpolepress.com
tadpolepress.com
Communications

Tipping Point Solutions
Rick Schmidt
Centennial, CO 80112
(303) 353-0440 EXT 301
info@tp-solutions.com
tippingpointcorp.net
Media/Entertainment

Florida
IvyTek
Michael Griggs
St. Johns, FL 32259-4453
(337) 212-0994
sandy@ivytek.com
ivytek.com
InformationTechnology

Seniors Helping Seniors

Chad Lawson
Jacksonville, FL 32258
(904) 716-5680
clawson5454@yahoo.com
seniorshelpingseniors.com
Healthcare

North Carolina
Eagle's Dream
Rachel Mandelstamm
Greensboro, NC 47406
(989) 385-2129
eaglesdream2@yahoo.com
facebook.com/eaglesdream2
Arts/Culture

Ohio
Mullenbrock & Associates
Craig Mullenbrock
Piqua, OH 45356
(937) 773-8500
cmullenbrock@woh.rr.com
mullenbrockassociates.com
Financial Services

Oklahoma
Nontrivial Solutions
James Bearden
Oklahoma City, OK 73137
(405) 698-3702
james@nontrivial.net
nontrivial.net
InformationTechnology

Texas
14 PEWS
Cressandra Thibodeaux
Houston, TX 77009
(310) 880-3907
info@14pews.com
14pews.org/pages/home.asp
Media/Entertainment

3rd Run Delivery
Jennifer Anderson
Austin, TX 78240
(847) 525-0197
jenn.anderson@3rdrun.com
Food & Beverage

CompHoppers
Vickie Griggs
Livingston, TX
(337) 739-3664
comphoppers@comphoppers.com
comphoppers.com
Recreation

Hand Trucking
Andrew Garvin
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455
(469) 403-5930
persevere12@yahoo.com
Transportation

Project Pomona
Meghan Roberts
Driftwood, TX 78619
(281) 248-7406
meghan2roberts@gmail.com
projectpomona.com
Retail

TX Pro
Tracy Prout
Hutto, TX 78634
(512) 630-8848
tracy@txprollc.com
facebook.com/txprollc
Retail

Virginia
ISHPI
Earl Bowers

Suffolk, VA 23435
(757) 809-2302
info@ishpi.net
ishpi.net
InformationTechnology

Wisconsin
Blue Harbor Fish & Seafood
Lori Parkinson
Green Bay, WI 54313
(920) 435-4633
blueharborfish@yahoo.com
blueharborfish.com
Farming/Fishing

Derusha Construction
David Derusha
Ashland, WI 54806
(715) 730-0734
derushaconstruction@yahoo.com
facebook.com/Derusha-Construction-102913544455689
Construction

JETA Corporation
Linda Grow
Neenah, WI 54957-0336
(920) 486-7072
sales@jetacorp.com
jetacorp.com
Shipping/Distribution

Ontario Canada
Credence HR
Michael DiAngelo
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A5A8
(705) 542-7208
michael@credencehr.ca
credencehr.ca
Business Services

Walking on continued

From "Walking on," page 22
uncles. His wife, Dorothea, went to be with her Lord in January of 2003.

Predeceased by his siblings: Thain (Taps) Peters, Wayne Peters, Clois (Choey) Peters, Darlene Peters Carson Cayton, Shirely Peters Kerridge, Gene and Dean (twins) Browning and Lee Allen Browning. Also his in-laws Clarence Eisenbach and Carrie Keyes Eisenbach and Polly Dean (Dorothea's sister).

Gerald's military service started in June 1947. He attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. He was first stationed at Camp Kilner in New Jersey then Camp Leroy Johnson in New Orleans, La. He was sent on a ship bound for Panama, down the Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico to Colon, Panama. While enroute on the ship he cleaned shrimp and gizzards. He took a bus to Howard Air Force Base, then went to Frances Field in the Canal Zone. He stayed there for 23 months and during that time took 60 days leave to come home and marry Dorothea.

Later at Wrights Air Force Base in Ohio, he pulled a guard duty at the military prison and on weekends he would go visit Dorothea and his daughter in Flint, Mich. He was transferred to Scott Air Force Base in Illinois from 1949 to 1951. Dorothea and Gerry joined him there where his daughter, Vicky, was born.

Gerald's next station was in Narsarsuak, Greenland. Dorothea and the kids moved to Michigan and lived in a trailer until after his son Eugene was born in Nov. 1952. In February of 1953, Dorothea and the kids followed him to Greenland. They left as a family in April of 1954 for Kessler Air Force Base in Mississippi. While there they started attending church at the Assembly of God and purchased a double-decker trailer.

When Gerald transferred to Parks Air Force Base in Pleasanton, Calif. he was allowed to move the trailer on to the base. He was stationed there from Aug. 1956 to March 1957 and his son John was born during this time. From March 1958 to Nov. 1959 Gerald and his family went to Vandenberg Air Force Base (previously known as Camp Cook) still in California.

He went on a three-month leave in Michigan, before being sent to Ankara, Turkey, where he spent 43 months. During this time abroad they visited many ruins and sites in Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Greece and Israel. President Eisenhower visited Ankara while they were there and people were lining the streets to see him as he drove by, of course Gerald and family were part of the crowd.

While returning to the states,

Gerald and family stopped in Rome, Italy for three days to visit the sites. They flew into Detroit, Mich. where they stayed with Dorothea's Aunt Eloise and Uncle Bud and then went to stay with Dorothea's parents. The children stayed with their grandparents while Gerald and Dorothea went to California to retrieve their trailer for their next station in Indianapolis, Ind. They lived in Mooresville where the kids went to small country schools. Gerald was a plant representative at Allison Division General Motors where they made fan blades for military jets.

Gerry was hospitalized at Fort Benjamin Harrison for hepatitis, for a week which she picked up in Turkey.

By January of 1965 they were in Washington. They settled in Renton, Wash. while Gerald worked in Seattle at the Boeing Plant representative office. He retired in 1967. The family made their home in Renton after retirement. Upon retirement he traveled for work moving the family to Texas and California before coming to Engadine, Mich. to run the Pizza Chalet. John and Gene graduated from Engadine Schools. Eventually settling back in Renton, when Dorothea passed away Gerald moved in with his son John of Dagget, Mich. until Jesus called him home to be with Him, Dorothea and all his relatives on Mother's Day, what a blessing!

During Gerald's lifetime he drove truck with his son John and loved to travel visiting many places in the United States including Yellowstone, Mount Rushmore, Niagara Falls, and Hawaii as well as visits to Canada and Mexico.

He is survived by his children, Geraldine Y. Peters Minaker (David), of Renton, Eugene Peters of Twin Falls, Idaho, Vicky Peters Fink (Richard) of Edgerton, Wisc., and John Peters (Debbie) of Dagget.

His favorite pastime was spending time with family, playing the organ and the harmonica, he loved to relax in the evening playing music. He is loved and missed by his grandkids: Kevin (Peters) Stancliff (Carrie), Lori Peters Stancliff Anderson (Hans), Carrie Peters, Jeremy Fink, Heather Fink Clerkin (Anthony), Melissa Fink Marthe (Jason), Adam Fink (Stephanie), Tony Peters (Becky), Jennifer Peters-Shaw (Dan), Donna Peters-White (Jeff), Gina Minaker-Harstad (Jeremy) and Jonathan Minaker (Desiree).

His many great grandkids across Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kansas, and Washington will miss his smile, humor and faith along with many nieces and nephews. Aunt Betty Clark and Aunt Marlene Wagner (Dorothea's sisters) send their love to Gerald in Heaven.

Thank you for all the prayers, love and support these many years to all your kids and

extended family! We love you and miss you but know you are in a better and happier place.

JOHN LEO GERMAIN

John Leo Germain, 69, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. passed away Saturday June 24, 2023 in Cheboygan, Mich. He was born Aug. 16, 1953 in Sault Ste. Marie to Leo and Elanor (Mongene) Germain.

John enjoyed camping, fishing, and going for rides.

John is survived by his son, Brandon LaPonsie of Carson City, Mich.; siblings, Robert (Peggy) McKechnie of Sault Ste. Marie, Gilbert (Dottie) Bonno of Roseville, Mich., Patti (Gary) Bosley of Sault Ste. Marie, Suzy (Terry) Niemi of Cottage Park, Mich., Sharon Oliver of Kincheloe, Mich., Bernard "Bunz" Germain of Sault Ste. Marie, Linda Germain of Kincheloe, Janet Germain of Kinross, Mich., and Sandy (Dwayne) Graham of Sault Ste. Marie.

John is predeceased by his parents; siblings, Richard Germain, Jackie Germain, Edward Germain, Ronald Germain, Kenneth Mongene, and Larry McKechnie.

A celebration of Life for John was held on July 5, 2023 at the Sault Tribe Cultural Center, 11 Ice Circle Chi Mukwa Sault Ste. Marie.

Clark Hovie Galer Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

HAROLD JOSEPH MCKERCHIE, JR. (BUD)

Harold Joseph McKerchie, Jr. (Bud) was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. and was raised on Sugar Island. In Mobile Ala., on May 21, 2023, Bud walked on at the age of 71, peacefully surrounded by his family.

Bud (Running Bear) is survived by his spouse Linda (Watt) McKerchie, (Little White Dove) of 48 plus years; three sons, Harold J. McKerchie III (Megan), Todd B. McKerchie (Amber), and Christopher J. McKerchie (Melissa) all of Mobile; seven grandchildren, Austin McKerchie (Ashley), Katelyn McKerchie, Gunner McKerchie, Rylie McKerchie, Caleb McKerchie, Easton McKerchie and Lexi Girlinghouse; one great-grandson, Bentley McKerchie and soon to be second great-grandson, Brooks McKerchie all of Mobile; two brothers, Bob (Carol) and Ron (Bonnie) McKerchie; three sisters, Jane TenEyck (Bob), Joan Hill (Gary), and Julie Kinney (Harold), all of Sault Ste. Marie;

numerous aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, friends and a loving little Yorkie, Keighley.

Bud was preceded in death by his parents Harold J. McKerchie Sr. and Mary Joyce McKerchie; a favorite uncle, Jack McKerchie, Uncle Merlin McKerchie, Uncle Robert Niemitalo, and nephews Ron McKerchie Jr., Robert James McKerchie Jr., and cousin, Patti (Rapson) Vogel.

Bud was a 1970 graduate of Sault Area High School. Bud served 23 years of active duty proudly with the United States Coast Guard achieving the rank of Master Chief. His duty stations included the USCGC Munro (WHEC-724) Boston, Mass., and Seattle Wash. Coast Guard Station, Sault Ste. Marie, Aids to Navigation, Tacoma Shipbuilding, Tacoma, Wash. (to temporarily oversee the build of the USCGC Mobile Bay 103), USCGC Mobile Bay (WTGB-103) Sturgeon Bay, Wisc. Small Boat Station Cape May, USCGC Buckthorn (WLI-642), Sault Ste. Marie, USCGC Saginaw (WLIC-803) Mobile and Marine Safety Office in Mobile. After retirement from the Coast Guard, Bud was an instructor/administrator for a maritime school, followed by employment as a senior engineer with Marquette Marine and Towing Transportation. Bud held a Master of Towing License. After full retirement you could find him working part time with his two sons at Construction Solutions International (CSI).

Bud's passion in life, beside his family, was machinery/engines/teaching. Most of all he loved to work. He especially loved retirement which enabled him to work on engine repairs for CSI or riding on the tugs with two of his sons. He enjoyed tracking his oldest son's crew boat route as it headed to the oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. He was extremely proud of all three of his boys. Bud recently started gardening, enjoyed cooking, loved mowing his lawn and enjoyed choose your own adventure road trips with Linda. He enjoyed staying at their favorite condo on Dauphin Island, fishing Dauphin Island and taking vacations. His favorite vacation spot was always returning to his home town so he could fill up on fresh lake whitefish and walleye.

Bud met the love of his life, his wife, his best friend and soulmate Linda when she was 14 and he was 17. There was a separation of time, but through those years they remained friends. Fate brought them back together when he turned and took the left side of a fork in the road. They were married in 1975. Bud was known as Running Bear and Linda as Little White Dove. Running Bear loved Little White Dove with a love as big as the sky and with a love that couldn't die. Little White Dove loved him

back the same. A love that will never die.

Bud was very proud of his Native American heritage. Bud was a member and Elder of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He passed down to his family the importance of being proud of the Native heritage and was adamant to his family to always check off Native American when it asked for race on any and all documents.

Bud was a loving and caring husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and family man who took care of all of his family. He was called The Fixer. He was only a phone call away to fix water leaks, install new fencing or decks, electrical work, car repairs or a shoulder to cry on. He was the perfect role model. He was also called the Energizer Rabbit because he just kept going and going. Bud had a special attachment with his great-grandson Bentley as he and Linda were caregivers for Bentley's first 18 months. Bud and Bentley formed a strong bond because Bentley chose him. Bentley chose his Papa first and foremost always for comfort or hugs.

A Celebration of Life was held on May 27, 2023 in the home of and hosted by Todd and Amber McKerchie. Our hearts are broken and our lives forever changed. Bud was a great husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He will always be missed and forever in our hearts.

MARY SABRINA CAUSLEY

Mary was born on July 25, 1971, to Wilfred P. Causley and Nina J. Causley in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

She was a ray of sunshine in the lives of many, as her passion was to seek those needing help. Mary's life experiences and struggles led her to develop a non-profit called Bridging the Gap. Its foundation was to help the homeless and women in recovery.

Mary was preceded in death by her father, Wilfred Perry Causley, and her mother, Nina J. Causley. She will be greatly missed by her Aunt Harriet Brown; her siblings, Mark Causley, Dawn Causley, Scott Causley, Lisa Burnside, and Decla Causley; her daughters, Stephani and Leslie Winemiller; her two grandsons, Sawyer Jackson and Silas Allen; brother-in-law Calvin Burnside; sisters-in-law Cheryl Causley and Connie Polk, as well as multiple nephews, nieces, and cousins; her good friend Ladonna Dorsainvil, and the person she adopted as a dad, Mr. Pat Smith.

Mary's never-ending smile and positive outlook on life will be greatly missed and cherished forever. Mary was a Christian, and she loved Jesus. Mary also loved being Native and a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.



Traditional crafts featured at Wednesday gatherings

BY SCOTT BRAND

On Wednesday, June 21, coinciding with the Summer Solstice, dozens of interested people converged on Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building to learn how to make their own dreamcatchers under the direction of Anishinaabe traditional crafter Jackie Robinson.

“We have this every Wednesday at 5 p.m.,” said Robinson of the community run event. In previous sessions, the group has made feast/travel bags, ribbon skirts and porcupine quill ear-

rings. The dreamcatcher session was the largest to date with Robinson saying she is hoping to build on that momentum. “Ribbon shirts will be the next thing we are working on.”

Participants did not have far to walk, just across the street, where Robinson had previously identified a patch of red willow.

“Red willow tends to grow in marshy areas,” said Robinson. “It has red flowers and red branches. It’s fairly easy to identify.”

She added the red willow is one of the few things that keeps

its color throughout the winter.

“We always put tobacco down asking the Creator to make sure this is good,” said Robinson, asking for good spirit in the hoops. “It’s not an exchange, just a marking of being grateful.”

After harvesting a handful of small branches for demonstrative purposes, the group returned to Niigaanagizhik where Robinson stripped the leaves and fashioned the branch into a hoop as others mimicked her actions at their own tables. The fresh branches, however, were not utilized as they

need to dry out for a couple of weeks before shrinking into their final state. If sinew is wrapped around the fresh branch it will loosen over time due to that shrinkage.

Robinson had previously harvested red willow and dried it in preparation for the dreamcatcher class and had enough hoops available for all who were ready to craft their own designs.

Dreamcatchers, Robinson explained, are to be hung over the bed. The device filters out all the bad things that may come to

mind, while allowing the good to pass through the little hole in the center. When the morning sun arrives, all of the bad things caught in the webbing go away.

The participants used feathers and beads to customize their individual dreamcatchers with most finishing up their work in a couple of hours.

Some were even seemingly inspired to make more dreamcatchers departing with extra hoops to be fashioned at a later date or perhaps to be given to those who could not attend.



Jackie Robinson offered tobacco before collecting red willow.



Keera holds the first harvest.



Demonstrating the proper hoop-making technique.



Above, Leslie Atkins assists Oliver White, 9, with Allie Chambers, 12, in the background. Below, Janet Liedel (center) instructs Claire Chambers, 15, on the finer points of making a dreamcatcher with Alyssa Atkins in the foreground.



Crystal Falk with William 3.



Back row, Keely and Aunt Trisha with Makenna, 7, and Keera, 10.



Above, Kaleb Shannon joins Keena Carrick, 6, and below Ashley Daley with Aizlyn Allard 5.



Above, Deanna Geelhoed and Savannah Whaley. Below, Jennifer Bitnar poses with Kali, 9, and 5-year-old, Paisley.



Billy Mills Fun Run and Walk held July 1

Photos by Brenda Austin



Tot Trot racers being encouraged on by family and bystanders during their short run to the finish line.



Little ones crossing the finish line in the Tot Trot.



Youth 1-mile race participants are given the green light and they're off!



A happy Patricia Shackleton at the finish line.



The starting line for 5k run/walk participants.



5k runners setting their stride for the race.



Nathan Wright (right) was the winner of the men's 50-59 age group running 7.02-minute miles with a final time of just under 22 minutes.



This dad ran the 5k pushing his small children the entire way.



JKL Anishnabe PSA **OPEN POSITIONS**

JKL School is accepting applications for qualified candidates for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Middle School Teacher (Multiple)*
- Elementary School Teacher (2)*
- Special Education Teacher (Multiple)*
- Paraprofessional - General Education*
- Special Education Paraprofessional*
- Ojibwe Culture and Language Teacher (2)*
- Part-Time Bus Drive (2)*
- Playground Assistant*

Benefits

- Life Insurance – Employer paid
- Long-term and short-term disability
- Optional life insurance
- PTO and sick time
- Michigan Public School Retirement System – Pension and 401(k) offered
- BC/BS Health Insurance – 80% employer paid premium

Applications can be found at www.jklschool.org by clicking on the employment opportunities link on the home page. JKL application package must include electronic versions of the following: application, letter of interest, current resume, copy of Michigan Certification, Transcripts, and MTTC results if applicable. Only electronically filed applications that are complete with all required documentation attached will be considered. Positions are open until filled. Employment at JKL is considered "at-will." JKL is an equal opportunity employer.



ProtectMIChild Registry keeps kids safe

LANSING, Mich. – Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced June 14 that the state's ProtectMIChild Registry at www.protectmichild.com has expanded to include four more online platforms popular with kids and teens. As Internet Safety Month continued through June, Benson and other state officials encouraged Michigan parents to add their children's accounts to the free registry to block adult advertising content that may target kids as they spend more time online during the summer school break.

The registry expanded to include YouTube, TikTok, Discord and Twitch accounts. In 2021, Benson partnered with Attorney General Dana Nessel to include Snapchat, Instagram, and Twitter to the services covered under registry, which was created by the Michigan Legislature in 2005.

The ProtectMIChild Registry is a free and secure program that keeps kids safe from adult-oriented advertising via social media, video streaming, text, and email. Parents can register their children's social media and streaming

platform handles, phone numbers, and email addresses to block ads for products like alcohol, tobacco, pornography, and online gambling. Accounts for these platforms can be registered without affecting the way the apps are used. Children's personal information also remains private when they are registered.

Once a child is registered, the service will block adult internet ads for three years or until the child user turns 18. Registrations can be renewed at any time for an additional three-year period. Companies that advertise or link

to restricted products and services are required to remove registered accounts within 30 days. Marketers that do not comply with the Michigan Children's Protection Registry Act are subject to fines and penalties. The ProtectMIChild Registry is administered by Unspam, a company that provides do-not-contact services for state governments.

Schools, libraries, and community partners who provide summer programming for children can register their own accounts, as well as help spread the word to families about this free resource.

Park districts, libraries, and child-care centers can direct parents and guardians to ProtectMIChild.com for more information and to register their kids.

Michigan became the first state in the nation to launch a child protection registry in 2005. Responsibility for the registry was transferred to the Department of State from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs by executive order in 2014.

Parents can learn more and sign children up for the ProtectMIChild Registry at ProtectMIChild.com.

Teaching children online safety for summer

SUBMITTED BY ARC

Children spending more time at home for the summer may mean they are getting more screen time than usual. Gone are the days of children playing outside until the street lights come on. Nowadays, children are less likely to play outside and more likely to be found crashed out on a couch or bed with a phone or tablet. Although smart and able to easily navigate most electronic devices, children are still naive and vulnerable to the dangers lurking behind the screens. As parents, grandparents, guardians, babysitters, and daycare providers, we can all participate in helping our children stay safe while they are online.

Communication is key. It begins with regular communication with our children. Not just a one-time reminder in passing to "be careful" on the Internet, but periodic reminders of the potential danger that awaits them in cyberspace. We need to have in-depth conversations about why we need our children to be careful. Parents are concerned about their children being connected online daily via social media or online gaming. Cyberbullying, Internet predators, sexting, tex-

ting and driving, identity theft, too much screen time, and so on. Life is no longer as simple as we remember it to be. "Generation Z" and "Millennials" are defined as the first social generation to have grown up with access to the Internet and portable digital technology from a young age; members of Generation Z have been dubbed "digital natives." Therefore, rules and boundaries are necessary for this new generation. Many "Generation X" and even "Baby Boomer" parents or grandparents are learning to navigate with some difficulty and many kickbacks.

The following are some helpful guidelines to follow for practicing online safety.

- Setting and following family rules that indicate the length of time and behavior on social media and online gaming sites.
- Explaining the dangers of sharing personal photos and reminding children and teens that their pictures can fall into the wrong hands and the difficulty of retrieving or deleting the image is nearly impossible.
- Teach children and teens never to reveal personal information such as an address or phone number, or share their location

online.

- Don't chat with strangers and avoid "friending" anyone they do not know.

- Never respond to threatening emails, messages, posts, or texts. Use only a screen name, and do not share passwords with anyone (except parents, guardians, or caregivers).

- Only agree to meet up or get together in person with anyone they have met online with parental approval and supervision.

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

- We must teach our children to be kind online with others. The same rules apply online as they should in person. Treat others how you would like to be treated.

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

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

SMART is a helpful acronym for children and teens for staying safe online:

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

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

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

R-Reliable: Information you find online may not be accurate, or someone online may be lying about who they are. Make sure you check the information before you believe it.

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

Fortunately, parents can use several apps to help monitor children and teens' device usage. Most cost just a few dollars per month; some are free but with limited access. Look for such apps in your device's app store to

help monitor your child's emails, texts, social media sites, and what content is being searched or shared. The apps also help limit screen time and filter websites to eliminate risky content. Apps like Bark, Pocket Guardian, Web Watcher, and Family Time are some highly rated apps parents use. Limitly is a free app for Android users only.

We cannot rely solely on these apps to do the work for us. We must stay involved, communicate, monitor the devices, and stay connected with our children. Children need real "face time" and honest in-person communication. Be mindful of your screen time and make time for your family away from the Internet. Make special memories together and enjoy each other's company.

Check the Advocacy Resource Centers website at www.arcsault-tribe.com for more information, and follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sault-tribeARC for a list of potentially dangerous apps for children and teens. The Advocacy Resource Center can provide advocacy for those needing support services and can be reached at (906) 632-1808.

ACFS offers family prevention services

The Anishnaabek Community and Family Services Prevention Program is designed to provide support and assistance to families who have identified a need and would like support and guidance on various issues that may be affecting their family.

- Assists with transportation, financial assistance, connecting families to community resources, school advocacy, parenting skills, child safety concerns, housing, employment, housekeeping, budgeting, etc.

- Clients may self-refer.

There are a number of family support programs offered through ACFS that are in place to assist children and families within the tribe's seven-county service area. The primary goal of these programs is to help parents of Native children with a variety of resources and support to ensure that their children are safe, protected, and cared for.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about family support programs or requesting services offered through ACFS, please call (800) 726-0093 or (906) 632-5250.

Some features of the program:

- Provided in the home and allows for Native families to receive services that are flexible with their schedule and meet their individual needs.

- Voluntary.

- Referred near the time of case closure as a family support program, if there is a current ongoing CPS case.

- Families do not need to be in a crisis situation to access these services.

- May be short- or long-term, depending on the needs of the family.

Notes from the TAP coordinator

BY TAP COORDINATOR PATRICK MCCOY

We will be creating a type of talking circle going into our tribal communities - we call these talking circles "sacred bundles." Who are they for? They are for everyone. They are for young, and old, recovering people, and people that don't need recovery. Sitting in a healing circle will create a healing effect for all who participate.

What is a sacred bundle? It's something that a lot of our traditional people carry; and they carry these bundles to share them with others. The content of the bundles is unique to each holder. Things that can go into these bundles may be something like a feather, or a pipe, a special rock or a piece of a special tree. They usually have the four sacred medicines in them as well; tobacco, sweet grass, sage, and cedar.

The format for our groups will be led by traditional peacekeepers. They will welcome people and help guide the group. They will do a reading, sing a song, or give a



Photo by Brenda Austin

Sage burning in an abalone shell. teaching.

There will be a feast created by the community. This feast will follow tradition of feeding the spirits first and then feeding the people. We will then pass the feather and allow members to share anyone that would like to sing a song is welcome to sing and share their perspective on life, community, or recovery is welcome. This time will not be a time of political speeches or personal attacks to anyone; this will be a time to share, support, and encourage oth-

ers.

Times and places will be posted, everyone is encouraged to attend it's for the community and will be led by the community.

We want to continue to promote healing and community building. We are excited to have had a request from the Manistique community and the Hessel community to initiate these medicinal circles.

We hope to continue to offer and expand to all our communities in the near future.

Abuse of power by the Election Committee



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Aaniin,

Much has happened since my last unit report. The biggest event was the board cancelling the Special Advisory Election to fill my unit seat, which was vacated when the membership elected me chairman. The board decided to postpone filling this seat until the General Election this winter. All candidates from the Special Advisory Election have been reimbursed for their election costs.

The board made this decision due to the numerous Election Code violations committed by the Election Committee. Violations included allowing a committee member to participate in election activities involving an immediate family member who was a candidate, missing election timelines, and intentionally sending ballots out early.

At the board meeting held on June 20, the board voted to not send previously submitted removal petitions on Kimberly Hampton to a removal hearing panel. Information presented during the meeting demonstrated that the petitions were based on faulty, illegally obtained information and were therefore invalid.

At this board meeting, it was revealed that the Election Committee obtained illegal subpoenas to seek information on candidates in the 2022 General Election. That is an appalling abuse of power. All authority

vested to the Election Committee comes from resolutions passed by the board and our Election Ordinance. Neither has ever granted the Election Committee authority to issue subpoenas through outside courts or third-party entities against anyone.

All evidence obtained from this subpoena can therefore be considered fruit from the poisonous tree, which Cornell Law defines as the following: "Fruit of the poisonous trees is a doctrine that extends the exclusionary rule to make evidence inadmissible in court if it was derived from evidence that was illegally obtained. As the metaphor suggests, if the evidential tree is tainted, so is its fruit."

To better understand how this happened, I will explain the timeline of events. During the 2022 General Election, DJ Hoffman was the first candidate in Sault Tribe history to lose his Unit I primary. Afterwards, the supervision authority of the Election Committee attorney was transferred from the board to the Election Committee, which was chaired at the time by DJ Hoffman's first cousin. The Election Committee then requested its subpoena from a downstate court, likely because Tribal Court would not grant it due to its unlawful nature.

The Election Committee attorney signed the subpoena request on July 6, which was the day after the new board members were sworn into office. This constitutes a secret, unapproved investigation of seated board members, which is another violation of the Election Committee's limited authority.

The Election Committee received select information from its subpoena, which it distributed during a workshop in August 2022. The chairman of the committee did not collect these highly confidential documents after the workshop, which is standard practice.

Predictably, this led to these



Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes with tribal members Nicole Causley, Angeline Bouley and Larry Jacques (L-R).



documents being anonymously mailed to tribal members in Director Kim Hampton's unit to politically harm her. Only the board and members of the Election Committee had access to these documents, which shows who could have illegally leaked them.

Some of the documents obtained from the illegal subpoena suggest that Director Hampton's printing charges were paid by an outside person. The Election Committee used these documents to cite her for not disclosing all of her campaign contributions.

This was an error on the part of the printing company. The company provided corrected documentation, along with an apology letter to Director Hampton, which she submitted to the Election Committee. The Election Committee chose not to accept these corrected documents and instead cited Director Hampton with a campaign violation, which became the basis for her removal petitions. Shockingly, these petitions were submitted by individuals from the very Election Committee that requested the illegal subpoena. Thankfully, the motion to send them to a removal hearing panel failed, which is good considering they relied on illegally obtained "evidence." Everyone who supported these petitions owes Director Hampton and the entire membership an apology.

Despite these hurdles, the new board is making progress. We

are committed to utilizing our resources in an appropriate manner, rather than squander them on golf courses like Tanglewood and Hessel Ridge, which have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars since their purchase. We are expanding medical services with telehealth and MAT services, the latter of which is considered the gold standard for treating Opioid Use Disorder by SAMSA and the World Health Organization. We are investing in clean, renewable energy by partnering with Cloverland Electric on a solar farm. We are opening the only tribally owned homeless shelter in the state of Michigan. We reduced the JLLJ judgement from \$88 million into something manageable that won't bankrupt the tribe. We rebuilt the tribe's Legal Department with lawyers who are all Sault Tribe members, rather than contract with expensive out-of-state law firms. We corrected sole source contracting for construction projects, which our last two general counsels determined was an inappropriate way to spend federal dollars.

Despite this progress, there is a small faction within our tribe that continues to try to destabilize our government. This caused the board to pass a resolution that authorizes me, the chairman, to remove disorderly individuals from meetings. This was needed because for several months, the same individuals came to our meetings to scream obscenities at elected officials, to verbally abuse

and threaten them in parking lots, and to follow them home, which occurred to Director Hampton. There is no place in our culture or teachings for behavior such as this. Absolutely none.

I was hopeful this resolution wouldn't have to be utilized, but it unfortunately was when Joanne Carr was removed from the meeting on June 20 due to loudly yelling at board members while in attendance. Joanne was escorted out by several police officers, but waited for Director Freiheit in the parking lot, where she resumed her verbal confrontation.

There is a check and balance to this resolution. If a board member feels that I'm requiring someone to leave unjustly, all they have to do is "motion to challenge the ruling of the chair." If the majority of the board agrees, then my decision is reversed and the person will not be removed from the meeting. In Joanne's case, not a single board member objected. Not one. Behavior such as this is toxic and unfair to our staff and tribal members who are trying to attend meetings.

On a more positive note, the Grand Assembly and our Sault Ste. Marie Powwow were recently held. Both were highly successful with great attendance. Chi miigwech to all the staff and volunteers who lent a hand. It was wonderful seeing everyone practice their culture.

Austin
(906) 632-6453

Focusing on the betterment of our community



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aanii,

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone for attending the 50th Anniversary Grand Assembly and Sault Powwow! Your participation and support meant the world to us and hope that you enjoyed these events. To the organizers, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for all your effort and commitment to organizing such outstand-

ing events. Your dedication to detail, creativity, and flawless execution made the grand assembly and powwow a resounding success. Your passion and expertise were evident in every aspect of these events. We are truly grateful for your exceptional work.

The board recently passed a resolution removing the requirement for a positive majority. We hope that this will help expedite amendments and budget modifications. We changed the voting requirements from a positive majority, which was a majority of all board members, whether or not they were present and voted, abstained, or absent, to a vote of a simple majority. A simple majority requires only one more "yes" vote than "no" vote for an item to be approved. This is important because the process of trying to get things done takes forever. We shouldn't even be involved in the day-to-day operations, so we are hoping that this will make voting a little more efficient and cause fewer delays for hiring, project

changes, and policy.

The board also passed a resolution voiding the Special Advisory Election, which was very controversial. I voted to abstain because the court had not ruled on the election contests, we are either a tribe that follows laws and code, or we are not. Let it be known that none of the candidates that were running violated any code that we know of at this point.

The codes were violated by certain individuals on the Election Committee, and this was confirmed by the Election Committee attorney in the appeal hearing. Some may argue that the codes that were violated were meaningless, but we don't get to pick and choose what codes are meaningless and which ones are not.

The entire election process needs to be overhauled and held to a higher standard. We need to put the investigative duties in the hands of our own judicial system and delegate them the authority to make judgments while maintaining duties of a just and unbiased

election. We need to ensure that timelines are adhered to and that Tribal Codes are being followed. The above resolutions will surely be brought to a referendum, so I am hoping that I have your support in rejecting these frivolous referenda.

One last thought, I feel a lot of the political and social media actions of a select few of the membership are simple deflection tactics. For example, when we recently settled a lawsuit for \$30 million, these members chose to deflect from why this happened by falsely stating that the board was not following code. These deflection tactics will continue, as we are discovering disturbing business practices that were done in the past and will require our undivided attention.

In the next few months, I am hoping that the board will be addressing some of these concerns that have come to light. For example:

— The Kewadin casino restaurants continue to lose millions of

dollars each year and every year. My recommendation would be to lease the space out and have someone other than us run these businesses.

— The purchase of the two golf courses in Sault Ste. Marie and Hessel. The combined operating loss for 2022 was \$352,742.

— The purchase of the dilapidated trailer park located in Sault Ste. Marie. It's estimated that the utility and asphalt upgrades for the trailer park will cost \$4-5 million; the return on investment would be stretched out to 35-40 years.

As a community, we really need to come together and focus on the betterment of our community as a whole. So, please bear with us as we make these tough political decisions that need to be made.

Sincerely,
Isaac McKechnie, Unit I
Director
imckechnie@saulttribe.net or
(906) 203-4787

Establishing sustainability for the future tribe



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo!

It's officially been a year in office since I was sworn in. I want to say *chi miigwech* to everyone who supported my efforts and for the advice that you continue to give me that drives my decisions for Unit 5 and the tribe as a whole. Constructive criticism is always welcomed and helps all of us develop as leaders and people. *Chi miigwech* to everyone, especially those who have disagreed with me, yet offered reasonable feedback, professional advice and traditional knowledge.

It's important to note that a lot of change has been occurring for our tribe this past year and a lot more change is expected in the coming year ahead. Our purpose of change is not to destroy or break anything apart; on the contrary, it's to build us up as a much stronger nation. To be more fiscally sound and responsible and care for our people. The change we are driving is out of love for our tribe. A love that we all share. My goal, above all else, is to leave the tribe in a better place than what we inherited. To do so, we need to create sustainability in all areas. We need to take care of the buildings we own and invest in our infrastructure to make sure there is a plan to care for what we have, and in turn, what we have will care for us, always.

One of the key areas of infrastructure redevelopment focuses are our casinos. Our casinos bring in a lot of money and employ a lot of our citizens and people in our surrounding communities. We need to get all of our casinos updated and to be something we can walk into and be proud of. Agree or disagree, a majority of our tribe runs on gaming revenue — if those buildings collapse, so do we. There is a plan in place to get everything up to industry standards, starting with our flagship Kewadin in the Sault. I believe in our Kewadin executives, we just need to give them the autonomy they need to succeed.

Beyond that, we need to continue economic diversification. We can do both at the same time and we are. We recently invested in the Marquette University BP. While it doesn't bring in what a casino does, it is a sustainable source of revenue for years to come and adds our tax incentive in Marquette to our membership. We continue to look at innovative ways to expand economic growth and development and that is being done with a key hire in Dan Doyle. Dan is looking through the books to see what is profitable and what isn't. We are taking a hard look at everything we own and

there will be changes. We are also looking at green energy partnerships now and into the future.

Additionally, we are continuing to look into telehealth and health services expansion. Health care is a treaty right and we need to expand our health services to reach more of our members and make sure that the members we are already seeing aren't waiting 6-8 weeks for appointments and follow-ups. This is always a work in progress. Chairman Lowes and I are going to visit Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Washington to take a look at an innovative approach they have done with their health system to see if we can bring something back home. More to come.

We've faced a lot of challenges this past year and together have addressed them head on. We made the tough decision to not drag out a lawsuit, weighing the decision to drag out an \$88 million judgment against us, or settle for \$25 million. Many question that decision, however, the legal cost of a prolonged appeal would have cost us just as much, if not more, when you take into the account the toll on our staff and any future board that would have to deal with such a decision. The point is, we as a board are making the tough decisions together in the best interests of our community for future generations and not forcing these decisions to be placed on their backs.

As we move forward, we need to do so in a more collaborative spirit. As I mentioned earlier, use constructive criticism to get your point across. The baseless conspiracy theory and accusations need to come to an end. At our last board meeting, we had to implement a resolution authorizing the chair to take action to have people removed from meetings based on misconduct along with punishments. First offense will be a 30-day ban from meetings, second offense 60 days, third and beyond 90 days.

Does this give the chair ultimate authority? No, absolutely not. At any point during any meeting the board with a majority vote can challenge the chair's decision. This is our checks and balance system. We encourage all members to participate in constructive, peaceful, and meaningful discussions. The hatred and vulgarity we have been seeing will no longer be tolerated in any capacity and are not conducive to a healthy environment or the seven grandfather teachings. Our children are watching and will behave the way they see us behave. "Ignorance is not a simple lack of knowledge but an active aversion to knowledge, the refusal to know, issuing from cowardice, pride, or laziness of mind. No rational argument will have a rational effect on a person who does not want to adopt a rational attitude." — Karl Popper

Unit 5 Elder picnics are coming up fast!

Munising Elders will be hosting their picnic on Thursday, Aug. 10, starting with a flag ceremony and the Teal Lake Singers drum group at 11 a.m., with lunch to follow at noon. This will be held at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community Room. Munising Area Tribal Elders and their spouses are



Tribal Leaders Program June 25 - 30, 2023 Harvard Business School



welcome to attend.

Marquette elders are holding their picnic on Thursday, Aug. 3, from 4:30 to 8 p.m. with food service from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Presque Isle Pavilion. The Marquette Elders are doing it a bit differently this year and would like to make it a community gathering open to all Sault Tribe members and their families in the greater Marquette Area. So, if you're reading this, help spread the word. There will be some cultural activities, drum group, and free ice cream for all.

In other exciting Elder news, the Elder Committees from both Marquette and Munising have decided to work together to host a joint powwow and move from community to community. This year, they are working together to make a powwow happen in Marquette at the Northern Center at NMU on Dec. 2.

Planning is currently in process and it's already looking great with all of the amazing collaboration. Everyone is welcome to this inaugural joint event. More details will be provided as the planning unfolds. If you are interested in helping or joining in on the planning, please reach out to me and I will connect you with all the right people. We already have our eyes on bringing it back to Bay Furnace in Munising next year for the regular summer event.

At the end of June, I was selected to attend the Inaugural

Tribal Leaders Executive Education Program at Harvard University. There were 80 tribal participants including 55 tribal leaders from the U.S. and Canada. Beyond the educational and leadership aspect, it was an amazing opportunity to build relationships, and hopefully, future partnerships with some of Indian Country's most brilliant minds.

Never in my lifetime would I have imagined being able to step foot on Harvard's campus, let alone be a part of an executive education program. I am a first-generation graduate in my family, and I wouldn't even have an education had my daughter not been born and driven me to want to do greater things.

This opportunity and privilege is truly inspirational to all of the work we have done to blaze a path for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and First Nations to be a part of the conversation. Hopefully, this is a small step to incorporate more of our voices in the future, to build from our struggles and our ancestors struggles, and to grow louder as leaders of our nations.

I want to thank Harvard for recognizing the need to be more inclusive of us, especially on the week that affirmative action was overturned. *Chi miigwech* to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) for making this partnership happen and to San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

for recognizing the importance of this program and giving back to all of our communities. Lift each other up, always.

On a final note, *chi miigwech* for all of the prayer warriors and everyone who has been an advocate for ICWA. As you may know by now, on June 15, 2023, the Supreme Court upheld the Indian Child Welfare Act in a 7-2 decision with Justices Alito and Thomas being the dissenting votes. Chairman Lowes and I advocated heavily for ICWA in March 2023 during MAST Impact week. We will continue to advocate together at the highest levels to ensure our rights as a sovereign nation are upheld.

This was a major victory for all tribal citizens across this country. We cannot let our guard down and must continue to prepare for the next challenge by training our next generation to be better and stronger than us. During my training last week, an Elder who wishes to remain anonymous said to our group, "We've always been warriors. This time, we just put down our axes and our arrows and picked up books and pens. We must make sure they adhere to our treaties and to do that we need to fight them with our minds." — Anonymous Elder

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

Explaining June 20 resolutions



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

I have a hard time explaining to the membership what occurred at our last meeting. A removal petition was turned in and according to our own law, the board is supposed to determine that "on its face" it appears to have probable cause. If it does, then it proceeds to a hearing board and

if it doesn't, then it is dismissed. The majority of the board voted to dismiss it due to legality concerns, which was not what the board was supposed to determine — that was for the hearing board to decide. The deciding vote to not send it to the hearing board was from the board member on whom the removal petition was on. Although the board member was called to be in conflict, the majority of the board determined that they were not in conflict.

I am not making a political statement there or trying to divide our people, but we are elected to follow our laws and to follow our Constitution, and that is not happening. The Constitution dictates that the board shall appoint someone to fill vacancies on the board. The law regarding Special Advisory Elections (the tool the board uses to help us appoint) has been changed a few times in the last few months, most recently at

the last meeting that now prevents a special advisory from happening. Unit 1 will be down a representative for almost two years; this is unacceptable. The Constitution also allows the membership to initiate removal of a board member with 100 eligible voters noting "specific facts which, if shown to be true, would establish that the official has engaged in conduct which constitutes a violation of this Constitution and bylaws or any duly enacted tribal ordinance or resolution." As stated above, that didn't happen.

The number of instances that are occurring is alarming. We are elected to uphold our laws and not change them on a whim when they don't fit our agenda.

I am excited to see a lot of positivity lately as well. Our tribe recently held meetings with members of the University of Michigan and we had great talks that helped

See "McKerchie," page 30

Morrow reports on June 20 meeting resolutions



**DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I would like to announce a correction on the COVID-19 Homeowners Assistance Fund from my last month's unit report. Originally, I was informed by Housing Director Joni Talentino you needed to be delinquent on your mortgage to qualify for this program. That was not true; you can apply if you are not delinquent on your mortgage.

COVID-19 Homeowner Assistance Fund to help members. Members must reside within the seven-county service area, own their own home and be income-eligible for COVID-19 Homeownership Assistance. Members may be eligible for up to 90 days of utilities (water, sewer, electric, heating and Internet), homeowners property insurance, property taxes and up to six months of mortgage payments. There is a maximum benefit of \$20,000 per household. The income guidelines are very liberal, for example one person can make up to \$96,200 a year. Please call and get an application to see if you qualify. Contact Housing Project Specialist Natalie Shaw at (906) 495-1454 for an application and any questions you may have.

I would like to thank all the staff for planning, setting up and hosting the tribes' Grand Assembly last month in the Sault. It was a very nice event for members and team members to participate in. Each division and program had a display table and was there to explain to the membership what they do in each of their areas. It was a nice gathering; I was able to catch up with a lot of people I have not seen in a long time.

Now for more concerning news on Austin and the new board. At the last board meeting Austin sponsored the below resolution - Disorderly and Disruptive Meeting Behavior.

DISORDERLY AND DISRUPTIVE MEETING BEHAVIOR

WHEREAS, Tribal Code Chapter 96: Open Meetings Ordinance at Section 96.108 states that disruptive or disorderly behavior may result in an individual's removal from a meeting or workshop by the Chairman or may be barred from attendance at meetings of the Board of Directors by action of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, there has been increasing instances of disruptive or disorderly behavior; and

WHEREAS, the behavior is interfering with the orderly conduct of business and there is a growing safety concern; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors desires to ensure orderly conduct of business in safe manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that any individual ordered removed from a regular meeting, special meeting, or workshop by the Chairman shall be deemed by operation of this resolution to be barred from attending regular meetings, special meetings, and workshops for the next ninety days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any individual removed from a regular meeting, special meeting, or workshop by Law Enforcement under their general powers to keep the peace shall be deemed removed pursuant to Section 96.108 by operation of this resolution and will be barred from attending regular meetings, special meetings, and workshops for the next ninety days.

As you read above, Austin wanted to be given ultimate authority to bar tribal members from attending meetings for 90 days! It was modified by Kim Lee to bar members for 30, 60 and 90 days. I do not agree with either of these options; it is disgusting! All because they don't want to take criticism from members that are aware of all their self-serving resolutions, so they voted to let Austin bar members! Betty, Tyler, Kim H, Kim L, Rob, Issac and Shawn voted "yes" to allow this. They should be ashamed of themselves! They all ran on transparency, lol, but now that members are speaking out against their self-serving acts, they will allow Austin to bar members. Let's not forget we have the three family members taking care of each other — Betty is Austin's aunt and Rob is his cousin, and they just voted to allow Austin to kick you, the members, out of a meeting if you do not agree with them!

At this same meeting, Betty wanted a member kicked out and her nephew Austin tells her to wait for this resolution to pass then he will take care of it. This is on tape and online for members to listen to! And, at this meeting after these board members voted "yes," Austin did kick a Unit 1 elderly woman out of the meeting and had three police officers walk her out! This is what it has come to a dictatorship that you cannot disagree with, or you will be removed and shut out! In my 11-plus years, only one person was ever asked to leave a board meeting. That person was a non-Native news reporter and it was a board decision at that time to have the person leave!

Under our Chapter 96 Open Meetings Ordinance 96.108 Orderly Meetings — Anyone whose behavior is disruptive or disrespectful may be ordered removed from meeting or workshop by the chairperson and may be barred from attendance at board meetings by action of the board of directors. In the current policy, the chair could remove a member from a meeting or workshop. And, the only way a member was barred was by a vote of the tribal board! All this group is doing is making our tribe a dictatorship and giving the chair authority to do what he wants.

Members are fed up. They come to the meeting and at issue

time they ask their questions and get stonewalled with no answers. That is not appropriate, there are times answers can be given to members' questions, but they do not like anyone challenging them so they will not respond meeting after meeting. Have members gotten a little loud? Yes, they have been because they don't feel heard, but we should try to defuse the situation not just bar members.

Two removals that were circulated by the membership were also on the agenda for Kimberly Hampton from Unit 4. The first removal stated Statement of Facts — During the Election Committee Investigations of Allied Printing, the committee recovered documentation (e-mails, invoices) that provided evidence that Kimberly Hampton, "the accused," solicited or received (and failed to report) campaign contributions from Aaron Payment (and others) in excess of the maximum allowable campaign contributions by any individual over \$250.

Grounds for removal/ tribal ordinance violated 10.113 Campaign Financing.(1)(e), which reads: Candidates shall not solicit or accept aggregate contributions from any single individual over two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

The second removal stated Statement of Facts - During the Election Committee Investigations of Allied Printing; the committee recovered documentation (e-mails, invoices) that provided evidence that Kimberly Hampton, "the accused," solicited or received (and failed to report) campaign contributions from Aaron Payment (and others) in excess of the maximum allowable campaign contributions by any individual over \$250 and failed to report the donations and expenses.



**BETTY FREIHEIT,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello Tribal Members,
Our 50th Anniversary Tribal Grand Assembly and powwow were both an outstanding success. Our tribal staff deserve much credit for preparing information booths to inform participants of the variety of programs and services available to members. The Powwow Committee is to be commended for its hard work. It was wonderful to see so many dancers and families who connected during this event. There were so many vendors. It took me a couple hours to just make my way through them. I heard numerous comments from participants about how happy they were to be there and how well

Grounds for removal/ tribal ordinance violated 71.1103 Election Fraud, which reads 1(B) acts to compromise the integrity of the election, or attempts to do so by falsifying any document, including documents filed with the Election Committee or Board of Directors.

When the removal got to the table, a motion to send the removals to a hearing board was made and seconded. At that time, a conflict was called on Kim Hampton to vote on her own removal and it was seconded. The "no" votes to conflict her out were Tyler, Betty, Rob, and Issac, Kim Hampton abstained, and the "yes" votes for the conflict were Lana, Bridgett, Mike, Shawn, Kim Lee and myself. Per Aaron Schlehuber, Legal, we needed seven for the conflict to pass.

After the conflict did not pass, then they had every excuse why this removal should not go forward. Aaron Schlehuber even went on to say the subpoena the Election Committee attorney had gotten was wrong. Which was not true; the attorney did have the authority. But at no time did he address the issues within the removal. Whatever information was collected by the petitioner is for a separate hearing board of three tribal lawyers to listen to and decide on the removal. A group of three tribal lawyers not affiliated with the tribe were supposed to be searched out and the hearing proceeded forward. The board is not the judge and jury of their buddy, this followed the code and it should have been sent out of the tribal board's hands for a separate hearing board to decide!

All they did was let every member who signed the remov-

al know it doesn't matter what you want, they can and will do whatever they want! The vote on sending the removal forward for Kim was not passed — "no" votes were Betty, Tyler, Kim Hampton, Kim Lee, Rob, Issac and the "yes" votes were Bridgett, Lana, Mike, Shawn and myself.

Unfortunately, I also need to report the harassment of DJ Hoffman and his family members has not stopped. Betty has a resolution on the next meeting agenda to send out a one-sided investigation on DJ. They have continued to harass DJ and his family since they illegally removed him! How much more will they spend on their fishing expedition?

As you read my article above, I continue to encourage each Sault Tribe member to please start attending board workshops and meetings either in person or via Zoom. Here is the link: <https://fs29.formsite.com/SaultT/q1ak-snvj3/index.html> to attend via Zoom. You just need to fill out the form and verify you are a Sault Tribe member, and they will email you the meeting link. You can use the same link each time to attend the workshops and meetings. I think if more members were aware of what is really going on you would be more vocal and start asking hard questions. To sign up to participate, go to the Sault Tribe's website saulttribe.com; sign up for the Zoom link and then you will receive the invite to board workshops and meetings.

As always, if you have any questions, or just want to chat, feel free to call me.

Thank you,
Darcy Morrow
Unit IV Representative
dmorrow@saulttribe.net
(906) 298-1888

Double standard in voting

both events turned out.

At the June 20 meeting, the board passed a resolution to try and stem the continue disorderly behavior of select members who have begun to attend meetings to cause disruptions. This behavior has continued for several meetings, despite persistent request for order from the chair. It has become clear these select members have an agenda to disrupt the meetings, and they have been yelling rude and vulgar statements to the board. Under this new resolution, members who are removed will be banned from meetings for 30, 60, and then 90 days for repeated offenses.

Also at the June 20 meeting, the board dismissed two removal petitions that were filed on Kimberly Hampton. It was revealed during the board review that the "evidence" used in it, and the petitions, were obtained through an illegal subpoena issued by the former Election Committee attorney. Further, this same "evidence" had been given to the petition circulators via a confidential leak of documents. And finally, the Election Code citations that had formed the basis of the removal petitions were without merit as the issues had been resolved.

I have long believe that our at-large members face a double

standard in regard to registering to vote in our tribal elections. Members who reside within the service units are automatically registered. But members who reside outside the service units must complete a separate process. They must obtain and complete a Voters Registration Form. And if they move, they need to complete a new form. Many of our at-large are not aware of how to register to vote, or that they need to re-register each time they move. Many believe that once they update their addresses with the tribe, they are automatically registered to vote, as this is the process for several unit members.

The majority of our members reside outside the service units, but are not fully participating in our tribal government, as there is confusion and difficulties in registering. To resolve this issue, I am sponsoring a resolution to reach out to all at-large members of voting age to register them to vote and keep them registered in the event they change addresses.

Please keep yourself and family safe, help your neighbors any time you can and look out for elders.

Betty F. Freiheit
Unit 1 Director
bfreiheit@saulttribe.net
(906) 379-8745

Sorenson discusses the June 20 board meeting



BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

On the June 6 board meeting agenda was an investigation which was to release the investigation on DJ Hoffman. The board had not received a completed investigation from the contracted agency at the time of the vote so it was tabled. It is now on again for the July 11 meeting and we still do not have the results.

Also, on the agenda was the constitutional obligation to appoint Joanne Carr. The Constitution says the board must appoint. They did void the special election because they say there were issues, so then appoint the highest vote getter. Of course, this did not happen.

On the June 20 board meeting agenda was a resolution sponsored by the chair, "Disorderly and Disruptive Meeting Behavior." This resolution gave the chair the ability to bar members for 90 days from meetings, workshops and special meetings. There was a motion to amend to 30, 60 and then 90 days based on frequency. The audience was not happy with

any of this. One member actually said back in the day, Betty was barred from meetings and this member came to advocate on her behalf and now Betty supports barring our members. Austin read some inappropriate comments that he said were said at the previous meeting. I did not hear any of that, which maybe was actually outside or something but regardless, there were kids in the room and Tyler later asked him to repeat it and again the full F word was used.

We had five to seven police officers in or around the meeting room. Mostly what happens in the room is members turning their back to the board, holding up signs, and, yes, some make comments. It is really no different from Betty's actions as she runs around the room to the audience, to other staff, or yelling, "objection," whenever she doesn't like what someone says. The membership is getting fed up with their voices being silenced with legislation. If they don't like a code or resolution, they just change it to fit their agenda. The chair already had the ability to remove members from the meetings, he just wanted to throw his weight around.

Rob sponsored a resolution to amend the code Chapter 10 on Election Ordinance for special advisory elections. So now they voted to not be able to hold a special advisory election. I did not support making these changes and I don't support having another election when we have a candidate that won by 379 votes and DID NOT VIOLATE any laws. Not all of them can say this.

The worst thing about this meeting was the discussion and

vote on the removal petitions on Kimberly Hampton. The circulator of the petitions was able to make a statement and then our general counsel said everything was valid and the process would be for the board to vote to move it forward to a hearing panel. Board members all started talking and Kimberly got to say all kinds of things including hiring a lawyer. I believe the discussion should have ended after those words, because anyone else that claims they have a lawyer, stops discussion. It was allowed and they were saying the election attorney had no authority to request a subpoena. I am pretty sure the board had given the full authority to the Election Committee so the board wasn't intervening. So, even if someone argues the subpoena wasn't admissible, the evidence still exists. I also know how that works in a court but bottom line, it happened. I believe there was way too much discussion and the circulator was never allowed to speak again, so that was totally unfair. Regardless of how anyone feels, it was the board's responsibility to move it to a hearing panel. It is their job to sort out the details and hold a hearing, not us! They even allowed Kim to vote on her own removal. Yes, you heard that right. No integrity, you are a conflict of interest and even if the board didn't say it then you abstain. WOW! Obviously, this did not pass either.

Joanne Carr was saying things in the audience during this discussion and she was escorted out of the meeting for a 30-day suspension. Since some members have had two protests outside

the administration building in downtown Sault Ste. Marie. Signs saying, "Our Votes Matter," "Our Voices Matter," "We Will Not Be Silenced" and "Censorship is not one of the Seven Grandfathers."

There were two referendums turned in at this meeting as well. One was the resolution to change the positive majority to a simple majority and the other was voiding the special election of Unit I. These will be voted on during the July 11 meeting.

There was a poll of the board by the chair to cancel the June 25 workshop. I did not participate in it, but the majority did support canceling it. We also did not meet on July 4.

I went up to the Soo for the Grand Assembly on Wednesday, June 28. The staff from all departments did a great job putting their booths and coordinating food and activities. The video that was played showing many things in our history was awesome. You can view it on YouTube — Sault Tribe 50th Anniversary of Federal Recognition and welcome home grand assembly.

On Thursday, July 6, the groundbreaking for the Sault Tribe's new building on the campus of Mackinac Straits Health Campus took place. Governor Whitmer and John Damoose were there as well as local dignitaries. The building will provide more space for the needs of our members. If members need to have blood drawn or X-rays, there will be a connected walkway to the hospital. The projected timeline is Summer of 2024. The cost of the building is covered by a grant that Mackinac Straits Health System

received.

The Sault Tribe Golf Classic is on Friday, July 28, at the Sault Country Club and Kewadin Casino. The money raised for this events is used to keep the scholarships available to our members. If you want to sign up or would like to volunteer, please contact Jessica Dumback (906) 635-6050.

Reminder that the youth powwow is in Newberry on July 29, Hessel powwow is Aug. 18-20 and the St. Ignace Rendezvous at the Straits is Aug. 25-27.

For those in the St. Ignace area, mark your calendar for Project Backpack at the St. Ignace School parking lot on Aug. 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In my time on this board, it has never been this bad. There have always been disagreements or people on different sides, but it didn't last long and regardless people worked together. It just feels like my way or the highway and we don't care what you think, what you know, what the history is, why it has been this way, it is just we have the votes and we are going to do what we want. We are in a rough place and one thing I noticed when watching that video at the Grand Assembly is that there was respect, dignity and pride in our tribe. We have to find our way back to that and that means that members need to help guide and be involved. If you don't know, ask, look up codes, read the newspaper, watch or come to the meetings. The tribe needs your help!

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

Hampton reports to the Unit IV membership



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aniin kina waya (Hello everybody).

I hope that everyone enjoyed the July 4 holiday. I hope that the warm summer weather has allowed family and friends get together and relaxing. The following are just some reminders for water safety this season: don't go in the water unless you know how to swim, if you don't know how to swim there are swim lessons available in various areas; never swim alone; learn CPR and other rescue techniques; and don't push others into the water. Be safe while enjoying the water during warm weather.

Katchup with Kim

During the end of February 2023, I started holding Zoom meetings called "Katchup with Kim" as an avenue for our tribal membership within Unit 4 as well as any of our units, including at-large members, to converse with myself and hold discussions

regarding upcoming resolutions, ideas members have for our tribe, and current issues. I openly welcome anyone to attend these Zoom meetings as change will take a tribe. Below is the Zoom meeting schedule with meeting id and password:

Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 7p.m. EST; Meeting ID: 906 440 8138; Password: KimHampton

Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023 at 7 p.m. EST; Meeting ID: 906 440 8138; Password: KimHampton

Powwow Meetings

Throughout the upcoming year there will be regularly scheduled monthly powwow meetings to keep the committee on task. The next scheduled powwow meetings are Monday, Aug. 7, at 5 p.m. and Monday, Sept. 11, at 5 p.m. Once additional meetings are scheduled, I will provide the schedule to allow anyone to attend who wishes to do so. I also encourage everyone to "like" the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page to keep updated on meetings, etc.

Meetings, open to the public, scheduled for the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Committee, will be located at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698W US Highway 2, Manistique, MI 49854.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

I encourage our tribal elders to attend elder meetings to become involved as well as stay updated on what our elder committees are working on.

The next meeting in Marquette, which is a combination of Units 4 and 5, will be Thursday, Aug. 3, 5:30 p.m. EST at the Holiday Inn in Marquette

The next meeting in Manistique

will be held Aug. 9, 2023 12 p.m. at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Aug. 9, at 5 p.m. at the Delta County Chamber Building.

June Activities

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow:

The first Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow was held in Manistique on June 10 with a Talking Circle the previous evening. The turnout was great with over 24 vendors and an estimated 1,000-plus attendees. Chi Miigwech to all who helped make this powwow so successful.

New Mechanism Creation in Progress:

On March 14, 2023, I had an item on our workshop agenda regarding mechanisms to provide employees a means of having a process for complaints against board of directors. Board representatives are elected officials so currently there is nothing in place to allow an employee, or key employee, the ability to file a complaint against a board representative. The necessary resolutions, policies and procedures for such a mechanism will take some time to develop and get approved at a board of directors meeting. I want our membership to be assured that I will continue the creation and implementation of such a mechanism in order to provide due process for employees as well as board of directors. I will provide updates throughout this process.

Tribal Homeland Security

Advisory Council (THSAC): I and the rest of THSAC are working on creating collaborative work groups to begin addressing the issues that affect Indian Country.

There is information I am not authorized to release regarding the THSAC, at this time, but what I can share is that we are working as a collaborative group of various tribal leaders on priorities to help protect and advocate for all tribal nations. I will provide updates and share information as I am able to.

Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center:

The Manistique Fitness Center project has begun and is making great progress. The Escanaba

Mike McKerchie Report Continued —

From "McKerchie," page 29

strengthen our relationship. We all want what's best for the land, and we had a great discussion regarding being better stewards and how we can work together in more significant culturally appropriate ways. I was inspired by the conversations and the young people that are involved looking at how Indigenous knowledge can be used for sustainable land management. It was also great to see a number of the involved U of M students also at our powwow, showing further respect and interest in our tribe and culture.

Congrats to our Grand Assembly Committee on a job well done. They did a fantastic job on all aspects. The weather wasn't overly cooperative but I got to see a lot of new faces, as well as some old faces I haven't seen in a while. Many members were grateful that

Community Center project has made a lot of progress. Throughout the month of June, there were regular progress meetings between all parties involved in both projects. I look forward to seeing these projects move toward completion.

Chi Miigwech for allowing me to represent and advocate for our members. I am always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth.

My phone is (906) 440-8138; or email KHampton@saulttribe.net.

we held the event and we got a lot of compliments on the information booths and presentations. All-in-all, it was a great event, and I look forward to the next one, let's hope we don't wait as long.

Finally, I want to give a huge shout out to the Powwow Committee. We had some minor hiccups here and there but everyone seemed to have a good time and really enjoyed themselves. There was a great turn-out of vendors, drummers, and dancers but I think the amount of youth participating stole the show. It was awesome to see them dancing, laughing, and running around. For those who didn't go, you missed out on a good one and we hope to see you next year! And again, huge thanks to the committee for all the hours and time spent on making this a great one. Chi miigwech.

Borowicz discusses some needed next steps



treating you well, that you are enjoying this fantastic weather wherever you reside and that you are attending all the summer events.

This last year has been challenging and a great learning experience while on the tribal board. We have done a lot of upgrading that has been long overdue, but we still have more to accomplish for all the members and our employees. We definitely need to put something in place where our employees feel secure in the jobs. We need to get Cheboygan and possibly Emmet counties in our service area, as a lot of our members moved there

seeking employment and they should have more representation than they have now.

We need to seriously look at placing our New Buffalo property into trust and opening a gaming establishment. I know our past ventures downstate did not turn out well, but with this board and our past experience with varying businesses, I know we could make it a viable asset to our tribe and its members.

We definitely need to revamp the election process. The much worked on separation needs to be looked at, possibly reworked in some areas, voted on by all members and then put in place — this

is long overdue.

These are just some of the issues, there are many more that should have been taken care of and possibly because of all the infighting they never were. I was really hoping that by getting on the board I could help in mending these fences, I will keep trying.

On a positive note, the grand entry celebration and the Sault powwow were a huge success and all involved did a great job in putting them together.

Several of us attended the Mackinac Straits Health Center groundbreaking for our new tribal health center. Our executive

director went above and beyond in helping to make this happen for our tribe. Sitting in on one of the planning phases of this project and seeing the operations of the hospital staff was amazing; we as a board should take lessons from their staff! Once completed, this facility will be state-of-the-art for our members and something to be proud of in St. Ignace.

Should you have any questions or concerns, call or text anytime and if I missed any correspondence with any of you, I'm sincerely sorry and as always call anytime: sborowicz@saulttribe.net or (906) 379-8511.

SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III
Boozhoo,
I hope the summer months are

We must hold ourselves to a higher standard



being seated as one of your Unit 2 representatives. This past year has had many new learning opportunities, some optimistic, others more trying. Reflection is one of those things that I value heavily. How do both affect us as we progress and grow as a tribal nation?

The tribe held the grand assembly, celebrated 50 years of federal recognition, and the Sault Ste. Marie annual powwow. What a wonderful week for our tribe. A gathering of positivity and hope. Our spirit guides were near, I'm sure. The teamwork that makes these events possible is appreciated and felt by all. Chi Miigwech for your dedication and hard

work.

On another note, I need to explain to the membership my stance on the resolution made out by some is "the silence of the membership," which could not be further than the point of Chairman Lowes's intention. The uproar is that your government is trying to silence the membership. There must be rules against this conduct while meetings are taking place. I supported a resolution not allowing continued disruption and shouting obscenities during meetings, with a stepping stone of consequences of 30, 60 and 90 days for behavior requiring a tribal police officer to escort an individual out.

We live, breathe, and prosper based on the gifts given to us by our ancestors. At what point did we lose sight of our teachings? We fight to be heard, we cry out to be understood, but in the same breath, we talk down to one another and belittle one another, imagining we can bully another into submission. The delivery of the message is equally as important as the message, if you are genuinely trying to make a difference and communicate.

Our teachings did not include permission to abuse one another.

We must hold ourselves to a higher standard of conversation and insight. From where I stand, to be empathetic in our environ-

ment, we can't justify mistreating one another anymore. It must stop here. I will continue to take a healthy stance on healing for our people.

I continue to attend as many meetings as possible — Headstart, JKL, Conservation Committee, Unit 2 planning and engagement, as well as the potential possibilities for our tribe. Please reach out with any questions or thoughts. Enjoy your families, friends, memories made and pleasant weather.

As always, miigwech for your time.

Unit 2 Director Kimberly Lee
Klee@saulttribe.net
(906) 379-8965

KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II
It has been one year since

Miigwech to grand assembly, powwow organizers



university and pave the way for other non-native organizations to consider returning land to Indigenous nations. This would also provide an opportunity for a strong co-management partnership between the university and Sault Tribe including ecological and biological research and developments to improve our understanding of our natural resources. This would allow us to preserve these lands for many generations to come.

In my last report, I notified members that I would be bringing forth a resolution to amend Tribal Code Chapter 10 Election Ordinance to run Special Advisory Elections within the following general election, if the notice of election would occur within a nine month window of a general election. The board, by majority vote, approved this resolution and recognized this code change as the official appointment mechanism whenever a vacancy occurs within the specific time frame. There is no need to waste tribal funds to conduct elections when vacant seats could be filled through the following general election cycle.

I would like to give a huge shoutout to our amazing staff and volunteers who came together to make our Sault Tribe 50th Anniversary of Federal Recognition Grand Assembly an absolute success! Every department put their heart and soul into the booths, activities, and presentations. It was great to see so many of our members show up to celebrate together. I am so

very proud to be a member of such a great sovereign nation. Although we celebrate 50 years of federal recognition, I believe it is always important to remember that this does not reflect the age of our tribe. Our ancestors were here for thousands of years before European contact; however, I do feel that federal recognition is worth celebrating as our elders fought hard for this, and it is the reason many of our elders, youth, and families, receive crucial services. Again, chi miigwech to our amazing staff and volunteers for making this event, not only possible, but also a beautiful celebratory event. You are the best!

Our Culture Department and Powwow Committee staff and volunteers also deserve a ton of recognition and gratitude. Many powwow attendees are not aware of the countless hours of planning, organizing, and executing that goes into making our powwows the amazing experience they are. Sitting on the Powwow Committee has really enlightened me to the amount of work that goes into them. I greatly appreciate all the work that this group does to deliver such a beautiful celebration to our people. It really is a reminder of what can be accomplished when everyone comes together and works towards a common goal. Miigwech to all of you.

I believe the greatest news I have to report on, this month, is that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. This is a major

affirmation of tribal sovereignty. This protects Native American Children from being removed from their communities and grants the courts of sovereign Indigenous nations the jurisdiction to intervene in child welfare cases to protect the best interest of its children. A huge thank you

to every single child welfare worker and leader, across Indian country, who contributed to advocating for this outcome.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have and questions or ideas you would like brought to the boards attention. Miigwech!

ROBERT MCRORIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin Boozhoo to all of my fellow Sault Tribe members.

I hope you are all well in both health and spirit. I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine of summer with friends, family and loved ones. This has been a month of celebration and ceremony for our great sovereign Sault Tribe nation. It is once again an absolute honor to report to you, the members, on the state of our nation.

On June 7 and June 8, the Sault Tribe was honored to welcome guests from the University of Michigan to our homeland. Meetings were held between Sault Tribe officials and staff and officials from the university. These meetings entertained discussions about the potential of the university giving land back to Sault Tribe. The land is located on our peoples' homeland of Sugar Island. This would be a major advancement in our relationship with the

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